

Minutes of the Dean Democratic Club of Silicon Valley Organizational Meeting

November 27, 2017

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

Next working meetings: January 22, February 26, March 26, April 23, May 28

Next DFA-link meetings: January 8, February 12, March 12, April 9, May 14

Holiday potluck and brainstorming of 2018 goals: December 11, home of Ralph and Jackie Wheeler, 3956 Nelson Court, Palo Alto 94306, 6:30.

Introductions: John Comiskey called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. Following that, each person introduced himself or herself with name and city.

Adoption of agenda: Alice Smith moved that we adopt the agenda, Nancy Neff seconded it, and the motion passed with no dissension.

Approval of minutes: Ralph Wheeler moved that we approve the October minutes, Ben Stetson seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report: Karen Porter reported that we have \$1592 in the state account and \$4109 in the federal account for a total of \$5701.

NEW BUSINESS

Michael Bracamontes, candidate for governor: Michael Bracamontes, a civil rights attorney who is running for governor, spoke to the club. His social justice platform includes: statewide rent control and just cause eviction, police training reform, a ban on for-profit prisons, a ban on fracking, lower college tuition, and single-payer health care. He described some of the cases he has handled involving police misconduct, slumlords, and racial discrimination. He is not accepting corporate money. He noted that since he is not a professional politician, he does not have 20 years of favors and big-money donors to pay back like some of the other candidates in the race. His website is www.michaelbracamontes.com.

Call for items for list of 2017 accomplishments: Carolyn Curtis reminded us to send her our list of hours worked in 2017 so she can compile the club's annual list of accomplishments ("brag sheet"). She passed around copies of past years' lists. These are hours worked specifically on our club goals for the year and do not count travel time to events, time spent at meetings, etc. Carolyn will tally and compile the list for 2017.

New program director: John Comiskey announced that Chris Roat will serve as our new program director. If you have suggestions for a venue that is midway between north and south county, please let Chris know, and any specific research you can send him on the site(s) suggested would be much appreciated. Our January link meeting will feature Mike Barkley, and the February meeting will feature Dotty Nygard, both of whom are

candidates for Congress in CD 10.

Delaine Eastin event: Chris Roat reported that Delaine Easton, candidate for governor, will address the club on Tuesday, January 16, at 6:30 p.m. Chris is looking for a venue in the north part of the county; the San Mateo County DFA group may be cosponsoring. Let Chris know if you have suggestions.

Working Blue holiday party: John Comiskey reported that the Silicon Valley Working Blue Democratic Club will have a holiday party on December 7 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the IBEW Hall, 2125 Canoas Garden Avenue, San Jose. They are asking for donations of coats, non-perishable food, and also toys for children. If you have any of these items to donate and are not able to attend the event, you can drop them off at the county Democratic party headquarters on Moorpark. Also, they asked for co-sponsorships at \$100. Since this would be a charitable donation, the club cannot use treasury funds, but a hat was passed around the room and \$220 was collected.

2017 Sierra Club legislative report card: Mary Gill passed around the annual Sierra Club California report card, a handy summary of bills that many Dean Club members have been following (sending e-mails, phoning, etc.). Despite the 2/3 Dem majority in both the Assembly and Senate and 9 out of 15 major bills tracked by the Sierra Club signed by the governor, the report was not all rosy. SB 1, a transportation finance bill, was amended to hinder air regulators' ability to cut toxic pollution from old trucks still in use, due to pressure from trucking industry lobbying. AB 398, cap-and-trade extension, was amended to weaken local air districts' power to control refinery pollution and allow oil businesses to keep a tax cut. SB 100 (de León), to set stricter goals for renewable energy, passed the Senate but failed in the Assembly, where there are more "business" Dems. However, as expected, our local legislators for the most part did well. In the Senate, Jim Beall, Bill Monning, Nancy Skinner, and Scott Wiener got 100%. Jerry Hill and Bob Wiekowski got 92%. In the Assembly, Ash Kalra, Mark Stone, and Bill Quirk got 100%; Phil Ting and Marc Levine, 92%; Marc Berman, Evan Low, and Kevin Mullen, 83%; Kansen Chu, 75% and Anna Caballero, 58%. For details on the bills tracked and specific votes, go to www.sierraclubcalifornia.org and click on 2017 legislative report card.

