

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

January 22, 2018

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

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

**Next DFA-link meetings:** February 12, March 12, April 9, May 14, June 11

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

**Adoption of agenda:** A motion was brought to adopt the agenda, it was seconded, and the motion passed with no dissension.

**Approval of minutes:** A motion was brought to approve the November minutes, it was seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's report:** Karen Porter reported that we have \$1,444 in the state account and \$4,140 in the federal account for a total of \$5,584.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Persky Recall Opposition Speaker:** The anti-recall campaign distributed some literature supporting their position. Prof. Robert Weisberg, JD, who teaches criminal law at Stanford Law School, spoke against the recall of Judge Persky. He opined that recalls of judges should be reserved for egregious behavior, noting that the challenged sentences by Judge Persky were consistent with recommendations by the probation department or District Attorney. He understands the progressive appeal/motivation behind the recall, but fears that the effect will actually be regressive and result in harsher sentencing. He distinguished recalls from judicial retention elections. Following some additional comments, several members had questions. After expiration of the allotted time and some shouting, the Chair closed discussion.

**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 (known as the brag sheet). If you have not sent a tally of your hours of activism to Carolyn, please do so: [carolyncurtis@comcast.net](mailto:carolyncurtis@comcast.net). A suggestion was made that, for 2018 accomplishments, members should send information to Carolyn on an ongoing basis to avoid the end-of-year rush.

**Friendly Incumbent Endorsements announcement:** The Chair briefly discussed that the club has a simplified endorsement process for elected incumbents who the club has previously endorsed and/or who have performed in office consistent with the club's priorities. This avoids the need for the incumbent to fill out a questionnaire and be interviewed by the Endorsement Committee. Recommendations for 2018 friendly incumbent endorsements will be proposed at a future meeting.

**DVC Headquarters:** Stephanie Grossman spoke briefly on the status of the search and funding for the 2018 Democratic Volunteer Committee Santa Clara County headquarters. They are looking for a location in Mountain View or Palo Alto, where rents are high. One advantage of the headquarters is that groups such as the club can host meetings and fundraisers there. They have raised almost \$60,000 so far, need another \$30,000. The party Stephanie hosted recently featuring Reps. Eric Swalwell and Anna Eshoo was attended by 180 people and raised \$32,000. She suggested the club make a donation, which was taken under advisement. She also welcomed donations from individuals.

**Four Freedoms Dinner (formerly Unity Dinner and JJ Dinner):** John Comiskey noted that this year's annual Santa Clara County Democratic Party dinner has been re-named the Four Freedoms Dinner and will be held at Hayes Mansion (instead of the Fairmont Hotel) on May 11. He explained that the new name refers to freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom from want, and freedom from fear. He encouraged members who sign up to specify that they want to be seated at the club's table. He added that the club typically purchases a full-page ad in the dinner brochure, which gives the club visibility and helps the party raise funds. The ad costs \$400 although there may be a 10% discount for early commitments. John moved for authorization of up to \$400 to place an ad; the motion was seconded and passed with no dissension.

**2017-2018 Budget Mid-Point Review:** Karen Porter provided an update regarding the club's performance against its 2017-2018 budget approved at the March 2017 meeting as of December 31, 2017. Receipts were on-budget (although more were allocated to federal account). Total expenses were under budget, but bad news is they reflect higher overhead costs and no contributions to candidates/other PACs. Assume this will change in 2018 as it is an election year, but club needs to watch overhead expenses and continue to focus on increasing receipts. A breakdown is provided below, with actual results in handwriting.

**BUDGET FOR 2017-2018**

CATEGORY	2017-STATE	2017-FEDERAL	2018-STATE	2018-FEDERAL
Beginning balance	\$1,411	\$1,317	\$1,811 1592	\$1,967 4225
Receipts	\$1,500 1096	\$3,000 3563	\$1,500	\$3,000
Expenses	\$1,100 915	\$2,350 654	\$1,850	\$3,250
Breakdown:				
Candidates/Propositions	\$150 0	\$2,000 0	\$800	\$3,000
Other PACs (e.g., Clean Money)	\$200 0	\$0 0	\$400	\$0
Overhead costs*	\$750 915	\$350 654	\$650	\$250
Ending balance	\$1,811 1592	\$1,967 4225	\$1,461	\$1,717

\*Overhead includes CA Secretary of State fee, JJ Dinner program ad, US postal fees, Act Blue commissions, printing costs, and food for events.

