

Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded 1952



logo by
Paul Conrad

February 2016 Newsletter

P.O. Box 2234, Rolling Hills Est. CA 90274
Visit Us on the Web at www.pvpedemocrats.org
"One of the oldest Democratic Clubs in California"

COMING EVENTS

Social time: 2pm

FEBRUARY MEETING

DATE: Sunday, February 21st

MEETING TIME: 2:30 - 4:30pm

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

TOPICS: The Effects of El Nino

SPEAKERS:

Tanya Finney, Superintendent, South
Coast Botanic Garden

Kristi Fera, Education Coordinator, Marine
Mammal Care Center

MARCH MEETING

DATE: Sunday, February 21st

MEETING TIME: 2:30 - 4:30pm

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

TOPIC: TBA

SPEAKERS: TBD

Inside This Month's Issue:

Feb Membership Meeting Page 1

Jan Meeting Report Page 1-3

**Nominations for PV Democrats Board
2016-2017** Page 3

**Time is NOW to Run for County
Committee** Page 3

Torrance Refinery Action Alliance
Page 3

February Meeting The Effects of El Nino

Published research demonstrates that all the natural ecosystems of California, whether managed or unmanaged, are likely to be affected by changes in climate. Both plants and animals already stressed by human development will be further stressed by climate change. This meeting will focus on how El Nino is affecting our local plants and animals.

Tanya Finney is the Superintendent of the South Coast Botanic Garden. She will emphasize the reality of gardening in a drought and the effect heavy rains might have on drought-tolerant flora. An overview of the garden itself and the changes there due to our climate changes will be addressed.

On the fauna side, Kristi Fera, Education Coordinator at the Marine Mammal Care Center at Fort MacArthur will share the effects of El Nino seen in marine mammals. The center website lists the animals that are being treated, showing that nearly every current "patient" suffers from malnutrition. In some animals, the center is seeing six times the normal rates of needy mammals. Toxins produced by algae blooms resulting from warmer waters affected 75% of sea lions seen last year. 2015 broke nearly every record in the 40-year history of the center.

Acknowledging these tip-of-the-iceberg effects of human-induced climate change will hopefully spur all of us to do our part to limit our personal carbon footprint as well as to demand policies that result in dramatically less carbon emissions.

January Meeting Report by Laura Hines-Jurgen

The topic for the meeting was: 2016 Elections and Local Issues.

First we heard from 66th Assembly District candidate **Al Muatsuchi** who credits his unfortunate loss [by a fraction of a percentage point] in the 2014 election to two reasons: #1) G.O.P funding (Charles Munger alone spent 1.2 million of his own money to target and defeat Al Muratsuchi), and reason #2) Democratic voters who neglected to vote in an off-year election.



Al Muatsuchi
66th Assembly District
Candidate

"We need to have each person register to vote and then do the voting!" he said. "Democrats represent a majority of the middle class. When the people vote, Democrats win!"

In the Q & A we learned that Muratsuchi is in favor of campaign finance reform, background checks for guns, no local oil drilling and overturning Citizen's United, among others.

Next we heard from **Eric Bauman**, Chairman of the LA County Democratic Party and Vice Chairman of the California Democratic Party, who spoke about upcoming political contests.



Eric Bauman
LA County Dem Party
Chairman and CA Dem
Party Vice Chairman

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.

continued on page 2

continued from page 1

He began by pointing out some of the greatest achievements by Democrats. Acts, which benefit Americans from both sides of the aisle and have elevated the standard of living for all Americans:

Social Security has been in effect for 85 years; The Civil Rights Act, 50 years; Americans with Disabilities Act, 25 years; Medicare and Medicaid, 50 years; and our proudest accomplishment from the Obama administration the Affordable Care Act, now in its 5th year.

"This list of proud, hard-fought-for federal program gains are exactly what the G.O.P targets as evil, heinous and bad."

"The difference between the parties is a matter of values. Democrats run on substance issues, believe people are good, deserve a chance and include wide-ranging opinions. We want functioning political parties and a functioning Congress.

Bauman suggests that Republicans tend to be more like-minded than Democrats, and most feel that government is the problem. Many of these Republican leaders working for big money, corporations and Wall Street "believe the great Democratic programs, which give folks a step up to climb out of poverty, create weakness."

