



Minutes of the Dean Democratic Club of Silicon Valley Organizational Meeting
April 26, 2021

Next working meetings: May 24, July 26, August 23, September 27, October 25, November 22

Annual picnic and meeting to elect officers: June 19

Introductions: John Comiskey called the 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: Amy Wright moved that we adopt the agenda, Jackie Wheeler seconded it, and the motion passed with no dissension.

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

Treasurer's report: Amy Wright reported that we have \$2174 in the bank: \$235 in the state and \$1939 in the federal account.

NEW BUSINESS

Form for nominating committee: John reported that Nancy Neff has volunteered to be on the nominating committee for the election of club officers. Gerry Hunt volunteered to serve with her. The committee will first find out if current office holders plan to run again and then identify vacancies and recruit people to run for those positions. At the June 19 picnic meeting, they will present a slate of officers to the club.

Call for nominees, offline: John asked anyone who wants to run for a club office to contact Nancy or Gerry.

Restore Democracy Amendment: John had sent out information about this proposal before the meeting. Rather than act on it tonight, it was decided to postpone this item to next month.

TJ Cox and VoterPAC: Mary reported that TJ Cox is using money from his campaign funds to establish a new voter reg organization for the Central Valley: VoterPAC. He has suspended his campaign to devote himself to this effort (although his options are open for next year). At this point California is expected to lose a district and anything can happen. Fresno and Bakersfield, parts of which were in CA-21, will almost surely be in different

districts. TJ is working with Deepak Puri and Democracy Labs on a variety of highly innovative methods to register voters. There will be an event with TJ and others on the new PAC soon. TJ points out that people like Devin Nunes do not win by large numbers of votes, and even Kevin McCarthy could be vulnerable. The entire Central Valley has much lower registration rates than most areas of the state; it's vital to get more people registered there to flip these districts. See voterpac.com.

June 19 picnic and election of officers: John announced that Ben Stetson was able to reserve Area 3 of Ponderosa Park, 811 Henderson Avenue, in Sunnyvale from 11:00 to 3:00. We hope to be able to meet there in person this year.

OLD BUSINESS

Good government: Nancy Neff reported that the Ballot DISCLOSE Act was scheduled to be heard in the Assembly and Senate Elections Committees this week. However, it was decided that it should not have a prescribed format for the new language to be included (that is, the lists of supporters and opponents on the ballot); instead, the committee chairs will make recommendations and send them to the Ballot Redesign Advisory Committee, headed by Secretary of State Shirley Weber. It will be a two-year bill and be heard next January. Meanwhile, the California Clean Money Campaign is collecting endorsements and supporters for the bill, particularly elected officials, club presidents, and other leaders. Meanwhile SB 752, the Disclosure Clarity Act, is moving forward. This bill will improve how funders are listed on TV ads so that they are easier to read, fix problems with online ad disclosures, and reduce the threshold for top funders in local races from \$50,000 to \$10,000.

Candidates and initiatives: Mary Gill noted that enough petition signatures have been verified to trigger a vote on the recall of Governor Newsom. There was a long discussion of the process, why anything can happen, the fact that many people do not understand how the recall vote works. Alice Smith said that Newsom's announcement of a ban on new fracking in California may have repercussions for him. Amy Wright felt that this might be to his advantage, and Gerry Hunt pointed out that his rebuttal should be that fracking is ruining our drinking water. Mary noted that Newsom has a long record of accomplishments as mayor of San Francisco, lieutenant governor, and now governor. Karen Porter said that he has been proactive on many issues. Later in the meeting Karen moved that we give the Newsom campaign that is fighting the recall \$200, Marcene Van Dierendonck seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous. Amy will send a check.

Environment: No report.

Social justice: Alice Smith said that the trial in Minnesota last week (George Floyd case) was an example of social justice, signaling a movement away from extreme racism. On the other hand, the recent attacks on Asian Americans are very troubling. Marcene announced that there will be a march and rally in Palo Alto on Sunday, May 2 to stop Asian hate. People will meet at 2:00 p.m. at 528 High Street to march to City Hall where

there will be speakers such as Mike Honda, Fiona Ma, and Greg Tanaka and booths to learn more about Asian Heritage Month and voter registration opportunities.

Political outreach: Gerry Hunt reported on a recent fundraiser for Josh Harder, who is in a tough district and will need support. John said that the SCCDP has been reaching out to people in East San Jose and South County to help them get COVID vaccinations, an effort to give people something rather than asking for their support. Tom Shaw (who speaks Spanish fluently) asked if they still need callers. John replied that they especially need people who speak Spanish or Vietnamese. Mary said that SCCDP was partnering with Kings County to do this last Sunday; John said that that effort is ongoing and that you can go directly to the Kings County Dem Party website to sign up.

Economic justice: John noted that he is seeing more attention to Universal Basic Income on the air waves, especially since Michael Tubbs implemented it successfully as mayor of Stockton. Jackie lamented that he lost his re-election bid last fall, but he is now an advisor to Governor Newsom on economic opportunity.

Health care: Gerry Hunt reported that AB 1400 (Guaranteed Health Care for All) was to be heard this week but Jim Wood, the committee chair, postponed the hearing. Ash Kalra pulled the bill to allow time to work out some funding issues, since without addressing these issues the bill might not pass. Herb Engstrom noted that insurance commissioners have to file financial reports so the pertinent data should be available; Gerry said the National Association of Insurance Commissioners does have the economic and other data on this issue. Gerry noted that there are plans to hold a demonstration on health care locally in a couple of weeks.

Education: No report

Club membership: Ben Shapero has recently updated the Google doc on membership. Amy referenced an email from Mary Gill, who said she did not realize she was in arrears until she looked at the document recently. Donations in excess of annual dues count for two years only. Many regular attendees are on the arrears lists and may not know it. Amy said that people can email her and she can check their status.

Announcements

❖ Alex Dillard announced that there will be an event for International Workers Day on May 1 at 2:30 in San Jose; people will walk from Roosevelt Park to San Jose City Hall for a rally in support of protecting essential workers, housing, etc. People should wear masks.

❖ Alice Smith announced a phonebank to make calls to oppose three voter suppression bills in Texas: SB 7, HB 6, and HB 1026. These calls, which can be done at your convenience, are to voters in Texas to urge them to contact their legislators and ask them to oppose this legislation. The constituents are patched through to their legislators' offices. For more information and specific instructions, see the website at the Center for Common Ground/Reclaim Our Vote:

<https://www.centerforcommonground.org/phonebankcentral>.

❖ Alice announced that the National Voter Corps event that was going to be presented on April 28 has been postponed to May 12 at 5:00. It was postponed because President Biden will be making his first speech to Congress at the time originally scheduled for the NVC event.

❖ In connection with our discussion of the Asian American community, Jackie Wheeler recommended the book *Interior Chinatown* by Charles Yu.

Adjournment: At 8:18 Nancy Neff moved that we adjourn, Jackie Wheeler seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Mary Gill