

# Progressive Democrats of Benicia (PDB) Membership Meeting

September 20, 2017

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

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

Ralph Dennis called the meeting to order.

**Membership:** 22 dues paying members

**Treasurer's Report:** \$440 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.

Ralph explained that the PDB are a club chartered by the Solano County Democratic Central Committee and that members must be registered Democrats.

**Website:** Ralph introduced Jack Kolk as the member handling IT for the club and asked for volunteer(s) to assist.

Meeting Minutes: Will be sent to all members

## **Complimentary Groups/Speaker Presentations:**

CPR - Valerie Guardia, Carquinez Patriotic Resistance (CPR) shared information about this group which meets twice a month. She explained that along with Benicia Indivisible for Justice, CPR co-sponsored Mike Thompson's Town Hall last spring. The four priorities of CPR are immigration, Voter Rights, Environment and Health Care. Valerie's contact information for those interested in participating in CPR:

**Monica Brown** – District 2 Solano County Supervisor – announced that she and Bill Dodd will have hours on Tuesday 9/26 at City Hall from 5-7pm

10/2/17 – The Solano County Transit Association will hold a meeting to discuss Highway 37 becoming a toll road. Vallejo Naval Museum at 6:00pm

10/3/17 – Monica and Tim Grayson will hold office hours in Benicia (location TBD) from 5-7pm

Other topics discussed by Monica Brown: raising bridge tolls in the Bay Area to \$8; Safe Haven; the lack of a flood policy in Solano County.

**Champion of Conservation:** Ralph nominated Constance Beutel for Champion of Conservation in Solano County. Constance is a past chair of the Benicia Sustainability Commission and has been active in the Benicia/Solano County environmental/sustainability space. The award will be presented at an Awards Luncheon on 10/28/17. Tickets are \$40/seat. Steve Young suggested buying a table for 8 if there is interest.

**Further discussions:** SB 659 – Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation – contact Gov. Brown to support his veto of this bill. ACA – going to a vote by 9/30; AM radio stations bashing liberals (Fairness in media doctrine); upcoming (2018) city council elections to fill two vacancies left by Mark Hughes and Alan Schwartzman; Christina Strawbridge introduced herself and remind the room that she has declared as a candidate. Group suggested local candidates be invited to discuss issues.

**Speaker:** Mariko Yamada, former Democratic Assembler representing the District 4. Mariko discusses her run against Bill Dodd and her defeat; the committees on which she served while in the Assembly (Committee on Aging, Long term care and Children). She also provided the following current committee assignments:

Dodd: Chair of Senate Banking & Finance; Member: Agriculture, Business & Professions, Veteran's Affairs, Governmental Organizations; Senate Wine and Weed.

Weiner: Chair of Human Services; Member: Appropriations, Energy, Utilities and Communication, Public Safety, Transportation and Housing.

Grayson: Currently no chair position, Member: Local Governments, Banking & Finance, Business & Professions, Jobs, Economic Development & Economy.

Adjourn: 8:44pm

Next Meeting: Membership meeting 10/23/17

Submitted by: Maggie Kolk