

# Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded 1952



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Paul Conrad

## April 2020 Newsletter

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

### COMING EVENTS

#### APRIL MEETING

**DATE:** Sunday, April 19th  
**MEETING TIME:** 2:30 - 4:30pm  
**LOCATION:** LIVE STREAM using Zoom; see details under PV Dems Go Virtual  
**TOPICS:** Climate Change and Current Issues  
**SPEAKERS:** CA State Senator Ben Allen, and Steve Zuckerman, Clean Power Alliance/ RHE Councilmember

#### MAY MEETING

**DATE:** Sunday, May 17th  
**MEETING TIME:** 2:30 - 4:30pm  
**LOCATION:** LIVE STREAM and, if opened, Peninsula Center Library Community Room; 701 Silver Spur Rd, RHE  
**TOPIC:** Current State of Affairs  
**SPEAKERS:** Ted Lieu

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### April General Meeting

*Climate Change and Other Pressing Issues is the theme for our April 19th meeting.*

California State Senator Ben Allen, representing the 26th district since 2015, will talk about the state climate initiatives he is supporting and his views of the primary election and current COVID-19 crisis. Senator Allen, chair of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee, co-chair of the Environmental Caucus, coauthored the Senate's historic climate change legislation, which requires 50% of the state's energy to come from renewable sources, and doubles energy efficiency in buildings by 2030.

Councilmember Steve Zuckerman, serving on the City of Rolling Hills Estates Council since November 1997, represents the city on the Clean Power Alliance Board. The Clean Power Alliance (CPA) is the new community choice aggregator provider in LA and Ventura Counties. Councilmember Zuckerman will talk to us about how his city's residents are benefiting from having access to 100% clean energy.

**March General Meeting**  
**Due to the Novel Coronavirus and the closing of the Peninsula Library, our March meeting topic, Homelessness is a State Emergency is postponed until our June 28th meeting.**

Plus, all the library's Suffragette plans for March and April were cancelled. Here's Rascha Hall, PV Dems President, dressed to walk in the Library's Suffragette Parade.



I purchased my suffragette costume in anticipation of the suffragette march originally scheduled by the Palos Verdes Library District for March 14th. Unfortunately, due to the guidelines set for canceling group gatherings, the march was cancelled.

Here I am getting some use of my purchase. The sign reads:

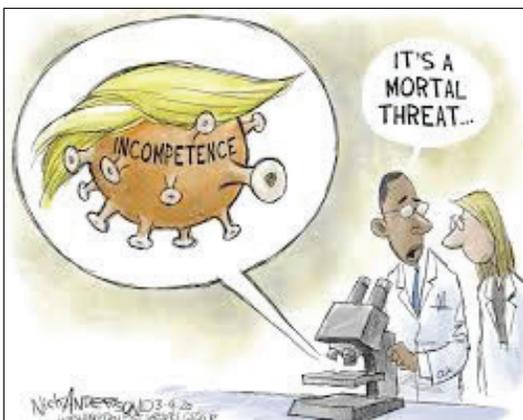
**CELEBRATE**  
**The 19th Amendment 100 years**  
**1920 - 2020**

### President's Report

By Rascha Hall

I hope you are managing to stay safe during this difficult time. I know you all got the message that the March meeting was cancelled but now I'd like to inform you about what will be happening in April, and beyond, if necessary. First, you should know that all three speakers who were scheduled to talk to us about the homeless problem at the March meeting have agreed to speak at our June meeting.

The work of the Democrats is very important, especially during this crucial election year. We must replace Donald Trump with a Democrat, hold on to our gains in the House, and take back the Senate. If we can't take back the Senate completely, we must at least get rid of Mitch McConnell. We cannot just sit by the wayside. The Board was, I think, ahead of the curve. Before most of the edicts came down to limit group



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meetings, I had already decided that with my health issues, I had to find an alternative to attend the meeting. Our webmaster, Reggie Jue, began working on a way for me to connect with the meeting via video-conferencing. He then talked about putting the meeting on live YouTube and offering others the opportunity to attend the meeting in the same manner. The Board met using Zoom (a video app) on Thursday, March 12th. It worked very well. By Thursday, it was becoming apparent that the Covid-19 pandemic was going to affect our whole way of existence for an indeterminate length of time. In light of these events, the Board decided that we did not have enough time before Sunday's meeting to inform everyone about how to use Zoom so we voted to cancel the meeting, notify the membership with an email blast, and to conduct the April meeting (and perhaps others in the future) via Zoom.

You will be getting a message to inform you of how to connect with us via Zoom. Unlike YouTube, it allows 2-way communication, both by speaking and by text, so you will be able to ask questions. However, so that we don't get confused with everyone talking at once, Reggie will mute everyone's microphone until someone lets him know they wish to speak. If you don't have a laptop, a desktop with a camera, a tablet, or a smartphone, you will be able to hear the meeting using your telephone.

