

Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded 1952



logo by
Paul Conrad

November 2015 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

NEW Social time: 2pm

NOVEMBER MEETING

DATE: Sunday, November 15th

MEETING TIME: 2:30 - 4:30pm

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

TOPICS:

Social Security Works: Strategies to Protect
it and Expand it

Common Cause's Mission & Legislative
Priorities

SPEAKERS:

Ernie Powell, long-time activist for Social
Security

Sylvia Moore, Southern California
Common Cause Organizer

DECEMBER MEETING

NO MEETING in December enjoy
the holidays

Inside This Month's Issue:

Nov Membership Meeting Page 1

Oct Meeting Report Page 1-2

Book Review - *Half the Sky* Page 2

Update on the PV Dems' Table Page 2

**Lundquists Host PVE Fundraiser for
Al Muratsuchi** Page 3

*Do you have something you'd
like to donate to our monthly
fundraiser drawing; like a
plant or memorabilia?*

*If so, please email Carol at
rpvdem@gmail.com.*

November Meeting Policy and Political Issues Impacting Voters Over 50 and Common Causes' Legislative Priorities

You don't want to miss our November 15
meeting. We'll be hearing from two very special
speakers.

Our first speaker, Ernie Powell has an extensive
background in issues of interest to those over
50. He worked for many years at AARP and
now is on his own as principal of Ernie Powell
Consulting where he represents organizations
working on policy/political issues impacting
voters over the age of 50. Intriguingly, Ernie also
hosts a podcast called "The Campaign with Ernie
Powell on Radio Titans". We might want to ask
him to provide more information about where
and when we can listen to this program. Further,
Ernie organized a national senior organization
called "Senior Votes Count!", which promotes the
goal of electing people to congress who have a
progressive outlook and are likely to protect and
expand safety net programs like Social Security
and Medicare.

Our second speaker is Sylvia Moore who
replaced our good friend John Smith as Southern
California Organizer for Common Cause. Some
of you may recall that at John's urging we set up
committees to lobby PVE and RPV city councils to
pass resolutions calling for Congress to start the
amendment process to undo the corrupt Citizens
United ruling of the 2010 Supreme Court. Sylvia
is hoping to reconstitute these committees. She
will also be informing us about Common Cause's
latest legislative priorities.

Please join us for this very interesting and
informative meeting, socialize with like-minded
Democrats, and enjoy yummy treats.

October Meeting Report by Laura Hines-Jurgen

The meeting was called to order by president
Carol Moeller, at 2:30 after thirty minutes of social
time.

Judy Pang announced that Carol Moeller will
be recognized as Woman Democrat of the Year
for the 66th Assembly District at the Roosevelt
Dinner in Long Beach on November 8. Tickets
to the gala may still be available.

Torrance Refinery Action Alliance

Connie, who along with club member Al
Shadbourn, is a member of the Torrance
Refinery Action Alliance (TRAA), a group of
Torrance residents and business owners who
came together after the refinery explosion in
February of this year.

She presented the scientific case against the
use of hydrofluoric acid (HF) at the refinery. This is
an extremely toxic chemical that can kill all living
things when exposed in sufficient concentration.
This chemical forms a toxic cloud at 67°F. The
Torrance refinery uses a modified form of HF that
reduces the amount that will form the cloud by
65% (according to ExxonMobil). The refinery
employs a mitigation system of sensors and water
deluges and an evacuation tank to keep a cloud
from forming and leaving the refinery.

Even so, in a worst-case offsite consequences
analysis the refinery must provide to the EPA, they
reported that a vapor cloud could travel up to
3.2 miles from the refinery in a concentration
sufficient to permanently injure or kill every
person, pet, plant in its wake.

After meeting with the TRAA in August the

continued on page 2

continued from page 1

AQMD agreed to study alternatives and then on Tuesday, October 13, the Torrance City Council agreed to partner with the AQMD in seeking alternatives.

The TRAA was quite pleased with this turn of events, but will not let up on the authorities until HF is replaced with another acid catalyst at the ExxonMobil refinery.

Port of Los Angeles Environmental Issues

The featured speaker was Christopher Cannon, the Director of Environmental Management and Chief Sustainability Officer for the Port of Los Angeles. He spoke of pressing environmental issues confronting the port with climate change happening much faster than expected. The hot weather becoming really intense and the cold weather equally extreme. The nation's busiest container port (43% of all US goods come through Long Beach) is working to improve the air and water quality.



Chris Cannon
Director of Environmental Management and Chief Sustainability Officer for the Port of Los Angeles

In 1998 the South Coast Air Quality Management Board determined the concentrations of carcinogenic particulate matter in the Los Angeles basin was one of the highest pollution areas in California. This was due in part to our natural geographic setting being a pressure cooker which traps smog causing the bad air quality, but additionally heavy-duty vehicles, freeways, airplanes, oil refineries and the port ships added to the poor

air quality.

Long Beach being one of the largest ports in the United States then set rigorous and demanding rules and procedures to target and reduce pollution coming from container ships and other ocean going vessels docking in Long Beach.

