

Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded 1952



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Paul Conrad

April 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

APRIL MEETING

DATE: Sunday, April 19th

TIME: 2:30 - 4:30pm

LOCATION: Peninsula Center Library 701 Silver Spur Road, RHE

TOPIC: Marine Protected Areas in CA

SPEAKER: Mike Schaadt, Director, Cabrillo Marine Aquarium

MAY MEETING

DATE: Sunday, May 17th

TIME: 2:30 - 4:30pm

LOCATION: Peninsula Center Library 701 Silver Spur Road, RHE

TOPIC: NOAA's current projects

SPEAKER: Jennifer Boyce, Restoration Scientist, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

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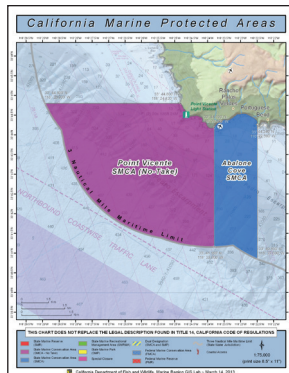
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April Meeting Protected Areas in California

Each year, April 22 is designated as Earth Day. In fact, this year marks 45 years since Earth Day was first established in 1970. To honor this day of ecological awareness, the Palos Verdes Democrats are presenting speakers advocating on behalf of the environment.

Mike Schaadt is the Director of the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium. Recommended by club members, he is described as a very knowledgeable and engaging speaker. He will discuss the newly recognized Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), including waters just off our coast. In 1999, California was the first state to require a network of marine protected areas to increase conservation. Citizens, scientists, and policy experts participated in a collaborative effort to design and implement these MPAs. In 2012, this mandate took effect in the form of a statewide network of 124 MPAs, which have the following functions:

- protect species targeted by fishing
- protect habitats
- encourage non-destructive use of marine areas, like eco-tourism
- designate undisturbed marine locations



March Meeting Report by Connie Sullivan

President Carol Moeller started the meeting by presenting by-law changes for the memberships' approval. After discussion, the membership voted to make all suggested changes to the by-laws including the ability for the club to show support of LA County Democratic Party's endorsed candidates by allowing our club's name to be used in their campaign materials.

Kay Jue, chairperson of our nominating committee, made a compelling pitch for members to consider joining our club's board. We are seeking candidates for the slate, which will be presented at the April meeting.

Connie Sullivan announced the 66th Assembly District Democratic Council monthly Sunday morning breakfast – March 29, 10:00 am at Eat at Rudy's in Torrance. The exact address is 1340 Post Ave, Torrance.

Donna Tarr announced Marianne Williamson's Sister Giant event on Mar 28 and 29. Bernie Sanders will be the Keynote speaker. Other speakers will be Dennis Kucinich, Thom Hartmann, Cenk Uygur, Lisa Bloom, and others. Specifics can be found at SisterGiant.com.

California Clean Money Campaign

D'Marie Mulattieri from California Clean Money Campaign was our first speaker. The Campaign's main focus is passing the California Disclose Act, AB 700, authored by Assembly members Gomez and Levine. The point of the act is to stop hidden, dark money from flowing into campaigns by letting the voters know who the main donors to campaigns are. Last year, similar legislation, SB 52 passed the Senate, but lost support in the

Nominating Committee, by Kay Cooperman Jue

Our 2015-'16 board nominating committee has been formed and we are working to fill several vacancies on the next board. At the top of the list is a vice president position, sort of a president-in-training post. Join the next board, work closely with the current president and then the following year, take over the top spot. We're also on the lookout for a newsletter editor and a few other positions. Please consider taking on a leadership role. Positions on the next board begin in July and the term of office is one year. Board members meet once a month in addition to the club's monthly general-membership meeting.

To find out more, please contact the Nominating Committee chair, Kay Cooperman Jue, pvedem@yahoo.com or (310) 377-3512.

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Assembly as stakeholders made a last minute push that convinced a couple of Assembly Democrats to vote against it.

AB 700 builds on progress made last year with passage of SB 27, which made it a requirement for donors of over \$50,000 to a PAC be registered with the Fair Political Practices Commission.



