

Palos Verdes Democrats

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Paul Conrad

February 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

FEBRUARY MEETING

DATE: February 16, 2014

TIME: 2:30– 4:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Peninsula Center Library
701 Silver Spur Rd, RHE

TOPIC: Trans Pacific Partnership, Rule of Law, Sheriff candidate

SPEAKERS: Dr. Bill Honigman, Ken Petrulis, Patrick Gomez

MARCH MEETING

DATE: March 16, 2014

TIME: 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Peninsula Center Library
701 Silver Spur Rd, RHE

TOPIC: Immigration

SPEAKER: TBD

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February Meeting Trans Pacific Partnership, Rule of Law and Sheriff Candidate

By Connie Sullivan

You may remember Dr. Bill Honigman when he spoke to us a couple of years ago about the proposed single payer medical system. At that time there was a bill making its way through the legislature that would have established such a system in California.

Dr. Bill is also an active member of the Progressive Democrats of America and is now working to defeat the proposed Trans Pacific Partnership – a Pacific Rim trade agreement (remember NAFTA?).

Dr. Bill proved to be a very engaging speaker when he spoke to us before and we look forward to hearing him again on this new, important topic.

Our second speaker is Ken Petrulis, Redondo Beach attorney and good Democrat from the Beach Cities Club. He will speak on the Rule of Law.

Wikipedia defines "The rule of law... primarily refers to the influence and authority of law within society, especially as a constraint upon behavior, including behavior of government officials." Chris Christie leaps to mind, no?

Finally, we will hear from Patrick Gomez, a Democrat running for Sheriff. I'm sure every one of our members has heard about the various ongoing scandals in Sheriff Baca's jails and his department. Baca has resigned and there will be a primary in June and an election in November to replace him. We will make every effort to introduce you to the Democrats vying to replace him.

Come hear our speakers, enjoy our refreshments and possibly win a ticket to the John Chiang fundraiser at the Lundquist home on February 23.

January Meeting Report By Marta Leipzig Photography by David Hall

Introducing Lou Vince, Democratic Candidate for LA
County Sheriff



Candidate Lou Vince presents his platform at the January club meeting.

Lou Vince, a Democrat who is running to replace infamous Lee Baca as Sheriff of Los Angeles County, kicked off our January meeting with his campaign message.

Vince and his wife have four children, two who were fostered and adopted through the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services. "No amount of law enforcement can override what goes back to family involvement and nurturing at home," he said.

Vince is a 17-year veteran of the Los Angeles law enforcement system, rising quickly through

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the ranks of the LAPD from Field Training Officer to Detective Supervisor.

"The LA County Sheriff's Department is the largest in the country," he said. "And we have the nation's largest jail system. The next Sheriff needs to effect major reform to bring this department into the twenty-first century."

"We must change the mentality of the organization," he said. "When I'm Sheriff, I want to be known for heroism, not misconduct."

Learn more about Lou Vince and follow his campaign at www.LouVince.com.

Water woes: Two local experts face the crisis from different directions



Ray Tahir, Environmental Engineer, addresses storm water runoff pollution.

Introduced by Harold C. Williams - club member and former City Council Member for the City of Carson -- Ray Tahir focused on the topic of storm water runoff pollution. The environmental engineer and owner of TECS Environmental Compliance Services in Pasadena immediately established that he is a "dyed-in-the-wool liberal Democrat" and wanted his audience to know that in context of his presentation.

According to Tahir, communities throughout California are facing enormous challenges as they deal with storm water runoff - the leading cause of surface water pollution in Southern California. "Every year California municipalities spend close to half a billion dollars trying to prevent litter from damaging

our ecosystems. The need to protect our water is unquestionable, but the way this issue is being funded needs a closer look," he said. "Our storm water pollution problems are critical, but the current regulations imposed on municipalities are too stringent and more costly than they need to be."

In 1972, Richard Nixon (really!) created The U.S Clean Water Act establishing a regulatory permit system after the Cuyahoga River caught on fire in Ohio due to industrial pollution.

Water pollution permits are the backbone of the Clean Water Act. They determine how much pollution can be dumped into the nation's waters by virtually all potential polluters. When permits expire for periods of time, pollution can continue unchecked.

Tahir explained that Federal law requires many cities, towns and densely developed counties obtain their own individual permits. "To comply with the latest standards, Los Angeles will likely have to pay more than \$5 billion over the next 20 years," he said.

