

South Lake Tahoe Democrats Club
Meeting Minutes--FINAL
January 24, 2019, General Meeting, Lake Tahoe Pizza @ 6 p.m.

Officers in attendance: Sue Chandler, Nancy Gibson, Allyson Tabor, Tom Makris.
Absent: Liz Zapalac.

1. Welcome, Call to Order, Introductions, sign-in and determination of a quorum. Introduction to new officers:

- Susan Chandler, Chair; Nancy Gibson, Secretary; Allyson Tabor, Webmaster; Liz Zapalac, Treasurer (who is due back April 6 and working for the Club virtually); and Tom Makris, Member-at-Large. Quorum achieved.

2. Approval of today's agenda and of minutes from previous meeting.

MOTION: Sue made a MOTION TO APPROVE NOTES OF NOVEMBER 15, 2018.

2nd: Aletha Nelligan.

MOTION CARRIES.

3. Chairperson's report.

Review of Mail Chimp info:

- Membership request to expand our Club and pay dues by the end of January.
- EDCDCC update:

Michael Patterson resignation, Mary Lekan appointment.

Kennedy Roosevelt Dinner – Accepting auction donations for May 5 event.

May 18 meet at SLT public library on policy topic, “Smart Forest Management and Fuels Reduction;” followed by picnic at Sue’s house. All are welcome!

ADEMS (Assembly District Representatives) – Voting for County/District representatives occurs this Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., in Jackson, CA. Challenges in travel for the purpose of voting. Carla Neal already appointed Sue Chandler as her ADEM representative. Others must be voted in. 20 people are interested; 14 can be voted in. 2 slates: Vision 20/20 and Labor; both represented in the map so far (see powerpoint handout). A number of counties not yet showing a representative. Sue, Allyson, and Nancy plan to attend. Other counties are bussing in voters. Our Club is supporting ADEM 5 Progressives as it aligns well with environmental concerns. Labor represents formal labor movements.

Allyson gave a brief description of our LakeTahoeDems website and emphasized the “Join Us and Donate” button and what to watch for in the PayPal environment. This site will also house the Clubs public information such as meeting notes (both General Meetings and Executive Committee Meetings), Bylaws, Events Calendars and other items of interest.

State Senate Race District 1 - Silke (Zil-kae) Pflueger provided a quick introduction: Ms. Pflueger is running for State Senator in the position vacated by Ted Gaines who recently resigned. Lives in Truckee. She’s an immigrant, proud Californian, Engineer, daughter of emigrant, daughter, and breast cancer survivor. She is very interested in fuel reduction and wildfire.

Recognize the challenges of getting support in this District and hopes to pave the way for this and future campaigns to gain momentum for Democratic competitors. Volunteer opportunities to help Silke include phone banking, text banking, and postcard drives; primarily, because the District is so large (11 counties) and we need to get the word out on this viable challenger.

4. Treasurer's report. Display of bank statement for month ending 12/31/18, and balance, to date (Jan 23) of \$1,313. Liz is development monthly financial statements that will provide a more thorough snapshot that will include a summary for membership viewing.

5. Secretary Report. Tax Status Update. Awaiting validation, from IRS, to Club letter of Nov 30, 2018, that affirms we, as a Community Volunteer organization, have no tax liability until we reach a cash balance of \$25,000 or acquire investment income; both highly unlikely. No reissuance of EIN is warranted. Franchise Tax Board Exempt Determination letter of 9/15/16 still stands (social welfare, unincorporated association).

- Membership update for 2019: Prior to tonight, we have 48 members in good standing, 111 not yet paid.

6. Old business. Carry-over vote needed to establish emergency fund from Club coffers.

MOTION: Nancy made a motion to EARMARK A DONATION FUND THAT, WITH MEMBER-APPROVED SUPPORT FOR THE INTENT AND AMOUNT OF FUNDS, ARE DISBURSED AS NEEDED THROUGH THE CLUB'S BANK ACCOUNT. THIS DONATION WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A FORMAL CLUB LETTER (ON LETTERHEAD) THAT GIVES VISIBILITY TO OUR COMMUNITY-BASED ACTIONS.

2nd: Sue Novasel.

MOTION CARRIES.

The Executive Committee, at their next meeting, will define the set-aside amount that will be protected from any non-emergency use and used only as described in the above motion.

We verified that \$350 was donated to the victims of the Camp Fire through \$150 in direct member contributions, from the Nov 15 meeting, and \$200 in Club funds. (Check #526 of Nov 20, 2018).

7. New business. Bylaw revisions (posted in latest MailChimp with hardcopies provided on each table). Corrections document: --Correction of tax language, -- Addition of Member-at-Large that was approved at previous Club meeting, -- Streamlining Standing Committees; reducing them from eight to four; --Adding expanded language to role of Executive Committee and its Officers; --Better describing roles of Standing Committees.

