Minutes of the Davis Democratic Club Board Meeting

Tuesday July 7, 2020

Place: Meeting on ZOOM

Davis, CA 95616

Meeting called to order at 7:06 PM by President Stephen Souza

Quorum was 8 board members

Members Present: 15 board members were present at this meeting.

President Stephen Souza

Vice President Rick Gonzales -

Treasurer Ameer Alsawaf

Recording Secretary G Richard Yamagata

Corresponding Secretary & Publicity Giles Giovinazzi

Membership Chair Saira Delgado

Newsletter Editor Carl Schmid

Past President Bob Bockwinkel

Board Members present: Jan Agee, Tom Dowling, Bob Marr, Jonathan Howard

Ex-Officio present: Jim Provenza and and Bill Julian

ATTENDANCE: These rules are not in effect during the COVID19 Pandemic

The by-laws state that an individual cannot miss 3 meetings in a row. It also states that a person cannot miss 3 meetings in a 5 meeting reporting period. This is to prevent members from showing up every other meeting or 50% of the time.

Board Members absent: Dillan Horton, Alan Hirsch, and Linda Deos

Ex-Officio members absent: YCDP Bob Schelen, Davis College Dems – no attendance requirement

There were 2 guests present. They were Luba Schmid and .Cythia Pickett

A quorum is 8 board members. A Quorum was present at the meeting with 14 board members attending this meeting.

AGENDA

The agenda was presented to the board by the President, Stephen Souza. Bob Bockwinkel made the motion to approve the agenda as submitted with no changes. Carl Schmid seconded the motion. The agenda was approved with no objection..

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill Julian addressed the board with his letter to the board that was sent earlier via e-mail. This item was to be taken up later in the meeting under new business.

Bill Julian presented a letter requesting action by the club in supporting the California Democratic Party (CalDems) Trail raisers program This program is a person to person raising of money for the campaign leading to the November Election, The following is the text of the letter:

" **Friends and colleagues –**

**The California Democratic Party (CADEM) has established a person-to-person fundraising program to support the Fall 2020 political campaign, the most consequential campaign of our lifetimes. The goal is for the Trail Raisers to raise $2 million (out of a total campaign budget of $12 million) to support CADEM’s efforts to elect Democrats in California and to assist Democratic campaigns in the battleground states of Arizona and Nevada.**

**Rusty Hicks (State Party Chair) has reached out to us personally to raise $10,000 among our friends in Yolo County. We have told the CADEM that this should be a group effort by Yolo County.**

**We are asking the Davis Democratic Club to donate $1000 toward the group effort.**

**We are asking each of you to donate what you can. You can donate at this link:**

[**https://act.cadem.org/vtHloK\_Zt0WatzON7hw4zQ2**](https://act.cadem.org/vtHloK_Zt0WatzON7hw4zQ2)

**Making a personal donation to the CADEM is a statement about what kind of party we want: responsive, independent of corporate control, participatory. As activists we have all shown a high level of commitment of time and energy to do the work of politics. As donors we all help to support the structures (training, coordination, direction, logistical support) that enable us to focus and be impactful as we do the work.**

**CADEM is the most effective state Democratic Party in the country. We hold all statewide elective offices; we have two-thirds majorities in both houses of the state legislature and 85% of the Congressional seats, without resort to political gerrymandering like the Republicans in states that they control. Trail Raisers is a way to show support for the continued effectiveness of our Party.**

**Again, we are asking each of you to donate what you can. You can donate at this link:**

[**https://act.cadem.org/vtHloK\_Zt0WatzON7hw4zQ2**](https://act.cadem.org/vtHloK_Zt0WatzON7hw4zQ2)

**Thank you for all that you do. And thank you for making this extra effort.**

**Bill Julian**"

Bill Julian asked that the club participate in this funding project by CalDems. He asked that the Yolo County Democratic Party have the goal of raising $10,000 for this program. Bill wants us to do this as an expression of our county and club community. Bill asked the club to put in $1000, matching his donation of $1000. He is also asking the Yolo County Democratic Party to donate $1000 to this program. [That means that the club needs only $7000 in donations to meet the Yolo County goal of $10,000.] Bill also wants the club commit to send the letter as a solicitation to the club members through e-mail and the club newsletter. Bill stated that "we need to recognize that this election cycle is the most consequential election for all our lives.