*D'Marie Mulattieri,
CA Clean Money
Campaign*

Disclosure is popular with both sides of the aisle. 86% of Democrats favor disclosure, 78% of Republicans are in favor and 88% of Tea Party members favor disclosure. Even Justice Scalia is in favor and has said, "Requiring people to stand up in public for their political acts fosters civic courage without which democracy is doomed."

D'Marie showed comparison screen shots of the current, unreadable disclosures seen on TV campaign ads compared with the very legible disclosures required by AB 700. The comparison was striking.

We've always had a problem with disclosure, but Citizen's United exacerbated the problem. If AB 700 passes disclosure of actual donors, not groups with benign sounding names, will be required. The disclosure campaign hopes the new rules will discourage big money from entering the fray.

If AB700 doesn't pass in the legislature, where it needs 2/3 majority to pass, they will start an initiative process, which would only require 50% + 1 to win.

Disclosure works. We all remember when

a few years ago Texas oil interests tried to overturn AB 32, but opponents had enough money to educate voters about the sponsors of the initiative and it failed.

AB 700 applies to radio as well as TV ads. On radio, the top 2 funders will be disclosed and on TV the 3 top funders will be disclosed.

Actions we can take are: Sign a petition. Gather signatures on a petition. Phone call to legislators. Participate in Lobby Day in Sacramento. Become a spokesperson and speak to groups on behalf of AB 700.

The action packet can be downloaded from CAClean.org.

Armenian Genocide

Frank Zerunyan, USC professor and city council member of Rolling Hills Estates related his story and the story of America's involvement in saving Armenians during the genocide carried out by Turkey during and after WW I. Frank was born in Turkey and moved to Rancho Palos Verdes after high school in France. His parents sent him to Paris at the age of 11 because opportunities for Armenians in Turkey were extremely limited. Here he went to college and law school, married and raised a family.



*Frank Zerunyan,
USC Professor and RHE
Council Member*

At the end of the Ottoman Empire, with the last sultan and the rise of the Young Turks, Turkey began carrying out massacres of their Christian minorities.

In 1915 U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau, Sr called on the US President to do something about the ongoing "extermination" of Armenians in Turkey. Morgenthau finally resigned from his post in 1916 and returned to the U.S. where he organized a fundraising campaign to help the Armenians and ultimately raised over \$100 million.

The funds helped refugees with food, clothing, and medical care, sending doctors and nurses and establishing hospitals. The funds also helped Armenian orphans escape to the U.S. and Europe. In fact, three U.S presidents in the 1920's each adopted an orphan from the Ottoman Empire.

Zerunyan's own grandmother was one of the orphans helped by the campaign. She was forced to march 200 miles in Syria, but then was sent to Istanbul from Syria and lived for a time with a Turkish family. His great grandfather was one of the 1.5 million killed.

Today, Turkey and our government refuse to call the massacre "genocide". Only one modern U.S. president did so, and that was Reagan when he signed a proclamation put forth by Senator William Proxmire. Before Reagan, Coolidge was the last president to do so.

April 24 marks the centennial of the Armenian genocide. Our U.S. Rep. Ted Lieu is in support of *H. Res 154: Support the Armenian Genocide Truth + Justice Resolution* making its way through Congress at this time.

What Happened to Free Speech at the PV Farmer's Market?

by Carol Moeller and Hans Grellmann

Tabling at the PV Farmer's Market has gotten ever more interesting lately. Last October, tables at the market suddenly appeared in the crosshairs of a security guard employed by Phoenix-based real estate conglomerate Vestar and UBS Global Asset Management. These are the players that bought Peninsula Center for over \$87 million in May of 2013. Even though we had tabled there without incident for at least 10 years, the guard insisted all tables needed permission from the management, and since we couldn't produce any documentation, we had to leave. In a later follow-up, we were

