



Minutes of the Dean Democratic Club of Silicon Valley Organizational Meeting

October 28, 2019

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

Next working meeting: November 11 (at Holder's Country Inn, 998 S De Anza Blvd, San Jose, 6:30 for dinner and 7:00 for the meeting; no other November meeting will be held)

Holiday potluck and goals brainstorming: December 9 at the home of Ralph and Jackie Wheeler

Introductions: John Comiskey called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Following that, each person introduced himself or herself and described a recent political activity.

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

Approval of minutes: Alice Smith moved that we approve the September minutes, Amy seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissension.

Treasurer's report: Amy Wright reported that we have \$3982 in the treasury: \$41 in the state and \$3564 in the federal account.

NEW BUSINESS

Friendly incumbent endorsements: John reminded the group that we will be voting on endorsements as a club at our November 11 meeting, since we are not meeting on November 25 because our normal venue is not available. The meeting will be at Holder's Country Inn, 998 S De Anza Blvd, San Jose at 6:30 for dinner and 7:00 for the meeting, not the Calabazas Library, which will be closed. Candidates will be invited to give a short final pitch for their campaigns then. The endorsement committee will make recommendations for Senate Districts 13 and 15, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors District 3, AD 25, and San Jose City Council Districts 2, 4, and 10. John reported that the endorsement committee recommends friendly incumbent endorsements for Anna Eshoo, Ash Kalra, Zoe Lofgren, and Robert Rivas. Herb Engstrom suggested that we add Ro Khanna to the list. Ben Shapero asked to pull Anna Eshoo to be considered separately, and Barbara Comiskey asked that we pull Ro Khanna. Jackie Wheeler moved that we endorse Ash Kalra, Zoe Lofgren, and Robert Rivas, Gerry Hunt seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. After considerable discussion, John moved that we endorse Anna Eshoo, Jackie seconded the motion, and it failed 7 to 4 with

some abstentions counting as no votes. The next vote was to endorse Ro Khanna, 9 to 3 in support so the motion passed.

Phone banks for GOTV Virginia: Mary Gill stressed the importance of phoning to help get out the vote in Virginia for the 11/5 election. People can phone from home through Reclaim Our Vote; for more information, contact Lisa Ferino: lisaferino@gmail.com. Phone banks will be held at the San Jose Democratic headquarters on Thursday 10/31 and Monday 11/4 from 12:00 to 3:00 (2901 Moorpark Ave, #110, San Jose). Sister District will have phone banks in San Mateo from Friday to Monday: <https://www.sisterdistrictcapeninsula.org>. Reclaim Our Vote will be phoning from Menlo Park November 1-4 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.; contact Elsa Schafer for more information at ElsaSchafer@comcast.net.

DVC letter-writing update and event on November 14: Mary reported that at the September 26 and October 22 DVC events in Palo Alto volunteers wrote 3000 letters to registered voters in Virginia urging them to turn out for the November 5 election. On November 14 volunteers will be writing to people in Colorado, a swing state with a Senate race in play, to urge people to register to vote. Each recipient will receive a letter and a partially filled-out voter-registration form. If they complete the form, they can simply fold a third page into an envelope (this page has both a return address and the address of the appropriate registrar of voters) along with the form and seal it with tape. Postage will be paid by Vote Forward. What could be easier? The event will be on November 14 from 3:30 to 5:30 at the Rinconada Library, 1213 Newell Road, Palo Alto. Contact Mary or Diane Rolfe at onedianerolfe@comcast.net for more information or to RSVP. Mary passed out an information page with SwingLeft letter-writing party opportunities.

DVC debate-watch party November 20: Mary announced that there will be a presidential debate-watch party on November 20 at the First Congregational Church in Palo Alto, 1985 Louis Road 94303 (near Embarcadero). The \$35 tickets will include food, wine, a straw poll, and a lively discussion; the proceeds will go toward opening a DVC office in north county.

