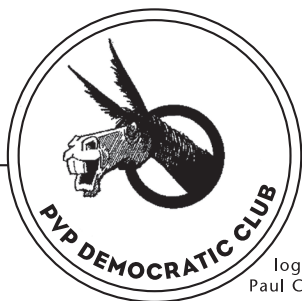


Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Club

Founded 1952



February 2013 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

FEBRUARY MEETING:

DATE: Sunday, February 17, 2013

TIME: 2:30-4:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Peninsula Center Library
701 Silver Spur Rd, RHE

TOPIC: Global Warming

MARCH MEETING:

DATE: Sunday, March 17, 2013

TIME: 2:30-4:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Peninsula Center Library

TOPIC: California Redistricting

February Meeting: Global Warming/Climate Rally

"We, the people, still believe that our obligations as Americans are not just to ourselves, but to all posterity. We will respond to the threat of climate change, knowing that the failure to do so would betray our children and future generations."

President Barack Obama, January 21, 2013

It seems as though our nation is finally ready to do something about saving our planet for future generations.

On February 17, our meeting topic will be Global Warming. This date happens to coincide with the Climate Rally in Washington D.C. organized by 350.org and the Sierra Club, as well as the associated Sierra Club Rally in downtown Los Angeles.

The emphasis of the Climate Rally will be to ask President Obama to stop the Keystone XL pipeline from Canada to the Gulf Coast.

Our first speaker will be Dr. Chris Gantner whose talk is entitled "Environmental Policy and Historical Perspectives." Dr. Gantner, an historian specializing in the history of ideas, has taught at UCLA, UCSD and the Claremont Colleges. Online student ratings of Dr. Gantner's classes rate him as very engaging. Should be an interesting talk.

Al Sattler, Political Chair of the PV-South Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club and Chair of the Climate Change Committee of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter will be our second speaker. Al, who is a chemist by training, will talk about the "Climate Reality" project.

In conjunction with the big Climate Rally going on at the same time as our meeting, Al will lead attendees in sending President Obama individual emails encouraging the President to take significant climate change action.

Hans Grellmann will follow with an explanation of Bill McKibben's climate math. Bill is the founder of 350.org. Hans will also briefly talk about framing of the climate issue.

So, come and learn the latest information about global warming and join us in taking action to encourage the president to follow through on his inaugural commitment. Hope to see you there.

January Meeting Report

By Christine Mei
Club Business

First Vice President Hans Grellmann made the following announcements:

a) Next month's meeting will be held on February 17 at the Peninsula Library. The subject is global warming. On the same day, a huge rally will be held in front of the White House against the Keystone XL pipeline project.

b) In addition to being the date of the presidential inauguration, January 21 is also the third anniversary of the Citizens United decision by the Supreme Court. All Democrats are encouraged to support Move to Amend, a grassroots movement to reverse the Supreme Court decision.

c) The Torrance Democratic Club will have an inauguration celebration party on Monday, January 21 @ 6 PM.

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d) Board member Teresa Savo was elected as the delegate from the 66th Assembly District to the Democratic Party State Convention.

Board member Carol Moeller spoke of the newly formed 66th Assembly District Democratic Council. The council is to facilitate the communication between our Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi and the Democrats in the district. Carol encouraged club members to join the council.

Jean McDonald, club second vice president, recognized several honored guests who attended the meeting. Hans then introduced State Senator Ted Lieu. Ted informed the audience that he is now representing the Palos Verdes Peninsula. He spoke briefly on the advantage of having a Democratic super majority in the state legislature and encouraged the audience to contact him regarding any legislative issues of concern.

2012 and the Future for the Democratic Party

The meeting room was packed with more than 80 people in attendance. Second Vice President Tom Long introduced the speaker, Michael Dukakis, former Massachusetts governor and the 1988 Democratic nominee for president.

Gov. Dukakis opened his speech by commenting on the historical nature of the 2012 election. In this election, Californians voted out four incumbent Republican members of Congress and elected Democrats like the young Mexican American doctor from Palm Springs and the Indian American doctor from the Bay Area. At the presidential level, Obama won the state by 21 points. This is historical because California has not always been a blue state. It only turned blue after Bill Clinton won the presidency in 1992.

The lesson here is that precinct-based grassroots organizing works. It is a strategy that Democrats failed to do well in the



Governor Dukakis spoke at the January meeting

Phone banking, Gov. Dukakis contended, has become less effective.

For the 2012 election, Gov. Dukakis came up with several observations:

1) The country is changing. California is ahead of the rest of the country. The demographic change of the country gives us a great sense of possibilities.

2) 2014 is going to be hugely important. He believes that it is possible for Democrats to take the U.S. House back in 2014. California has set up a model for the rest of the country. We need to stay active and get more young people involved.

3) He rejected the notion of red states and blue states. There is no reason why Democrats cannot win in a lot of so-called red states. Red states such as West Virginia, Arkansas, and Kentucky all have Democratic governors, but they did not vote for Obama. We must increase the grassroots efforts in these states to win future elections.

