

Minutes of the Dean Democratic Club of Silicon Valley Organizational Meeting

March 23, 2015

Hobee's Restaurant, 21267 Stevens Creek Boulevard, Cupertino

Next working meetings: April 27, May 25

Next DFA-link meetings: April 13, May 11

Note that next DFA-link meeting will be April 13. See announcements.

Annual picnic and election: June 20

Introductions: John Comiskey called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Following that, each person introduced himself or herself and made a statement about recent political involvement.

Adoption of agenda: After discussion, Emilie Gatfield moved that we adopt the agenda, Lucas Ramirez seconded it, and the motion passed with no dissension.

Approval of minutes: Lucas moved that we approve the February minutes, Carolyn Curtis seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report: Don Mayall reported that we have \$5643 in the accounts; the wildflower walk netted over \$500 (see next item).

NEW BUSINESS

Wildflower Walk March 22: Carolyn reported on the wildflower walk that she and Don led this past Sunday. Four new people joined the club. Mary Gill noted that the attendees all seemed to find it enjoyable and highly worthwhile. Marcene Van Dierendonck and Alice Smith agreed and commented on the wonderful plant lists that were prepared in advance.

May 2 Garden Tour: Katie Dunlap reported that there will be a club fundraiser featuring master gardener Sue Zaslav on May 2 at 11:00 a.m. at Sue's home in San Jose (off 87 near Capitol Expressway). Sue will give a tour of the garden and its numerous raised vegetable beds, fruit trees, koi pond, chickens, and compost processing bins. \$25 suggested donation for nonmembers and \$20 for members. After the tour, there will be a Q&A session, and refreshments (with a Cinco de mayo theme) will be provided. RSVP to Katie Dunlap (katiekd@pacbell.net) and she will give you the address and directions.

Bylaws amendment: Before the meeting, Karen Porter had sent out a document with our by-laws, showing some proposed changes. 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. John had suggested a change to make it clear that our club "shall maintain

an affiliation with the CDC”; Carolyn suggested a change in section B-1 regarding the use of plural “as members” rather than “as a member.” Emilie moved that we publish the by-laws as amended, Gerry Hunt seconded the motion, and it passed with no dissension. We will vote on the proposed changes at our next meeting.

SCCDP Jefferson Jackson Dinner April 24: John reported that the annual JJ dinner will be April 24 at the San Jose Fairmont Hotel. We will be placing an ad in the program as usual, and John had already paid the \$360 out of pocket (since by doing so earlier he had received a discount). Alice moved that we reimburse him, Carolyn seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously. Ralph will send the photo we have used of Howard Dean to John, and Carolyn will write the ad’s text. John will put the two together to create the final ad. Efforts will be made to acquire a good position for the Dean table or tables at the dinner. If you want to join the group, be sure to request to be seated with the club members when you RSVP on the county website (sccdp.org/content/2015-jj-dinner). Cost is \$125 per person.

Meeting site: Marcene Van Dierendonck had checked into an alternative site for our working meetings, Marie Callender’s in Sunnyvale (751 E. El Camino Real). She moved that we hold the April meeting there just to try it out; Carolyn seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

DFA summit April 11: John reported on a day-long DFA summit being planned for April 11 at the Woodside United Methodist Church (corner of Woodside Road and Alameda de las Pulgas, Redwood City) from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The topic is “Economic Justice: A Vision for America.” Jim Dean and Jay Henderson will be present from national DFA, and Mark Leno will be the closing speaker. Our club had voted to cosponsor at our last meeting. Volunteers are needed for various tasks. Lunch will be provided. Suggested donation is \$10 at the door or \$5 if preregistered on line at <http://act.democracyforamerica.com/sign/DFABayAreaSummit>

CDC news: John reported on the California Democratic Council meetings and election this past weekend in Fresno. Emilie was elected president, although at the moment this is contested by the current president, Ray Bishop. (John referred us to an article about Bishop: http://www.fresnobee.com/2015/03/21/4439674_democrat-group-cancels-local-gastropub.html?rh=1). John was elected vice president of issues and political action. He intends to research what the various central committees are working on and what resources they need. Both Emilie and John were given rounds of applause and congratulations.

Web site status: John had previously sent a link to the new website for our club that he had created based on the previous version. There has been some trouble getting the domain name transferred, but you can access the site at www.ddcsv.info. Do not bookmark it until the transfer is complete. The club members were very positive in their remarks about the new site and about John’s skill and willingness to take this task on.

OLD BUSINESS

Task force reports

Good government: Mary Gill reported on the California Clean Money Campaign N. California grassroots summit on February 28. There is a new DISCLOSE Act bill, AB 700, with Jimmy Gomez of Los Angeles as author and Marc Levine of Marin as coauthor. Over 130 people attended the summit, and Marc Levine and Jerry Hill were among the speakers. Efforts are being made to assuage the concerns of certain labor unions who opposed the previous version of the bill (SB 52) and to replace reliance on the FPPC for determining the original source of contributions with follow-the-money rules that state specific tracking and reporting requirements.

Economic justice/Environment/Social/criminal justice: Joel Masser reported on economic justice, environment, and social/criminal justice, which are related in many ways; we may merge some of the meetings of these task forces. The environmental group has met and Joel would like to get the economic and social/criminal justice groups to meet also. Contact him if you would like to be part of any of these task forces.

Club building: Covered earlier.

Candidates/campaigns: Lucas and Gerry have been precinct walking for our endorsed candidate Tim Orozco, who is running for San Jose City Council District 4, and John has also been involved in the campaign. John gave the group information about how to volunteer. The election is April 7. You can walk precincts or phone from the South Bay Labor Council.

Outreach: Covered earlier.

Club membership: Ralph reported that we have 135 members (including 36 “paid plus members” who have paid for more than one year), 409 Facebook members, and 203 Yahoo members.

Announcements

❖ Marcene announced that our DFA-link meeting will be on April 13 and will feature Sally Lieber speaking on how human trafficking is practiced in Santa Clara County. Gather at 6:30 p.m. for snacks and 7:00 for the program at the home of Alice Smith, 4284 Los Palos Circle, Palo Alto 94306. Call or email Marcene for questions: 650 961 7380 or mvd1131@aol.com.

❖ Alice 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.

Adjournment: At 8:34 p.m. Don moved that we adjourn, Carolyn seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Mary Gill