

Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded 1952



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Paul Conrad

May 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

MAY MEETING

DATE: Sunday, May 17th

TIME: 2:30 - 4:30pm

LOCATION: Peninsula Center Library 701 Silver Spur Road, RHE

TOPIC: *Pay2Play: Democracy's High Stakes*, a documentary about the influence of money in politics

JUNE MEETING

DATE: Sunday, June 14th

TIME: 2:30 - 4:30pm

Please note this is the second Sunday in June, a week before Father's Day

LOCATION: Peninsula Center Library 701 Silver Spur Road, RHE

TOPIC: 2015 California State Democratic Convention

SPEAKERS: PV Dem Delegates, Kay Jue, Connie Sullivan, Teresa Savo and Carol Moeller

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A special thank you to Susie Boone for creating a tote bag to donate for our April meeting. If you have something you'd like to donate to our monthly fundraiser drawing, please e-mail Carol at rpvdem@gmail.com.

May Meeting

Pay 2 Play: Democracy's High Stakes, a documentary about the influence of money in politics



Writer/director John Wellington Ennis illustrates the effects of the Citizen's United decision, ultimately building a case for eliminating corporate personhood and money as free speech.

In addition to educating the audience as to how this 5-4 decision has affected the elections in swing state Ohio, he also suggests actions that he isn't himself afraid to take. He asks the question "What will you do to make your vote count?" He considers that one person can and does make a difference, and a large enough group of single people each making a difference can and will change the world.

April Meeting Report

by Connie Sullivan

President Carol Moeller opened the meeting with a reminder to everyone that this is Earth Week and in honor of that our speakers today would be talking about water issues and about the marine protected areas along our coast.

Rascha Hall spoke briefly about the upcoming April 26 fundraiser for Help the Homeless Help Themselves. HHHT has raised and distributed over \$2.5 million to the homeless over the last 20 years. HHHT's fundraiser will be a dinner and silent auction with performance by opera singer Jerrilyn Glass.

West Basin Municipal Water District Representative Harold Williams

Harold began his talk by explaining that West Basin Municipal Water District is a water wholesaler that receives water from the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) and sells it to the various water purveyors in the area.



*Harold Williams,
Director, West Basin
Municipal Water
District*

In 1947 the West Basin District was formed to stop the over pumping of water that had led to seawater infiltrating our local aquifers. Prior to that the MWD had been formed by 26 local cities, which make up the only members of the MWD forevermore apparently, so everyone else (Carson and Palos Verdes Peninsula included) had to form their own wholesalers, to purchase from the MWD.

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The leadership of West Basin is 5 elected directors, and Harold is our District Director.

We have never have had enough water locally to sustain us since the 1930's, when Mulholland brought water from 200 miles away. Now we rely on imported water for 66% of our supply.

Harold is very proud of West Basin's water recycling program that produces 5 qualities of water that allow us to save precious drinking water from being used for industrial uses or for replenishing the sea water injection wells.

He showed a number of slides with graphic information about how bad our drought is.

Because of the dire situation the Governor issued the first-ever executive order restricting water usage. West Basin will receive 15% less of their usual water allocation.

The remainder of his talk described the many water conservation programs the West Basin District has been doing over the decades. Since 1995, it has reduced water usage by 27%. In fact, the West Basin has been a leader in water conservation.

In addition to the water recycling program they have a turf removal program that pays homeowners \$3.00 per square foot to remove their grass. They have rain barrels, low flow showerheads and toilets and weather sensitive sprinklers, all to help residents conserve.

West Basin has a Water Reliability 20/20 program, with the goal of reducing imported water by 2 times from 66% to 33% and increasing conservation efforts by 2 times, and by increasing the use of recycled water by 2 times.

They did have a goal to build an ocean desalination plant but will not be able to do so at this time. However, the Governor's budget has funding for desalination and they may be able to revive that plan in the future, when it becomes cost effective.

Harold concluded by inviting everyone to visit the water recycling plant in El Segundo.

RPV Mayor Jim Knight

Mayor Knight started by mentioning that he has an urban planning background and approaches the water problem a bit differently than the engineers who work in this area.

He made the point that the agricultural water usage in the state accounts for 80% and until we tackle that we can't really solve the problem. However, many farmers have water rights and it's very difficult to tackle agricultural usage for that reason.