"Fortunately, our side has made progress in the last seven years in spite of the unrelenting obstructionism from every conservative source.

"The Tea Party should not be dismissed lightly. There is a reason it exists and a reason it has energy. It is a group of mostly scared, angry, white people who have felt their world changing and power being taken away from them.

"The Koch brothers alone are throwing in a billion dollars this year to buy out this election cycle. The only way to combat Republican money and influence is to be fearless warriors, ambassadors of our party and the programs people need: like wage equality, job training, free or affordable college education, equal marriage rights; child care, gun safety laws and background checks at gun fairs.

"Special skills on a subject are not necessary but you do need to be willing to speak on subjects that matter to you. When Republicans start in on their preposterous notions, be willing to push back. Approach a subject in your own way and defend it, because the victory is with us.

"Looking to the future, this year when we take the White House, the President will need the backing of the Senate, so we need to take back four seats. The swing states that are in play are Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Nevada, Ohio and Pennsylvania. Anyone able to make favorable calls into those states to help elect Democratic Senators will be writing success tickets to benefit the President's programs.

One question fielded by Bauman dealt with the new Motor-Voter Bill passed this session. This bill allows eligible voters to register to vote when they get drivers licenses at the DMV. This will bring in many low-income people who cannot afford to take time off to register. This method sends people their vote by mail ballot, which extends the voting time for these employees past the traditional single voting day.

Kay Jue, spoke about the Los Angeles County Democratic Party Central Committee. Eric Bauman is chair of the Committee, which is the governing body of the party. Please read

her article on Page 3 about running for a LA County Committee position.

David Leger, a field representative from Congressman Ted Lieu's office, spoke about the Veteran's Administration legislation the Congressman has been working on in the last year. It concerns a new master plan for the campus. Formerly any group could bring its issue and demonstrate on the campus, now any demonstrations must be Veteran related. Also Congressman Lieu was able to get 320 million dollars to retrofit VA facilities nationwide, 35 million will go to overhaul the West L.A. VA to render it earthquake safe.

Former RPV Mayor **Tom Long** spoke next. "I want to talk about the financial condition of Rancho Palos Verdes, because the financial condition of the city determines how well the city is taken care of, which in turn determines the value of your homes.

"In the last election our one Democrat on the City Council, Jim Knight, was defeated due to low voter turnout. It is possible for Democrats to be voted into office in this city. "Now because we did not vote, our City Council is made up of a Tea Party majority. Various fees that were being expended to increase revenues to double city services and elevate standards like the storm drains, have no visible funding from this city council. Without funding those services will go away.



Tom Long
Former RPV Mayor

"That's not good. Our city has tens of millions of dollars in storm drain repairs that need to be addressed. One fifth of our infrastructure needs improvements but without funding ... the sewers will not be fixed. When it come to day to day living, sewers are important. Mud slides are not paid for by your insurance and mud slides happen because of failed drains in the sewer systems. 22% of the roads in this city have fallen out of the pavement management system because we did not pay attention or vote in our local election. With the Tea Party in power now, who knows when the streets or the sewers will be repaired?"

Long encouraged people to go to the RPV city council meetings. At the upcoming February 2nd meeting, the City Council will decide whether or not to extend the storm

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

drains user fees. Worse yet they may not even decide to take a vote and an important source of revenue dollars would disappear.



Audience at January PV Democrats Meeting

"I would like to have a group of people from this room decide to attend those meetings, organize themselves, commit to attend and report back to this group. There are 4 city councils on the hill, but RPV is the only one controlled by Tea Party members. This means good programs are going to be thrown overboard without a second thought. We can control these people who are mismanaging your city's finances if the people in this room attend those meetings and encourage them to do the right thing."

