



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

February 26, 2018

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

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

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

**June picnic and annual meeting and election of officers:** June 30 (Saturday), 11:00 a.m. Ponderosa Park Picnic Area 2, 811 Henderson Avenue, Sunnyvale 94086

**Introductions:** Ben Stetson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Following that, each person introduced himself or herself.

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

**Approval of minutes:** Ralph Wheeler moved that we approve the January minutes, Gerry seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissension.

**Treasurer's report:** Karen Porter reported that we have \$5767 in the treasury: \$1535 in the state and \$4232 in the federal account.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**John Cordes, SB 100:** John Cordes, longtime Sierra Club activist and current board member (who is running for Sunnyvale City Council) gave a presentation on SB 100, which has passed the Senate and is now in the Assembly. It would mandate that the state get 60% of its electricity supply from zero-carbon resources by 2030 and 100% by 2045. Since the bill's author, Kevin de León, will step down as president pro Tem of the state Senate on March 21, there is pressure to get the bill passed soon. He pointed out that in areas where we have community choice energy and more renewables, costs have gone down. John urged us to contact our local Assembly people and ask them to support the bill, as well as to ask Democratic Party delegates from the club to do so. Evan Low has not yet committed to supporting the bill, and he needs to hear from people in or out of his district to ask him to get on board. John also asked that we endorse SB 100 at our March meeting.

**Steve Chessin, City of Santa Clara ballot measure:** Steve Chessin, president of Californians for Electoral Reform, reported that there is a measure on the June 5 ballot that would change how Santa Clara City Council members are elected. Santa Clara is a

diverse city but Asian Americans, who are a significant percentage of the population, have not been able to elect a council member; the city is being sued. The measure, which was placed on the ballot by the city council itself, would create two districts with three members each (who would have to spend much less on campaigns since they would have a district half as large as the current city-wide district). These and other city officials would be elected by a form of rank-choice voting called “single transferrable vote.” The voters would simply rank their choices by order of preference; in this case the percentage of votes that would be needed to win would be 25%. A candidate who gets the required 25% is elected; any votes obtained that are over that quota go to each voter’s second choice, etc. If no candidate gets the quota of votes, the one with the fewest votes is eliminated and those votes go to each voter’s next preferred candidate, etc. If the measure passes, political and ethnic minorities will have a stronger voice than in the current system. Steve passed around fliers from Fair Vote California and referred the group to CFER.org for more information.

**Friendly incumbent endorsements:** John discussed our past procedure of endorsing incumbents who we had supported previously and also occasionally endorsing someone who we had not supported originally but who had demonstrated while in office that they promote our club values. (Example: Jerry Hill.) He suggested that the incumbents in AD 26-29 might qualify: Kansen Chu, Ash Kalra, Evan Low, and Mark Stone as well as Bob Wiekowski in SD 10 (only senators in even-numbered districts are up for election this year). After some discussion and feedback from the group, Karen asked that we pull Evan Low. Ralph moved that we endorse the other four candidates, and Ben Stetson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Gerry moved that we defer the endorsement of Evan Low (depending on his upcoming votes on SB 100 and other bills), and Thida Cornes seconded the motion, which also passed unanimously.

**Endorsement interview schedule:** Ben Stetson reported that the endorsement committee has eleven meetings scheduled for March and will make recommendations at the March 26 meeting.

**Victory Dinner attendance and program:** Ben Stetson reported that the Victory Dinner (Santa Clara County Democratic Party annual fundraiser, previously called the JJ Dinner) will be held on Friday, May 11 at the Hayes Mansion in San Jose. Look for an announcement and opportunity to sign up toward the end of next week. If you want to sit at the Dean Club table, be sure to indicate that on your reservation.

**June picnic and annual meeting and election of officers:** Ben Stetson suggested June 30 for our annual meeting; the group concurred. He will contact Sunnyvale Parks and Recreation to book the venue (hopefully getting picnic grounds #2, which is shadier).

**Goals committees:** John had included on the agenda a list of goals that got the most votes at the January meeting (when we voted on the goals that were brainstormed in December). Task forces are in formation; John will send out more information on which club members put their highest vote on which goals. The goals are listed in the following “Old Business” section as our 2018 task forces.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Candidates and initiatives:** Mary Gill passed around a list of ten California Congressional districts that are now held by Republicans but that might provide pick-up opportunities for Democrats, along with a list of Democratic candidates running and any polling info or state party endorsements. Hillary Clinton won Districts 10, 21, 25, 39, 45, 48, and 49 in 2016, and those are the seven most targeted. But there are three others that are potentially viable: 4, 22, and 50. Since the Dems need 24 seats to take back the House, California can play a major role in this fall's election. She noted that now that Michael Eggman has entered the race for CD 10, T J Cox is stepping down in that district (but may make an announcement soon).