### **PV Dems GO VIRTUAL Using Zoom**

**By Reggie Jue**



While our bylaws do not preclude live streaming our monthly meetings, the Board has opted to put this proposal to a membership vote. Active club members should have received an email ballot allowing them to vote to allow electronic (live) streaming. The vote will be held open until April 6.

With the coronavirus social distancing guidelines in place earlier this month, the club, depending on the vote, has decided to live stream our April meeting. Once the prohibitions on group gatherings are lifted, we propose to resume in-person meetings, but add remote access (live streaming) where appropriate.

We feel that an on-line option is important for our club since many of our members are in the high-risk category for complications from COVID-19. Even after restrictions are lifted, risks will continue to exist. Even without that health risk, remote access would also allow participation by members either travelling or otherwise unable to come to the library for other reasons.

The Board used the live streaming application, Zoom, to hold our March Board meeting. The "experiment" went very well. We think Zoom is a system that is easy to navigate for our members, and which provides a path for remote questions, but is secure enough that we know who is on-line and able to control anyone attempting to spam our meeting remotely. For those without a computer, a phone number will be provided so you can listen in.

Some of us have joined in with Zoom virtual meetings with other groups like Indivisible South Bay and TRAA.

### **Confessions of a PV Poll Worker**

**By Michele Ayers as told to Carol Moeller**



Behind the smooth operation I (Carol) experienced in my most recent voting opportunity, a whole army of poll workers paved the way for this luxury. This is the narrative of a PV Dems member and poll worker.

All poll workers were advised to watch a video and required to attend in-person training. Michele felt the video was superior to the in-person experience, so those workers who did not watch the video lacked important information. The training erroneously told the poll workers that a voter could change his or her mind after submitting a ballot as the last ballot submitted by a voter would be the one that counted. Michele was initially assigned to Vista Grande School, but prior to the start of the election period, she was reassigned to Lunada Bay School.

Once the election began, it was obvious many voters did not receive their sample ballots. As can be imagined in this complex primary, this slowed the process considerably. Michele loaned her own unmarked sample

ballot to help out these voters. Complicating the process, those registered as No Party Preference were allowed to crossover to vote using the ballot of the Democrats, American Independents or Libertarians.

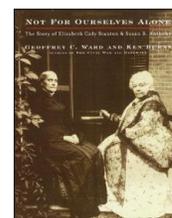
This was also the first election in which voters could switch parties at the polls, and many wanted to take advantage of this feature, but no information about the philosophies of each party was readily available.

Michele suggests having synopses of party platforms on-site for voters at the polls. Other suggestions include a large poster that describes:

- what to do if you are NPP and wish to vote for President
- an explanation as to why CA does not require voters to produce IDs
- how to change political affiliation
- how to become a Permanent Absentee Voter
- a number to call with random questions such as how to input a change of address or the reporting procedure if a voter did not receive a sample ballot

For some reason, the computers provided to look up voters sometimes glitched out and were unable to find properly registered voters, so poll workers were forced to provide those voters with Provisional Ballots. Inexplicably, the stopgap remedy was to look the voter up on an alternate computer.

Although other PV locations had considerable lines, at Lunada Bay the wait time was never longer than 15 minutes. That being said, Michele felt the workers there really worked to provide everyone with a positive experience and went "above and beyond" to keep the wait times down by assisting each other and not keeping to one spot or assignment. The assigned shift for poll workers on Election Day was from 6am to 9pm!!!! Thank you Michele and all of our poll workers!



### **Film Review Not for Ourselves Alone: The Story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton & Susan B. Anthony**

**1999 Film by Ken Burns & Paul Barnes  
Reviewed By Nancie Silver**

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This year is the 100th anniversary of the passing of the 19th Amendment, guaranteeing women the right to vote. I wanted to watch this film to learn more about how this momentous change in women's rights came about.

The film focuses on two women who were central to the Women's Suffrage Movement, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony. Although the lives of these two women were very different, they remained lifelong friends due to their belief in the right of all people to vote and be equal participants in our democracy.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton grew up in a wealthy family, and married a prominent businessman. She went to college, had seven children and was a writer. Susan B. Anthony grew up in a Quaker family, went to college, was an activist, never married and had no children. Elizabeth and Susan were both involved in the abolitionist movement, as well as the women's suffrage movement. Stanton and Anthony were an effective team, with Stanton writing about women's rights while staying home to care for her children, and Anthony traveling around the country, organizing women in the fight for voting equality.

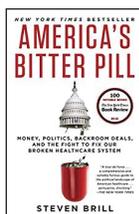
I found the film very interesting as I didn't realize how intertwined the abolitionist movement and women's suffrage movement were, and I wasn't aware that women had almost no rights in the mid-1800's. Stanton was interested in improving women's rights in many areas, well beyond just their securing the right to vote. Women were not allowed to own property, they had no rights to their children, and they couldn't divorce their husbands. It was, at that time, truly a man's world. Unfortunately, neither woman lived to see the passage of the 19th Amendment, but we all owe them a tremendous debt of gratitude. I recommend this film to anyone interested in U.S. history, specifically in civil rights and women's rights. The PV Library has the DVD.