Rick Gonzales asked why would we do this for the State Party, rather than raise and spend money directly as the Davis Democratic Club. Bill replied that the State party creates the structure for a unified, coordinated campaign and plans the overall strategy. The Party sees that Nevada is holding Blue. Arizona is slipping back into Red. It is a dog fight in Arizona. The Democratic Party is working to hold the House and trying to flip the US Senate. He state this is the way for the Davis Democratic club to help out the regional and national strategy, which ultimately will lead to the Democratic Party controlling both house of congress and the Presidency. Bill restated the importance of this election cycle and put this letter before the Davis Democratic Club board.

Bob Bockwinkel stated that this is a good idea. We currently have money coming in from newsletter campaign that was discussed at the last meeting. We are also receiving money from Arun Sen's funeral request that donations be given to the DDC and to the Davis Odd Fellows lodge 169.

Carl commented that Bill almost apologized for coming to the board with this request, Carl stated that club has money in its treasury because of Bil Julian and his support with donations to the Davis Democratic Club and his hosting of the annual Champagne Brunch in the backyard of his home. Carl stated that this is an opportunity for the club to help Bill raise money for the State Party..

Jan asked the question, why give the money to the State Party rather than directly to the candidates. She stated that she gets e-mail from Democratic candidates running for various offices.

Bill Julian restated what he had said in response to Rick Gonzales' similar question, including the statement that this is the most important election cycle of all of our lives. He also stated that the California Democratic Party is an institution that remembers thing over time, It is the institutional memory for Democrats in California. It is an ongoing place for party activists to gather to work for the good of the party and the people.

Stephen restated that we will take this up later in the meeting under new business..

COLLEGE CAMPUS DEMS

No representative was present at this meeting.

YCDP REPORT

Bob Schelen had not made the meeting as of yet and will give his report once he joins the meeting.

INDIVISIBLE YOLO

Linda Deos was not present and was stated to be at the Davis City Council meeting. This report was not given at this meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Stephen reported that he had approved the donation of $500 to the Steve Bullock campaign per the by-laws that say that he can do this as President of the DDC. This is the second US Senate campaign that club has donated money to . The first was Mark Kelly, which was discussed at the last DDC Board Meeting.

TREASURER REPORT

Ameer Alsawaf report that we started out this month with $14,898 We now have @14,400 total after $500 in bills were paid. He stated that we have money coming in from membership and large donors. About $900 came in from donations given to the club under Arun's name. One of the Arun Sen donations came from Elly Fairclough. There was about $1800 in membership fees that came in over the last month. A number of board members stated that they have yet to send in money that they usually give at the Champagne Brunch.

It was stated by President Souza that the club is in good shape financially, right now.

There were no questions about the treasurer's report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BOARD MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Letter Writing Campaign

Bob Bockwinkel gave the report about his letter writing campaign. He submitted a letter to the board which follows:

