



Minutes of the Dean Democratic Club of Silicon Valley Organizational Meeting

November 26, 2018

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

Holiday potluck and goals brainstorming: December 10, home of Ralph and Jackie Wheeler, 3956 Nelson Court, Palo Alto, 6:30 p.m.

Next working meetings: January 28, February 25, March 25, April 22, May 27

Next DFA-link meetings: January 14, February 11, March 11, April 8, May 13

Introductions: John Comiskey called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Following that, each person introduced himself or herself with name, city, and recent political activity.

Adoption of agenda: Carolyn Curtis requested that an item be added to the agenda: a by-laws amendment that would require members to have a certain amount of time in the club before being eligible to vote for the steering committee. Emilie Gatfield moved that we adopt the agenda with that addition, Barbara Comiskey seconded it, and the motion passed with no dissension.

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

Treasurer's report: John reported that we have \$2806 in the treasury: \$490 in the state and \$2316 in the federal account.

NEW BUSINESS

Call for list of accomplishments ("brag sheet"): Carolyn asked that people send her their list of accomplishments and hours spent on club activities that reflect our goals by the end of the year. That includes work on campaigns, events, voter registration, etc. but not time in meetings or travel time. These lists are posted every year on our website.

SCCDP accreditation: John has submitted documentation to the county party for our club to be accredited. The information will be reviewed in December so that our club will be re-chartered in January.

CDC affiliation: John reported that we need to refile our affiliation documents for the CDC (Council of Democratic Clubs). Voting for CDC officers will probably be done at the state party convention. John will file the necessary documents.

Treasurer: John reported that he has been standing in as treasurer, but we need to find someone to fill the position soon. Please contact John directly if you have a suggestion.

Program director: Carolyn Curtis, Mary Gill, Ben Stetson, Marcene Van Dierendonck, and Jackie Wheeler have offered to work as a committee to explore speakers or programs and also venues for our DFA-link meetings on the second Monday of each month. Ben secured the Calabazas Library for January and February, although this could be canceled if we decide to change venues. Carolyn noted that in the past we met at members' homes. John would like one person to be the point person. Alice Smith suggested a program on voter suppression issues nationwide or on our own Santa Clara County voting procedures, since our county has machines that need modernizing and might be better served by voter centers. The committee will meet to discuss the next steps.

Election recap: John opened the discussion up to the members present. Everyone shared their experiences and points of view on the November midterms.

By-laws changes: Carolyn noted that she would like to work with a committee to review the by-laws and propose changes so that membership would be required for a certain period of time before someone can vote in the election for the steering committee. Emilie suggested that there should be a similar rule for someone to be eligible to serve on the nominating committee. Emilie, Alice, and Ben Stetson will work with Carolyn on a committee to review the by-laws and propose these changes.

OLD BUSINESS/TASK FORCE REPORTS

Candidates and initiatives: Mary reported that there will be a phone banks for Mike Espy for the Mississippi Senate seat November 27, election day for the run-off. They will be held at the Democratic Volunteer Center in Palo Alto from 2:00 to 4:30 and at the SCC Dem Party headquarters on Moorpark in San Jose from 1:00 to 5:00.

Social justice: No report.

Good government: Nancy Neff invited volunteers from the California Clean Money Campaign to attend a volunteer appreciation event on Saturday, December 1, from 3:30 to 5:30 at a private home in Palo Alto. Contact Nancy for more information: nrneff@sonic.net. There will be a celebration of all the Clean Money victories this past year. She noted that the "clean-up" DISCLOSE bill will make the top three funders more visible on ads and limit the length of committee names. That bill has already been passed and will take effect next year. The Petition DISCLOSE Act was also passed and will go into effect. Ben Stetson noted that perhaps too many projects were taken on by CCMC last year, although they had favorable outcomes, in general.

Political outreach: John is again running for vice chair of the county Democratic party. In this position he has been going to resistance groups to talk about the Democratic Party,

help mentor people who want to run for office, and facilitate communication between the resistance groups and the party. He reported that he now has an opponent in the election for vice chair: Jean Cohen, director of the Status of Women and member of the plumbers' union. He mentioned the Assembly District Election Meetings (ADEM) that will be held in January for people running to become delegates to the state party. Various members of the group expressed their appreciation for his work and support for his re-election.

Club building: Carolyn noted that the Don Mayall Memorial Fund raised \$1200. Although the ice cream social that was considered did not happen, we have the money to meet our obligations this year.

Health care: Gerry summarized a letter from a physician about the very high and sometimes prohibitive price of medications, a serious problem.

Economic justice: Gerry noted that the Alum Rock School Board membership has changed, much for the better. The Dean Club supported candidates in this race. Ernesto Bejarano won his seat, and incumbent Andres Quintero also won.

Environment: Mary urged club members to go to Restore the Delta's website (restorethedelta.org), click on the main heading at the top "Tell governor-elect Newsom it's time to turn the page on the tunnels," and sign the petition. Other actions are also given there as options. Our club has been working against the Delta tunnels for years, and future Governor Newsom may be the key to stopping them. Alice noted that the movie "Water from the Wilderness," about our Hetch Hetchy water supply, can be seen on Thursday evening on KQED; highly recommended by club member Peter Drekmeier.

Education: John noted that not only has the Alum Rock School Board changed, but Kristiina Arrowsmith, who we supported, won her seat on the Campbell School Board. Also, club member Patrick Ahrens, who we endorsed, has become the first person elected to the Foothill-DeAnza Community College District who was a student representative to the board.

Club membership: Ben Shapero reported in writing that we have 2 new members and 4 members who renewed.

Adjournment: At 9:00 p.m. Barbara moved that we adjourn the meeting, Carolyn seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Mary Gill