

Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded 1952



logo by
Paul Conrad

July 2019 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 PICNIC

DATE: Sunday, July 21st
MEETING TIME: 4-6:30pm
LOCATION: St. Luke's Presbyterian Church (in the Garden); 26825 Rolling Hills Rd, RHE, CA 90274
TOPIC: Picnic and Installation Party
SPEAKERS: Sheriff Alex Villanueva, John Erickson (PPLA) and other local representatives

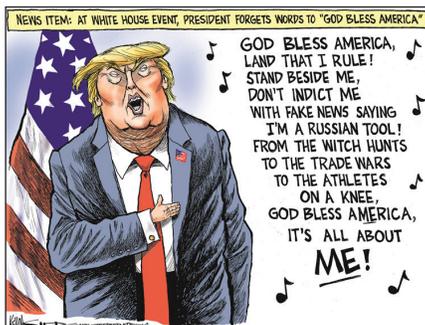
Aug Mtg Social time: 2pm

AUGUST MEETING

DATE: Sunday, Aug 18th
MEETING TIME: 2:30 - 4:30pm
LOCATION: Peninsula Center Library Community Room; 701 Silver Spur Rd, RHE
SPEAKER: Superior Court Judge Tom Long
TOPIC: Review of 2018-19 Supreme Court Decisions

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July Picnic

The PV Dems will be hosting our annual summer picnic once again at the St. Luke's Presbyterian Church in Rolling Hills Estates for our members and any and all Democrats living on the Peninsula and surrounding cities. We had almost 200 attendees last year, and hope to repeat that again this year. St. Luke's Presbyterian Church is a wonderfully progressive church that provides this venue free of charge! The picnic will start at 4 pm to avoid the summer heat, with speakers from 5 to 6:30 pm.

We will hear from Sheriff Alex Villanueva, who will update us about the LA County Sheriff Department (good time to get your questions answered); John Erickson from Planned Parenthood, Los Angeles who will let us know what we can do to prevent the pushback against a woman's right to choose; CA Congressman Harley Rouda (CA-48) who defeated 15-term incumbent Dana Rohrabacher, talking about his challenging re-election campaign next year; Harold Williams, West Basin Municipal Water District board member, on recent MWD developments; and a number of local representatives.

Last year, we arranged for purchased box meals from Marie Callender's for those who requested one. Due to restrictions beyond our control, those who wish to purchase a meal this year must do so directly through Marie Callender's, but no earlier than 2 weeks before the event. At that time, we will inform you when the on-line ordering site is available and how to place your order. All meal orders will be delivered to the picnic for you.

Most of us will be seated on the lawn, so bring your blankets and/or lawn chairs. Limited covered and handicapped seating will be available on the

porch. The parking lot closest to PV Dr. N is only for drop off and handicapped parking. All others park in the lot closer to Crenshaw and follow the walkway signs to the event. Please RSVP at our website, pvpdemocrats.org, or call us at (310) 377-7334 so that we know how many to expect.

June Meeting Report by Tex Yamada and Ann Nye

Terranea Resort Dispute With Unite Here Local 11

Unite Here Local 11 spokesperson Johan Breslau, representing local hotel and restaurant workers, discussed his union's legal dispute against the Rancho Palos Verdes-based Terranea Hotel and Resort over wage and hour allegations and illegalities, as well as sexual misconduct issues. [Unite Here Local 11](#) is the Southern California branch of the international labor union Unite Here with 270,000 member workers in the U.S. and Canada. Union members are employed in the hotel, food service, textile, laundry, manufacturing, and transportation industries. A major goal of the union is to enable its worker members to achieve greater equality and opportunity in employment.



Johan Breslau

During the discussion, Breslau was joined by several fired Terranea workers, who delivered testimonials of employee complaints and grievances filed against the resort. Rosa, a housekeeper working at Terranea for 8 years, faced experiences of



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customers exposing themselves, improper conduct from a supervisor, and a houseman (they pick up the linen) who threatened her when she didn't respond to his solicitations. Both Rosa and Fernando, a maintenance worker, talked about how they got fired after standing up to the bad working conditions. Breslau explained the Union is organizing against Terranea's wage theft, which includes preventing employees from taking breaks and having to come to work 30 minutes early because they are forced to park off the premises at city hall and wait for a shuttle to take them to work. From the audience, someone commented that two of their family members experienced similar "bad" conditions and one got a bladder infection because they weren't allowed to take bathroom breaks.

In April 2019, Terranea Resort settled a wage and hour class action lawsuit brought by its hotel and restaurant employees, who belong to Unite Here Local 11. Settlement payout was \$2.15 million. This case was preceded by a sexual harassment lawsuit filed by a Terranea Resort contractor dishwasher, Sandra Pezqueda, who eventually was awarded \$250,000 in damages in 2018. The plaintiff was cast into the spotlight as a "silence breaker" by Time Magazine and named "Person of the Year" in 2017.

