

Minutes of the Dean Democratic Club of Silicon Valley Organizational Meeting

October 24, 2016

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

Next working meeting: November 28

Next DFA-link meeting: November 14

Annual brainstorming and potluck dinner: December 12, at the home of Ralph and Jackie Wheeler, 3956 Nelson Court, Palo Alto CA 94306

Introductions: John Comiskey called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. Following that, each person introduced himself or herself and made a statement about recent political involvement.

Adoption of agenda: Joel Masser moved that we adopt the agenda as amended, Gerry Hunt seconded it, and the motion passed with no dissension.

Approval of minutes: John moved that we approve the September minutes, Joel seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report: Karen Porter reported we have \$1190 in the state account and \$1320 in the federal account.

NEW BUSINESS

Santa Clara County Democratic Party accreditation: John noted that he is updating our membership roster for the upcoming accreditation by the county Democratic party. He will be filtering out those who are not eligible to vote in party elections and filling out forms for the process. The club charter is due to be renewed in January.

Movement for Black Lives: Joel had reported last month 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 to the October meeting. Joel read a letter from DFA's Jim Dean on behalf of the Movement for Black Lives, in which Dean made an appeal for individuals to make financial contributions to the organization. Joel will send the information he has to the steering committee, including the demands being made and the groups and individuals that have endorsed, and the steering committee will read through the material and make a recommendation to the club members at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Task force reports

Candidates/campaigns:

Michael Eggman for Congress: Mary Gill reported that, for the first time, Michael is ahead in various polls and he recently got the prize endorsement of the *Modesto Bee*, so the tide has turned! (His opponent has still not disavowed Trump.) She passed around a sign-up sheet for car pools for precinct walking for Michael in Tracy; Gerry Hunt volunteered to drive on Saturday, October 29. Contact Gerry if you would like to go with him: gwhunt97@comcast.net. Dave Joki will drive his van next Sunday and also on election day and can take 6 others; contact him at djoki@earthlink.net if you can go. The Tracy office is open seven days a week and welcomes help any day; contact Emely Estrada: emelyestrada@yahoo.com for hours, etc. Emely can also tell you how to phone from home.

Vicki Veenker for Assembly: Karen noted that Vicki recently secured the endorsement of Anna Eshoo, Joe Simitian, and Zoe Lofgren, among many others. Unfortunately, her opponent is getting large contributions from outside interests. You can phone or pick up walk packets for Vicki at her new headquarters, open every day: 2172 Staunton Court, Palo Alto (between College and Oxford). For more information on specific hours and activities contact: dean@vickiforassembly.com or call Dean at (925) 207-4070.

Mike Honda for Congress: Ben Stetson announced that there will be a phone bank for Mike with Danny Glover on Tuesday, October 25, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the Honda office in Cupertino: 10675 S De Anza Blvd. RSVP at tara@mikehonda.com. There will be a GOTV rally with Dolores Huerta on Saturday, October 29, from 9:30 to 10:30, followed by a canvass and phone bank at the Honda office in Newark: 5886 Mowry School Road, Newark. RSVP at sam@mikehonda.com

Good government: Mary reported that SB 1107, which overturns the ban on public financing of elections, was signed into law by Governor Brown. The California Clean Money Campaign is using CallFire to make calls in support of Proposition 59, to overturn Citizens United. Contact Nancy Neff for more information: nrneff@sonic.net

Social justice: Joel reported on an on-line class he is taking on slavery; there are currently 46 million slaves in the world, many in Southeast Asia or Africa. If these people formed a country, they would be about the size of California in population. However, they would be third in the world in terms of their greenhouse gas emissions. Slaves are exploited in activities like mining and shrimp farming, which cause deforestation and other environmental problems.

Environment: No report.

Education: No report.

Economic justice: No report.

Health: No report.

Support the club and party: John suggested that we do a fundraiser at the beginning of the year, and others agreed.

Club membership: Erik Fong reported that the club has 32 paid plus members and 44 paid members (for a total of 76) plus 95 who are in arrears. There are 600 Facebook members and 311 Yahoo members. This year we have 12 new paid members and 153 new Facebook members.

Announcements

❖ Gerry announced that VoteVets is supporting Proposition 61 (which mandates that the state negotiate drug prices to get VA rates). They claim that prices will not be raised for veterans (as opponents have charged) because the drug companies cannot raise prices more than the cost of living allows. John pointed out that drug companies sell products all over the world at much lower rates than we pay in the United States and lower than VA rates.

Adjournment: At 8:20 p.m. Gerry moved that we adjourn, Joel seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Mary Gill