

South Lake Tahoe Democratic Club
General Meeting--FINAL
August 23, 2018 @ Lake Tahoe Pizza Company - 6pm

Board attendees: Susan Chandler, Chair; Jodi Dayberry, Treasurer; Allyson Tabor, Webmaster.
Absent: Norma Santiago, Vice-Chair; Nancy Gibson, Secretary; Frank Riley, Community Liaison.
Notetaker: Sierra Chandler.

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

Meeting called to order 6:11 p.m. Quorum met.

2. Reading and approval of minutes from 5/16/18, meeting. Allyson Moves. Albert Seconds. No discussion. Minutes approved unanimously.

3. Chairperson's report – Susan:

This election, 2018, is one of the most important this Country has ever faced and we must be prepared to endorse, get out the vote, and flip Congress (while taking care of ourselves).

4. Treasurer's report – Jodi:

Account is in great standing. \$1,200 in account today. Partial reimbursement has been made for initial T-Shirt purchase. Balance will be repaid within the month.

Moving forward – Should club be a service-oriented group or a solely political group? We want to talk about how we can be helping our community, aside from the political actions of knocking on doors/getting out the vote. Perhaps we can do Thanksgiving work/supporting schools. Therefore, to continue we must continue to raise funds and are seeking suggestions for how to keep generating funds. Funds, of course, support the Club, but this next year the funds will add to our service plans and goals.

5. Membership update – Allyson

132 paid members as of this meeting's commencement.

Majority of unpaid have moved, many have re-upped.

You DO NOT need to vote in El Dorado (or at all) to be a member. Children and those who have just moved may be members. However, they may not vote on Club decisions. Only El Dorado voters may vote on Club decisions.

Susan – Encourage more Jessica Morse people into being SLTDC members.

5 people signed up to be new members at the meeting bringing our total to 137.

6. Program:

A. Jacqueline Burns - Field rep for Jessica Morse in this region. Spends 2 days in SLT per week. Great resource for the group. Worked for the State Department, taking leave to do this work for Jessica's campaign. 5-minute speech.

- Passed around sign-in sheet for the campaign for those who want to host events, get more involved, etc.

- Candidate is energetic, can raise money, is a local, etc. This is an amazing opportunity to get involved and make a difference.

- Canvassing on Tuesdays in SLT. After Labor Day, canvassing efforts in SLT will increase.

Information with how to get involved with canvassing campaign will be spread through SLTDC mail list.

Jessica made the DCCC “Red to Blue” List, meaning more exposure, efforts, and attacks by opponents.

- One debate with McClintock is scheduled in Mariposa for Sept 23rd. Lottery will be available to get seats at the debates. Another debate location will be at King’s Beach in Tahoe. The date has not yet been set. Information will be spread as it is finalized. Jessica’s campaign is working on scheduling more.

Questions:

--Sierra Forward – How are they helping Jessica’s Campaign?

Susan: SF is spread over the entire area and wants to have a postcard campaign (to be discussed more in depth later) while Jessica is more interested in door-to-door campaigning. Jessica says that as long as we knock on doors we do it for the purpose of her campaign. We will be handing out information while canvassing with information on candidates overall and voting Q&As. Individuals are being asked to supply the stamps for the postcards.

--SF’s goal is to unseat McClintock. We have postcards, what else?

SF is pushing out to members for main events. They are focusing on spreading information and Jessica’s campaign is open to more coordination with SF. SF does not have a membership list, but they have a mailing list and a list of contributors. They are financing large road signs on Hwy 50 and I-80. They exist solely to get rid of McClintock. Postcard campaigns and billboards are being sponsored by SF.

--Coordination between all major groups is unlikely. Our best bet is to focus on the Jessica campaign while supporting local candidates as well. Jessica’s campaign has been far more involved and reached out more with the SLTDC.

--Are we going to see anything on TV from SF?

We no longer have access to California news from Spectrum.

--For those who have not heard, what can you tell us about Jessica?

5th Generation Nor-Cal. Spent her 20s-30s as a public servant. Has Masters in Public Policy at Princeton. Tons of experience with policy making. Platform is progressive democratic, fiscally conservative, focusing strongly on jobs and economy as well as environmental protections and forest-fire preventions. Her personality is based in nature, backpacking, and the outdoors. Also big on comprehensive immigration reform, common sense gun control.

--How much social media activity is Jessica doing?

Jessica is on the major Social Media pages. Soon FB pages will be made specific to each region to be used as a communal space for events and canvassing to create a community feel.

--How is canvassing organized?

