

# Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded 1952



logo by  
Paul Conrad

## February 2019 Newsletter

P.O. Box 2234, Rolling Hills Est. CA 90274  
Visit Us on the Web at [www.pvpdemocrats.org](http://www.pvpdemocrats.org)  
"One of the oldest Democratic Clubs in California"

### COMING EVENTS

**Social time: 2pm**

#### FEBRUARY MEETING

**DATE:** Sunday, February 17th

**MEETING TIME:** 2:30 - 4:30pm

**LOCATION:** Peninsula Center Library  
Community Room; 701 Silver Spur Rd, RHE

**TOPIC:** LA County Sheriff's Campaign

**SPEAKER:** Sheriff Alex Villanueva

#### MARCH MEETING

**DATE:** Sunday, March 17th

**MEETING TIME:** 2:30-4:30pm

**LOCATION:** Peninsula Center Library  
Community Room; 701 Silver Spur Rd, RHE

**TOPIC:** TBD

**SPEAKER:** TBD

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How did we go  
from Mexico  
paying for a  
wall to  
not paying  
government  
employees until  
the American  
people pay for  
a wall?

### February General Meeting

**Sheriff Alex Villanueva will speak on February 17th about his campaign to be the 33rd Sheriff of Los Angeles County. The first Democratic Sheriff in 138 years.**

As one of the first people to take a stand against the corrupt administration of Sheriff Baca and his second in command, Paul Tanaka, Sheriff Villanueva faced severe retaliation. Unwavering, he stood his ground, eventually bearing witness to the demise of a corrupt regime that did not serve the public's interest.

### January Meeting Report by Tex Yamada and Asha Shahed

### Newly Elected Member of Palos Verdes Unified School District (PVPUSD)

**Megan Crawford**, an elated newly elected and perhaps the youngest member of PVPUSD thanked the PV Democrats for its help in her election victory with the highest number of votes. She credited her election on hard work, reaching out to community and elected officials and a positive student centric message. Even though school boards are non-partisan races, being the only candidate endorsed by the LA County Democratic Party helped. She said that her campaign raised around \$7500 to \$8000 but did not spend all of it and she plans to donate the left over money to the school district. She said that during the election process she faced some prejudice because of her age, being a member of the teachers' union and being single. Megan is excited that with her election, PVPUSD



Megan Crawford

board now includes a K-12 educator along with community and student representatives and a good combination for making education even better for all students.

Megan is interested in pursuing several new initiatives e.g.; maintaining high quality curriculum with emphasis on teachers' input, introducing after school tutoring in subjects many students find challenging, counselling college bound students with their career pathways and importantly collaboration with other school districts to start career pathways for students who may have other interests than pursuing college. She also talked about addressing mental health needs of students, engaging students in gardening programs and climate change, a potentially important factor in their future.

Good luck Megan from all of us in your new endeavor.

### Citizen's Climate Lobby (CCL) Hopes to Gain Bipartisan Support in the New Congress

**Dr. Jeff Cohlberg**, a volunteer and Outreach Chairman of the Long Beach/South Bay Chapter of Citizen's Climate Lobby (CCL), spoke at the January meeting of the PV Democrats. Cohlberg has been with CCL for two years. Formerly, Cohlberg served as Professor in Biochemistry at California State University at Long Beach for 41 years before retiring in 2016.



Jeff Cohlberg

Cohlberg discussed CCL's advocacy to tackle climate change issues on a national level. The

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organization is nonprofit, nonpartisan with membership enrollment at 100,000 in more than 400 local chapters in the U.S.

One of CCL's primary goals to combat carbon pollution comes in the form of bipartisan legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives, called the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019 (H.R. 763). This proposed legislation places a fee on fossil fuels, such as oil, natural gas, and coal, at the point of extraction, explains Cohlberg. A bill similar to H.R. 763 has yet to be formalized in the U.S. Senate in 2019. The funds raised from placing a fee on carbon extraction would be distributed to the American populace in the form of a dividend.

Typically, CCL representatives interact with members of the U.S. House of Representatives or staffers to build support for climate solutions. "It may be a longshot, but there is hope to gain bipartisan support," says Cohlberg. "New legislation does not always pass the first time. It might take a second or third time around to gain the needed support."

