



Minutes of the Dean Democratic Club of Silicon Valley Organizational Meeting
July 27, 2020

Next working meetings (by Zoom): August 24, September 28, October 26, November 23

Next DFA Link program meetings (by Zoom): August 10 (ballot presentations), December 14 (annual brainstorming for next year's goals)

Introductions: John Comiskey called the Zoom meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Following that, each person introduced himself or herself and made a statement about recent political involvement.

Adoption of agenda: After one addition, Ralph Wheeler moved that we adopt the agenda, Gerry Hunt seconded it, and the motion passed with no dissension.

Approval of minutes: Jackie Wheeler moved that we approve the June minutes, Amy Samelson seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissension.

Treasurer's report: Amy Wright reported by email that we have \$4188 in the bank: \$294 in the state and \$3894 in the federal account.

NEW BUSINESS

Shahnawaz Syed, Josh Harder campaign: Shahnawaz Syed is an organizer for the Harder campaign, specifically focusing on local Dem clubs. He gave an overview of CA-10 (in both Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties, 40% Latino, largely agricultural, high unemployment) and said that Josh won by only 4.6% in 2018. Josh's opponent, Ted Howze, is a far right candidate from whom the Republicans have withdrawn their initial endorsement. Shahnawaz talked about some of Josh's accomplishments in Congress, his willingness to work across the aisle, the fact that he has held 18 town halls, and his work on issues like health care, water, and DACA. He urged us to join in phone banks for Josh on Mondays and Thursdays from 5:00 to 6:30, and to text or give money. For more information, contact Shahnawaz at shahnw.syed@gmail.com or 650 683 5855.

Ballot initiative DFA link assignments: John had sent out lists of the ballot measures, the club members who will be presenting, a template to use to make the presentations with an example of one that he has done, and information about how to obtain the data to fill in the template. We'll be presenting on August 10 at the link meeting. Gerry

volunteered to present Prop 14; Mimi, Prop 16, and Alice, Prop 17. Those who are presenting have been contacted about sending John their completed templates. John asked that they prepare to share their screens if they want to do that. He will send out a Doodle poll to set up times when people can practice their presentations, which can be no longer than eight minutes. We will take a straw poll after the presentations, as we usually do; non-members can vote in the straw poll. Club members will then vote on endorsements at the following working meeting on August 24.

Endorsement interview schedule, preview: John noted that filing closes August 7. We will be voting on August 24. We have already endorsed in many races at past meetings. In order for the committee to make an additional endorsement, a Dean Club member needs to make the request; each club member is limited to one candidate. Emy Thurber had asked us to endorse Josh Becker. Emily Ramos asked if we could endorse in the El Camino Healthcare District race; she is backing Meghan Fraley. Lucas Ramirez asked us to endorse in the Mountain View City Council race. Emilie Gatfield asked for an endorsement for Larry Klein for mayor of Sunnyvale. Other races where a Dean Club member has asked us to endorse are: San Jose Evergreen Community College (Ali Sapirman) and Oakgrove School District Seat 1 (Allie Hughes). Jackie Wheeler asked that we endorse in the Santa Clara County Board of Education race, Area 1, and Thida Cornes asked that we endorse in the Mountain View Whisman School Board race. If you want the club to endorse in another race, let John know as soon as possible. After checking that the candidates are Democrats, John will set up endorsement committee meetings. Having the meetings on Zoom will give a bit of flexibility because no travel time is involved.

Voting rights: Alice Smith is working to get the Santa Clara County registrar of voters to send a notice to voters that were deregistered and are no longer active to let them know how to reactivate their voting status. People who have not voted in the past two elections are considered inactive. She would also like them to inform people that they can register up to Election Day. She offered to draft a letter with this request with a copy to all county board members and send it to the steering committee for approval. Gerry moved that the steering committee be tasked with reviewing the letter, Thida seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissension.

