

Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded 1952



logo by
Paul Conrad

July 2014 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

JULY MEETING

DATE: July 20, 2014

TIME: 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Teresa Savo's House

TOPIC: Installation Party

AUGUST MEETING

DATE: August 17th

TIME: 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

LOCATION: St. Luke's Presbyterian Church, 26825 Rolling Hills Rd, RHE.

TOPIC: The Supreme Court's 2013-14 Session.

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Installation Celebration on Sunday July 20 at Teresa Savo's Home

On Sunday, July 20, 2:30 pm we'll gather at Teresa Savo's home at 30226 Avenida de Calma in Rancho Palos Verdes.

First, Teresa will treat us to a light Mexican meal of her own creation! (And Teresa is quite the cook, so you won't want to miss this one.) At her request, we ask that you RSVP for this event by calling Teresa at 310-541-1139.

After enjoying the food and conversation for a bit, we'll hear from two up and coming South Bay Democrats who recently won election to their city councils. First up will be Nanette Barragan, who was elected to the Hermosa Beach City Council in November of last year. Nanette is a graduate of both UCLA (BA) and USC (Law). She was a California Young Democrat for many years, working to elect other Democrats. Then she decided to run for office herself and succeeded the first time out. Nanette is really shaking things up in Hermosa Beach.

Our next speaker will be Tim Goodrich, who was elected last month to the Torrance City Council. Tim, who is a member of our club, served in the Air Force in the Middle East, earned a Masters of Public Administration from USC and works for the Coalition of County Unions. He is also an elected member of the L A County Democratic Party's Central Committee. Tim and his wife, Meav live in Torrance near West High.

You'll enjoy meeting these two young inspirational Democrats. We'll have fun watching their careers take off, and who



Hon. Nanette Barragan, Hermosa Beach City Councilmember



Hon. Tim Goodrich, Torrance City Councilmember

knows, one or both might represent us someday.

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The last order of the day will be to install the newly elected members of the Palos Verdes Democrats Board of Trustees. Let's wish them well and get them off to a great start.

June Meeting Report
by Connie Sullivan

Resolution to Oppose AB2145

At the June 15 meeting, club member Dency Nelson explained that the environmental community was organizing a campaign to let the state senate know of their opposition to AB2145. This bill would affect how residents purchase power from a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) system when one exists in their city. Currently only two cities in northern California offer a CCA, an entity that supplies green energy to homeowners that choose to purchase energy from the CCA.

The law passed by the voters a few years ago provides that where a CCA exists, homeowners will be defaulted into the CCA, but can opt out if they so wish. AB2145 would change the opt-in default to an opt-out default. It was sold to the assembly as a consumer rights measure and it passed in the assembly.

Now assembly members, including Al Muratsuchi, are lobbying the senate committee considering this bill to kill it.

The club voted to add our voice to that of other Democratic Clubs and environmental groups to let the senate know we oppose the passage of AB 2145.

Heist: Who Stole the American Dream?

Following the vote on the AB2145 resolution, we settled in to watch the film entitled Heist:

Time to Renew Membership Dues
By Connie Sullivan

Our club's membership year runs from July 1 through June 30. We are now requesting dues payments for the 2014-2015 club-year. The annual dues remain \$25 for an individual and \$40 for a family. Only registered Democrats may join the Palos Verdes Democrats.

Renewals can be made by completing the form attached to every newsletter and sending it with a check to the P.O. Box on the form OR by going to www.pvpdemocrats.org, clicking the membership tab on the right side of the tabs bar and following the instructions.

Club membership entitles one to the monthly newsletter and to vote on resolutions, bylaws, amendments, election of officers, etc.

The board works hard to bring what we hope are interesting speakers and topics to our monthly meetings. In recent years we've had filmmaker Robert Greenwald, LA Times columnist Michael Hiltzik, Gov. Michael Dukakis, Congressman Henry Waxman, State Senator Ted Lieu, Assembly member Al Muratsuchi and radio personality Brad Friedman, as well as experts on healthcare, the environment and immigration. Please help us to continue doing so by renewing your membership today.

Who Stole the American Dream?

This film is narrated by Thom Hartmann and elaborates on a thesis he often describes on his radio show. As he calls it, the biggest heist in American history.

In the opening scene of the film the audience sees the Occupy Wall Street activists demonstrating against the huge inequality that currently exists in our country.

From there, audience members saw liberal icon Senator Elizabeth Warren (MA) describe how our nation's early boom and bust economy was stopped by legislation passed after the Great Depression and signed into law by FDR. Three laws – one establishing

the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to insure savings, the Glass-Steagall Banking Reform Act to separate commercial banks from investment banks and the Securities and Exchange Commission to provide some "cops to watch the robbers" -- provided the United States 50 years of economic peace, according to Warren.

Our economy boomed, homeownership increased, the middle class flourished. So, of course, this had to be stopped. And the agent of the dismantling of this flourishing middle class was Lewis F. Powell, Jr., a corporate attorney who was engaged by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in 1971 to write a position paper that would lay out the plan to radically change our economy. The paper was entitled "The Attack on the American Free Enterprise System".

