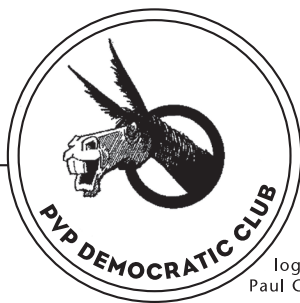


# Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Club

Founded 1952



logo by  
Paul Conrad

## April 2013 Newsletter

P.O. Box 2234, Rolling Hills Est. CA 90274  
Visit Us on the Web at [www.pvpdemocrats.org](http://www.pvpdemocrats.org)  
"One of the oldest Democratic Clubs in California"

### COMING EVENTS

#### APRIL MEETING:

**DATE:** Sunday, April 21, 2013

**TIME:** 2:30-4:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Peninsula Center Library  
701 Silver Spur Rd, RHE

**TOPIC:** Creating Money Transparency  
In Local, State and National Elections;  
Move to Amend Workshop

**SPEAKERS:** State Senator Ted Lieu and  
John Smith

**MAY MEETING:** Sunday, May 19, 2013

**TIME:** 2:30-4:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Peninsula Center Library  
701 Silver Spur Rd, RHE

**TOPICS:** The Pentagon Papers,  
Subsequent Wars and Beyond

**SPEAKERS:** John Powers and Tim  
Goodrich

#### Inside This Month's Issue:

**April Membership Meeting  
Announcement - Page 1**

**March Meeting Report - Page 1-3**

**Board Election Announcement -  
Page 3**

#### April Meeting:

#### Move to Amend - Citizens United AND SB 2 Shining Light on California Campaigns

Many of you have told us you want to see the club take a more active role in effecting meaningful change. Now's your chance to get involved! The club is taking on the goal of pushing our local governments to adopt resolutions in favor of amending the constitution to overturn the Citizens United ruling.

We'll hear from two speakers who are tackling the problem of unfettered and undisclosed money in political campaigns. Then you'll learn what you can do.

Transparency in political funding is the goal of both of our speakers this month. Our District 28 State Senator, Ted Lieu, will discuss SB 2, the bill that he has introduced along with SB 3 by state Senator Leland Yee, (D-San Francisco), known as the 'Sunshine in Campaigns Act' - which seeks to provide the strongest, most expansive campaign-disclosure bill in California since the passage of the Political Reform Act of 1974, according to Senator Lieu's web-site. Co-Sponsors: California Common Cause and League of Women Voters.

"Skyrocketing political spending is mainly a direct result of the 2010 Supreme Court Citizens United ruling, which granted corporations and unions the same free speech rights as individuals and removed their spending limits in the political arena," according to Common Cause, a non-partisan citizens' organization. Public Citizen and Common Cause have been blazing the trail to amend the Constitution ever since.

John Smith, Southern California organizer for Common Cause, spoke to us last year about

reaching out "to political organizations with similar interests to form coalitions that support amending the Constitution." We'll learn what has been happening throughout California and the many states since then.

John will conduct a "workshop" that will show us how to achieve overturning Citizens United. You are encouraged to invite guests from other organizations, such as League of Women Voters, other political parties, members of Rotary and church groups who are interested in achieving this goal. He will also show us how other cities and states have been successful in getting their local officials to sign resolutions to amend the Constitution.

We look forward to seeing you at this exercise in participatory democracy!

#### March Meeting Report

By Christine Mei

#### Club Business

Club President Connie Sullivan informed the audience that the Torrance Democratic Club has invited State Senator Rod Wright to speak at the Democratic Action Center at 7 PM on Monday, March 18.

Board Member Carol Moeller invited the audience to join the 66th Assembly District Democratic Council. The goals of the council are to keep the district in Democratic hands, encourage Democratic values and help fundraise for Democratic candidates at all levels.

Rascha Hall, president of Helping the Homeless Help Themselves (HHHT), announced a major fundraising event on April 28.

*continued on page 2*

*continued from page 1*

A representative from the office of Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi asked the audience to contact his office regarding any legislative concerns.

### **Impact of Proposition 30 on School Budget**

Dr. Anthony Collatos, board president of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District (PVPUSD) and an associate professor of education at Pepperdine University, began his speech by telling the audience the three goals of the school district:

- a) Implement the Common Core State Standards;
- b) Maintain multi-year fiscal stability plans;
- c) Enhance communication and collaboration between and among the administration, staff, students, parents, Board of Education, and community.

For the first goal, the Common Core State Standards are the new curriculum the schools need to adopt by 2014-2015. They require making adjustments to our current curriculum and have financial implications.

For the second goal, the district must be fiscally solvent with 3% in reserve for three years in a row. The school district relies heavily on funding from the state. If Proposition 30 did not pass, PVPUSD stood to lose \$5.5 million and automatic mid-year cuts would take place. With the passage of Proposition 30, the district is trying to figure out how the proposition will affect the school budget.

Does Proposition 30 provide a safety net for schools?

The answer is no according to Dr. Collatos. Proposition 30 will provide flat funding to schools for the next seven years. It prevents severe cuts, but it is not a new source of income. The governor has a new funding proposal



*Dr. Anthony Collatos, PVPUSD board president*

called the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). Under this formula, the state gives schools a base grant, and the school districts can decide what to do with the money. PVPUSD will get a base grant and a small supplemental grant to cover the ESL and free lunch programs. But for districts with larger ESL or needy student populations, they will get the base grant and 35% more in supplemental grant and an additional grant if their needy student population exceeds 50%. This formula puts our district at a disadvantage for state funds.

In addition, funding for adult education and technical and vocational education is not assured under LCFF. If these programs are not funded through PVPUSD, we will face a sizable budget shortfall.

Dr. Collatos ended his remarks by emphasizing the third goal: the importance of communication with various groups within the community.

