

Greetings DCS Members and Friends,

There are a couple exciting things coming up this month, in addition to our club meeting. The initial meeting of the Santa Clara County Council of Clubs is on March 13th. Margaret Okuzumi will be our club representative, but other members are welcome to attend. Please see the meeting minutes for information on how to sign up.

On March 27th is our CALL TO ACTION for the Democratic Party in Santa Clara County. Please see the flyer for more information.

Our club has found a new home in the Fairbrae Swim and Tennis Center. Come check out our new location!

Our next club meeting information is as follows:

Saturday, March 20th, 2010

How Santa Clara County is coping in these times? A briefing by Supervisor Dave Cortese

Fairbrae Swim and Tennis Club Meeting Hall

696 Sheraton Drive, Sunnyvale, CA

How much do you know about our county government? Our county government is responsible under state law for delivering a wide array of programs. The county government itself is one of the largest employers in our county, with over 15,000 employees.

County Supervisor Dave Cortese will inform us about the county's latest initiatives as the featured speaker at our March 20 meeting. Mr. Cortese represents District 3, which includes the northern half of Sunnyvale. He'll speak to what the Board of Supervisors is doing, in order to position the county as a leader in the state. As Vice Chair of the Finance, Government and Operations Committee for the board, Cortese is responsible for overseeing financial strategy for the county to keep its safety net viable. As Chair of the County's Children, Seniors and Families Committee, Cortese has focused his efforts on

reducing the rolls of the child welfare system and on decreasing the overrepresentation of minority youth in juvenile dependency, juvenile delinquency and other safety net services.

Dave Cortese was elected to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors in 2008 and currently serves as the Vice President of the Board. Prior to that, Cortese served eight years on the San Jose City Council, including two years as Vice Mayor. Cortese is a lifelong Democrat who has consistently stood by working families and the underserved in our community. As a member of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Dave fought hard to bring federal stimulus funds to the South Bay to rehabilitate our aging roads and ease congestion. Please join us to learn more about our county government and for an opportunity to ask questions.

Minutes of the General Membership Meeting

Date: February 27, 2010

Time: 2:05 p.m.

Place: Willow Ranch Park, Sunnyvale

Call to Order:

Ms. Smith called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. She read the mission statement of the Club and its affiliations, then introduced the Executive Board members who were present.

Guest Speaker:

Ms. Smith introduced Margaret Okuzumi, who introduced the guest speaker, Doug Hahne. His topic was "Framing 101: How to Communicate Progressive Ideas". The presentation was based on the ideas of U.C. Berkeley Professor George Lakoff, whose specialty is cognitive science and linguistics applied to politics. The main concepts presented were:

U.S. politics is a struggle between two incompatible world views.

Framing is a broad term for a way of thinking about something; language activates frames.

Triangulation fails to influence swing voters.

Announcements:

1. Call to Action on March 27 from 9:30 – 1:00 at the IBEW on Canoas Garden Street, San Jose.

Take back our state from Republican ruin. All club members and guests are welcome and encouraged to attend.

2. Council of Clubs is being formed. First meeting, March 13, Palo Alto.

Representative is needed from the Sunnyvale Club to attend and represent the DCS.

Members of our club are also welcome to attend. If interested, please contact Diane Rolfe at onedianerolfe@comcast.net to RSVP

3. A candidate running for the 21st Assembly Seat, Yoriko Kishimoto, introduced herself.

4. Various petitions to put initiatives on the November ballot were placed on the back table for those present to sign.

5. Future meetings will take place at the Fairbrae Swim and Tennis Club. Margaret distributed maps showing the location.

6. Dave Cortese will be the speaker at the next meeting, March 20, 2010.

7. Jeanne moved that the club endorse the Fair Elections Act. The motion was seconded and approved.

Description of the Act: This act creates a voluntary system for candidates for Secretary of State to qualify for a public campaign grant if they agree to strict spending limits and take no private contributions. Candidates would have to qualify before receiving the grant. Candidates who demonstrate sufficient public support would receive the same amount. Participating candidates would be prohibited from raising or spending money beyond the grant. There would be strict enforcement and accountability with published reports open to the public. Funded by voluntary contributions and by a \$350 annual registration fee on lobbyists, lobbying firms, and lobbyist employers.

Motion to endorse: Our organization is concerned that candidates and elected officials have to spend too much time fundraising and think we need to change the way we finance election campaigns so elected officials can focus on their jobs. We publicly support the establishment of voluntary public financing of campaigns and endorse the California Fair Elections Act scheduled to appear on the June 8, 2010 ballot that would set up a pilot project providing public financing for Secretary of State candidates in the 2014 and 2018 election campaigns.

Thank yous:

Thank you to Joan for providing the snacks.

Thank you to Ron Swegles for providing the venue and the coffee.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.