



Minutes of the Dean Democratic Club of Silicon Valley Organizational Meeting
June 22, 2020

Next working meetings (by Zoom): July 27, August 24, September 28

Next DFA Link program meetings: July 13, August 10 (ballot presentations)

Introductions: John Comiskey called the Zoom meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Following that, each person introduced himself or herself and made a statement about recent political involvement.

Adoption of agenda: Amy Wright moved that we adopt the agenda, Carolyn Curtis seconded it, and the motion passed with no dissension.

Approval of minutes: Ralph Wheeler moved that we approve the May minutes, Carolyn Curtis seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissension.

Treasurer's report: Amy Wright reported that we have \$4160 in the bank: \$294 in the state and \$3866 in the federal account.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of officers: Marcene Van Dierendonck (who was on the nominating committee with Elizabeth Beheler) was asked to read the slate of officers who have been nominated:

John Comiskey/Emilie Gatfield: cochairs

Amy Wright: treasurer

Gerry Hunt: corresponding secretary

Mary Gill: recording secretary

Jackie Wheeler/Karen Porter: members at large

After calling for other nominations three times, Marcene moved that we elect the slate, Carolyn Curtis seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissension.

Ballot initiative DFA link assignments: John had sent out updated "Meeting Notes" with a link to the Secretary of State's website with the ballot measures that have qualified and others that may qualify: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ballot-measures/initiative-and-referendum-status/>

Some club members had already chosen a ballot measure to present at the August 10 on-line meeting. In addition to those that had already been spoken for (1856, Mary Gill;

1851/1870, Elizabeth Beheler; 1882, Ralph Wheeler), Karen Porter offered to present 1877 and 1879; Barbara Comiskey, 1840, and Emily Ramos, 1862. If you would like to present one that has not been chosen, please notify John. John will send all presenters a template of 16 slides to fill out and use while making the presentations. You can use sources like Open Secrets, Ballotpedia, the California Secretary of State website, etc. Be prepared to share your screen if possible (or you can send your slides to John if necessary). We will take a straw poll after the presentations, as we usually do, and then vote on endorsements at the following working meeting.

Friendly incumbent endorsements: Carolyn Curtis proposed that we that endorse the following Congressional candidates for the general election: Zoe Lofgren, TJ Cox, Ami Bera, Jerry McNerney, and Josh Harder. She pointed out that we had worked for many of them (Jerry, Ami, and TJ especially) and have generally made it a practice to endorse them in the past. Carolyn moved that we make these endorsements, Ralph Wheeler seconded the motion, and the motion passed with no dissension.

Post primary endorsements: John reported that Alex Lee has requested our endorsement for State Assembly District 25 and Josh Becker has requested our endorsement for State Senate 13. The endorsement committee recommends an endorsement for both. John moved that we make these endorsements, Barbara seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissension. Candidates that we had previously endorsed in the primary will be carried over to the general election: Ann Ravel (State Senate, District 15), Otto Lee (County Board of Supervisors, District 3), Sergio Jimenez (San Jose City Council, District 2), David Cohen (San Jose City Council, District 4), and Anna Eshoo (US Congress, District 18).

Endorsement interview schedule, preview: John noted that filing opens July 13 and closes August 7, but it can get extended by one week if a contingency arises (e.g., someone decides not to run). In order for the committee to make an endorsement, a Dean Club member needs to make the request in addition to the candidate request; each club member is limited to one candidate. Emy Thurber had asked to endorse Josh Becker. Emily Ramos asked if we could endorse in the El Camino Healthcare District race; Meghan Fraley was present at the meeting and is a candidate. Karen Porter requested an endorsement in the Palo Alto City Council race.

July 13 DFA Link Meeting: "Rigged: The Voter Suppression Playbook": Ralph and Jackie Wheeler proposed that we see the movie *Rigged* at our next link meeting, July 13, on Zoom. Ralph will help John test it out before the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Candidates and initiatives: Mary Gill reported that there are many ways to support Democratic candidates and causes on the website of the Democratic Volunteer Center. For opportunities to phone (with technical help), text, or write letters/postcards, see demvolctr.org. If you are interested in texting, the DVC puts out weekly information on

organizations that have active texting campaigns. Also, the May 28 fundraiser for TJ Cox met its goal of \$20,000; on June 28 there will be another opportunity to hear TJ at 2:00 p.m. with special guest Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, first executive director of EMILY's List. RSVP: [TJCoxforCongress.com/June 28](https://www.tjcoxford.com/june28).

