

Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded 1952



logo by
Paul Conrad

July 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

JULY MEETING

DATE: Sunday, July 19th

TIME: 2:30 - 4:30pm

LOCATION: Teresa Savo's home

TOPIC: Annual party and installation of officers

SPEAKERS:

2015 California State Democratic Convention Attendees

AUGUST MEETING

DATE: Sunday, August 16th

TIME: 2:30 - 4:30pm

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

TOPIC: 2015 Supreme Court Decisions

SPEAKERS: Attorney and former RPV Mayor Tom Long will explain this year's Supreme Court decisions using Erwin Chemerinsky's Annual SCOTUS review

Inside This Month's Issue:

July Membership Meeting Page 1

June Meeting Report Page 1-3

West Basin Tour Page 3

Book Review - I Am Malala Page 3

July Meeting Installation of Officers and Members' Party;

On July 19th at 2:30, the Palos Verdes Democrats will gather at Teresa Savo's beautiful home (30226 Avenida de Calma, RPV 90275) for the installation of club officers and our annual party. Our board members will provide the refreshments (a late lunch/early dinner), so all you need to do is rsvp to rpvdem@gmail.com with the number in your party.

Our 2015-16 club officers are:

President, Carol Moeller

First VP, vacant

Second VP, Lynn Bommer

Recording Secretary, Judy Pang

Corresponding Secretary, Sheila Papayans

Treasurer, Al Shadbourn

Parliamentarian, Maria Martinez

Publicity, David Hall

Newsletter Editor, Laura Heinz-Jurgen

Hospitality, Marta Liepzig & Teresa Savo

LACDP Associate, Stacey Michaels

Precinct Captains, Connie Sullivan & Dee Dee Gonzalez

President Emeritus, Connie Sullivan

In addition to members and their significant others, also invited are elected officials, candidates and party leaders. Here is a chance to address them in a celebratory setting....what better way to make your voices heard?

June Meeting Report by Connie Sullivan

The meeting started with several people pointing to good environmental legislation that Assembly member Hadley voted against. Jean McDonald talked about a clean water bill, Dency Nelson spoke of a bill to increase the existing renewable energy portfolio and I made a pitch for people to write letters to the Daily Breeze about Mr. Hadley's poor record on environmental issues.

Then we heard from two speakers with exciting ideas about how to reduce our carbon footprint. Our first speaker is lobbying at the federal level and the second is working at the local level. Both plans are very encouraging and made me feel hopeful that we can do something to save the planet from the worst effects of climate change.

Edric Guise of Citizens Climate Lobby

First speaker Edric Guise of the Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) presented a PowerPoint describing the program elements and justification for the Carbon Fee and Dividend program his group is lobbying Congress to pass.

Simply stated the program requires a payment of a fee per ton of carbon that is levied at point of extraction. This plan would capture the fee where most economists feel is most efficient to do so.

From there, the fee goes into the U.S. treasury and 100% is refunded to U.S. households. As one might expect this fee will cause prices to rise on carbon-based products. Markets for those products will start to decline as prices rise. As a result non-fossil fuel based products will become comparatively cheaper

Membership Dues

By Carol Moeller

The end of the fiscal year is the time for PV Democrats to renew their membership. If you first joined within the last 3 months, your membership will carry over. Otherwise, to continue being a member, we ask you to renew your membership at this time. Fill out and mail in the application on the back of this newsletter or renew online at: <http://www.pvpdemocrats.org/membership.htm>

Your dues are used for meeting expenses and for donations to Democratic campaigns, and with more billionaires donating to candidates across the aisle, our grassroots donations are increasingly important to Democratic candidates. Thank you!

continued on page 2

continued from page 1

Edric then showed a Robert Reich video. In which Reich stated that we don't allow the streets to be trashed. We pay fees to keep them clean. But trashing the atmosphere is allowed and no one pays a fee to the American people to do that.

Reich used the example of acid rain. Fossil fuel companies said doing anything about acid rain would hurt the economy, but we took action anyway and the economy flourished. Need to do the same for CO2. Carbon in the atmosphere is destroying the atmosphere.

