

Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded 1952



logo by
Paul Conrad

March 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

MARCH MEETING

DATE: Sunday, March 20th

MEETING TIME: 2:30 - 4:30pm

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

TOPICS: A Strategy to Mobilize the Youth
Vote; Immigration

SPEAKERS:

Robert Magee, Jonas LeBarillec, and
Matthew Doherty
Alicia Molina, Attorney-at-Law

APRIL MEETING

DATE: Sunday, April 17th

MEETING TIME: 2:30 - 4:30pm

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

TOPIC: TBA

SPEAKER: Ann Stahl

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March Meeting A Strategy to Mobilize the Youth Vote

Nonprofit Strategoi Incorporated, was started by Palos Verdes high schoolers to combat the degradation and inefficiency of our political system, starting with American youth. Their twin visions are to make the youth of America informed voters, and also to inspire them to vote. Founding members Robert Magee, Jonas LeBarillec, and Matthew Doherty, started this company because they were appalled by the potential effects of this problem on future generations. We will hear from these inspiring youth regarding their plans to achieve their goals.

Immigration

Attorney Alicia Molina is running for LA County Superior Court Judge in the June 7th primary and will be speaking to our club about immigration. Although she was born here, she is uniquely qualified to address this issue as her parents are both naturalized US citizens who immigrated from Mexico. She is the first in her family to graduate from a university (UCLA). Her sister graduated with 2 BA's, a Masters and a JD all from UCLA. Together they are law partners in Molina and Molina, a firm that focuses on causes that help low income individuals. She also provides pro bono assistance in family law matters such as restraining orders for domestic violence clients, legal representation in court and assistance filling out paperwork for legal dissolutions, child custody, paternity and child visitation. Helping the less fortunate has been her driving force to improve our communities by giving back.

February Meeting Report by Laura Hines-Jurgen

The first order of business was discussion and passage of a resolution to teach climate literacy in our PV schools. The vote passed. Please see the accompanying article in this newsletter.

Our first speaker was **Congresswoman Janice Hahn** who is running for Los Angeles County Supervisor to serve in the fourth District. After 5 years serving in a dysfunctional Congress controlled by



*Congresswoman
Janice Hahn*

Republicans, she decided to return to L. A. and run for the seat that will be vacated by Don Knabe, who has been termed out. Her intention is to further tackle troubling environmental subjects like water issues, and pollution, homelessness for many people including the veterans, child care, foster services, juvenile justice, a good transportation system and the matter of a public light rail to LAX. She wants to represent Democratic values up here on the Hill and asks for your vote. Anyone who wants to help with her candidacy, please go to JaniceHahn.com

Effects of Climate Change upon our Flora and Marine Mammals

Tanya Finney, Superintendent of the South Coast Botanic Garden emphasized the reality of gardening in a drought. Their mission focus is on land reclamation, horticulture and wildlife habitat. The land's history was originally a diatomite mining sight that became a sanitary landfill before Francis Yarmmer, the original founder, petitioned the state and the Department of Parks and Recreation in 1960 to create the grounds we

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.

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see today.

The gardens have reclaimed the space but its original history as a mine and then a landfill defines what can be done with the space as it is in constant movement with various gas emissions.



Tanya Finney,
*Superintendent of the
South Coast Botanic
Garden*

The climate in California is a uniquely Mediterranean, a micro climate found in only five other places in the world: the Mediterranean basin in Europe, the southern tip of South Africa, south west Australia and a portion of Chile. This climate is cool and wet in the winter and warm or hot and dry in the summer. Many of the garden's plant collections come from or are similar to these other places.

Classes are offered to the public and free to Los Angeles County students. The emphasis is on drought awareness. The 190 volunteer guides focus heavily on environmental needs.

Water use is monitored by an electronic system which is programmed to stay within the 36% water reduction dictated by the state. Water is used only when an area needs it. The meters turns on and shut off when a section has been watered adequately, to make better use of water resources, avoid overflows and provide a beautiful garden for the public.