" **New letter writers from the DDC since the May newsletter include Saira Delgado, Marilu Carter, Vinita Domier, Luba and Carl Schmid, Linda Deos and Eva Brock, Jolynn Shoemaker and Giles Giovinazzi, Andrew Newman, Robin Kulakow and Bill Julian, Jan Agee, Delaine Eastin, John Mott-Smith, Joan Sallee and Pam Nieberg, and Lis Fleming. We have done 500 get-out-the-vote letters from VoteForward.com to occasional voters in Texas to be mailed October 27, 2020.  We also sent almost 200 letters in one week for the special election for Congressional District 25th Democratic candidate Christy Smith.  We have also sent letters on behalf of Josh Harder in the 10th Congressional District, Brynne Kennedy in the 4th Congressional District running against Tom McClintock, and Phil Abrallo in the 22nd Congressional District against Devin Nunes.  These letters will be mailed shortly before the November 2020 elections. So far, over 2200 letters are being written by DDC members, and we are seeking more volunteers to write letters on behalf of these and other Democratic candidates.  Francois Kaeppelin has been the liaison with the California Democratic Party to get lists of voters and he is also working with other Democratic clubs and CDC.  Bob Schelen, on behalf of the Yolo County Democratic Central Committee has facilitated a pledge of $1000 for our efforts.  We're working with Saira Delgado, DDC Membership Chair, to get updated lists of Club members so we can reach out to new letter writers. We also plan to reach out through the Club Facebook page to Giles Giovinazzi, Communications Chair and with the help of Richard Yamagata to send out periodic solicitations to our email lists.  Also contributing to the letter writing efforts are those mentioned in the May DDC newsletter, Bob and Marie Bockwinkel, Dave Griffin, Bob and Delilah Schelen, Koyoko and Dick Luna, Judith Ann Wilmer and Corky Brown, Nancy and Tom Dowling, Kathy and Jerry Marr, Donna and Jim Provenza, Robin and Steve Souza, Judy and Dan Gonzales, Chris Wagaman and Judy Reynolds. For any additional information about this project, contact Bob Bockwinkel at 530-219-1896 or at email** [**bbockwinkellrn@gmail.com**](mailto:bbockwinkellrn@gmail.com)**."**

Bob specifically thanked Stephen for starting the letter writing campaign with this significant donation of stamps, paper, and envelopes that started this program.

Jan asked if we put this on Facebook, how will we screen the people. Bob covered specific cases how we have been handling external requests, which is refer them to their local organizations. For local, Bob requested that Richard Yamagata needs to send out e-mail to ask for people to volunteer. Let club member and people in Davis know what we are doing.

Luba asked what we do about "looney toon" people. So these people take the resources and just not send out the letters. Bob Bockwinkel says that he vets the people before handing over the material.

President Stephen Souza stated that Facebook should be the bottom tier for recruiting people to write the letters. The most important use of Facebook is to send out information to the public that this is what the DDC is doing. [In the hope that our efforts will encourage other clubs and organizations to do their own letter writing campaigns.]

Saira Delgado stated that Individible is already doing a letter writing. She stated that club should send out the message that if you want to contribute to the letter writing campaign, call Bob Bockwinkel and he will vet you and tell you how to contribute time and resources..

Membership

We received 16 membership renewals since the last meeting from the newsletter campaign that was discussed at the last meeting. We had a significant number of people donating for Arun, donating about $900. Congressman Garamendi donated $500, which was not included in the totals already discussed in the treasurer's report. . Saira stated that she was reaching out to Francois to get the web address set up for renewing club memberships through Act Blue.. She can now log into Act Blue to see the information collected from club members.

Saira reported receiving a thank you letter from the wife of Pat Goldstein to the club for the newsletter article about the death of her husband.

PUBLIC COMMENT

At this point, Cynthia Pickett joined the meeting for public comment from Chicago. She apologized for joining the meeting late. She informed the board of a new group formed, supporting local candidates that support social change that help people of color and candidates that diversify elected officials representing people of color. The group is working to hold a special election for the vacant seat on the Davis School Board. An appointed person now occupies that seat. She was contacting the DDC to ask the club to solicit for volunteers and resources for this new oraganization. Stephen Souza stated that he would collect information from Cynthia to give to Rick Gonzales and G Richard Yamagata to put in an e-mail to the club list serves.

NEWSLETTER

Carl Schmid, editor of the DDC Newsletter, content is an important issue, since there are no public gatherings to report about nor pictures from these event. We will report about giving money to Bullock and Kiley. We will publish Bill's letter about the Calfornia Democratic Party solicitation of person to person donations. Carl was told by Bob Schelen would provide content, so he will Bob Schelen to drum up content for the next newsletters.

Rick Gonzales:stated that John Garamendi is doing a column in the Enterprise, which he finds very informative. Rick said that he would like someone to ask John Garamendi for these columns with permission to run them in the club newsletter.