RPV Mayor Jim Knight

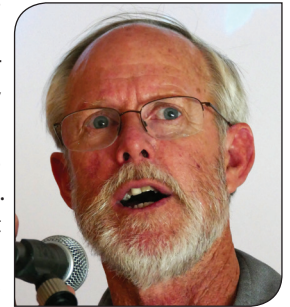
In terms of what the city of RPV has been doing to conserve water, Mayor Knight mentioned they had cut water usage by 20% last year. They have identified drought resistant turf areas they can plant. They are reviewing agricultural controls and technology. They are looking at water usage in their municipal buildings. They are doing grass recycling by mulching cut grass where it's cut and not hauling away. This also helps with the city's carbon footprint because they are not expending gasoline to haul away the grass.

The city is enhancing its website to educate residents on what they can do. Still, He's not sure they can reduce another 15%.

Marine Protected Areas -- Michael Schaadt from Cabrillo Marine Aquarium

Mr. Schaadt is the Director of Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, which was established 80 years ago.

It so happens that Schaadt was a commercial lobster fisherman many years ago for a short time, so he's not anti-fisherman. However, Schaadt wants our kids and grandkids to be able to eat the fish off our coast, as we *Michael Schaadt, Director, Cabrillo Marine Aquarium* have been able to do.



Schaadt pointed out that we have had laws on the books that regulate how and when we fish –the fish have to be a certain size, they can be caught only at certain times of the year, and a fisherman can catch only so many fish at a time. These haven't worked. The fish are smaller and less numerous these days than in the past. We need to look at other options.

The California Marine Life Protection Act passed in 1999. It created a network of marine protection areas along the 1100-mile California coast. These areas are designed to feed each other. For example, baby fishes may reach each other between protected areas. Marine reserves are not new, but the idea of a network is fairly new. In 2003, the Marine Protective Areas were developed through a public-private process. Stakeholders came together and created three types of areas: reserves, parks and conservation areas. In a reserve, it is illegal to fish at all, however, research and educational activities may be allowed. In a park, commercial fishing is not allowed, but recreational fishing is. In a conservation area, some recreational and some commercial fishing are allowed.

In Los Angeles County Abalone Cove and Pt. Vicente are the marine protected areas. Even though Rocky Point was judged by scientists to be the best area to protect, fisherman won out and Rocky Point was not designated a protected area.

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These areas will be reviewed every 5 -10 years to see if they are functioning as planned.

The aquariums up and down the coast are educating the public about these areas, which are really underwater parks, similar to our land parks. Each year there is an Underwater Parks Day in January, set aside to educate the public about these parks.

One way to know if the reserves are working will be to determine how many "fat old female fish" are found there. Older females produce many more baby fish and stronger fish than smaller, younger females. A 19-year-old female will produce 1.7 million babies.

Schaadt ended his talk by answering a number of questions about the safety of local fish consumption.

What...We're voting on Bylaws Again?

by Carol Moeller

Because of the open primary, the California Democratic Party has just notified us that the pre-endorsement caucus process has changed. For every 20 PV Dems members who are not members of other state-chartered clubs, one member is allowed to represent our club at the pre-endorsement conference, either on-line or in person. This caucus historically has been held at the beginning of the calendar year, but that event might now be held earlier. With our current membership numbers, that would give us roughly 5 club members who could vote. The changes to our bylaws involve the definition of a member in good standing and the new deadline for submission of our membership roster. The new proposed bylaws changes are posted on our webpage here: <http://www.pvpdemocrats.org/newsletters.htm>

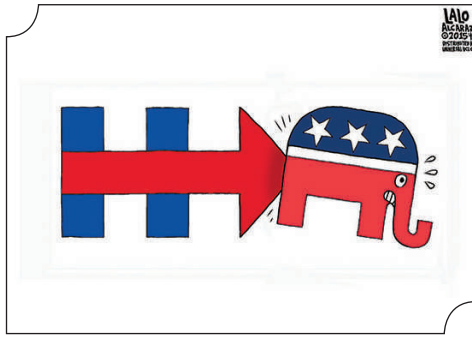
Book Review

by Carol Moeller

HRC; State Secrets and the Rebirth of Hillary Clinton by Jonathan Allen and Amie Parnes



