



## **Minutes of the Dean Democratic Club of Silicon Valley Organizational Meeting**

May 23, 2016

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

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

**Next DFA-link meetings:** June 13, July 11, August 8, September 12, October 10,

November 14

**Annual potluck picnic and election:** June 25 (Saturday), 11:00 a.m. Ponderosa Park Picnic Area 2, 811 Henderson Avenue, Sunnyvale 94086

**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:** Lucas Ramirez moved that we adopt the agenda, Thida Cornes seconded it, and the motion passed with no dissension.

**Approval of minutes:** Lucas moved that we approve the April minutes, Ben Stetson seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissension.

**Treasurer's report:** Karen Porter reported we have \$2379 in the state account and \$3469 in the federal account. Last year at this time we had \$3555 in the state account and \$2614 in the federal account, about \$300 more.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Call for nominees, offline:** Gerry Hunt, Ralph Wheeler, and Lucas Ramirez are on the nominating committee; if you would like to run or nominate someone else for the steering committee for next year, contact one of them to let them know. We'll be holding the election at our annual picnic meeting June 25 (see above for place and time).

**All Clubs Picnic sponsorship:** John reported on the All Clubs Picnic, which the Dean Club has always attended and which has been a good way for us to attract new members. This year the picnic will be held on July 9; lunch is provided. Emilie moved that we contribute the \$150 fee, Lucas seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissension. Karen will send a check. John will arrive early to set up, and Emilie Gatfield volunteered to help staff our table.

**JJ Dinner recap:** John reported that there were about 500 people at the dinner, that Emy and Jim Thurber received a lifetime achievement award, and that Diane Rolfe won the

Madge Overhouse award for volunteerism. The raffle for various prizes netted 172 e-mails of participants (who gave their e-mails on the entry forms). Those e-mails will be used to invite people to join a club, the county party, attend the All Clubs Picnic, etc.

**Ballot initiative assignments, preliminary:** John had sent out information by e-mail on ballot initiatives that have qualified or are close to doing so. There are 58 more in the works, 15 of which have attained at least 25 percent of the signatures needed. At our August link meeting, we will be having presentations on each of the measures that has qualified, after which we will take a straw poll in preparation for a vote at a working meeting. If you are interested in making a presentation on one of the measures, contact John. Gerry volunteered for the initiative on state prescription drug purchases.

**Fall endorsement schedule:** John had a list of dates when endorsement meetings can be held (Friday through Sunday of the last weekend in July and the first three weekends of August). The meetings are held at John and Barbara's home. There are 7 members on the endorsement committee, although other club members may be participating in city council races, for instance. We will vote at the August 22 meeting.

**AD 24 Super-PAC spending:** Karen did some research about the sudden deluge of mailers and TV and Internet ads by super PACS in support of the Marc Berman campaign for AD 24 and the money behind the PACS. One group is the EdVoice Independent Expenditure Committee, which spent \$300,000 in May. This group is backed by wealthy individuals with apparent ties to interests in support of charter schools and vouchers and against teachers' unions. The Californians Allied for Patient Protection Independent Expenditure Account (CAPPPIE), backed mainly by medical/dental groups and insurance PACS, sent out a piece claiming that our endorsed candidate, Vicki Veenker, is unqualified to run for office, reporting an incurred expense of \$32,500. The major backers of the CAPPPIE super PAC include the California Dental Association Independent Expenditure PAC, which sent out its own mailers directly supporting Berman and reported expenditures for his campaign of \$110,000. A third group, the California Association of Realtors' independent expenditure committee, also sent out mailers and reported spending \$144,000 for Berman in May.

**Event for Jerry McNerney June 12:** Mary Gill reminded the group 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. Congresswoman Jackie Speier will attend and speak. 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>

**Trip to Sacramento for the DISCLOSE Act on June 21; signature gathering:** Nancy Neff reported that AB 700, the DISCLOSE Act, will be considered by the Senate Elections Committee on June 21 at 1:30. We need to send a large group of people up to Sacramento that day in support. We'll be lobbying senators in the morning starting at 9:30 and packing the hearing room at 1:30. Car pools will be available. The campaign is currently working on gathering as many signatures on petitions as possible by June 7

(since it takes two weeks to process them). She encouraged people to take petitions if they attend presidential political rallies, which are especially good places to get signatures. If passed, the bill will not go into effect until next year.

**Picnic and ice cream social planning:** Mary had sent out an e-mail listing items that are needed for the picnic in addition to the potluck dish each of us will bring. In response, Ralph Wheeler, Ben Stetson, and Joel Masser volunteered to bring ice and ice chests. If you can bring an item such as paper plates, etc. please let Mary know. Joel will send out invitations to elected officials. Emilie and John will work on planning the ice cream social fundraiser for our club sometime this summer.

**DFA link meeting June 13:** Dr. Terry Christensen, an expert on state and local politics, will be our speaker. We are looking for a large venue somewhere in the north part of the county; please let Lucas or Emilie know if you have a suggestion for one.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Candidates/campaigns:** Covered earlier.

**Good government:** Nancy reported that Rich Gordon's AB 1200, which would have mandated that individuals trying to procure state contracts register as lobbyists (closing a large loophole), passed both houses of the legislature with almost no opposition. However, it was vetoed by the governor.

**Social justice:** No report.

**Environment:** Joel reported that the committee met and discussed the Delta tunnels issue; Gerry noted that the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board will be meeting on May 24 at 6:00 p.m. at 5750 Almaden Expressway. Gerry had brought a letter from Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla of Restore the Delta encouraging ratepayers to attend and express opposition to the tunnels project. Joel reported that he has also been working on bolstering support for the nuclear resolution our club passed. The committee also discussed AB 2395, Evan Low's bill that would allow AT&T to discontinue landline services in 2020. (A quick Google search of AB 2395 reveals quite a lot of opposition to leaving rural people and others without landlines.) If you are in Evan Low's district, you might want to contact him to express your opinion about this bill. His district office: 20111 Stevens Creek Blvd., Suite 220, Cupertino, 95014; 408 446-2810

**Education:** No report. Thida will send John a report on education from Rich Gordon's office.

**Economic justice:** Lucas reported that the Los Altos City Council will consider a measure to increase the city minimum wage at their meeting on May 24 at 6:30.

**Health:** Gerry reported on two bills: (1) AB 533, Out of Network Insurance Coverage, an

important consumer protection bill that would limit the amount a patient can be charged for an out-of-network provider to no more than what he or she would have paid for an in-network provider and (2) SB 10, which would allow undocumented immigrants to get health coverage from the Covered California Exchange. AB 533 is being revived; both bills need support.

**Support the club and party:** Covered earlier.

**Club membership:** Erik Fong reported by e-mail that we have 167 members (including 12 “paid plus members” who have paid for more than one year and 86 who are in arrears), 498 Facebook members, and 203 Yahoo members.

### **Announcements**

❖ 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, will be on the agenda for the San Jose City Council on May 24.

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

Minutes submitted by Mary Gill