Zoe Lofgren "Win Back the House" brunch: Mary Gill announced that on Sunday, December 10, Zoe Lofgren will have a brunch benefitting next year's Democratic Congressional candidates. Zoe is head of the California Congressional delegation and has done a lot to help our candidates in swing districts over many years. The event will be held at noon at the San Jose Museum of Art, 101 S Market Street, San Jose. \$40 minimum, \$25 for seniors or students, including access to museum after the brunch. All funds will go to next year's candidates. Let Mary know if you want to car pool down to San Jose. RSVP: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/brunchdec10>

Health care resolution: Gerry Hunt passed around a resolution to admonish Assembly member Evan Low for "voicing opposition to SB 562 (the 'Healthy California Act,' single payer health care) by saying it costs too much, for failing to take any steps to move

this legislation forward, for failing to consider his constituents' costing data in his opposition to this legislation, and for ignoring the clearly stated will of the Democratic Party, community members, and stakeholders.” Many of those present signed and/or took copies to get signatures from others. Gerry also mentioned two bills that we should support that could help lower the cost of dialysis and improve procedures, SB 349 and AB 251.

OLD BUSINESS

Good government: Nancy Neff reported on the Northern California Clean Money Campaign grassroots summit on November 18 in Concord. It was a celebration of the DISCLOSE Act being signed into law in October and a discussion of what CCMC should do next. Nancy noted that Ben Stetson and others had replied before the event about the need to defend DISCLOSE; a mechanism will be set up for people to monitor political ads for violations of the law and report them to CCMC, which will then report them to the Fair Political Practices Commission. Some of the options discussed at the event were supporting the Honest Ads Act (to regulate on-line ads), helping to enact a permanent reversal of the ban on public financing of campaigns, and supporting open-source voting systems.

Political outreach: Mary Gill passed around a chart showing how wealthy people like Sheldon Adelson and the Koch brothers can spend many millions in political super-PAC money while gaining billions in tax benefits, a huge payoff for them if the Republican tax cut passes. This has severely affected our Congressional candidates in swing districts. See: <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/economy/news/2017/11/13/442654/not-million-years-houses-proposed-windfall-donors/>

Environment: Covered earlier.

Social justice: Alice Smith asked how we can get the county party to work on the issue of our bail system; many people end up in jail because they cannot afford bail. They sometimes plead guilty so they can get out of jail and avoid going deeper into debt (due to the high interest rates). John suggested that she contact Bill James to get this on the county party agenda and talk to someone about having a Century Club meeting on the topic. Jackie Wheeler said she would help with the latter.

Economic justice: Suzanne Doty announced that the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors will be voting at their December 5 meeting on an ordinance that has the goal of eliminating all discrimination against women. Cities for CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women) is the organization that is working on this campaign; for more information, see citiesforcedaw.org. She urged people to attend the meeting if possible and to contact their supervisors to urge them to support the ordinance.

Health care: Covered earlier.

Club building: John Comiskey encouraged people to attend the December meeting, where we will be brainstorming ideas for next year's goals. If people are unable to attend, they can e-mail ideas any time before the January meeting, when we will be voting.

Education: No report.

Club membership: Ben Shapero reported that only 1 new member joined this month in contrast to the many who joined last month. As of last month, we had 231 members (including 48 "paid plus members" who have paid for more than one year and 123 who are currently in arrears), 709 Facebook members, and 312 Yahoo members. So far in 2017 we have 65 new members.

Announcements

❖ Alice Smith announced that Sunday, December 3, will be the ACLU's Bill of Rights Day. This event to honor activists for equal justice will take place at the Rotunda, 300 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland, from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. For more information, contact Steven at smedeiros@aclunc.org

❖ Alice Smith announced that on Monday, December 11, from 11:30 to 1:00 the League of Women Voters will have a luncheon featuring Stanford professor Deborah Stipek, who will speak on "Early Childhood Education: Why Is It Essential to Our Collective Future?" The event will be held in the El Palo Alto Room of the Mitchell Park Community Center in Palo Alto. RSVP by December 8:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/early-childhood-education-why-is-it-essential-to-our-collective-future-tickets-39638133725>

❖ Markene Smith had brought petitions to recall Judge Aaron Persky and encouraged people who wanted to sign to see her after the meeting.

❖ Jennie Richardson announced that the 2018 women's march will be on January 20. Last year the theme was "Hear Our Voice" and next year it will be "Hear Our Vote." There will be marches in San Jose and San Francisco.

❖ Jackie Wheeler announced that the Century Club luncheon on December 8 will feature Ash Kalra and Marc Berman discussing their experiences as freshmen Assembly members; noon, San Jose Convention Center Room 114, 150 W San Carlos Street, San Jose. Evan Low will moderate. RSVP: info@demcenturyclub.org by December 4.

❖ Jackie Wheeler announced that on December 4 from 6:00 to 7:30 Close the Gap CA will sponsor a conversation with author Joyce Maynard and progressive leader Kimberly Ellis with moderator Mary Hughes. The event will be held at Covo, 981 Mission Street, San Francisco and funds will go to recruit progressive women to run for the California legislature. RSVP at <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/ctgcasf>

Adjournment: At 8:19 p.m. Ralph Wheeler moved that we adjourn, Chris Roat seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Mary Gill