Bob Bockwinke asked that his e-mail report about the letter writing campaign be put in one of the future newsletters with the specific request to ask people to volunteer for this effort.

Saira asked about Black Lives Matter with a specific request to have someone from the community write an article. It was asked if Dylan can be included as one of the authors in this article. It was stated that we could ask Calvin Handy to write an article for the newsletter.

Bob Marr stated, cops are cops, so we need someone from another point of view other than police. Dylan is participating in Davis Black Lives Matter and he put together the latest local rally here in Davis. Dylan is on the police oversight committee. It was stated that another great voice is Marlene Bell. We should try to draw upon her to write a perspective about Black Lives Matter. It was suggested that we get the three of them, Marlene Bell, Dylan Hortan, and Calvin Handy to contribute to a comprehensive article..

GENERAL MEETINGS

President Souza summed up the current situation that the club is in lockdown and we are not having public fundraiser gatherings. He stated that we should just keep on doing what we are doing.

Saira asked if the club can aside funds to do a mailer shortly before the election.

Bob Marr seconded Saira's idea. He stated that the club should use its resources like the mailing lists, e-mail lists and the newsletter to encourage people to get out the vote and mail in their absentee ballots.

No vote was taken on this suggestion, but everyone was in agreement that the club should make this happen.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business from past meetings that has not been already discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill Julian's request for $1000 to the CADems Trail Raisers program and sending of his letter about the program was now discussed.

Carl Schmid stated that he strongly supports this request. President Souza stated that it made him very nervous to have the board pick the candidates to give money for their campaigns. He stated that he thought it best to give money to the CADems, the State Party to make the decision on how to allocate money in California. This way, the. money will be used effectively in campaigns through out the state.

MOTION/VOTE

Motion give 1000 to state party through the Trail Raisers Program and to send out Bill Julian's letter to the membership through all our resources was moved by Carl Schmid and seconded by Bob Marr and Bob Bockwinkel.

The motion passed 14-0.

Under further new business, Carl Schmid asked, how we will spend our money?. He stated that as a party, we need to flip the Senate, like what we did for the House. . "Money best spent on Senate race is money well spent." We need to research on sending money to senate races and determine where to send the money. President Souza asked the board to do homework for this endeavor.

Bob Bockwinkel said that it is important to give money to John Garamendi and Verbs.

President Souza stated that he would like a letter to sent to the people who donated.money to the club over the basic individual and family memberships fees.

Saira stated that she thinks that we need to send thank you letter to the people that donate in the name of Arun.Sen. [Also, we need to send at least an e-mail to the Sen daughters, letting them know how much has been donated in their father's name to the DDC.]

Carl Schmid stated that we now have enough material to publish a newsletter with all that was discussed at tonight's meeting.

Saira stated that if she can get in contact with Francois, she can get the web link to put in the newsletter to donate money to the club through Act Blue.and install a link from the club web site to Act Blue.

President Souza stated that he will collect contact information from Cynthia Pickett for her new political action group.

Bob Bockwinkel stated that he felt that Calvin Handy was one of the best people to write about Black Lives Matter. He also stated that Calvin Handy recently had a stroke or heart attack while driving his car and is recovering.

Giles Giovinazzi stated that Jan Agee is a delegate for the Democratic National Convention and deserves congratulations.from the DDC Board, as this is.not a small thing. He also stated that the board should not rule out giving money directly to the Biden campaign. Jan supported this idea with the statement that we should not think that our small money is not appreciated or important. Bernie Sanders' campaign show how those small contributions all add up.

KUDOS

President Souza and the board gave kudos to Jan Agee for being a delegate to the national convention.

Jan stated that she will give updates on the progress of the Democratic National Convention.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No other announcements were made at this time.

FUTURE MEETINGS

We will continue to meet using ZOOM, the first Tuesday of each month until the October Meeting. Hopefully by November there will be a vaccine and we can start once again meeting in person at the library. The meetings are September 1 and October 6.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Carl Schmid made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Jonathan Howard The board voted to adjourn with no objections. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by G Richard Yamagata August 4, 2020.