

Clovis Democratic Club

January 21, 2016, Seven Restaurant, Clovis, CA

Minutes

Meeting: The meeting was called to order at 6:16 p.m., by President Jeni Kren, The Flag Salute was led by Don Haulman. Jeni noted that today was the 6th Anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision "Citizens United". She commented that it is vital to elect a Democratic President in order to prevent the Republicans from controlling and increasing a Conservative Supreme Court.

Program: Vice President Alexia Baca introduced Pam Whalen and Venancio Gaona who spoke on Clovis Governance Issues. This was prompted by a concern that Clovis "At-large Elections" could present a problem in electing a City Council that is representative of the racial, ethnic and political diversity of the community. Ms. Whalen used precinct data to show that politically three-fourths of Fresno is Democrat and one-fourth is Republican, but that the Republicans out vote the Democrats. Historically voter turn out in the predominately Republican Northern part of the City is considerably higher than in the rest of the City. While Fresno has Council Districts, rather than "At Large", the problem is voter turn out. Mr. Gaona was instrumental in Fresno Unified School District changing from elections At Large to elections by District. Using the requirements of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 one has to look at a City or School District in terms of contiguity, compactness and community of interests to determine if a change in representative elections is needed. Of key importance is making sure that whatever system is used that it meets the law in terms representation in racial, ethnic, and income disparity. It was noted that the complex process of changing from At Large to District elections is lengthy, expensive and it can cause considerable community issues and concerns. Jeni mentioned that Clovis is in Congressional Dist. 22 (Nunez), Assembly Dist. 23 (Paterson), Senate Dist. 8 (Berryhill) and Supervisor Dists. 5 (Poochigian) and 2 (Borgas).

Minutes: The Minutes for November 19, 2015 and the Holiday Meeting of December 17 2015 were accepted as presented. M/Howard Landon, S/Dave Rowell

Treasurer's Report: Dave Rowell reported that the Club has a balance of \$1724.20 as of January 21, 2016. Dave mentioned that Dues for 2016 are now due

President's Report: Jeni attended the Clovis City Council Meeting concerning the Specific Plan for Old Town Clovis. She is a member of the Plan Committee. Some of the issues continue to be traffic and parking. The Clovis Police Department has an "App" for smart phones which allows for monitoring of traffic, special alerts, etc.

Jeni recognized Pat Brown, "Hillary Clinton for President". Pat announced that there will be training sessions for the Hillary Campaign on January 30, if interested in getting involved call her at (559) 387-7135. Also call her for information about volunteering for Hillary activities in Las Vegas and Reno.

Central Committee Report: Bob Jones announced the following: The Central Committee Precinct Captain Program, initiated successfully last year, is being expanded to get out the vote, and if interested please let either Jeni or Bob know. Democrat Louie Campos, from

Minutes page 2, Jan 21, 2016, con't.

Visalia, is challenging Devin Nunez for Congressional Dist. 22, which encompasses most of Clovis. In the vacated Assembly Dist 31 race Democrat Dr. Juan Arambula MD, is going against Republican Clint Olivier, Fresno City Council Member. We need to keep this seat which was vacated when Democrat Henry T. Perea announced that he was resigning to take a position as a lobbyist in the Pharmaceutical Industry.

Old Business: Participation in Clovis Big Hat Day, no decision.

New Business:

Club Chartering: It appears that we have 20 paid members required for renewal of the Club Charter with the Central Committee.

Central Committee Elections: Election to the Fresno County Democratic Central Committee will on the June Primary Ballot. Jeni Kren, Dave Rowell, Bob and Joyce Jones have taken out papers to run for one of the 5 openings designated for Supervisor Dist. 5. Dave, Bob and Joyce are presently on the Central Committee and Jeni has served in the past.

Democrats in Action: Annual dinner and fund raiser for the Fresno County Democratic Women's Club will be on February 18 at Pardini's in Fresno. The Club approved an ad for \$75 in their Program, M/Jeff Rosendale, S/Judy Steel. It should be noted that the Thursday, Feb 18 date for the FCDWC dinner conflicts with a regularly meeting of our Club, which for the convenience of our members will still be held as scheduled.

Annual Club Picnic: Preliminary planning will start for the picnic. Alexia Baca, Dave Rowell, Joyce and Bob Jones, Judy and Wendell Noteboom volunteered to be on the committee. Jeni will chair.

Hot Topics: The vacancy in Assembly District 31 was discussed. (as noted above)

Introductions: 24 members and guests were present and introduced themselves. Individuals commented on political and social issues of interest or concern to them.

Announcements:

- Voter Registration for new citizens will be held at the Naturalization Ceremony on February 16, at 9:30 a.m., at the Saroyan Theater. We always need volunteers, contact Bob Jones for information (559) 787-2287.
- Clovis City Council and City Planning Commission meetings are held each month in the Council Chambers. Jeni encourages Club members who live in Clovis to attend.
- Fresno County Democratic Women's Club monthly luncheon, 11:00 a.m., Monday, February 22, at the Ramada Inn, Shaw and Fwy 41, Call Joyce Jones (559) 281-6263 for information.
- California Democratic Party State Convention, San Jose, February 26-28, 2016.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m. The next meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. February 18, 2016 at Seven Bar and Grill, 25 Shaw Ave, Clovis, CA.

Respectfully submitted.

Bob Jones
Secretary