

Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded 1952



logo by
Paul Conrad

January 2017 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

Social time: 2pm

JANUARY MEETING

DATE: Sunday, January 15th

MEETING TIME: 2:30 - 4:30pm

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

TOPIC: An Alternate View of GMOs

SPEAKER: Tony Hale

FEBRUARY MEETING

DATE: Sunday, February 21st

MEETING TIME: 2:30 - 4:30pm

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

TOPIC: TBD

SPEAKER: TBD

Inside This Month's Issue:

Jan General Meeting Page 1

Nov Meeting Report Page 1-2

Thoughts on the Election Page 2-3

**Assembly District Democratic
Council** Page 3

**PV Democrats Feed Campaign
Workers** Page 3

**Nominating Committee for 2017-
2018 Board** Page 3

Women's March on Washington
Page 3

Per our bylaws, our board meetings are open to all members in good standing of the PV Democrats. Those interested in attending a board meeting, please contact us at least 1 week before the General Meeting at pvpdems@pvpdemocrats.org for board meeting date, time and place information.

January General Meeting

On January 15, 2017 the Palos Verdes Democrats will meet at 2:30 pm in the community room of the Peninsula Center Library for our first general membership meeting of the New Year.

First up at that meeting, we will briefly discuss the Assembly District Election Meeting results from January 7 and take a look at the final numbers for the election in our assembly district. And we will take time to discuss new initiatives for the resistance.

Next, we will hear from **Tony Hale** on the scientific evidence for genetically modified organisms (GMO) in our food supply. Tony provided the following bio:

"Tony Hale is a former Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Club president and a former chair of the state party's Environmental Caucus. A lifelong student of science, Tony also serves as chair of the Resolutions Committee of the Los Angeles County Democratic Party. As Resolutions chair, Tony has helped write many of the Party's positions on science and environmental issues. His respect for the scientific method has lead him to become a science communicator and a defender of scientific consensus against pseudoscience and the misuse of scientific concepts in public debate. Tony will put forward the argument that if the Democratic Party is to be the party of science, we need to examine the issues related to genetically modified foods, and understand what the scientific evidence says about GMO's."

Many of you will want to come and challenge the speaker on his controversial take on GMO's. We hope you will do so.

Please join us on the 15th. We encourage you to come at 2:00 pm for our social time where

we enjoy delicious homemade goodies and conversation with like-minded Democrats, something we don't get enough of here on the Hill.

November Meeting Report by Carol Moeller

Saving Palos Verdes Estates' Parkland

When CA State Senator Ben Allen was unable to attend our meeting, we were fortunate to have **John Harbison** step in to explain the important vote before the Palos Verdes Estates Homes Association PVHA.



John Harbison

John explained, in 1913 New York financier Frank Vanderlip purchased 3100 acres of what was to become the city of Palos Verdes Estates and engaged the Olmstead brothers, designers of New York City's Central Park, to lay out a plan for this land. In 1920, a constitution for the land was drafted, establishing irrevocably that 28% of the land be dedicated to permanent open space (although subsequently that was amended to include schools), and if any of that land were to be sold, it must be to a public entity. In 1923 the Palos Verdes Homes Association was established to enforce deed restrictions, including setbacks and architecture, and to operate as an entity separate from the city government.

Over the years, homes adjoining open space illegally encroached, and recent efforts have been enacted to require them to back off. However, in a closed-door deal in 2012, the homes association transferred ownership of parcels in Lunada Bay to the city in exchange for a 1.7-acre piece of parkland that adjoins the property of the Lugliani

continued on page 2

continued from page 1

family, who made a \$1.5 million donation to the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District. The association sold the land to the Luglianis in a sweetheart deal (although that land is to remain open space), and forgave the Luglianis for past illegal encroachments on the parkland.

A lawsuit ensued, spearheaded by John Harbison, and in 2015 a judge reversed the sale and determined the city and its homes association acted illegally in selling public parkland to private homeowners. The decision transfers the land back to the Homes Association and prohibits future sales of public land in Palos Verdes Estates. The Homes Association, the City of PVE and the Luglianis are appealing this decision. In the meantime, transparency advocates, who are using the moniker ROBE (Residents for Open Board Elections) are urging PVE residents to vote for their slate of candidates in the PV Homes Association board of directors' election coming in January 2017. These candidates are Marlene Breene, W. Richard Fay and Ried Schott, and are supported by former mayors, a former president of the homes association and members of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District.

Since the mailing of the PVHA ballot, residents discovered the ballot return envelopes contained an incorrect pre-printed address corresponding to Sparky's Dog Grooming in Beverly Hills rather than the third party CPA firm, Moss Adams, hired to receive and count the ballots. Luckily (hopefully), since the routing code is correct, the USPS says it is delivering ballots to the CPA firm, Moss Adams.