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told we could only set up in a hardly trafficked area located behind the Farmer's Market, we could have only 2 signs, our signs could only be of a smaller size, had to be attached to our table, and all posted information had to be approved by the management company at least 3 days in advance. We felt this infringed upon rights stipulated by the Pruneyard decision, which established that even on private property in areas where the public gathered such as farmer's markets, specific free speech rights prevailed. The City Attorney of Rolling Hills Estates was contacted, and from the information we gave him, he felt we had a right to be there. Feeling that the security guard was simply overzealous, the PV Democrats, Occupy PV and others ignored the management brouhaha and continued to set up in our usual spots without incident....until March 15 of 2015. That is the first time that same security guard was again on duty, and he again told us we had to leave. Despite showing him the e-mail from the City Attorney, he called the Sheriff. After 3 squad cars showed up and spoke with everyone, it was agreed that we could stay but had to contact the market management. Hans Grellmann did



Security Guards contesting Palos Verdes Democrats tabling at Farmer's Market

so, expressed our concerns and was told that Vestar's legal department would review our case. Not having heard from them, we set up the table on March 22, and were told to move behind the market. None of us left, and we were able to stay pending a decision by management. We are awaiting that decision.

Our Food Choices Can Save the Planet by Margaret Paez

When we stop to consider ways to help save our beautiful planet, we sometimes focus on issues that we cannot always change or impact. By that I mean that you and I don't have access to billions of dollars to pay powerful lobbying firms to change environmental protection laws,

or in our case, strengthen and defend existing laws.

If we all banded together, we could see change. Along with watching our carbon footprint with sustainable lifestyle choices, we can also watch how we eat.

As someone who now only eats a plant-based diet, I have a lot of control over how I can help save our planet by not purchasing and consuming animal-based food products. Even by eating less meat you will be helping to save our most precious resource: water.

Since California is in the midst of severe drought, and with Earth Day approaching, I want to share what I learned after I decided to give up all animal products, completely. My reason for doing relates to my husband's health. Nothing says, "You are what you eat," like a diagnosis of stomach cancer, so I joined him as he gave up all animal products. In exploring our diet we learned a lot about how eating a plant-based diet is extremely advantageous to our health; does not contribute to animal cruelty and cuts down on greenhouse emissions. According to the Sierra Club, "The single greatest source of agricultural greenhouse gas emissions is livestock, particularly factory-raised animals. Cattle (for both beef and milk, as well as for... outputs like manure...) are responsible for about two-thirds of livestock emissions."

But most importantly, eating a plant-based diet saves water. A lot of water.

The infographic here shows the amount of water used to make just one cheeseburger. According to Waterfootprint.org, it takes almost 3,963 gallons of water to produce 4.4 pounds of beef. Just by cutting meat consumption two days a week will send a message to the vast food giants, that no, we do not need our pizzas wrapped in three feet of bacon and that we'd prefer clean, drinkable water to the polluted mess their intensive farming leaves behind.

Other water-associated issues deriving from massive livestock operations includes the amount of water used to grow food for these animals, rather than humans, and to the decline in biodiversity. From the online version of the Smithsonian magazine, "In California, overuse of river water for agricultural use, including a million acres of water-intensive alfalfa (... used for feeding animals), has contributed to the long-term decline of wild salmon runs."

If you are willing, consider the next time you are tempted by that piece of flank steak or those baby back ribs, that your contribution to not consuming those animal products will



help save your health, and your planet. Further reading: <http://www.nrdc.org/water/pollution/ffarms.asp>, <http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2014/08/bottled-water-california-drought> and <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/travel/is-the-livestock-industry-destroying-the-planet-11308007/?no-ist>

Manual of Operations and By-laws Project

by Carol Moeller

As long as I've been a member of this club (over 10 years), I've never seen a working Manual of Operations. It is likely that one was in use long ago, but it wasn't until Jerry Parker took on the job of working on it, that the beginnings of this current document became available. Fortunately, just before he passed away, Jerry sent us copies of what he had completed. So, with the hard work of Teresa Savo, Al Shadbourn and Connie Sullivan, we were able to finish Jerry's PV Democrats' Manual of Operations legacy, and we are proud of these updated, useful guidelines!

Along with the Manual of Operations, we also updated our by-laws. Our general membership voted on the by-laws changes at our March meeting, so you can view the latest by-laws and also our Manual of Operations on our website: www.pvpdemocrats.org

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Palos Verdes
 Democrats
 Founded 1952

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

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