

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

**Attendance:** Attendance totaled 16, including 2 guests. (See attached.)

**Call to Order:**

Having determined the presence of a quorum, President **Jeff Villepique** called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. and began general proceedings with the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

**Welcome and Introduction of Guests:**

President **Villepique** invited the two guests at the meeting to introduce themselves and told members that he anticipated having permanent nametags for use at future meetings. President **Villepique** also reminded those present that it will be necessary to renew club memberships, as the fiscal year is ending.

President **Villepique** thanked **Peggy Otterstrom** for the very generous donation of a significant number of books that had been collected by her late husband and club member Jim. He explained that over the next several weeks the club will conduct the **Jim Otterstrom** Memorial Silent Book Auction and encouraged those present to take time to review the books on display and write silent bids in order to take them home that night.

**Board Reports:**

1. **Secretary's Report**

Secretary **Jeanne Avery** asked for approval of the General Meeting Minutes for November 2, 2017. **Shelley Golden** moved to approve, **Aleksandra Villepique** seconded and the Minutes were approved as submitted.

2. **Treasurer's Report**

Due to his late arrival, President **Villepique** began the report for Treasurer **Paul Palmquist**. He said the balance in the club's account at the conclusion of November was \$1,069.02. During the month the club had no income and expenses of \$90.00. He warned that these did not include rental of a Post Office box, and all costs for the Dave Jones event and the potluck dinner, all of which would show up in January's Report. Later in the meeting, Treasurer **Palmquist** added to the report.

3. **Vice President's Report**

Since Vice President **Brian Conley** was unable to attend due to illness, President **Villepique** reported on the Dave Jones for California Attorney General event, explaining that Candidate Jones had made a good impression, promising to be a more activist A.G. than his predecessor, President **Villepique** said that **Scott Markovich**, among other Democratic candidates for office from the area, was in attendance. He point out that while the venue offered a central location for the Lake Arrowhead and Big Bear Clubs, it was costly to rent.

4. **President's Report**

President **Villepique** reminded the group of the results of his previously conducted online survey, pointing out the consensus for shorter meetings and more guest speakers, and

promised to try to accomplish both. He also pointed that members are attending events in addition to the club's General Meeting, including Liberal Libations (scheduled this month on December 14th) and the monthly Indivisible Huddles.

Finally, President **Villepique** explained that the Club will need to renew its charter with the San Bernardino County Central Committee by the end of January. He encouraged members to complete a new membership form and pay (by cash or check) dues in the amount of \$20.00 for 2018. He promised to put a copy of the membership form on the Club's website so members could download it for completion. He pointed out the membership dues and donations are not tax deductible, as the club does not qualify as a charity for that purpose.

5. **Media Director Report**

Media Director **Aleksandra Villepique** explained that the Club's website is more popular than ever, and not only with local viewers. She said that multiple attempts to hack the website by Russians have been blocked. She regretted that she was unable to insert anything into the *Big Bear Grizzly* this month.

**Reports; Committees and Initiatives**

1. **Social Committee**

Co- Chairs **Aleksandra Villepique** and **Peggy Conley** reported that they are working to create more opportunities for members to meet. Besides Liberal Libations, which has been well-received, they are planning a bowling event, a crafts group get-together, a non-strenuous walk in the woods and perhaps a science fiction group. It was explained that Liberal Libations, usually scheduled for the third Wednesday, was moved this month to accommodate the Indivisible Huddle. It will be held Thursday, December 14 at 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Sonora Cantina. The walk will be on Tuesday, December 13th from the Discovery Center.

2. **Voter Data Initiative. What can we learn from voting patterns and how can we use the spatial distribution of voter registration in the big Bear Valley.**

President **Villepique** reported on research findings that Trump voters are not monolithic. Surveys conducted by the University of Virginia and others, found that 11-15% of Trump voters in 2016 were Obama voters in 2012. He said Trump voters are often misinformed. He pointed out that economic anxiety is true for some, such as coal miners who do not have a good employment future, but some of their economic discomfort is jealousy, the "HGTV effect, which causes people to believe they have fallen behind other Americans. In addition, Americans seem to have a special susceptibility to grifters and are seeking a "quick fix" to problems, I.e., "snake oil."

President **Villepique** thanked **Otto Lacayo** who had obtained a geographic spreadsheet of big Bear Valley voter data. He explained that the Club can use the data for voter canvassing and said he understands that more is available, including when people last voted. Media Director **Villepique** pointed out that we can put the data online and see where there are a lot of registered Democratic voters. President **Villepique** displayed the voter data as an overlay on area maps.

3. **California Democratic Candidate Information, 2018**

Vice President **Conley** was unable to attend. This report was deferred to the January, 2018 meeting.

#### 4. **Voter Registration Update and Training**

Voter Registration Co-Chair **Annie Aldridge** reported on that two sessions were scheduled at Vons, but they may be canceled due to the Interlaken management. President **Villepique** was asked to attempt to meet with the Property Manager and report on the situation. Co-Chair **Aldridge** said the Club has about 18 volunteers willing to register voters. She expressed hope to register at the High School, too.

Voter Registration Co-Chair **Marylyn Shubin** invited any members, who were interested in learning how to conduct voter canvassing and registration, to attend training with her in Irvine on Saturday, December 16. She explained that they would be working with a trainer who conducted canvassing in that area every Saturday. From her, Co-Chair **Shubin** said she had learned that personal contact can change votes.

**Irene Gould** is delivering a graphic for the Club's banner to President **Villepique** for use in registration and other public events.

#### **New Business.**

##### **Solicitation for new Membership Director**

President **Villepique** explained that the Club needs a Membership Director. Secretary **Avery** expanded on the need and the duties the position entailed. After discussion, **Christy Jones** and **Irene Gould** offered assistance. **Gould** is the Membership Director of Big Bear AAUW and can provide guidance to the Club.

#### **Call for Additional Reports or Motions**

President **Villepique** made the call, there being none, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

#### **Notes and Information**

After the meeting, members stayed to talk with Committee Leaders, bid on books in the Silent Auction and enjoy refreshments, which included pizza from No-Name Pizza, provided by Voter Registration Co-Chair **Shubin**.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Avery  
Secretary