

Albany Democratic Club
Inaugural Meeting
Tuesday, January 24, 2017 7:00 PM
University Village Four Corners Room

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

Club Creation:

- Jennifer Radics-Johnson opened meeting and discussed origin of initiative.
- Joined by Robin Torello of Alameda County Democratic Committee to explain rules and benefits of creating Democratic Club.
- **Benefits:**
 - National organizations are working together in the wake of election. Obama's Organizing for Action, the alumni of the Hillary Campaign and (hopefully) Bernie alumni may soon be collaborating. Holder is joining Obama to work on redistricting and voter suppression. Clubs can get hooked into these efforts
 - Clubs may endorse candidates for any office, as long as they are running as Democrats and are registered Democrats
 - This includes DNC Chair election on February 23–26, 2017. Discussion about the importance of this election and ADC power to endorse
 - Clubs may lobby for changes in Party platform
 - Clubs offer effective way to organize locally (i.e., for recent Albany racist graffiti incident) as well as nationally
- **Rules**
 - A club requires 20 charter members who are registered Democrats to launch.
 - Discussion follows: some present are not Democrats and do not wish to join party for now.
 - Some have misgivings about party operation and party performance in 2016. Democratic staffperson Andy Kelly sympathized with this perspective and noted his own motivation to enter and work for the party stemmed from a desire to make it more Progressive and elect more Progressive candidates. His suggestion: "If you don't like the Party, join." Additionally, the Democratic Party provides a means to organize.
 - Decide to proceed with charter members that are registered Democrats.
 - Discussion: why form a new club? Councilmember Nick Pilch recounted how he walked all around UC Village to recruit members. He believes that the more people the club can recruit, the more democratic the club will be.
 - A club requires officers. Slate proposed and introduce selves:
 - Jennifer Radics-Johnson - president
 - Brian Beall, vice-president

- Erica Lee, Secretary
 - Nick Pilch, Member at Large.
- **Approval of By-Laws:** Motioned, Approved, Chartered, noting can be amended at any time.
- **Approval of Officers:** Motioned, Approved, Chartered, noting can be amended at any time.
- **Open Discussion**
 - Suggestions as to next steps at the national level: included a letter-writing campaign against the nomination of Betsy DeVos for Secretary of Education and an Op-Ed writing campaign. Additional topics include: a writing campaign on behalf of preserving the EPA. It was also suggested that members follow the suggestions of the Women's March 10 actions 100 days campaign.
 - Suggestions at the state level: environmental and labor policy that takes into consideration Central Valley inhabitants.
 - Suggestions at the local level, there have been repeated concerns raised about inclusivity in the community and its representatives. There was an incident in November 2016 in which racist graffiti appeared along the concrete wall on the greenway. The Club can promote the message that everyone in the community is valued. The Club could lobby cities and schools to enact sanctuary policies and evaluate the teaching of civics.
 - Concerns from the audience include the need for regular actions. Jennifer responds by saying that she will send resources to everyone. Additionally, we will create an Open Forum on the ADC Facebook Page. We will post the agenda at least three days prior to the next meeting.
 - Proposals:
 - Meet once per month.
 - New meeting time will be proposed at the following meeting to ensure it does not conflict with other local groups and the city council meeting.
 - The next meeting will have a social component.
 - We will include at least one concrete action per week on the FB page or in emails.
 - We want to hear from the Progressive Democrats.
 - Everyone is free to send in suggestions for actions and/or post on the FB page.

9 PM Meeting Adjourned