

## **Minutes of the Dean Democratic Club of Silicon Valley Organizational Meeting**

April 27, 2015

Marie Callender's Restaurant, 751 E. El Camino Real, Sunnyvale

**Next working meeting:** May 25

**Next DFA-link meetings:** May 11, June 8

**Annual potluck picnic and election of officers:** June 20

**Introductions:** John Comiskey called the 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:** After two additions to the agenda, Emilie Gatfield moved that we adopt the agenda as amended, Swanee Edwards seconded it, and the motion passed with no dissension.

**Approval of minutes:** Ben Stetson moved that we approve the March minutes, Swanee seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's report:** Don Mayall reported that we have \$5710 in the state and federal bank accounts; the wildflower walk last month netted \$500.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Bylaws amendment:** John noted that the by-laws amendments were published and have been available for 30 days. Before the March meeting, Karen Porter had distributed a document showing the proposed changes, and the group discussed them at that meeting. The roster of club members that qualify us for delegates for the Democratic party convention in 2016 will be based on membership as of July 1, 2015, and we had to make changes to adhere to the state party rules. Gerry Hunt moved that we approve the by-laws amendments and Amy Samuelson seconded the motion, which passed with no dissent.

**May 2 Garden Tour:** Katie Dunlap reported that there are presently 19 people signed up for our club fundraiser featuring master gardener Sue Zaslaw on May 2 at 11:00 a.m. at Sue's home in San Jose. Sue will give a tour of the garden and its numerous raised vegetable beds, fruit trees, koi pond, chickens, and compost processing bins. After the tour, there will be a Q&A session, and refreshments (with a Cinco de mayo theme) are being donated. RSVP to Katie Dunlap ([katiekd@pacbell.net](mailto:katiekd@pacbell.net)) and she will give you the address and directions. Carolyn noted that growing vegetables on your own uses less water than commercial production. Emilie moved that we give our hosts Sue and Marty a \$50 gift certificate that Katie will choose, Ben seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**Human trafficking resolution:** Joel Masser reported that after we heard Sally Lieber's talk on human trafficking at our last DFA-link meeting, he drafted a resolution

encouraging our county and its cities to take action in the areas of staff training, identifying vulnerable populations, and legislative advocacy in support of anti-trafficking measures at the state and federal levels. Our co-chairs would choose the cities to which it would be sent. Emilie suggested making it compatible with the state party rules by reducing the number of “whereas” clauses to three and eliminating the word “now” before “Therefore be it resolved...” Karen suggested that in item 3, “adopts” would be changed to “will adopt.” Eleanor Stetson noted that our county DA is already working on this issue. Swanee moved that we adopt the resolution as amended and send it to not only the county and its cities but also to Jeff Rosen, the DA, and to the party county committee. Ralph Wheeler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously with 18 votes.

**Clean Money booth at CDP convention:** Margaret Okuzumi reported that the Clean Money Campaign has applied for a booth at the state party convention; the cost is \$1500. She asked if our club would be willing to make a contribution toward the amount (which would indirectly help the state party), and Gerry suggested \$50. Don pointed out that we gave CCMC \$500 this year. After some discussion, Emilie moved that we make a \$50 contribution contingent upon the ability of CCMC to secure a booth, Carolyn seconded the motion, and it passed with one no vote.

**CDC news:** John announced that Emilie is now officially the president of the California Democratic Council. He is the vice president of issues and political action and will be researching the various central committees in the state. They were at a CDC retreat recently in which many good ideas were generated, and there is momentum for new activities and work.

**Web site status:** John reported that the new web site from the CDC is free, has updated software, and is easy to work with. Barbara Comiskey is the new web master and was updating the site this afternoon. John, Barbara, and Carolyn (web master emeritus) can post. The corresponding secretary will also have a password and access. We have two levels of back up: the CDC and Word Press/Google drive. John bought DDCSV.org, which now directs people to our website and can be used in the future. The group expressed their appreciation to both John and Barbara for their work and to Carolyn for her work in years past.

**Meeting site:** There was a discussion about where to continue to hold our organizational meetings. Emilie moved that we continue at Marie Callender’s in Sunnyvale next month, Swanee seconded the motion, and it passed with 15 yes and 3 no votes. Meanwhile, other options will be considered.

**Nominating committee:** John noted that Karen has agreed to run for treasurer to replace Don, who does not wish to continue. Swanee announced that she has served for two years as corresponding secretary and would also like to have someone else step in. Alice is stepping down as co-chair. Marcene Van Dierendonck, Alice Smith, and Barbara Comiskey were all suggested as members of the nominating committee for next year’s officers. John will follow up with them.

