

Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded 1952



logo by
Paul Conrad

January 2016 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

Social time: 2pm

JANUARY MEETING

DATE: Sunday, January 17th

MEETING TIME: 2:30 - 4:30pm

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

TOPICS: Local Issues and Upcoming
Elections

SPEAKERS:

Tom Long, former Mayor of RPV
Eric Bauman, Chairman, LACDP

FEBRUARY MEETING

DATE: Sunday, February 21st

MEETING TIME: 2:30 - 4:30pm

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

TOPIC: TBD

SPEAKERS: TBD

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*Do you have something you'd
like to donate to our monthly
fundraiser drawing; like a
plant or memorabilia?*

*If so, please email Carol at
rpvdem@gmail.com.*

January Meeting

LACDP Chair Eric Bauman and Mayor Tom Long/Local Issues

We are very fortunate to have Eric Bauman, the Chair of our Los Angeles County Democratic Party and Vice Chair of the California Democratic Party to speak about upcoming races and the strategies necessary to win. Make a New Year's resolution to become more politically savvy and get involved to make YOUR voice heard!

The outcome of the November RPV City Council election resulted in a 5-0 Republican City Council with a 3-2 Tea Party majority. Former RPV Mayor, Tom Long, will help us understand the possible ramifications of this one-sided city government.

The Palos Verdes Estates Homeowners Association Board came under scrutiny in 2012 when they agreed to sell city parkland to a private party. The board has also supported shutting down access to the most heavily used trail in PVE. We hope to host a speaker who will elaborate on these and other issues and will suggest alternatives to the self-nominating PVHA board.

As if that wasn't enough to make you want attend the meeting, we're going to have home-baked goodies and social networking before the meeting where you can mingle with like-minded Democrats.

And finally, please join the 66th Assembly District Democrats at our Democratic Debate Party immediately following the meeting. The details are being worked out at this writing, but it will probably be located in Torrance (the geographic center of the 66th Assembly District) so Democrats from all parts of the district can easily come together.

November Meeting Report

by Laura Hines-Jurgen

The meeting was called to order by president Carol Moeller, at 2:30 after thirty minutes of social time.

Social Security and Citizen's United

The featured speaker was Ernie Powell. He spoke on our thriving Social Security Network. He defined how mean-spirited Republicans repeatedly try to undermine the confidence people have in Social Security (SS) in various ways by saying it is going broke:



Ernie Powell

It isn't, there is 2.7 Trillion surplus today, which will notch up to 2.9 Trillion by 2020.

Powell addressed Republican rumors passed about the SS trust fund. Prattle (or nonsense) that the fund has been stolen from. This is also an untruth.

The funds have been loaned out (like a bank loans funds) the money used and returned with interest (also like a bank transaction), only SS works with Treasury Bonds.

Powell went on to address George Bush's comment that SS is "nothing but silly paper." This from a man who wanted to privatize SS, cut it, raise the retirement age, eliminate Medicare, cut benefits and eliminate disability.

The people turned him down, fortunately.

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This thinking is rooted in the G.O.P. ideology that knows SS works. That people like SS. However, Republicans want to reduce government so badly the mechanism they use is undermining people's confidence in their own government.

In the nineteen eighties a commission was created to devise a plan to prepare for the baby boomers. They gradually raised the FICA tax, which created this surplus we have today. This system is not perfect nor is it broken and will be strong and making payments to people at today's rate up into the 2030's.

Powell suggested a new book by Nancy Altman and Eric Kingston entitled, *Social Security Works: Why it isn't going broke and How expanding it will help us all.*

This is the information we have to repeat over the next year, in order to take votes away from these misinformers, reinforce the safety of SS and shore up the confidence argument in favor of Democrats.

Common Cause

Silvia Moore spoke to the group about how this organization is working to have States redraw legislative district lines with independent citizens commissions. The goal is to end partisan gerrymandering and ensure that elected officials and public institutions are accountable and responsive to citizens.



