

**Democratic Club of Big Bear Valley
General Meeting Minutes
Discovery Center, Fawnskin
October 5, 2017**

Attendance:

Totaled 24, including 8 guests. (*See the attached list.*)

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by **Roger La Plante**, President, at 6:40 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Before leading the Pledge of Allegiance, President **La Plante** asked for a moment of silence in honor of the recent hurricane and Las Vegas gun-violence victims.

Welcome and Introduction of Guests

President **La Plante** invited guests to stand and introduce themselves. Guests included: **Mickey** and **Marsha Oskey**, formerly of Venice, **Andrea Stewart**, a long-time Democrat, **Gary** and **Laurie Wolfe**, long-time teachers and union representatives, **Carol Ann Wright**, now retired, an activist who worked with Los Angeles Skid Row residents, **Quinton Page**, DOVES Program Manager and his wife, **Ahmicqui Bribeiscas-Page** a Big Bear native. President invited guests to join the Club, explaining its job is to let the community “know we’re here.” Having determined the presence of a quorum, President **La Plante** directed the meeting to continue.

Board Reports:

1. **Secretary’s Report**

Secretary **Jeanne Avery** asked for approval of the September 7, 2017, General Meeting Minutes. **Brian Conley** so moved, **Sandy Ybarra** seconded, and the Minutes were approved. After requesting that all present sign-in, Secretary **Avery** asked Hospitality Chair **Sandy Ybarra** to talk about the potluck supper planned for the next November General Meeting. She explained the Club will provide the main course and asked attendees to bring side dishes, salads, and desserts. President **La Plante** said candidates for area offices will be invited.

2. **Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer **Paul Palmquist** reported on changes in the Club’s account and explained that the Club had added one new member during the previous month. The Club’s bank account began the month with \$1217.46 and ended the month on September 30, 2017 with \$1178.46, resulting from \$62.00 in expenditures and \$23.00 income.

3. **President’s Report**

President **La Plante** offered a short history of the club and expressed enthusiasm for its progress over the past year and the number of guests present that evening. He explained he is now Voter Registration Chair for the San Bernardino County Central Committee of the California Democratic Party. He said the club needs two delegates to represent it at the Central Committee. He spoke about the Desert-Mountain Coalition of Democratic Party Clubs, who are working together to promote party interests. Referencing the Club Voter

Registration Chairperson, he described a new voter database, which will assist in voting turnout. He explained the party now has a County-wide program. **Tom Steyer**, a delegate to the National Democratic Party, has provided a grant, which will pay the Club \$4.50 for each new Democrat registered. President **La Plante** said he had contacted **Steyer** and hopes to secure additional Club support.

As a military veteran, President **La Plante** said he was sickened by the mass shooting on the previous Sunday and called for a “bump stock” ban and, in California, an assault weapons ban. He stated that Democratic Party values include public safety. **Annie Aldrich** interjected that the Thursday Protest Corner group would not promote this message, because it is too dangerous at their location.

4. **Vice President’s Report**

Vice President **Jeff Villepique**, describing himself as a gun owner, agreed with President **La Plante**. Vice President **Villepique** reported on the results of the online membership poll he had conducted. He explained the poll results are available online and, after reviewing them, agreed to provide Club members with a written summary. **Mickey Oskey** said the poll results should be used by the Board of Directors, who need to consider them and respond as appropriately.

Vice President **Villepique** talked about the nonpartisan advocacy group, Represent.Us. He explained that the California Disclose Act, one component of broader anti-corruption legislation supported by Represent.Us, had been passed by the California legislature and was awaiting the Governor’s signature.

Finally, he pointed out that President **La Plante** is withdrawing as the Club’s representative to the San Bernardino County Central Committee and Vice President **Villepique** agreed to replace him.

5. **Media Director Report**

Vice President **Villepique** introduced his wife, Media Director **Aleksandra Villepique**, explaining that she is a new United States citizen and now a registered Democrat. Media Director **Villepique** reported that the Club has a renewed Facebook and encouraged members to “like it.” She has updated our profile picture. She explained that the Club’s webpage is still waiting for the assistance of the state Democratic Party, but expects to have it running soon and asked members for material to include there and on the Facebook page. Her email address is

Media Director **Villepique** also expressed her concern about the current nominee to head NASA.