If you would like to join as a member or become a volunteer call the Botanic Gardens, you will be assigned according to your abilities.

Kristi Fera, Education Coordinator of the Marine Mammal Care Center at Fort

MacArthur, San Pedro, explained the effects climate change has had on marine mammals.

The Care Center is responsible for all 30 beaches in Los Angeles County from Ventura to Seal Beach, it is a hospital which heals and repairs animals brought to it by volunteers.

They take care of pinnipeds: sea lions, harbor seals and elephant seals, no birds.

Seals are not released from the Care Center until they can bark. Barking is their protective device and proves they can open their mouths wide enough to feed on their own, swallow and protect themselves.

In the ocean, climate change means the water has heated up more than 3 degrees. This warming is confusing all the animals, the fish they feed on and their way of living.

The warm water causes harmful algal blooms, known as red tides that produce domoic acid a neurotoxin, which affects smaller fish that the seals eat. Seals eat about 25 pounds of fish daily. Eating toxic fish causes multiple conditions including early death if untreated.

We are seeing unprecedented mortality event in seals, which are dying off by the thousands such that the species is in danger of becoming threatened.

Humans and the plastic we use or throw into the water is another big problem. Seals are always hungry and swallow their food whole. They have no taste buds or the ability to determine the difference between



**Kristi Fera, Education
Coordinator of the
Marine Mammal Care
Center**

what is food and what is plastic. The center has autopsied seals and found they have consumed an assortment of plastic throwaways such as: fishing lines, gill nets, plastic bottles, fish hooks, trash bags, Mylar balloons. A typical autopsy showed 20 plastic bags in a seal's stomach. The seal died of hunger.

An example: As baby seals they swim into floating plastic mounds looking for food. They may move into an empty 6-pack ring. It circles the head and cannot be removed. As the seal grows the ring cuts off circulation and causes deformities. The plastic may cut into the necks or eyes or head of the seal causing severe malformations and great pain.

Abandonment problems. Seals generally feed on fish near the beaches. With the water warming, adult nursing seals must swim out farther and farther into the cold waters to catch food. Mother seals must leave their pups on the shore, as pups are not strong enough to swim for long periods of time. When the mothers are gone for too long the pups become delirious with hunger, move away from the beach, fall prey to other animals and usually die, all because of the warm waters.

Volunteers are desperately needed. Anyone interested must be 18 years or older and be willing to sign up for a least one shift a week for a year. To help with a rescue call 1-800-39WHALE.

PV Democrats to tour Marine Mammal Care Center

After the positive response to the speaker at the February PV Democrats meeting, VP Lynn Bommer has arranged for a tour of the Marine Mammal Care Center for March 16 at 11:00. Please rsvp to rpvdem@gmail.com so we can get a head count.

Convention Update: Environmental Caucus Adopts Platform Changes
By Carol Moeller

In addition to hearing from stars in the political world, political conventions also tackle some serious work. The environmental caucus adopted the following changes to their platform:

- 1. Old platform: "reduce reliance on coal."
New platform: END reliance on coal.

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2. Support minimum price guarantees as a method of promoting domestic and entrepreneurial renewable energy production and increase the percentage of renewable energy in California's power mix. Support the right of individuals to generate their own energy; support virtual net metering; expand solar energy production in disadvantaged communities and multi-unit developments; and encourage the growth of individual energy generation. Oppose any attempts to disincentivize the growth of rooftop solar systems. Support government initiatives that allow property owners to finance energy efficiency and renewable energy projects for their homes and commercial buildings;

3. Pass SB32 (reduce climate emissions to 40% below 1990 levels by 2030, and to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050).

4. Produce 50 percent of the state's transportation fuels from non-petroleum sources, and support Low Carbon Fuel Standards that take into account long-term sustainability.