During the question and answer period, Gov. Dukakis addressed the following issues:

The Role of Organizing For Action

There were concerns from the audience on whether Organizing For Action, the newly formed group from the Obama campaign, will take over the work of the state's Democratic Party and whether they will shy away from the door-to-door strategy. He assured the audience that this organization is simply using the remarkable network that Obama campaign

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Governor Michael Dukakis

past. In the 2012 election, it made a huge difference. It was this kind of house-to-house, person-to-person campaign that helped Obama win all the battleground states except North Carolina and helped Elizabeth Warren win the Senate seat in Massachusetts.

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State Senator Ted Lieu

built to help the president push some important legislation through Congress.

Electoral College

He is in favor of abolishing the Electoral College, a profoundly undemocratic institution in his opinion. Common Cause is leading the effort to reform the Electoral College without amending the constitution. They are pushing an effort to have sufficient states representing a majority of Electoral College votes to pass laws to allot their electoral votes in accordance with the national popular votes. The candidates will have to campaign in all states. Every vote counts.

Debt Ceiling

The debt ceiling debate is a phony issue. He recalled that when Clinton left office, we had two back-to-back budgetary surpluses. Clinton proposed to use the surplus to pay down the debt in lieu of cutting taxes. The interest saved could be used to fully fund Social Security. It was a very conservative fiscal policy with broad national support. But then we had a new president. Five tax cuts and two wars later, we are facing a huge debt today.

The Major Issues Facing Democrats in the Coming Years

National security and foreign policy are the two issues about which he has great concern. He questioned the relevance to our national security of having super weapons and American bases in 150 countries. Serious rethinking is needed on the defense budget. The Cold War is over yet our budget is still

a Cold War budget. There is no need to create a new cold war with a country like China, and there is no need for us alone to solve every international crisis. Instead, we should work hard with other countries to build and strengthen international peacekeeping institutions. His fondest hope is that someday conflicts can be resolved completely through these institutions.

We can prevent terrorist attacks by working through international police networks, and we should send terrorists to international criminal courts. We don't need to keep a huge defense budget to fight terrorists.

Out of the \$900 billion we spent on national security in 2012, we can easily trim off \$100 billion. We can use \$50 billion for debt reduction and \$50 billion for building mass transit.

Gov. Dukakis ended his speech by stressing the importance of implementing the Affordable Care Act well and having a coherent anti-recession economic policy. This is about helping working Americans and their families.

Gov. Howard Dean's Talk at UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs

By Connie Sullivan

On Wednesday, January 23, I was able to attend this event billed as "a conversation with Governor Howard Dean" entitled "Campaigns Matter!"

The main theme of his talk was the importance of the under 35 generation and how they are shaping our future.

According to Dean the under 35 generation is not satisfied with transforming the country but wants to change the world. This generation is more libertarian than their parents – socially very liberal, fiscally conservative and anti-union. The Republicans struggle attracting this generation because of the way they talk about other groups. For the young, there is no "other".

Until 2008 Republicans were always more organized than Democrats, but Barack Obama's organization OFA changed that and they continued to have the better organization in 2012. In 2008 OFA organized the young and instituted a neighbor-to-neighbor organization.

Also, in 2008 Dean was chair of the DNC and insisted on a 50-state policy. He quoted Pasteur as saying "Chance favors the prepared mind" and that's what happened in Alaska in 2008, thanks to the 50-state policy. Because Democrats had established an organization in Alaska, in spite of the fact that Democrats had no apparent chance there, when Sen. Ted

Stevens was indicted the Democrats were positioned to take that seat. And they did.

Dean mentioned that he's not sure politics is the way to change anything and that change doesn't happen in Washington or Sacramento anymore. He spoke of Molly Katchpole who spearheaded the movement to stop Bank of America from charging a \$5 monthly fee for ATM services by starting an online petition.

He finished by listing a number of projects worldwide started by the under 35 generation that are making huge impacts: a micro financing project in Rwanda and soccer balls that have kinetic energy mechanisms inside them that store energy when kicked during the day and serve as lights for non-electrified homes at night.

He finished by saying that the sclerosis of institutions is driving under-35 grassroots change.

Savo Elected as Delegate to State Convention

By Connie Sullivan

Teresa Savo, our club's Hospitality Chair, ran for delegate to the California State Convention and won! The election was held on January 13, 2013 and quite a few of our members turned out to support Teresa. She was the second highest vote earning woman candidate and will be one of six women delegates to the 2013 and 2014 California Democratic Party's conventions. Congratulations, Teresa!

Club Expenditures in December and January

By Connie Sullivan

In December we sent \$300 to the Democratic Action Center, the permanent Democratic office located in Torrance, which serves all Democrats in the South Bay. Some years ago the board agreed to pay the Center \$600 per year to help defray its costs.

We paid a \$100.00 chartering fee to the Los Angeles County Democratic Party, which we must do annually.

We paid \$75.00 for rental and audio/visual equipment fees to the Peninsula Center Library.

We reimbursed Hans Grellmann \$35.00 for campaign expenditures.

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2nd VP: Tom Long

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Palos Verdes Peninsula
Democratic Club
Founded 1952

P.O. Box 2234,
Rolling Hills Est. Ca 90274

Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Club

Founded in 1952 - One of the oldest and largest Democratic Clubs in California

As a member of
the PVP
Democratic Club,
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

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