



Minutes of the Dean Democratic Club of Silicon Valley Organizational Meeting

February 25, 2019

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

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

Next working meetings: March 25, April 22, May 27

Annual potluck picnic and election: June 22

Introductions: John Comiskey called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Following that, each person introduced himself or herself and made a statement about recent political involvement.

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

Approval of minutes: Mary Gill added a correction to the minutes (see Bylaws amendment below). Thida Cornes moved that we approve the January minutes as amended, Ben Stetson seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissension.

Treasurer's report: John reported that we have \$3596 in the bank: \$333 in the state and \$3263 in the federal account.

NEW BUSINESS

Bylaws amendment: At our last meeting, John passed around some proposed changes to our by-laws; a penultimate version went out in the minutes, but the following is the version that was voted on:

Article VIII Nominations and Elections of Officers

A. Conduct of Elections. The initial election of officers shall be conducted at the organizational meeting and thereafter at the annual meeting. ***Only members in good standing for not less than three (3) months may vote to elect club officers.*** All contested elections will be determined by secret ballot, while uncontested elections may be by voice vote. If no candidate for a particular office receives a majority vote, a run-off vote will be taken between the top two nominees for that office.

Article X Other Committees:

A Standing Committees 1. A Nominating Committee that is designated by the Co-Chairs prior to the annual meeting of the members and is responsible for nominating suitable officer candidates for the Steering Committee and for recommending suitable appointees to the standing

and ad hoc committees of DDCSV. *Only members in good standing for not less than three (3) months are eligible to serve on the Nominating Committee.*

Ralph Wheeler moved that we approve the amendment, and Thida Cornes seconded the motion, which passed with no dissension. The by-laws committee consisted of Carolyn Curtis, Emilie Gatfield, Alice Smith, and Ben Stetson; Karen Porter had made final changes to the amendment.

Treasurer: John filed FCC reports and has been working on setting up a computer for our new treasurer, Amy Wright. There have been some glitches in getting the data uploaded. John has been acting as our treasurer for several months, but Amy will be taking over soon.

Two-year budget: Last month the club voted to approve a two-year budget with one change: Thida Cornes' had suggested breaking out meals for the Central Committee as a separate budget item. John brought an updated version of the budget with this change incorporated.

Visit from Roxanne Bohren: Roxanne Bohren came to announce that she is running to fill a vacancy for a seat as Democratic party delegate from AD 27 (Ash Kalra's district). She presented a very impressive list of qualifications as a lawyer and activist. She wrote an M.A. thesis on energy conservation and worked for years on an Indian reservation as a lawyer. The club thanked her and wished her success.

SCCDP dinner bookings and program: John announced that the annual SCCDP dinner will be on May 17. He encouraged people to register and specify that they would like to be seated at the Dean Club table (plus any other seating or meal preferences they want to include). For information and to register, go to: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/demdinner2019> John may be able to get a 10 percent discount on a full-page program ad if we purchase it early, as we have done in the past (paying \$360 instead of \$400). There was a discussion of the benefits to the club of this expenditure (increased visibility, possible memberships, etc.). The content of the ad is drawn from the accomplishments in the list that Carolyn Curtis prepares. Amy Wright suggested that we also mention our June picnic and encourage people to attend. Gerry Hunt moved that we authorize the expenditure of \$400 for this purpose, Jackie Wheeler seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissension.

Annual potluck picnic and election of officers: Ben Stetson announced that the picnic date will be June 22 from 11:00 to 3:00 at Pondarosa Park in Sunnyvale. He has reserved the site for us.

Jerry Hill talk: Ben Stetson reported on his communication with Jerry Hill's office about having Jerry come to a link meeting to discuss the PG&E situation (lawsuits, bankruptcy, and so on). Jerry had accepted, but then was put on a Senate committee regarding PG&E. He may be able to speak to us on this topic once the crisis is over.

Sally Lieber talk March 11: Ben Stetson reported that the March 11 DFA-link meeting will feature Sally Lieber on “The Refugee Crisis: Worldwide and at Home.” The meeting will be at the Garden House in Shoup Park, 400 University Avenue, Los Altos; potluck at 6:30 and meeting at 7:00. SMC DFA is cosponsoring and has sent out the information to their list. He urged people to attend and had fliers available for people to pass out. Also, he encouraged people to bring extra food to the potluck if possible since we will expect more nonmembers than usual.

2019 goals committees and leads: John had sent out the results of our vote on task forces and a list of people who had used a 5-point vote for the various goals. (The names are listed in alphabetical order.) Task forces for these goals are in formation and anyone can join a task force at whatever point they wish, but the idea is that each group choose someone to be the lead and give reports at working meetings. See Old Business, following.