Good government: Nancy Neff reported that Marc Berman's bill to send vote-by-mail forms to all active voters passed (although it had been amended and had previously covered inactive voters as well as active ones). The California Clean Money Campaign is working with national groups to encourage federal funding for a vote-by-mail bill that the House passed but the Senate is blocking. She noted that there is concern about the security of the LA County voting system. The new LA County voting system is publicly owned but not open source; we need to ask them to make it open source, which they were supposed to do in order to get state funding. People will get to read a handout showing how they voted but it changes to a QR code that they can't read; they should instead have actual paper ballots. There will soon be a 30-day public comment period about other changes the California secretary of state asked them to make. This is the first publicly owned voting system, and hopefully it will be fixed and be open source so it can be copied and used in many other places. [CCMC members, and especially Nancy, worked hard on AB 1784, the Secure the Vote Act, to get funding.] Nancy also reported that closer to the November election CCMC will be sending out information on how to report problems with political ads, including problems resulting from loopholes in current law that could be addressed.

Economic justice: No report

Environment: Mimi Spreadbury reported on "nodes" or parcels of land that San Benito County wants to allow development on and that the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band wants to protect. The Juristac stay expires on July 6, and they are being asked to get live petition signatures, difficult during the pandemic. The draft environmental impact plan has been pushed back to fall.

Nancy Neff reported on a message from Peter Drekmeier asking people to get messages to Valley Water (formerly Santa Clara Valley Water District) saying that they vote for the environment and asking the water district to drop their lawsuit against the State Water Board because of its move to decrease the amount of water taken out of the Tuolumne and other rivers. There is a meeting today at 4:00 to consider a funding measure for Valley Water's plan. Peter gives data showing that Bay Area residents support the environment; they want to conserve and recycle water but not for the benefit of increasing development. You can read more at:

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2019/01/23/opinion-water-district-lawsuit-jeopardizes-future-projects/>

Health care: Gerry Hunt reported that they had a caravan with 50 cars travel through San Jose with signs protesting the fact that Regional Medical Center on the east side of San Jose is closing the maternity wards. There will be a caravan for Medicare for All this Sunday, June 28, starting at 1:00 p.m. at 941 Homestead Road in Santa Clara.

Social justice: Elizabeth reported that there will be Zoom event on Thursday at 7:00 on Race, Policing, and the Color of Justice with various community leaders from East Palo Alto, Winter Dellenbach from Friends of Buena Vista Mobile Home Park, several chiefs of police, and others: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/race-policing-and-the-color-of-justice-tickets-109998360056?>

Mimi Spreadbury reported on a Zoom meeting with David Angel in Jeff Rosen's office, through the ACLU. They said they are not planning on charging demonstrators unless they committed a crime and not giving out fines for curfew violations. They agreed with a call to reform.

John reported that the county party recently approved a statement on racial justice: <https://sccdp.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Statement-on-Racial-Justice.pdf> and also a resolution declaring racism a public health issue: <https://sccdp.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Resolution-re-Effects-of-Racism-as-adopted.pdf>

He said that the Board of Supervisors responded quickly in support. Ash Kalra has been present consistently at the ongoing rallies and demonstrations and should be commended.

Mimi reported on a public comment in San Jose asking the city council to greatly reduce funding for the police department and put additional monies into social services; there were also comments on use of force issues. She said that the council has not responded appropriately. The contract with the police expires at the end of the month, and the contract will be renegotiated.

Education: No report.

Political outreach: John reported on how difficult it is to do voter reg with the pandemic, especially in areas like the Central Valley. Mary noted that the TJ Cox campaign (spanning 4 Central Valley counties) has been working on voter reg since last year. They will be holding trainings on texting starting July 10 and are trying to recruit volunteers for what they think will be a very important part of this year's campaign (high read rate, many young people prefer texts, etc.). They'll be using Outvote. You can sign up at: <https://www.mobilize.us/coxforcongress/event/281005/>

Amy asked if voters in the valley can check their registration status easily. Mimi recommended vote.org, and a few minutes later Jackie Wheeler reported that she had successfully checked her voter reg status at that site.

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

Announcements

❖ Emily Ramos announced that Mountain View City Council candidate Alex Núñez will have a campaign kickoff on July 11 from 11:00 to 1:00: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1711873105622643/>

❖ Otto Lee announced that Susan Ellenberg and registered nurses from the professional association RNPA will hold a Zoom event in support of his candidacy for the board of

supervisors on Thursday, June 25, at 7:00 p.m. To register, go to <https://www.facebook.com/events/265022918276055> or email vote@ottolee.org

Adjournment: At 8:24 p.m. Ralph Wheeler moved that we adjourn the meeting, Amy Wright seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Mary Gill