

Albany Democratic Club
Thursday, May 18, 2017 7:00 PM
University Village Four Corners Room

Meeting Minutes

7:10 Call to Order

Introductions and Announcements

- **Solano Stroll** - We have a booth space and are on the schedule. Need concept for parade and booth staffing. Get a hold of Jennifer or Erica to get involved.

7:15 pm Approval of Meeting Minutes from 4/20/17. Approved.

7:15 pm Roundtable with East Bay Democratic Clubs

- Stonewall Democratic Club: Anne Marks
 - East Bay LGBTQ Democratic Club
 - Club has a special emphasis on issues and members specifically relevant to that community
 - Member survey: Top issues include racial equality, endorsements relevant to racial and gender/sexuality equity issues, Affordable Care Act, Immigration issues, keeping membership informed and involved
 - Tend to local and statewide legislation, i.e., No Place for Hate Act
 - In the past, have not issued press releases for endorsements, but likely will in future
 - Membership meetings are each quarter in Berkeley Sports Auditorium
 - Endorsements draw people
 - Organize a PAC, endorse and support candidates
 - Host social events to honor members
 - To sustain membership, vary means of activity: personal emails, newsletters, membership meetings that include guests
 - Big Member meetings -- annually
 - 720 listserve; 120 dues-paying members; 10 on board
 - Value: in PAC and endorsements
 - Collaboration potential for holding joint fundraising
 - **How we get stuff done:** endorsement meetings and social activities to community build
- Wellstone Democratic Renewal: Jack Kurzweil
 - Communications Coordinator
 - Formed in 2003 explicitly in response to Iraq War and to unseat Bush
 - Membership is 300-350 dues-paying members
 - Structure organized in subcommittees

- One focused on Prop 13 reform, working with Evolve Statewide Organization
 - Have put ongoing pressure on California Assembly and Senate reps to advance Prop 13 reform
 - Healthcare Committee to advance Single Payer in California, more recently to protect ACA, works to pressure state and federal representatives on these issues.
 - Works closely with California Nurses Association
 - Post-Election Committee on Immigration Sanctuaries
 - Associated with Block-by-Block Organizing Committee
 - Actively send people to CA - 10 to do swing district work, have done so for years
 - **How we get stuff done:** if a member advances an issue and it fits within the framework of Progressive politics, we say: go for it
 - Recommend a club representative to the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee
 - **Achievements:** Got the Alameda Central Committee to oppose arrest of BLM protestors, support Occupy Oakland, push the committee to “operate like the people they really want to be”
 - **What sustains us:** Monthly meetings and speakers at monthly meetings
 - **Communications:** Yahoo group, website, listserve
 - **How do members pressure:** We’ll meet with legislators, call them, meet with their staff, follow-up, campaigns to collaborate with other democratic clubs
 - **Fundraising:** Has PAC and membership account. Use to produce, mail brochures that contain our endorsements. We endorse policies, not candidates. Reason: we have name recognition.
- East Bay Young Dems: Andy Katz
 - Former President Cal Berkeley Democrats
 - For Democrats 35 and Younger
 - Young people with a lot of energy -- want to get out and walk precincts, canvas, etc.
 - Ideas for growing/guiding Albany Dems:
 - Albany Dems could be like El Cerrito Dem Club:
 - Aim for **statewide turnout on ballot measures**, popular education on Dem endorsements for local measures.
 - ECDC goes to every precinct in town, make sure that door hanger gets in front of every voter, focus on voter education and local turnout
 - El Cerrito annual picnic: get musical appearance, a congressman, get 100-120 people
 - ~30 people at membership meeting each month

- Berkeley Democratic Club conducts high-value fundraising to contribute to statewide races.
- Encourage partnerships among other Albany Groups: Together We Will, Albany Community Action
- Unique thing: connect voters to endorsement process, structure of Democratic Party, etc.
- Get people to show up at midterms!
- Political Engagement point-person should be in touch with Alameda Central Committee to decide on forward action

8:00 pm Committee Reports

- **Local:** no updates
- **State:** SB 562 endorsement
- **Federal:** no updates
- **Swing:**
 - Exploring sister-city work with another Albany (22 in US), as so many democratic groups are working in regional swing districts.
 - Drafting survey on how to impart ideas from swing committee to general membership
 - South Carolina upcoming election for 5th congressional district. Postcard Campaign planned; effective in past.
- **Democratic Party:**
 - Putting together visual tool to illustrate Party structure
 - Post-Perez purge seems to make Party more progressive

8:00 pm Endorsement Process

- Proposed policy suggestions
 - Notice is confusing: B1 - clarify date that we provide notice to candidates
 - Suggest going forward on all but B, C, D, G and H, hand those to subcommittee to work on
 - Approve elimination of June 1st date for member threshold; all approve
 - Basic addition: if we are voting on local issues or local candidates, must be Albany residents. Approve.
 - Motion to Endorse A and I, Seconded: APPROVED
 - Motion to form Subcommittee to rework endorsement. Seconded, Approved.
 - Add clarification -- member clarification

8:54 SB 562 Endorsement

- Motion to approve with the following amendment. Seconded.
- Add whereas, proposing a single-payer healthcare system facilitates job mobility and therefore greater productivity in the economy
- 10 yays, 1 abstain: APPROVED.

9:02 pm Club Officer's Report

- Club Officers Election in June 2017

- Treasurer's Report: Previous balance ~1200.00 Now, \$179 in expenses, \$60 in dues, new balance about \$1100.00

9:03 Closing Comments

- **Phone Banking for Quist:** Get in touch with Bryan Marten
- Recommendation: Amplify App
- Elizabeth Warren fundraiser in Berkeley, Albany Democratic Club will co-sponsor thanks to Eleanor Moses. Details TBD.

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 15, 2017 at 7:00pm.

9:05pm Adjournment

To Join a Subcommittee, email albanydemocraticclub@gmail.com, and Jennifer will connect you with your group!