Additionally, Terranea has another case pending with the National Labor Relations Board, which involves the dismissal of Freddy Lovato, a restaurant cook. This employee was terminated by the company for "going public" about working conditions and failure of the company to reimburse employees for out-of-pocket expenditures for supplies used on the job. The case is under review and awaiting final judgment.

As early as 2018, there have been calls to boycott Terranea Resort and Hotel for the labor and sexual misconduct allegations and lawsuits. The California Democratic Party Feminist Majority Foundation, and California NOW have taken measured steps to boycott Terranea Resort. Also, the CA State Legislature AB 170, designed to protect sub-contract workers from sexual harassment, has passed the Assembly chamber and moved to the CA State Senate for consideration and approval.

The dispute with Terranea was bolstered when the CA Democratic Resolutions Committee passed Resolution #19-05.196L

for the boycott of Terranea Resort by calling on individuals, companies, and organizations to not conduct business with the hotel and resort entity. The resolution, co-authored by Assemblymembers Ada Briceno (District 65) and Raymond L. Cordova (District 72), was passed at the CADEM Convention in June.

To support workers in large hospitality companies, such as Terranea, community activists in Rancho Palos Verdes are working to get a ballot initiative in the upcoming Nov 2019 election that would require employers to provide workers with safety warning devices for protection against sexual harassment and assault-battery encounters.

Breslau asked us to visit metooterranea.org to pledge our online support to the women who have come forward with allegations about sexual harassment and other misconduct at the Terranea Resort.

Delegates Share Their Observations of the CA Democratic Convention

The California Democratic State Convention was held in San Francisco at the Moscone Center May 31 – June 2, 2019. Delegates **Reggie Jue, Connie Sullivan, Susan Goodlerner,** and **Tony Hale** (an Executive Board member) were invited to discuss their involvement and memorable moments at the Convention.

Although one of the top priorities on the Convention agenda was to elect a new State Democratic Party Chair, part of the spotlight shined on the fourteen Democratic Presidential Candidates, who attended the CDP Organizing Convention. Top names among the Presidential hopefuls included U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren (MA), U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders (VT), U.S. Senator Kamala Harris (CA), Mayor Pete Buttigieg (South Bend, IN), U.S. Senator Cory Booker (NJ), and former U.S. Rep. Beto O'Rourke (TX).

Connie Sullivan explained the convention agenda is formatted to feature various events, such as election of the State Democratic Party Chair and General Session speaking engagements by key national, state, and local political figures. Also, caucus meetings are an



Connie Sullivan

important part of the program and are usually attended by delegates, media personnel, and guests. Important issues, policies, and Democratic Party goals and objectives are covered at caucus meetings. She also added that local State Senator Ben Allen and State Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi hosted a hospitality event on Day 1 of the Convention.

Tony Hale told us about the Resolutions Committee business, ranging from justification and use of police lethal force to sexual harassment issues at the Rancho Palos Verdes-based Terranea Resort. Of the 200 resolutions passed at the CDP Convention, the approval of a boycott of Terranea Resort for sexual harassment allegations ranked among the top 15 resolutions. He also noted that CA's Democratic Party is the largest in the country - 3000 delegates (950 from Los Angeles County).



Tony Hale

Despite the calls for impeachment during House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's address to the convention, Tony felt she was received with a lot of affection and was overall treated "as a returning hero." Susie Goodlerner concurred with Tony's comments about Pelosi.



Susie Goodlerner

The spirited impeachment discussion was initiated by Connie's pronouncement to start the Impeachment inquiry now so as to get the information out to the public. In contrast, Tony and Reggie Jue support Pelosi's strategy to prevent giving Trump "a Barr moment." Others like Joseph Lopez, a proxy delegate to the convention, felt the impeachment process "will energize Trump's base." However, others in the audience felt "We should do the right thing [namely Impeach]," and "Doing the right thing is good politics."



Reggie Jue

For the election of the State Democratic Party Chair, Rusty Hicks, guest speaker at the PV Democrat March meeting, was the top vote getter over Kimberly Ellis, a Bay Area activist. Hicks, who is President of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, won 57% of the votes and succeeds former party Chair Eric

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Bauman, who resigned in 2018 after a series of sexual harassment allegations.

The California Democratic Party will hold a second convention this year on November 15-17 at the Long Beach Convention Center in order to endorse a full slate of candidates and ballot initiatives before the 2020 Primary Elections (CA's primary is on March 3rd). The convention will not endorse a presidential candidate before the primary election.

Meeting Announcements

Donna Tarr, reported on the Save Our Neighborhood Torrance meeting resisting the proposed 248 Unit Butcher – Solana Apartment Complex located at the intersection of Hawthorne Blvd. and Via Valmonte. The informational meeting will be held July 16, 7 pm, at the Peninsula Center Library to discuss the released Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for this development project.

Maria Martinez told us about the Anna Wilding “Celebrate Hope” photography exhibition at the [Palos Verdes Art Center](#) (PVAC) June 8 – July 6, 2019. Wilding is a photographer, writer, director, and producer, who created a collection of photographs of President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama during her residence at the White House, 2015-2017. Admission to the Celebrate Hope exhibition is free.