**Projector:** Don and Carolyn had brought a projector that the club owns and used to use and that they have been storing at their home; they suggested that someone might want to

buy it and donate the money to the club. When no one took up the offer, Emilie moved that we donate it to the Moorpark office of the SCCDP, Amy seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Task force reports**

**Good government: DISCLOSE Act bill to be heard this Wednesday:** Mary Gill announced that AB 700, the new DISCLOSE Act, will be heard in the Assembly Elections Committee on Wednesday, April 29 at 9:00 a.m. Car pools are being organized to go up to Sacramento in support. We will testify before the committee in the morning, and many will stay to lobby legislators in the afternoon. Sign up at [caclean.org \(http://www.yesfairelections.org/contacts/index.php?q=civicrm/event/register&id=669&reset=1\)](http://www.yesfairelections.org/contacts/index.php?q=civicrm/event/register&id=669&reset=1). For information on the car pools in the south county, contact Jason Spitzer at [jlspitzer@gmail.com](mailto:jlspitzer@gmail.com), and for the north county contact Mary Gill at [marymcveygill@gmail.com](mailto:marymcveygill@gmail.com).

**Economic justice/Environment/Social and criminal justice:** Joel reported on a recent meeting of the economic justice, environment, and social/criminal justice task forces. They are looking to broaden their horizons and find connections on these issues. Mary reported that the lawsuit against Measure J, which bans fracking in San Benito County, has been dropped; a new estimate of the money spent against the measure is \$2.1 million. Gerry referred to studies that show that high CEO pay does not correlate to a business' success, but quite the opposite. Katie talked to Katja Irvin of the Sierra Club about their work cleaning up Coyote Creek; she asked Katja to let her know about their activities so we can help and will tell her she can post them on our Facebook page. Gerry reported on a lobby day in Sacramento recently for single-payer health care; 400 people participated.

**Club building:** Covered earlier. New members can join at our event on Saturday; the annual picnic in June is another good place to enlist members.

### **Candidates/campaigns:**

**Tim Orozco:** John noted that Tim is in a run-off election for San Jose City Council District 4 and needs our help. A small number of votes will make a difference because turnout is expected to be low. He encouraged people to volunteer. Lucas Ramirez moved that we contribute another \$100 to his campaign, Amy seconded the motion, and it passed with 1 abstention.

**Susan Bonilla:** Emilie noted that Susan Bonilla is facing a tough fight for state senator against DINO Steve Glazer. She could use our help. Mary pointed out that this is a perfect example of the ill effects of the open primary. The election is 5/19 to fill Mark DeSaulnier's seat.

**Jerry McNerney event June 6:** Stephanie Grossman reported that our fundraiser for Jerry will be on June 6 at her home, 1121 Harriet Street, Palo Alto, from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m. The Peninsula Democratic Coalition and Democratic Volunteer Center are cosponsoring, and the San Mateo County DFA will help publicize it. To RSVP, contact François Genard: [francois@jerrymcnerney.org](mailto:francois@jerrymcnerney.org) or (209) 956-2872. Mary added that Jerry's votes have been unfailingly progressive: he voted against Cromnibus, has spoken out strongly against the Delta tunnels project many times, is opposing the TPP, and introduced a Constitutional amendment to reform campaign financing.

**Outreach:** Covered earlier. As part of his new job with the CDC, John will be in touch with other Democratic groups throughout the state.

**Club membership:** Ralph reported that we have 141 members (including 39 "paid plus members" who have paid for more than one year), 409 Facebook members, and 203 Yahoo members.

### **Announcements**

❖ Margaret brought fliers for an event in support of Tara Martin-Milius's reelection for the Sunnyvale City Council at the Sunnyvale Heritage Park Museum, 570 E. Remington Dr., Sunnyvale, on May 28 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tara is a member of our club. RSVP to Margaret: [mokujo@gmail.com](mailto:mokujo@gmail.com).

❖ Mary reported that Amanda Renteria will be speaking on May 2 at 3:00 p.m. for Sequoia Adult School Scholars, helping students move from adult school to community college. The event will be at Trinity Church, 330 Ravenswood Avenue, Menlo Park. Amanda is Hillary Clinton's national political director.

❖ Emilie announced that the CDC wants people to help with training for club building, conducting meetings using Robert's Rules of Order, political action, and serving as club treasurer. Also, they are starting a newsletter and welcome articles. If you are interested, contact her or John.

❖ Gerry reported that there will be a rally and march to protect and improve Medicare on July 30 at 11:00 a.m. in Frank Ogawa Plaza in Oakland. Buses will be available from Gilroy/San Jose; call Greg Miller for a ride: 408 254-3311.

**Adjournment:** At 8:59 p.m. Emilie moved that we adjourn, Gerry seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Mary Gill