

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

November 28, 2016

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

**Annual brainstorming and potluck dinner:** December 12, 6:30 p.m., at the home of Ralph and Jackie Wheeler, 3956 Nelson Court, Palo Alto CA 94306

**Next working meetings:** January 23, February 27, March 27, April 24, May 22

**Next DFA-link meetings:** January 9, February 13, March 13, April 10, May 8

**Introductions:** John Comiskey called the meeting to order at 7:09 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 with one addition, Jackie Wheeler seconded it, and the motion passed with no dissension.

**Approval of minutes:** Ben Stetson moved that we approve the October minutes, Marcene Van Dierendonck seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's report:** Karen Porter reported we have \$1253 in the state account and \$1320 in the federal account.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Movement for Black Lives:** Joel Masser had reported earlier on a coalition of social justice organizations called Movement for Black Lives. He had read a summary of their goals and positions on issues but time was short and the item had to be postponed. Since Joel could not be at the November meeting, the item was postponed to January. For more information, the coalition website is <https://policy.m4bl.org/>

**Election recap:** John began by asking Vicki Veenker about her experience running for AD 24 Assembly. Vicki described some of the ups and downs of being a candidate, including fundraising, problems with independent expenditures (which heavily favored her opponent), and the many differences in how endorsements are made by different organizations. Club members discussed the untruths in some of the messaging from the independent expenditures against her and the problem with having union endorsements (e.g., CTA) but not union support in active campaigning. Vicki thanked the Dean Club for our support and activism. John lamented the loss of three San Jose City Council seats to Republicans; Emily Ramos, the losses by Mike Honda and Helen Chapman. Jackie Wheeler mentioned that only 4 or 5 of the Close the Gap candidates won, although 15 of the 17 women made it through the primary. Mary Gill mentioned the race out in CD 10, which polls had moved from Republican to toss up and then to leans Dem (with Michael Eggman ahead in several polls by Election Day); Michael ultimately lost by 4 points.

**Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan:** Mary reported that there will be several upcoming hearings on the Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan, which would increase the flow of fresh water into the Delta to 40% between February and June on the San Joaquin River and its tributaries. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife determined that 50-60% of natural flow should remain instream in order to protect fish populations and reduce the concentration of pollutants, and yet there is opposition to the 40% by vested interests who want more water moved south. She urged people to sign the petition in support of the plan at <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/revive-our-rivers-and-the-bay-delta> and to submit a comment in support to the state water board at [commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov). An article by Peter Drekmeier that provides more information on the plan, comment letters, and hearing dates is at <https://www.tuolumne.org/bay-delta-plan-calls-40-unimpaired-flow-tuolumne-rivers>.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Task force reports

**Candidates/campaigns:** Lucas Ramirez was asked about his run for Mountain View City Council. He was competing with older and more experienced candidates and came close to winning with 10,000 votes. He thanked Emily for her work as his campaign manager. Many club members and others had told him he was a shoo-in; there may be a disadvantage to being a frontrunner. Lucas asked if we would be endorsing in the race for the CDP chair, and John said he believes this would be appropriate. The race is between Eric Bauman, vice chair of the party, and Kimberly Ellis, executive director of Emerge California. The vote will be in May at the state party convention. John will contact the members of the endorsement committee. If you would like to volunteer to be on this committee, contact him. Emily brought up the Assembly District delegate elections (she is now in AD 24), and John encouraged anyone who wants to run to sign up soon at: <http://action.cadem.org/site/Calendar?id=101182&view=Detail> (The deadline is December 8.) There was a discussion about slates, which can be useful in specific cases.

**Good government:** Mary reported that AB 700, the DISCLOSE Act, will be reintroduced in the legislature in early December and that the California Clean Money Campaign will be gearing up to support it. It will be easier to get coauthors on board than it was in the last session, since it is no longer a “spot” bill but has finalized language. Other factors in our favor are that Democrats now have a 2/3 supermajority in the Senate and the Assembly and there is time now to address some minor opposition from the FPPC. There will be a CCMC grassroots summit on February 25; please mark your calendars! Contact Nancy Neff for more information: [nrneff@sonic.net](mailto:nrneff@sonic.net)

**Social justice:** John mentioned that the Measure A housing bond passed in Santa Clara County but noted that unfortunately the proposition that will retain the death penalty (but accelerate the process) also passed. Karen said that the proposition will probably be challenged in court and that it will be difficult to find the legal personnel necessary to

implement it as stipulated.

**Education:** John mentioned Proposition 55, which will help with funding of public schools and community colleges.

**Economic justice:** Lucas reported that Measure V passed in Mountain View with 53% of the vote despite a lot of money spent by opponents. It will link rent increases to the Consumer Price Index, limiting them to at most 5 percent in any given year, and it will protect renters from being evicted without cause. (Both Lucas and Emily worked very hard on this measure.) Also, the minimum wage in San Jose will increase to \$15 by 2019.

**Health:** Gerry emphasized that we need to work on getting out the word about Medicare for All in California since any progressive bill the new legislature passes will be immediately challenged by insurance companies. (Gerry has been treasurer for Health Care for All California since 1998.)

**Support the club and party:** John will be working on a fundraiser to be held early next year; if you have ideas or want to be involved, please send contact John.

**Club membership:** Erik Fong reported by e-mail that the club has 30 paid plus members and 46 paid members (for a total of 76) plus 95 who are in arrears. There are 608 Facebook members and 311 Yahoo members. This year we have 13 new paid members and 161 new Facebook members.

### **Announcements**

❖ Karen announced that there will be a protest against the Trump administration at Justin Herman Plaza in San Francisco at 2:00 p.m. on December 10.

❖ Emily announced that the Silicon Valley Young Dems will have their holiday party on December 19 in San Jose. Contact Emily for more information: emily00@gmail.com

❖ John announced that the Berryessa-North San Jose Democratic Club will hold their holiday party on December 17 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Coldwell Banker, 2698 Berryessa Road, San Jose.

❖ The Century Club Holiday Luncheon will be on Friday, December 16, from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. at the San Jose Convention Center, 150 W San Carlos Street, Room 114, San Jose. (\$25 for members and \$30 for nonmembers)

❖ Lucas announced that the Democratic Party Holiday Mixer will be held at Strikes Brewery, 2099 S 10<sup>th</sup> Street, San Jose on Friday, December 2, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

**Adjournment:** At 8:46 p.m. Jackie moved that we adjourn, Gerry seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Mary Gill