



Official Minutes

Wednesday, March 11, 2009 7:00PM to 9:00PM

Democratic Club of the Santa Clarita Valley
26523 Huntswood Lane, Santa Clarita, CA 91387
Phone: (661) 295-9318; Website: www.scvdems.org
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Meeting held at The Residence of Bill & Marianne Bailey
25608 Bellerive Drive, Santa Clarita, CA 91355
Minutes: by Todd Hoover, Recording Secretary

Present: Bill Bailey, Marianne Bailey, Steve Brooks, Sandra Cattell, Mike Cruz, Rick Drew, Todd Hoover, Kristin Ingram-Worthman, April Kraut, Jonathan Kraut, Bob Levine, Carole Lutness, DawnAnn Spittle, Diane Trautman, Minerva Williams, and Elaine Wilson.

Special Guests: Eric Bradley, Controller for the State Democratic Party
Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel, Wilderness Heritage
Belinda Crawford, Executive Director, Santa Clarita Valley Food Pantry.

1. **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER** by Michael Cruz, president at 7:09 PM.
2. **The AGENDA added Carole Lutness 2/3 Vote info and DawnAnn Spittle Obama for Change and was approved.**
3. **DPSFV REGIONAL MEETING: Bob Levine**, DPSFV Representative: Gave a brief synopsis of what happened at the last DPSFV meeting. He mentioned that they had stressed getting out mailers and had elected their committee chairs. There was an attempt to endorse the 1st female chair of DPSFV, but they could not come to a consensus, so there was no endorsement. Bob mentioned that \$500 had been given to Eric Bauman's Male Vice Chair and Eric Bradley for Controller cadem.org campaigns. John Burton, running for cadem.org chair, appreciated the DPSFV endorsement however, he turned down the \$500 offer. Levine also mentioned that no one at the DPSFV meeting wanted to volunteer to participate in the Hospitality Committee. He also provided the PAC slide show prepared by Damian Carroll.
4. **DPSFV BIENNIAL MEETING: Carole Lutness, Mike Cruz, Bob Levine** mentioned that in San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom has implemented a single payer healthcare system and that his model should be emulated throughout the state. Levine's pictures will be placed on the website.
5. **TREASURY: Jonathan Kraut (Treasurer)** indicated there is currently \$856.58 in the bank and that we got \$100 in new membership dues.
6. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED: Minerva Williams**
 - ❖ A.) **Karen Bernal** and her attempts to unionize Blue Diamond Almond Co in Northern California. Bernal running against Brad Parker for Chair of the State Democratic Progressive Caucus. The LACDP did not endorse either candidate, there wasn't a majority for either candidate.
 - ❖ B.) **John Burton**, due to illness, didn't make the LACDP meeting Tuesday night, however will be there next month.
 - ❖ C.) **Barbara Wilson** working on a mental health hookup for NAMI in the San Fernando Valley area.
 - ❖ D.) NAMI providing classes in the Santa Clarita Valley area for mental health workers. **See flyer.**

- ❖ E.) NAMI asking the club to send out information regarding the Family Support program. DawnAnn stated that this is the current focus of President Barack Obama. **See flyer.**
- ❖ F.) **Grandmothers for Peace Rally** on Saturday, March 21st on the corner of McBean Parkway and Valencia Blvd at 3:00PM on. Patty Carmody is organizing the event and will be speaking to **The Signal** regarding the organization and details. **Carole Lutness** added that **Grandmother's for Peace** had been holding regular monthly rallies during the six months leading up to the Iraq War and encourages all of us to assist and bring the family. **See attachment.**
- ❖ G.) **ANNUAL PROGRESSIVE DELEGATE SUMMIT, Venice, CA on March 15th. Minerva Williams (correspondence continued).** There will be an Annual Progressive Delegate Summit in Venice on March 15th. This notice supercedes the notice that it will be held in Burbank. **See attachment.**
- ❖ H.) **DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION on April 24, 25, and 26: Bob Levine** mentioned that Chad Jones has offered to tell us all about how the Democratic Conventions work so new delegates understand the process and caucuses. Everyone was encouraged to see <http://www.cadem.org> site for convention details.
- ❖ I.) **ERIC BAUMAN FUNDRAISER: Minerva Williams** mentioned that Agi Kessler home is the location for a fundraiser for Eric Bauman next Sunday, March 15. There is also a need to fill ad space for the JFK Awards. They haven't been getting as many submissions for ads as normal. Please contact Clark Lee or Adam Seiden if any one has any late submittals. **See attachment.**

7. **SPECIAL GUEST: Eric Bradley was introduced by Mike Cruz. Bradley** he is running for the Controller for the State Democratic Party. He said he's been active in the Democratic Party since he was 20 and that he has been on County Central Committee since '94. He wants to have the chance to continue for a couple more years. He wants to overturn the open primary, reach out to new donors and young Democrats recently brought in with the presidential election. Diana Trautman passed out Bradley's flyer and mentioned that \$75K could make a difference running for city council. **Bill Bailey** asked him what he would do to help with local elections. That it is essential to support local candidates and that in this area it would be good if the city of Santa Clarita could annex the west side (Stevenson Ranch area) since that would effectively turn the city blue. **Eric Bradley** responded would indeed do more to support local candidates. **Bob Levine, a controller,** asked Eric what kind of accounting experience he has. **Bradley** responded that he is not really an accountant, but a fundraiser, and as such doesn't really have an accounting background. Levine questioned the wisdom of having a controller who isn't a controller, accountant, tax specialist, CPA or bookkeeper. Bradley added that he has professional staff under him that does all this stuff. Kindee Durke does the bookkeeping for him. He also added that he himself doesn't actually get to choose his own staff. **Minerva Williams** asked how we could better identify donors, that the only way we now do this is by looking at the Huffington Reports, that if we better knew who the right people were we'd be better able to raise the money we need. **Eric Bradley** responded that he would try to have more precinct polling done during the primaries and also go after the younger Democrats. **No vote was taken for endorsement at this time.**

