

Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded 1952



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Paul Conrad

March 2019 Newsletter

P.O. Box 2234, Rolling Hills Est. CA 90274
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"One of the oldest Democratic Clubs in California"

COMING EVENTS

Social time: 2pm

MARCH MEETING

DATE: Sunday, March 17th

MEETING TIME: 2:30 - 4:30pm

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

TOPICS: CA Dem Party Chair Election; New
Voting System for 2020 Election

SPEAKERS: Rusty Hicks; Phillip Verbera

APRIL MEETING

DATE: Saturday, April 27th (**NOTE the day
is Saturday vs Sunday**)

MEETING TIME: 2:30-4:30pm

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

TOPIC: TBD

SPEAKER: TBD

Inside This Month's Issue:

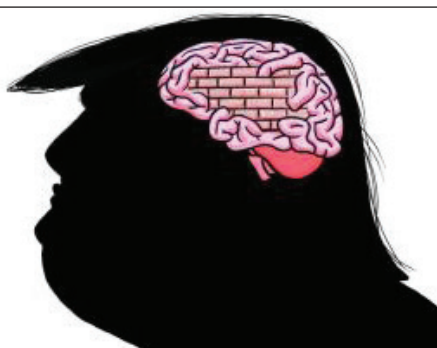
March General Meeting Page 1

February Meeting Report Page 1-2

President's Report Page 3

FAKE National Emergency Page 3

LA County Voting Center Page 3



March General Meeting

Rusty Hicks, President of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor will talk about his run for California Democratic Party Chair. Phillip Verbera, manager of the Community and Voter Outreach Operation of the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk office will speak about the new voting system being established for California's 2020 Primary Election.

Mr. Hicks, 39 years old, is one of the nation's youngest labor leaders. He's served as a Lieutenant of the United States Navy Reserve in Afghanistan. Rusty will be speaking about why he is the best choice to be Chairman of the California Democratic Party.

Mr. Verbera joined the Registrar's Governmental and Legislative Affairs division in 2012 to manage the Community & Voter Outreach Operation where he received a crash course in outreach during the 2016 Presidential Primary Election. He is working diligently to expand community and voter outreach operations in Los Angeles County.

February Meeting Report by Tex Yamada and Asha Shahed

Palos Verdes Estates City Council Incumbent Candidate Jennifer King

Jennifer King, Palos Verdes Estates City Council Member, spoke at the PV Democrats monthly meeting February 17. King is finishing up her first term in office as City Council Member, besides holding other governmental-business posts, such as President of Los Angeles County Division of League of California Cities. She is also

a Board Member of the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority.

King discussed some of the challenges that the city encounters in 2019 and beyond. She cites City finances and housing as primary concerns for Palos Verdes Estates. Rising pension costs related to City employees and infrastructure are hot topics that appear in budgets, balance sheet, and operating statements.



Jennifer King

King maintains that the City needs to develop and maintain long-range financial planning that encompasses "fiscal discipline" and "cost containment", as it relates to the budgetary process, including pension costs and infrastructure.

The key housing issue, discussed by King, centered on state law related to Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). The current state housing crisis has led to the mandate for cities to offer more housing opportunities in their communities. One of these avenues is the creation of ADUs, or a secondary unit constructed on a lot already housing a single-family residence. King believes the City Council will adopt the policy of allowing for the development of ADUs with restrictions, while complying with state guidelines and safeguarding the identity of the city.

Another topic brought up by King was enhanced transparency in City governance. She believes daily communication and accessibility through social media, town hall meetings, and open government portal have improved information exchange between elected city officials and citizens.

continued on page 2

continued from page 1

King is seeking re-election as Palos Verdes Estates City Council Member March 5. She is one of six candidates vying for three open seats. King is the sole candidate from the Democratic Party.

Role of California State Military Reserve (CSMR)

Brian Campbell delivered an informative presentation of the California State Military Reserve (CSMR). Campbell has a diverse background that includes governmental, military, and business experience.



Brian Campbell

Campbell has served in the Army, both in active duty and as a reserve, where he held the rank of Major. He is also a former Mayor and City Council Member of Rancho Palos Verdes. His business background includes commercial real estate, having owned a brokerage firm with dealings throughout the U.S. and Central and South America.

As a Major in the CSMR, Campbell leads the Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base (JFTB), which numbers about two hundred soldiers. This unit is not trained as a primary offensive unit. Instead, it receives part of its training in defensive protection of other soldiers and first responders, materials and weapons, command post structures, and related property and equipment. CSMR is called on to support the California National Guard in times of state emergencies and disasters, such as wildfires, mudslides, flooding, and earthquakes.

Currently, Campbell is planning to broaden

the scope of CSMR's training with the California National Guard to include Africa.

In addition, Campbell, as Trustee for the Palos Verdes Library, has traveled to East Africa and Afghanistan, to explore an information exchange. He is working with officials and educators in Uganda and Afghanistan to develop a library exchange system.

CA Student Success Legislation Update

Dr. John Paul Tabakian, President of WestCal Academy, gave a presentation about Student Success Legislation Update. WestCal Academy is a 501(C)(3) tax-deductible organization whose mission is to "help students identify their career pathways in partnership with industry mentors and in collaboration with academic institutions. Students are able to pursue higher education with greater persistence when they declare a field of major and have a mentor who works in that field".



