

Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded 1952



logo by
Paul Conrad

August 2019 Newsletter

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

COMING EVENTS

Social time: 2pm

AUGUST MEETING

DATE: Sunday, Aug 18th

MEETING TIME: 2:30 - 4:30pm

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

TOPIC: Review of 2018-19 Supreme Court
Decisions

SPEAKER: Superior Court Judge Tom
Long

SEPTEMBER MEETING

DATE: Sunday, Sept 15th

MEETING TIME: 2:30 - 4:30pm

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

SPEAKER: Los Angeles Alliance for a New
Economy

TOPIC: LA Ports Campaign

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Please renew your 2019-2020 membership. Our fiscal year runs from July 1st through June 30th and we depend primarily on dues to pay for vital donations to Democratic candidates, room and equipment rentals as well as always-appreciated refreshments! You can use the renewal form in the newsletter or renew online at <http://pvpdemocrats.org/membership/>

August General Meeting

Our August 18th meeting will examine this past year's Supreme Court decisions. Superior Court Judge Tom Long, a PV Dems member, will walk us through the video of UCI (University of California Irvine) Law's 2018-19 Supreme Court panel discussion of the decisions, and will provide insight as to how these rulings will affect us.

The Supreme Court review panel is moderated by Richard Hasen, Chancellor's Professor of UCI Law and Political Science. The panel includes: Jonathan Adler, Professor of Law, Case Western Reserve University School of Law; Erwin Chemerinsky, Dean and Distinguished Professor of Law, Berkeley Law; Chris Geidner, Senior Advisor for Law and Policy, The Justice Collaborative; Michele Goodwin, Chancellor's Professor, UCI Law; and Sarah Harrington, Partner, Goldstein & Russell.

The cases under review cover a wide range of topics, including partisan gerrymandering, reproductive rights, LGBTQ rights, the census citizenship question, due process, administrative law, the death penalty, and the ideological split among Supreme Court justices.

Here's a link to the video for those who want to do some prep homework for Judge Long's comments, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A1ALTGqZepE&feature=youtu.be>.

President's Report by Rascha Hall

We had a wonderful turnout for our annual installation picnic on July 21st. I hope you were able to join us. The



day was just right, the food - supplied by Board members and not club funds - was plentiful and delicious. I want to thank Kathy Bradford and her committee for doing such an excellent job of organizing once again. Thank you Joseph Lopez and Reggie Jue for arranging such a large variety of speakers that included, among others, local elected officials as well as Congressional leaders such as Harley Rouda, Nanette Barragan, and Ted Lieu.



Harley Rouda



Nanette Barragan



Ted Lieu

Thank you, also, to our speakers. Thank you, Reggie Jue for arranging for the band, and thank you to the Palos Verdes Jazz Kings band. We all enjoyed your playing. Thank you Carol Moeller and Ann Nye for the wonderfully clever protest signs you used as decoration around the lawn. Thank you to Connie Sullivan, Nancie Silver, and Kathy Bradford for the home-baked goodies and salads to round out our purchased sandwich and veggie trays. Thank you Reggie Jue for keeping the website updated, sending out emails as the food situation kept changing, ordering the food and, along with Connie Sullivan, picking up the food. Thank you Connie Sullivan and Asha Shahed for all the work you did in



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the kitchen, arranging the food on platters and to Connie and Nancie Silver for keeping trays plentiful. Thank you to all who brought ice chests and ice. Thank you Nancie Silver and Asha Sahed for keeping the area clean and keeping the trash under control, not a fun duty. Thank you David Hall for purchasing the soft drinks and for being our official photographer. Stacey Michaels also took some photos which she posted on Facebook. Thank you Stacey. Thank you Craig Williams for putting up all the directional signs and to Ron Moeller, Craig Williams, David Hall, and Syed Shahed for filling in wherever needed. Thank you Irene Silver and Carol Moeller for helping out at registration and to Lynn Bommer for directing attendees as they arrived. Thank you Al Shadbourn for delivering the check to the church. I'm sorry you were unable to join us at the picnic. Please forgive me if I have forgotten anyone.

July Picnic Report

by **Tex Yamada and Ann Nye**

The Palos Verdes Democrats held its annual picnic in the late afternoon at the St. Luke's Presbyterian Church in Rolling Hills Estates with the following speakers in attendance.

