

**Democratic Club of Big Bear Valley
General Meeting Minutes
Discovery Center, Fawnskin
September 7, 2017**

Attendance:

Totaled 24, including 1 guest. (*See the attached list.*)

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by **Roger La Plante**, President, at 6:31 p.m.

Program:

President **La Plante** explained that the standard order at this meeting would be reversed to allow the evening's program to be presented first. Media Director **Jeff Villepique**, introduced **Steve Loe**. **Loe** is a retired biologist, who, served in our San Bernardino Forest for 30 years during his 40 year career with the United States Forest Service. He explained that throughout that time his principal goal was to take care of the forest's animals.

Loe reminded the meeting that drought in the mountains began four years ago, resulting in record low ground water levels. He explained that while a tunnel brings water from Northern California to the valley below us, it is only ground water which serves the forest. **Loe** explained that the Nestle Co. draws off this water for bottling Arrowhead Spring Water. Their permit to do this is over 28 years old. and expired one ago.

Loe presented slides showing the Strawberry Creek Canyon area and its animal inhabitants. He stated that Nestle's activities most affect the lower, middle and upper areas of this canyon. Nestle has drilled wells into Strawberry Peak that are 200-300 feet deep. Although Nestle describes their bottled water as "spring water," it is mislabeling their product. **Loe** explained there is no "spring water." The eventual hope is to shut down production. Current goals include getting the California Water Resources Board to investigate and then encourage the Forest Service to rescind the outdated permit and not reissue it. He added that Nestle should be punished for their actions and would ask for reparations. **Loe** pointed out that Nestle bottles 62, 000,000 gallons of water, paying only \$1200.00 per year, per their expired permit.

Media Director **Villepique** promised to provide contact information to direct protest. One avenue is to point out the false claim that Nestle's product is "spring water" to the Federal Food and Drug Agency. **David Foltz** called for boycotting Nestle products. **Loe** said that the Forest Service has begun an Environmental Impact Report, with the goal of making Nestle pay reparations for damage. It was pointed out that the Club should work to get Arrowhead Spring Water removed from local grocery stores. **Aleksandra Villepique** offered to provide a complete Nestle product list.

Refreshment Break:

President **La Plante** called for a break at 7:09 p.m.; the meeting resumed at 7:26 p.m.

Return Call to Order: President **La Plante** stated that the Democratic Club of Big Bear Valley is an environmentalist group and should take action on the Nestle issue.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Prior to the Pledge, which was led by President **La Plante**, he called for a moment of silence to remember the victims of recent hurricanes.

New Business - Member Reports:

President's Report:

President **La Plante** explained that he stepped into the Club presidency when President **David Foltz** resigned, leaving the Vice Presidency vacant. Therefore, he moved that Media Director **Villepique** be made Vice President. The motion was seconded by Sharon Trott and approved.

President **La Plante** invited everyone to attend the November General Meeting which will be a potluck dinner and include election of new Club officers.

Past-President **Foltz** offered to write a monthly Club newsletter. President **La Plante** moved to make the offer official. With **Annie Aldrich** seconding, the motion was approved. President **La Plante** reported that the San Bernardino Central Committee and the California Democratic Party have held elections and “pulled themselves together.” He stated that resolutions are moving forward and the party has a good chance to acquire additional elected offices. He stated that the San Bernardino’s Executive Board has had success with forwarding resolutions to the state legislature. President **La Plante** would like to see a Resolutions Committee established within this Club. The idea was forwarded to the October Club General Meeting.

President **La Plante** also encouraged the Club to conduct voter registrations for the next upcoming election.

Secretary's Report:

Past-President **Foltz** moved to approved the Secretary’s Minutes from the August 3, 2017 General Meeting. John Trott seconded the motion, which was approved.

Vice President's Report:

New Vice President **Jeff Villepique** stated he is looking forward to the next elections. He inquired what the Club membership is interested in. and what they would like to see the Club do. Possible ideas include letter-writing and speedier meetings. Vice President **Villepique** said he will conduct an online-email poll of the membership on this subject.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer **Paul Palmquist** reported that at the conclusion of August, the ending balance of the club's account was \$1,217.46. This figure includes total income of \$121.00 and expenses of \$142.64 during that month. He also shared that the Club had acquired two new members during August. He asked Vice President **Villepique** for help in contacting **Holly Mosher** (to whom the Club voted an honorarium of \$50.00). Vice President **Villepique** moved to have the Treasurer attempt to make payment via PayPal. Secretary **Avery** seconded, the motion was approved. Treasurer **Palmquist** and **Sara Tully** verified that she had been paid for the purchase of Indivisible postcards.

Other Business:

President **La Plante** asked if any members were interested in attending the Big Bear Chamber of Commerce events on the Club's behalf. He explained that the Club membership entitles two people to attend free of charge and additional attendees are welcome for a \$5.00 fee. Regular Chamber meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 5 to 7 p.m. He stated it would be beneficial to have a presence at the Chamber. The next meeting will be at the hospital.

President **La Plante** nominated **Aleksandra Villepique** to be the Club's next Media Director. Vice President **Villepique** (outgoing Media Director) seconded the motion, which was approved.

President **La Plante** invited members to a Democratic Party delegate candidate training session this coming Saturday, explaining additional information is available on the party website for the San Bernardino County Central Committee and invited interested members to contact him.

President **La Plante** addressed the fact that the Club's Board is undergoing changes and the said the Club needs to "stay together." He called for the membership to consider becoming an officer. A suggestion was made to reconsider the meeting time. Vice President **Villepique** said he would include that question in the online poll he is conducting.

John Trott suggested the Club consider conducting a scholarship contest at the high school to raise the Club's profile. **Annie Aldrich** pondered how does the membership define the Club's purpose. She asked, "What should we be doing?"

Adjourn:

President **La Plante** called for the motion to adjourn at 9:04 p.m. Moved, seconded and passed.

Notes:

The next General Meeting will be held at the Discovery Center on Thursday, October 5, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Jeanne Avery

Secretary