Silvia Moore

The big goal is to get dark money out of politics, increase voter participation, hold lawmakers accountable, simplify and modernize the state initiative process and promote an impartial and accessible media to support a healthy democracy.

Common Cause is one of the nations oldest and largest nonpartisan citizen advocacy organizations dedicated to restoring open, honest and accountable government that works for all Americans, not special interests.

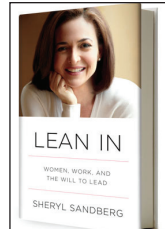
Their mission statement is to Educate. Empower. Protect.

Moore stressed that Election Protection is at the core of what they do to help ensure eligible voters are able to participate in our democracy.

Anyone interested in helping with Hotline Volunteers or Field Volunteers may call: 213-623-1216.

Book Review: *Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead*

By Nell Scovell and Sheryl Sandberg
Reviewed by Carol Moeller



Sheryl Sandberg was the assistant to Larry Summers while he was the Treasury Secretary; later rose to VP level at Google, and is now the Chief Operating Officer at Facebook. Her very engrossing book highlights gender inequality, illustrating discriminatory expectations in our society that start from birth. I think we understand that "go-getter" men are described

by many as leaders, while aggressive women are described as bossy, but in study after study, Sandberg describes how females have been conditioned from birth to defer to males when competing in almost every situation. This contributes to the dearth of women at the top tiers of business and of course widens our gender pay gap. Sandberg cites confidence gap as overwhelmingly significant; for example, women will look for a 100% fit when considering their job qualifications, whereas men will apply even if they have only 60% of the listed qualities.

She describes a career not being a ladder, but a jungle gym ("that way you're not always looking at the butt of the person above you!") in that employees who are flexible and not focused only on a linear career course are of most value. She sites caution as a mainstay of the female psyche, and counters that with her decision to join "imperfect fit" Google when it was just an upstart; "If you're offered a seat on a rocket ship, don't ask where you'll be sitting.... just grab the opportunity and hold on!."

Sadly, Sandberg's husband, Dave Goldberg (CEO of SurveyMonkey), died at age 47 last May of head trauma suffered while on a treadmill. An autopsy indicated heart arrhythmia may have been a factor in the accident.

For anyone looking for a gift for a girl considering a different educational experience or career, or even for a guy who might benefit from understanding what women are up against, I highly recommend this book. As someone retired from a corporate environment, I identify with many of the situations where my own unrecognized, ingrained gender bias prevented me from even trying to promote myself. All women should read this book!

A Call to Action

By Dee Dee Gonzalez and Connie Sullivan

As we enter 2016 we're reminded that this is going to be a critical election year. Democrats must hold the White House or the Supreme Court will become hopelessly controlled by the right wing for the rest of our lifetimes. This is not an overstatement.

Locally, we're determined to take back our 66th Assembly District seat that was lost in 2014 due to an abysmal turnout on

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both sides, but particularly on the Democratic side. Currently, former Assembly member, Al Muratsuchi has thrown his hat in the ring. As of this writing we don't know of any others who might be running.



Ted Lieu &
Al Muratsuchi

We have the 33rd Congressional seat to defend. Ted Lieu has done us proud and has been successful in having 3 of his bills signed into law. In 2014 at his after-election party he made the point that the first election cycle after an initial win is a vulnerable cycle for many incumbents. In other words, we can't be complacent about Ted's chances this time, although he looks very strong right now.

With all of this in mind, we (your precinct captains) are now gathering names of volunteers who would be willing to walk their precincts or make the phone calls necessary to push our candidates over the finish line first.

If you want to volunteer to participate in this important election, please contact us at: dgonz75737@aol.com or pvedems@gmail.com.

Paris Climate Conference to Fall Short

By Hans Grellmann

In Copenhagen six years ago, the nations of the world could not come to an agreement to cut greenhouse gas emissions. They only set a goal that global warming should not be allowed to exceed 2 degrees C.