5. 100% clean electricity by 2030!!! "by 2030 produce 100 percent of California's electricity from renewable and sustainable energy sources"

6. Oppose new fossil fuel infrastructure projects.

Convention Update: Mobilizing the Millennials

By Carol Moeller

Millennial voters are defined as those 35 and under, who were born between the early 1980s and the early 2000s. These youth might only check their physical mail boxes a few times a week, but view their e-mail inboxes hourly. There are 5 million of these voters in California, and 40% of those registered are Democrats, 40% Independent or Decline to State and the remainder register as Republicans or other parties. Only 13% of these individuals are likely to vote, and in some communities, that means they are more likely to be incarcerated than to vote. If they do vote, the majority are likely to engage as I do for sporting events....they might vote in Presidential elections but not vote in any other elections like I might (grudgingly) watch the Super Bowl but not watch any other games.

The solution to these abysmal numbers is most likely to come only from the millennials

themselves. To that end, a young group has started <http://www.weupvote.us/> that advertises "registering to vote in only 3 minutes" at events that busy millennials might be attending. In that short time window, the importance of having a voice is emphasized, and as a result, voting numbers in targeted areas have begun to rise.

Republicans Wrest Control of SCAQMD from Democrats – This is Very Bad

By Connie Sullivan

Last month the Republicans engineered the ouster of a Democratic mayor from Santa Ana who had sat on the board of the Southern California Air Quality Management District (AQMD), the agency responsible for ensuring four Southern California counties comply with the Clean Air Act.

You may have noticed that for the last 15 years or so we can actually see the mountains to the north of Los Angeles. Remember when they were invisible due to smog? I do.

We'll get ready for the return of those good old days. Wasting no time, the Republican majority on the AQMD board voted to oust the longtime Executive Director, Dr. Barry Wallerstein at their very next meeting after ousting the Democrat and placing a Republican on the board.

This is especially worrisome for those of us involved in the Torrance Refinery Action Alliance, as the AQMD has agreed to study the commercial feasibility of banning the deadly toxin, hydrofluoric acid from use by the Torrance refinery and the Valero refinery in Wilmington.

If staff finds it feasible to do so, do you think the new Republican AQMD board will vote for the ban? I doubt it.



Student Climate Change Education Resolution is Unanimous

By Carol Moeller

At our February meeting we passed the Student Climate Change and Education Resolution with a unanimous vote. In May of 2015, the California State PTA adopted a "Climate Change Is a Children's Issue" resolution asking school districts "to educate students on climate and energy literacy and human sustainability"... As a result, and upon the urging of activists around the state, our club voted to adopt the following resolution:

The Palos Verdes Democrats want all high school graduates to know (1) why we have the problem of climate change; (2) its potential for harm; (3) the difference between stabilizing the climate at a livable level and destabilization; (4) science-based, climate-stabilizing, greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets; (5) the primary variables and considerations in identifying those targets and (6) the approximate amount of life style and technology change required to achieve those climate-stabilizing targets.

2016 Nominating Committee Slate Submitted by the nominating committee: Rascha Hall, Judy Pang and Donna Buttram

We will be voting on this 2016 slate of officers at our March meeting.

President: Lynne Bommer
 1st Vice President: Kathy Bradford
 2nd Vice President: Connie Sullivan
 Recording Secretary: Rascha Hall
 Corresponding Secretary: Arline Korb
 Treasurer: Al Shadbourne
 Parliamentarian: Craig Williams
 President Emeritus: Carol Moeller
 Membership: Susie Boone
 Publicity: David Hall
 Newsletter Editor: Dunja Maglica
 Newsletter Designer: Ann Nye
 Hospitality: Teresa Savo
 Precinct Captains: Connie Sullivan and DeeDee Gonzalez
 LACDP Associate Member: Stacey Michaels
 Webmaster: Reggie Jue
 Mailings: Ron Moeller



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:

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