

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

July 25, 2016

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

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

**Next DFA-link meetings:** August 8, September 12, October 10, November 14

**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:** After one item was repositioned within the agenda, Lucas Ramirez moved that we adopt the agenda as amended, Gerry Hunt seconded it, and the motion passed with no dissension.

**Approval of minutes:** Jackie Wheeler moved that we approve the May minutes, Lucas seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's report:** Karen Porter reported we have \$2608 in the state account and \$3337 in the federal account for a total of \$5945.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Election of officers:** Gerry Hunt announced the newly elected officers for this year: Ben Stetson as new co-chair along with John, Karen Porter as treasurer, Joel Masser as corresponding secretary, Emilie Gatfield and Elspeth Farmer as members at large, and Mary Gill as recording secretary. John welcomed the new officers and thanked the previous office holders for their work.

**McNerney event recap:** Mary Gill reported that the event for Jerry at Alice Smith's on June 12 was attended by around 60 people. Jerry and Mary McNerney, their daughter Windy and son Michael (and Michael's family) were all present. Jackie Speier spoke about Jerry's excellent work and how much he contributes to the House as an alternative energy expert. The event brought in \$8079.

**Sierra National Monument Project:** Joel Masser summarized a project that Deanna Wulff had spoken about at our club picnic in June, which would make the area between Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks (one million acres of federal land) into a national monument. This would protect the area from timber harvesting and ranching interests, preserve archeological sites, and protect the watersheds as well as ensure continuing sustainability. John had sent out a file of information about the project, including a long list of supporters. After some discussion, Joel moved that we support the project, Gerry seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**Stop Jet Noise campaign:** Karen reported that the Federation Aviation Administration changed the air traffic patterns and in some cases altitude levels on planes in the Bay Area in 2015 with the result that there is more noise and traffic in certain corridors than there was previously. Joe Simitian was appointed by Anna Eshoo to get community input on the problem of noise pollution from the new flight patterns. There is a website that will tell you exactly what flight is overhead in real time and allow you to send a complaint to SFO: [stop.jetnoise.net](http://stop.jetnoise.net). More information is available at [skypossepaloalto.org](http://skypossepaloalto.org). If you would to get involved, contact Karen: [porter.k@ix.netcom.com](mailto:porter.k@ix.netcom.com)

**Endorsement proposals:** Joel reported on two races being waged by Democrats running against Tea Party Republicans in rural districts; the two candidates came to our club picnic meeting in June. Both strongly support campaign finance reform and are pro-environmental. Many club members had the opportunity to talk to them at the event; Ralph Wheeler noted that he had contributed money then and there since he was impressed with their efforts. (1) **Brian Caples** is running for Assembly in AD 6. (The district includes Roseville, Rocklin, Fair Oaks, Folsom.) (2) **Rob Rowen** is running in SD 1. The district includes everything to the north and east all the way to the borders (Shasta, Siskiyou, Sierra, Nevada, Lassen, Alpine, El Dorado, Modoc Counties). Joel moved that we endorse both candidates, Mary seconded the motion, and it was passed with no dissension. Joel then moved that we contribute \$100 to each campaign, Mary seconded that motion, and that passed unanimously also. Karen will send checks to the two campaigns.

Karen brought up reconsidering the endorsement of **Ami Bera** for Congress in CD 7. After some discussion, she moved that we consider the endorsement at the September meeting. Gerry seconded the motion, which passed with no dissension.

After some discussion about endorsing **Hillary Clinton**, it was decided to take this up after she is the official nominee, in September. Stephanie moved that we postpone the vote to September, Jackie Wheeler seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**Ballot initiative assignments:** John passed around a sheet listing the November ballot initiatives with names of people who have signed up to make presentations on them at our August 8 meeting. He asked for additional volunteers for those initiatives for which no one had signed up, and several people volunteered. The presentations should be about three minutes long. John had sent out templates that we can adapt to use for each of them. He noted that although we have a straw poll at the August 8 meeting, there are often changes between that poll and the final vote at the business meeting later in the month.

**Fall endorsement schedule:** John passed around a list of the current information he has on city council races in Sunnyvale, Mountain View, Palo Alto, and Santa Clara. He pointed out that this information is incomplete because people are still filing and it is sometimes hard to get the most recent data. The endorsement committee now has four people on it. Stephanie Grossman suggested that we have at least one person from each city involved in an endorsement in that city and that the committee ask questions about local issues. John asked for people who live in these four towns to let him know if they are available and also to recommend people who might volunteer. Any club member can

submit questions to the committee, so if you live in one of these cities and have a specific question you want them to ask candidates, send it to John. The first set of interviews will be on the two weekends immediately preceding our August 22 meeting.

**Ice cream social planning:** John reported that Alice Smith has offered to host an ice cream social at her home in Palo Alto. Emilie Gatfield is working on getting prices for various kinds of ice cream. Erik Fong offered to help also.

