



Minutes of the Dean Democratic Club of Silicon Valley Organizational Meeting

January 28, 2019

Marie Callender's Restaurant, 751 E. El Camino Real, Sunnyvale

Next DFA-link meetings: February 11, March 11, April 8, May 13

Next working meetings: February 25, March 25, April 22, May 27

Introductions: John Comiskey called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Following that, each person introduced himself or herself and made a statement about recent political involvement.

Adoption of agenda: Alice Smith moved that we adopt the agenda, Emilie Gatfield seconded it, and the motion passed with no dissension.

Approval of minutes: Alice moved that we approve the November minutes, Jackie Wheeler seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissension.

Treasurer's report: John reported that we have \$3215 in the bank: \$440 in the state and \$2775 in the federal account.

NEW BUSINESS

Bylaws amendment proposal: At our last meeting, Carolyn Curtis had proposed a bylaws change, and a committee consisting of Carolyn, Emilie, Alice, and Ben Stetson was formed. They submitted the following proposal (changes in red); we will vote on this next month.

Article VIII Nominations and Elections of Officers

A. Conduct of Elections. The initial election of officers shall be conducted at the organizational meeting and thereafter at the annual meeting. ***At annual meetings, only members in good standing for three months are eligible to vote for club officers.*** All contested elections will be determined by secret ballot, while uncontested elections may be by voice vote. If no candidate for a particular office receives a majority vote, a run-off vote will be taken between the top two nominees for that office.

Article X Other Committees:

A Standing Committees 1. A Nominating Committee that is designated by the Co-Chairs prior to the annual meeting of the members and is responsible for nominating suitable officer candidates for the Steering Committee and for recommending suitable appointees to the standing and ad hoc committees of DDCSV. ***At annual meetings, only members in good standing for***

three months are eligible for this committee.

Call for list of accomplishments (“brag sheet”): John asked that people send Carolyn Curtis their list of accomplishments and hours spent on club activities that reflect our goals so that she can finish compiling the list. That includes work on campaigns, events, voter registration, etc. but not time in meetings or travel time. These lists are posted every year on our website. If you have not sent a tally of your hours of activism to Carolyn, please do so: carolyncurtis@comcast.net

Treasurer: John announced that Amy Wright has volunteered to fill the job of club treasurer until June. Amy has 19 years’ experience working in banking and has been treasurer of non-profit organizations; the members present expressed their appreciation for her willingness to step up to the task. John has purchased a Windows computer specifically for our treasurer, which Amy will be using. Marcene Van Dierendonck is still on the list of people who have access to the bank accounts and post office box, as is John. Emilie moved that we approve Amy as treasurer, Thida Cornes seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously [and with great enthusiasm!].

Two-year budget: John had prepared a two-year budget which meticulously listed income and expenses from 2017 through 2018 and then projections for 2019 and 2020. After some discussion, Thida asked that “overhead” as a category not include essential expenditures like food for events, meals for the Central Committee, etc. John will make the requested change. Ralph Wheeler moved that we approve the budget, Emilie seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissension.

Barack Obama Boulevard Committee: Club member and former co-chair Melodi Masaniai spoke on behalf of the Barack Obama Boulevard Committee to name a San Jose street President Barack Obama Blvd. She is part of a committee that has raised \$9000 and talked to city council members and others to enlist their support; so far, results have been favorable. Along with the city council, they will need to have the support of 50% + 1 of parcel owners on whatever street is chosen, and they may have to negotiate with Wells Fargo or Google. Those present at the meeting signed a petition in support of the proposal. Barbara Comiskey moved that our club send a resolution of support to the mayor and city council members, and Emilie seconded it. The motion passed with no dissension, and the group thanked Melodi for her efforts. You can donate and/or sign the petition online at: <https://www.change.org/p/san-jose-city-council-name-a-san-jose-street-after-barack-obama>

CDP roster submission: John is submitting documentation to the county party on membership. For each 20 members in an Assembly District, we are entitled to a vote at the pre-endorsement committee meetings. The members must list our club as their primary club, be registered Democrats, and be up to date on payments. We can hope to have 2-3 votes in AD 24 and 1 in AD 28.

CDC affiliation: John reported that he is refiling our affiliation documents for the CDC (Council of Democratic Clubs). Voting for CDC officers will probably be done at the

state party convention. The clubs all get 1 vote for each 10 members.

