

SVDems General Meeting 4/24/23 Zoom

Board members present: Hadley, Martin, Taylor, McDevitt, Brown

1. **Beth** welcomed Mayor Lowe and reminded the members of the importance of paying 2023 dues of \$20 which will determine our number of delegates for the Pre-Endorsement meeting in October. At present we have 116 paying members.
2. **Financial Report:** Beth reported that we have \$3,648 in checking and \$450 in savings. Our fundraiser was successful and raised about \$600 for our scholarships which will be presented to two High School students next month. Our storage has been paid for 6 months and our Insurance premium of \$500 is pending. Kathleen Hill has made a donation to the Scholarships.
3. **Doctor McDevitt** announced that she will be giving a presentation on the differences between Traditional Medicare and Medicare Advantage for the Praxis Peace Institute on Friday, May 19th at 4 PM. This a free event and open to the public. Watch for the ad in the Index Tribune. You must contact Praxis to get the link.
4. **Nancy Kirwan** reported on an upcoming event at Jack London State Park on May 20th from 11 AM to 2 PM. The event is free but a parking fee is charged. Free parking passes are available. Purpose of this event is to protect an Open Space for wildlife on Sonoma Mountain. For more info visit www.jacklondonpark.com.
5. **Tom Martin** reported on the recent School Board meeting. His full report can be found in the Sonoma Gazette. At present the Board is faced with the need for reconfiguration of, or closure of certain schools due to decreased enrollment. He noted that the Board Agenda needs to be controlled to avoid meetings that go for 3.5 hours. The closure of the Dunbar school has already been decided. The Board is also interviewing potential new Superintendents.
6. **Marty Bennett**, representing **Unite Here, Local 2**, thanked all those of our membership who attended the February 9th Vigil at the **Fairmont, Sonoma Mission Inn and Spa, where workers are organizing to form a union with UNITE HERE Local 2**. Sonya Karabel and Carlos Cruz from the UNITE HERE

staff and a worker from the Sonoma Mission Inn gave an update on the worker organizing since the vigil. The property was purchased by **Brookfield Properties**, an **\$ 800 billion Canadian** private equity firm, in October 2022. They have hired **Quest Consulting** as their anti-union group which has placed 6 consultants in the facility **since fall 2023**. The union **filed Unfair Labor Practice charges** against **the Sonoma Mission Inn** with **the National Labor Relations Board**.

- a. **What support is needed?**
 - i. **Attend any future events sponsored by the union group.**
 - ii. **Sign the [solidarity petition here-](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSch7o8MrkgK4ESFXDujTEe19SdIS2fVYtltUrBwU22C_PD2w/viewform)**
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSch7o8MrkgK4ESFXDujTEe19SdIS2fVYtltUrBwU22C_PD2w/viewform
 - iii. **Educate members of your personal groups regarding the issues**
 - iv. **Identify any friends that have stayed at the Inn or used the Spa regarding their impression of the site.**
 - v. **Let Marty know if any groups or church congregations would be interested in a presentation.**
 - vi. **Write letters to the editors regarding the facility (best if by someone who has stayed there)**
7. After extensive discussion the **following Motion** was made by Nancy Kirwan and seconded by Tom Martin:
 - a. **The Sonoma Valley Democratic Club supports Unite Here, Local 2, and employees of the Fairmont Sonoma Mission Inn and Spa in their effort to unionize. This support includes signing petitions, attending employee protests, letters to the editors and any other activities needed to support the union efforts at the Fairmont Sonoma Mission Inn and Spa.**
 - b. **Motion accepted. No dissenting votes.**