**Sierra Club oil and gas production resolution:** Joel introduced a resolution from the Sierra Club that John had sent out before the meeting regarding prohibiting oil and gas development, drilling, fracking, well stimulation, etc. in Santa Clara County unincorporated areas. After considerable discussion, it was decided to consider the resolution further and bring it up for a vote at the September meeting.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Task force reports

#### Candidates/campaigns:

**Event for Ami Bera August 27:** Mary passed out fliers for the event in support of Congressman Ami Bera August 27 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Alice Smith's home, 4284 Los Palos Circle, Palo Alto. For more information or to RSVP, go to: <https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/08.27.16>

**Event for Vicki Veenker August 27:** There will be a campaign kickoff for Vicki on the same day as the Ami Bera event, but from 3:00 to 5:00 in Sunnyvale. More information to follow.

**Good government:** Nancy Neff reported that AB 700, the DISCLOSE Act, will be considered by the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 1 at 10:00 a.m. She stressed that it is urgent for a large group of people to show up in Sacramento that day in support since this will be our last chance to do this; we need to pack the hearing room at 9:30. Car pools will be available. Ricardo Lara, chairman of the committee, needs to hear from his constituents that they want the bill passed. Volunteers with the California Clean Money Campaign will be calling them via the CallFire system starting the first week of August. If the bill gets out of the suspense file (and does not die at this point), CCMC will be making calls to get constituent support in several Senate districts with Republicans who may be persuaded to vote yes, as well as in Democrat Steve Glazer's district. In answer to questions, Nancy said that there would be phone banks and also trainings on using CallFire locally. She passed around a sign-up sheet for both the August 1 trip and for CallFire. Contact Nancy if you can help: [nrneff@sonic.net](mailto:nrneff@sonic.net)

**Social justice:** Joel asked people to comment on our recent DFA-link meeting. In response to questions about how to improve race relations in our area, the speaker, from the Silicon Valley NAACP, had made suggestions such as joining the local NAACP and reaching out to the black community. Gerry suggested that more disclosure of violent

incidents with police should be encouraged. John noted that our speaker had also suggested initiating police review boards in other Bay Area towns, like the one San Jose has. Lucas noted that LaDoris Cordell, who was a police auditor in San Jose, will be the speaker at our September meeting. Joel suggested inviting NAACP members to our meetings and also sending some of our members to their meetings to foster communication between the organizations.

**Environment:** Joel described his meeting with Bill Monning and others regarding Monning's bill SB 968 and the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant, which is scheduled to be shut down by 2025. There are serious questions about seismic uncertainty of the facility in the event of an earthquake before the plant is dismantled. Monning's bill calls for a study of the economic impact of shutting down the plant: that is, the possible negative economic impacts in terms of job losses, etc. Joel had written a letter to Monning back in March asking him to withdraw this bill and stating why the plant should be shut down; our club approved the letter at that point and it was sent out. Joel reported that it does not appear that Monning will amend his bill, despite objections from our club and other groups.

**Education:** No report.

**Economic justice:** Lucas reported on the city-wide housing measure in San Jose that Erik had referred to in the introductions, A for Affordable Housing. Erik will see if he can find someone to speak to us about the measure. Lucas also reported on the Mountain View rent stabilization measure, which has qualified for the November ballot. On August 9 we will know if there is a competing measure from the Mountain View City Council, which had failed to pass a rent stabilization measure before the Mountain View Tenants Association collected signatures.

**Health:** Gerry reported that a new organization called AllCare Alliance has been formed, merging several organizations together to work to get a single-payer bill into the California legislature next year. California OneCare, Health Care for All California, Physicians for a National Health Program California, and the California Health Professional Student Alliance are now working closely in this coalition.

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

**Club membership:** Erik reported that we have 170 members (including 35 "paid plus members" who have paid for more than one year and 113 who are in arrears), 539 Facebook members, and 203 Yahoo members. He passed out his report including a list of those who are in arrears. He and John will attend the Unity Picnic (formerly All Clubs' Picnic, see announcements) on August 6 in an effort to recruit new members.

## **Announcements**

❖ Stephanie announced that there will be a party at the new Democratic Volunteer

Center, 1970 El Camino Real, Mountain View (near Rengstorff Avenue) on Thursday night when Hillary Clinton accepts the nomination for president. It will start at 5:30, and dinner will be provided at no charge. Amy Samelson announced that there will be a party at the Democratic headquarters on Moorpark Avenue in San Jose simultaneously and that there are phone banks for Hillary there on Tuesday and Saturday nights.

❖ The next DFA link meeting will be August 8 at the Santa Clara County Democratic Party Headquarters, 2901 Moorpark Avenue, #110, San Jose. It will feature presentations on the ballot measures for November. Snacks and conversation at 6:30 p.m., and the meeting starts at 7:00.

❖ Mary reported that the Democratic Party Unity Picnic (formerly the All Clubs' Picnic) will be August 6 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Emma Prusch Park, 647 S King Road, San Jose 95116. You can RSVP at 408 445 9500. The Dean Club donated \$150 toward costs, and the event is free of charge to club members.

❖ Mary announced that MoveToAmend will be showing Michael Moore's movie *Where to Invade Next* on August 15 at Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Avenue, San Jose (between 280 and Stevens Creek Blvd). Dinner at 6:00 for those who want to have dinner, and the movie will be shown at 6:30. The Dean Club is cosponsoring the event.

**Adjournment:** At 8:47 p.m. Stephanie moved that we adjourn, Ralph seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Mary Gill