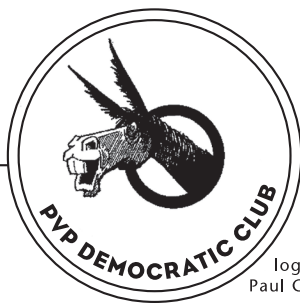


Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Club

Founded 1952



March 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

MARCH MEETING:

DATE: Sunday, March 17, 2013

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

LOCATION: Peninsula Center Library
701 Silver Spur Rd, RHE

TOPIC: California Redistricting and
the Impact of Proposition 30 on Local
School Budgets

APRIL MEETING: April 21, 2013

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

LOCATION: Peninsula Center Library
701 Silver Spur Rd, RHE

TOPIC: Citizen's United, Move to
Amend

Inside This Month's Issue:

**March Membership Meeting
Announcement** - Page 1

February Meeting Report - Page
1-3

Board Sets Goal for Year - Page 3

Nominating Committee - Page 3

March Meeting: California Changes: Boundaries and Local School Budgets

Successful passage of Propositions that created the California Redistricting Commission has drastically reshaped our political maps. Proposition 30 created another major change. Governor Jerry Brown has now altered the way school districts receive their funds.

At our meeting we will have the privilege of seeing and hearing how the Redistricting Commission went about its mandate. And we will see what is happening to the budget in our own Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District.

"We Drew the Lines" will be presented by two of the 14 Commissioners on the Commission. Mr. Peter Yao, a Republican, and Ms. Jeanne Raya, a Democrat, will show and tell us how they met the challenges they volunteered for. Mr. Yao has been the Mayor of the City of Claremont as well as a member of the City Council. He has degrees in Electrical Engineering from UC Berkeley as well as numerous other universities in California and in New York. He retired from Raytheon Corporation as the Director of Engineering in 2005.

Ms. Raya is employed by the John L. Raya Insurance Agency, a family-owned business established in San Gabriel in 1960. She is an Agency Principal and has numerous responsibilities in that role. She received a Bachelor's Degree and Teaching Credentials from USC and a Law Degree from UC Davis. In private law practice she served as President of the California La Raza

Lawyers Association and as President of the San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Anthony Collatos is the current President of the Board of Education of our school district and an Associate Professor of Education at Pepperdine University. He is one of five members who are elected by the public to four-year terms. Terms are staggered so that two or three seats are open each election.

Proposition 30 won with 55.4% for to 44.6% against. It increases personal income tax on annual earnings over \$250,000 for seven years. It increases sales and use tax by ¼ cent for four years. It also allocates temporary tax revenue 89% to K-12 schools and 11% to community colleges. Proposition 30 spares the District from drastic cuts. However, "it failed to generate new revenue for public schools." It "also did not restore money lost since state school funding began shrinking in 2007," according to the District website.

February Meeting Report

By Christine Mei

Club Business

Club President Connie Sullivan made the following announcements:

a) Al Muratsuchi, our new Assembly member, will have a town hall meeting in Palos Verdes on March 16. The meeting information will be forthcoming.

b) The club will invite a school board member to come to our meeting next month to discuss the impact of Prop. 30.

continued on page 2

continued from page 1

John Harbison, a resident of Palos Verdes Estates briefed the audience on a land-use dispute that recently surfaced in the city. A hearing on this matter will be held at the Palos Verdes Estates City Hall at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, February 19.



Dr. Chris Gantner, UCLA historian

Environmental History

Dr. Chris Gantner, a UCLA historian, talked about environmental history being a study of the interaction between the land and the people. In the past, the land was viewed as a resource to be extracted by human beings. Only within the last decade or two have we begun to look at the environment as an active player.

Americans became conscious of the environment in the early part of the twentieth century. This was because drastic changes in the land happened in a way that people could no longer ignore. Dr. Gantner used the 1914 death of Martha, the last passenger pigeon, as an example. Prior to 1914, the number of passenger pigeons was measured in the millions



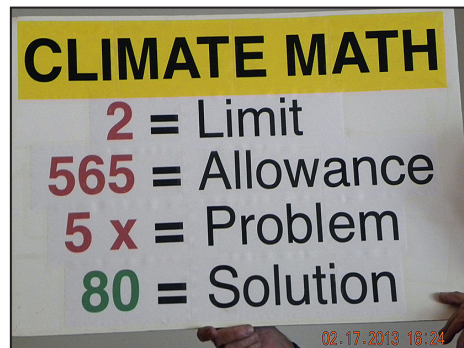
Club VP Hans Grellman

and people would kill them for their meat and feathers. They seemed to be an inexhaustible source. Yet in 1914, they were completely gone. This sudden loss of a seemingly infinite resource jolted people. They began to realize the importance of preservation and conservation and also began to connect the environment to some kind of spiritual life that was also in decline. People started to ask the question: where do we go when the world reaches the breaking point?

Dr. Gantner believes that we are at a point where a true environmental policy has a chance of being formulated and implemented. However, we should be cognizant of our cultural bias and try to correctly assess the environment to the best of our ability. Only then will we be able to come up with a viable strategy to push the policy forward.

350.org

Club VP Hans Grellmann introduced 350.org, an organization founded by Bill McKibben. 350.org holds rallies and demonstrations all over the world to make people aware of climate change. A huge climate rally organized by 350.org and the Sierra Club is being held on the National Mall in Washington, DC on the same day



Climate Math

as our club meeting. A concurrent rally is being held in Los Angeles.

