

# Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded 1952



logo by  
Paul Conrad

## July 2016 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

#### JULY MEETING

**DATE:** Sunday, July 17th

**MEETING TIME:** 2:30 - 4:30pm

**LOCATION:** St. Luke's Presbyterian Church  
(in the Garden); 26825 Rolling Hills Rd,  
RHE, CA 90274

**TOPIC:** Installation Party - this year we  
are also inviting non-members; so bring  
your friends!

#### AUGUST MEETING

**DATE:** Sunday, August 21st

**SOCIAL TIME:** 2pm

**MEETING TIME:** 2:30 - 4:30pm

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

**TOPIC:** Supreme Court Review

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#### Membership Dues Now Due! by Connie Sullivan

Our club year runs from July 1 through June 30 and club dues are now due. You may use the paper application found at the back of this newsletter and send it in with your check to the address found on the application. Or you can go to [www.pvpdemocrats.org](http://www.pvpdemocrats.org) and click on the membership tab and follow the instructions to pay online.

Either way you pay, the annual dues are \$25 per person or \$40 for a family.

This is such a deal! Please see Carol's report on the state of the club to see all the programs and field trips we had during the last year. Where can you get all of that for only \$25 these days? That's real value for your money!

### July Membership Meeting Celebration and Installation of Club Officers

On Sunday, July 17 we will gather in the lovely garden of St. Luke's Presbyterian Church, 26825 Rolling Hills Rd, for a light picnic and to install our officers for the 2016-17 club year. The event starts at 2:30 pm, as always.

This year we are going to be honoring our wonderful Democratic elected officials and we have invited a number of them to speak at the event. We will definitely hear from Assembly candidate Al Muratsuchi, County Assessor Jeff Prang, U.S. Congressman Ted Lieu, and California Treasurer (and 2018 gubernatorial candidate) John Chiang. At this writing we are still waiting to hear from some others we've invited, so there may be even more.

After hearing from our elected officials we will install our new officers.

As for the picnic, the club is furnishing the main dishes and drinks; please bring a dessert that will serve 8-12 people. Also, please RSVP to Carol Moeller at 310-541-5526 or [rpvdem@gmail.com](mailto:rpvdem@gmail.com) by July 15, as we will need an accurate count for ordering the food.

This is the first meeting of the new club year, so if you haven't had a chance to pay your dues yet, you may do so at the picnic.

Please invite

a friend or family member; we'd love to see everyone there. This is our only social event of the year and we expect to really celebrate. Come for the food, come for the socializing, come to hear our elected officials, and please come to have a good time among friends.

### June Meeting Report by Connie Sullivan

I am at a bit of a disadvantage because I didn't attend the June meeting, but I understand attendees liked the latest film from our friend, Robert Greenwald's Brave New Films very much.

The website for the film tells me generally what the film is about. Here it is.

**"Making a Killing: Guns, Greed, and The NRA"** tells the stories of how guns, and the billions made off of them, affect the lives of everyday Americans. It features personal stories from people across the country who have been affected by gun violence, including survivors and victims' families. The film exposes how the powerful gun companies and the NRA are resisting responsible legislation for the sake of profit, and thereby putting people in danger. The film looks into gun tragedies that include unintentional shootings, domestic violence, suicides, mass shootings and trafficking - and what we can do to put an end to this profit driven crime. Through the film and campaign, Brave New Films will work with partners to fight for a country where public safety is more valued than profit.



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what we can do to put an end to this profit-driven crisis. Through this film and campaign, **Brave New Films** will work with partners to fight for a country where public safety is more valued than profit. Join us to demand – and achieve – common sense gun laws now.”

The **Los Angeles Times** reported on the film and had this to say about it:

**“Making a Killing,”** which cost \$750,000 to produce and distribute, visits a number of damaged lives: Police say Kate Ranta was shot by her ex-husband as her 4-year-old son watched; Sandy Aponte recounts how her 13-year-old son was accidentally killed by a friend playing with an unlocked shotgun; Maura Lewiecki calls for longer waiting periods to buy firearms, while weeping for her son Kerry, a law student, who committed suicide hours after buying a gun.

**“Making a Killing”** is a weave of statistics and personal stories, including the death of a promising gospel singer shot on the streets of Chicago. The documentary notes that one person in the U.S. is killed with a gun every 16 minutes and that 92% of Americans favor background checks on all gun buyers.

**“Making a Killing”** does not dwell on the constitutional amendment on the right to bear arms, in effect brushing aside the ideological debate to focus on the wealth of gun manufacturers and the deadly consequences of firearms. The NRA spent more than \$27 million on congressional races in 2014, according to *opensecrets.org*, which monitors political lobbying. In recent years the guns and ammunition industry had estimated revenues of more than \$11 billion annually.”