Dr Tabakian

Dr. Tabakian noted that according to 2010 US Census Bureau only 27% of college degree holders were employed in the field of their major. Dr. Tabakian said that this mismatch (between academic learning and jobs) could lead to underutilization of labor force, performance, potential earnings and advancement. He went on to describe WestCal's programs in identifying underlying causes and described some of their programs for reducing mismatch between jobs college graduates hold and their majors. WestCal is involved in

tracking students starting from high school to college to their jobs throughout California to get an assessment of student success. He said that this wide range of data collection provides metrics for student internships, career development and success. WestCal shares this data with academic institutions to help curriculum development, industry and government.

WestCal Academy offers all registered students two career pathway programs:

- 1) MEGA (Make Education Great Again) career pathway program with academic and industry mentors;
- 2) MEGA Government Education Series enabling direct contact between students and government representatives and officials to learn about public service opportunities.

WestCal facilitates both tracks by informing students (via giving presentations), arranging talks with relevant mentors and helping students get internships in their chosen areas in industry or public sector. WestCal through their training, provides completely vetted, internship-ready students to organizations at no cost. WestCal also offers career paths to students who do not wish to pursue college degree through their partnerships with labor organizations to provide students hands on vocational/occupational skills leading to meaningful careers. Details of these programs and other relevant information are available on WestCalAcademy.com.

Dr. Tabakian then went on to talk about three Student Success Bills that have been introduced and are under consideration in California assembly. Note: none of these bills have been passed yet.

1. SB 3 (Senate Bill 3)- introduced by Senators Allen and Susan Glazer on Dec 3, 2018. Establishment of Office of Higher Education, Coordination, Accountability and Performance.

2. AB 130 (Assembly Bill 130) - introduced on Dec 4, 2018 by assembly members Evan Low and Susan Glazer. Supports establishment of the Office of Higher Education as in SB3 and proposes to repeal certain provisions in Education Code.

3. AB 198 – introduced by Sharon Quirk-

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continued from page 2

Silva on Jan 10th, 2019. Proposes to amend Section 53086 of the Education Code relating to career development. It requires career resource network to develop and distribute a Career Aptitude Test.

President's Report

by Rascha Hall

I hope you all are acquainted with our website, pvpdemocrats.org. Our webmaster, Reggie Jue, does a fantastic job of keeping us all aware of what is going on in the community - from marches to forums to speakers of interest.

Our Nominating Committee - Fraser Perkins (Chairman), Reggie Jue, and Nancie Silver - is currently preparing our slate of officers for the next fiscal year. If you receive a call from one of them, please consider responding affirmatively. Our fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30. Remember, this is going to be a big and important year. We need to work hard to keep the gains we made in the House, recapture the Senate, and most importantly, recapture the White House. On that note, our speaker for the March 17th meeting is Rusty Hicks who is running to be the Chairman of the California Democratic Party. You won't want to miss this meeting.

And on the topic of meetings, for those of you who plan ahead, we've had to make a couple of changes to our regular meeting date. Our normal meeting date is the third Sunday of every month, except for December and June. We do not have a meeting in December and the third Sunday of June is Father's Day so we always change that one. This year, the third Sunday of April is Easter. Several conflicts arose with our normal meeting place so we've had to change the April meeting to Saturday, April 27th in the Community Room at the Library. And for some reason, the third Sunday of May was taken by another group, and our meeting will be on Sunday, May 26th, which happens to be Memorial Day weekend. I hope that does not conflict with the plans for too many people. The June meeting will be the weekend after Father's Day, Sunday, June 23rd.

Lastly, our annual Installation Picnic will be held on Sunday, July 21st. If you are willing to help with the planning of the picnic, please call Kathy Bradford at (310) 265-9812.

If you want a great cultural outing, then

Fake National Emergency Presidents Day Protest



What better way to celebrate President's Day, February 18th, then to speak out against President Trump's declaration of a "FAKE" national emergency concerning illegal immigration and drug trafficking at the southern border. Here in the South Bay, at the corner of Sepulveda and Hawthorne, many of us walked to say NO to Trump's Fake Crisis, NO to his racist border wall, NO to xenophobia, and NO to HATE.



you don't want to miss the Skirball's *Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg* exhibit, which is based on the New York Times bestselling book of the same name. This exhibit coincides with the 25th anniversary appointment of RBG to the Supreme Court. The Skirball Museum is at 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles and will be there until March 10th.

Los Angeles County Voting Center Community Meeting

by Tex Yamada

A Los Angeles County-Voting Center Community Meeting was held at SBCC Thrive LA in Wilmington on Jan. 5. The event was one of 33 voting center community meetings held from November 2018 through January 2019 in Los Angeles County. The overall project is named Voting Solutions for All People (VSAP).

The main purpose of this open meeting was to inform L.A. County voters of a new voting system and infrastructure to be implemented in the 2020 election year, beginning with the

March Primary.

The meeting focused mostly on voting centers, that will replace the more than 5,000 polling stations used in recent elections. These new voting centers will be located in areas easily accessible to most voters, for example shopping malls, business parks, civic centers, and schools. These voting centers, approximately 1,000, will operate for 11 days, including election day and weekend(s). Moreover, voters will be able to use any voting center regardless of proximity to their residential address. Another major procedural/infrastructure change is the switch from marking ballot with ink to touch screen technology, using digital computer terminals.

To bring about the above changes, Los Angeles County has hired outside contractors to work on software, hardware, and design matters, according to VSAP Project Spokesperson Laura M. Herrera. The VSAP project has scheduled testing dates in 2019, as it monitors the progress of the system conversion. The next grouping of community meetings is scheduled for April-June 2019.



Palos Verdes Democrats Officers for 2018-2019

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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

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
☐ Voter Registration ☐ Campaign Work ☐ Website/Facebook ☐ Phone Tree