

Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded 1952



logo by
Paul Conrad

October 2015 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

NEW Social time: 2pm

OCTOBER MEETING

DATE: Sunday, October 18th

TIME: 2:30 - 4:30pm

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

TOPIC: Port of Los Angeles Environmental
Issues

SPEAKERS: Chris Cannon, Director of
Environmental Management for the Port
of LA

NOVEMBER MEETING

DATE: Sunday, November 15th

TIME: 2:30 - 4:30pm

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

TOPICS:

Social Security Works: Strategies to Protect
it and Expand it

Common Cause's Mission & Legislative
Priorities

SPEAKERS:

Ernie Powell, long-time activist for Social
Security

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October Meeting Port of Los Angeles Environmental Issues

In his role as Director of Environmental Management and Chief Sustainability Officer for the Port of Los Angeles, Christopher Cannon is responsible for balancing commerce and growth with ecological sustainability and social responsibility at the nation's busiest container port. As stated in his bio, "the Environmental Management Division provides services related to water, soils and sediments, air and biological resources, and is responsible for preparation of environmental impact assessments mandated by state and federal law; special studies involving dredging, noise abatement, water quality and air quality; site restoration, remediation and contamination characterizations; wildlife management; and establishment of policies regarding environmental quality issues". His legal background includes two years as an environmental legislative assistant for a member of the House of Representatives. In his presentation to the Palos Verdes Democrats, he will review the recent history of events at the Port of LA. and will explain how these resulted in current accomplishments. He will also address what is seen to be the most pressing environmental issues involving the future of the Port.

Join us for this informative presentation, and for delicious goodies and for conversation with like-minded Democrats in a comfortable setting.

See you there!

September Meeting Report by Laura Hines-Jurgen

President Carol Moeller called the meeting to order, at 2:30 after thirty minutes of social time.

The PVPUSD, which furnishes the site for the PV

Farmer's Market is making it difficult for the club to have a table at the market. They are requiring rent and insurance for us to place a table outside the market. We need help that only an elected board member could provide to us. Anyone knowing someone on the school board, please ask them to meet with Connie about this issue.

City Council Candidates

Carol introduced councilwoman Judy Mitchell, who is a lawyer running for reelection to the Rolling Hills Estates City Council. Her thirty years of service activities show she has strong environmental leanings. She helped establish High Ridge RHE City Council Member Park and the 28-acre Linden H. Chandler Preserve; she initiated the city's first Environmental Advisory Committee, which facilitated the city's adoption of energy-efficient, green building guidelines, and water conservation ordinance in 2006.



*Judy Mitchell, Attorney and
RHE City Council Member*

Her peers on other city councils in the region elected her to the South Coast Air Quality Management District Board, and the Governor appointed her to serve on the state Air Resources Board to represent issues in the South Coast District, like the Exxon refinery explosion investigation. The Air Resources Board is the body that is responsible for implementing and overseeing the state's innovative Cap and Trade program to reduce the state's greenhouse gas emissions.

She is inviting us to remind our RHE neighbors

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to vote for her for city council on November 3rd, 2015.

Next, Carol introduced Rancho Palos Verdes Mayor Jim Knight, who is proud of initiating energy efficiency programs, which have saved tens of thousands of RPV taxpayer's dollars. His focus is that neutral scientific information



Jim Knight, RPV Mayor

be available to decision-makers. Regarding our water issues, he stated that "Environmentally concerned citizens who installed a low water maintenance gardens long before the drought brought on this water rationing". . . may address their concerns of uneven water rationing by filing an appeal at the city website.

He is asking us to vote for him for city council on November 3rd, 2015. He is the only Democratic candidate on the ticket.

Groundswell Rising

VP Lynn Bommer introduced the main event: Mary Wolfberg who spoke on the policies of hydraulic fracking and the need to defend our communities from this industrial harm. Mary then showed a 70-minute video, Groundswell Rising, which illustrated the dangers of this procedure to the water,



Mary Wolfberg

air and health of those living near such

installations.