### **Climate Change**

Congressman Henry Waxman discussed his views and his work in Congress on climate



*Congressman Henry Waxman*

change. He considers climate change as the most important issue to him because he is very concerned about whether we will have a planet to live on if we don't do anything about it.

We need to start taking actions soon to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We need to find alternative energy sources to replace fossil fuels. At present, renewable energy sources have a difficult time to compete in the marketplace because of the costs.

Natural gas is a transition fuel from fossil oils to renewable energies. It is cleaner than coal, and we have a lot of natural gas reserves in this country. It is extracted by fracking, a process that needs to be tightly regulated.

In addition, we should impose tougher fuel efficiency standards for autos, encourage constructing energy efficient buildings and explore new technologies to remove carbon from coal. The best way to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions is to make those who use fossil fuels pay more through a carbon tax or cap and trade.

Congressman Waxman was able to get the Clean Air Act passed when he became the chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee in 2009. This year, he and Senator Whitehouse organized a Bicameral Task Force on Climate Change. They sent a letter to the president asking him to appoint a coordinator to oversee all work on climate change. They also sent letters to various organizations to solicit ideas.

To make inroads in the GOP-controlled House, Mr. Waxman and some of his colleagues

*continued on page 3*

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formed a Save the Climate Caucus to talk every single day on the House floor about the urgent need to address climate change.

Mr. Waxman is encouraged by the support he gets from the president. But he is very frustrated by the lack of progress in Congress. He assured the audience that he is doing everything he can to push this issue forward.

### **We drew the lines - California Redistricting**

Two commissioners, Mr. Peter Yao, a Republican, and Ms. Jeanne Raya, a Democrat, from the California Citizen's Redistricting Commission explained how the commission came into being, how the commissioners were chosen and the tasks they had to undertake to accomplish the goals set forth by the voters.

The Commission was established after the California voters approved Proposition 11 in 2008 and Proposition 20 in 2010. Some state legislators did not like the idea of having citizens draw district boundaries. They put Proposition 27 on the ballot in 2010 in the hope of disbanding the commission before it started. The voters rejected that proposition.

It took a year to select the 14 commissioners among 30,000 applicants. The 14 commissioners are composed of 5 Republicans, 5 Democrats and 4 Decline-to-State. They were chosen based on their race, ethnicity, geography, income and gender. The term of their service is 10 years. During these 10 years, they cannot run for political offices or accept political appointments.

The schedule and budget were extremely tight. The commission was given 8 months and \$3.5 million to finish its tasks. The commissioners started to work in January 2011 and finished the final maps in August 2011.

The criteria for drawing the maps are listed in the following ranked order:

1. Equal Population
2. Voting Rights Act (VRA)
3. Contiguous
4. Cities, Counties, Neighborhoods and Communities of Interest (COIs)
5. Compact
6. Nesting
7. No Politics

Before submitting the final maps, the commissioners held hearings in many communities to make sure that the respective interests of these communities were taken into consideration. They adhered to the letter and spirit of the Voting Rights Act to provide minority groups the opportunity to elect their representatives and safeguard against racial discrimination. This redistricting process is the only one in the nation that politicians exerted no influence on the outcome. It is truly historic.

## **Board Election in June**

The nominating committee for the 2013-14 Board of Directors of this club (Chair Barbara Epstein and members Rascha Hall and Lynn McLeod) have completed the slate of candidates for these positions.

### **The slate is as follows:**

<b>Office</b>	<b>Candidate</b>
<b>President</b>	<b>Connie Sullivan</b>
<b>1st Vice President</b>	<b>Carol Moeller</b>
<b>2nd Vice President - programs</b>	<b>Hon. Tom Long</b>
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	<b>Judy Pang</b>
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	<b>Sheila Papayans</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Shuja Oberoi</b>
<b>Parliamentarian</b>	<b>Lynn McLeod</b>
<b>Committee Chairs</b>	<b>Volunteer</b>
<b>Membership chair</b>	<b>Alan Shadbourne</b>
<b>Publicity chair</b>	<b>Brent Humber</b>
<b>Web site/Facebook chair</b>	<b>Brian Flannigan</b>
<b>Phone tree chair</b>	<b>Jim Hamilton</b>
<b>Newsletter editor</b>	<b>Frank Yee</b>
<b>Newsletter designer</b>	<b>Jocelyn Wilson</b>
<b>Mailing chair</b>	<b>Ron Moeller</b>
<b>Hospitality chair</b>	<b>Lynn Bommer</b>
<b>Associate member, LA County Democratic Party</b>	<b>Eric Alegria</b>

Per our club by-laws, ADDITIONAL NOMINATIONS may be submitted to the Nominating Committee by petition of five members. Anyone wishing to make such a nomination should submit the petition to Barbara Epstein at [moccasinbarb@cox.net](mailto:moccasinbarb@cox.net). Those additional nominations will be published in the May Newsletter.

The election will be held by a show of hands (current members only) at the general membership meeting on June 16. We are grateful to the committee members and to the candidates for supporting our work in such an important way.

**PVPDC Officers for 2012 Contact Info**

President: Connie Sullivan 310-378-1554  
 1st VP: Hans Grellmann 310-373-3066  
 2nd VP: Jean McDonald 310-375-5135  
 2nd VP: Tom Long 310-375-5783  
 Recording Secretary: Judy Pang  
 Corresponding Secretary: Sheila Papayans  
 Treasurer: Shuja Oberoi 310-265-1037  
 Membership Chair: Lynn McLeod 310-375-2103  
 Newsletter Editor: Christine Mei 310-541-2458



Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Club  
 Founded 1952

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

# Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Club

Founded in 1952 - One of the oldest and largest Democratic Clubs in California

As a member of the PVP Democratic Club, 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

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

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