**Social justice:** Thida Cornes described HR 620, a bill that passed the House that would weaken the Americans with Disabilities Act, passed in 1990. It would require people with disabilities to give a business owner written notice about an accessibility violation. The business owner then would have 60 days to acknowledge the problem and another 120 days to make progress toward resolving the violation. The bill is now in the Senate; she urged us to contact Senators Harris and Feinstein to ask them to oppose it. The bill passed the House 225 to 192; California reps Jackie Speier, Ami Bera, Pete Aguilar, Lou Correa, Scott Peters, and Norma Torres were among the 12 Democrats that voted with Republicans on this bill.

**Good government:** Nancy Neff announced that there will be a California Clean Money Campaign grassroots summit on April 7 at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Redwood City (not Palo Alto, as in the past) from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. She will welcome help, as will Mary Gill on the food committee (light breakfast and lunch will be provided). CCMC is now working on a poll to strategize about putting a measure on the fall ballot to overturn the ban on public financing of elections. (SB 1107, passed and signed by the governor, did just that but has been challenged in court.) Nancy also reported on the bill to require initiative petitions to disclose their top three funders: SB 651, the Petition Disclosure Act, and urged people to sign on. Kevin Mullin has a new bill, AB 2188, the Social Media Disclosure Act, that CCMC is supporting. Finally, she noted that CCMC is endorsing the San Francisco Open-Source Voting System Project to replace proprietary systems with a more secure system using paper ballots. CCMC meetings will be held on third Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Palo Alto, 505 Charleston Avenue, starting Tuesday, March 20.

**Political outreach:** John Comiskey, whose arrival a bit late after his flight was delayed from San Diego where he was at the convention, reported on the weekend's events. On Friday he and Barbara attended a MOE (Mobilize, Organize, Elect) presentation; the program has been improved, especially in terms of mapping and helping candidates decide whether to phone or walk a precinct. The California Democratic Council has new leadership; none of the Dean Club people who were on it last year ran again. Jackie Wheeler and Thida Cornes also reported on highlights from the convention: the lack of

endorsement for senator, governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general; Maxine Waters' rousing speech, and so on. Jackie mentioned that Don Mayall was among those honored in a gospel choir "in memoriam" concert.

**Club building:** No report.

**Health care:** Gerry will again head this task force. He reported that there is no new development on single-payer in California.

**Economic justice:** Gerry reported that there is now a recall movement for three Alum Rock School Board members (the board has been accused of poor governance), and Jackie reported that there is a similar problem in the Ravenswood School District. John Cordes reported that the Sunnyvale City Council will be meeting on February 27, and that one of the items of discussion will be a freeze on hiring any contractors who have been shown to be guilty of wage theft.

**Environment:** Thida reported that Mountain View now has a task force on sustainability and urged people to contact her if they are interested in participating. John Cordes announced that on March 3 in Sunnyvale there will be an all-day climate action plan workshop sponsored by IDEO; ideas will help shape the Sunnyvale Climate Action Plan 2.0. (See <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/innovate-climate-action-in-sunnyvale-workshop-tickets-42441830658>)

**Education:** No report.

**Club membership:** Ben Shapero reported that we have 244 members (including 33 "paid plus members" who have paid for more than one year and 132 who are currently in arrears), 723 Facebook members, and 312 Yahoo members. He will be working to contact people who are in arrears.

## **Announcements**

❖ Tara Sreekrishnan announced that she is running for Cupertino City Council. She is on the board of the Young Democrats Progressive Caucus and works as a city legislative advisor (on issues like housing and transit); she is also on the Silicon Valley Clean Energy Citizens Advisory Board. See [www.tara4cupertino.com](http://www.tara4cupertino.com).

❖ Ralph urged people to sign a petition for the California Farm Animal Confinement Initiative, to protect farm animals by improving space requirements. See <https://preventcrueltyca.com>.

❖ Jackie announced that Betty Yee will be speaking at the Century Club luncheon on March 9, which will be held at noon at Michael's Restaurant at Shoreline Lake in Mountain View.

❖ Chris Roat announced that our DFA link meetings on second Mondays will be held at the Democratic Volunteer Center in Mountain View for the foreseeable future; he will send out an e-mail with a reminder and confirmation of this soon. Virginia Madueño, candidate for Congress in CD 10, is scheduled to speak at the March meeting.

❖ John Cordes announced that he is running for Sunnyvale City Council. He has been in numerous leadership roles for the Sierra Club over many years and is on their executive board; also, he is a member of the Sunnyvale Climate Action Plan 2.0 and is on the executive committee of the Sunnyvale Democratic Club, among other responsibilities. See [www.john4Sunnyvale.org](http://www.john4Sunnyvale.org).

❖ Gerry announced that the Federation of Retired Union Members will have their annual Senior Concerns Rally and Barbecue on Saturday, April 21, at the SEIU Local 521, 2302 Zanker Road, San Jose from 9:30 to 2:00. \$20. For more information: [electricman8something@yahoo.com](mailto:electricman8something@yahoo.com)

❖ Mary announced that Andrew Janz will be the speaker at Orchard City Indivisible on March 6 and Michael Eggman will be the speaker on March 13. Meetings are held at the Campbell United Church of Christ, 400 W Campbell Avenue at 7:00 p.m.

**Adjournment:** At 9:00 p.m. Ralph Wheeler moved that we adjourn, Jackie seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Mary Gill