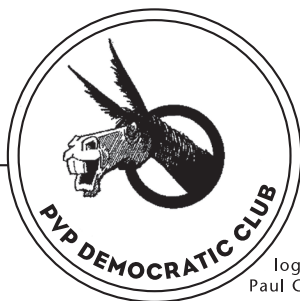


Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Club

Founded 1952



August 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

AUGUST MEETING

DATE: Sunday, August 18, 2013

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

LOCATION: Peninsula Center Library

TOPIC: Educational Reforms

SPEAKERS: Lori Yuan, parent leader, Diane Wallace, professor of education, and Kathy Santarosa, teachers' union president.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

DATE: September 15, 2013

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

LOCATION: Peninsula Center Library
701 Silver Spur Road, RHE

TOPIC: Voter Rights

SPEAKER: Brad Friedman

Inside This Month's Issue:

**August Membership Meeting
Announcement** - Page 1

July Meeting Report - Page 1-3

**Register Voters at the LA County
Fair** - Page 3

Newsletter Editor Wanted! - Page 3

Time to Renew your Membership!
Page 3

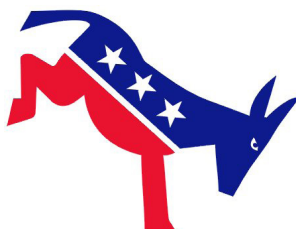
August Meeting: Three Educational Reforms

Remember that recent movie starring Maggie Gyllenhaal called *Won't Back Down*? The one where "Two determined mothers with children who are failing in an inner city school in Pittsburgh join forces to take back the school, and turn it into a place of learning. But before they can change the school for the better, they must first battle the parents, the school board, and the teachers union. Because this is for their children, they won't back down from this enormous challenge." No me either.

However, the heartwarming account purports to illustrate one particular educational reform in action, the parent trigger. On Sunday, August 18, at 2:30 pm at the Peninsula Center Library, we will hear from Lori Yuan, Planning Commissioner and parent activist from Adelanto, where the first parent trigger was pulled in California. Come hear her very interesting story.

We will also hear from Kathy Santarosa, president of the Palos Verdes Faculty Association, about teacher evaluations from the union's perspective. And our third speaker will be Diane Wallace, professor of education at National University, about California's implementation of the controversial Common Core curriculum.

Please join us at the library for this important program.



Club members enjoy the food

June Meeting Report

By Connie Sullivan

Our July meeting was part meeting and part party. Teresa Savo hosted the event in her spectacular garden. After eating a light meal, the meeting was called to order and our speaker, Assembly member Al Muratsuchi came forward to give his Sacramento report.

Al started by thanking club members for supporting his 2012 campaign to become our representative for the 66th Assembly District. He reminded us that his opponent was a Tea Party Republican that Al managed to beat in every part of his district, save the Palos Verdes Peninsula and Manhattan Beach (by only 20 votes). But, he's been working hard on the Peninsula to garner more support for his re-election next year.

Al then launched into his talk, which covered three issue areas: the budget, education, and fracking.

For the first time in six years, the legislature was able to restore funding in key areas like

continued on page 2

continued from page 1*Assembly member Al Muratsuchi installs our 2013-2014 board*

education, both K through 12 and higher education. This was the third year in a row the legislature completed the budget on time thanks to Proposition 25, which made it possible to pass a budget with a simple majority.

Muratsuchi says the state has turned a corner economically, although they still have to keep an eye on issues that could threaten our solvency. He mentioned public pensions as one such issue.

He feels Governor Brown deserves a lot of credit for the economic turn around by showing leadership with the passage of Proposition 30, which temporarily raised the sales tax by \$0.25 and income tax on very high earners. Also, the state is experiencing a gradual business cycle improvement and the Governor was able to set aside \$1 billion for a reserve fund.

The second issue area Muratsuchi wanted to discuss was education funding. As you may remember, Al was a two-term Torrance School Board member before being elected to the Assembly and education funding was one of his main areas of concern in his 2012 election.

When he went to Sacramento he was fairly confident that the school funding issue was solved with the passage of Proposition 30 in the November election. But as soon as the legislature got under way in January, the Governor proposed the most radical school funding formula

since Ronald Reagan. It's called the Local Control Funding Formula.

The Governor proposed a base funding for all schools plus extra funding to schools with low-income students and English-learning students. Originally, the formula disadvantaged suburban schools so much that they would actually have budgets lower than the previous year's. Almost Al's entire district is comprised of suburban school districts, except for Gardena and Harbor City where the students attend LAUSD schools.