The plan is to start with a low fee and raise it slowly over time. Electricity bills might go up, but ratepayers would receive a dividend from the Carbon Fee and Dividend program to help households pay for it. The poorest people would receive the highest dividend.

Initially, the fee would be \$10 per ton and would increase by \$10 each year until the fee reaches \$100 per ton.

Economists and conservatives agree with this approach. George Schultz former Secretary of State and Treasury, Hank Paulson, Secretary of the Treasury and many others including economist Arthur Laffer, to name a few conservative leaders are part of this effort. They see it as fast, simple and scalable. Conservatives have a knee jerk reaction to EPA regulations, but they recognize that should no alternative be implemented, government will have to implement more regulations.

10 years after Capture Fee and Dividend takes effect, clean energy will be cheaper than carbon-based fuels. Coal will no longer be used by the mid 2020's. Major corporations are advocating for this. Even oil companies are supporting this approach, recognizing not doing so will spell doom for them.



Joe Galliani, Eric Guise, and Carol Moeller

So, this approach represents a confluence of corporate America and conservative think tanks, but not politicians.

How would this work with respect to other high polluting countries, such as China? There would be border tax adjustments. Chinese companies would have to pay the fee when exporting their products to us. This imposes a fee on their economy and evens the playing field for our corporations.

Capture Fee and Dividend has worked in British Columbia; currently the fee is \$30 per ton. The GDP of British Columbia has risen since program inception. A non-partisan think tank predicts millions of new jobs as households spend their dividends.

This simple, elegant plan would reduce atmospheric carbon back down to sustainable levels and improve our economy. Shouldn't be a difficult sell, but the CCL is having a tough time with conservatives in congress. Recently the Catholic Church managed to get them a meeting with John Boehner.

CCL started in 2007 now has 12000 members. They have the singular mission to lobby Congress to pass this fee and dividend program. If you would like to get involved, you can volunteer here: <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/join-citizens-climate-lobby/>

Joe Galliani of the South Bay Clean Power Group

Our second speaker Joe Galliani is working to bring something called Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) to the South Bay. The term CCA, is the name of the legislation that enabled local groups to aggregate energy from clean sources to bring it to our homes through the existing power grid.

Joe calls it Community Choice Power, and reports that it will be up and running by 2016 in the South Bay.

Southern California Edison (SCE) is an investor owned utility – a resident has no choice if you live in their area, you get your power from them. SCE has been dragging their heels on clean power. CCA is a hybrid that will bring renewable power over the existing SCE grid.

CCA works well in Marin and Sonoma counties and can work well here, too. When up and running, ratepayers will be automatically enrolled in the cleaner power option provided by CCA and may opt out to the dirtier option currently provided by SCE.

Local cities have passed a resolution to become part of the County's feasibility study of CCA. Palos Verdes Estates is the only city on the hill to have joined at this writing.

When enough user cities join in, there will be enough revenue to pay for the program entirely while lowering household costs for energy. South Bay Clean Power can do it cheaper because SCE has high extra costs, high salaries to pay, and profit to share with investors. South Bay Clean Power will have no investors to pay. And no taxpayer money will be required, as ratepayers will pay all costs.

Marin County went first. Sonoma County learned from their experience and South Bay Power Group in turn is learning from Sonoma's experience.

Hermosa Beach commissioned UCLA to determine how they could de-carbonize their electric supply and UCLA recommended CCA. So South Bay Clean Power Group was formed.

If the goal is cutting greenhouse gases, CCA is the best tool for doing that. It also provides the advantage of local control and

continued on page 3

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continued from page 2

keeping rates stable. The UCLA study shows that pursuing CCA is the most feasible option. Forming a joint power authority (JPA) with other cities makes the option more viable.

Torrance commissioned USC to do a study, which recommended Torrance do a feasibility study with local communities. That study pointed out that Torrance has 88 brownfields, requiring mitigation to use, but Torrance could put solar panels on them without cleaning them up and produce 540 megawatts of solar energy on them.

South Bay Clean Power is going city by city to have them join the County's feasibility study. Once completed, the consortium of cities will likely form the JPA necessary to move the financing of the program forward and if all goes well we ratepayers will see the option to purchase several different levels of clean power and have it delivered through SCE. This should happen sometime in 2016!

