

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

June 27, 2015

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

**Next working meetings:** August 24, September 28, October 26, November 23

**Next DFA-link meetings:** August 10, September 14, October 12, November 9

**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 an addition to the agenda, Lucas Ramirez moved that we adopt the agenda as amended, Carolyn Curtis seconded it, and the motion passed with no dissension.

**Approval of minutes:** Lucas moved that we approve the May minutes, Karen Porter seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's report:** Karen Porter reported that we have \$6646.11 in the state and federal bank accounts. Authorization to write checks will be transferred over to Karen soon.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**New officers:** John welcomed the newly elected officers for this year: Lucas Ramirez as new co-chair along with John, Karen Porter as treasurer, Joel Masser as corresponding secretary, Emilie Gatfield and Ben Stetson as members at large, and Mary Gill as recording secretary. He thanked Alice Smith, Don Mayall, and Swanee Edwards for their service. Ralph Wheeler would like to step down as membership chair, and the club will be seeking a replacement.

**All Clubs' Picnic:** John reported that the Dean Club had a table at the All Clubs' Picnic; Barbara Comiskey, Marcene Van Dierendonck, Lucas Ramirez and Erik Fong were among those members who attended. Mike Honda and Zoe Lofgren were featured. Four people joined as new members of our club and one renewed. Lucas moved that we reimburse John the \$150 in expenses for the event, Carolyn seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. The check will come from the state fund.

**Webmaster backup:** John has been serving as a back-up person for Barbara Comiskey, the webmaster. However, they are looking for one or more people who will be a extra "set of eyes" to spot any errors. Please let John know if you are willing to do this. Karen said that she is investigating setting up a privacy policy for the site. Right now the only copyright is by the California Democratic Council, under their logo.

**Two-year calendar:** John presented a two-year calendar that will serve as a template for future use, in process now and eventually to be available to download. He encouraged members in attendance to add items that occur to them. The calendar was put together from past meeting minutes, the website archives, and other sources; it includes dates when we will need to make endorsements, prepare budgets, prepare for conventions, set goals, create the yearly list of accomplishments, plan our traditional fundraisers, etc. The group thanked John for his work on this very useful document.

**Farm antibiotics:** Joel Masser had written a resolution to ban nontherapeutic antibiotics on a statewide and nationwide level, with a plan to send a letter to county officials and to city officials within the county asking them to support the Preservation of Antibiotics Medical Treatment Act (PAMTA, Louise Slaughter) and the Prevention of Antibiotic Resistance Act (PARA, Dianne Feinstein-Susan Collins). John read an e-mail from Joel that pointed out that this was based on a nonpartisan campaign by Food and Water Watch that is aimed at cities and counties, not the Democratic Party. Marcene pointed out that Santa Clara County Supervisor Mike Wasserman is not with us on this issue but that we should pressure him since his district covers Gilroy and Morgan Hill, the more rural parts of the county. We could work with the South County Democratic Party to get support from his constituents. After a great deal of discussion about the usefulness of resolutions in general, it was decided to endorse the federal legislation and send letters to local officials (including Wasserman) telling them where we stand on this issue and asking them to support the concept and pertinent legislation.

**Second Amendment:** Marcene brought a letter she had written to the *San Jose Mercury News* regarding archaic language in the Second Amendment: “A well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed.” Gun advocates ignore the phrase “A well-regulated militia,” a condition for what follows. She would like us to think about the possibility of repealing this amendment. Contact her for more information: [mvd1131@aol.com](mailto:mvd1131@aol.com).

**Presidential race:** Carolyn expressed the wish that we not endorse anyone for president at this point. John and others concurred, saying that we should wait at least until the filing deadline if not after the Democratic nominee is chosen.

**Meeting site:** There was a discussion about where to continue to hold our organizational meetings, and it was decided to meet at Marie Callender’s in Sunnyvale again in August. Village Falafel in Cupertino was a previous suggestion. Erik Fong suggested Arya Global Cuisine in Cupertino, which has a separate room: <http://www.yelp.com/biz/arya-global-cuisine-cupertino>. Please bring any other suggestions to the August meeting.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Task force reports**

**Good government:** Nancy Neff reported that negotiations with labor on AB 700, the DISCLOSE Act, are going well, and there is hope to have “follow-the-money language” soon. There is even talk of the bill covering candidates as well as ballot amendments! No one is sure when the bill will be heard in the Assembly—it may be immediately after the recess that ends August 17 or later on, even next year (it’s an urgency bill). Efforts are underway to get constituent support in six Assembly districts with Republicans who may be persuaded to vote yes. The California Clean Money Campaign has gathered nearly 700 postcards to Republican Catharine Baker in AD 16 (Walnut Creek-Pleasanton-Livermore area) asking her to vote yes. Groups have been going to farmers’ markets in the district on Saturday and Sunday mornings and Thursday afternoons. If you can join us, please contact Mary Gill for car-pool information.

**Economic justice:** No report.

**Environment:** Covered earlier.

**Social and criminal justice:** No report.

**Club building:** John discussed the club roster, which had to be submitted to the state party by July 1, prompting us to seek out new members in key Assembly districts. As a result, we now have 66 members in AD 24, giving us 3 votes, and 25 in AD 28, giving us 1 vote. We had 2 votes in AD 24 and none in AD 28 previously. The group thanked John for his many efforts on this issue.

**Candidates/campaigns:** John noted that Michael Eggman is indeed running for Congress, even though he filed for Assembly and Congress both before he decided on the federal office. Stephanie announced that she is considering holding a fundraiser for him in the fall. She will also be hosting a fundraiser at her home on October 4 for Russ Feingold, who is running for Senate in Wisconsin. Lucas moved that we cosponsor the event on October 4, Carolyn seconded it, and it passed unanimously. Mary noted that the event for Jerry McNerney at Stephanie’s house on June 6 raised \$13,000.

**Outreach:** John was in Monterey on behalf of the California Democratic Council last Saturday, along with Emilie Gatfield, the new president. He and Emilie are working on refining their appeal to get people across clubs/groups to communicate and work together on issues of common interest.

**Club membership:** Ralph Wheeler reported by e-mail that we have 166 members (including 34 “paid plus members” who have paid for more than one year), 424 Facebook members, and 203 Yahoo members.

## **Announcements**

❖ The next DFA link meeting will be August 10 at the home of Alice Smith, 4284 Los Palos Circle, Palo Alto. Former state senator and current county supervisor Joe Simitian

will speak about low-income housing and other issues before the board. Snacks and conversation at begin at 6:30 p.m., and the meeting starts at 7:00.

❖ Mary announced that there will be an event for Bernie Sanders on Wednesday, July 29 at the Quinlan Community Center in Cupertino at 7:00 p.m. Club member Margaret Okuzumi, fearing that many of the local house parties for Bernie for President would be at capacity, is putting on this event, where Bernie will be live-streamed on a big screen. Marcene will be in charge of a Dean Club voter registration table there; to help with this, contact Marcene [mvd1131@aol.com](mailto:mvd1131@aol.com). To RSVP, go to: <https://go.berniesanders.com/page/event/detail/july29organizingmeeting/4v72w>

❖ Erik Fong, previously on the San Jose Parks and Recreation Commission, announced that he will be running for San Jose City Council, District 6, where Pierluigi Oliverio will be termed out.

**Adjournment:** At 8:45 p.m. Mary moved that we adjourn, Carolyn seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Mary Gill