Connie Sullivan updated us on the latest Torrance Refinery Action Alliance (TRAA) news. Here's her report: On Saturday, June 22, the Refinery Committee of the AQMD met in Diamond Bar to provide direction to staff on whether to move forward with an MOU or rule for storing and using HF/MHF at refineries.

After a staff presentation and hours of testimony from stakeholder groups and individuals, the Republican-majority committee directed staff to enter into an MOU with lax performance standards that the refineries will easily meet with minimal mitigation enhancements. Surprisingly, in case even these minimal standards aren't determined to meet the standards, the MOU doesn't pivot to requiring removal of the chemical.

While this result is disappointing, it will be put before the entire AQMD at a future date. At that time, we still have an opportunity to make significant changes. I want to let you know that RHE Mayor Judy Mitchell and County Supervisor Janice Hahn tried valiantly for a phase out of MHF at the refineries. You can be proud of these two wonderful public servants.

Carol Moeller provided us information on the CA 2020 Citizens Redistricting Commission. Here's her report: Every 10 years, after the federal census, a commission of California citizens is created to re-establish district boundaries to reflect the new population data, without political influence or interference by special interests.

With the 2020 U.S. Census coming, the California State Auditor's Office is looking for qualified candidates to apply for a seat on the 14 member Citizens Redistricting Commission. The application period is from June 10 - August 9. This is your chance to become a part of creating fair and transparent district boundaries that serve the best interests of the people of California. If you have a passion for civic engagement, apply to become one of 14 new 2020 commissioners. <http://shapecaliforniasfuture.auditor.ca.gov/>

President's Report

by Rascha Hall

This week has been very difficult. Who can forget the image of the young father and his 23 month old daughter lying face down, drowned at the edge of the Rio Grande, her little arm wrapped around his neck. As a mother, as a grandmother, as a thinking, caring human being, I am angry. Add to that, the visions of the children, separate from their family members, kept in cages, sleeping on cement floors with only a noisy aluminum blanket to cover them, without benefit of basic hygiene such as baths, clean diapers, soap, a toothbrush and toothpaste. If parents did that to their children, the children would be taken away from them and they would be charged with child abuse. Our government is guilty of no less! I am more than angry!!

I am sure you all agree that we must do all that we can to replace this government. Join our club, participate in protest demonstrations, help elect Democrats by phone banking or walking precincts when asked to help out.

The week culminated with two nights of debates between 20 of the 24 announced candidates hoping to be our party's presidential nominee. A few points that stood out in my mind. In the first debate, I was moved by Sen. Cory Booker's tales of gun violence in his own neighborhood; seven last week including one on his block. Rep. Tim Ryan from Ohio seemed to be trying hard to outdo Trump by claiming his credentials as champion of the working class such as those in the district he represents who have lost their auto manufacturing jobs. And Sen. Amy Klobuchar scored points when she responded to a comment by Gov. Jay Inslee that he was the only one who had supported a woman's reproductive rights. Sen. Klobuchar pointed out that there were three women on the stage who had been vocal in fighting for a woman's right to choice.

On the second night, CA Congressman Eric Swalwell brought a smile to my face when he pointed out that he was still a young child when a candidate running for the presidential nomination came to California and made a plea that it was time for the torch to be passed to the younger generation. That candidate was former Vice President Joe Biden. To Biden's credit, he also smiled at the memory. But that was not the only time Vice President Biden was challenged. Our own Senator Kamala Harris had her criticism of his opposition to busing. She revealed the fact that she was bussed when she was a child. Sen. Harris had several good moments, but the one that brought down the House was when everyone was trying to talk at once and she said that the voters did not want to witness a food fight, they want to know how they're going to put food on the table.

Those were just a few of the points that stood out to me. Of course, there were more but my report is getting a little too long.

Before closing, I also want to mention the two Supreme Court decisions that came this week. The Court temporarily blocked the government's desire to place a citizenship question on the census questionnaire. Score one point for our side. But the other side won when the Court decided that they could not change the various State's gerrymandering.

See you at the picnic. Don't forget to RSVP. We are supplying soda pop, as well as water, and we need to know how many to plan for.





Palos Verdes Democrats Officers for 2018-2019

President: Rascha Hall 310-377-7334
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2nd Vice President: Joseph Lopez 310-935-9801
Recording Secretary: Kathy Bradford 310-265-9812
Corresponding Secretary: Arline Korb 310-544-7203
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Membership: Irene Silver 310-541-2650
Publicity: Nancie Silver 310-941-4501
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Asha Shahed 310-709-0264
Newsletter Designer: Ann Nye 310-373-6805
Newsletter Mailings: Ron Moeller 310-541-5526
Hospitality: Maria Frusteri 310-270-1160
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

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)

**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 registered No Party Preference
* Fill in 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 Phone Tree