



Minutes of the Dean Democratic Club of Silicon Valley Organizational Meeting

April 25, 2016

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

Next working meetings: May 23, July 25, August 22, September 26, October 24, November 28

Next DFA-link meetings: May 9, June 13, July 11, August 8, September 12, October 10, November 14

Annual potluck picnic and election: June 25 (Saturday), Ponderosa Park Picnic Area 2, 811 Henderson Avenue, Sunnyvale 94086

Introductions: John Comiskey called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. Following that, each person introduced himself or herself and made a statement about recent political involvement.

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

Approval of minutes: Karen Porter moved that we approve the March minutes, Emilie seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissension.

Treasurer's report: Karen reported we have \$2862 in the state account and \$3469 in the federal account for a total of \$6331.

NEW BUSINESS

DNC delegate caucuses: John went over the procedure for voting in the caucuses to determine the delegates to the national Democratic convention, which will happen next Sunday, May 1. Each Congressional district will have two venues, one for Hillary Clinton and one for Bernie Sanders. Several people are running for delegate from our club in various districts. Carolyn moved that we endorse these candidates, and Emilie seconded the motion, and it passed with 15 yes votes and 1 no vote. John will create a list of club members running for delegate and put it on the club web page.

To find the meeting place for the caucuses in your CD, go to: <http://cadem.org/our-party/national-convention/national-convention-district-level-caucus-home/dnc2016>

Water plank legislative and club outreach: Joel Masser read a "Memorandum of Understanding" concerning a subplank in the state Democratic Party platform regarding water. The subplank, which Joel had drafted, contains provisions to manage watersheds and groundwater in a science-based plan, upgrade the Delta levees, protect water from contamination, guarantee water for basic needs, hold users accountable for their

consumption, and manage water to sustain ecosystems, fisheries, recreation and endangered species. The memorandum of understanding states that these provisions are included in the state party platform; organizations that sign on agree to work together with the legislature and governor toward these goals. Joel moved that our club sign on to the memorandum and authorize our environmental committee to help implement the provisions in the subplank, taking the issue to legislators and other clubs for support. Carolyn seconded the motion, which passed with 16 yes votes and no abstentions or no votes.

Call for nominating committee: John asked for volunteers to serve on a committee to nominate next year's officers. Lucas Ramirez will be stepping down as co-chair since he is running for Mountain View City Council and so might have a perceived conflict of interest. Gerry Hunt and Ralph Wheeler volunteered, but one more person is needed. If you are interested in serving on the committee (and not running for office), please contact Gerry, Ralph, or John.

Ice cream social planning: John asked for volunteers to work on an ice cream social fundraiser for our club, to be held sometime in July in the south part of the county. He has edited the ActBlue membership page to provide for recurrent contributions for membership directly from that page. Emilie suggested that the event be held soon after the national Democratic convention. Emilie volunteered to work with John on initial planning.

Event for Jerry McNerney June 12: Mary Gill announced that the Dean Club is cosponsoring an event for Jerry McNerney at Alice Smith's home from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at 4284 Los Palos Circle, Palo Alto 94306. Carolyn noted that Congresswoman Jackie Speier will attend. To RSVP, go to: <https://jerrymcnerney.org/events/event-6-12-16-palo-alto-reception>. For questions, contact Balerio Reyes at: <mailto:Balerio@jerrymcnerney.org>

California Clean Money Campaign grassroots summit May 7: Nancy Neff announced that there will be a grassroots summit in support of the DISCLOSE Act and other campaign finance legislation on May 7 at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 505 Charleston Road, Palo Alto, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The morning session will include an overview of legislation; the afternoon will include training in various volunteer tasks (e.g., phoning with Callfire, signature gathering, social media, and speaker training). (Lunch as well as a light breakfast will be served at no charge.) She is currently looking for volunteers to help. She also needs volunteers to gather signatures for the DISCLOSE Act at the Republican convention in Burlingame next weekend and for someone to help staff a table at the JJ dinner May 6. Gerry volunteered for the latter. For more information, contact Nancy at nrneff@sonic.net.

JJ dinner May 6: John asked club members who are planning to attend the county Democratic dinner and who would like to be seated with other club members to go to ActBlue to register as soon as possible. He will be in charge of reserving a table for Dean Club members. He is in charge of the database for the event in general and has 176

RSVPs so far and is expecting 400 to 500. He asked that you not wait until the last minute to respond.