As the meeting ended, I felt more hopeful about the future of the planet than I have in a very long time. Other attendees said they felt the same.

West Basin Water Recycling Facility Tour

by Carol Moeller and Ann Nye



On the morning of June 25, eighteen PV Democrats, along with some family members and friends, were treated to a tour of the West Basin Water Recycling Facility in El Segundo led by Darryl Ramos-Young. Our Division 1 Director, Harold Williams, even took time out of his busy schedule to briefly join us (thank you, Harold!).

This water recycling facility receives partially treated water from the Hyperion plant, and produces 5 types of "designer" waters, from irrigation water to near-distilled quality water. West Basin produces more types of recycled water products than any other recycling plant in the world. Water is treated by different sizes of microfilters and by a reverse osmosis process to remove particulate matter, and finally disinfected using ultraviolet lights. The facility provides recycled water to refineries (Chevron, ExxonMobil and Tesoro) for use in the processing of oil, provides water for landscaping, and also pumps water into the ground to maintain the fresh water barrier needed to keep sea water



On the West Basin Water Facility Recycling Tour, guide Darryl Ramos-Young has one of our young tour participants show us the output of the reverse osmosis process



from intruding into our fresh water aquifers. Half of El Segundo's total water needs are met with West Basin's recycled water. Currently, West Basin only receives a fraction of the treated water from the Hyperion Plant. The rest of Hyperion's treated water is dumped in the ocean miles off our shore. Our tour guide, Darryl, says West Basin is now working with PVE and the PVE Golf Club to provide recycled water for irrigation of the golf course. The main obstacle standing in the way of more PV businesses and property taking advantage of the recycled water for irrigation is the cost of pumping the water up the Peninsula.

West Basin has demonstrated it is affordable to use recycled water for industry and irrigation. In order to use the recycled water for drinking they currently need to pump the water back into the ground due to a California regulation requiring our drinking water come from the ground. So if they re-pump the recycled water back into the ground and later re-capture it, then we're allowed to drink the water. Water from our sewers becomes safe enough (and tastes good enough) to drink in just an hour or two! (Yes, you can see in the photo that some of us were brave enough to sample the water!)



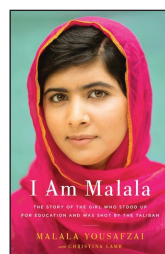
Sewage to Tap Drinkable Water

Book Review

by Carol Moeller

I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban

by Christina Lamb and Malala Yousafzai

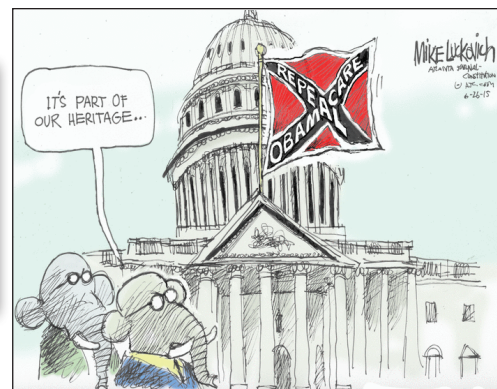


This is actually the autobiography of a

remarkable girl whose post-shooting tenuous hold on life caused the world to hold its collective breath.

Malala Yousafzai lived a comparatively secure life in the Pashtun Swat Valley of Pakistan until the Taliban established a foothold when she was 10 years old. The zealous quashing of freedoms, especially for women and particularly the right to an education, was shocking to a child whose father owned schools for girls. A gifted student and orator, Malala began speaking out, not only against the Taliban, but also against the US policies of drone warfare, the CIA funding of Jihad movements, and the abuses by US mercenaries, who appeared protected from US and local laws. In an attempt to silence her, just as they had successfully silenced many who spoke out previously, members of the Taliban shot the then 15 year-old Malala point blank in the head. Due to immediate medical attention in Pakistan and later in England, Malala miraculously recovered and continues to speak out.

This book paints a vivid picture of the insidious spread of extremism happening not only in the Middle East, but also around the world. Now living in England with her family (as it is too dangerous for her to return to Pakistan), Malala is the youngest person ever to be nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.





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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:

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

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