For alternative fossil fuel energy sources, Cohlberg cited solar and wind as the most viable. He added that geothermal, hydroelectric, and nuclear sources are other possible sources.

## President's Report

by Rascha Hall

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday. Of course, it was not wonderful for those government employees who were on furlough or for those government contractors who will not be repaid for time lost.

Good news: At our most recent meeting three new people joined, giving us a record

200 paid members. We have our work cut out for us. The 2020 election will be here before we know it and we must work hard to defeat the current administration and to keep the gains we achieved in the 2018 election.

On Sunday, January 27th, the 66th Assembly District held their biennial ADEM (Assembly District Election Meeting) at Hesse Park in Rancho Palos Verdes. A record 635 Democrats showed up to vote in the 2-hour ballot casting period. (That's equivalent to the size of a precinct!) In addition 46 people registered on-site as new Democrats! Two years ago, we had close to 400 voters, 4 years ago, there were about 200 who voted, and 6 years ago, there were only about 90 voters.

Many thanks go to our former president, **Connie Sullivan**, and to **Sergio Carillo**, Vice-Chair of LACDP and Regional Chair of CDP (California Democratic Party), who did a phenomenal job of organizing the vote. Congratulations to PV Dem members, **Tony Hale** and **Reggie Jue**, who received the top two vote counts for males respectively, and Tony also received the largest number of e-board votes. It was felt by many that the candidates gave excellent speeches, and we congratulate each of you who ran for participating in this election.



*Volunteers registering Democrats to receive their ADEM ballot*

## My Trip to the Capitol

by Lynn Bommer

After the success of a the CA Congressional races, I went to Washington DC for the swearing in celebration! My son helped me decide to take the trip. He said: "When will this happen again in your lifetime?" Good point!

I spent four days total in the capitol. The first two days, before Congress came back into town, DC was like the setting for a disaster movie after all the humans disappear. The university students were gone on winter break. There were no tourists as the Mall museums were all closed due to the government shutdown and even some of the restaurants closed early or weren't open at all. Despite this, I was reminded again of how beautiful the city is! I am truly proud that it represents us all!



*Lynn captures the Library of Congress at twilight*

And then Congress returned and the city came alive! The party in Congressman Harley Rouda's new office was joyous and, although I didn't run into any of the Beach Cities volunteers, there were many revelers from Orange County. Delicious party food was provided and large screen TVs were set up in both rooms so that guests could watch what was happening on the Congressional floor. There was an electricity in the air, as busy, bright-eyed new staff and interns filled the halls, stairwells and tunnels of the Congressional office buildings. The elevators were closed to all except Congress members as they might need to make quick trips to the floor for votes.

It is not an exaggeration to say that everyone was friendly and helpful. In trying to find my way in the tunnels beneath the Capitol, the Congressional office buildings and the Congressional Library it was easy to get lost or turned around. Every person I asked acted as a personal guide - sometimes even before I asked. I must have looked confused. .

The Lyft drivers were a wealth of information as well as a source of entertainment in telling their own stories. I started the conversations by saying I'd come from California to celebrate turning the House Blue. I want to share with you the heartfelt thanks received from one

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driver. After my intro he said, "Did you work on the Orange County offices? - Thank you!" This is how I know the whole country was watching the work we did here! So, if you registered voters, phone banked, canvassed or ?, this thank you belongs to all of you as well!

And now on to 2020!

## Reader Inspirations from Michelle's Book *Becoming*

*Becoming* is Michelle's unique story in her authentic voice.



**Carol Moeller** - I liked getting a taste of their less public lives after Obama's presidency.....the "normal" things they are now attempting without all the fanfare, the contributions they continue to make to their favorite projects, and their somewhat out-of-the-spotlight family life. Throughout the book, I was struck by how hard both Michelle and President Obama worked, their long hours spent really trying hard to make life better for all Americans. In all phases of their lives, they both exhibited an incredible work ethic. I'm fairly certain this cannot be said of the current occupants of the White House.

**Rascha Hall** - I was most impressed with how she was raised in the upstairs apartment of her great aunt and uncle's house, where her parents were among the few families they knew who didn't own their own home. Her parents talked to Michelle and her brother, Craig, as adults. According to Michelle, her mother was not quick to judge or to meddle and would say, "I am not raising babies, I'm raising adults." Instead of curfews, Michelle's parents "asked them what they thought would be a reasonable time to be home and then expect them to stick to their word."