DeeDee Gonzalez, co-precinct captain, passed around a sign up sheet for people willing to get involved in the upcoming 2016 elections. Readers who want to be included in this group are encouraged to contact Connie Sullivan at 310-378-1554 or by e-mail at pvedems@gmail.com

NOTE: Chairman Bauman said, *"Its important to vote in local elections. When Republicans get elected to local City Councils, they rarely help to strengthen community programs, sometimes they even eliminate many necessary programs. Then they use their City Council position as a stepping-stone to the next higher office. People vote for them even if their voting record is awful because they haven't checked their achievements. The idea being if they were on the City Council, they must have good qualities for the next higher office, even if that's incorrect. That's why sitting in on local meetings is important. Right there at the meeting, make your voice heard. Because when voters show up and speak up, we keep them honest."*

Nominations for PV Democrats' 2016-2017 Board

By Judy Pang

Now is the time our bylaws instruct us to begin to consider who will be installed at our July meeting. We are happy to announce that

Rascha Hall, Judy Pang and Donna Buttram have graciously agreed to be on the Nominating Committee and tackle this important job.

The new 2016-2017 Board will be in place during the November election, so they will have the unique opportunity to lead this organization over an extremely important and noteworthy time.

Have you considered contributing by being on the club's Board? Do you have experience in areas needed by our club? Would you like to see this club focus on topics that haven't been yet explored, or expand in ways not yet considered? Then the Nominating Committee wants to hear from YOU!

President, First VP, 2nd VP, Recording Secretary and Parliamentarian are some of the positions that need to be filled. (See the Manual of Operations on our website <http://www.pvpdemocrats.org> for descriptions of the Board positions.) If you would like to be nominated for one of the board positions, or have someone in mind that would be perfect for a position, please contact Judy Pang at 310-375-5783 or jpang@aol.com.

Time is NOW to Run for County Committee

By Kay Jue

If you're interested in taking your Democratic Party activism up a notch, now is the time to act. The filing period for running to be elected as a member of the L.A. County Democratic Central Committee is in progress.

The County Committee is the governing body of the party at the county level. Every county in California has a Democratic Central Committee. In L.A. County, each of the 24 state Assembly Districts is represented by seven members elected every four years by Democratic primary-election voters.

To run for one of the seven seats and to appear on the 66th Assembly District's June 7 primary ballot you must complete the nomination filing process by Friday, March 11, at 5 p.m. Some of the process can be done online at www.lacdp.org under "2016 Membership Election." But the process also involves two trips to the County Registrar-Recorder's office in Norwalk. Serving on the County Committee puts you at the center of the party's policy- and decision-making. It requires attendance at a monthly evening

meeting in the Wilshire area of Los Angeles. I've been a member of the committee since 2008, have been involved in many important and often contentious party actions, have participated in numerous candidate endorsement sessions, have met wonderful fellow Democrats and recommend the experience.

Torrance Refinery Action Alliance

By Connie Sullivan

A few months ago I was able to present information about the ExxonMobil explosion in February 2015 and about a group that formed in response to that explosion. The Torrance Refinery Action Alliance (TRAA) is a group of Torrance residents and business owners who came together after the explosion because we were concerned about the dangers the refinery poses to the South Bay.

We became aware of the refinery's continued use of hydrofluoric acid, (HF) a deadly toxin that contains a fluoride ion, which penetrates the skin and enters the exposed person's body, binding calcium. This causes bone loss, disruption of heart and other organ functions and ultimately death. There is a safer acid, sulfuric acid, that is used at most refineries in California, but two, the Torrance refinery and the Valero refinery in Wilmington use the much more deadly hydrofluoric acid.

The TRAA discovered that the supposedly safer form of the HF that these two refineries adopted in the 1990's after community pressure is only barely safer than the unmodified form. The community was tricked into thinking the additive used to modify the acid would render it much less likely to form a dense, ground-hugging vapor cloud. We now know that's not so true. The TRAA has:

- Worked with AQMD member Judy Mitchell to obtain the promise of the AQMD Executive Director to study feasibility of alternatives to the use of HF.
- Pushed the Torrance city council to join with the AQMD to study the feasibility of alternatives to the use of HF.
- Worked with Congressmen Ted Lieu and Maxine Waters, who called for the Chemical Safety Board investigation.
- Worked with Ted Lieu's office to craft legislation to ban storage and use of this deadly substance in urban areas.
- Worked with state Senator Ben Allen's office to craft state legislation to ban this substance in urban areas of California.



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
Membership: Susie Boone 310-686-0455
Publicity: David Hall 310-377-7334
Newsletter Editor: Laura Hines-Jurgen 310-544-2424
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