



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

April 22, 2019

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

**Next DFA-link meetings:** May 13, June 10, July 8, August 8

**Next working meetings:** May 27, July 22, August 22

**Annual potluck picnic and election of officers:** June 22, 11:00 to 3:00, Ponderosa Park, Sunnyvale

**Introductions:** Ben Stetson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Following that, each person introduced himself or herself and made a statement about recent political involvement.

**Adoption of agenda:** Mary Gill moved that we adopt the agenda, Thida Cornes seconded it, and the motion passed with no dissension.

**Approval of minutes:** Alice Smith moved that we approve the March minutes, Amy Wright seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissension.

**Treasurer's report:** Amy reported that we have \$3463 in the bank: \$411 in the state and \$3052 in the federal account. She noted that Malia Cohen did not cash a check for \$100 from six months ago; Amy will contact her.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Nominating committee:** Gerry reported that he will be assembling the nominating committee for next year's officers. Everyone on the steering committee seems to be willing to run again except Ben Stetson, the current co-chair.

**California Clean Money Campaign bills: SB 47, SB 636, AB 1217 and 1784:** Nancy Neff was busy working on car pools to Sacramento for the next day, plus other Clean Money tasks. Mary described AB 1217, the Issue Ad DISCLOSE Act; AB 1784, the Secure the VOTE Act; SB 47, the Petition DISCLOSE Act, and SB 636, the Ballot DISCLOSE Act. The latter is a new bill by Henry Stern that would put the three signers of the ballot pamphlet argument in favor and the three opposed on the ballot itself as well as in the pamphlet. People would be able see who supports or opposes the measure while they are voting. Alice moved that we endorse all four bills, Marcene seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissension. On Thursday, April 25 there will be car pools to Sacramento for a hearing for both AB 1217 and AB 1784 in the Assembly Elections

Committee at 9:30. Currently the meeting is scheduled for Room 444, but you should confirm the room number and be outside the door by 9:15. On Tuesday, April 23 CCMC will be in Sacramento supporting SB 636 along with SB 47, the Petition DISCLOSE Act. Mary encouraged members to attend either or both hearings. There will also be phone banks; contact Nancy for more information: nrneff@sonic.net

**Campaign kickoff for AB 1784, May 11:** Mary announced that on Saturday, May 11, there will be a campaign kickoff for AB 1784 (the Secure the VOTE Act) at the Women's Building Auditorium 3543 18<sup>th</sup> Street, #8, San Francisco. Doors open at 1:00, rally from 1:30 to 3:30, and organizing and training from 3:30 to 5:00. The authors, Assembly member David Chiu and Senator Scott Wiener will speak, as will Christine Pelosi and Trent Lange. Mary moved that we cosponsor the event, Thida seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissension.

**Anna Eshoo summit April 17:** Ben Stetson thanked Marcene, Jackie, and Alice for staffing the Dean Club table at the event. There was a discussion of the event by those who attended.

**Photo of Howard Dean suitable for black/white printing:** Ben Stetson asked for a photo of Howard Dean that could be used in black and white. Alice says she has one that she thinks will be appropriate; she will send it to John.

**Link-meetings calendar:** Ben Stetson noted there are three major races coming up for next year near us (candidates and probable candidates in parentheses): **SD 13** (Sally Lieber, Shelly Masur, Josh Becker, Mike Brownrigg, Anne Olivia); **SD 15** (Nora Campos, Dave Cortese, Tom Gildersleeve, Ann Ravel), and **Santa Clara County District 3 supervisor** (Otto Lee, Rich Tran, Rose Herrera, Magdalena Carrasco, Madison Nyugen, Jim Griffith). Ben has created a calendar with the various speakers; see attached. Jackie will help find contact information for Anne Oliva. The group gave Ben a round of applause for all his work on this effort. [Today, April 23, Nora Campos was confirmed to speak on Monday, June 10 from 8:00 to 8:30.]

## OLD BUSINESS

**Good government:** Thida reported that Voters Choice will be instituted in Santa Clara County starting next March for the primary. Everyone who is registered will receive a ballot in the mail. The county will have vote centers where people can not only vote but also register (even on Election Day), make changes to their registration, etc. Counties that adopted Voters Choice last year experienced a higher turnout and fewer provisional ballots. Jackie reported that the county registrar of voters will be speaking at the Century Club in June. Alice said that the county is looking for suggestions for venues for the vote centers (e.g., community centers, shopping areas, etc.). If you have a suggestion, send it to Amy Sun at the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters, 1553 Berger Drive, Building 1, San Jose; her email is amy.sun@rov.sccgov.org

**Health care:** Gerry reported that he has been talking to Anna Eshoo and Zoe Lofgren about supporting Medicare for All. Alice said that she was told that framing the issue as fighting for the poorest and supporting Medicaid programs throughout the country might be more successful politically. Amy noted that her own insurance, through a private company, has increased in cost significantly because they now have higher deductibles. Gerry said that there has been a statistical trend toward higher deductibles. The group agreed that enacting Medicare for All would be ideal.