John Comiskey encouraged members to make regular monthly donations through ActBlue. Karen noted that a popular fundraising event has been the Wildflower Walk led by Carolyn Curtis. It was suggested that a Fundraising Committee be formed to plan events.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Good government:** Nancy Neff was congratulated again for all her hard work for the Northern California Clean Money Campaign and successful passage of the DISCLOSE Act. She said that a new effort is underway to support passage of SB 651, the *Petition Disclosure Act*, authored by Senator Ben Allen. SB 651 would require initiative petitions circulated by paid signature gatherers to disclose their top 3 funders — letting voters know who's behind initiatives before they sign. She reported they had collected 4,000 signatures at the women's marches last Saturday.

**Political outreach:** Marcene Van Dierendonck reported that voter registration efforts have stopped but will resume in May. John Comiskey reported that as part of his outreach he attended an Indivisible-Orchard City meeting and learned that they are forming a new Democratic club.

**Environment:** Linda Sell, a volunteer with 350 Silicon Valley, advised that they are hosting a Climate forum featuring Assembly Members Evan Low (CD 28) and Marc Berman (CD 24). The forum will be held on Jan 25, 2018, from 5:30-7 pm, at the Quinlan Community Center, 10185 N. Stelling Rd. Cupertino. For more information and to RSVP, go to: [www.350siliconvalley.org/jan25\\_climate\\_forum](http://www.350siliconvalley.org/jan25_climate_forum).

Linda also reported that SB 100 – which would require regulators to chart a path to 100% renewable energy/carbon-free electricity by 2045 (which could include nuclear power and other sources that capture carbon) – has been stalled in the Assembly due to opposition from investor-owned utilities. She urged supporters of SB 100 to contact the California Public Utilities Commission.

**Social justice:** No report.

**Economic justice:** No report.

**Health care:** Gerry Hunt reported that SB 562 – which would establish a single-payer healthcare system in California – remains stalled in the Assembly. There is an effort underway to provide subsidies to insureds under Covered California.

**Club building:** No report.

**Education:** No report.

**Club membership:** Ben Shapero distributed a Membership Report, which indicated that as of today's date, we have 244 members (including 35 "paid plus members" who have

paid for more than one year and 126 who are currently in arrears), 723 Facebook members, and 312 Yahoo members. So far in 2018 we have 3 new members. Ron Wolf suggested that there should be greater focus on contacting members in arrears for payment.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

❖ Alice Smith announced that the Mid-Peninsula Chapter of the ACLU of Northern California will be hosting a dinner and talk (\$37) featuring their Board Chair at Michaels Restaurant on Shoreline Road in Mountain View on January 25 regarding “**ACLU's Successes and Challenges in the 1st year of Trump's Presidency.**” If you are interested in attending the dinner or just the talk, here is contact information: [midpen.aclu@gmail.com](mailto:midpen.aclu@gmail.com) or [650 308 4350](tel:6503084350)

❖ Alice Smith announced that National Voter Corps ([www.nationalvoter corps.org](http://www.nationalvoter corps.org)) and ACLU People Power Santa Clara County are providing resources regarding voting rights. They also are working to enhance voting opportunities and protection; for example, they are meeting with Santa Clara County Supervisors regarding vote-by-mail, early voting, voting machines, etc.

❖ Antonia Zavalo, from the office of Joe Simitian (Chair of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors), announced that Joe will be providing his State of the County Address on February 6. She also noted that Joe is hosting a public meeting on Stanford’s General Use Permit Application on January 23 at Palo Alto City Hall from 6 to 8 p.m. She further said that Joe will again be reporting on his Listening to Trump’s America Tour on January 29, although no location has been secured yet.

❖ Merica Krouse, who helped organize the January 20 San Jose women’s march, reported attendance was 30,000. The theme this year was Hear Our Vote. For future events, see [www.womensmarchbayarea.org](http://www.womensmarchbayarea.org)

❖ Vicki Veenker announced formation of a new organization to help women candidates running in local, nonpartisan races – WIRE (Women: Identity, Recruit, Elect). They are hosting a candidate workshop on February 17.

❖ Arrian Ebrahimi, a senior at Saint Francis High School, announced that the school is hosting an event called Saint Francis Talks, featuring students speaking on various current issues. The event will be held on April 21 at 10 a.m. at Saint Francis.

**Adjournment:** At 8:42 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Karen Porter