



Minutes of the Dean Democratic Club of Silicon Valley Organizational Meeting

January 25, 2016

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

Next working meetings: February 22, March 28, April 25, May 23

Next DFA-link meetings: February 8, March 14, April 11, May 9

Introductions: John Comiskey called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Following that, each person introduced himself or herself and made a statement about recent political involvement.

Adoption of agenda: After two changes were made to the agenda, Carolyn Curtis moved that we adopt the agenda as amended, Stephanie Grossman seconded it, and the motion passed with no dissension.

Approval of minutes: The November meeting had been canceled due to a problem at the meeting venue so there were no minutes. Gerry Hunt moved that we approve the October minutes, Carolyn seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissension.

Treasurer's report: Karen Porter reported that as of December 31, 2015 we have \$6171 in the bank: \$3344 in the state and \$2087 in the federal account.

NEW BUSINESS

DFA dinner recap: Carolyn reported on a national DFA meeting with Charles Chamberlain and others. DFA is not getting involved in many Congressional races, but they will be involved in Mike Honda's race. Their main focus this year will be at the state level, governors and legislatures.

2015 accomplishments: John noted that Carolyn is preparing a list of our accomplishments for 2015. Previous lists are posted on our website. If you have not sent a tally of your hours of activism to Carolyn, please do so: carolyncurtis@comcast.net

Budget midpoint review: Karen gave a review of the midpoint in our two-year budget. Last year our goal was to raise \$3000 and we raised \$3335. Our expenditures were lower than projected. The plan is to raise \$4500 in 2016. John noted that donations to the JJ dinner and the All Clubs Picnic were classified as overhead since he wrote checks and then was reimbursed; we are on track with the budget in general, however.

Convention presence, progress: John reported that the county Democratic party will have an event on the Friday night of the state convention (February 26) at the Tech Museum from 8:00 to 12:00 p.m. with an open bar. He has been making an effort to ensure there is participation from the various local clubs (in lieu of an event sponsored by all the local clubs themselves).

Endorsement delegates to CDP, CDC: John thanked the delegates to the CDP and CDC. Virginia Shea, Ben Stetson, and Judy Niizawa are among them and were present at the meeting. He asked that people who want to be a CDC delegate send him an e-mail. Marcene Van Dierendonck passed around DFA buttons for people to wear to the convention.

Delta tunnels: Joel Masser read a letter to the Santa Clara Valley Water District opposing the Delta tunnels project, which he had authored and sent to members of the environmental committee, who had approved it. He moved that we send the letter to the directors, Carolyn seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (including one change: “opposes” to “strongly opposes”). There will be a board meeting on Tuesday, January 26, at 1:00 p.m. and anyone who wants to speak there should attend.

Voters Right to Know February 20 kickoff and trainings; AB 700: Mary Gill reported that the California Clean Money Campaign is working on getting signatures for the Voters Right to Know (VRTK) initiative, which would appear on the November ballot, as well as getting AB 700, the DISCLOSE Act, passed through the legislature. (Both apply to candidates as well as ballot measures, mandating that the top three funders of a political ad appear on the ad itself.) **AB 700:** The Assembly will be voting this week on AB 700, and there is a phone campaign to get constituents to call into districts of key Assembly Republicans to urge them to vote yes. **VRTK Kickoff and trainings:** There will be a Peninsula VRTK kickoff on February 20 at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 505 Charleston Road, Palo Alto, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Trainings for petition signings for VRTK are at 7:00 p.m. Thursday nights in Palo Alto and Wednesday nights in San Mateo, Saturdays at noon in San Jose, or by phone at various times. For more information or to sign up for these efforts, go to: www.yesfairelections.org. Trained volunteers can also go to SignUpGenius.com to find events and connect with fellow volunteers gathering signatures. For more information or to volunteer in other ways, contact Nancy Neff at nancy@neffs.net. **Endorsement and cosponsorship:** Mary moved that we endorse the Voters Right to Know initiative, Barbara Comiskey seconded it, and it passed with no dissension. Mary moved that we cosponsor the kickoff, and Carolyn seconded it. Marcene suggested a \$100 donation. (Ralph Wheeler had asked earlier about a donation as part of the cosponsorship.) Emilie Gatfield moved that we increase the contribution to \$250. The motion was amended and seconded by Mary and Carolyn, and it passed with no dissension. Karen will issue a check for \$250.