Reports: committees and initiatives

1. **Democratic Candidate Support and Fund-Raising and Chamber of Commerce Attendance**

Brian Conley reported on Democratic candidate support and fund-raising, introducing himself as being involved in political action all his life, including as an elected official. He explained that the Club’s first responsibility is to decide which candidates to support. He pointed out that in California, typically Democrats run against Democrats, as in last year’s

Senate contest. He said that Club will need to be ready to decide which candidates we will support, for all offices, local to state level. He reminded the group that the Club will be sending delegates to the County Central Committee, who will forward its choices to the State Democratic Party Convention. He promised to provide the Club with a list of candidates for all offices, which will be discussed at the January meeting. He wanted the Club to make an effort to elect Democrats to local government, because that is how candidates for higher office are developed. **Mickey Oskey** interjected and shared procedures that Los Angeles County has used for candidate selection. **Conley** explained that the San Bernadino County Central Committee welcomes input from our Club and that once the state party endorses a candidates, the Club must also endorse them.

Conley also told about attending a recent Big Bear Chamber of Commerce mixer event. He said the other attendees were very friendly and that he discovered several “closet” Democrats among them. He shared that the Thursday Protest Corner group is making the Club’s existence known. **Sara Tully** explained that two people can attend Chamber events for free and additional people from the Club are charged only \$5.00. **Conley** pointed out the events offer good food. The next Chamber event will be at The Cave on Tuesday, October 10. Interested members should contact Vice President **Villepique** about attending.

Conley concluded by reminding the Cub that we will have a slate endorsement for the June primary.

2. and 4. **Voter registration and Postcard writing**

Annie Aldrich and **Marylyn Shubin** have agreed to be Co-Chairs for Voter Registration. Chairperson **Shubin** began by thanking Chair **Aldrich** for organizing the Thursday Protest Corner. She and Chair **Aldrich** went on to explain that members interested in helping with voter registration could get official training on Tuesday, October 17. Interested members should contact Chair **Shubin** to attend. The two also offered to conduct voter registration training at a future Club meeting. Chair **Aldrich** shared her experience registering voters outside Von’s Market.

Chair **Shubin** introduced a new activity for General Meeting attendees. She explained that the Club purchased many postcards to use in communicating with elected officials and that she had brought additional postcards herself. She urged the Club to use part of the Refreshment Break to write a postcard or two, addressing local issues outward to national issues, such as the Disclosure Act currently on the Governor’s desk or the nomination of a climate-change-denier to head NASA. She said stamps and addresses are available and offered to email all addresses and phone numbers of elected officials to Club members for use at home. Secretary **Avery** introduced a motion that the Club reimburse Chair **Shubin** for the purchase of stamps and in the future that stamps be purchased out of Club funds. The motion was seconded by President **La Plante** and passed without dissent. Vice President **Villepique** directed that Chair **Shubin** be reimbursed in the amount of \$17.00 for her purchases to date.

3. **Indivisible**

Sara Tully talked about the activities of the local group. She explained that all Club members are encouraged to be involved. She shares the national Indivisible calls-to-action via email with everyone on the Club roster. She invited Club members to join the monthly

Indivisible Huddle at No Name Pizza, held on the second Wednesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. She said it was fine to bring sympathetic friends, but to avoid sharing the event with those who might not be supportive.

Fifteen Minute Break - Postcard Writing

President **La Plante** called for a break at 8:20 p.m.; the meeting resumed at 8:45 p.m.

Scheduled Business: Nomination and Election of Officers

Board: All officers were elected unanimously.

President - **Sandy Ybarra** nominated, **Sara Tully** seconded and Vice President **Jeff Villepique** was elected President.

Vice President - **Aleksandra Villepique** nominated, **Bob Ybarra** seconded and **Brian Conley** was elected Vice President.

Secretary - **Bob Ybarra** nominated, **Brian Conley** seconded and **Jeanne Avery** was re-elected Secretary.

Treasurer - **Jeanne Avery** nominated, **Brian Conley** seconded and **Paul Palmquist** was re-elected Treasurer.

Membership Director - **Jeff Villepique** nominated, **Brian Conley** seconded and **John Trott** was elected Membership Director (in absentia).

Media Director - **Jeanne Avery** nominated, **Shelly Golden** seconded and **Aleksandra Villepique** was elected Media Director.

Approval of Committee Chairs: all Committee Chairs were approved unanimously.

Hospitality - **Sandy Ybarra**

Voter Registration - **Annie Aldrich** and **Marylyn Shubin**

Opportunity Drawing

The Drawing was conducted by Hospitality Chair **Ybarra**.

New Business

Chair **Shubin** suggested that the Club should conduct postcard writing before the meeting, as well as at the Refreshment Break. The meeting announcement should include that information and the room should be ready for that purpose by 6:15 p.m.

Adjournment

President **La Plante** called for addition announcements or motions. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Jeanne Avery

Secretary