

**DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF SUNNYVALE  
NOTES FROM THE GENERAL MEETING**

**DATE: May 16, 2009**

**TIME: 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

**Welcome**

Margaret Okuzumi welcomed everyone at 2:15 p.m. and introduced Nancy Smith. Nancy recognized the elected officials in attendance and asked the attendees questions about how long they'd been Democrats and how long they'd lived in California. There were 29 people in attendance.

**Introduction**

Nancy described the new club. It is a geographic club called the Democratic Club of Sunnyvale. It is affiliated with the Santa Clara County Democratic Party and the California Democratic Party. Its purpose is to be an active and welcoming club that promotes progressive Democratic values and positions.

The general meetings will occur 10 times per year on the third Saturday, if possible. Usually, July and November will not have meetings, but since we are getting started, we are planning a meeting in July this year. The Executive Committee plans to meet 6 times per year. In addition to the four officer positions, there is a membership coordinator, new media director and a speaker coordinator/PR director.

Nancy introduced the officers: Nancy Smith, president; Brandon Sulser, vice-president; Kathryn Grosz, secretary; Vimala Balan, treasurer. Other members of the organizing committee include Rich Wingerter, new media director; Melodi Masaniai, membership; Margaret Okuzumi, speakers and PR; and Narendra Pathak.

Nancy and Margaret thanked the people who helped walk precincts, including Sara Rawland, Ron Robinson, Leslie Bulbuk, Deepika Gajaria, and Judi Nickey. Together with the organizing committee, the volunteers covered 24 of the 116 precincts in Sunnyvale – that about 20% of the 25, 653 Democrats in Sunnyvale.

Nancy explained that while victory in November is to be savored and celebrated, undoing the policies of the last eight years will take organization and commitment. We wanted to form a Democratic club in Sunnyvale to work together for health care, education, and campaign finance reforms, clean energy, and state budget process reforms. We want to let people know about our values and why they matter.

**Mixer Exercise**

Margaret introduced the mixer exercise. The group partnered off and each person took two minutes to talk about an issue and why that issue was important to them.

**Member Announcements**

Jeanne Lamar made a brief presentation about a ballot initiative reform campaign finance laws in California that will appear on the ballot on June 8, 2010. She distributed flyers. For more information, see the California Clean Money Campaign website (<http://www.caclean.org/>)

### **Closing and Call to Action**

Sunnyvale City Council Member, Hon. Chris Moylan, spoke to the group about the importance of precinct walking and how it made a big difference in a recent Sunnyvale election.

Nancy explained that in order to be officially chartered as a club, we need at least 20 charter members. She encouraged people to leave their completed membership forms with Melodi.

Nancy also reviewed the membership levels by explaining that the executive committee is committed to providing dedicated meeting space in Sunnyvale for meetings and that, for now, we have to pay \$60 per hour for two hours for each general meeting. A dedicated meeting space, rather than a restaurant or park picnic area, lets the members focus on the issues at hand. In order to fulfill this commitment, the sustaining membership level is \$65 per person or \$100 per couple. Over time, as we find more opportunities for donated space, we could drop the fees. Also, it's important for us to include people, regardless of their economic situation, so we can also lower or waive dues.

In conclusion, Margaret announced that she was prepared to hand out postcards and precinct list to precinct walkers.

The meeting adjourned at 3:27 p.m.

**Next Executive Committee meeting:** June 6<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m.

### **Next General meetings:**

June 27, 2009, Sally Lieber, What about the state budget?

Las Palmas Park Community Building, 850 Russet Dr, Sunnyvale, CA

July 18, 2009 Barbara Fukumoto, What can Sunnyvale do to halt climate change?

Location TBA

August 15, 2009