



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

February 24, 2020

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

**Next DFA-link meetings:** March 9, April 13, May 11

**Next working meetings:** March 23, April 27, May 25

**Annual potluck meeting and picnic:** June 20

**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:** After one addition was made, Mary Gill moved that we adopt the agenda, Barbara Comiskey seconded it, and the motion passed with no dissension.

**Approval of minutes:** Gerry Hunt moved that we approve the January minutes, Bruce Cooperstein seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissension.

**Treasurer's report:** Amy Wright reported that we have \$3916 in the bank: \$294 in the state and \$3622 in the federal account. John noted that we will need to increase the balance somewhat so that we can contribute to candidates' campaigns later on in the year.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**SCCDP dinner bookings and program:** John announced that the SCCDP dinner, the annual county party fundraiser, will be on May 29 at the Hayes Mansion, 200 Edendale Avenue, San Jose. Since Congress will be in recess, they hope to have a member of Congress as speaker. John is in charge of the seating arrangements and noted that Nancy Neff was the first person to RSVP. He urged people to reserve their seats and ask to be seated at the Dean table if they want to do so. He will try to get us the usual discount for a full-page ad in the program (which would be \$360) but that may not be possible, in which case it would be \$400. Barbara moved that we approve up to \$400 for a program ad, Nancy Neff seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**Call for list of accomplishments ("brag sheet"):** John asked that people send him their list of accomplishments and hours spent on club activities that reflect our goals. 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 but they are also in the SCCDP dinner program ad, so he needs them soon.

**Annual potluck picnic and election of officers:** John had two options for the date: June 20 and June 27. After some discussion, Gerry moved that we hold the picnic on June 20, Nancy seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissension. John will ask Ben Stetson to reserve the site in Ponderosa Park.

**Goal committees:** John had tabulated the votes on the goals listed at our December brainstorming meeting and had sent out them before the meeting. The following are the task forces based on the goals; the numbers in parentheses are the numbers of votes for each category. People who allotted 5 points for a category are point persons for that task force, but anyone is free to report on anything related to the task force.

**SCCDP headquarters GOTV:** John reported that there will be phonebanks to get out the vote at the Moorpark office on February 29, March 1, and March 3. There are 20-30 stations set up with headsets so there is no need for cell phones. The DVC tech people have helped get the system running. There is a plan to buy more Chromebooks (the computers that run the programs) at about \$200 each, and donations toward this cause would be very much appreciated. You can donate on the SCCDP website.

**SCCDP headquarters resources:** John reported that James K. Kim is the new executive director (as opposed to James S. Kim, who is the finance director). He can be reached at ed@sccd.org. John reported that at a meeting of club presidents over the weekend, the attendees contributed about half of the \$800 needed to get a larger (70") TV to use for events. There is a computer to hook up to it, but a bit of additional money is needed. You can donate at the SCCDP website.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Candidates and initiatives (44 votes, Mary Gill, Alice Smith):** Mary Gill passed around a walk piece from last weekend's canvass in Hanford for TJ Cox in CA-21, which listed some of TJ's many accomplishments. The first person she canvassed was a lifelong Democrat who said he could no longer vote for a Dem because "they want to let everyone into the country and give them all free health care." This is apparently a narrative they are hearing from media or elsewhere. TJ is a main target of the RNCC. Mimi Spreadbury suggested that we have a meeting about "deep canvassing," and Tom Shaw agreed. Tom suggested someone like David Broockman at UC Berkeley. Former Republican Congressman David Valadao is running again in CA-21 and has raised a lot of money. The staff in the office reported that TJ gets a lot of Republican opposition at his town-hall meetings. However, TJ has attended over 200 community events and has been working very hard. If you want to canvass for TJ during GOTV, there are various opportunities, including a one-day canvass on Saturday, February 29 in Firebaugh or Kerman; contact Mary for more information or contact Mary Boergers of East Bay for TJ: maryboergers@yahoo.com

**Good government (23, Nancy Neff):** Nancy Neff reported that SB 636, the Ballot DISCLOSE Act, will be the California Clean Money Campaign's primary bill for 2020. Kevin Mullin is not going to bring up AB 1217, the Issue Ad DISCLOSE Act, this year.

Nancy described the CCMC Democracy Rally and Grassroots Summit on March 28 at the First Baptist Church in Palo Alto. The event will probably start at noon rather than 9:00 a.m. as previously planned. There will be lunch, then a rally from 1:00 to 3:00 and training break-out sessions after that. Senators Jerry Hill and Bob Wieckowski will be there, and perhaps other local office holders. Our club is cosponsoring the event. Nancy also mentioned Reclaim Our Vote postcarding and phonebanks, some of which are at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Palo Alto. Amy pointed out that many of these events are on the Democratic Volunteer Center calendar ([demvolctr.org/events](http://demvolctr.org/events)). Mary noted that there are postcard and letter-writing events at the DVC on Mondays from 1:00-3:00, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10:00-12:00, and Thursdays from 1:30 to 4:30. John said that he can help get events on the SCCDP calendar, which is at <https://sccdp.org/index.php/calendar/calendar-grid/>

**Economic justice (16, Ben Shapero):** No report.

**Environment (12, Amy Wright):** Amy reported that the main manufacturer of the pesticide chlorpyrifos, banned in California, has stopped making the chemical. Mimi Spreadbury announced that there will be a meeting on public transportation at the San Jose City Council Chambers on February 25 from 1:30 to 2:30; she encouraged people to attend and support public transit, which has had budget cuts recently. Marcene suggested that developers should be required to provide bus cards to their tenants because it's also a matter of having enough customers to support the system. Mimi also reported that Green Foothills will have a reception and panel discussion this coming Wednesday on "The Future of Coyote Valley" at the San Jose Women's Club, 75 S 11th St., San Jose, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Panelists include Cindy Chavez, Sam Liccardo, Sergio Jimenez, and Chris Reeve. Amy reported that the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors voted to take measures allowing them to limit the growth boundary of Stanford University and preserve areas in the Stanford Foothills.

**Health care (5, Gerry Hunt):** Gerry reported on a meeting he went to in San Francisco with Pramila Jayapal. He noted that 65% of insurance premiums go for health care and 35% for overhead. Bruce noted that the ACA has now limited overhead to 15%. However, Gerry said that many times they get around that by "creative accounting" (e.g., moving marketing expenses to another category). Nancy reported that a Yale report indicated that Medicare for All would save \$450 billion and 70,000 lives a year.

**Social justice (4, Jackie Wheeler):** Mimi reported that in North Dakota the indigenous people won their fight in court: they do not have to have a street address in order to vote, as previously. Many live on reservations in homes with no street addresses.

**Education (3, TBD):** No report.

**Political outreach (1, Amy Samelson):** John said that people sometimes say they don't feel a need to get involved politically because locally we have mostly Democrats in office. However, he encourages them to do things like work on voter turnout for propositions (as an example, Santa Clara and San Mateo counties played a vital role in

voting down the repeal of the gas tax initiative in 2018 through sheer numbers of votes). He also encourages people to work in some of the cities that have school boards or other nonpartisan offices where Democrats are in the minority. And we can encourage people to get involved in competitive Senate races in other states (like Arizona, North Carolina, and Maine) as well.

**Club membership:** Ben Shapero reported that there are 6 paid plus members (who have paid for more than one year) and 61 regular members.

Minutes submitted by Mary Gill