

South Lake Tahoe Democratic Club
March 15, 2018--FINAL
Lake Tahoe Pizza Company – 6 p.m.

1. Introductions, sign-in and ascertainment of a quorum.

Quorum achieved; meeting called to order at 6:13 p.m.

2. Approval of minutes from February.

Motion to approve: Don Kortez; second: John Friedrich; discussion: Meeting date was incorrect and will be changed to February 15, 2018. Motion stands, and seconded, with corrected date. Motion approved.

3. Chairperson's report – Sue Chandler

Convention: Eye-opening experience. Forum was created to assess endorsement options. The State CADems endorsed Jessica Morse for CA-04 which means, as a Club associated with the El Dorado County Democratic Central Committee (EDCDCC), our Club officially supports that nomination. (See enclosed handouts of the rules and intent of endorsement within the Democratic Party.) As individuals, of course, we can vote as we choose.

Sue's Highlight: She met Senator Dianne Feinstein who wanted contact information and asked if we would be involved in this summer's August Summit. She would also like to see us represent the Democratic Party in a way that expresses our inclusive values and tenets. Tables are provided for this during activities that precede presentations at the Summit.

Status of elections and election update: See handout.

Voter registration update and organization: Committee to meet March 19, 6 p.m., at Lake Tahoe Pizza. This was designed separately as a way in include other area clubs; some of whom may not want to associate with a particular party. Between now and May 6 (when the first round of mail-in ballots is likely to happen), we want to have teams involved with this GOTV (get out the vote) effort. Beginning May 6-8, we'll also knock on doors based on focused contacts generated by the voter database. This is needed to encourage voters to the polls, especially those who skipped the last election. This GOTV group can now take June-July off before kicking up, again, to insure the momentum continues to encourage voters to the polls throughout August, September, and up through voting day in November. Larry Pedigo shared that the State is developing a Motor Voter program to insure everyone who applies for a motor vehicle license or ID card can also choose to be registered.

Endorsement of local candidates: On the National level, neither Senate candidate (Feinstein and DeLeon) received enough votes (60%) to earn a full endorsement. Local candidates do not have their filing period until August. We need to develop a local committee to help assess.

Board of Supervisors' candidate forum: Norma Santiago, Jeff Spencer, Kenny Curtzwiler, and Sue Novasel are running. 50+1 brings the candidate onto the ballot. We're in contact with Tahoe Young Professionals to collaborate on hosting a community forum for these candidates in April. Stay tuned. [Editor's note: Given that Norma is currently Vice-Chair, the Exec Comm, on March 12, accepted Norma's motion to recuse herself of all involvement with preparing for this forum as well as EDCDCC's requested assessment of candidates that will move ahead to EDCDCC for support consideration.]

Community Liaison Officer: We have a nominee, Frank Riley. Motion to approve Frank Riley as Community Liaison Officer: Allyson Tabor; second: Norma Santiago. Motion approved. Frank would like a written list of the types of groups he can reach out to so he can develop a calendar for scheduling and to show progress. Sue will follow up.

Upcoming events: March 24, March for Gun Control in Sacramento or Reno. Keep an eye on this date and participate, as possible. Mary Lekan is carpooling to Sacramento and a list is available for sign-ups. Truckee is also having a march.

Middle School student, Rosie, participated and shared her thoughts. March 14, at 10 a.m., student's marched to "Stand up Against Gun Violence" with many signs and banners on display. "One child's life matters more than all the guns in the world;" "You didn't take action so now we will!" meaning politicians and adults. It was really cool! The reason was for a memorial for those who died the month before. The school supported this and there were policemen there to keep it safe. Not everyone marched but that's okay. Rosie was very articulate and made a great spokesperson for this important engagement.

Jodi Dayberry mentioned April 20th is anniversary of the Columbine shooting so we'll see another effort. Jodi will provide suggested actions from NEA and CTA. Current proposal to arm teachers is adamantly opposed to by these entities. Evaluation of current safety policies/practices are underway as we continue to evolve. Local government initiatives are also an avenue for change when voices are raised.