Club endorsement committee recommendation: John passed around the recommendations from the endorsement committee for re-election of the following:

US Representatives

CD 7 Ami Bera

CD 9 Jerry McNerney

CD 17 Mike Honda

CD 18 Anna Eshoo

CD 19 Zoe Lofgren

California senators

SD 13 Jerry Hill

SD 15 Jim Beall

SB 17 Bill Monning

Santa Clara County Supervisors

District 2 Cindy Chavez

District 3 Dave Cortese

District 5 Joe Simitian

Non-incumbents

CD 10 Michael Eggman

Lucas Ramirez moved that we endorse the full list of recommended candidates, Emilie seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissension. Stephanie moved that we pull Ami Bera for a separate vote, Don Mayall moved that we pull Dave Cortese, and Joel moved that we pull Anna Eshoo so that a young man who wants to run for her office and who had come to the meeting could speak. Emilie moved that we endorse Ami Bera, and Lucas seconded the motion. (Note: the move to endorse has to precede a vote against endorsement.) There were 9 yes and 7 no votes, no abstentions, and therefore no endorsement (since a 2/3 majority is required). Robert Harlan, a young Stanford grad who has not yet filed, expressed his dissatisfaction with Anna Eshoo and said he would like to see legalization of the undocumented, health care for all, and tech education taught earlier in schools; Don and others spoke in favor of the Congresswoman. Don moved that we endorse Anna Eshoo, Ralph seconded the motion, and it passed with 18 yes votes, 1 no vote, no abstentions. Emilie then moved that we endorse Dave Cortese and Carolyn seconded the motion; after discussion, there were 6 yes votes, 4 no votes, 4 absentions, so there was no endorsement. In short, all the recommended candidates were endorsed except Ami Bera and Dave Cortese.

Gross receipts tax initiative for San Jose: Dr. Scott Myers-Lipton, a professor at San Jose State who worked on the recent San Jose minimum wage effort, presented a plan to tax businesses based on their gross revenue within the city. His plan, the Modernization of the Business Tax Ordinance, would give San Jose much-needed income to repair roads, address the housing crisis, and reinstate some of the cuts to nonprofits, among other things. He noted that most large California cities already have such a tax (San Diego and San Jose are exceptions) and that this would be a modest amount compared to

that of many other cities. The plan would exclude businesses that have gross receipts of less than \$1 million. Help is needed to gather 18,000 signatures to get the measure on the ballot. For more information or to volunteer, contact: www.sj4worldclasscity.com. Lucas moved that we endorse the measure, Emilie seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Lucas moved that we contribute \$100 toward the effort, Barbara Comiskey seconded the motion, and it passed with 12 yes votes and 1 no vote. Karen will send a check.

Candidate events and announcements:

(1) **Mike Honda fundraiser with Jim Dean:** Mary congratulated Carolyn for her successful effort to get Jim Dean to speak at the fundraiser for Congressman Mike Honda on February 20. Carolyn noted that Mike's votes are unfailingly progressive and that he deserves our support. The event will be held at the home of Alice Smith, 4284 Los Palos Circle, Palo Alto 94306 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. For more information or to RSVP, go to: Nicole@MikeHonda.com. Contribute on line at <https://act.myngp.com/Forms/-7509047132598302976>

(2) **Proposed Michael Eggman fundraiser March 20:** Mary reported on a Dean Club fundraiser in the works for Michael Eggman, who is running against a conservative Republican and needs our help. Michael is available for a late Sunday afternoon fundraiser on March 20; more information to follow.

2016 goal setting and task forces: Postponed to the February meeting since time was too short for such a major agenda item. See the attached file.

OLD BUSINESS

The only task force report was for club membership since many issues were covered earlier.

Club membership: Erik Fong reported by e-mail that we have 162 members (including 33 "paid plus members" who have paid for more than one year and 48 who are in arrears), 456 Facebook members, and 203 Yahoo members. In 2015 there were 41 new members and 68 new Facebook members.

Announcements

❖ Marcene noted that the DFA-link meeting will be at Jennifer Sheppard's home (this is a change in venue) at 6:30 on February 8. We'll be discussing George Lakoff's *The Little Blue Book*. The address is 233 Loucks Avenue, Los Altos 94022.

❖ Karen announced that Stanford Continuing Studies will sponsor a talk by Douglas McAdam: "Deeply Divided: Racial Politics and Social Movements in Postwar America" at the CEMEX building, Knight Management Center, on January 28 at 7:30 p.m.

❖ Mary announced that the Peninsula Peace and Justice Center and the Los Altos Library are cosponsoring a showing of the movie *This Changes Everything* based on Naomi Klein's book on February 23, at 7:00 p.m. at the Los Altos Library. Following will be a discussion led by Debbie Mytels.

❖ Emilie reported that the American Red Cross is in great need of blood donations given the weather problems on the East Coast that have further destabilized the supply. If you are interested in helping, connect with Emilie: e.g.gatfield@gmail.com

Adjournment: At 8:58 p.m. Don moved that we adjourn, Carolyn seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Mary Gill