



Minutes of the Dean Democratic Club of Silicon Valley Organizational Meeting

October 22, 2018

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

Next working meeting: November 26

Next DFA-link meeting: November 12

Holiday potluck and goals brainstorming: December 10

Introductions: John Comiskey called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m. Following that, each person introduced himself or herself with name, city, and recent political activity.

Adoption of agenda: Ben Stetson moved that we adopt the agenda, Gerry Hunt seconded it, and the motion passed with no dissension.

Approval of minutes: After two changes by Mary Gill, Gerry moved that we approve the corrected September minutes, Barbara Comiskey seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissension.

Treasurer's report: John reported that we have \$4547 in the treasury: \$409 in the state and \$4057 in the federal account. Checks for \$2200 for our endorsed candidates are in the works; Kalen Gallagher declined to accept \$200 since he is only accepting money from individuals, so that reduces the amount to \$2000. We are in good shape financially for next year.

NEW BUSINESS

Public banking with Nick Cortez: Nick gave a presentation on public banks, which are non-profit government entities that finance public goods; the earnings are passed back to the people in the form of lower interest rates or dividends (unlike Wall Street banks). The money stays in the community (city, county, state) and can reflect its values and best interests. Some cities, such as Los Angeles and Oakland, are currently working on trying to set up public banks. Some states, like Oregon, Washington, Pennsylvania, and also California are looking into it as well. Nick has talked to people in San Jose and in Santa Clara County about the possibility of a city or county bank. However, the larger the bank, the less risk there would be from a default, so a state bank would be optimal. Local supporters for a state bank in California include Ash Kalra and Jim Beale. North Dakota has a state bank that is 100 years old and was one of the few to weather the recent financial crisis. The California cannabis industry could be very supportive of a state bank when the Wall Street banks weigh in on the other side. Nick gave John a copy of a resolution to support a state public bank, which John will post. The club was very

enthusiastic about possible legislation for a state public bank some years back, and members present at the meeting asked many questions and expressed a great deal of interest in the idea. For more information, go to: californiapublicbankingalliance.org

SCCDP accreditation: John reported that we need to submit documentation to the county party for our club to be accredited. The documentation and roster of club members is due on December 5, and John will make the submission.

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 state party conventions now, since it's difficult to get everyone together to vote. The CDC bylaws may be changed to reflect this new reality. The CDC can make endorsements and run its own finances, unlike a caucus. John will file the necessary documents.

Treasurer: John reported that he has been working with Karen Porter, who resigned last month as treasurer, on filing financial reports. There was a discussion of the specific work involved in being club treasurer. Karen did a wonderful job for a very long time and is willing to help train someone. We definitely need to fill this position for the club to continue.

Program director: John announced that after a full year of excellent work Chris Roat will be resigning as program director. We are looking for a new director, whose responsibilities will be to explore speakers or programs and also venues for our DFA-link meetings on the second Monday of each month.

Mountain View-Los Altos High School District board of trustees: Thida Cornes reported on one of the candidates, Steve Nelson, formerly a Mountain View-Whisman School Board member, who was censured and cost the district a considerable amount of money. She cautioned people against supporting him for the board.

OLD BUSINESS/TASK FORCE REPORTS

Candidates and initiatives: Mary reported many candidates need help, especially during GOTV November 3-6. She urged people to canvass for any of our Congressional candidates in swing districts. Jacky Rosen has also requested volunteers to go to Nevada since she is in a very tough Senate race. You can access a multitude of opportunities for House races at swingleft.org, including phone banking as well as canvassing. The DVC in Palo Alto and the office at Moorpark are offering phonebanks as well. In answer to questions, there is a bus to Selma on November 4 for TJ Cox [<https://rally.co/swing-left-san-jose/>] and one is planned for November 6 from the DVC for Andrew Janz.

There were no other task force reports.

Club membership: Ben Shapero had reported in writing that we have 245 members

(including 36 “paid plus members” who have paid for more than one year and 139 who are currently in arrears), 710 Facebook members, and 312 Yahoo members. There are 9 new members and 10 new Facebook members so far this year.

Adjournment: At 8:30 Gerry Hunt moved that we adjourn the meeting, Thida seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Mary Gill