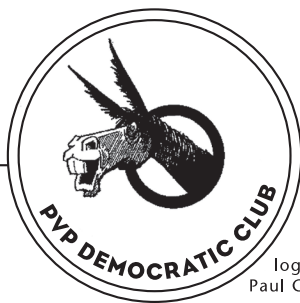


Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Club

Founded 1952



June 2013 Newsletter

P.O. Box 2234, Rolling Hills Est. CA 90274
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COMING EVENTS

JUNE MEETING

DATE: Sunday, June 9, 2013

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

LOCATION: Peninsula Center Library
701 Silver Spur Rd, RHE

TOPICS: Homelessness in Los Angeles and the South Bay

SPEAKERS: : Mike Alvidrez, Executive Director of Skid Row Housing Trust; Mark Silverbush, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority; Rascha Hall, Help the Homeless Help Themselves

JULY MEETING

DATE: Sunday, July 21, 2013

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

LOCATION: Home of Teresa Savo

TOPICS: Installation of Officers and Reception

SPEAKER: Assembly member Al Muratsuchi

June Meeting: Homelessness in Los Angeles and the South Bay – June 9 (one week earlier than usual!)

Concerned about the homeless population in Los Angeles and here in the South Bay?

On June 9, 2:30 pm at the Peninsula Center Library you can hear from experts, who will define the scope of the problem, discuss solutions and tell you about local groups that are doing something to alleviate this problem.

Our first guest speaker will be Mark Silverbush of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) "a Joint Powers Authority established in 1993 as an independent agency by the County and the City of Los Angeles. LAHSA is the lead agency in the Los Angeles Continuum of Care, and coordinates and manages over \$70 million dollars annually in Federal, State, County and City funds for programs providing shelter, housing and services to homeless persons in Los Angeles City and County."

Mark will provide the latest data for the entire county and for our South Bay area.

Mike Alvidrez, executive director of Skid Row Housing Trust, will speak next about his non-profit's efforts to build supportive housing for the large homeless population in downtown's skid row. Mike's organization is the premiere homeless housing corporation in Los Angeles, the city that has the densest homeless population in the U.S. Mike and his staff are building amazing apartment hotels that provide the full set of services necessary for this difficult-to-house population.

Next we'll hear from a representative of the South Bay Coalition for the Homeless and learn

about their activities and plans for the future to help the homeless here in our own backyard.

Our last speaker will be Rascha Hall, president of Help the Homeless Help Themselves (HHHT), a Palos Verdes Peninsula nonprofit helping the homeless of the South Bay. HHHT is a major philanthropy group that funds a number of nonprofits in the area and Rascha will tell us about these groups.

May Meeting Report

By Christine Mei

Club Business

Club President Connie Sullivan made the following announcements:

- It is time to renew club membership for 2013-2014. Dues can be paid online at pvpdemocrats.org or by check.
- Two fundraising events are scheduled: June 2 for State Senator Ted Lieu and June 1 for Congresswoman Judy Chu in Monterey Park. Nancy Pelosi will be at Congresswoman Chu's event.
- Next month's meeting will be on June 9. The topic will be homelessness.
- July's installation meeting will be held at Teresa Savo's home. Details will be forthcoming.

Connie read the slate of candidates nominated for the 2013-2014 board of directors. The election will be held at next month's meeting.

Carol Moeller was elected to represent our club as one of the three co-chairs of the 66th Assembly District Democratic Council.

A resolution to support the preservation of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve and to request the state agencies to rescind their MOU with the Annenberg Foundation was passed.

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John Powers, editor of the abridged edition of the Pentagon Papers

The Pentagon Papers

Our first speaker, John Powers, is a graduate of USC with an MFA and BFA in drama. He recently published an abridged edition of the Pentagon Papers. In addition to this paperback book, he produced an innovative theater series, a four-part video and an e-book on the same subject.

The original Pentagon Papers consists of 47 volumes with a total of 7,000 pages. Thirty-six writers, working separately in the same conference room, completed the book in less than a year.

John considers the Pentagon Papers the greatest work in American literature. It provides insight into the inner workings of the highest levels of American power over the course of 23 years and reveals the decisions and deceptions that kept the American people in the dark for a quarter of a century through five different administrations.

John's involvement with the Pentagon Papers began in 2011 on the 40th anniversary of the publication. He read the entire 7,000 pages and extracted excerpts that gave comprehensive descriptions of America's involvement in Southeast Asia from 1945 to 1968.

The purpose of his involvement is to



Afghan Field Hospital



Afghan Kids

introduce the Pentagon Papers to a new generation of Americans who find their nation now engaged in another "endless war." John's abridged edition will give young people a concise understanding of the Vietnam War and show how a disastrous national policy emerged and continued to develop over many decades. Most of the chapters in the book have online links to help readers expand their understanding and appreciation of the Vietnam War.

John then read Chapter 5, "Dien Bien Phu," from the book. The chapter tells the story of the spectacular defeat the French suffered as well as U.S. efforts to contain communism.

