

**San Pedro Democratic Club
Minutes for the July 19th, 2007 Membership Meeting
Peck Park, San Pedro**



Call to order: Meeting was called to order by President David Greene at 7:10 pm

Attendance: 23 members and guests were signed in

Announcements from the floor:

- The California Democratic Council convention is to be held the weekend of August 11 and 12th. 100 volunteers are needed. Volunteers who work four hours will be able to attend sessions. A sign up sheet was available.
 - A motion was made, seconded and passed that the club affiliate with the CDC.
- Tony Hale spoke on SB 880. SB 880 a bill backed by the Adidas Corporation, would remove the 37-year ban on importation of kangaroo skin and products into California. Adidas would like to open the California market to their Predator soccer shoe, which has an upper kangaroo skin cover.

This bill would also open the door to removing other animals from California's list of protected animals. Adidas argues that it is unfair that California is the only state that has this ban on kangaroo products. But isn't it unfair that this international corporation should try to overturn California law? This will be the third time Adidas has tried to pass this bill, it has been stopped in the Senate twice before, but this time it has made it through.

 - There was a motion from the floor to oppose SB 880 and to make our position known to our representatives in the legislature. The motion passed with no nay votes.

Old Business:

- Club minutes from the May and June meetings were not available.
- It was moved, seconded and adapted that the issue on Depleted Uranium be tabled for another month in the interest of making time for the speakers this evening.
- The Treasurer's Report was approved as read. However, member Mike Chernus objected from the floor to an expense from the May, 2007 meeting that he said was not authorized by the membership as required by the by-laws. Mr. Chernus 'recommended' that the executive board reimburse the club for this unauthorized expense. It does appear that the current by-laws are more in need of updating than anyone has heretofore anticipated: Mr. Chernus's assertions brought the business of the club to a halt because it could not be determined whether we had a quorum in attendance. The questions to be addressed are:
 - How many members are currently on the rolls? **[148]**
 - What is a quorum of the membership to conduct ordinary business at a meeting? **[37 based on old by-laws]**
 - Should the current \$50 limit on expenditures delegated to the treasurer be increased? **[TBD]**
 - What percentage of the membership is required to revise the by-laws? **[two thirds vote of the membership present at the meeting, providing that 1 week's notice has been given to the membership in writing]**
 - Do the proposed new by-laws address these issues? **[yes]**

Program:

July's club meeting featured speakers discussing and comparing the two major bills addressing the health care mess in California:

Sheila Hoff spoke to us about AB 8, the bill addressing "Health Care for All California". This bill aims to 'insure' all Californians by building on the employer and public agency based insurance coverage that exists now, and is an employer mandate for insurance coverage. It is the closest to the systems in place now in Massachusetts and Hawaii.

In contrast, Emily Gold, the Field rep for State Senator Kuehl, described the California Universal Healthcare Act, SB 840. This is a single payer system, similar to Medicare and the VA system. Details were available on the handouts.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

A.H. Butler, Club Secretary