



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

January 27, 2020

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

**Next DFA-link meetings:** February 10, March 9, April 13, May 11

**Next working meetings:** February 24, March 23, April 27, May 25

**Introductions:** John Comiskey called the meeting to order at 7:08 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, Ben Shapero moved that we adopt the agenda, Amy Wright seconded it, and the motion passed with no dissension.

**Approval of minutes:** Jackie Wheeler moved that we approve the October minutes, Alice Smith seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissension.

**Treasurer's report:** Amy reported that we have \$4127 in the bank: \$419 in the state and \$3708 in the federal account.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Resolution/Endorsement of SB 636:** Nancy Neff described SB 636, the Ballot DISCLOSE Act, sponsored by the California Clean Money Campaign. The bill would require that top supporters and opponents of each initiative be listed on the ballot itself, helping voters make informed decisions at the polls. Voters who might have been deceived by special-interest advertising can see who is really supporting or opposing the proposed legislation. The list would be the same as the list in the voters' guide, shortened, and it would not substantially increase the length of the ballot. Nancy moved that we support a resolution in favor, Jackie seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Nancy also described the CCMC Democracy Rally and Grassroots Summit on March 28 at the First Baptist Church in Palo Alto from 9:00 to 4:30 with speakers at 10:30 including Senators Jerry Hill and Bob Wieckowski. She passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers and encouraged people to attend. The steering club of the Dean Club had already voted to cosponsor the event.

**Two-year budget, midpoint review:** Before the meeting, Amy had prepared a budget summary that meticulously listed income and expenses since 2017, including projections. Starting balance in the state account: \$440; ending balance \$419. Starting balance in the

federal account \$2775; ending balance \$3709. Total start: \$3215 and total end: \$4127. She noted that we are falling a bit behind with dues. Gerry suggested an approach to getting people who are in arrears to contribute again, which Ben Shapero (and perhaps Carolyn Curtis) can work on, with help as needed from other club members. The group thanked Amy for her work.

**Campaign contributions:** John asked if the group wanted to make any monetary contributions to any of our endorsed candidates. After a discussion, Alice moved that we contribute \$100 to Ann Ravel, Nancy seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissent. Gerry moved that we donate \$100 to Anne Kepner, Jackie seconded the motion, and it also passed with no dissent. Jackie then moved that we donate \$100 to Otto Lee, John seconded the motion, and it also passed unanimously. A bit later, Alice moved that we contribute \$250 to TJ Cox's campaign, Gerry seconded the motion, and it passed with no opposition. Amy will send out the checks to these candidates.

**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). Some people may already have sent this list to Carolyn Curtis, who compiled these lists for many years. If so, please resend it to John, who will be handling it this year. These lists are posted every year on our website.

**2020 goal setting and task forces:** At our December meeting, we had a brainstorming session of possible goals for 2020. John had divided these into general categories and listed the various goals under each category. Each club member was given the list of goals and a sheet of paper on which to rank his or her top three categories. Under each category, the club member then ranked his or her top three goals for that category, also in order. John took the voting materials with him and will enter the information into a spreadsheet for later distribution. The club members present remarked on how efficient this process was and commended John for organizing it so well.

**US Senate races:** There was a discussion of various Senate races and how we can help from California. Mary noted that Colorado has a very popular Senate candidate who is favored to win (against a weak Republican incumbent), and the state is projected as a Dem win overall. However, as club members noted, the next three easiest Senate seats to flip, in **Arizona, Maine, and North Carolina**, need our attention. All three have very viable Democratic candidates running against weakened incumbents. Amy distributed flyers for SwingLeft events, and Mary noted that there are many opportunities to volunteer at the DVC (for these races and others). [NB: Reclaim Our Vote will be working on North Carolina with numerous events here, and our local SwingLeft chapter is working on Arizona.]

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Good government:** Nancy encouraged people to get signatures on petitions for SB 636 and passed around a petition for people to sign if they had not already done so. Amy

Samelson had a question about someone who was getting signatures on a petition but who was not following the new requirement for transparency in funding that the Petition DISCLOSE Act mandates. Nancy said that because the law is so new, there is a need for education about it. She suggested that if we come across such a situation, we report it at [info@caclean.org](mailto:info@caclean.org) (the California Clean Money Campaign, which will be trying to help educate people about the new law).

**Health care:** There was a discussion of Medicare for All vs. the public option.

**Club building:** Ben Shapero has been working on outreach to members whose memberships have expired. Jackie reported that Ralph is continuing to work on our club's Instagram presence.

**Social justice:** No report.

**Political outreach:** Covered earlier.

**Environment:** Amy shared part of her presentation on the advantages of a vegetarian diet from the perspectives of health, the environment, and the avoidance of animal cruelty. She will be giving the presentation at an OCI meeting.

**Economic justice:** No report.

**Candidates and initiatives:** Covered earlier.

**Education:** No report.

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

## **Announcements**

❖ Jackie announced there will be an event for Shelly Masur for state senate district 13 on Saturday, February 1, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the home of Kathy Torgersen, 273 Walter Hays Drive, Palo Alto. RSVP at <https://www.shellymasur.com/feb1>

❖ Jackie announced that there will be an event for Ann Ravel for state senate district 15 on Wednesday, January 29, from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. at the home of Susie Richardson, 1322 Martin Avenue, Palo Alto. Suggested donation: \$250. RSVP at: [bit.ly/annraveljan29](https://bit.ly/annraveljan29)

**Adjournment:** At 8:50 p.m. Jackie moved that we adjourn the meeting, Nancy seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Mary Gill