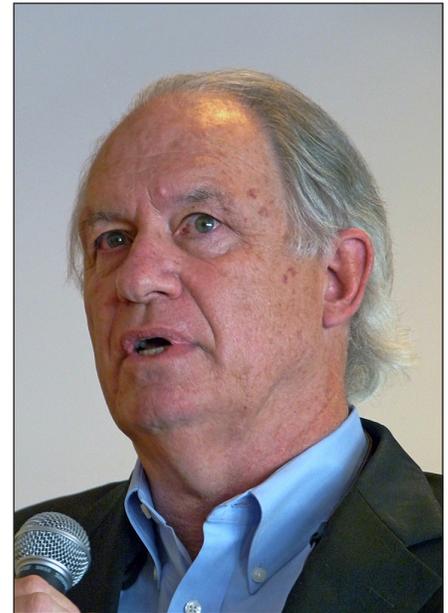
Recent research has shown that a large number of cities and towns throughout California -- regardless of their size and distance from the ocean -- are paying a high price for overly stringent, one-size-fits-all requirements regarding storm drain maintenance, street sweeping and coastal cleanup efforts.

Where does that leave regulators?

"Understandably, they are under attack from all directions now," said Tahir. The public has grown more knowledgeable and increasingly concerned about water quality. Environmental groups want even stricter requirements and stronger enforcement. Communities, in the meantime, are stressed by severe budget tightening in the face of rising water regulatory costs and seemingly unachievable performance standards.

"We need to explore new and different approaches to give municipalities more flexibility to meet pollution standards in the most economical way possible," said Tahir.

"I believe the storm water pollution issue is exaggerated," said Tahir. "The harsh new regulations stick many municipalities with overly costly permits that they can't afford."



Conner Everts, Executive Director, Southern California Watershed Alliance

"Let's bring back the fish"

"The world of water experts has its own language" said Everts. "I'm going to try to make it simple for you and boil it down to one question. If we continue on the path we're on, how will we respond to the outcome?"

"I'm here as an environmentalist," he said. "My work today was inspired by my longtime love for fishing -- especially for Steelhead Trout. When I was a kid thousands of Steelhead would return to California waters every year, but now only a few hundred make the journey."

Everts believes that some of his most important work to date has been as advisor to the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water and the Southern California Steelhead Coalition with their efforts to bring back the fish he loved to catch as a kid.

"The past 12 years have been the driest on record here. We've based our past water management planning on much wetter periods, he said. "Unless we reduce our demands we'll be headed towards the severe water restrictions that so many other areas of our country and the world are already mandating."

A large part of the necessary change will mean completely transforming our SoCal culture that is so tied to cultivated lawns, huge

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swimming pools and water-wasting recreational pursuits, Everts warned.

"How we'll recapture this water and use it more effectively is critical," he said. "Our current regulation system makes it very complex".

"We have more than 8,000 water agencies in our state," Everts said. "This has led to overlapping jurisdictions, tremendous confusion and constant legal battles. We have a lot to learn from Australia, Spain and Israel where they're far ahead of us in implementing innovative solutions."

Everts paid tribute to Dorothy Green several times during his presentation. She was the beloved environmental activist and "citizen warrior" whose anger over the pollution of Santa Monica Bay spurred her to create the grassroots group, Heal the Bay, in 1987. She also campaigned for Proposition 20, which led to the creation of the California Coastal Commission. "Dorothy was known and revered for her message that we don't have water problems, we have water management problems," said Everts.

For more information about Evert's Southern California Watershed Alliance visit <https://www.causes.com/causes/241772-southern-california-watershed-alliance>.

To follow news about California water issues, go to www.aquaforia.com and swrcb.ca.gov.

Club Expenditures

By Connie Sullivan

In January the club donated \$400 to the John Chiang for Treasurer 2014 campaign. This was the only expenditure aside from room rental costs at the Peninsula Center Library.



Fundraiser for John Chiang

By Connie Sullivan

You probably knew that state Controller John Chiang is running for state Treasurer, but did you know that he's a Torrance resident? That's right, he is.

And since he's a neighbor, we thought we'd be neighborly and co-host a fundraiser for his campaign.

So, on February 23, at 2:00 pm at the home of Melanie and Richard Lundquist we will come together to enjoy some refreshments, listen to live music and most important, support our neighbor in his quest to become Treasurer of California.

The individual donation level is \$100. If you are interested in attending please contact me at pvedems@gmail.com or 310-378-1554. Or attend our February 16 meeting at the library. Who knows, you might win a ticket in our raffle!

Raffle for Tickets to Fundraiser

By Connie Sullivan

At our January meeting, two of our members, Marta Leipzig and Varo Asorian won tickets to the February 23 fundraiser for John Chiang. They won the tickets in the raffle we held that day.

There's still time to win! We will raffle two more tickets at our February 16 meeting, so bring plenty of cash because you'll want to play.

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 Democrats
 Founded 1952

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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

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