**Club building:** Jackie reported that Ralph was not feeling well enough to come to the meeting but that he is continuing to post Dean Club items on Facebook and building up the Instagram account that he has set up for the club.

**Social justice:** Marcene Van Dierendonck reported that according to Congressman TJ Cox 1 million California residents do not have access to clean drinking water. This is especially common in the Central Valley. She noted that Gary Kremen was using the frame of social justice in discussing water at our meeting two weeks ago; director Kremen also said that water districts tend to be dominated by conservatives and we should work toward getting more progressives elected to water boards. Marcene noted that we should view access to water as a social justice issue.

**Political outreach:** Mary Gill reported that on **Monday, April 29**, there will be two events near us to contact voters in swing districts where there are upcoming elections and encourage them to vote:

- (1) 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. postcards to voters in PA 12, where Democrat Marc Friedenbergs is running for Congress. Venue: Starbucks, 1291 S. Mary Avenue, Sunnyvale (corner of Fremont). RSVP to Victoria Maxson: victoriagmaxson@gmail.com
- (2) 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Sister District) letters to low-propensity voters in either Pennsylvania or Louisiana. Venue: home of Pat Lang in Los Altos. Register at: <https://forms.gle/NFBfExhCWEdgSFof9>

Also, on **June 30** there will be a SwingLeft fundraiser for TJ Cox, venue TBA but it will be local.

Jackie reported that Sister District will hold a fundraiser in San Mateo on May 2 for Shelly Simonds, running for a Virginia House race. Shelly will speak via Skype. The first \$4000 of additional donations at the event will be matched. For more information and to RSVP, go to:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdYYPHCL\\_UI2ScGMPQNC1tOdFesiqHM\\_HNGIPV-pWdyEJqGA2tQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdYYPHCL_UI2ScGMPQNC1tOdFesiqHM_HNGIPV-pWdyEJqGA2tQ/viewform)

Alice reported on efforts by Reclaim Our Vote to contact voters in North Carolina. They are making calls into the third Congressional district, focusing on engaging voters of color. Early voting for the primary ends April 26. If you can help, email:

[rov@peopledemandingaction.org](mailto:rov@peopledemandingaction.org) More information at: <https://nationalvoter corps.org/naacp-phonebanks/>

**Environment:** Amy encouraged reported on the use of the pesticide chlorpyrifos, which has been shown to cause threats to human health. It is commonly used in California, even near schools, despite studies that have shown that it negatively impacts children's brains. The EPA under President Obama proposed a ban in 2015, but that was overturned by the Trump administration this spring. She urged us to write postcards to oppose the pesticide. They can be addressed to: Teresa Marks, California Department of Pesticide Regulation, 1001 I Street, PO Box 4015, Sacramento CA 95812-4015 AND/OR to Jared Blumenfeld, California EPA, 1001 I Street, PO Box 2815, Sacramento, CA 95812-2815.

**Economic justice:** Thida encouraged Mountain View residents to attend the city council meeting on April 30, where environmental sustainability will be discussed, and push for more environmental action, more time and resources spent on environmental efforts. Alice suggested sending a letter to the editor of *The Mountain View Voice*, and Jackie suggested sending a letter to *The San Jose Mercury News*.

**Candidates and initiatives:** No report.

**Education:** No report.

**Club membership:** No report.

## **Announcements**

❖ Alice reported that she met Ellie Kurpiewski, political development director of Democratic Headquarters of the Desert. The group is working in Katie Porter's, TJ Cox', and Devin Nunes' Congressional districts registering voters and expanding the voter base. For more information about the group, go to [www.democraticheadquarters.org](http://www.democraticheadquarters.org)

❖ Mary reminded people to RSVP if they plan to go to the SCCDP dinner on May 17 and specify that they would like to be seated at the Dean Club table. Venue: Hayes Mansion. For information and to register, go to: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/demdinner2019>

❖ Jackie announced that there will be a showing of the film *Thirsty for Justice: The Struggle for the Human Right to Water* on April 27 at the Los Altos Library at 5:00 p.m. The film is 40 minutes long, and a discussion will follow.

**Adjournment:** At 8:28 p.m. Gerry moved that we adjourn the meeting, Amy seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Mary Gill