As a consequence of their efforts a 90% reduction of area pollution has been achieved through the use of electricity. Today container ships, tugboats and megaships idling in the port, power their facilities into plug-in electricity. Indeed, ships worldwide are now being built to plug into electricity while in U. S. ports. The effect of this pollution reduction has been to cut airborne emissions and cleaned up the water in the port to allow a significant return of aquatic wildlife.

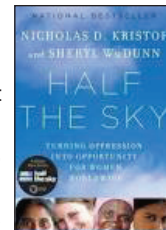
Even so, there is more to do. Cannon described the disorganized container truck loading procedures as they currently stand. Today, a truck driver arrives and lets the port know which container he's there to transport. Then the cranes operators remove all the containers surrounding the particular container and load it on the truck. Then the crane operators put the moved containers back where they were. This process wastes a lot of energy and causes a lot of pollution. They are looking at a better, cleaner system for this process.

There is a free book the port will send out for the asking entitled, "Harbor Habitat," e-mail Cannon at: ccannon@portla.org.

REMEMBER to Vote November 3rd

Book Review: *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*

by Carol Moeller



Discussing horrific situations like the forced enslavement of girls into prostitution and mutilation rape as a matter of course by conquering soldiers, husband and wife authors Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn somehow manage to turn a difficult read into a message of hope.

Basing the title on a quote from Chairman Mao that "Women hold up half the sky", they admit that progress in women's rights is particularly dismal in a country where infanticide of Chinese girls still exists. This book relates lump-in-your-throat stories of sex trafficking, genital mutilation, maternal mortality, sexual violence, and the lack of education for girls, but in each instance, they convey circumstances where women managed to beat their terrible odds.

The great gift of this book is the bounty of information provided that enables readers to find activist organizations that make the best use of funds to combat some of the situations described. Whether it is microfinancing of women's businesses or international rescue organizations or education providers, every reader should be able to find a cause worth supporting.

Update on the PV Democrats' Table at the Farmers Market

By Connie Sullivan

As you may be aware, the PV Farmers Market moved to the Peninsula High School Parking lot in June and ever since the move, our club has not been allowed to set up a table in the market.

The school district demands that we pay rent to set up a table near the market and

continued on page 3

PRIORITYONE

PRINTING ★ COPYING ★ GRAPHICS

Phone (310) 831-8804 • FAX (310) 833-9598

E-mail - priority1@earthlink.net

Website: www.priorityoneprinting.com

Newsletter Printing Donated by PRIORITYONE

Lundquists Host PVE Fundraiser for Al Muratsuchi

Photos by Michael Sullivan

On October 18, Melanie and Richard Lundquist hosted a lunchtime fundraiser in support of former Assembly member Al Muratsuchi's campaign to return to the Assembly in 2016.



Some of the large contingent of the PV Dems who attended the Lundquist Fundraiser in PVE



Former and future Assembly member Al Muratsuchi addresses the crowd



Stacey Michaels (PV Dem), center, enjoys the music provided by Robert Brandin (San Pedro Dems) along with Joseph Pinon and Linda Basset, Democrats from Carson



Hostess Melanie Lundquist addresses the fundraiser crowd

continued from page 2

that we provide insurance. The rental fee is \$25 per Sunday and insurance that we could get from the California Democratic Party is \$550 per year. The policy year starts March 1. Buying a policy now would cost the full \$550 and we would have to renew again on March 1.

As you can tell, this is too much for our little club, where the membership dues are only \$25 per person per year.

However, we will be renting a table one time, on November 8, using the one-time free policy provided by the California Democratic Party.

Please come by our table on November 8 to show the market that we are a welcome presence (there were some negative comments on the market's Facebook page about the free speech tables, not us specifically). If we count a large number of people stopping by our booth we will take

that to the market manager to show him that allowing us inside his market would be good for his bottom line.

Also, if you know where to purchase inexpensive liability insurance, or if you are friends with one or more of the school board members, please contact me, as we could use your help at 310-378-1554 or pvedems@gmail.com.



Palos Verdes Democrats Officers for 2015-2016

President: Carol Moeller 310-541-5526

President Emeritus: Connie Sullivan 310-378-1554

Vice President: Lynn Bommer 310-374-1188

Recording Secretary: Judy Pang 310-375-5783

Corresponding Secretary: Sheila Papayans 310-373-7978

Treasurer: Al Shadbourn 310-326-4953

Parliamentarian: Maria Martinez 310-833-5083

Membership: Susie Boone 310-686-0455

Publicity: David Hall 310-377-7334

Newsletter Editor: Laura Hines-Jurgen 310-544-2424

Hospitality: Teresa Savo 310-541-1139

Precinct Captains: Connie Sullivan 310-378-1554

Dee Dee Gonzalez 210-367-9727

LACDP Associate Member: Stacey Michaels 310-377-0652

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

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 _____ ☐ I am a registered Democrat

Name* _____ ☐ I am a registered Democrat

* Fill in if Applying as a Family - two memberships

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

☐ I might offer my home for a meeting or social event