April 28 - Earth Day: Two tables are reserved for Tahoe Truckee and SLTDC, respectively. We need to encourage a focused voice on environmental issues. We can also set up a separate, adjacent voter registration table but cannot voice a political message. Tahoe Climate Change Action Network is co-sponsoring a march that begins at 10 a.m. at Lake View Commons and travels to Bijou Park for the program kick-off at 10:30 a.m. Nick Exline provided a flyer.

Kennedy Roosevelt Dinner: Four of nine available tickets are spoken for. If anyone else would like to attend, to take the remaining five, please let Sue know. Carpooling will depart from Lira's at 1 p.m. Please park vehicles west of the large parking lot light posts.

Tonight's Presentation: Norma introduced our program speaker, reminding us of important County Offices that are in play this election. Joe Harn is the current

Auditor/Controller who has been in place 20+ years. Mike Owen is running for that position.

Mr. Owen is a Certified Public Accountant and owner of Crystal Basin Winery.

Mike Owen: Loves South Lake Tahoe. Skis. This area is meant to be enjoyed, even non-mechanically. Yes, he ran for this same position in the last election and got 47% of vote. Participated in sports growing up. Moved from El Dorado County to Silicon Valley. Audited Apple, Cisco, other big players. Designed and implemented a revenue audit system for Cisco to align with Sarbanes-Oxley.

Been making wine for over 30 years. It's nice to see the efforts of the time invested. Enjoyable and better than auditing!

What can I do differently from the incumbent? Pay vendors on time. We lost good vendors because we didn't pay them and those who bid, we're paying more than we should have to. New financial system: Phoenix. We've spent \$7.2 million over the years and only implemented 60% of system and it's not working. I won't say anything that I can't back up. Build a team and help them be successful.

Common goals: Equality in progress. Always the way I've worked. We need to move things forward. Did the Cloud exist 6 years ago? We need to design things for the future. It has to be a collaborative team effort. This dove-tails into financial leadership.

I want to provide financial analysis to anyone who asks. That's a good aspect of what we do to help others do better.

The County spends a great deal of time on land use issues. They have a tendency to ask lots of questions but we don't see anything come back. Black box. EMS (emergency medical services) is critical especially with the median age of residents at mid 70's. We're not filing reports as required.

Mental health services—we were the last County to turn in this report per findings by the Grand Jury. This is just a “do your job” situation.

I'm not a career politician and don't see this as a long-term career path. I'm local and a practicing CPA. However, I can make a difference and, again, when I see Grand Jury findings that have not been dealt with, I will deal with them. There are many areas that need attention. I can multitask and work to resolve many, if not all, of them. I want fairness and support for those less fortunate.

This is a June race since, with California elections, two candidates (beginning with whoever earns 50.1%) move ahead. There are only two candidates running which means the June 5 election is set.

This is a nonpartisan race. Mike has been Republican, in the past, and is running No Party Preference. We can support (though not endorse) when this is a nonpartisan position.

Sue Novasel: The Charter Counties have more elected officials than usual (a throw-back from the mining years). Some of these political constraints hamper the way in which others, like the County Board of Supervisors, move ahead on ideas and decisions. Instead, some electeds stay in place for too long and grow too powerful within their own departments.

First efforts: Get hands around Phoenix project. Solve it. Work with fire districts which are financial outliers in managing their funds. Cemetery District (and other special districts) that have had pay and management issues. Vendor issues...faster payments and discounts for early payments. Even if I'm only half right about the depth of the problem, there could be savings of up to \$17 million.

4. Treasurer's report – Jodi Dayberry

Update on finances: Balance of \$473.99. 108 paid; ~20 unpaid. Membership dues is what keeps us going. Biggest expense this year was \$600 filing fee for tax-exempt status with IRS. State filing fee was \$25.

