



## Tuesday January 5th Meeting Minutes:

1. Joni Eisen called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.
2. The agenda was approved.

### Officer Reports:

- **Membership**, Rachel Schapira : 17 members have renewed their membership for 2010 so far. There will be a joint meeting between the membership & political action committees 11:30am Sunday Jan 10th - please sign up to join us.
  - **Treasurer**, Pat Cleveland : last year we raised about \$4000 to run the Club and we spent \$3000. Of the \$4000 1/2 came from membership dues; 1/4 from the members party; and the last 1/4 from t-shirt sales and anonymous donations.
3. **Program: Restore Majority Rule:** Special guest **Teed Rockwell**, philosophy Professor, Sonoma State U, on repealing the 2/3 rule in California for passing revenue and budget legislation. Web site - <http://www.californiademocracyact.com/>

"The California Democracy Act" is the first political action Professor Rockwell has cared enough to campaign for. All issues in the State come back to this issue. Budget cuts almost took Teed's job at the university in 2004. The whole mission of the UC college system is being destroyed by the 2/3 issue.

They cut 1/3 of teachers at Sonoma State. Students couldn't get into classes because the cuts meant not enough classes were available on registration day. It's important to know that California millionaires have the lowest taxes in decades. Last time there was a surplus, taxes were cut; then during lean times ( now ) the taxes are not sufficient to fund programs. It is true that California has the 6th highest tax burden in the nation, but the reason is that California has more wealthy people. Raising taxes for people earning over 200K by 1% in 2004 would have fixed the deficit in 3 years.

The Republicans vote as a block; all political funding for a Republican gets cut if they vote against the party line of "No New Taxes".

The 2/3 rule effectively means you need more pork to pass any bill. Democracy means majority rule. An oligarchy is when you have a minority ruling - with the 2/3

rule we simply don't have a democracy.

Following Rockwell's presentation, volunteer Ellis Goldberg asked for signature gatherers, and took sign ups. A motion to endorse the California democracy Act passed, 14 yes, 1 no, 0 abstain.

Complete audio and photos of the talk are available here:  
<http://www.phdemclub.org/?p=1263>

4. **Open Mic:** Introducing candidates running for

**Supervisor of District 10:**

**Geoffrea Morris** audio and a photo are available here:  
<http://www.phdemclub.org/?p=1263>

5. **New Business**

Proposed amendment to the bylaws to break the Secretary office into two offices; Secretary and Webmaster. This amendment will be voted on in the February 2nd meeting.

Nominations opened for 2010 officers ( the election is during our next meeting ).  
Nominations: **Joni Eisen** for president; **Pat Cleveland** for treasurer; **Dewitt Lacy** for VP/Membership Chair.

Ron Miguel: a grand jury is being convened soon that would interest the membership; please talk to Ron if you're interested

Pat Cleveland: Sat February 27th 4-9pm is the BB&B celebration at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House; a motion to donate \$100 ( as we did last year ) passed 15 in favor, none against.

6. **Announcements**

Jan 23: Celebration of the life of Bob Hayes, photographer and longtime Hill resident, who died on December 16th. The event will be at 5PM at the Neighborhood House, and at Bob's request, will be formal. Please dress up for the occasion.

Starr King Open Space presentation postponed until Feb 2nd

7. **Next Meeting February 2nd** - Starr King Open Space; other topics TBA.

Quint King, Secretary