Canvassing should be in your own areas. Our approach is focused on specific kinds of voters, especially those low-information Democrats who are less likely to vote, No Party Preferences, and Republicans who we believe can be persuaded (women under 40, Republicans in mixed households, those who have not voted in primaries, etc.). Regular Democratic voters will likely not be visited.

--If we canvas, will we be trained?

Absolutely! Jacqueline will put you through a training before you start canvassing on Tuesdays. We don’t have to go to Truckee, she’ll come to us! Meeting at Raley’s in the Peet’s Coffee Shop on Tuesdays at 4pm.

--Phone banking?

On Jacqueline’s list. Would like to set-up weekly phone banking. We need volunteers for locations. Jacqueline will train. Once you are trained to phone bank you can do so from home on your own time. Jacqueline is available for questions via email and phone.

(ended at 6:36 p.m.)

B. Sue Novasel – Canvassing; speaking to the opposition.

Progressive incumbent Democrat running for El Dorado County Board of Supervisor District 5.

Last year made an LGBT proclamation and a fellow Dem on the Board voted against. Was on school board for 12 years. I always say, "Don't complain. Get involved."

Currently serves on First Five bringing services to the library. All her projects are near and dear. Domestic Workers just endorsed her and want to do a homelessness blanket campaign with her. Some people are concerned about her ties to the Meyers' area plan. She worked on it 24 years ago for 4 years and is very proud of that work. Next week, will vote on the Meyers Advisory Committee and, afterwards, she can be involved. It is a big positive. She is not vested in any property rights.

Canvassing – Sign up! She would love your help to canvass. Talk to your neighbors! The stakes are high.

--Policy on Vacation Rentals?

New policy coming about no caps. Focusing on enforcement. County does not have enforcement for VHRs. People who own the houses should pay for violations (i.e., noise violations). Monetary fine goes to the person with responsibility for the violation. VHR homeowners must do fire inspections. Moving over to code enforcement and using code enforcement agents who will be out on nights and weekends.

--Bear Boxes?

Was president of SLT Wildlife Care. "A fed bear is a dead bear." All VHRs and new-builds must have bear-proof homes. There will be a no-interest loan program to acquire bear-proof cans that can be paid off without interest for those with economic troubles. Bear-proof is required because some bears are figuring out the less-intense methods.

--Fire Inspections with VHRs.

All VHRs must get a specific certification from the fire inspector. Additionally, these inspections will prevent fraud where closets cannot be reclassified as bedrooms creating building code violations that put people in danger.

--How does the ordinance consider 911-radios?

When you call to make a noise complaint, the code enforcers have 30 minutes to respond and quiet the situation down. After 30 minutes, call the sheriff. Police are more interested in code enforcement and will alert the Council when unregistered VHRs are brought under noise complaints and violations.

--Process for complaints is complicated!

The process to make complaints against VHRs or unregistered VHRs is currently cumbersome and there are plans to adjust the system to make it easier. Give us time to implement the new process.

7. Old business:

A. SLTDC Endorsements.

Susan - As a Dem party we can only *endorse* Dem candidates. However, we can also *support* non-Dem candidates. SLTDC has reached out to Dems running, asking if they want to be endorsed by the group. Those that agree will have their names on a leaflet that is handed out by the SLTDC when canvassing. The paper of endorsements will also be attached to Jessica's form. Information on Carla Neal will likely also be included. She has low name recognition but anything we can do to get that out will be a positive effort. Dianne Feinstein has also not gotten too much attention but has done remarkable things for SLT and the needs of the Tahoe watershed.

--CA Dem Party provides suggestions on how to vote on ballot propositions. Proposition 9 has been removed. The very brief proposition discussion isn't too informative but the website explains the pros and cons of each one.

Local candidates are endorsed at the bottom.

--A survey will be sent out to members as to whether you support our endorsements, as well as non-Dems who you feel deserve attention.

--Will include information on our Club and how they can learn more.

--Standard questions are sent out to all candidates. Biography and 3 questions of which they have no prior knowledge as to the roles they'll assume. Susan, Jodi, John Friedrich, Russ Dahl, Mary Lekan, Allyson will be involved in these interviews to determine who will be endorsed.

--Voter registration while canvassing?

We have the forms but the best method is to show them how to register online, as most people are not comfortable sending their information.

--When is the voter registration date?

October 22nd is the last day to register to vote. Mail-in ballots will be sent out on October 8. Deadline for having it sent home, one for in-person voter. Will be included to the newsletter to members.

Local candidates:

SEEKING: Bijou volunteer to run for the School Board that will reflect the area and have a vested interest in the area. Candidate must live in Bijou. Please make recommendations and encourage people to get involved. This is an appointment for after the election in November.