--Send any comments to laketahoedems@gmail.com. Watch MailChimp for distribution of the final draft. We will move for a vote to approve the corrected Bylaws at the February 21 General Meeting.

--Committees. Sign-ups are on clipboards at the front of the room. Seeking committee assistance on: Finance, Program, Social, and Community Service & Outreach.

--Social Update (Diane Verwoest): Happy Hour Social will be scheduled every other month beginning with Feb 27 at Pick 6 at beginning at 6 p.m. Though usually held a bit earlier in the month, Valentine's Day pushed this scheduling to later in February.

--Club Annual Picnic in Meyers: Preferred date will be on Saturday sometime in August. Stay tuned for proposed dates, costs, etc.

--Community Service (Diane Verwoest): Have signed up for Earth Day, Saturday, April 27. Need funding approval for the \$75 application fee.

--Bread and Broth (Aletha Nelligan): Worked with Carol Gerard for the Club's help on Monday, April 29. A \$300 donation is required and must be submitted 3 weeks prior. We already have \$250 pledge so can either pass the hat for the remainder of provide through Club funds. Five volunteers needed from 3-6 p.m. including preparing, serving, and clean-up at St. Theresa Catholic Church, Grace Hall, 1041 Lyons Ave., South Lake Tahoe. Seeking volunteers including backups (sign-up roster being passed around).

8. Program: California League of Conservation Voters (CLCV). Andy Okum introduced he and his daughter, Emily. Both were up helping canvass for Jessica Morse in South Lake Tahoe. Need to make our case, make it nicely, and show enthusiasm and progress in our efforts.

National – League of Conservation Voter

30 State Leagues, including one in Nevada.

7 local Leagues in California...most inland being east Bay.

All these work in a similar way. We get involved:

Electoral—endorse people running for office; State Assembly, State Senate, etc. (see powerpoint handout). The League is considered a very desirable endorsement.

Climate Change is of particular interest. Gets involved in administrative selections and other endorsements. Serves as a convener working to influence politics that align with what the League believes. This, and other efforts, are part of a scorecard system the League uses to make visible these influences and endorsements. This organization is a 501(c)(4) that endorses on a nonpartisan platform. So far, there have been fewer GOP endorsements; again, as it relates to issues embraced by the League.

9. Items/Announcements from the floor as time permits. How can we help CLCV? The League wants to get to know people in local governing positions. Introduced Sue Novasel (El Dorado County Board of Supervisors) and Nick Exline (Board Member to South Lake Tahoe Public Utility District).

Further information is on the web: Donate or Take Action. Call representatives and let them know what's on your mind. It doesn't take thousands of calls. Even dozens of calls work. Especially, if the majority of calls are not supporting his/her positions.

Nick Exline: Briefed on his work with Climate Coalition and in his newly-elected position with South Tahoe Public Utilities District. 100% renewable energy by 2032 and lots of other very positive things going on in the South Lake Tahoe area and, more broadly, in CA & NV communities. Nick thanked us for helping with his election.

John Friedrich: Liberty Utilities striving for 100% renewable (net zero initiatives). Working with community members and schools for solar and other renewable energy use.

Sue Novasel (new Chair): A 1- to 2-acre solar farm is proposed for El Dorado County offices in the Placerville area. Support, from County residents, can come in the form of letters to the County Board. Sue is establishing a Commission on Human Rights with Bill Martinez, from Family Resource Center, heading it. Community Hub established at Library to help assist community members and invigorate County libraries.

KCRA television (owned by Hearst out of Sacramento) pointing fingers with CharterSpectrum, and vice versa, regarding coverage out of Sacramento instead of Reno (which CharterSpectrum and the FCC determined was the Designated Market Area). No resolutions yet.

Question to Andy & Sue Novasel & Sue Chandler: Will census results for 2020 have an effect on 2020 elections?

Answer: The census will come out too late to effect 2020 elections.

That said, our District (CD4) increased by 50,000 voters during the mid-year. That puts our District to about 475,000 voters though this, too, may be too late to effect 2020 but will help establish a more Democratic voter block in the future. We believe we had a 76% voter turnout in South Lake Tahoe. We're still awaiting stats on what percentage voted for Jessica Morse.

John Friedrich has started a petition to restart the Government. For every day the Forest Service is closed, the Agency is losing their options to plan for the upcoming fire season.

Tom Makris announced a Warm Room Open House on Feb 7 beginning at 3 p.m. with 5:15 p.m. gathering, at Ernie's, to honor area first responders.

10. Adjournment at 7:39 p.m.



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