

**VISALIA DEMOCRATIC CLUB MEETING MINUTES FOR JANUARY 24,2018
CHINA GARDEN RESTAURANT, Mooney Blvd., Visalia**

NEW MEMBERS PRESENT: George Betancur, Susie Betancur, Mike Fredenburg, Shelagh Fredenburg, Mary Gray, Jonathon McDonald, Mary McDonald, PhD, Georgene (Gigi) Sackerson,

CONTINUING MEMBERS PRESENT: AI Aguilar, Tricia Aguilar, Donald Ajluni, Nariman Ajluni, Mary-Ann Bringhurst, Newell Bringhurst, Tom Chamberlin, Margo Denison, Kathleen Dowling, **Jonathon Espinoza, President**, Gary Gray, **Susanne Gundy, Treasurer**, John Kelly, Bobbie Levine, Ruth McKee, Bob Marshall, Joy Marshall, Graciela Martinez, Michelle Medina, Rill Mitchel, Roxanne Murray, Bill Osak, Dorothy Osak, Becky Quintana, Bella Rodriguez, Ximena Schimpf, Jose Sigala, Alexandra Taylor, **Abigail Solis, Immediate Past-President**, Lucia Vazquez, Steve Woods,

GUESTS: Andrew Janz, Candidate for CD 22; Katherine Dodson, College of the Sequoias Young Democrats, President; George Schimpf, ACLU ..

Meeting called to order at 6:45 pm by President Jonathon Espinoza. Flag salute. The new members stood and introduced themselves and were welcomed with much applause.

Agenda approved. Quorum confirmed.

Minutes for the November 29,2017 and December 16,2017 meetings were approved as presented. Alberto Aguilar moved, Steve Woods seconded.

Treasurer's report: Susanne Gundy reported that available funds in the club treasury are \$1416.59. A copy of the report was given to President Jonathon Espinoza. Susanne requested the club to approve payment of \$5 to the Tulare County Democratic Central Committee needed for the club to re-charter for 2018. Alberto Aguilar moved, Lucia Vazquez seconded. Expenditure approved and report accepted.

Andrew Janz, candidate for Congressional District 22, addressed the club. Andrew is originally from Visalia, from a working class immigrant family, currently a deputy District Attorney in Fresno who prosecutes high-profile dangerous criminals. Decided to run because of anger at flagrant actions by incumbent Devin Nunes. Will refuse to accept any corporate donations; wants to dismantle Citizens United. Feels he is best equipped to win over enough conservatives and Republicans to defeat Nunes.

Abigail Solis made a brief presentation requesting club endorsement for her candidacy for State Senate District 14. Susanne Gundy moved, Lucia Vazquez seconded. Approved unanimously.

Susanne Gundy moved to endorse Jose Sigala's candidacy for Assembly District 26 against incumbent Devon Mathis. Jose is the only Democrat in the race and has presented to the club several times requesting support. AI Aguilar seconded. The vote was not unanimous, so a hand count of ayes and nays was made. The majority voted to approve the endorsement. Jose Sigala arrived later at the meeting and thanked the club for our support.

A secret ballot vote was held to express the club's recommendations to the club CADEM Pre-Endorsement Conferences on Saturday. The majority of ballots favored Andrew Janz for were relayed to the club Abigail Solis for SD 14 and Ruth Musser-Lopez for SD 16. Several of the delegates recommendations led to the CADEM Convention in February. Steve Natoli is helping the Young Dems with a fundraiser on February 16 6:30 pm at the Lamplighter Inn. Donation \$15.00. Mr. Natoli, formerly history professor at COS and COS Young Dems advisor, will be reading passages from his well-received book Liberally Speaking and discussing the importance of liberal politics.

Ruth McKee, Tulare County Democratic Central Committee Chair, reminded the club that our Democratic voter registration and outreach office is open and seeking committed Democrats to help contacting local

Steve Woods reported that the Valley Democratic Club website is up and operating. to join the effort.

George Schimpf from the local ACLU chapter reported that they held an installation of officers and board on January 20; an ACLU representative from the San Francisco ACLU office updated the local members on ACLU activities. The ACLU meets the 1st Thursday of the month at the Visalia Public Library at 6:30 pm.

Abigail Solis made a brief presentation on behalf of Tatiana Matta, a new Democratic candidate from Bakersfield running against CD23 incumbent McCarthy. Wendy Reed, who ran last year, is also a candidate for CD23.

Meeting adjourned at 8 pm by President Jonathon Espinoza.