OLD BUSINESS

Good government (42 votes; John Comiskey, Nancy Neff, Chris Roat, Jennifer Sheppard, Alice Smith, Ben Stetson): Since Nancy Neff was on a CCMC conference call, Mary reported on AB 1217, Kevin Mullin’s Issue Ad DISCLOSE Act, which was just launched. Examples of issue ads: (1) a group last year called CALInnovates placed over 400 ads on Facebook alone trying to kill SB 822, net neutrality; (2) PG&E spent over \$6 million on advocacy in the state legislature while a group called the BRITE Coalition possibly with PG&E money aired a large number of messages defusing blame about the wildfires but not saying who paid for the ads. AB 1217 mandates that issue ads on TV, radio, in print, or on social media list their top three funders. It also requires that ads that name or depict candidates from 120 days before the primary to the date of the general election show their top three funders. They would no longer be able to attack candidates without “expressly advocating” for or against them. Speaker pro Tem Mullin also introduced AB 864, the cleanup bill for AB 249 and AB 2188 that requires the FPPC to have a website to let people report complaints during an election; it also stipulates that if committees don't fix the ads within five business days they are automatically eligible for penalties up to three times the cost of the ad.

Health care (23 votes; Barbara Comiskey, Thida Cornes, Gerry Hunt): Thida reported that Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal has introduced a Medicare for All bill.

Club building (21 votes; Jackie Wheeler, Ralph Wheeler): Ralph made an extensive report referring to the specific goals from our December brainstorming session. He has set up a club Instagram account and urged all of us to sign on as followers; the account name is DDCSV2020. He would like to get a Twitter account set up also if someone is interested in working on that. John Comiskey can now be our liaison to some of the resistance groups, particularly Indivisible, since he will be working with the person who is going to take over the leadership of the south bay group and often attends the Orchard City group. Ralph recommended that we have two virtual fundraisers based on the Don

Mayall Memorial Fund. The first would culminate at the annual meeting in June and the second at the brainstorming meeting in December. He also recommended a drive to expand our “paid plus” contingent, pointing out that our dues are low and have never been raised. The group discussed an ice cream social like the one at Alice Smith’s house a while back; Alice indicated that she might be able to have a similar event at Channing House.

Social justice (20 votes; Carol Miller, Marcene Van Dierendonck): Marcene commented on the dire social justice issues at our border and expressed confidence that Sally Lieber’s talk on March 11 will help people determine what actions can be taken.

Political outreach (16 votes; Mary Gill, Tom Shaw): Mary announced that there will be a SwingLeft fundraiser for Josh Harder on Sunday, March 17 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. in San Jose (\$100 minimum); for more information and to RSVP, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/joshisin>. There will be a SwingLeft fundraiser for TJ Cox on June 30; venue TBA but it will be local.

Environment (12 votes): Amy Wright reported on an effort to protect the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band’s cultural heritage; part of their ancestral land near Sargent Ranch in the south of the county is under threat because of a proposed gravel mine. There is a petition on line to ask county officials to deny a mining permit and reject the Sargent Quarry Project. Alice moved that we sign on to the petition, and Thida suggested that we also email our supervisors with this request. Alice amended her motion to include the suggestion, Thida seconded it, and it passed unanimously. To get more information and sign the petition, go to <http://www.protectjuristac.org/petition/>. Amy also reported on the Wildlife Conservation Network, which is having an event at Cañada College on April 13 with presentations from various wildlife conservationists from around the world on a variety of species, from penguins to elephants. She has been to other programs of theirs in the past and recommends them highly. For information on the program and how to register, go to <https://wildnet.org/events/>

Economic justice (11 votes, Melodi Masaniai): Thida reported on issues related to affordable housing that the Mountain View City Council is taking up at their meetings on February 26 (related to the North Bayshore project) and 28.

Candidates and initiatives (10 votes; Emilie Gatfield): John and Jackie mentioned various campaigns for 2019 such as Virginia’s statehouse elections (both houses), the special elections in North Carolina for two seats in Congress, races in Mississippi and Georgia, and some in our own state. Alice said that we should be on the lookout for important cases involving gerrymandering that will be decided in March: (1) Maryland (gerrymandering is by the Democrats); (2) North Carolina (racial gerrymandering), and (3) Virginia (the House of Delegates is appealing district court findings of gerrymandering).

Education (6 votes; Chris Roat, Tom Shaw): Alice reported that the League of Women Voters of Fresno has done a report on charter schools (which siphon off resources from public schools): https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/charter_report_october_2018.pdf

Club membership: Ben Shapero reported via John that we had one new member and two paid-plus members last month.

Announcement

❖ Alice announced by e-mail that on Friday, April 12, Close the Gap will have a meeting from 11:30 to 1:30, “Literature, Leadership, and Lunch” celebrating women writers, leaders, and thinkers. The meeting will be held at the JCC, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto.

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

Minutes submitted by Mary Gill