So, immediately this first term Democrat found himself at odds with his Democratic Governor. This situation made him very uncomfortable. He was able to find other Democrats, who represented suburban districts, as allies in the struggle to change the formula.

Eventually, they were successful and the formula was changed so that all districts will receive some more funding, with the disadvantaged districts receiving more. This was an acceptable compromise.

The Governor did sign the modified school-funding bill. Then an unintended consequence of the bill emerged – the funding for the Southern California Regional Occupational Center (SCROC) was severely impacted in the new formula.

Al was able to work with the Governor and restore SCROC's funding for two

*Assembly member Al Muratsuchi shares a laugh with Carol Moeller, incoming First Vice President**Enjoying Teresa Savo's beautiful garden*

years, but a more stable funding scheme will have to be developed. SCROC is very important to this region and trains students in many important areas. One example Al provided was the EMT training SCROC offers.

The third issue area Muratsuchi spoke of was hydraulic fracturing or fracking – the process of driving water and unknown chemicals into shale at high pressure to release oil and gas. It so happens that California is home to the Monterey Shale Reserve, which could make California a bigger oil and gas producer than Texas or Alaska.

However, fracking is unregulated and powerful oil producers want to keep it that way. Al voted for various bills that required a fracking moratorium until it could be proved safe, but all the bills failed due to the strong industry lobbying.

Fran Pavley has a bill to establish a regulatory framework for fracking before moving forward. She feels the Governor will sign this bill. Al supports the Pavley bill.

At this point Al fielded questions from

continued on page 3

continued from page 2

the group. The questions were about fracking, a split roll for property taxes, and how the revenue surplus for June will be spent.



Newsletter Editor Needed

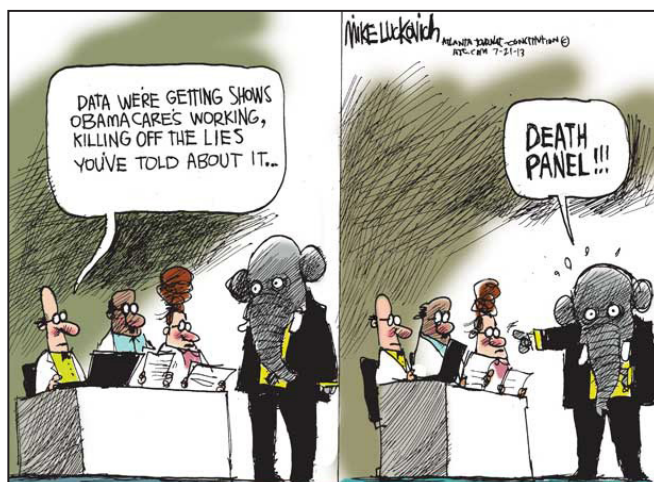
By Connie Sullivan

We have a recent opening on our club's board. Our newsletter editor is moving out of the area and we are in need of a replacement.

What does the newsletter editor do, you ask? Well they take notes at our general membership meetings and write a report for the newsletter or arrange for someone else to do the reporting.

They take photos of the meeting or ensure that someone else will do so. They set the deadline for submissions to the newsletter and then review and edit, where necessary the submitted copy.

They then email the content and photos to our newsletter designer who uses the magic software to arrange the content into



our standard format. Then they review the draft newsletter looking for errors and request our designer to make the needed changes.

When I served as newsletter editor, I

3rd Notice:

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, Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Club – 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!

spent about 8 hours a month performing this function. And I attended the board meetings, for another 2 hours per month.

If you think you could do this, please let me know at pvedems@gmail.com or 310-378-1554.

Help Us Register Voters at the Fair

By Connie Sullivan

I don't know how many times club members tell me they're not interested in going to meetings, but they really want to do something to advance the Democratic cause.

Well here's your chance. Lynn Bommer and I are going to participate in the Los Angeles County Democratic Party's booth at the LA County Fair. We'll be there on September 12, 2013.

So if you want to register new Democratic voters and enjoy the fair at the same time, join us! You can call me at 310-378-1554 or email me at pvedems@gmail.com.

Hope you'll take me up on this opportunity.

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

PVPDC Officers for 2012 Contact Info

President: Connie Sullivan
 310-378-1554
 1st VP: Carol Moeller
 310-541-5526
 2nd VP: Carl Muchnick
 2nd VP: Tom Long
 Recording Secretary: Judy Pang
 310-375-5783
 Corresponding Secretary
 Sheila Papayans
 310-373-7978
 Treasurer: Shuja Oberoi
 310-265-1037
 Membership Chair: Al Shadboume
 Newsletter Editor: TBD



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

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

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