**Leslye Borden** - I identified with her childhood desires of always wanting to do her best, be the top student, be a good daughter, and really be the best in everything she could. I sympathized with her having to play on a piano with cracked and chipped keys, so that when she played on a perfect piano at her first recital, she didn't know where middle C was on the keyboard. Another time in her life that meshed with mine was her description of "date night"

## 3rd Annual Women's March Downtown Los Angeles, January 19th



Pershing Square - notice the Wall Street Young Girl statue to the left of the podium; not sure who's stopping the Bull statue on Wall Street while she tours the country.



Local politics on display during the march - checkout their website, [metooterranea.org/](http://metooterranea.org/), to learn how you can stand with the "Terranea Silence Breakers"



City Hall - reportedly over 200,000 people marched from Pershing Square to City; Mayor Eric Garcetti stepped out of the Teacher's Strike negotiations to address the crowd



PV Dem member, Ann Nye (on the right) with her sign inspired by the *This American Life* episode 668, "Where Have You Gone, Barbara Jordan?" Don't let anti-immigration groups hijack Barbara Jorden's legacy

## Redondo Beach Women's March



According to news reports, over 200 people rallied near the Redondo Beach pier - Suellen Daigneault (right photo, on the left), was shown with her Trump balloon in the *Daily Breeze*



with her husband. My husband and I also have "date night," although now that we are older, we have date day. I like that her relationship with her husband is so important to her that she wants to take time out of her busy schedule to assert that importance.

**Ann Nye** - I liked their family time when "big worries and urgent concerns got abruptly and mercilessly shrunk to nothing so that the small could rightly take over." I smiled at how her

presence caused too much of a commotion when Malia was visiting prospective colleges in NYC and she had to stop being the Mom and let her personal assistant be Malia's escort.

In this distressing political Trump era, Michelle pondered, "I sometime wonder where the bottom might be." But her lasting message is hopeful and optimistic. The photos are memorable and the Epilogue and Acknowledgements will put a smile on your face.



### Palos Verdes Democrats Officers for 2018-2019

President: Rascha Hall 310-377-7334

President Emeritus: Lynn Bommer 310-374-1188

1st Vice President: Randall Klinenberg 310-977-1607

2nd Vice President: Joseph Lopez 310-935-9801

Recording Secretary: Kathy Bradford 310-265-9812

Corresponding Secretary: Arline Korb 310-544-7203

Treasurer: Al Shadbourn 310-326-4953

Membership: Irene Silver 310-541-2650

Publicity: Nancie Silver 310-941-4501

Newsletter Editor: Tex Yamada 310-329-3694

Asha Shahed 310-709-0264

Newsletter Designer: Ann Nye 310-373-6805

Newsletter Mailings: Ron Moeller 310-541-5526

Hospitality: Maria Frusteri 310-270-1160

Web Master: Reggie Jue 310-433-8189

66th ADDC Rep: Connie Sullivan 310-567-2210

## Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded in 1952 - One of the oldest and largest Democratic Clubs in California

[www.pvpdemocrats.org](http://www.pvpdemocrats.org)

As a member of the Palos Verdes Democrats, you can:

- Meet other Democrats
- Meet and get to know your elected officials, raise funds and work for candidates
- Attend special events and monthly meetings
- Hear speakers and discuss issues of local, state and national import
- Receive a monthly newsletter
- Vote on club issues, unless registered as NPP (No Party Preference)

**Please send your membership form to P.O. Box 2234, Rolling Hills Est. Ca 90274**  
**Please fill in all items to ensure that we have your full and correct current information.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name\* \_\_\_\_\_

\* Fill in if Applying as a Family - two memberships

- ☐ I am a registered Democrat  
☐ I am registered No Party Preference  
☐ I am a registered Democrat  
☐ I am registered No Party Preference

Residence Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

\*Select One: ☐ Individual: \$ 25.00/Year ☐ Family Membership \$40.00/Year  
☐ Young Adult \$10.00/Year

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Renewal ☐ New Member

Please contact me to help in the following areas:

- ☐ Hospitality ☐ Newsletter ☐ Membership ☐ Publicity ☐ Correspondence  
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