## Book Review

### *America's Bitter Pill*

By Steven Brill

Reviewed By Carol Moeller



When Barack Obama started his first campaign for President, healthcare was not prominently on his radar screen. However,



Photo & Report by Ann Nye

### **Fire Drill Friday with Jane Fonda at San Pedro City Hall on March 6th, 11am-12pm**

When Jane Fonda and her suite of actors show up, the press comes out!

Actors Lily Tomlin and Sam Waterston from *Grace and Frankie* and others showed up with Jane to introduce the community activists who were there to promote local legislation limiting oil drilling 2500 feet from residential housing and the plight of the residents living near oil refineries.

Fire Drill Fridays were planned on the 1st Friday of every month to demand a "Green New Deal, No New Fossil Fuels, and a Rapid Phase Out of Existing Fossil Fuel Projects and Just Transition to a Renewable Energy Economy."

Stay tuned to hear about more rallies after the coronavirus isolation rules are lifted. In the meantime, Jane is blogging at <https://www.janefonda.com/blog/>

as he crisscrossed the country and heard story after story of bankruptcies due to medical bills, and after debates in which the subject was brought up, he focused in strongly on this big, big problem in our America. Then flush from his victory, and aided by both a Democratic House and Senate, he pushed hard to get done what many other Presidents had failed to do.

Just when a public option seemed possible, Senator Ted Kennedy died and Republican Scott Brown was voted in to take his place. Then Democrat Joe Lieberman, who represented a state that is home to major insurance companies, refused to vote for a bill that contained a public option. So two Republican votes were needed, but nobody on the other side of the aisle would vote for something in which drug prices could be negotiated. So essentially what resulted is a system that does provide health insurance for many more Americans, but doesn't address the cost of that care, and that cost is largely borne by taxpayers.

Thus an imperfect bill was passed in Obama's first term, but wasn't implemented until his second term, and this is where things almost fell apart. Brill notes that no single person was in charge of the implementation (there was the policy portion and the economics portion and the website portion and the insurance exchange portion, each with a different person at the top). Also, although ideally each state was to implement their own system, Republican-

led states refused to do so, so the federal government was forced to do the work for them. Although there were repeated delays to provide more time to implement all of this, and despite repeated warnings about lack of testing of the system, it went live and almost immediately foundered. Fortunately, techie wizards from Silicone Valley came to the rescue!

One hilarious story is the resounding success of Obamacare in Mitch McConnell's ruby-red Kentucky. Because the state happened to have a Democratic Governor (Steve Beshear, whose son is now the current governor) and because he insisted they implement their own state's version of Obamacare (called Kynect), Kentucky initially had more enrollees than did the flawed entire federal version! The success of that program has caused McConnell to claim he is opposed to Obamacare but in favor of Kynect, which is, of course, Obamacare.

Just as our country faces possibly the largest healthcare crisis in its history, the individual mandate (the requirement that people have insurance), has been ruled unconstitutional by a December 2019, 2:1 Appeals Court decision. The two majority votes were Bush and Trump appointees. Republicans were frantic about this, realizing that repeal right before an election could work very much against them, so they managed to get a review of this opinion that won't be issued until after the November election.



### Palos Verdes Democrats Officers for 2019-2020

- President: Rascha Hall 310-377-7334  
President Emeritus: Lynn Bommer 310-374-1188  
1st Vice President: Kathy Bradford 310-265-9812  
2nd Vice President: Ann Nye 310-373-6805  
Recording Secretary: Asha Shahed 310-709-0264  
Corresponding Secretary: Arline Korb 310-544-7203  
Treasurer: Al Shadbourne 310-326-4953  
Membership: Irene Silver 310-541-2650  
Publicity: Nancie Silver 310-941-4501  
Parliamentarian: Carol Moeller 310-541-5526  
Newsletter Editor: Tex Yamada 310-329-3694  
Newsletter Designer: Ann Nye 310-373-6805  
Newsletter Mailings: Ron Moeller 310-541-5526  
Hospitality: Nancie Silver 310-941-4501  
Web Master: Reggie Jue 310-433-8189  
66th ADDC Rep: Connie Sullivan 310-567-2210

## Palos Verdes Democrats

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

[www.pvpdemocrats.org](http://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
- Receive a monthly newsletter
- Vote on club issues, unless registered as NPP (No Party Preference), and have the opportunity to be elected to the PV Dems board

**Please send your membership form and check 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 registered No Party Preference  
\* Fill in both names if applying as a family - two memberships  I am a registered Democrat  
 I am registered No Party Preference

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 **Check payable to: Palos Verdes Democrats**  
Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_  Renewal  New Member

Please contact us to help in the following areas:

- Hospitality  Newsletter  Membership  Publicity  Correspondence  
 Voter Registration  Campaign Work  Website/Facebook  Annual Picnic Committee