



Minutes of the Dean Democratic Club of Silicon Valley Organizational Meeting
January 25, 2020

Next working meetings: February 22, March 22, April 26, May 24

Introductions: John Comiskey called the meeting to order at 7:07 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, Gerry Hunt moved that we adopt the agenda, Ralph Wheeler seconded it, and the motion passed with no dissension.

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

Treasurer's report: Amy Wright reported that we have \$1498 in the bank: \$294 in the state and \$1204 in the federal account. She has filed FEC reports. Two candidate checks were not cashed.

NEW BUSINESS

Visit from Huy Tran: Huy Tran is running to be a delegate in AD 25, with the endorsement of Alex Lee. He was very motivated to run on January 6 when he saw the South Vietnamese flag at a "stop the steal" protest next to Confederate and other racist flags. He had been mainly focused on COVID; politicians failed us so he was doing his part by working for the community. He is a progressive and wants to bring more Vietnamese people into the Democratic Party. Mimi Spreadbury asked him to tell the group about URG. Huy replied that Unhoused Response Group is an organization of volunteers who work to help the homeless. They have been working since the pandemic began and have distributed 5000 COVID supply packs (masks, sanitizer, information, etc.) to the homeless. They work with Grace Baptist ministry in San Jose, which also provides food and clothing. Huy is also a member of the housing committee for the city of San Jose. Mimi asked how to donate, and Huy gave this address: CHAM Ministries, C/O Sandy Perry, 951 S. 12th Street, San Jose 95112. Food or supply donations can go directly to Grace Baptist Church, 484 E San Fernando Street, San Jose 95112.

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). These lists are posted every year on our website.

Two-year budget: Before the meeting, John had sent out a budget summary that listed income and expenses since 2017, including projections. Expenses for the last two years came very close to projections. As befits a club that supports our Democratic candidates, we made many contributions to various candidates' campaigns and spent most of our money before the election. Ralph said that he would like to work on fundraising efforts. Alice said that she will reach out to Carolyn Curtis about a possible socially distanced wildflower walk in April. Amy will be in touch with John about the budget.

CDP roster submission: John noted that we have the opportunity to increase membership in certain districts to get over the threshold for votes for ADEM. Club delegates are based on the number of club members in each Assembly District. There may be a call for rosters for this purpose.

CDC affiliation: John noted that we do not give out information on membership to anyone other than the CDP and CDC. But we do transfer membership information on a regular basis to maintain our standing in these two organizations. If you have moved, please let John or Amy know.

2021 goal setting and task forces: At our December meeting, we had a brainstorming session of possible goals for 2021. After the meeting, John divided these into general categories and listed the various goals under each category. He sent a PDF file with the goals listed and also a Google doc form that each club member can use to rank his or her top three categories. Under each category, the club member can then rank his or her top three goals for that category, also in order. Changes can be made until February 1, and club members who were not at the meeting can vote. If you have trouble or questions, send email to deandems@gmail.com. The club members present commended John for excellent organization of this process.

John noted that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party officers were all reelected by acclamation: Bill James, Chair; Jean Cohen, Vice Chair; Helen Chapman, Secretary; Angelica Ramos, Treasurer. John is Communications Director and runs the website. He reported that the website is hacked between 500-1000 times a day. The ISP has a firewall, but the website has a plug-in that tracks attempts to sign in that fail.

OLD BUSINESS

Candidates and initiatives: Nancy Neff reported that the California Clean Money Campaign is working on a bill to fix some abuses on disclosure in certain initiative ads (for instance, the fact that some committee names are so long that the print was shrunk to fit the wording in the allotted space). Mary Gill reported that the entire Virginia legislature will be up for election on November 2 this year, so this is an area that we can work on, to make sure the legislature does not flip back to Republican control. For 2022 we should start early: in addition to defending the House and retaking some seats lost to Republicans, we might be able to pick up additional Democratic Senators in states like

Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. Mark Kelly and Raphael Warnock, who were in special elections, will almost surely need support.

Good government: Nancy said that we will soon be hearing from CCMC about SB 636, the Ballot Measure DISCLOSE Act. We will need endorsements from various organizations and also support from Marc Berman and Kevin Mullin.

Economic justice: There was a discussion about procedures in the Senate and hope for Democrats to be able to pass the \$1.9 billion stimulus package.

Environment: Amy Wright noted that President Biden has accomplished several very important goals already: rejoining the Paris Accords, stopping the Keystone Pipeline (and next hopefully the Dakota Access Pipeline), returning the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante Parks to their original sizes. Mimi Spreadbury reported on the need to reduce pollution in making construction materials like cement so we wouldn't need as many mines and quarries. She reported that drilling leases were revoked in the Arctic National Refuge; the banks would not support them. She announced that there will be a Build Back Fossil Free event on Tuesday, 1/26 at 5:00 p.m. and sent the link: https://biologicaldiversity-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/tZcvc-utqTgvGtfrbiTLv_Vmjk8zww0ckgJt/success?user_id=liAvgGQOSD-A2GfUT-gBZg&timezone_id=America%2FNew_York

Health care: Gerry Hunt reported that while Medicare for All is off the table at present, Ro Khanna has a bill to allow states to introduce single-payer health-care programs.

Social justice: Marcene Van Dierendonck announced that the PDC will have a panel discussion on January 31 from 2:00 to 3:30: "It's a Problem Here Too: A Conversation About Racism in Our Neighborhood." You can sign up at: bit.ly/pdc-blm-2021. Amy Wright recommended the book *The Warmth of Other Suns*; Alice Smith suggested *Caste*, also by Isabel Wilkerson.

Education: Alice Smith noted that President Biden plans to focus on early childhood education. Jackie Wheeler noted that having Dr. Jill Biden was probably influential in the decision.

Political outreach: No report

Club membership: Ben Shapero was not able to submit a report before tonight's meeting. John suggested that we contact people who are in arrears. Alice, Jackie, and Mimi offered to work on this.

Adjournment: At 8:45 p.m. Ralph moved that we adjourn the meeting, Jackie seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Mary Gill