

**Progressive Democrats of Benicia (PDB)  
Membership Meeting**

**October 23, 2017**

**Committee attendees:** Jack Kolk, June Mejia, Maggie Kolk, Ralph Dennis, Craig Snider, Phyllis Dubois, Lisa Reinertson, Steve Young, Roger Straw

**Meeting called to order:** 7:10 pm

Ralph Dennis called the meeting to order.

**Quorum** – met.

**Membership:** Treasurer not in attendance – no number provided.

**Treasurer's Report:** \$875 in the bank. Expenditures include \$60 for the Dona Benicia room rental and miscellaneous copying fees.

**Future Meetings:** Through the first quarter of 2018, the general membership meeting will take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at 7:00 pm.

**Meeting Minutes:** Will be sent to all members – Minutes from previous meeting and this meeting will be sent out by the chair/secretary to the membership and will be approved at the November 27 meeting.

**Complimentary Groups/Speaker Presentations:**

**Steven Hallett** – Solano county workers go on a one-day strike tomorrow. Monica Brown will not cross the picket line. Contract ended one month ago. Kari Birdseye will be appointed to Solano County Fair board. Patrice Williams will be appointed to the Solano county Violence Task Force. Solano County is not a designated safe haven. Wood Creek 66 approved prior to Monica being elected to the board. The board will decertify the EIR – applicant wants to build. Monica's office hours: Nov. 6 5-6:30 at City Hall

**Steve Young:** 2018 election. Progressives have identified Modesto congressional district 10 seat as a district that should be targeted for flipping. Republican Jeff Denham voted for the Republican health care bill having 90,000 constituents who would have lost health care. Question: How involved do we want to become in the primary? The first round of financial disclosures has been revealed – Dotty Nygard who is running in District 10– did not have significant funding. Question: Do we support Dotty or wait to see who wins the primary and then throw our backing behind them? As race gets closer, we should decide.

**Democratic National Committee** - at a recent meeting, Chairman of the DNC purged Bernie Sanders supporters and replaced them with Hilary Clinton supporters – including Donna Brazeal who was implicated in providing questions to Hilary. There is a split between the progressives and less progressive side of the party both at the state and national level of the Democratic party. DNC currently has \$4M and Republicans have \$40M.

**Industrial Safety Ordinance (ISO)** November 14 meeting (7:00 pm – Dona Benicia Room at the Library. – Proposed **Industrial Safety Ordinance** for Benicia. Benicia is the only jurisdiction in the Bay Area with a refinery that does not have an ISO.

**Phillips 66** – Summary and background of the project was provided to attendees. EIR is due for publication in the winter with decision made in the spring 2018.

**Awards Luncheon:** Saturday, October 28 noon-2:00pm – in Benicia at the Yacht Club. \$40 per ticket. Honor Democrats throughout the county. Each club has honorees as well. Tickets online at Solano County

**Mike Thompson** – Town Hall on October 28 in Vallejo.

Focus topics: Education, Environment, Health Care, Voting & Women's rights, fairness of media and the upcoming Benicia city council election. Focus groups will be a source of information such recommendations for speakers. Kari will be the environmental facilitator. Looking for facilitators for other groups. Attendees should sign up for focus groups.

The Facilitator is the contact person who coordinates efforts on their topic of interest. Tracking what elected officials are doing on this topic. Kari will reach out to each of the offices.

Endorsement process – how and when will be take up these topics?

**Website** – Beta site is up – Roger will vet content before anything is posted on the website. Jack is working on a Facebook page which will be private for members only.

Roger to do a straw poll regarding the presence (or absence) of the flag on the website and Face Book page.

**Cannabis** – reviewed the planning commission meeting chaired by Kari Birdseye last week. The council will vote on November 7.

**Speaker:** Elizabeth Patterson, Mayor of Benicia. Bullies, Bystanders and Brave hearts was the topic of her talk. She discussed the Benicia economy, air quality – monitoring, infrastructure, Valero, the ISO ordinance, water and sewer rates, sustainability, Seeno development on East 2<sup>nd</sup> street and suggested that the attendees become familiar with the general plan before the election. The Mayor also gave some advice on researching and choosing candidates for the 2018 Benicia City Council.

**Adjourn:** 8:38pm

**Next Meeting:** 11/27/17 – Dona Benicia Room, Benicia Library

**Submitted by: Maggie Kolk 10/24/17**