



Minutes of the Dean Democratic Club of Silicon Valley Regular Meeting
July 26, 2021

Next regular meetings: August 23, September 27, October 25, November 22

Introductions: John Comiskey called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Following that, club members introduced themselves and made a statement about recent political involvement.

Adoption of agenda: Ralph Wheeler moved that we adopt the agenda, Lucas Ramirez seconded. Karen Porter asked that another item be added for either this meeting or the next: an informational presentation from the person representing the Dean Club before the Santa Clara County Democratic Committee (Gerry Hunt, John is the alternate) concerning their role in general and in particular about the recent vote on a resolution in support of HR 2590 regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It was agreed to defer this until the August meeting, and the motion to adopt the agenda then passed with no dissension.

Approval of May minutes: Gerry Hunt moved that we approve the May minutes (there are no minutes taken at the June annual meeting), Karen Porter seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissension.

Treasurer's report: John read the report prepared by Amy Wright, which reflects \$34.93 in the state account and \$2,354.86 in the federal account, for a total of \$2,389.79. Amounts do not reflect receipts from recent efforts to have members pay dues in arrears, which should add at least another \$200 (ActBlue has been slow mailing checks, we have requested direct deposit).

NEW BUSINESS

New Club Officers read into the Minutes: John read the names of the officers elected at the annual meeting held June 19 at Ponderosa Park in Sunnyvale, who were the same as those in 2020-2021: John Comiskey and Emilie Gatfield, cochairs; Amy Wright, treasurer; Gerry Hunt, corresponding secretary; Mary Gill, recording secretary; Karen Porter and Jackie Wheeler, members at large. John will update the website. Thank you to all of the officers for their service.

Restore Democracy Amendment: John had sent out information about this proposed amendment before the April meeting and again preceding the May meeting, at which a vote on the matter was deferred until the July meeting. John re-sent information about the

amendment before the July meeting. At the May meeting, David Burke, an attorney and founder of the nonpartisan organization Citizens Take Action, gave a slide presentation about their proposed amendment. The amendment seeks to authorize the Congress and the states to place limits on contributions to, and expenditures by or for, candidates and ballot initiatives. Information about the Restore Democracy Amendment is available at: <https://citizenstakeaction.org/restore-democracy-amendment/>.

Discussion ensued that members agreed with the sense of the proposed amendment, but there were concerns about the wording. Alice moved that we support the principle, but not the wording, and Ralph seconded. It was noted that the proposed amendment had not been introduced into Congress. After some further discussion, Alice asked to withdraw her motion, but she could not per Robert's Rules of Order. Herb mentioned that we should compare it against House Joint Resolution 48, which proposes an amendment to the U.S. Constitution providing that the rights extended by the Constitution are the rights of natural persons only. It was suggested that Herb arrange for a speaker to appear at a meeting to discuss HJR 48, and he said he will pursue. The motion to support the sense of the proposed amendment but not the wording passed 5 to 4, and John will convey that information to David Burke, along with comments made about what language was troubling.

Jerry McNerney Fundraiser: The tentative date is Sunday, October 3. There was a general consensus that we want to sponsor a fundraiser. Discussion ensued regarding possible venues and food service.

National Voter Registration Day: Alice discussed the need for Congressional action to protect voters' rights. September 28 has been designated National Voter Registration Day, which is sponsored by a broad coalition in order to raise awareness. Alice mentioned that she is also working on some activities along the lines of a national day of concern to go along with National Voter Registration Day. She is seeking the Dean Club's sponsorship and for volunteers. Alice moved that the Club sponsor the national day of concern together with National Voter Registration Day; Karen seconded. The motion passed without dissension.

All Clubs Picnic: John reported that the date has been set for August 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Emma Prusch Park in San Jose, which is very family-friendly. The financial ask is \$125, which goes towards food and a table for the Club to display its information. The Club previously approved up to \$200 so no further action is necessary and Amy will be asked to send payment. If anyone would like to donate additional funds to the County party, they can do so at: <https://sccdp.org/index.php/action-center/>

Presentation of two-year calendar: This item was on the agenda, however per John, it is still in progress so it was agreed to move this to the August meeting.

Pre-Endorsement Conference status: John explained that Pre-Endorsement Conferences are conducted in each Assembly District statewide to generate the consent calendar that is presented at the Democratic Convention. Each recognized Democratic

club is entitled to 1 vote for every 20 members per Assembly District, so this is a good way for the grassroots to have input into the convention (along with others entitled to vote, such as elected officials). Ben reported that we currently have 56 Club members residing in AD 24 and 24 members in AD 28. If we get 4 more in AD 24 to get to 60, it would give us another vote, so Ben sent out some emails to try to grow the membership, although the deadline is near.

In-person meetings: John reported that, while we had hoped to resume holding our monthly meetings in-person, given the changing COVID-19 circumstances and guidance re masking, indoor meetings, etc., it is unclear when we will be able to do so. Our former location, Marie Calendar's, is now only open for take-out. We want to meet again when it is practical to do so.

OLD BUSINESS

Good government: Nancy Neff reported on SB 752, the Disclosure Clarity Act sponsored by Ben Allen, which will address banner ads on websites. The SEIU has come out against the bill, because they oppose reducing the threshold for required disclosure from \$50,000. Trent is exploring a compromise, so it is anticipated that the bill will be amended before it goes to the full Senate.

Candidates and initiatives: No report.

Environment: No report. However, Mimi Spreadbury encouraged everyone to sign the petitions going to President Biden and Army Corp of Engineers that have been initiated by the Sierra Club and others to stop new dirty oil infrastructure.

Social justice: No report. Mimi noted that the flooding and heat domes we are seeing are issues of social justice.

Political outreach: No report. It was clarified that this topic includes all outbound correspondence to other groups.

Economic justice: No report. John noted that the dual track federal infrastructure bills include what is referred to human infrastructure (e.g., child care, elder care) that will allow more to participate in our economy. Therefore, it is important to continue calling Senators to press them to get these passed.

Health care: Gerry Hunt reported that the League of Women Voters is working across the state to establish a central health committee to advocate for single payer healthcare. Gerry has been helping and will report further. Mimi advised there will be a rally in Oakland on July 31 on this issue.

Education: No report.

Club membership: Ben covered earlier.

Announcements: None.

Adjournment: At 8:54 Ralph Wheeler moved that we adjourn, Karen Porter seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

- Minutes submitted by Karen Porter (in Mary Gill's absence)