After the viewing, some attendees wondered how our current Assembly member,

Republican David Hadley has voted on firearms legislation. I found 3 bills I think you would find interesting.

• AB1695: False reports of stolen firearms. There are a number of people who falsely report stolen firearms and then sell the guns to those who cannot pass background checks. Research shows this bill would reduce illegal straw purchases of guns. Hadley voted NO on 6/1/16.

• AB 2607: Ex parte restraining order. This bill expands the list of those who can legally seek a restraining order to employers, coworkers, mental health workers, and to an employee of a school. Before this legislation, only family members could legally seek a restraining order against a violent person. Hadley voted NO on 6/1/16.

• SB707: Gun-free school zone: This bill outlaws the concealed carry of a firearm within 1000 feet of a school. Hadley voted NO VOTE RECORDED on 9/1/15.

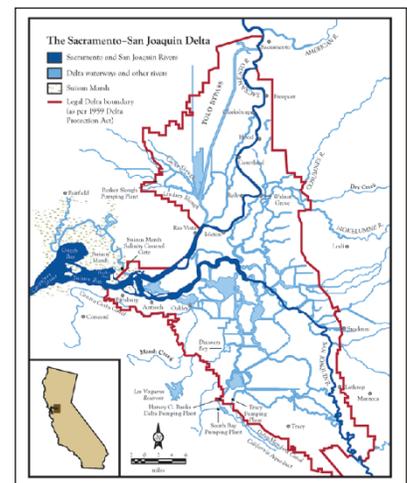
Hadley has a 21% rating from the NRA (most Democrats have 0 – 7%) and a 40% rating from Gun owners of California. Not bad for a Republican, but far worse than most Democrats in the Assembly.

### Inspection Trip of the State Water Project and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta By David Hall

PV Democrats member Harold Williams, a Director of the West Basin Municipal Water District, invited club members on a two-day inspection trip of the Bay-Delta part of the

California State Water Project (SWP). Club members Rascha & David Hall and Lorraine & Jim Knight joined 36 other people on the trip, which was sponsored by the Metropolitan Water District (MWD), from which West Basin buys most of its water (which it in turn sells to the California Water Service Company, the source of domestic water in PV).

On June 4 we gathered at the MWD water recycling facility in El Segundo (at 6:30 AM!), boarded a bus to the Burbank airport, flew to Sacramento, and boarded a bus that took us ~70 miles north to the Orville Dam. Some of the water released from this huge (770 Ft. high X 1.3 Mi. long) earth-filled dam reaches PV (after generating electricity at the dam). It flows into



the Feather River, joins the Sacramento River, which in turn empties into the Sacramento Delta, from which water is pumped into the California Aqueduct (CA), and eventually pumped over the Tehachapi Mountains to supply ~30% of the water resources of the MWD. At present the amount of water in this storage facility is much greater than in recent years, because the Sierra Nevada Mountains of northern California acquired closer to an average amount of precipitation this winter, but it is not yet at full capacity.

Southern California residents are at risk of losing the Lake Orville water supply, at least in the summer time, should a large earthquake occur on any one of three nearby faults. A dam failure would wipe out Orville (Pop. 16,000+), and probably cause catastrophic flooding all the way to and into part of the city of Sacramento. At least initially the sediment in the water at the CA intake would become excessive because of the flooding. Later the

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water flow through the Delta would be too low in the summer to divert any to the south until the dam was repaired, which would take years.

Following our return to Sacramento we received a briefing on some aspects of the SWP, checked into a hotel and ate dinner at a nearby restaurant in the "Old Sacramento District."

On June 5 starting at 8 AM we received two more presentations, one on the West Basin District and the other on the Sacramento Delta. The Delta is a large triangular-shaped area into which the Sacramento and other rivers flow, which eventually empties into the San Francisco Bay. Much of the land area is near or below sea level, while the maze of water channels through the area is so close to sea level that the direction of water flow is affected by the tides of the Pacific Ocean. Therefore, as one travels west along these waterways the water becomes increasingly salty.

The water for the CA is currently drawn from the southwest part of the Delta. At present, the salt level at the pumping location remains tolerable, but as the level of the Pacific rises with the now-rapid melting of glaciers on lands near the earth's poles, the salinity of this water will become increasingly problematic. If one of the France-sized ice shelves in Antarctica, which overhang the Southern Ocean, collapses, the Pacific's sea level is predicted to rise abruptly by 15 to 56 feet, probably making the water where the CA pumps draw water too salty to be usable even at the low end of this range.

Rules of the US Environmental Protection Agency established to save the Delta's native fish populations limits the amount of water that can be taken from the Delta, especially in times of drought when the inflow of fresh water to the area is low.

Most of the over 1,000 square miles of dry land in the Delta is below sea level and 57 islands are protected by 1,100 miles of earthen levees. Farming on this land is causing their altitudes to subside 1.5 feet per decade. In at least some locations the earthen levees are saturated with water, which means a relatively mild earthquake will liquefy them whereupon the land will be flooded by as much as 30 feet of water.