This book begins just as Hillary loses the primary to Barack Obama, and follows her as she prepares to continue as a Senator. It details



her initial reluctance to accept the Secretary of State position and the intense behind-the-scenes wooing of Hillary and the smart counter-requests she asks for and gets. Interesting details are conveyed, such as Obama's choice of Timothy Geithner as Treasury Secretary due in part to Geithner's ability to speak Mandarin (his major at Dartmouth involved Asian studies and he studied at universities in Beijing). These assets aligned with Obama's desire to encourage Chinese investment in the US. The many layers of political maneuvering play out as former opponents, Hillary and Obama, eventually succeed in forming a close friendship. Hillary's deft diplomatic abilities resulted in many former foes actually forming alliances with her that aided her in her role as Secretary of State and likely will be beneficial in her run for President. The Benghazi tragedy, which her opponents are trying to use to define her, is thoroughly examined. Although some critics claim this book is simply a tool to help elect Hillary, I view it as a fascinating window into the machinery that defines our political system.

Special Opportunity Drawing for Hahn Fundraising Event on June 7

by Connie Sullivan

On June 7 there will be a fundraiser for Janice Hahn in support of her race for County Supervisor. We'll celebrate Janice's candidacy by enjoying yummy food donated by Teresa Savo, listening to live music, enjoying ocean views on a beautiful summer day and, best of all, hearing from the candidate about her plans for our county's future.

At our general membership meeting on May 17, we'll hold a drawing for 4 tickets, worth \$100 each, for 4 lucky winners to attend the June 7 event, which will be held at my home in Palos Verdes Estates.

To enter the drawing, the cost will be \$5 for

1 ticket and \$20 for 4 tickets. So, bring some cash to our May meeting so you might be able to win one of the 4 tickets for this event.

Time to Elect Officers to Our Board of Directors

by Kay Cooperman Jue, Nominating Committee Chair

As required by the PV Democrats' bylaws, the Nominating Committee presents the following slate of candidates for officer positions on the 2015-'16 Board of Directors:

President – Carol Moeller
 1st Vice President – vacant
 2nd Vice President – Lynn Bommer
 Treasurer – Al Shadbourn
 Recording Secretary – Judy Pang
 Corresponding Secretary – Sheila Papayans
 Parliamentarian – Maria Martinez

Election of the new board will take place during our May 17 general membership meeting. All members in good standing are eligible to vote.

It is not too late to throw your hat in the ring if you are interested in serving. The Nominating Committee still is looking for a candidate for the 1st Vice President position. If you are interested, please e-mail me at pvedem@yahoo.com or state your interest during the May 17 meeting.

Officers serve for a one-year term, which begins in July. In addition to the officers, the following committee chairs will serve on next year's board:

Hospitality – Teresa Savo and Marta Leipzig
 Membership – Suzy Boone
 Publicity – Margaret and Paul Paez
 Mailing – Ron Moeller
 Newsletter Editor – Laura Hines-Jurgen
 Newsletter Designer – Ann Nye
 Webmaster – Brian Flannigan
 L.A. County Democratic Party Associate Member – Stacey Michaels
 Precinct Captain – Connie Sullivan

I would like to thank my fellow Nominating Committee members, Connie Sullivan and Jean McDonald, for all the work they have done for the past several months developing a strategy and contacting possible candidates for a number of open positions.

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 Shadboune 310-326-4953
 Parliamentarian: Teresa Savo 310-541-1139
 Membership: Susie Boone 310-686-0455
 Publicity: Paul & Margaret Paetz
 Electronic Media: Brian Flannigan 310-938-3647
 Newsletter Editor: Connie Sullivan 310-378-1554
 Newsletter Designer: Ann Nye 310-373-6805
 Hospitality: Marta Liepzig 301-828-8112
 Mailing: Ron Moeller 310-541-5526
 Special Projects: Brent Humber 310-871-2865
 LACDP Associate: Stacey Michaels 310-377-0652

PVPDC Officers for 2015 Contact Info



Palos Verdes Democrats
 Founded 1952

P.O. Box 2234,
 Rolling Hills Est. Ca 90274

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