Statement on Juristac: Amy brought up an effort to protect the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band's cultural heritage; part of their ancestral land near Sargent Ranch in the south of the county is under threat because of a proposed gravel mine. Some time back many individual club members signed a petition on line to ask county officials to deny a mining permit and reject the quarry project (after Amy brought this to our attention). Now there is a formal request for us to sign a statement of opposition as a club. Mimi Spreadbury reported that this area of Coyote Valley has a wildlife corridor with endangered species. It is owned by a private company, and the EIR for their proposed project will come out very soon so it's important to show our opposition now. She announced that there will be a program on this issue tomorrow at the First Unitarian Church of San Jose at 7:30 (see announcements). She read the text of the statement in opposition aloud. Alice Smith moved that we sign onto the document, Jackie Wheeler seconded the motion, and it passed with one abstention.

Support for Green New Deal: Amy reported on the support from the Sunrise Movement and the California Democratic Party for a Green New Deal. There is a federal bill, HR109 (which John had sent out a summary of by e-mail), but there is also a resolution endorsed by the state party and our county central committee and directed to our state legislators (Resolution 19-05.122). Mimi read it aloud. Amy moved that we endorse the resolution, Gerry seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Voter registration at California Avenue in Palo Alto: Jennifer Sheppard reminded us that Marcene Van Dierendonck is retiring from her work doing voter reg at California Avenue. For many years she and Jennifer staffed a booth there on Sunday mornings. This work brought a large amount of money to the Dean Club in the form of bounty paid by the county party. Jennifer reported that she has agreed to stay on to assist Carolle Carter, a Dean Club member, and they will continue the work. Karen moved that we formally commend Jennifer and Marcene for all the years of hard work they did registering voters, Amy seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Herb suggested creating an award to give them, and John will follow up.

OLD BUSINESS

Good government: Nancy Neff asked that anyone who sees or is in touch with Marc Berman ask him to support SB 636, the Ballot DISCLOSE Act. If this bill passes, top supporters and opponents of ballot measures will be listed on the ballots themselves, helping voters make informed decisions at the polls. She reported that there will be a volunteer appreciation party in early December and invited people to participate in the planning process.

Health care: No report.

Club building: Ben Shapero has been working on outreach to members whose memberships have expired.

Social justice: Nancy reported on an effort to reverse a Mountain View RV ban that prohibits oversized vehicles from parking on most city streets. Volunteers are very busy collecting signatures to overturn the ban; they will need to gather 3700 signatures in 30 days.

Political outreach: Mary reported on a recent 3-day canvass down in Hanford, in TJ Cox' district. David Valadao, who TJ defeated by only 862 votes, recently filed to run again and raised over half a million dollars in one month. The district is sharply split, and it was clearly a very different political landscape from our Bay Area one (e.g., some voters said we should immediately recall Governor Newsom because of the situation with PG&E, many did not know TJ was their Congressman or did not know about all the bills he has sponsored or coauthored, some not registered as Republicans were Valadao supporters). Republicans will be working hard and will be well financed trying to win the

seat back. Tom Shaw will be going down on November 16. For more information, contact Krista De La Torre: delatorre@dccc.org or Jim Roberts of East Bay for TJ: jamesgordonroberts@gmail.com.

Environment: Covered earlier.

Economic justice: No report.

Candidates and initiatives: Herb brought up the news today that Katie Hill is stepping down from her Congressional seat, which led to a discussion about what happened and who might replace her. Nancy reported that the Home Depot owner is raising large amounts of campaign money for President Trump.

Education: No report.

Club membership: Ben Shapero reported that there are 20 paid plus members (who have paid for more than one year) and 51 regular members, with 8 new members this year.

Announcements

❖ Alice announced that on November 12 she will give her slide presentation on voter rights and voter suppression and show the 30-minute film *Suppressed: The Fight to Vote* at 4:00 p.m. at Channing House, 850 Webster St., Palo Alto. She also recommended the new film *Rigged: The Voter Suppression Playbook*: <https://www.riggedthefilm.com>

❖ Gerry has been walking precincts to get signatures to get Ann Ravel on the ballot in SD 15 (if a candidate has sufficient signatures they do not have to pay the expensive filing fee). He brought petitions with him and urged people to sign if they live in the district.

❖ Mimi announced that there will be a program on Juristac tomorrow at the First Unitarian Church of San Jose at 7:30 with tribal leader Valentin Lopez, Alice Kaufman of the Committee for Green Foothills, and Dr. Stuart Weiss, a conservation ecologist.

Adjournment: At 8:30 p.m. Amy moved that we adjourn the meeting, Jackie seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Mary Gill