



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

May 27, 2019

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

**Next DFA-link meetings:** June 10, July 8, August 12, September 9, October 14

**Next working meetings:** July 22, August 26, September 23, October 28

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

**Introductions:** John Comiskey called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Following that, each person introduced himself or herself and made a statement about recent political involvement. We had a very special visit from new member **Aaron Shapero**, 4 months old, along with his dad and mom!

**Adoption of agenda:** Alice asked that we add a discussion of our meeting schedule. Ralph Wheeler moved that we adopt the agenda with the additional item, Barbara Comiskey seconded it, and the motion passed with no dissension.

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

**Treasurer's report:** Amy reported via John that we have \$3662 in the bank: \$411 in the state and \$3251 in the federal account. She is working to resolve a problem with our post office box.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**All Clubs Picnic cosponsorship July 20:** John described the annual All Clubs Picnic, which will be held on July 20 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Emma Prusch Park in San Jose. The fee for a club to participate and have a table will be \$100, which includes lunch for any member who wants to attend. John noted that this is a good opportunity to connect with other clubs and with people who are open to joining a new organization (Marcene Van Dierendonck, as well as John and Barbara Comiskey came to our club this way). John and Barbara will staff the table, and Emilie Gatfield volunteered to help. After some discussion, Emilie moved that we cosponsor, Marcene Van Dierendonck seconded the motion, and it passed with 1 no vote.

**Resolution in support of resistance groups:** John had sent out by email a resolution written by Titus Lin in support of the grassroots resistance organizations (e.g., SwingLeft,

Sister District, Indivisible, etc.). The resolution is to commend their work in 2018 and pledge to support and work with them in the future to elect a Democratic president in 2020. Mary Gill moved that we endorse the resolution, Emilie seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**Reschedule November working group meeting:** John noted that we need to reschedule the November working meeting (which falls during the week of Thanksgiving, and the restaurant is not able to accommodate us). Alice requested that we discuss this a bit later when we discuss our meeting schedule.

**DVC debate-watch party June 26:** Mary announced that the first of two debates among the Democratic candidates for president will be on June 26, and the Democratic Volunteer Center will be hosting a party to view it. Pizza, snacks, and beverages plus a moderated discussion led by Mary Hughes will be featured in what should be a lively event. Doors open at 5:30 at the First Congregational Church of Palo Alto, 1985 Louis Road 94303. The \$35 tickets will help toward opening a DVC office in north county. Mary pointed out that we have a huge number of activists in Menlo Park, Palo Alto, Los Altos, and Mountain View, and with traffic as it is now very few are willing to travel to the Moorpark office; we need a space where they can work.

**Event with Congressman TJ Cox (and Zoe Lofgren) June 30:** Mary reported that a way we can really help TJ (who is working very hard in CA-21, has attended over 100 events, etc.) is to help the campaign financially. The district is one of the poorest in the nation, and TJ needs our support. She passed out flyers for the event, which will be held at a private home in Palo Alto on June 30 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m., sponsored by SwingLeft. Zoe Lofgren will introduce TJ. Tickets start at \$100, but the number of \$100 is limited. Alice noted that TJ is a top NRCC target. You can RSVP at: <http://bit.ly/tjcox0630>

**Event for Congressman Jerry McNerney July 7:** The Dean Club has been cohosting events for Jerry McNerney for 16 years now, and this year will be no exception. The event will be at the home of Stephanie Grossman, 1121 Harriet Street, Palo Alto. The Dean Club worked hard for Jerry during many election cycles, and he has been a strong voice for environmental and progressive causes. Jerry helps other candidates by contributing to their campaigns and attending events to support them. Tickets start at \$100. To RSVP, go to <https://jerrymcnerney.org/events/paloalto2019/>

**Program committee:** Ben Stetson did an excellent job during his time on the program committee, but he has needed to step back from that commitment, and Emilie Gatfield will join the committee and work on finding speakers for our link meetings (she has already been helping with that task). The club will be endorsing in three local races: **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, Rose Herrera, Magdalena Carrasco, Kansen Chu). The general opinion about AD 25 was that we should not endorse in that race because we

don't have many members there. We have heard from Ann Ravel, Mike Brownrigg, and Dave Cortese. Speakers have already been scheduled as follows:

**June 10:** Sally Lieber, Otto Lee, Nora Campos

**July 8:** Shelly Masur, Peter Fung, Anne Oliva

**August 12:** Magdalena Carrasco, Josh Becker, TBD

**Clean Money at the Democratic convention:** Nancy Neff reported that the California Clean Money Campaign will have a table at the Democratic convention in San Francisco next weekend. They need volunteers to collect signatures on petitions for two of the bills the campaign is sponsoring (AB 1784 and SB 636) on Friday afternoon and evening and all day Saturday (attending the convention as volunteers for CCMC). Alice Smith volunteered to do this on Friday; Nancy will put her in touch with Katherine Carpio of CCMC. Nancy then asked that people who are already planning to attend the convention do two things: (1) collect petition signatures in caucus meetings and (2) visit the CCMC table and get the list of people whose support is especially needed for AB 1784 (e.g., Alex Padilla, Phil Ting, Nancy Skinner) and ask them to support not only the bill but specifically the request for funds. This will be critical in getting an open-source paper-ballot voting system in place in California.

**Meeting schedule:** A long discussion followed about whether two meetings per month is too much and if we should try to schedule only one meeting per month. Options discussed were holding fewer link meetings, doing more of the business meetings through e-mail, and blending the business and link meetings together as San Mateo County DFA does. Alice noted that we would not have to change the by-laws to hold business and link meetings the same evening as long as they were clearly defined. There was a concomitant discussion of how to maximize turnout. Opinions varied widely. Ralph suggested that we try having one meeting in November (since we can't meet on November 18 anyway) to see how it works, and the idea was well received.

**Club membership:** Ben Shapero reported that there are 26 paid plus members (who have paid for more than one year), 53 regular members, and 7 new members this year.

At this point, we were out of time and the meeting was adjourned.

**Adjournment:** At 8:00 p.m. Emilie moved that we adjourn the meeting, Ralph seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Mary Gill