



Minutes of the Dean Democratic Club of Silicon Valley Organizational Meeting

July 24, 2017

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

Next working meetings: August 28, September 25, October 23, November 27

Next DFA-link meetings: August 14, September 11, October 9, November 13

Introductions: John Comiskey called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Following that, each person introduced himself or herself and made a statement about recent political involvement.

Adoption of agenda: After two additions were made, Ben Stetson moved that we adopt the agenda, Marcene Van Dierendonck seconded it, and the motion passed with no dissension.

Approval of minutes: Gerry Hunt moved that we approve the May minutes, Marcene seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissension.

Treasurer's report: Karen Porter reported by e-mail that we have \$1966 in the state and \$2039 in the federal account for a total of \$4005.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of officers: John read the names of this year's officers, elected at the annual picnic and election on June 24:

Co-chairs: John Comiskey and Ben Stetson

Corresponding Secretary: Joel Masser

Recording Secretary: Mary Gill

Treasurer: Karen Porter

Members at large: Jackie Wheeler and Emilie Gatfield

Present two-year calendar: John had sent out a two-year calendar for the club by e-mail and it was available at the meeting for discussion. He asked anyone to let him know if there were items that should be added to it or other changes to be made; he will use the calendar in preparing our agendas over the course of the next two years.

Proposed by-laws change: John had sent out a proposed change in our by-laws, and it was available at the meeting to discuss. We will vote on it at the August working

meeting: <http://ddcsv.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/bylaws-change-proposed-for-2017-08-28.pdf>

CDP compliance for pre-endorsements: John reported that the paperwork for the state party for pre-endorsements has been turned in; it's required early so that registration of voters can be validated by the party. We are entitled to two votes in AD 24 but none in AD 28 (based on our current club membership). John asked everyone to encourage family memberships.

All Clubs Unity Picnic recap: John described the Unity Picnic (formerly called the All Clubs Picnic), an event for all county Dem clubs and other groups who choose to participate. The fee was \$100 this year, including lunch and a program of speakers. Ben and Elinor Stetson, Barbara and John Comiskey, Karen Porter, Ben Shapero, and Mary Gill attended, and one person joined the club.

Data retention and flow: John had created a chart showing how membership information can be shared among various club officers: new members' information goes to the treasurer (Karen) and the membership director (Ben Shapero) and from there to the corresponding secretary (Joel) and the recording secretary (Mary) and to a Google drive. The corresponding secretary maintains the list that includes outreach for events, a broader list that is not limited to members. Mary noted that Ben Shapero has been doing a great job as our new membership chair.

Program director opening: John has been serving as program director for the last few months (and doing an excellent job). However, we do need a new program director for the DFA-link meetings. Marcene volunteered to send out e-mails and communicate the information about speakers and venues. Farideh Dormishian volunteered to work on this. David Donaldson noted that Craig Dunkerley might be a resource for us since he does this for other groups. There was a discussion of venues (party headquarters, etc.).

Event with Congressman Jerry McNerney and Barbara Lee: Stephanie reported that there will be an event for Jerry McNerney at her home on July 30 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Congresswoman Barbara Lee will be there in support. The Dean Club, Peninsula Democratic Coalition, Democratic Volunteer Center, and Santa Clara Democratic Club are cosponsors. So far 80 people have RSVPed, and the campaign will be reaching out to local electeds. Ferideh Dormishian and Ben Stetson volunteered to help pass flyers around Stephanie's neighborhood. Mary noted that Barbara Lee, who was the only person in Congress to oppose the Authorization of Military Force in 2001, has been in the news recently with her attempt to get the AUMF repealed. Jerry McNerney recently introduced a bill that would be an alternative to the Delta tunnels, creating water by recycling, fixing infrastructure, and improving water and energy efficiency. To RSVP for the event, go to <https://jerrymcnerney.org/events/paloalto2017/>

Event with Congressman Ami Bera, recap: The event on May 30 at Karen Grove's home was well attended and raised about \$11,000. Congressman Bera has some serious competition now: Republican Andrew Grant, a Marine Corps veteran and CEO of the

Northern California World Trade Center. Ami won by only 2 percent last year and is a number one target of Republicans nationwide.

