

Albany Democratic Club
Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:00 PM
University Village Four Corners Room

Meeting Minutes

7:00 Call to Order

Introductions

Current Events

Amy Neil reported that the East Bay Express has an article about the **Albany Cross**. The East Bay Times did an excellent article, but Amy believes that they did not cover the lawsuit well. The Lions Club has filed a lawsuit against the City of Albany. Bryan has posted information on Facebook, and Amy has worked on getting information about this. The Lions Club is asking that an acre of land be required to be sold for the cross. Albany Hill Park for All is interested in talking with lawyers, especially land use lawyers. Bryan is working on this.

Assembly District 15, Tony Thurmond will be leaving his position as Assemblymember for District 15. Jennifer asked what we would like a candidate to focus on. **Think about what we would want as a platform.** Yali suggested a platform that includes strong support for the school system and early childhood education. If we looked back 10 years in Albany, the things we voted on would be a good source for the platform. We may also be interested in Prop 13. Amy suggested we look at state issues, too. Jennifer suggested inclusivity be included. Bryan suggests that we come up with something like five items rather than trying to tackle the whole platform. Housing was also mentioned. Albany for All may be a good catch phrase to organize our thoughts. We may want to invite someone to speak about Prop 13. Evolve will be coming in October or a future date. Bryan will bring the Democratic platform for us to look at in a future meeting.

Another idea was that the Club could focus on traffic issues in the city of Albany. Nick will look at closing off an intersection with gates by the middle school because of a dangerous crossing.

City Council Report - Nick

A resolution supporting DACA was passed on Monday.

The Economic Development Strategic Plan was approved. Next, the implementation plan will be done. Building more housing, mixed use development, looking at unused space (parking lots on San Pablo), and examining growth is part of the strategy. Cities struggle for revenue

because of Prop 13. Shared workplace may also help (Yali's suggestion.) Office space in Albany is also being considered.

The guidelines are being worked on for red curbs to increase visibility.

Parking regulations were voted in for every new unit of housing had to have two parking spaces. The City Council will be decreasing this number so that we can re-invigorate new housing starts.

Swing Committee - Laura

Julia Vance spoke to the Swing Committee about organizing in Visalia District. It is traditionally Republican. Devin Nunes is their Congressional Representative. There are six or seven Democrats challenging Republicans. We may partner with another Albany, which is a swing district. Albany, New Hampshire passes between Republican and Democrat. Charlie Dent's seat in Pennsylvania may be a focus because he isn't running. The plan next week is to talk about strategy.

National Committee - Kathy

ACA is being challenged again. It will be a big push this week by Republicans, and it will throw millions off healthcare. It will also eliminate pre-existing condition health care guarantees and many of the protections we are used to having.

Indivisible has set up a system to phone bank from home.

Endorsement Policy (Bryan)

We reviewed the policy, which is based upon the El Cerrito Democratic Club policy. There was a discussion about a person voting to endorse him or herself. Bryan suggested that we vote on this policy now and add language later if we decide to do so. Motion to approve the Endorsement Policy was made by Bryan and seconded by Gabi. All were in favor. No one opposed. **The Albany Democratic Club Endorsement Policy was Approved.**

8:00 pm Together We Will - Pam Tellew

The group started the week after the presidential election. The group is action oriented. They have a facebook group with 140 people in the group, which includes liaisons. There are about 40 active members. They meet on the first Wednesday evening every month at Carol Keith's house.

Amplify is an app that you can put on your phone for a list of action items. This is a local effort with action items at local, state and national actions. They have a health care team working with the Indivisible app and a template for letters to the editor. They will be doing education on

single payer. They do post cards and call parties. They would like more members working on this.

Sister District Organizers help reach people in red districts. Some things they do are research, writing, legislation, communication, etc. There are partnerships in VA, NC and others, and they are expanding.

Here's some of the activities of Together We Will. They do phone banks, which they need help with, especially close to elections. They also have a media team monitoring mainstream media. They use Twitter for this, and do Twitter training. The Civil Rights team has worked on the history of racism and the Albany cross. They are working to unseat the Sheriff of Alameda County because "he doesn't represent our values." They made connections with a citizenship class to help with studying for the test. They need more workshops to help them fill out their paperwork for immigration. They need volunteers and will do training on Oct 3 so that they can help with the workshops. One is that week during the day. They have an environment team that is on hiatus right now. There is also a Fair Elections team related to gerrymandering and voter suppression. They reached out to organizations trying to stop gerrymandering through legislation or gerrymandering. Michigan has a ballot initiative, Pennsylvania is getting help with video, website, etc., and Virginia needs help with website, data.

David Daly wrote a book about partisan gerrymandering, and how the deck is stacked against Democrats. They are doing a book group on it. Ratf**ked is the name of the book. They will also do voter registration.

They are hoping to get the ACLU or another organization to get a national movement to register voters in states where voting is being suppressed.

Activities include the General Meeting Wed Oct. 4 at 7 pm at Caryl's house, 631 Jackson St. Albany. You can join through Facebook or get on the email list.

8:30 Activity - Support for a Virginia candidate and Opposition to the Albany Cross

We did postcards for both the Albany Cross and for support for Kathy Tran for District 42 and Ralph Northam for governor.

Wrap Up - Jennifer

- Thank you for supporting the Solano Stroll. We hope to do this again next year.
- Getting Involved with Local Politics Event will be rolled into the Civics Academy.
- The Assembly Member Candidates Forum will be spearheaded by Nick, and we are looking at a January date. If you would like to help, let Nick know.
- Youth Voting is something we are working on.

- We will be looking at how we can get involved in local politics on Nov. 7th (first Tuesday of the Month). There will be presentations from City Council and others. Kathy is heading this up with help from Nick and Bryan.
- The Holiday Party will be on December 14 at UC Village. It will be a potluck at 6 pm, and families are welcome. Yali is heading this up, but asks for volunteers.
- The theater fundraiser would cost roughly \$350 for the rental. Saturdays and Sundays are the most expensive days. We could do a brunch from 11-1 pm and we may be able to get the price down. The food must come from a restaurant. We need volunteers. The date may be around February.

Treasurer's Report - Gabi

Starting Balance	\$1,176
Expenses	(354)
Dues	150
Donations	0
End Balance	\$ 972

Next Meeting

The Police Chief will speak at the next meeting on October 19, 2017. Nick will confirm. He will talk for 45 minutes.