There were poignant scenes of residents who had lived on the land for generations watching as their waterways were contaminated and their air polluted and their serenity destroyed by fracking activities close to their properties. In some cases the activities were done on their very own properties because the oil and gas companies owned the mineral rights under their land. Other people purchased property in the countryside and built their dream homes only to have them despoiled.

The film ended on a very upbeat note, however, as several communities that had banded together to fight the expansion of such activities prevailed upon local and state officials to ban fracking.

The producers of this film will be submitting to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in hopes of winning an Oscar, which will result in more visibility for this important film.

At the end of the meeting four lucky people won tickets to the Oct. 18 Muratsuchi fundraiser to be held at noon at the Lundquist estate in Palos Verdes Estates. The four are: Lynn Bommer, Rascha Hall, David Hall and another ticket was won by the Halls who will bring a lucky friend.

Members Saving Water

by Laura Hines-Jurgen

California overall is suffering a serious shortage of rain and snowfall but until we got notice from Jerry Brown, the drought seemed not so urgent. Then the letter came. "Hello, California is now a dry state [excepting wine and

Fundraiser for Al Muratsuchi's Return to the Assembly

They're doing it again! On October 18, the Lundquists are hosting a fundraiser for Al Muratsuchi's campaign to return to the state Assembly. The time of this event is 12 noon.

We are really lucky to have such generous Democrats in our area who are willing to help raise money for our Democratic candidates by opening their fabulous home and providing good food, and allowing us to enjoy incredible views from their spacious and graceful veranda.

You don't want to miss this one. The individual donation amount is \$100.

You can RSVP by calling 562-981-2111 or emailing genelle.buchert@gmail.com

The address for this event will be provided upon RSVP. Hope to see you there.

alcohol]. Get with the program, cut down water use or your water could be cut off."

In drought times the same water needs to be used for multiple purposes. So we save water in various containers to use outside on favored pet plants. Mostly this involves a lot of footwork and heavy lifting.

For bath users, draining the tub never classified as a moral or ethical problem, until now. Small amounts of soap in the water will not harm plants and may kill bugs. The whole point is to keep the garden alive. It was a struggle to plant it in the first place and no one wants plants to die.

The purpose of a sump pump, is to force water up and out. After use in the bath tub, gray water may be sucked up by the pump and used again where needed in the garden. Fifteen minutes of hand watering thirsty succulents from the bath tub water will keep a garden area twenty-five feet by one hundred feet alive. Hope for rain but try a sump pump, it's an effective method.

Using a sump pump: Measure the hose length for the job; also the hose nozzle must be in good working order. Place the nozzle end of the hose in the garden area to be watered. Screw the other end of the hose into the pump. Place the pump in the tub and using a grounded plug, connect it to the electricity. Be prepared, this works. The hose end will

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squirt water everywhere! Grab the hose and guide the water. When the tub is almost empty, disconnect the machine from the electricity.

Fifteen minutes of hand watering thirsty succulents from the bath tub water will keep a garden area twenty-five feet by one hundred feet alive. Hope for rain but try a sump pump, it's an effective method. Online info:

Sump Pump Submersible (Pool & Bath)
1/4 HP Thermoplastic Utility Pump
120 volt AC - 60 Hz - 3.8 amps
Model # 91250
Price \$55.00 (aprox.)

Here's a photo is of a free 50-gallon water-collecting **rain barrel** installed under the down spout of a PV Dems member's roof. Our own Harold Williams says we can call the South Bay Environmental Services Center at 310-371-4633 now to be on the list when more free barrels become available.



Club Support for CADEM Environmental Caucus Water Resolutions

by Carol Moeller

Our membership voted to endorse the following additions regarding water to the California Democratic Party platform.

Add to platform preamble

We believe that the health, safety, and well-being of the people are the highest priorities for government.

