



Minutes of the Dean Democratic Club of Silicon Valley Organizational Meeting

March 25, 2019

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

Next DFA-link meetings: April 8, May 13

Next working meetings: April 22, May 27

Annual potluck picnic and election of officers: June 22, 11:00 to 3:00, Ponderosa Park, Sunnyvale

Introductions: John Comiskey called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Following that, each person introduced himself or herself and made a statement about recent political involvement.

Adoption of agenda: Gerry Hunt moved that we adopt the agenda, Jackie Wheeler seconded it, and the motion passed with no dissension.

Approval of minutes: Ralph Wheeler moved that we approve the February minutes, Barbara Comiskey seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissension.

Treasurer's report: John reported that we have \$3658 in the bank: \$332 in the state and \$3326 in the federal account. He will be delivering the Windows computer that he acquired and set up for new treasurer Amy Wright tomorrow, and they will go this week to the bank. He asked Ben to submit his expenses for the DFA-link meetings to Amy.

NEW BUSINESS

SCCDP dinner May 17: John encouraged people to register as soon as possible for the annual SCCDP dinner on May 17 and to join other Dean Club members by specifying that they would like to be seated at the Dean Club table. He'll be out of town for a while but a volunteer for the county party will be taking care of the spread sheet. Venue: Hayes Mansion. For information and to register, go to:

<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/demdinner2019>

Call for nominating committee: John asked for people to serve on a nominating committee for next year's officers. People running for office of course cannot serve. Gerry Hunt volunteered to head up the committee.

CDP compliance: John noted that we get one vote for every 20 members in each Assembly district in the pre-endorsement conferences. We have 31 members in AD 24 and 21 members in AD 28, so we will get one vote in each. He encouraged Ben Shapero,

membership chair, to look at renewal dates and contact anyone who is now in arrears or who will be in the next couple of months. However, because of the early primary next year, we need to change our by-laws, which state that June 1 is the deadline for pre-endorsement vote qualification. We will vote next month on changing the by-laws to remedy the situation.

California Clean Money Grassroots Summit March 30: Nancy Neff reported on the CCMC event next Saturday. Right now there are 75 people registered. She noted that Ben Stetson will be helping with set up and Mary Gill with food. Special guests: Kevin Mullin, Marc Berman, Jerry Hill, Sally Lieber, Dave Cortese, Ann Ravel, Rob Bonta. In the morning, people will learn about three exciting major new bills: AB 1217, the Issue Ad DISCLOSE Act; AB 1784 for Publicly Owned Open-Source Paper Ballot Voting Systems, and SB 47, the Petition DISCLOSE Act. In the afternoon there will be break-out sessions on topics such as tactics for lobbying legislators, data entry, and phone training (with a new video). The event will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 505 East Charleston, Palo Alto, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Information and registration: <https://www.yesfairelections.org/events/summit-north.php?ms=newsletter-2019-03-19> Also, we'll have a work party in preparation for the event on Thursday, March 28, from 10:00 to noon, also at the Unitarian Church. On April 2 we will be going to Sacramento to a hearing on SB 47, the Petition DISCLOSE Act, and on April 10 we'll go there for the Open Source Paper Ballot Voting System and the Issue Ad DISCLOSE Act (hearing, noon rally, lobbying in the afternoon). Nancy passed around a sign-up sheet and encouraged people to attend.

Program Committee Plan for the Primary: Ben Stetson noted there are three major races coming up for next year (candidates and probable candidates in parentheses): **SD 13** (Sally Lieber, Shelly Masur, Josh Becker, Mike Brownrigg, Anne Olivia); **SD 15** (Nora Campos, Dave Cortese, Tom Gildersleeve, Ann Ravel), and **Santa Clara County District 3 supervisor** (Otto Lee, Rich Tran, Rose Herrera, Magdalena Carrasco, Madison Nyugen, Jim Griffith). Ben proposed that we have three candidates at a time speak to us, preferably from each of the three races, at various DFA-link meetings on second Mondays. He will contact the candidates to find out their availability and set up a schedule. The group agreed with his proposal.

Candidate extravaganza: John suggested that we have candidates for the other races that the endorsement committee will be considering speak to us at a DFA-link meeting instead of inviting them to our business meetings. The ideal month would be January since ballots will go out on February 3. We may not be able to make as many endorsements as requested by candidates next year. Having them all speak at the same meeting is better for us, better for them, and better for the restaurant where we meet. The idea met with approval.

OLD BUSINESS

Good government: Covered earlier

Health care: Gerry Hunt reported that there is a proposal for a state bill like the national Medicare for All bill but that unfortunately neither Anna Eshoo nor Zoe Lofgren have signed on as coauthors.

