



**Minutes of the Dean Democratic Club of Silicon Valley Organizational Meeting**  
September 28, 2020

**Next working meetings** (by Zoom): October 26, November 23

**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 7:04 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, Marcene Van Dierendonck seconded it, and the motion passed with no dissension.

**Approval of minutes:** Alice Smith moved that we approve the August minutes, Amy Wright seconded the motion, and the motion passed with no dissension.

**Treasurer's report:** Amy Wright reported that we have \$4425 in the bank: \$294 in the state and \$4131 in the federal account.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Jerry McNerney event:** Mary Gill reported that the event for Jerry McNerney on September 13, which the Dean Club cosponsored with the DVC and PDC, had over 50 attendees and raised \$19,000. Our own John Comiskey moderated and kept the event moving smoothly. We heard news and updates from Jerry and also from Congress member Barbara Lee; breakout rooms gave people a chance to ask questions or bring up concerns. Jerry is supporting science-minded Dems in frontline races.

**SCCDP Donor Recognition Event recap:** John reported that the SCCDP event on September 25 in recognition of donors was well attended and raised \$10,000, with donations still coming in. This event replaced our usual dinner in May, which was to be at the Hayes Mansion. John was in charge of the videos of five of the office holders who spoke plus the various musicians. Toni Atkins, president pro tempore of the state senate, was the featured speaker; she gave a talk acknowledging the many accomplishments of local senators Bill Monning, Jerry Hill, and Jim Beall, who are now termed out. Titus Lin got the Madge Overhouse award, and Dan Hoffman got the Don Edwards lifetime achievement award, both presented by Emy Thurber. Afterwards there was a trivia game, also by Zoom, so there was a chance for some social interaction as well.

**Yes on Prop 17 Support Resolution:** John had sent out a resolution in support of Proposition 17, which would allow 50,000 Californians who have completed their prison sentences to have their votes restored. The club had already endorsed Prop 17. Alice moved that we sign on to the resolution, and Amy seconded the vote, which passed unanimously.

**Endorsed candidate contributions:** John referred to our website with our 31 endorsed candidates at national, state, and local levels. With input from Amy, he mentioned various expenses that will come up, and the fact that we have \$4400 in federal and \$300 in the state account. Ralph Wheeler moved that we give each of the 31 endorsed candidates \$100. Ralph was open to some candidates' names being pulled. Alice Smith pulled Anna Eshoo and Josh Becker on the grounds that they do not need money. Sergio Jimenez won outright in the primary so was also pulled. Alice then seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Since three candidates were pulled, \$2800 would be donated to 28 candidates. Karen Porter read an article according to which Steven Lee was no longer accepting contributions to his campaign. Alice moved that we approve \$100 to Steven Lee on the condition that he accept the offer, Jackie Wheeler seconded the motion, and it passed with no opposition. Alice moved that we contribute \$250 to Congressman TJ Cox (who is in a very tough race), Jackie seconded it, and it passed unanimously. [\$2800 + 250 = \$3050.] Jackie moved that we contribute \$200 more (i.e., \$300) to Ann Ravel, Alice seconded it, and it passed unanimously. [\$3250] After more discussion, Alice moved that we give another \$250 to TJ Cox, Jackie seconded it, and it passed unanimously. [\$3500] Mimi Spreadbury moved that we give an additional \$100 to David Cohen, John seconded the motion, and it also passed with no dissension. [\$3600] Alice then moved that we give \$100 to Brynne Kennedy, running against Tom McClintock in CA-4, Jackie seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously [\$3700]. There was a discussion of upcoming expenses and the fact that although we do well at raising money for candidates, we have not held any fundraisers for the club for some time. Ralph moved that we preserve the balance of the money in the treasury (make no further donations at this meeting), and Mary seconded the motion. After more discussion, the motion passed with 12 yes votes and 1 no vote.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Candidates and initiatives:** Covered earlier.

**Good government:** Nancy Neff reported on the proposed LA County voting system, which is open source but has some serious flaws. People will get to read a handout showing how they voted but it changes to a QR code that they can't read; there is a possibility that the ballots could be tampered with when they are passed under a print head after the voters review them. The California Clean Money Campaign and its allies are fighting for a more secure system. They are urging Secretary of State Alex Padilla to refuse to certify the project until the problems are fixed. Nancy urged club members to follow up on the emails from CCMC. [For more information, see: <http://www.caclean.org/content/pdf/letter/lavsap-coalition-letter.pdf>]

**Economic justice:** No report

**Environment:** Amy reported that unfortunately a bill calling for a 75 percent reduction in single-use plastic packing, containers, utensils, etc. failed in the state legislature by a narrow margin a few weeks ago.

**Health care:** Alice and John both brought up the threat to the ACA if Professor Barrett gets a seat on the Supreme Court. Marcene described the group she belongs to, People of Praise.

**Social justice:** Jackie noted that there are lots of forums for city council races now that focus on social justice and recommended the book *Color of Law*, about housing discrimination, including in our own area. Marcene recommended *Caste*, by Isabel Wilkerson.

**Education:** No report.

**Political outreach:** Mary reported that Vote Forward letter writers (including many Dean Club members) produced 1.5 million letters in the past week alone. The goal is 10 million by October 17. These letters will go to voters in swing states who have not voted consistently, encouraging them to cast their ballots.

**Club membership:** No report.

## Announcements

❖ Nancy and Robert Neff encourage Dean Club members to attend a Palo Alto City Council candidate forum on green transportation Sunday, October 4, at 4:00 p.m. For information, see [walkbikepaloalto.org](http://walkbikepaloalto.org); you can register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/palo-alto-council-candidate-green-transportation-forum-tickets-119493338793>

❖ Thida Cornes reported that the Shoreline West Mountain View Whisman School District will have a forum for the MVWSD School Board candidates on October 3 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Register at: <https://www.shorelinewestmv.com/events>

❖ Mimi Spreadbury announced that there will be a Women's March on October 17 to protest the move to fill RBG's seat on the Supreme Court. Details to follow.

**Adjournment:** At 8:50 p.m. Thida Cornes moved that we adjourn the meeting, Jackie Wheeler seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Mary Gill