Mountain View rent stabilization: Lucas described a signature drive by the Mountain View Tenants Coalition to get a rent-stabilization measure on the city ballot, one that would protect renters from eviction without cause as well as put a cap on rate increases (no more than 5 percent per year, depending on the Consumer Price Index). About 58 percent of Mountain View residents rent, and rents have increased by over 50 percent over four years. A measure to regulate rent was rejected by the city council last year. Volunteers are needed to gather 6,000 to 7,000 signatures to put the measure on the city ballot in November. Lucas moved that the club pass a resolution of support of the effort, Don Mayall seconded the motion, and it passed with 16 yes votes and no abstentions or no votes. If you are interested in contributing by volunteering time or making a financial contribution, contact Lucas: lucas.a.ramirez@gmail.com

Contributions to endorsed candidates: Emilie suggested that we make contributions to three Assembly candidates: Vicki Veenker, Ash Kalra, and Ana Caballero, initially recommending \$500 each. After a discussion of budget concerns, Gerry pointed out that this is for the primary election and moved that we contribute \$200 each. Don noted that we can give more next month if we choose to do so. Lucas seconded the motion, which passed with 16 yes votes and no abstentions or no votes. These are candidates endorsed by the club.

OLD BUSINESS

Candidates/campaigns: Mary announced that the fundraiser for Michael Eggman on April 17 at Stephanie Grossman's home raised \$6350 and that several people who attended indicated they would be willing to walk precincts for Michael.

Good government: Nancy reported on legislation regarding campaign finance reform:

Bob Hertzberg's **SB 1349**, which would revamp the antiquated Secretary of State website, has passed the Senate Elections Committee 4-0. Kevin Mullin's **AB 2523**, which would require candidates in cities and counties without contribution limits to abide by the same limits as state legislative campaigns (\$4200), passed the Assembly Elections Committee 5-2. Bill Dodd's **AB 1828**, which would close loopholes in conflict-of-interest rules for the Board of Equalization, passed the Assembly Elections Committee 4-3. Andy Vidak's **SB 976**, which would stop legislators from quitting in the middle of their terms and taking high-paying jobs as lobbyists, passed the Senate Elections Committee 5-0. Ben Allen's **SB 254**, which would put a measure on the November ballot to overturn Citizens United, will be coming up for its first committee vote soon. Ben Allen's **SB 1107**, which would put a measure on the ballot to repeal the ban on public financing of campaigns passed in 1988, was recently introduced; this ban does not apply to charter cities like San Francisco but does apply to general law cities and state elections.

Rich Gordon's **AB 1200**, which would close a loophole in requirements for lobbyists to register, has passed both houses of the legislature.

Nancy encouraged people to sign petitions by e-mail for these bills and support them in any way possible, including the use of social media. If you want to be a Facebook rapid responder for the Clean Money campaign, contact Nancy: nrneff@sonic.net.

Social justice: Covered earlier.

Environment: Joel reported that the environment committee met at Carolyn and Don's home and looked at Sierra Club priority bills we might want to support or oppose; they also suggested a DFA-link meeting.

Education: No report.

Economic justice: Lucas reported that the Opportunity to Work Initiative, which would require employers to offer part-time employees the opportunity to work additional hours before hiring new people, has qualified for the ballot in San Jose.

Health: Gerry announced that there will be a screening of the documentary *Fix It: Healthcare at the Tipping Point* on Wednesday, April 27, at IBEW Hall, 2125 Canoas Garden Avenue, San Jose. Refreshments at 6:00 p.m. and film and discussion at 6:30.

Support the club and party: Covered earlier.

Club membership: Erik Fong reported by e-mail that we have 165 members (including 16 "paid plus members" who have paid for more than one year and 82 who are in arrears), 490 Facebook members, and 203 Yahoo members.

Announcements

- ❖ Lucas announced that the DFA-link meeting next month will feature club member Barbara Keegan of the Santa Clara Valley Water District. Venue to be announced.
- ❖ Lucas announced that there will be a fundraiser for Joe Simitian on May 3 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.; people who have not met Joe are especially encouraged to attend and may qualify for a special rate. To RSVP or for more information, go to <https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/villarreal2016>
- ❖ Emily Ramos announced that the Silicon Valley Young Democrats will hold a party after the JJ dinner on May 6 at Mosaic; a \$100 donation will entitle the donor to associate membership. She encouraged people to attend to meet and support Young Dems.
- ❖ Glen Shaffer announced that his group Silicon Valley (Daily) Kos will be meeting on Saturday at 1:00 p.m. at Gordon Biersch in San Jose. They will be discussing ways to

work as a team, using social media and letters to editors to support progressive candidates and causes. Joining them will be representatives from local campaigns and Jeevan Zutshi, long-time community activist and author. To RSVP or if you can't make this event but want to help, contact Glen Shaffer askglenbo@att.net

❖ John encouraged people to keep track of their time on club work for the list of club achievements that Carolyn assembles each year. He will send out a spreadsheet to help track hours.

❖ Emilie announced that she is running to be a delegate to the national convention and asked that club members vote for her and encourage others in her district to do so.

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

Minutes submitted by Mary Gill