

Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded 1952



logo by
Paul Conrad

March 2014 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

MARCH MEETING

DATE: March 16, 2014

TIME: 2:30– 4:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Peninsula Center Library
701 Silver Spur Rd, RHE

TOPIC: Congress, State Senate Candidates

SPEAKERS: U.S. Rep. Henry Waxman,
Democratic Candidates for State Senate 26

APRIL MEETING

DATE: April 13, 2014

TIME: 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Peninsula Center Library
701 Silver Spur Rd, RHE

TOPIC: Immigration

SPEAKER: Dr. Maria Martinez, Miguel
Quintero

Inside This Month's Issue:

**March Membership Meeting
Announcement** Page 1

February Meeting Report Page 1-3

**PV Dems Register New Citizen
Voters** Page 3

Fundraiser for John Chiang Page 3

Join the PV Dems Board!
Page 3

March Meeting : Waxman to Speak to Club followed by State Senate Candidates Forum

Well, he's the man of the hour and we have him!

When our U. S. Congressman Henry Waxman decided to retire at the end of this year, he set off a veritable storm of activity among potential candidates for his seat.

Our state senator, Ted Lieu jumped in first. Followed by two other Democrats and one Republican. There were already two independents set to challenge Waxman.

Four Democrats then jumped into the race for Senator Lieu's seat.

It's been a whirlwind for Democratic activists. But I digress. On Sunday, March 16 we will hear from our wonderful Congressman Waxman at 2:30 at the Peninsula Center Library. This will probably be our last time to hear from him in person and to ask him the questions we all have for him.

Who knows, now that he's retiring he just might let us in on some secrets.

After we hear from the Congressman, we'll hold a candidates forum with the 4 Democrats seeking Senator Ted Lieu's current seat (Senate District 26). They are Ben Allen (Malibu-Santa Monica School Board Member), Betsy Butler (former assembly member), Sandra Fluke (women's rights activist), and Amy Howorth (Manhattan Beach Mayor).

Also, at this meeting we'll have a raffle for a very special facial donated by Goddess Lynne, the first lady of the Torrance Democratic Club.

So, please come and converse with like-minded

Democrats, enjoy our yummy refreshments, and learn from our program featuring Congressman Waxman and our senate candidates.

February Meeting Report By Marta Leipzig

Patrick Gomez For L.A. County Sheriff



Patrick Gomez, Candidate for LA County Sheriff

With the June 6th election fast approaching, Patrick Gomez introduced himself to PV Democrats as the candidate dedicated to preserving public safety. A 31-year veteran of the L.A. County Sheriff's Department, he retired as a Lieutenant in December 2012.

"I decided to announce my candidacy in this race after deep consideration and at the urging of residents and colleagues who were fed up with Baca's corrupt regime", he said. "I want it to be known that I will not accept unethical conduct. My goal is to make Los Angeles the safest place to live, work and to raise a family."

continued on page 2

continued from page 1

Answering questions from the audience about specific changes he would make, Gomez stated that he would put an end to "gang mentality deputies". "Right from the start I would initiate much higher recruitment standards". Hiring young war veterans and promoting jobs in the department to high school "Explorers" could raise the level of integrity and commitment.

Gomez also made it clear that he would analyze the entire organizational structure in the Department and make any necessary changes to improve efficiency and prompt response.

Ensuring that inmates serve their entire sentence is another priority for Gomez. With electronic monitoring, many non-violent inmates could give back to the community while still doing time – and learn new skills by working for Habitat for Humanity and other similar non-profits.

Gomez was born and raised in the San Gabriel Valley. He and his wife now live in La Canada. They have four grown children, one who currently attends Marymount California University.

For more information, visit www.patrickgomezforsheriff.com

Dr. Bill takes on The Trans-Pacific Partnership – the new "NAFTA on Steroids" and reiterates his stance on "Medicare for All"



Dr. Bill Honigman of the Progressive Democrats of America (PDA)

There's no stopping Dr. Bill Honigman (affectionately known as Dr. Bill) when it comes to justice for all. The ER physician from Orange County is a highly vocal and visible activist within the Progressive Democrats of America (PDA). Previously he addressed the

Club about health care issues – specifically the Medicare for All movement that he passionately endorses.

Dr. Bill launched his presentation by reminding his audience that the Affordable Care Act has made history by offering health insurance to millions of Californians for the first time. "It was a step in the right direction, but the system still is flawed. It still leaves insurance companies in control and allows them to charge huge overhead". Even when fully implemented, the ACA will leave several million Californians uninsured he went on to explain.

" I believe that healthcare is a human right. Only a single payer program will provide every Californian with guaranteed quality healthcare," Honigman said.

Moving on to the main topic of his presentation, Dr. Bill explained his aggressive efforts to stop the passage of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). TPP is a global trade agreement being secretly negotiated by hundreds of multi-national corporations and industry trade groups. According to Honigman, TPP could have a major negative impact on virtually every aspect of American life.

"Because of NAFTA, we lost a huge number of jobs in America through outsourcing and offshoring. With TTP, the situation could get even worse. It would create the perfect storm for an unemployment disaster," he said.