--Barbara Bannar is running unopposed for her School Board district. Highly recommended School Board member.

--Wendy David, Devin Middlebrook, and Bruce Grego are Democrats running for city council.

--Susan Blankenship (city clerk) does not want our endorsement.

--Ellen Pollazzo – City Clerk candidate. Has served for many years and is certified. She knows the work and the needs. Keep her in consideration. We did not reach out to her because she is not a registered Dem.

--Eric Schaefer – Former school board member. Cannot be found anywhere on the El Dorado voting records. If you know anything about him, please let us know.

--Tony Thurmond is running for California State Superintendent of Schools. Tony is interested in public school system while his opponent is funded by charter schools. Immigrant who has benefitted from the public school system and worked in the CA assembly. Has low name recognition so get his name out! Has been endorsed by the CA Dems.

B. IRS status

We have tax exempt status as a 501(c)(4) which is a social group (60% social, 40% political).

After November the SLTDC will become more social. Should we become a 527, which is a political organization? To be a 501(c)(4) we must show evidence of our activities and time. We have to track volunteer hours, money, website redesign, etc.

Under IRS tax code, Section 527 is a political tax-exempt status that does not have a percentage breakdown but is not perfect, because of things such as divergent or non-political interests. Nancy will continue to investigate. We must decide soon. UPDATE: We couldn't meet the reporting requirements, under 504(c)(4) status so, at the recommendation of IRS agents, we've pulled our 501(c)(4) application.

Question for Members: Do you want to be a service organization that dabbles in politics or a political organization? The answer of the Membership will determine how the SLTDC classifies.

--One member's comment: In the past, few people showed up for the community service committee so maybe we just admit we are political.

--Another member: Maybe focus only on politics in the election time period, and then be a lot more social otherwise. Use the politics to suck them in, then convince others so we socialize later.

--Another member: To call us anything other than a political organization is silly, since when we socialize we want to only talk about politics!

--One member agrees.

--Another: Meals on Wheels would be good. If we are involved socially in major campaigns, we can get our political message out subtly.

Show of hands: How many feel we should be predominantly political? 20+ members in attendance vote for. Obvious majority. Nancy will continue to explore the requirements for certification as a 527 political entity.

--In favor of community service, but this group should be about getting Dems elected, so even community service should be geared that way.

School Supplies donation collection passed around the room. This fund goes specifically for students who are required to bring in their own equipment but cannot afford it. These funds provide the supplies that help the children to be successful students. \$315.00 was collected.

If you have other ideas for ways to get involved, please send your ideas in.

C. Electronic Payments for SLTDC.

Imbedded in our current website are several options to choose from (Swipe, Square, PayPal).

Looking for the ability to take online payments and donations. Another would be to have a reader to attach to member phones and take credit cards in person.

--SLTDC will choose the lowest cost pay-as-you-go options. Based on how often people use it, will affect our choices.

--Gmail account is already secure.

--Next, figure out our PCI compliance. Those not secure might be open to financial damage if someone's information is stolen. We want to avoid that kind of liability.

PLEASE! If you have a background in this area and can help us, reach out.

8. New business

A. Candidate Forum - Sept 27, 2018 - 6pm – CCC:

We will invite all candidates to participate.

CA conservation Corps in Meyers.

Each Candidate will speak for 3 minutes then everyone will go to a table and candidates will speed-date the tables.

B. Election process for SLTDC November:

If you are interested in running for Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, etc., please consider running.

C. Community service opportunities:

We would like your input as to where we put our emphasis. Members are encouraged to write their suggestions down on paper at the tables.

D. Yard Signs

Available for Nick, Jessica, Carla, and Sue. Sign-up sent around for those who want them.

E. Long Sleeve t-shirts—Is there interest in ordering these logo t-shirts for the winter?

F. Pass the hat: Supplies for Schools

G. Sept. happy hour - Sept. 12 - 5pm - Flight Deck at Airport which is a quieter environment who enjoys hosting us.

H. Election Watch Party Nov 6?

Positive murmurs throughout the room. Airport is willing to change the TV station off the Sacramento Kings.

I. Postcards: for Carla, for Sierra Forward (opposition to McClintock)

J. Stickers: Diane got bumper stickers. \$1 donation for a bumper sticker. They say "Save our Democracy. Vote Dem."

K. Member Don Kortes - The two groups to reach out to: Hispanic and Ages 18-25. Reaching out to students and younger people would be effective.

9. Adjournment at 7:39 p.m.