Display ads in the Mercury News: David Donaldson, who is public relations and membership chair of the Santa Clara County Democratic Club, presented information on how to advertise events or meetings using the Bay Area NewsGroup. This includes the *Mercury News* and affiliated local media, print and digital. He passed out several examples of successful ads, along with pricing information. The Santa Clara club has increased their membership from 80 to over 300 using these kinds of ads, and David is presenting this information to local clubs to help them bring in new members. He offered to help us pay for a first ad and work with us on design and editing. The group thanked him for his time and for the information.

OLD BUSINESS

Good government: Nancy Neff reported that the California DISCLOSE Act now has a new number and author: AB 249 with Kevin Mullin replacing Jimmy Gomez, who was elected to Congress. More than 1500 calls were made to Kevin de Leon's office and 12,000 e-mails were sent in support of granting the bill a new author, and Clean Money members rallied at the capitol last Wednesday. Jerry Hill also played a role in winning de Leon over. Before he left, Jimmy Gomez conceded to union opposition, and the bill now covers ballot propositions but not independent expenditures for candidates. There was a discussion of what motivates the CSEA and the California Labor Federation to oppose disclosure legislation. Ben Stetson, who was in Sacramento last week, remarked that we need to keep in mind that the reason this is a tough fight is that the bill is important and will create a major change. Nancy said help is needed to set up meetings in key Southern California districts. Please contact Nancy Neff for more information or to help: nrneff@sonic.net.

Political outreach: Marcene reported that voter registration has been slow, but she is continuing to do this at the California Avenue farmers' market and so is maintaining the space there. She warned that we may not reach 100 new registrants this year, required to receive bounty money.

Environment: John noted that this was a time in the meeting when Don Mayall would often report. He was a great environmentalist who inspired and informed us, and his passing was a huge loss. Stephanie said she felt she had lost a good friend. Mary said that he was like a breath of fresh air, genuine, without artifice. He is very much missed by all. We observed a moment of silence in his honor at the end of the meeting.

Social justice: Nancy reported on efforts by local churches to support undocumented immigrants. Farideh and John both reported on Services, Immigrant Rights, and Education Network (SIREN); to learn more, see <http://www.siren-bayarea.org>

Economic justice: Ben Stetson reported that Kamala Harris and Paul Rand are working on a bipartisan bill to reform the bail system.

Health care: Gerry reported that Speaker Anthony Rendon pulled SB 562, the single-payer bill, in the rules committee. He urged all of us to call our Assembly members and ask them to coauthor SB 562.

Club building: John has been continuing to attend meetings of resistance groups and encouraging them to join a Dem club or form one. The group thanked him for these efforts.

Education: Gerry and John discussed problems in some of our local school districts, especially those with numerous administrators and only one school. The Alum Rock School District, which is being audited by the state, has been accused of mismanaging contracts and ignoring calls for transparency. John noted that there are 432 elected offices in Santa Clara County; school board elections are important.

Club membership: Membership chair Ben Shapero reported that we have 190 members (including 20 “paid plus members” who have paid for more than one year and 116 who are now in arrears), 703 Facebook members, and 312 Yahoo members. So far in 2017 we have 17 new members and 85 new Facebook members.

Announcement

❖ Farideh announced that there will be an ACLU meeting on Wednesday, July 26, at San Jose City Hall, Room 118, at 7:00 p.m. Nick Kuwada of the Asian Law Alliance and Mohsin Mirza, voting rights coordinator at Advancing Justice-Asian Law Caucus, will speak about civic engagement, raising awareness about elections and political issues, and improving access to voting, especially for immigrant and limited English proficient Asian and Latino voters.

Adjournment in honor of Don Mayall: At 8:50, we had a moment of silence in honor of Don Mayall. After that, John moved that we adjourn, Mary seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Mary Gill