Honigman and the PDA believe that, if passed, TPP would undermine state, local and federal laws covering:

- Environmental protection
- Food Supply Safety
- Workers' Rights
- Banking and Financial Systems
- Healthcare and Pharmaceutical Costs

Honigman expressed deep concern about how passage of TPP would affect global pharmaceutical expense and distribution. "Countries fighting HIV and tuberculosis and many other diseases won't be able to use generic drugs because TPP would act on the side of the giant pharmas of the world," he said.

Perhaps the scariest aspect of TPP is that negotiations are being conducted in private, Honigman warned. "Congress and the public have been shut out of the discussions. We need to make lots of noise right now to stop this."

To follow the latest Trans-Pacific Trade Partnership developments, visit www.PDAmerica.org.



Attorney Ken Petrus discusses The Rule of Law

Ken Petrus Shares His "Rule of Law Scorecard" and Thoughts About "Stand Your Ground" Interpretations

Just how important is the rule of law in our democracy? Attorney Ken Petrus thinks that without a doubt it's what makes our country so unique.

Petrus admitted that the Rule of Law is a difficult concept to define. He likes to explain it as "a fairness process" that is the foundation of our nation's justice system and democratic principles.

"When continuously studied, refined, tested and reaffirmed, the Rule of Law will keep our nation above all others by recognizing the supremacy of human rights," said Petrus.

Petrus noted that the integrity of the American justice system is dependent on the Rule of Law, which he breaks down into five elements that he developed into a handy scorecard.

- Fair Laws that are clear and reasonable when applied to human experience
- Fair Administration by the administrative branch, prosecutors and law enforcement
- Fair Courts with judges who are impartial, independent and randomly assigned
- Access to the Justice System making it open and available to all.
- Applicable to All including the President, Supreme Court, Congress and all government officials

He then showed how we could apply his scoring technique to virtually any legal

continued on page 3

continued from page 2

scenario to decide if "law rules, or tyranny reigns." Petrulic used the Trayvon Martin case and George Zimmerman's "stand your ground" defense as an example.

At the close of his presentation, Petrulic recapped his belief that the Rule of Law is a process that depends on "instant application of tolerance and integrity through a justice system founded on these principles."

Visit www.bhba.org for additional information.
PV Democrats Register New Citizen Voters



Registering new citizen voters at the LA Convention Center

After Downtown Swearing-In Ceremony

By Connie Sullivan

On February 12, three members of our club took a trip downtown to register new citizens as voters.

Teresa Savo and Lynn Bommer joined me on the excursion to the Convention Center. We waited for the new citizen swearing-in ceremony to end and then we set about the task of capturing the new citizens as they exited the building.

Our table was set up next to the Republicans who had a life-sized cardboard Ronald Reagan in hopes of attracting new voter registrants.

We had a life-sized Barack Obama at our table. Who do you think attracted more takers? That's right; Barack is the hands down

favorite!

Many had to stop and have a picture taken with the President. We also had to have our picture taken with him as you can see.

We make this trip from time to time. I will let you know when we go again. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Fundraiser for John Chiang a Big Success



Varo Asorian, center, was one of our raffle winners. He's joined by Assembly member Muratsuchi, club member Diane Wallace and two Beach Cities members Lisa Power and Scott King

By Connie Sullivan

On February 23, our club co-sponsored a fundraiser for state Controller John Chiang, who is running for state Treasurer. Good friends of our club, Melanie and Richard Lundquist, opened their magnificent Palos Verdes Estates home and provided the refreshments for the event.

Along with our club, the Beach Cities and Torrance clubs also co-hosted, as did twelve individual Democrats from the South Bay. In all, the group raised \$12,500.

The weather gods blessed us with perfect, sunny 70-degree weather and everyone enjoyed the scenery, the food and the Democratic conversation. We heard speeches from Senator Ted Lieu, Assembly member Al Muratsuchi and Controller Chiang.

Four of our club members won tickets to the event by entering raffles at our last two general membership meetings. They seemed to enjoy their winnings.

It was the perfect way to kick off election year 2014!



Sen. Ted Lieu speaks as Controller Chiang listens

Come on Board - Join the Palos Verdes Democrats Leadership Team!

By Carol Moeller

You're enthusiastically invited to join the dynamic Board of the Palos Verdes Democrats. What better time to make your voice heard than during this exciting election year! Madeline Hall, Teresa Savo and I have been selected as the new Nominating Committee and we'd like to hear from all who are interested. You may not be sure you have a specific talent to offer, but the Club has an excellent track record of uncovering latent leaders. So please email us now at RPVdem@gmail.com and let us know if you'd like to get closer to the political action. You'll feel proud that you exercised your right as a citizen and as a dedicated Democrat.

PRIORITYONE

PRINTING ★ COPYING ★ GRAPHICS

Phone (310) 831-8804 • FAX (310) 833-9598

E-mail - priority1@earthlink.net

Website: www.priorityoneprinting.com

Newsletter Printing Donated by PRIORITYONE

PVPDC Officers for 2013 Contact Info

President: Connie Sullivan
 310-378-1554
 1st VP: Carol Moeller
 310-541-5526
 2nd VP: Carl Muchnick
 310-541-5526
 2nd VP: Tom Long
 Recording Secretary: Judy Pang
 310-375-5783
 Corresponding Secretary
 Sheila Papayans
 310-373-7978
 Treasurer: Shuja Oberoi
 310-265-1037
 Membership Chair: Al Shadbourne
 Newsletter Editor: Marta Leipzig



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