Sheriff Alex Villanueva led the speaker list proclaiming, "we're on the right track." He cautioned the Trump effect caused a drop in reported crime when the community believed local officials were involved in immigration enforcement. He elicited applause from the picnic attendees when he spoke about women rising up in the ranks; where there are now two women assistant sheriffs. Villanueva's final remark took advantage of this enthusiasm, saying, "Whenever I leave being sheriff, I liked to see a female sheriff."



Congressman Harley Rouda, serving his first term after upsetting longtime Republican Dana Rohrabacher in the 2018 Midterms, spoke about his observations in Washington D.C. He remembered when he first spoke at our picnic before his election no one seemed to know



who he was until he said his opponent was Dana Rohrabacher and then everyone cheered. Quoting from John Dingle, the longest serving member of Congress, he said, "I can't believe I got elected" to his constituents and then when he got to Congress he said, "I can't believe you all are here." He says, "I feel the same," and says the primary reason for some is simply to get elected and not to serve their community. He currently serves on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, as well as the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Rouda reminded us that the Republicans nationally want his seat back and are funding his challenger.

Harold Williams, West Basin Water District (WBWD) Director

and long time member of PV Dems, greeted us with the reality of where our water comes from, declaring, "We [the WBWD] serve *imported* water" and spoke about water conservation as a "California way of life." He provided flyers with a number of programs to help us save water and told us "to stay hydrated." In an interview with Williams following the Picnic, Williams provided a recap of his speech with this statement, "Through reliable water infrastructure, conservation and recycled water programs, rebates and free educational resources offered through West Basin and Metropolitan, we can all find ways to ensure a reliable water future in Southern California." West Basin board membership is an elected position to a four-year term and



Williams is serving in his second term.

Megan Crawford, board member of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District (PVPUSD)

was excited to announce they agreed to a 2 year contract with the Teachers Union. She discussed her concerns about mental health and safety, where they're hiring school resource officers to be shared with other cities and they are improving fencing around the schools. To reduce absenteeism, they're investigating why students are absent.



Congresswoman Nanette Barragan,

representing CA 44th District, dropped by our picnic with her mother. She had just visited one of the immigrant detention centers in Texas where she encountered a 13 year old American citizen behind the fence with her Mom from Guatemala. The young girl had a passport showing she was born in New York. Barragan was shocked to see the asylum seekers in the cages and especially shocked to see an American citizen. The mother told her she did not want to be separated from her daughter. After a lot of phone calls, Barragan was able to get them released together. Barragan serves on the Homeland Security Committee and the Energy and Commerce Committee, where her committee recently passed bipartisan legislation to prevent surprised billing (healthcare billing out of network).



Dan Weitzman, California Democratic Party (CADEM) Controller,

who grew up in the Palos Verdes Peninsula, enthusiastically greeted us with his remembrance back to the 1988 presidential campaign where he and his mom and dad were the only Dukakis supporters in



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his precinct. He introduced his mother, Phyllis Weitzman, and then proceeded to fire-up and energize the audience. Weitzman declared, "Orange is the new Blue," and our goal is to re-elect the Dems and get even more elected, because the next Democratic President needs a Congress to help them govern. He believes California will make a difference in who becomes president and Weitzman says he has a preference on whomever she will be. However, regardless of which Democratic Presidential candidate emerges from the crowded pack to win the party nomination, he said it is imperative for Party members to unify and rally around the selection to defeat President Trump.

Ely Flores from the NALEO (National Association of Latino Appointed and Elected Officials) Education Fund,

informed us about the Census 2020 Initiative and estimates about 4 million Latino children were not counted in the 2010 census. Flores believes LA County is at risk of an undercount and that Trump's push for a citizen question on the census was only about instilling fear in the immigrant community.



Xenia Vidal Marquez from the Planned Parenthood (PPH) Advocacy Project Los Angeles County Action Fund,

started her journey with PPH as a patient. She was overjoyed to let us know Governor Newsom just signed an unprecedented new bill funding reproductive rights.