During the question and answer period, he went into detail on how Daniel Ellsberg leaked the document to the media; the efforts of the British and French to reclaim their old colonies after WWII; how Vietnam was divided into two countries; and the fate of Bradley Manning as compared to that of Daniel Ellsberg.

The Afghanistan War

Retired Marine Corps Lieutenant Colonel David M. McCarthy was our second speaker. He was commissioned in 1981 and served in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Arabian Peninsula and the Horn of Africa. In 2007, he was injured in Iraq and was later awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

David shared many stories of his deployment in Afghanistan: his encounters with the insurgents, the courageous acts of some locals protecting the U.S. soldiers, the missteps, etc. He then showed pictures of the Kandahar

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Lieutenant Colonel David M. McCarthy, USMC (Ret.)

airport, the mountainous terrain, the villages that have stood unchanged for thousands of years, the Afghan people, the interior view of a helicopter, and a field hospital.

The audience asked whether he was just following orders or really believed in the war. David contends that there is no easy answer. He had to follow the orders given to him by his superiors. If he considered the orders to be unlawful, he could follow the military rule of the three Rs: repeat, refuse and report.

He does not agree with the president's decision in announcing the troop withdrawal date. He feels that the enemy can just wait us out and that Afghan locals won't cooperate with us for fear of retribution.

The audience asked if he had a sense of mission while serving in Afghanistan. David's answer was a resounding yes. He said his mission was to help the Afghan people rebuild their country and get rid of Al Qaeda.



Tim Goodrich, a member of Plug in America and a partner with the Truman National Security Project

Energy, Climate and National Security

The third speaker, Tim Goodrich, is a member of this club and serves on the Democratic County Central Committee. He was recently nominated as Democrat of the Year of the 66th Assembly District. He served three deployments in the Middle East and is a member of Plug in America and a partner with the Truman National Security Project.

Don't Let Your Membership Expire!

This is to remind you that it's time to renew your membership and stay involved in this year's important Democratic campaigns and issues. Student memberships are \$10, individual memberships are \$25 and family memberships are \$40. An important tenet of the Democratic Party is to be inclusive to all. In that spirit, our club will never turn anyone away who cannot afford the annual dues. If you fall into that category, please contact Al Shadbourn at al.shadbourn@socal.rr.com or mail in your membership form noting your situation.

We are very happy to announce that it is now possible to join or renew online via the Membership page on our website, www.pvpdemocrats.org – instructions will walk you through the process. If you prefer, you are also welcome to complete the membership information form on the last page of this newsletter and send it with your check to the address on the form. You may also bring your check to the next meeting.

Thank you for helping us build a meaningful voice for good government at all levels – we look forward to hearing from you!

Tim believes strongly that our national security is tied to our energy and climate policies. Climate change inflames conflicts around the world and incurs great costs for humanitarian aid in disaster areas. Our dependence on foreign oil creates hostility toward the U.S. and subjects our economy and consumers to price shocks.

The consequences of inaction are many: we are more vulnerable to foreign threats, our trade deficit will grow, more open space will be destroyed and we are ceding the leadership of renewable energy innovation to China and other countries.

Currently, 21 percent of Americans are strong supporters of taking action to combat climate change, and 36 percent are somewhat supportive but worry about the financial costs. To convince the latter group, we ought to connect the environmental issues to national security. We should tell people that oil money is funding terrorism around the world. It makes us more vulnerable. Developing clean energies will create millions of new jobs, enable us to regain our leadership in this area, and reduce carbon pollution. We should also mention that the military, an institution that many people trust, considers climate change a real threat to our national security.

Framing the message is very important. Tim emphasized the following:

- a) Focus on the threat, not the science.
- b) Don't mix messages. Preserving polar bears and financing terrorist groups should not be in the same message.
- c) Don't attack the lifestyle of your audience. Blame the lobbyists and oil companies instead.

66th Assembly District Democratic Council April 18th Meeting Report

By Carol Moeller

The first meeting of the newly-formed 66th Assembly District Democratic Council took place just 4 days after the state party convention concluded on April 14, so much of the discussion revolved around the events at that gathering. All agreed that as many of us as possible should plan to attend this event next year when it is in Los Angeles. Although you need to be a delegate to cast a vote, you do not need to be a delegate to be able to attend the convention and listen to speeches from our leaders.

One of the messages of the convention involved getting more Democrats into politics, and that starts at the local level. One avenue to explore is city boards and commissions. Members at this first ADDC meeting agreed to find out what these city positions are, and when these positions might become available. If we are prepared with candidates to fill these slots, then we will have a better chance to make our voices heard.

The proposed bylaws of the 66th ADDC were made available, along with a reminder that the bylaws must fit the purposes of the organization. Since these were written even before Al Muratsuchi was a candidate, a request for changes that should be considered was issued. These suggested changes will be reviewed once the interim board members are replaced by elected officials. Anyone interested in having the opportunity to participate by becoming a member of the 66th ADDC, please e-mail 66ADDC@gmail.com.

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Palos Verdes Peninsula
Democratic Club
Founded 1952

Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Club

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

www.pvpdemocrats.org

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
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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