Club building: Ralph reported on the Instagram account that he has set up for the club, which has 26 posts now and 18 followers and counting. The group had discussed an ice cream social like the one at Alice Smith's house a while back; Ralph reported that Alice is willing to have another such event in August or September. Marcene Van Dierendonck reported that the check for bounty for voter reg efforts is in the mail (she and Jennifer Sheppard worked hard at the California Avenue farmers' market and the check will represent their hard work). Amy brought up the question of Dean Club participation on Facebook; she noted that there are not very many "likes" on it and asked how much it is being used. Jackie said that she thinks a lot of people browse it but don't take the time to click on things. However, there is a trend toward Instagram, which is why Ralph set up the Instagram account and is working to foster it.

Social justice: Marcene announced that the authors of *Beating Guns: Hope for People Who Are Weary of Violence* will be speaking at the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Belmont on March 28 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. After a presentation on ending gun violence, there will be an invitation for the audience to take a hammer and transform a gun into a garden tool. For more information and to register, go to:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/beating-guns-tour-san-franciscobay-area-ca-tickets-55056042104?utm-medium=discovery&utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&aff=escb&utm-source=cp&utm-term=listing>

Jennifer Sheppard pointed out that Governor Newsom has placed a moratorium on executions in California, a major victory for opponents of the death penalty.

Political outreach: Mary Gill reported that there will be a SwingLeft fundraiser for TJ Cox on June 30, venue TBA but it will be local, and referred to the Close the Gap event on April 12 (which Jackie is working on; see Jackie's announcement). John reported that the SwingLeft March 17 event for Josh Harder raised \$36,000 that can be used for a new field director. He commented that candidates like Josh and TJ Cox will need help early on. Ralph noted that a lot of districts went from red to blue, so money from the right will be spread a bit thinner than it might have been. Gerry noted that he is working with a group to get a system of all mail-in ballots for Santa Clara County.

Environment: Amy had reported last month on an effort to protect the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band's cultural heritage; part of their ancestral land near Sargent Ranch in the south of the county is under threat because of a proposed gravel mine. (The Dean Club voted to sign a petition on line to ask county officials to deny a mining permit and reject the Sargent Quarry Project. To get more information and sign the petition, go to <http://www.protectjuristac.org/petition/>.) With some people from Orchard City Indivisible, Amy went to talk to county supervisor Joe Simitian, who said that he doesn't feel he has a lot of pull on this issue and that the best way for the tribe to prevail would be to have the area in question declared tribal land. Jackie had also contacted Joe Simitian about this issue. Amy also reported on the differences between the Green New Deal and

Dianne Feinstein's plan: the latter is more detailed but has a timeline that is much less aggressive. She offered this link for more information:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_dDTe0Zo-iPp6MC0NM1ofyHtaqgmvmXfd4xHktbRr3M/edit

Economic justice: Ben Shapero reported on the T-Mobile-Sprint merger. He said that prepaid phone plans are dominated by both of these companies, while companies like AT&T and Verizon have the contract business. If the merger goes through, there will be less competition and fewer options, especially for low-income communities that use the prepaid plans. He reported that Anna Eshoo is in favor and urged us to contact her to oppose it.

Candidates and initiatives: No report.

Education: Ben Shapero reported that Jackie Goldberg came in first in the LA School Board primary election. She is backed by the teachers' union and wants more scrutiny of charter schools. The winner will replace a charter-school founder who resigned after pleading guilty to money laundering.

Club membership: Ben Shapero reported that he will be sending out notices to people who are in arrears. In the past, the policy was to allow members to be in arrears for a year. Ralph noted that when he was membership chair, he would send out 13 notices before moving someone to the "inactive" portion of the list: once a month before membership would expire and then every month after that for a year.

Announcements

❖ Jackie announced that on Friday, April 12, Close the Gap will have a meeting from 11:30 to 1:30, "Literature, Leadership, and Lunch" celebrating women writers, leaders, and thinkers. Susan Eggman, who is running for state senate to replace Christine Galgiani, will be on hand, as will Mary Hughes, Liza Monroy, and Vanessa Hua. The meeting will be held at the JCC, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto.

❖ Barbara Keegan and Gary Kremen of the Santa Clara Valley Water Board will be addressing us at our meeting on April 8 at the Calabazas Library, 1230 S Blaney Avenue, San Jose. 6:30 for potluck and 7:00 for meeting.

❖ Nancy announced that local writer Justine Hunt has written a book called *The Great Pivot: Creating Meaningful Work to Build a Sustainable Future*, about career paths and jobs that will promote better environmental quality and also more meaningful employment; it's now available at Books, Inc.

Adjournment: At 9:00 p.m. Barbara moved that we adjourn the meeting, Ben Shapero seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Mary Gill