2019 goal setting and task forces: At our December meeting, we had a brainstorming session of possible goals for 2019. John had divided these into nine general categories and listed the various goals under each category. Each club member was given a sheet of paper on which to rank his or her top three categories. Under each category, the club member then ranked his or her top three goals for that category, also in order. John will send the results separately from the minutes later on.

OLD BUSINESS

Candidates and initiatives: No report

Social justice: No report

Good government: Nancy Neff thanked all those who gathered signatures for SB 47 at the women's marches and ADEM meetings. [Nancy worked very hard organizing volunteer efforts over the last month.] She mentioned that Assembly member Kevin Mullin is working on a bill for disclosure on issue ads; possibly there will be one for independent expenditures for candidates this year as well. After the meeting, Nancy reported by e-mail that although not all the numbers are in yet, CCMC members gathered 4817 signatures at the Women's Marches and 3862 from both weekends of the ADEMs.

Political outreach: No report

Club building: No report, but Marcene passed around pins that she is donating and selling to bring in money for our club.

Health care: Gerry Hunt reported that there will be a National Medicare for All Week of Action on Saturday, February 9, from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. at Roosevelt Community Center, 901 E Santa Clara St., San Jose 95116. This will be a "barnstorm" to demand that Congress pass Medicare for All. For more information, go to:
<http://www.medicareforall.org/pages/Home>.

John reported that Attorney General Xavier Becerra is trying to block the sale of O'Connor and Saint Louise Hospitals to Santa Clara County and urged us to contact the AG to ask him to withdraw his opposition. For more information, see:
<http://www.sanjoseinside.com/2019/01/25/county-ramps-up-campaign-against-ag-xavier-becerra-in-bid-to-save-2-local-hospitals/>

Economic justice: Thida mentioned that there will be a meeting on Thursday, January 31, from 7:00 to 8:30 in the Los Altos Library on "Affordable Housing Ideas for Los Altos" that will apply to other cities as well.

Environment: Mary Gill reported that the Santa Clara Valley Water District is now discussing raising water rates and/or property taxes to pay for the Delta tunnels (Cal

Waterfix) if the project goes through. Governor Newsom may be the key to stopping the project, which our club has long opposed. Emilie read a comment from Barbara Keegan and suggested inviting Directors Keegan and Gary Kremen to talk to us.

Education: Thida referred to an article in the *Mountain View Voice* about AB 123, on early childhood education. Jerry Hill and Marc Berman were both quoted. According to this article, a \$1 investment in early childhood education results in a \$7 return.

Emilie reported that the tide may be turning on charter schools; the state board of education recently denied a request by Rocketship charter schools to open a new school in San Pablo. Also, she mentioned the Los Angeles teachers' strike and in particular Rusty Hicks of the LA Federation of Labor, who was instrumental in mobilizing 20,000 people to support the teachers (and who is running for Democratic party chair).

John reported that the Santa Clara County Assessment Appeals Board ruled that the 49ers should only have to pay half the year's property taxes on Levi stadium in Santa Clara since they control bookings for only half the year. Since the taxes had already been paid, the appropriate amount (about \$36 million) will have to be refunded. This will mean a huge loss for Santa Clara's schools and for the county.

Club membership: Ben Shapero reported by e-mail that we have one new member and sent a photo of his new baby!

Announcements

❖ Alice reported that the League of Women Voters of Palo Alto is sponsoring an evening at the Stanford Law School "Understanding California's Red Flag Law: How to Remove Guns from People Who Are a Threat to Themselves or Others." The event will be moderated by Professor John Donohue and will be held on February 12 from 7:00 to 8:30. Register at <https://law.stanford.edu/event/californias-red-flag-laws/>

❖ Ben Stetson reported that he would like to see Jerry Hill give a talk on PG&E issues and suggested it to Stephanie Grossman as a possible fundraiser for the DVC.

❖ Emilie announced that there will be a fundraiser for Fiona Ma, our state treasurer, in San Francisco on March 7. Contact her if you are interested: e.g.gatfield@gmail.com
Gerry said that he would like to participate.

❖ On February 11, the DFA-link meeting will feature club member Alice Smith on "Voting Rights and Voter Suppression: How States Increase or Decrease Access to Voting." Alice is cofounder of the National Voter Corps. The meeting will be at the Calabazas Library, 1230 S Blaney Avenue, San Jose; potluck at 6:30 and meeting at 7:00.

Adjournment: At 8:50 p.m. Jackie moved that we adjourn the meeting, Emilie seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Mary Gill