As a growing Club, we need to simplify our reporting efforts and get away from all the manual work. Jodi proposed we invest in QuickBooks Online, at a subscription cost of \$4-10/month, to initiate this. Motion: Allyson Tabor, Second: R.S. Lynn. Discussion: Elfiede suggested we purchase the regular QuickBooks package outright. It's more expensive, initially (~\$150) but can last 5-8 years. Some of the reason behind considering the online package is that those responsible, who are workers and travelers, may not always have access at home. The motion was revised to assess Quickbooks Online, on a 3-month trial basis, while also having the Budget & Finance Committee evaluate options and make a recommendation. Second, with above revision: R.S. Lynn. Motion approved.

Change of name on bank account: Addition of secretary, as a signatory, per Bylaws.

Fundraising possibilities: T-Shirt sales using our logo (\$20-25); and bumper stickers (\$1). Cover charge to June picnic (\$5). Being a Social Welfare Club under 501(c)(4), we want to work to help with other clubs that align with our democratic ideals. We can participate in raising funds for winter boots for school kids, Bread & Broth, any other ideas? We want to grow and have a presence in helping our community. Please send your thoughts to laketahoedems@gmail.com.

Update on Tax status: Awaiting word. Will keep the EC and B&F Committee apprised.

5. Membership update – Nancy Gibson

From February meeting to now, we have five new members and two renewals.

6. Webmaster report – Allyson

Transitioning with Sue after returning from lengthy time away: insuring MailChimp is up-to-date and coordinating newsletter that Sue has been sending out weekly. We also need to keep our webpage current. These three key parts of our communications is too much for one person. I'm looking for at least one other volunteer that I can train. Having more people on this committee means each person only has a little bit to do. I'm happy to train anyone who steps up.

7. Committee reports and reports from collaborating groups

Committees should be prepared to, in 5 minutes or less, report on what they have done in the past month - Please provide a brief overview of your presentation in writing to the club secretary with your name and committee name
Reports from Standing Committees: (please identify yourself and give the name of the contact person for your group)

Budget and Finance Committee – Nancy Gibson: The committee is meeting March 19 following the Voter Registration meeting at Lake Tahoe Pizza. Expect to begin at 7 p.m. Recruiting for one more committee position. Current members are Jodi Dayberry (by virtue of her Treasurer role), Elfriede Henniger-Smith, and Brenda Knox. Nancy Gibson is assisting in establishing the committee but shouldn't be a standing member as she is also on the Executive Committee. Creating a B&F committee provides oversight of the budget decisions of the Board and aligns with "separation of duties." The intent is also to align with Sarbanes-Oxley regulations and stay legal with State and Federal filings.

The CADems (Dan Weizman, Controller), is hosting training at DCC headquarters to insure consistency in financial filings and reports preparation. They're hoping to set this for some time in April. It is intended for Club Treasurers, Chairs, and other interested parties. A member of our B&F committee should also attend.

[Editor's note: Thanks go to member Jackie Lou for her work in transferring our Club membership records from Excel to Access Database. This is a much easier way to manage data as the Club continues to grow.]

Program committee-Mary Lekan & Diane Verwoest: Need help with staffing Earth Day booth. Send ideas to laketahoedems@gmail.com. Keep a close eye on emails regarding BOS candidate forum.

Social Committee: No report.

Communications/IT Committee: No report.

Membership / Voter Registration: No report.

Community Service and Outreach: No report.

Candidate Identification and Endorsement: No report.

Public Relations/Legislative affairs: No report.

Reports from collaboration groups:

(Indivisible, Alpine County, Tahoe City - Truckee Democrats, El Dorado County Central Committee, Douglas County, Solidarity Network, Sierra Club, Sierra Nevada Alliance, SLT City update, BOS update, Tahoe Family Resource Center, etc.)

Climate Change Action Network – Nick Exline: Reiterated April March event and provided flyers.

7. Old business: None.

8. New business: Noted above.

Sue Novasel: County Board approved Commission on Civil Rights. This will initiate frank discussion on tolerance and we're looking forward to participation from all segments of our communities.

9. Program: Mike Owens, Candidate for El Dorado County Auditor/Controller (noted above).

10. Time was available for standing committees to meet.

11. Adjourned @ 7:40 p.m. Committees are encouraged to meet in the remaining time.