

SV Dems Gen. Mtg 5/22/23 Present: Hadley, Martin, Taylor, Baeyen, Cesar, McDevitt (Minutes by Mary McDevitt)

Guests: Anna Chouteau, St Helena City Council member, L.C.Arisman, Mom's Demand Action; Zoom attendees: 26

1. a. **Membership:** Our roster has been submitted. We have 110 dues paying members. This will determine the number of delegates we can send to the Pre-Endorsement conference.
b. **July 4th Celebration:** We will have a booth. Volunteers needed- 3-hour shifts.
c. **Next month General Meeting:** Dr. McDevitt will address "Private Equity in Healthcare"
2. **Finance Report:** Checking: \$4,602.33 Savings: \$450.41. Because of our successful fundraiser, we are able to give \$1000 scholarships to 2 SVHS seniors. Mary and Teresa will make the presentation on May 31st.
3. **Sherry Smith** reported on the efforts to compensate victims of forced sterilization. Contracts were signed in Sept 2021 but little progress has been made. \$1 million dollars have been allocated for this program. Her efforts to review "Reports" have not been successful. It is estimated there are 300 survivors. Only 3 have applied and received compensation. Assistance in applying is available from "**Legal Aid**" and the **Victim's Assistance department of the District Attorney's office**. Ability to apply will end on **12/31/2023**. Any funds not spent by **9/30/2024** will be returned to the General Fund. The club will consider a Resolution of support at our next meeting.
4. **Sonoma Valley Unified School Board Update:** Deferred
5. **Union activity at Fairmont Sonoma Mission Inn:** Mr. Ankush from Union 2 reported that the Union continues to support the workers. Recognizing that more organizers are needed, the Union is starting an **Internship program** and will have an event on June 1st, 6-7:30pm, at the Center for People's Power, 18346 Sonoma Hwy. in Boyes Hot Springs. Beth reported that the Club has sent a letter of union support to the Fairmont management with copies to all appropriate elected officials.
6. **Mom's Demand Action:** L.C. Arisman, Co-Lead of the Napa Chapter reported that there have been 200 mass shooting so far this year and guns are the number one cause of death in children. She also noted that Assault weapons were successfully banned in USA from 1994-2004. Also, CA has had a law banning assault weapons in the state since 1989. She concentrates on legislative work. At Present there are 3 bills pending in the CA legislature:
 - a. **SB 2:** Would amend licensing requirements. An applicant must be at least 21 years old and require that the applicant to be the recorded owner of the firearm. Age 18 for a rifle or shotgun.
 - b. **AB 28:** An excise tax applied to all gun and ammunition sales.
 - c. **SB 452:** A firearm dealer cannot sell a semi-automatic firearm unless verified as a "Microstamp" device.The organization is also working with local governments to pass Ordinances requiring safe storage of guns. Such ordinances have been passed or are being considered in St. Helena, Yountville and Napa.
A "Rock the Ride" fundraiser is planned in Yountville.
The issue of "Gun Buy Backs" was raised. This effort is organized by local police departments, not Mom's Demand Action. There was a very successful program in Santa Rosa. Another successful program was instituted in San Mateo which was eventually funded by the county. It was noted that most guns turned in were older guns that had been inherited, not AR 15 assault rifles. Neva Baer reported that this issue was addressed by Mike Thompson in a recent Town Hall. Anna Chouteau is working with the local police, school board and Public Health agencies to educate the public about the Ordinance and Gun Safety. Kate Dumont raised the issue of buying toy guns for children in light of the recent shooting of a child with a toy gun. It was noted that all toy guns are supposed to have an orange tip. Following extensive discussion, a **Motion** was made by Sabina Cesar and 2nd by Nancy Kirwan to approach Mayor Sandra Lowe and the Sonoma City Council to **consider a Gun Safety Ordinance. Passed by all members present. None opposed.** The St. Helena Ordinance which is in the "Staff Report" will be reviewed as a model. Beth will also review this issue with Pat Sabo, Chair of the Sonoma County Democrats.
The final issue discussed was the presence of police in the schools. This is controversial. It was not supported at a recent meeting of the Sonoma County Democrats Central Committee. Students of color/with disabilities may not feel comfortable with School Resource Officers (SROs). Additional funding for counselors/other school personnel may be more effective. Other concerns about SROs are the cost and reduced police staffing. St Helena was able to get a grant for a School Resource Officer.
7. **Announcements:** Sabina has submitted a Letter to the Editor of the Index Tribune listing the Promises and Accomplishments of President Biden.
8. **Next Mtgs:** SVD Board Zoom: **Mon., June 5, 9:30 AM; SVD Virtual Gen. Mtg: Mon. June 26, 6:30 PM.**