In order to mitigate the risks of sea-level rise and earthquakes in the Delta, and to obtain better quality water than is presently flowing into the CA, a project is in the approval stages

to construct two earthquake-tolerant, 30-mile-long, 40-foot-diameter tunnels that will collect water from the Sacramento River before it reaches the Delta and transport it to the existing pumping station. The construction cost of these tunnels will be borne by water users at about \$5/ month for urban water users.

There is vocal political resistance to the project by some who live in and around the Delta, with "Save the Delta" slogans. According to the SWP, this resistance is primarily based on misinformation about the amount of Delta water that is transported to Southern California (~4%), the risks to the CA water if the current water intake point isn't moved, and about the benefits the restorative aspects the project will have on the Delta's ecology. An attempt is being made to block the project with The California Water Fix and Eco Restore project initiative on the November ballot; the SWP urges everyone **not** to sign petitions supporting this initiative.

In conclusion, about 30% of PV's current domestic water supply is at risk because of the now nearly certain effects of climate change (resulting in sea level rise) and of the possible effects of earthquakes ~400 miles to the north. The California Water Fix will mitigate some of this risk. At 5:30 PM we boarded a plane at the Oakland airport to fly to LAX where a bus returned us to the water recycling facility in El Segundo.

## State of the Club 2016

By Carol Moeller

Recently, it has become a tradition for the club President to provide an overview of the club activities over the previous year. Since our club calendar runs from July 1 through June 30, below is my best stab at this annual review.

In the run up to the recent California Primary, I was proud to see members working at the headquarters of Assembly candidate Al Muratsuchi. This will be the most contested election in our area, so thank you to those who helped put Al ahead in the primary, and another note of gratitude to those who plan to help him out leading up to November.

In addition to hosting a club table at the RPV July 4th fair, we had two field trips! One to the West Basin's water recycling in El Segundo and another to the Marine Mammal Care

Center in San Pedro. We are always looking for opportunities to educate our members, so hope to offer more of these fun and informative outings in the future.

We had a great variety of speakers over the year, starting with PV Democrats member and now Judge Tom Long, who explained for us Erwin Chemerinsky's panel discussions in his annual Supreme Court Review. Environmental issues were explored when the Director of Environmental Management from the Port of Los Angeles addressed the challenges associated with that facility, when our own Connie Sullivan covered the hazards at the Exxon/Mobil refinery in Torrance, and when RHE City Councilwoman and AQMD board member Judith Mitchell explained how the AQMD and the ARB monitor the quality of the air we breathe. We also viewed the documentary Groundswell Rising, which outlined the harmful effects of fracking. A former AARP policy strategist and current officer of Senior Votes Count covered political issues that would have the most impact for those over 50. Conversely, we heard from students attending high schools in Palos Verdes discussing their student-run political information website. Again demonstrating the depth of knowledge of our members, PV Democrats member and Federal Trade Commission strategist Anne Stahl educated us on the Federal Consumer Protection Bureau. An UCLA professor explained transportation infrastructure to us. Tom Long again addressed our club to remind us just how important local issues are, and in that vein, the Superintendent of the South Coast Botanic Garden and the Education coordinator of the Marine Mammal Care Center educated us. Strategies to overturn Citizen's United were covered by a representative from Common Cause. The head of our county Democratic Party gave us a heads up on all things political in our area. We heard from Water Replenishment District candidate Jim Kennedy whose race will be voted on in November as well as judicial candidate Alicia Molina, who won her seat on the bench in June. Finally, the day after the Orlando shootings, we had on tap *Making a Killing: Guns, Greed and the NRA*.

I am honored to have had the opportunity to represent you as your President over these past two years. It has been heartening to work with such smart and dedicated people. A sincere thank you to our club officers; these are the people who labor behind the scenes to make our club work.



**Palos Verdes Democrats Officers for 2015-2016**

- President: Carol Moeller 310-541-5526
- President Emeritus: Connie Sullivan 310-378-1554
- Vice President: Lynn Bommer 310-374-1188
- Recording Secretary: Judy Pang 310-375-5783
- Corresponding Secretary: Sheila Papayans 310-373-7978
- Treasurer: Al Shadbourne 310-326-4953
- Parliamentarian: Maria Martinez 310-833-5083
- Membership: Susie Boone 310-686-0455
- Publicity: David Hall 310-377-7334
- Newsletter Editor: Laura Hines-Jurgen 310-544-2424
- Hospitality: Teresa Savo 310-541-1139
- Precinct Captains: Connie Sullivan 310-378-1554  
Dee Dee Gonzalez 210-367-9727
- LACDP Associate Member: Stacey Michaels 310-377-0652

## 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

**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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