The Powell memo laid out the methods by which the left carried out their attack on the free enterprise system – through the media, on college campuses, from the pulpit, through the arts and sciences, within the judicial and political systems. His memo described how corporations could take over these various institutions and systems to reverse the trend.

The Chamber went to work. They found their best agent for their plan in Ronald Reagan. When he was elected President in 1980 they had their man positioned perfectly

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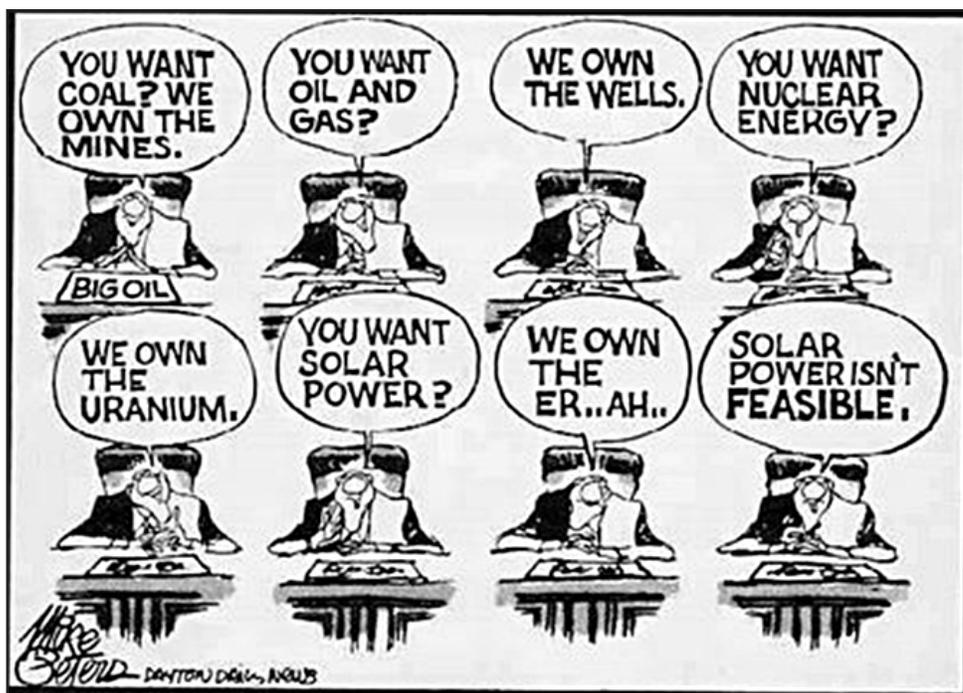
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“Here's the simple truth. You can't be an American company only when you want a massive bailout from the American people. You have also got to be an American company, and pay your fair share of taxes, as we struggle with the deficit and adequate funding for the needs of the American people.”

- Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.)

to begin the dismantling of our economy. Reagan, the former union president broke the air traffic controllers union and lowered income taxes while raising other taxes that fall disproportionately on the middle class and poor (FICA was raised 2 percent). The plan was in motion and gathering steam.

Not that Reagan was the only president

to assist the corporations in dismantling the regulatory regime and sending jobs overseas. Democrats were also complicit.

All of these actions were described through interviews with experts like Senator Bernie Sanders, economist David K. Johnston, former American Airlines CEO Robert Crandell and others in a very engaging narrative fashion.

In the last part of the film, Hartmann ended on a high note by describing the ways in which the American people can reverse these destructive trends. One interesting example described the story of a group in Richmond, California that forced Chevron to pay \$11 million in taxes to their community in which their refinery is located.

After the film viewing there was some discussion. It was pointed out that Powell was appointed to the Supreme Court a couple of months after writing the memorandum. A few years after that, the Buckley v. Valeo decision was the first to equate political money with speech. We all know where that led.

66th Assembly District Democrats of the Year

By Connie Sullivan

The Los Angeles County Democratic Party (LACDP) charters our Democratic Club, the Palos Verdes Democrats. The Central Committee of the LACDP is organized by Assembly District. We are part of the 66th Assembly District.

At the June 10, 2014 meeting of the LACDP our 66th Assembly District caucus chose Jimmy Gow and Kathryn Campbell as our male and female Democrats of the Year. Jimmy is the long-time president of the Torrance Democratic Club and Kathryn is incoming president of the Beach Cities Democrats and served as secretary last year.

You may have encountered Jimmy on a Saturday at the Torrance Farmers Market where he sets up a large booth, registers voters, hands out campaign material, sells campaign buttons, discusses political issues, etc.

Kathryn has been active on many campaigns on behalf of our Democratic candidates.

They'll receive their awards at the Roosevelt Dinner later this year. We'll let you know when we learn the date of the dinner so you can join us in congratulating these two distinguished Democrats.

Congratulations to our friends Kathryn and Jimmy!

PVPDC Officers for 2013 Contact Info

President: Connie Sullivan
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 Democrats
 Founded 1952

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 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:

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 I might offer my home for a meeting or social event