8. NEW BUSINESS

- ❖ **California Democratic Council: Minerva Williams** asked if we could have more extensive training for the financial rules and fundraising. **Eric Bradley** said he would look into providing some kind of more extensive training similar to California Democratic Council, possible an all day Saturday session in May. Providing he wins.
- ❖ **ENDORSEMENT: Minerva Williams** indicated that Darren Parker wants the endorsement of our club for his bid to remain chair of the African American Caucus. **Bob Levine** mentioned that Maggie Campbell also wants an endorsement for the same position. **Mike Cruz** mentioned that Darren was essential in getting Gary Horton to convert to become a Democrat, expressing his support for Darren Parker. Jonathan Kraut, past club president, said that every time he has ever needed any information from Parker he has always come through. Mike Cruz made a motion to endorse Darren Parker and Carole Lutness seconded the motion. We voted and passed the motion with only Bob Levine abstaining. **Darren Parker is now officially endorsed by the Democratic Club of the**

Santa Clarita Valley. Minerva Williams offered to give Maggie Campbell a call to come at next month's meeting. **Bob Levine** mentioned she had been planning on coming to the meeting tonight, but so far hadn't shown up. Levine also mentioned that he asked Campbell to be at last month's DPSFV meeting and he didn't show up there either.

9. CALIFORNIA 2/3 VOTING REQUIREMENT: Carole Lutness brought up the initiative regarding the 2/3 voting requirement needing to be overturned. This requirement allows the Republicans to block anything and that they always balk at necessary tax increases, always invoking their Grover Norquist pledge to 'shirk government so small it could be drown in a bathtub'. California is one of three states that has this cumbersome requirement (the other two states are Arkansas and Rhode Island). She explained that this 2/3 requirement is part "C" of Proposition 13, that any vote on budgetary matters requires 2/3 of the legislators to pass. The "B" part of Proposition 13 is that it effectively grants corporations a permanent freeze on property tax increases since corporations, unlike "A" part where residential taxpayers, have ways of skirting around paying their fair share of property taxes by setting up dummy entities to prevent increases whenever property is transferred (?). Carole advocates changing the 2/3 requirement to either a simple majority or at least reducing it to a 55% requirement and that it is absolutely essential that we educate the public. Carole read the "Resolution to overturn the 2/3rd voting requirement on State Budgets, April 2009. The resolution will be presented on behalf of the Democratic Neighbors of the 38th AD and presented to the LACDP next month and to the general April Convention. **Carole Lutness** moved we resolve to support this measure, Bob Levine seconds the motion and we pass the motion unanimously.

10. DawnAnn Spittle, Obama for Change-Santa Clarita describes what she wants to do to help veterans. Speaking from a draft of a press release (see attached), the project is to make improvements on two SCV American Legion Posts 507; VFW 6110 and VFW 6886 Posts. The goal is to make these facilities more aesthetically pleasing and to thank our veterans. Her intent is to complete these facilities by Veterans' Day (in May). She wants volunteers to help her with such things as repainting walls, painting murals and gardening. Kristin Ingram-Worthman and Spittle have a SC city-wide school and several LAUSD schools to provide cards to the local schools so the students could write letters of support to send to the troops overseas. Spittle is also working on a art-mural campaign to involve the local community colleges. Additional information will be emailed by Minerva to members and posted on the website. **Mike Cruz** suggested she might speak to **Alan Ferdman** about getting volunteers since the **Canyon Country Advisory Committee (CCAC) group** he chairs could potentially be a source of volunteers. CCAC is regionally close to all the veteran posts that DawnAnn Spittle wants to support and there are several veterans in Ferdman's group. DawnAnn Spittle asked if anyone has any other groups they believe she should partner with, to please email her at "DawnAnn Spittle" ObamaForChangeSCV@yahoo.com Or call her at (661) 288-1304

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Kristin Ingram-Worthman** reminded everyone that Friday is 'Pink Friday'. Everyone is requested to wear pink in support of the many California teachers who will be receiving pink slips this Friday. Mike Cruz said that the rally will be held at the corner of ????
- **Sandra Catrell, Event coordinator for the Sierra Club** invited everyone to come out to hear Ed Dunn explain the significance of water in the SC Valley and what policies are currently in place. See <http://www.scvyoungdems.org> "calendar" for time and details.

12. Mike Cruz thanked everyone for attending and encouraged us to talk to our family, friends and co-workers who live in the area that may be interested in joining us in **Service Projects**. He introduced visitor who is interested in finding a service project to share in. She is also interested in linking her website with ours. **Cruz** introduced **Belinda Crawford, Executive Director for the SCV Food Pantry**. **Cruz** thanked **Bill and MariAnn** for opening up their "casa" and being hospitable.

13. Meeting Adjourned by Mike Cruz at 8:15 pm.