The big push right now is to stop the Keystone XL Pipeline project. The project is to transport tar sand-derived oil from Canada to the Gulf Coast. Deriving oil from tar sand involves bulldozing forests, pumping steam into the ground, or doing mountain top removal. It is an environmental disaster. If there is a spill, toxic gases will be emitted.

Climate Math

Bill McKibben came up with a clever way to explain climate change. It is called Climate Math. There are four numbers associated with it:

2 - The maximum temperature rise of the Earth's atmosphere in Centigrade. Beyond 2°C, humanity will not be able to survive.

565 - The amount of carbon in billion tons we can burn before reaching 2°C.

5 times - Proven fossil fuel reserves are five times as large as the above allowance. If we keep burning carbon at the current rate, we will reach 565 billion tons in 18 years.

80 - The amount in percentage of fossil fuel we should leave in the ground. If we can do that, the fossil fuel industry will be completely out of business in 36 years. It is the solution to combat climate change.

Hans briefly touched upon on how to frame the discussion on climate change. He prefers to use the term Catastrophic Climate Change.

Climate Reality

The speaker was Al Sattler, chair of Palos Verdes-South Bay Sierra Club. He used a

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

continued from page 2



Al Sattler, chair of Palos Verdes-South Bay Sierra Club

series of slides and videos to illustrate the destruction caused by disastrous climate change in the world. He showed slides on flooding in Pakistan, Australia, China, the Korean Peninsula, the US, India, etc. The flooding was caused by heavy downpours due to the increased moisture concentration in the air. As the Earth's temperature rises, more water evaporates from ocean into the Earth's atmosphere, hence the increased moisture content. The rise in temperature will also cause more water to evaporate from soil and create severe drought and dust storms.

The increased carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere is the main culprit for global warming. When there is no excessive burning of fossil fuel, the generation of carbon dioxide is more or less offset by the consumption of that gas. With the increased burning of fossil fuel, more carbon dioxide is added to the air and hence the increase in the Earth's temperature.

Higher temperatures also impact crop production such as rice. The extreme heat could cause rice to be sterilized. It will also turn more farmland into desert and cause serious fires.

Al warned that we have to do something about climate change now. The technology to solve the climate crisis is available; what lacks is the political will. Nevertheless, he is hopeful.

He pointed out the following:

Nominating Committee News

The PVP Democratic Club Nominating Committee has formed for the 2013 election of officers and board members. Serving on the committee are Rascha Hall, Lynn McLeod, and Barbara Epstein. The Nominating Committee is contacting all current officers to find out who is returning to serve again next year. We are also engaged in finding nominees to serve as First Vice President, Second Vice President in charge of programming, Publicity Chair and Newsletter Editor to replace the board members and officers we know are retiring.

We greatly appreciate the valuable work of those who have served our club so well for the past year, and over many years. It is hard to let them go.

Please contact me by March 15 if you would like to nominate someone, or would like to join the Board, or serve as a committee chair yourself.

We will publish the final slate of candidates in the April newsletter and the election will be held at the monthly membership meeting on May 19.

Barbara Epstein – Chair
justbarb56@gmail.com
310 378 7317

1) It is a lot cheaper to switch to alternative energy sources than to burn fossil fuel. Investing 1% of global GDP in alternative energy will save 5% in recovery costs for damages resulting from climate disruption.

2) We have made great strides in wind energy and solar energy. China is installing more wind power than nuclear power, and the cost of solar power is coming down in the US.

Al urged the audience to speak up about climate change, join groups such as the Climate Reality Project, minimize the use of energy in our personal lives, advocate changes to our laws, and email President Obama to urge him to stop the Keystone XL Pipeline and to do everything he can to make a difference on climate change.



Tony Hale, chair of California Democratic Party's Environmental Caucus

Democratic Party's Environmental Caucus

Tony Hale, former club president and now the chair of the California Democratic Party's Environmental Caucus, asked people to get involved in environmental issues at the local level. He felt strongly that the Party should show leadership on issues relating to the environment. He is looking for people to become environmental leaders.

During the question and answer period, questions were asked on the effects of sunspots on global warming, carbon tax, shale oil, fracking, and the environmental impact of meat.

Board Sets Goal For Year

By Jean McDonald

Inspired by the Move to Amend organization's campaign, the Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Club Board voted to focus our attention this calendar year on amending the Constitution to overturn the Citizens United decision by the Supreme Court. Our April meeting will be a unique opportunity to become truly engaged in participatory democracy. We will conduct a workshop designed to give you the tools necessary to work with people from other community groups and help create resolutions to amend the Constitution for our local elected officials to sign.

We invite you to join us in this important endeavor to reclaim our democracy that was created more than 200 years ago.

PVPDC Officers for 2012 Contact Info

President: Connie Sullivan
310-378-1554
1st VP: Hans Grellmann
310-373-3066
2nd VP: Jean McDonald
310-375-5135
2nd VP: Tom Long
Recording Secretary: Judy Pang
310-375-5783
Corresponding Secretary
310-265-1037
Treasurer: Shuja Oberoi
310-375-2103
Membership Chair: Lynn McLeod
310-541-2458
Newsletter Editor: Christine Mei



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
☐ Voter Registration ☐ Campaign Work ☐ Website/Facebook ☐ Phone Tree
☐ I might offer my home for a meeting or social event