

## **Minutes for the August 2016 Monthly Meeting of the Democratic Club of Vista**

The meeting was held at the Pantry & Pie Shoppe at 945 S. Santa Fe Ave., Vista, CA 92083.  
The meeting was held on the second Saturday of the month,  
August 13, 2016 from 10:00 am until 12:00 noon.

13 club members and 12 guests were in attendance.

### **Sue Alderson- President- presiding**

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 am.

**The minutes from the last meeting were approved.**

**The agenda was approved.**

New members and visitors were welcomed, and some guests were interested in becoming members.

### **President's Report:**

Endorsements will be discussed at the next meeting. Sue will provide a list.

Candidates:

There are four open seats for Tri-City Board of Directors. Carlsbad resident and mediator Donna Rencsak is running. She has also worked in marketing. She provided a flyer about her qualifications. She wants to prevent lawsuits and job loss.

Marggie Castellano is also running for the Tri-City Board. She has five years of management experience, and has worked with complex budgets before. She will have a website soon and will be canvassing.

Kindergarten teacher Cipriano Vargas is running for Vista School Board. He sees inequity in the classroom, and wants to see parents and the community more engaged. He wants to work towards higher graduation rates. His website is [ciprianovargas.com](http://ciprianovargas.com).

Rich Alderson is a current Vista School Board member and is running again for District 5. Tea partiers on the board are trying to dismantle existing structures, and want charter schools. There has been strong academic growth over the last four years.

Erubey Lopez is running for Vista City Council alongside Cody Campbell. He is working to unseat Amanda Rigby, and wants to fight for workers. He grew up in Vista and has a law office here. His website is [erubeyforvista.com](http://erubeyforvista.com).

The Masquerade Ball Casino Night is the evening of August 13<sup>th</sup>. The event will raise money for the office on the coast and in Escondido, and maybe some paid canvassing.

We want a debate between Issa and Applegate. Issa didn't show up the last time this was attempted. The debate host must be non-partisan. A chamber of commerce member was contacted to try to find someone to host it. We are looking for suggestions for possible venues or hosts. It was suggested that the Veterans of Foreign Wars should host, as this would put pressure on Issa to participate. Tazheen and Sue will work on it.

There will be house parties for Doug Applegate. Dates and locations will be listed on his website. Bernie Sanders is putting his energy into down-ballot races. His site will list local events.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Nanci Oechsle, Treasurer, provided a printed report. We have about \$1,000 and 36 members, with the possibility of new members.

**Committee Reports:**

Mary Elizabeth was absent.

Audrey Murphy met two people interested in membership from her complex. In September, we will re-start the voter registration booth at the Farmer's Market.

**Announcements:**

Brian Victor, Regional Coordinator for the Go Team, is looking for volunteers for canvassing. There will be a meeting for coordinators on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Anyone who wants to be a precinct coordinator should contact Brian. There will be kickoff meetings October 1-9. The club now has about \$1,000, and discussion took place about spending money on Hilary yard signs and on local candidates.

**A motion was made to spend club money on door hangers with endorsed candidates listed.**

**The motion passed.** Victoria Henry volunteered to design the door hanger.

The club might consider hosting a candidate forum.

On Saturday, August 27, there will be a campaign kickoff for Erubey Lopez.

**Guest Speaker:**

August's guest speaker was Steve Rivera, who has been involved in politics since 1989. Steve has been managing campaigns since he was 21 years old. Steve has served at numerous positions within the local and state party. He is currently co-chair of the California Democratic Party Affirmative Action Committee, and was previously the CDP Regional Director for the greater San Diego region. A graphic designer by trade, he is a partner at Fourth Turning Consulting and Program Coordinator for the Interfaith Center for Worker Justice of San Diego County. He discussed how the Democratic Club of Vista can succeed in the current political cycle. This area has been neglected because there are fewer voters. There is a big opportunity in Vista to take the city back. Steve wants to teach candidates how to win races. There are two types who get into politics: professionals and activists. Pros know how to get things done, and activists are passionate and often single-issue driven. Vista is a good spot to marry the two. Rivera then opened the floor to questions.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.