Minutes of the Davis Democratic Club Board Meeting

Tuesday November 7, 2023

Place: Stphen Souza 2424 Rodin Place

Davis, CA 95616

Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM by President Stephen Souza

Quorum was 6 board members

Members Present: 8 board members were present at the beginning of the meeting.

President Stephen Souza Present

Vice President Rick Gonzales - Present

Treasurer Ameer Alsawaf

Recording Secretary G Richard Yamagata Present

Corresponding Secretary & Publicity Giles Giovinazzi

Membership Chair Gary Hopkins

Newsletter Editor Carl Schmid

Past President Bob Bockwinkel Present

Board Members present: Jan Agee, NJ Mvondo

Ex-Officio present: None

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: Bob Marr, Jonathan Howard

Ex-Officio members absent: Aiden Ledbetter, Jim Provenza and and Bill Julian, YCDP Linda Deos

There was 0 guests present.

A quorum is 6 board members. A Quorum was present at the meeting with 9 board members attending at the beginning of the meeting and 10 board members at end of this meeting.

AGENDA

The agenda was presented to the board by the President, Stephen Souza.

MOTION

Carl Schmid move for the agenda to be approved. Bob Bockwinkel seconded the motion.

VOTE

The agenda was approved with no objection and it passed unanimously. 9 ayes and 0 nayes

MINUTES

The minutes were distributed by e-mail.

MOTION

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Carl Schmid. The motion was seconded by Bob Bockwinkel.

VOTE

NJ Mvondo said that she had not received the minutes nor had received the agenda. For some reason she is not receiving the materials from the e-mail list serve.

There were 8 ayes and 1 abstain with no nayes. The minutes were passed as published.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public at the meeting at this time.

COLLEGE CAMPUS DEMS Reports

Aiden was not present and sent his report in via a phone text that was read by President Stephen Souza. The report follows and is placed in the minutes as published text as received:

"[Davis College Dems] Hosted a Phone bank for Virginia Democrats, made over 1,800 calls.

Held numerous canvassing events for The Recall Trustee MacDonald campaign & Sheila Allen for County Supervisor (Have knocked over 1,200 doors since September).

Hosted our big fundraiser with The Verbs, had over 75 people in attendance and raised money to help fund our 2024 Canvassing trips.

Partnered with Indivisible Yolo to register voters at the Davis Farmers Market.

Attended the Yolo County is for everyone rally (15 people attended) .

Staffed Assemblywomen Cecilia Aguiar Curry’s re-election fundraiser in Davis.

Hosted a “How to Contact your Representative” event to teach students how to give public comment.

Been tabling and flyering the UC Davis Campus, have had over 150 people fill out our club interest form.

Hosted our Goat the Vote event (with live goats!!) and registered UC Davis students to vote.

YCDP and SISTER INDIVISIBLE YOLO

Linda Deos was not present at this meeting, so no report was given.

It was reported that Linda and Dave Griffin have both succeeded to place a recall measure on the ballot to recall a Woodland school board member. This is the first Yolo County recall measue in 28 years and President Souza wanted to mention this and give them credit for this achievement. The school board member is a member of a Trump family values group, that has become a political movement.

TREASURERS REPORT

The treasurer Ameer Alsawaf gave the report. The club took in a $75 donation and had expenses of $127. The club has $17560 in the Federal account and $4668 in the State account for a total of $ 22248 total in the bank accounts. This was clarified by Ameer in explanation to Rick Gonzales. Rick expressed dissatisfaction at that number with next year's election coming up. President Souza assured him that things are coming along nicely.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BOARD MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Bob Bockwinkel immediately started talking about his idea for a fundraiser for the club to reaise money. He has 2 t-shirts which he wants to raffle off at the Holiday Party. Rick then told the story about the last time we had 500 t-shirts printed and used them to solicit club membership.

G Richard Yamagata asked about the status of Norbi Kumagai's request to become a board member. Norbi can be counted upon to attend all meetings. G Richard Yamagata is worried about the quorum requirement for the meetings.

President Souza instructed Bob to interview Norbi for board membership.

Bob Bockwinkel stated that Chuck White also wants to join the board. He has volunteered his place for students to stay in Lake Tahoe for the DCD support events in Nevada. Bob thinks he would be an invaluable asset to the board.

Rick Gonzales at this point wanted to report on a request for funds from one of the candidates the club gave funds to in November 2022. President Souza stated that he receives these requests on a monthly basis and that the campaign subcommittee will address this by choosing who to give funds to for the 2024 election cycle.

MEMBERSHIP

Gary Hopkins reported that the club currently has 162 member family units with 227 paid members. The club currently mails out 200 newsletters each month with the 38 extra newsletters being mailed to lost sheep, people that have let their membership lapse. .

NEWSLETTER

Carl Schmid reported that the articles writtetn by two of the Yolo County Supervisor candidates was well received. He has received many compliments for running them.

The next newsletter will feature the slate of candidates for board seats for the club for the March General Meeting in 2024. It will also give a chance for NJ to introduce herself to the club in a newsletter article. The newsletter will anounce the Holiday Party and ask members to renew their dues.

GENERAL MEETINGS

NJ Vmondo asked the board fundraising that DDC does to give back to the community. The board then responded by stating that the By Laws state we should have 10 events per year. The club has the Holiday Party, The Loved Your Electeds Party and the Champagne Brunch. We also have in the past made an event of manning the Yolo County Fair Booth, sponsored the Ice Cream Social, and held the Fall Barbecue. We also sponsored the Yolo County Bean Feed and the DCD fundreaiser event. This year, the club sponsored and held 6 events this year. We are falling short.

NJ stated that these are not events that she is talking about. She wants community events that give something back to the community like a volunallteer training workshop. The board stated that all is needed is for someone to organize an event. The example given was the No Nuclear War event that was sponsored by the club and was a great success for the community, but did not increase club membership. The board encouraged NJ to come up with the ideas and move the club forward in planning these events. As stated, the club is falling behind in public club sponsored events -- 10 are needed.

Our next event will the Holiday Party. The final date is December 10. Invites are being sent ng out to the mailing list, local electeds and the e-mail list. The cost is $20 per person, $30 per couple and $10 per student. We are not taking credit cards nor Venmo, only Cash and Checks. The time will be from 2 to 5PM There will be Raffle Prizes, fancy drinks and donor ecognition. The food will be finger food and feature a light supper buffet. Stephen will talk to all the 5 Democratic Clubs in Yolo County and invite them to speak speak. The program will be low key and similar to past parties that were held before the days of the I House parties of the past.

ON GOING BUSINESS

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Carl reported that the System Operator for the web server stated that the club cannot have individual passwords and that the club needs to share one password. Other than that, the updates have been placed on the web site, but the web site still is only a sub section of the Yolo County Democratic Party web site.

FACEBOOK

Giles reported that the latest newsletter has been posted. .

TWITTER or X.COM

G Richard Yamagata reported that with Elon Musk's latest purge of bot accounts, the club lost 1000 followers and we remain at 5600+ followers. President Stephen Souza speculated that we may lose Twitter completely in the months ahead, before the election. G Richard also reported that the Facebook newsletter was Tweeted to the public.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

KUDOS

President Stephen Souza gave kudos to Jan Agee and Ameer Alsawaf for making the meeting on Zoom.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No public events announced at meeting..

FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting is December 5 and will be at the home of Stephen and Robin Souza..

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Carl Schmid made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Bob Bockwinkel. The board voted to adjourn with no objections. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by G Richard Yamagata 2AM December 4, 2023.