In 2015 the picture looks quite different. Well before the Paris conference, both the United States and China made pledges to reduce emissions. Pope Francis added his powerful voice to the discussion to say that climate change is human caused and that we must transition away from fossil fuels. 190 nations, representing 95% of the world's emissions are gathered in Paris with the aim to pledge voluntary reductions in carbon emissions. While there will be no mandates to cut emissions, the pledges nevertheless are a big improvement over the complete

lack of commitment in Copenhagen.

Unfortunately, the expected pledges will not be sufficient to achieve the 2 degree goal. It is estimated that global warming will reach closer to 3 degrees even if all the pledged emission cuts are carried out. It is a step in the right direction, but clearly more must be done in the future.

For the United States it is a huge embarrassment that the Republican party continues to deny that man made global warming exists. The fossil fuel industry gets its reward for their generous campaign contributions. Despite the US pledges in Paris, it is a foregone conclusion that the Republican-controlled Congress will do everything it can to stop progress. The Republican presidential candidates follow the party line. The Democratic candidates



Pre-Paris Global Climate March event at LA City Hall

on the other hand support efforts to combat global warming.

Seniors and Veterans Emergency (SAVE) Benefits Act; Impact in CA and Nationwide

By Elizabeth Warren; Nov 5 2015

www.warren.senate.gov/files/documents/CALIFORNIA_SAVE_Benefits.pdf

America's CEO's got a big raise last year – their pay increased by 3.9%. That's big money – we're talking about a \$635,000 pay raise, on average, for a group of CEOs who already made an average of \$16 million each in pay last year. But millions of Americans who rely on Social Security and critical veterans' benefits are getting the short end of the stick – they won't get any increase in benefits at all in 2016, for

only the third time since 1975.

The SAVE Benefits Act makes sure that seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities can make ends meet. It provides them with an emergency payment of approximately \$580 – equal to the same 3.9% increase as CEO's – and fully pays for it by closing one of the many tax loopholes that subsidize giant pay packages for executives.

Around 70 million Americans will receive a benefit increase under the SAVE Benefits Act. That's more than one in five Americans. In California, approximately 6.3 million residents – 16% of the state's population – would get an increase as a result of this bill. These include:

- 368,000 children;
- 2,185,000 women over the age of 65; and
- 711,000 disabled workers.
- State and local government retirees who are not covered by Social Security

Over 9 million veterans receiving Social Security benefits would get a benefit increase from the SAVE Benefits Act. Veterans and their families receiving pension or compensation benefits would also receive a benefit increase. In California about 360,000 veterans and their family members receive pension or compensation benefits.

Over 1 million people would be lifted out of poverty under the SAVE Benefits Act. Social Security keeps almost 15 million seniors out of poverty. In California, the SAVE Benefits Act would lift about 126,000 people out of poverty.

The SAVE Benefits Act would pump about \$41 billion into the U.S. economy. In California, the economic benefit would be about \$3.7 billion.

This modest pay raise for America's seniors will make a big difference for those living on the edge in California. An extra \$581 would be enough for a senior to:

- Buy almost three months of groceries.
- Cover the annual average total out-of-pocket spending on prescription drugs by Medicare beneficiaries.



Palos Verdes Democrats Officers for 2015-2016

President: Carol Moeller 310-541-5526
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Vice President: Lynn Bommer 310-374-1188
Recording Secretary: Judy Pang 310-375-5783
Corresponding Secretary: Sheila Papayans 310-373-7978
Treasurer: Al Shadbourne 310-326-4953
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Publicity: David Hall 310-377-7334
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Hospitality: Teresa Savo 310-541-1139
Precinct Captains: Connie Sullivan 310-378-1554
Dee Dee Gonzalez 210-367-9727
LACDP Associate Member: Stacey Michaels 310-377-0652

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:

- Hospitality Newsletter Membership Publicity Correspondence
 Voter Registration Campaign Work Website/Facebook Phone Tree
 I might offer my home for a meeting or social event