Add to platform provisions

Urge state legislature to enact, governor to sign legislation, and agencies to implement and enforce rules that

1. *Guarantee each Californian sufficient safe, clean water for basic needs*
2. *Motivate all users to support efficient, sustainable, safe use of available water*
3. *Fully protect all water sources from contamination*
4. *Ensure allocation and management of sufficient water for environmental purposes as determined scientifically, since we depend on the environment for our prosperity and life itself*
5. *Require all end use to be metered*
6. *Regulate groundwater use in a fair and sustainable manner*

Rationale for change to Party Platform

Water affects everyone on many levels, from simple survival to social equality, economic prosperity, recreation, fish and wildlife, and fiscal responsibility. How to manage water is

one of the core issues of the century. Water deserves to be recognized as such in the platform.

Water is a complex issue in California. Because current policy is not sustainable, it will require comprehensive reform. But the proposed points are not revolutionary; they are just common sense. The party is already committed to fairness and sustainability. We simply want to make this commitment explicit with respect to water.

Please Join Us at the Roosevelt Dinner

by Connie Sullivan

The 66th Assembly District of the Los Angeles County Democratic Party selected Carol Moeller as the female Democrat of the Year-- 2015. Varo Asorian from Torrance was selected as male Democrat of the Year. They will be honored on November 8 at the annual Roosevelt Dinner to be held at the Long Beach Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Since Carol is from our club, we'd like to have a good presence at the dinner and hope that we can reserve an entire table of 10 people at the event. The cost of the dinner is \$115 if reserved before October 16, \$135 thereafter.

The PV Democrats board voted to subsidize the cost of the dinner with a \$25 subsidy for the first 4 members wishing to take advantage of this subsidy. If you wish to do so, please contact me at 310-378-1554 or by email at pvedems@gmail.com.

This is the major annual fundraiser for the county party. It's a great evening full of Democratic luminaries and inspiring speeches and great camaraderie. Please consider attending this event and honoring our Democrat of the Year.

Documentary Review: Cowspiracy

by Carol Moeller

Ghastly title notwithstanding, this is an excellent exposé that firmly establishes that our current farming practices are unsustainable. A United Nations report claims that animal agriculture accounts for more carbon emissions than all transportation—that's cars, trucks, trains, planes and boats combined. 47% of the water in California is consumed by the meat and dairy industry. However, this film is

controversial not because of these statistics or for the claim that it takes 660 gallons of water to produce the meat for one hamburger (actually, that was reported in the LA Times two years ago). No, this film is creating a buzz because it suggests that "holy grail" organizations like Greenpeace and the Sierra Club



have purposely avoided addressing pollution emissions and water usage in the raising of animals for food, and the beef industry in particular, for political reasons. While these environmental organizations urge us to recycle and reduce home water consumption, this documentary suggests that they actively choose not to discuss the amount of natural resources it requires to put meat on our tables on a mass scale because of political pressures. It will take years for us to create and produce combustion engines that emit less pollution and replant our orchards, but if Americans significantly reduced their meat intake, great strides in pollution and water reduction could be achieved practically overnight. You can view this documentary on Netflix. .

Countdown to 2016: A Summit for Democratic Activists and Club Members

by Carol Moeller

In preparation for national, state and local elections, every other year the LA County Democratic Party offers an outstanding conference to help elect Democrats. Some of the funds we send to the LACDP are used to host this conference, and those of us who have attended feel our dollars are very well spent. For anyone planning activist events, or for those just wanting to know more about the party, the process and the people, this conference is IT! There is no charge and a sponsored lunch is included. I encourage every club member to give this excellent conference serious consideration. You all are invited!

Sunday, October 25, 2015

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

California State University, Los Angeles
5151 State University Drive, Los Angeles

RSVP by Friday, October 16, 2015

by calling 213-379-9287 or
emailing summit@lacd.org



Palos Verdes Democrats Officers for 2015-2016

- President: Carol Moeller 310-541-5526
President Emeritus: Connie Sullivan 310-378-1554
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
Parliamentarian: Maria Martinez 310-833-5083
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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