



**Minutes of the Dean Democratic Club of Silicon Valley Organizational Meeting**  
November 23, 2020

**Next working meetings** (by Zoom): January 25, February 22, March 22

**Next DFA Link program meeting** (by Zoom): December 14 (annual brainstorming for next year's goals)

**Introductions:** John Comiskey called the Zoom 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:** Alice Smith moved that we adopt the agenda, Jackie Wheeler seconded it, and the motion passed with no dissension.

**Approval of minutes:** Alice moved that we approve the October minutes, Gerry Hunt seconded the motion, and the motion passed with no dissension.

**Treasurer's report:** Amy Wright reported via John that we have \$1220 in the bank: \$294 in the state and \$926 in the federal account, with a \$300 check outstanding. Amy has filed financial reports for us (thank you, Amy!).

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**SCCDP Chartering:** John reported that we are required to resubmit our chartering documents by December 3. That means our memberships need to be up to date so that we can participate in the county party election of officers in January. He said he plans to run again for communications director at the February meeting.

**Election recap:** John started the conversation by saying it was good news today that Biden will be able to get funding now for the transition. The county party endorsed 71 candidates and more than 60 won (the Dean Club endorsement slate was not quite as successful). Ralph Wheeler said it was also very good that the Dems flipped two sunbelt states and will be continuing to work on Georgia. The Virginia legislative elections are next year so we will have that to work on, plus special elections in California. Mimi Spreadbury noted that David Cohen (a candidate that the Dean Club endorsed and who Mimi did lit drops for) won his race. Nancy Neff noted that there was an email by someone to CCMC that said the flap over our electoral systems gives evidence that our machines are secure. Jackie Wheeler reported that a group supporting Republican women candidates was successful in electing seven women to the House of Representatives, so

the ratio is a bit higher now for women Republicans there. In answer to a question, John said that Larry Klein won the mayoral race in Sunnyvale. Mary Gill noted that two of the seven California House members whose districts were flipped in 2018, Christy Smith and TJ Cox, are still fighting to get every vote counted and need donations or help. There are still 11,000 ballots remaining to be counted in Kern County, so there is still some hope for TJ. Unfortunately, Harley Rouda and Gil Cisneros already lost their elections to Republicans. Mary added that while texting for TJ she got a lot of responses from people who said they couldn't vote for TJ because he was "corrupt"; this was a result of false political ads against him not only by Republicans but also by outside groups like the notorious Conservative Leadership Fund, which spent millions in CA-21. Mimi Spreadbury said that TJ needs people to phone or go out and do ballot chase and cure; for phonebanks next Monday or Tuesday, go to <https://www.mobilize.us/coxforcongress/event/355740/>. For ballot cure in Kern County (Bakersfield area) go to: <https://www.mobilize.us/coxforcongress/event/362758/>

**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 by the end of the year. That includes work on campaigns, events, voter registration, etc. but not time in meetings or travel time. The list will be posted on our website.

**Holiday meeting and goals brainstorming:** Our annual holiday meeting will be December 14 by Zoom beginning at 6:30 for some social time and 7:00 for the brainstorming of our goals for 2021. People can put their suggestions in the chat box; John urged people to be prepared to do that.

**GOTV opportunities:** There was a general discussion about opportunities to participate in the Georgia Senate elections. John asked people to put ideas in the chat. He mentioned the current county party newsletter, "Georgia on Our Mind" which has information and ways to support Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock (see <https://conta.cc/32jwQ67>). He also gave the web address for volunteer opportunities (see [sccd.org/action](https://sccd.org/action)). Mary Gill added a link to the Democratic Volunteer Center: [demvolctr.org](https://demvolctr.org). There are opportunities to phone with the DVC on Tuesday or Thursday afternoons or Saturday from 11-2, to connect to other organizations, to write letters/postcards and to text. Nancy Neff has been phoning for Reclaim Our Vote, which is currently working to phone Georgians who may have been removed from voter rolls and also doing GOTV calls. They are switching from NGP VAN to PDI. See: <https://actionnetwork.org/forms/reclaim-our-vote-signup>

**Climate President Action Plan:** Mimi Spreadbury asked us to sign on as individuals to the Climate President Action Plan and read the 10 steps recommended, things the new president is urged to do that do not need Congressional approval. John put the website in the chat: [climatepresident.org/#join](https://climatepresident.org/#join). Many environmental organizations have signed on. She asked if the Dean Club would endorse. After some discussion, it was decided that we will vote on this on December 14, giving people time to familiarize themselves with the plan.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Candidates and initiatives:** Alice Smith said that she did additional research on the propositions before voting and ended up not following the Dean Club endorsements on all of them. However, she thought it was a great event, very valuable. John noted that other groups asked for our materials and did similar events. Ralph Wheeler, who first came up with the idea of doing this event years ago, said that we had 65 people, more than we could fit in our typical venues, and so we might continue this as a virtual meeting in the future.

**Good government:** Nancy Neff is having a meeting soon with the California Clean Money Campaign about bills that the organization will be sponsoring so there will be more information on that in the near future. Many legislators now want to work with CCMC. Also, CCMC has a huge national mailing list now.

**Economic justice:** No report.

**Environment:** Nancy Neff reported that Kevin Wolf, who many of us know from CCMC, has a company called Wind Harvest and has raised \$375,000 by crowdfunding to build a prototype of a wind turbine that would be low to the ground, generating electricity at low altitudes in existing wind farms [see: [windharvest.com](http://windharvest.com)].

**Health care:** Gerry Hunt said that there are no plans for a ballot initiative for single-payer health care in California. However, there is hope for incremental changes with the Biden administration.

**Social justice:** Alice Smith recommended reading the book *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson and put the following link to a review in the chat: <https://vimeo.com/465577962>. Jackie noted that local police are trying to make reforms. Gerry added that San Jose passed Measure G, which will increase police oversight by expanding the authority of the independent auditor. Alice noted that Santa Clara County does not use a cash bail system.

**Education:** No report.

**Political outreach:** Tom Shaw recommended the podcast by Ezra Klein "What Democrats Got Wrong about Hispanic Voters": <https://www.vox.com/ezra-klein-show-podcast>.

**Club membership:** We have 43 paid members (8 of them paid plus) and 206 in arrears. Alice suggested that we call some of the people on the arrears list. Carolyn asked if the information about ADEM elections could be sent out to the club membership, and John said that he will send it to Marcene Van Dierendonck and ask her to send it out.

## Announcements

- ❖ Carolyn Curtis recommended a radio interview with Howard Dean; there is an interesting suggestion about the Supreme Court at minute 8, lots of info on health care, discussion of peaceful transfer of power: <https://vtdigger.org/2020/10/14/vermont-conversation-howard-dean-on-whats-at-stake-in-the-2020-election/>
- ❖ Jackie Wheeler announced that the Democratic 21st Century Club will be holding their Virtual Holiday Party on Friday, December 11, at noon. Local Democratic officials will be on hand to celebrate the season and give updates from their jurisdictions.
- ❖ Jackie reported that Emy Thurber is at home recovering from a heart problem and may appreciate a card; you can send one to her at 694 Benvenue Avenue, Los Altos 94024.
- ❖ Mimi Spreadbury recommended the article: "The First Thanksgiving: Separating Myth from Fact": <https://www.teenvogue.com/story/thanksgiving-myths-facts-mayflower-landing>

**Adjournment:** At 8:48 p.m. Ralph Wheeler moved that we adjourn the meeting, Carolyn Curtis seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Mary Gill