



Minutes of the Dean Democratic Club of Silicon Valley Organizational Meeting
March 22, 2021

Next working meetings: April 26, May 24
Annual meeting to elect officers: June 28

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: After two additions were made, Ralph Wheeler moved that we adopt the agenda, Amy Wright seconded it, and the motion passed with no dissension.

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

Treasurer's report: Amy Wright reported that we have \$2073 in the bank: \$235 in the state and \$1838 in the federal account. One of our checks to a candidate was voided since the candidate did not cash it.

NEW BUSINESS

Call for nominating committee: John asked that people volunteer to be on a committee to nominate next year's officers. The committee will first find out if current office holders plan to run again for that or another office and then identify vacancies and recruit people to run for those positions. At the June 28 meeting, they will present a slate of officers to the club and preside over the meeting until the new officers have been elected. Let John know by email if you are interested in being on the committee. At the April meeting there will be a call for nominees (offline).

Recall of Governor Newsom: Ralph Wheeler suggested that we have a DFA-link meeting on this subject. Mary Gill reported that the Democratic Volunteer Center may be doing an event on this issue sometime in the next month or two. We may be able to cosponsor an event with them, and she will keep us informed. She said that if you want to get involved now, you can go to stoptherepublicanrecall.com to see information and ways to help. Mary has signed up for texting; there should be phone banks soon. John said that the county party will probably be holding phone banks and perhaps canvassing. (He added that the county party is focusing on getting people vaccinated against COVID, and this has been a very successful effort, especially in areas like East San Jose and South

County.) Alice mentioned that there may be pressure on Dianne Feinstein to resign from the Senate in case Newsom is recalled and is unable to appoint a new senator.

Voting rights: Alice has been talking with national organizations like VoteRiders, Reclaim Our Vote, Verified Voting, Rock the Vote, and Mi Familia Vota about doing an event on voting rights sometime in May. If HR 1 and HR 4 do not pass, we need to be ready to support the organizations fighting the many voter suppression laws being considered or already passed in 35 states. She sees this meeting as similar to the one the National Voter Corps did in 2017, with Ari Berman, which many Dean Club members attended. Nancy suggested a webinar, which would allow more people to attend. Alice noted that most of the voter suppression legislation is written by ALEC. Also, she has talked to Charles Chamberlain of Democracy for America, who is on board.

OLD BUSINESS

Good government: Nancy Neff reported that she has been working on setting up meetings of constituents of Kevin Mullin and Marc Berman to get them to support AB 1416. This bill would add to the ballot a short list of supporters and opponents that signed the official arguments for and against each ballot measure in the voter information guide. She is also trying to get endorsements for the bill from various clubs; in answer to a question, she said that she has looked at the list of clubs in our county, which is on the county website under "Get involved." The bill has been referred to the Assembly Elections Committee. Since Marc is chair of the committee, Kevin will probably follow Marc's lead. The surprise last-minute opposition from the Association of Clerks and Election Officials on a previous version of the bill was based on three objections: (1) it would be too expensive to add extra space to the ballot (but there was a misunderstanding about how the information would be presented on the ballot so this objection was overcome); (2) it would politicize the ballot, so there is an amendment to not include names of political parties; (3) it would cause confusion because it would apply only to state measures and not local ones, so there is an offer now of including local elections as well. Alice suggested that Nancy look at Facebook and search for Democratic groups that are statewide and ask for their endorsement.

Candidates and initiatives: In addition to the probable recall election for Governor Newsom already discussed, Jackie Wheeler mentioned that there will be a special election this year to replace Shirley Weber (who was just appointed secretary of state) in San Diego, AD 79. There will also be a special election to replace whoever is chosen as the California attorney general (probably Rob Bonta, Darryl Steinberg, or Adam Schiff). In Virginia, there will be an election for the governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, and House of Delegates on November 2. In addition, there are various elections in Texas this year, notably House District 6 on May 1.

Environment: Mimi noted that Deb Haaland was sworn in as Secretary of the Interior, the first indigenous person to hold the office. Also, Greenpeace USA has several petitions

on the environment that people can sign at their website:
<https://www.greenpeace.org/usa/>

Social justice: Alice commented on a Senate bill to abolish the death penalty and noted that Anna Eshoo is cosponsoring a similar bill in the House. Alice will write something up on both of these to discuss at the next meeting. John reported there was a very large and successful rally at San Jose City Hall to protest anti-Asian violence. Mimi Spreadbury reported on a local alliance for AAPI elders and provided a website to a gofundme campaign to help elderly Asian Americans obtain personalized alarms for protection: https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-us-get-personalized-alarms-for-the-elders?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=m_pd+share-sheet&fbclid=IwAR3vdVBo8No_cW4o_djz1yfACA11DXVE7XdYL6xo2k8N-2O_3Amc-ooMOp4

Political outreach: Alice reported that Reclaim Our Vote did successful postcard campaigns to let people know they had been purged from voter rolls in Virginia and Georgia so that they could re-register and vote. If you would like postcard materials for ROV's current campaign, Alice can put packets together for you. Contact her at alice.smith@gmail.com. The postcards should be mailed by April 17.

Economic justice: John reported that if you know someone who did not get their stimulus checks because they had not filed taxes last year, let them know that if they file now they can still get the stimulus money. These are precisely the people who most need these checks.

Health care: No report

Education: No report

Club membership: No report

Adjournment: At 8:12 Ralph Wheeler moved that we adjourn, Amy Wright seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Mary Gill