OLD BUSINESS

Candidates and initiatives: Mary Gill reported that the surprise birthday event for TJ Cox that the Dean Club cosponsored raised \$10,000. The event for Democratic Volunteer Center with Katie Porter that we cosponsored raised about \$9000 and had 200 people on the Zoom call. DVC volunteers are working hard, focusing mainly now on states where we can win a competitive Senate race (primarily working on Maine, North Carolina, Montana, Arizona) as well as the Biden campaign and TJ Cox for the House. For opportunities to phone (with technical help), text (with a list of active campaigns published every week), or write letters/postcards, see demvolctr.org.

Good government:

Nancy Neff reported that there will be a California Clean Money Zoom call tomorrow at 8:00 p.m.: "Ensuring Fair & Secure Elections in November." Trent Lange will be talking about various CCMC bills, what is happening at the national level, and the new LA county voting system. For information, contact Nancy Neff. She also reported on SB 739: Elections: false or misleading information, which passed in the state Senate. [Also, CCMC is urging people to sign a petition asking the House Judiciary and Energy and Commerce committees to investigate Facebook for profiteering from ads with disinformation about voting, for instance ads against optional mail-in voting. These ads could seriously harm our democracy. Sign the petition at: <http://www.yesfairelections.org/petition/facebook-petition.php?ms=tye-friends>]

Economic justice: John urged us to call Senators Feinstein and Harris in support of the Heroes Act and recommended directing calls to the Fresno office where the voice mailbox may not be full. Vicki Venker reported on her work with Convergence: Center for Policy Resolutions, a non-profit that has both labor and business at the table and works to try to bring people together on national issues. They are now shifting focus because of the pandemic. They are finding that childcare is a huge concern for the work force in general and are working on addressing that as well as other issues.

Environment: Mimi Spreadbury reported that on Fridays at 7:00 there are calls hosted by the Dakota Law Institute, organizing for the Green New Deal. Let Mimi know if you are interested.

Mary reported that Valley Water (formerly Santa Clara Valley Water District) dropped their lawsuit against the State Water Board, a victory for those club members who worked on this issue.

Health care: Gerry Hunt reported that there will be another car caravan in support of Medicare for All on August 12 in San Jose.

Social justice: Thida Cornes brought up the issue of increasing microaggressions and racism against Asians, even in our own area. There is a website "Stop AAPI Hate Reporting Center":

<http://www.asianpacificpolicyandplanningcouncil.org/stop-aapi-hate/>

She encouraged people to go to the website and submit reports if they see incidents. She also mentioned that we have a long way to go in our county for police reform, and a lengthy discussion followed. Larry Klein talked about the "merge model" in Sunnyvale, in which all public safety personnel are cross-trained; that is, police, fire, and EMS are all trained in all three areas and can be called upon as needed. This model is working well in Sunnyvale, and Palo Alto is now looking at the Sunnyvale model. Marcene Van Dierendonck reported that there will be a town hall in Los Altos on policing on July 28 at 6:00 p.m. with LaDoris Cordell moderating a discussion among the mayor, police chief, city manager, etc.: <https://www.losaltosca.gov/police>

Aarón Reséndez noted that there have been six killings by police so far this year in San Jose, that in general many who are killed have mental problems, and that reform is needed. Gerry voiced the opinion that the problem with the police is in their lack of

leadership; superior officers should do a better job of leading the others.

Education: Thida Cornes noted that Prop 15 is very important and will provide much-needed school funding. Unfortunately, there has been pushback from business interests. In our area the cap of \$3 million will affect small business.

Political outreach: No report.

Club membership: Amy Wright reported that there have been no new members this month.

Announcements

❖ Alice Smith announced that the Democratic 21st Century Club virtual luncheon on Friday, August 14 will feature Ro Khanna. Jackie urged everyone to join; the money raised helps to support the Moorpark office. <https://www.demcenturyclub.org/events>

❖ Aarón Reséndez announced that there will be a birthday event for Otto Lee on Wednesday, July 29, at 6:00 p.m.: <https://www.facebook.com/events/901139897054330/>

Adjournment: At 8:30 p.m. Ralph Wheeler moved that we adjourn the meeting, Thida Cornes seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Mary Gill