Torrance Mayor Pat Furey proclaimed there are 226 days to the CA Primary on Super Tuesday and the next Torrance City Council election, where he and **Tim Goodrich** are up for re-election and need our help. With all that is happening in the city, the current City Council dominated by Republicans were more interested in voting "In God We Trust" to be displayed in the back of the city council chamber. Tim Goodrich (speaking after our installation, but for clarity we're including what he said here), says he's fighting for affordable housing against others on the council who say, "poor people don't eat at our



restaurants." Following Goodrich, **Andrew DeBlock, Senior Field Representative for Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi**, spoke about his run for Torrance City Council. While representing Muratsuchi, Andrew felt the need to fight for a Democratic majority on the Torrance City Council. He needs our help to fund his campaign; indicating his first fundraiser is in Venice on August 3rd (Venice because that's where someone donated their house for the event).



Betty Lieu, recently elected member of the Torrance Schoolboard (and yes,

wife of Congressman Ted Lieu), spoke to us about a Torrance school district that includes 34 schools and about 24,000 students. She was adamant we need to invest in our schools and mental health and gun safety are just a few of the issues she's passionate about. Off to the side, while Betty was talking, Ted was discretely videoing her (very sweet).



Next up, **Congressman Ted Lieu**, serving his third term, talked about being an immigrant himself. He said he served in the military because he loves this country, but many times he experienced racist taunts such as, Go back to China, Go back to Japan, Go back to Korea, Go back to wherever you came from. He said he just brushed off such comments. Lieu cited the Anti-Defamation League to certify that the President's comments are racist and said we all have to work our hardest to make sure he doesn't continue in office. Then, Lieu focused his talk on the upcoming House committee hearings with Robert Mueller; warning the crowd that he doesn't expect Mueller to reveal anything that wasn't in his report already. He said Democratic members of the House have planned their strategy for interviewing Mueller and organized their questions so as to get the most information from him. He emphasized that we all need to get out to work for Democratic candidates so that Democrats keep control of the House, get control of the Senate and win the White House.



From left, Ted Lieu, Asha Shahed, Kathy Bradford, Tex Yamada, Reggie Jue, Carol Moeller, Lynn Bommer, Rascha Hall, Irene Silver, Nancie Silver, and Ann Nye (Al Shadbourn & Arline Korb are not pictured)

Congressman Lieu continued his memorable tradition of swearing in the new slate of PV Democrat Board Members for the 2019-20 term.

Eric Alegria, Councilman, Rancho Palos Verdes, who is now in the

second year of his first term, cited public safety, environmental issues, infrastructure, and the city's financial condition as areas of growth and development by the work of its citizens and the City Council. Alegria believes in order to sustain this momentum, RPV needs to elect good candidates in the upcoming November 2019 election. He endorses Steve Perestam, a member of the Planning Commission, for City Council. Alegria is up for re-election in November 2020.



And our final speaker and perhaps most surprising speaker, was **Kevin James, President of the LA's Board of Public Works**. James reminded us he ran for LA Mayor against Eric Garcetti in 2013 as a Republican, coming in 3rd, but was then appointed by Mayor Garcetti to head the Board of Public Works. He recently switched parties after realizing all the great initiatives they were passing, like increasing the minimum wage to \$15/hr, transportation, the homeless, and sanitation, were all promoted by Democrats and opposed by Republicans. James started his journey in Oklahoma, and eventually landed in California in 1987 to live openly as a gay man. He found a supportive community in Los Angeles and became involved in politics due to the AIDS epidemic, joining the APLA board until 2001. Then he got a job in talk radio and became influenced by other conservative talk radio. He was approached in 2007 to join the Republican party and the rest is history.





Palos Verdes Democrats Officers for 2018-2019

President: Rascha Hall 310-377-7334
President Emeritus: Lynn Bommer 310-374-1188
1st Vice President: Kathy Bradford 310-265-9812
2nd Vice President: Ann Nye 310-373-6805
Recording Secretary: Asha Shahed 310-709-0264
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
Parliamentarian: Carol Moeller 310-541-5526
Newsletter Editor: Tex Yamada 310-329-3694
Newsletter Designer: Ann Nye 310-373-6805
Newsletter Mailings: Ron Moeller 310-541-5526
Hospitality: Nancie Silver 310-941-4501
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) and an opportunity to be elected to the board

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 **Check payable to: Palos Verdes Democrats**

Amount enclosed _____ ☐ Renewal ☐ New Member

Please contact us to help in the following areas:

- ☐ Hospitality ☐ Newsletter ☐ Membership ☐ Publicity ☐ Correspondence
☐ Voter Registration ☐ Campaign Work ☐ Website/Facebook ☐ Phone Tree