The Affordable Care Act

Shana Charles, PhD, MPP has a wide variety of experience under her belt, including serving

as a teaching assistant at UCLA for Michael Dukakis, working in the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, directing the Health Insurance Studies Program and working as a senior research scientist at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, so who better to speak to our club about what is going on with the ACA (also known as Obamacare)? For starters, the ACA has cut the medically uninsured population nearly in half, and that goal was reached 7 years faster than expected. However, in states with Republican governors who chose not to expand Medicaid, the uninsured compile a much larger percentage of their populations than do those states who chose to expand Medicaid.

Texas has the highest uninsured rates: 25% of their children are without health insurance. (By comparison, California has only 6% uninsured children.) In Mitch McConnell's state of Kentucky, a Democrat held the Governor's office when Obamacare was first available, and enacted their version of the Obamacare exchanges, the wildly popular Kynect. Although this resulted in one of the largest decreases in the uninsured among all states, the Republican governor elected there in 2015 is closing Kynect starting in 2017.



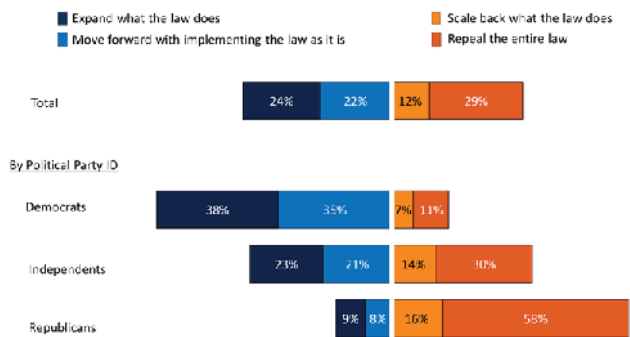
Shana Charles, PhD, MPP

Trump has vowed to dismantle as much of Obamacare as he can, but his changes won't likely go into effect until 2018. Fortunately, our California State government has vowed to keep as much of Covered California (our state's version of Obamacare) in place as possible.

When asked about the rumored 25% increases in Obamacare nationwide, Dr. Charles said premiums are expected to increase faster in 2017 than in previous years due to a combination of factors, including substantial losses experienced by many insurers in this market. What is not mentioned in this statistic is that most enrollees receive a tax credit to lower their premium. The average California

Partisan Differences In Opinion Of Next Steps For ACA

What would you like to see Congress do when it comes to the health care law?



NOTE: None of these/something else (Vol.) and Don't know/Refused responses not shown
SOURCE: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted April 8-14, 2015)



premium is going up by 5%, but the combined increase plus the tax credit will bring the overall cost back down essentially to what was paid in 2016.

Thoughts on the Election

by Carol Moeller

"Patriotism means to stand by the country. It does not mean to stand by the President...."

Theodore Roosevelt

Like over half of America, let me say, I am devastated. Although I spent the bulk of my time walking precincts, stuffing envelopes, polling, phone banking and even cooking (!) on behalf of victorious state Assembly candidate Al Muratsuchi, I also hung plenty of door hangers recommending up-ticket candidates, including Hillary Clinton. So like many of you, this election has resulted in a

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

continued from page 2

political depression that is a looming issue with me. I honestly believe the polls were correct, that election tampering was the decisive factor in this election and as a result, Trump is the President-elect and the Senate is still held by the Republicans under the extremely flawed system we have. However, the very fact that a candidate with so many negatives garnered as many actual votes as he did is extremely troubling to me.

Yes, the Electoral College is no longer democratic, but we knew that when Al Gore gained the popular vote and also lost, so why didn't we do something about it then? We knew about one-sided voter purges in Republican-controlled states from the 2000 and 2004 elections, so why didn't we address that when the Democrats had the most power in 2009? We were aware since 2010 that Republicans have increasingly taken over state governments, so why didn't we put more effort into state elections? (After gains in this last election, two-thirds of our statehouses will now be controlled by Republicans.) We learned about the DNC bias during the 2016 primary, so why wasn't that addressed at least to mollify the understandably disillusioned Bernie voters, who might otherwise have helped Democrats' efforts more? The election result is certainly not the fault of one candidate. Fair-minded Democrats as a whole share in much of the blame for not preventing unfair-minded individuals from taking advantage of our democratic processes. We need to enact systematic change! The shameful outcome of this election was a referendum on business as usual, likely because of the failures in so many areas of our government and failures in our party as well.

Assembly District Democratic Council

by Connie Sullivan

Every two years our club elects a person to serve as one of the chairs to the Assembly District Democratic Council. The ADDC is chartered by the California Democratic Party (in contrast to the PV Democrats, which is chartered by the LA County Democratic Party) and has four chairs representing the four areas of our 66th Assembly District – Beach Cities, Palos Verdes, Torrance, and the Eastern Corridor (Gardena, Harbor City, Harbor Gateway and

Women's March on Washington in Los Angeles

Visit www.womensmarchla.org to learn more, or call (310) 200-0124

WHEN: Saturday, January 21, 2017 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

WHERE: Meet downtown Los Angeles at Pershing Square 9am; march begins 10am to City Hall, and returns to Pershing Square for speakers and activities throughout the day

WHO: The march is open to everyone who stands for human rights, civil liberties, tolerance of diversity and compassion for our shared humanity

Excerpt from official statement from National Organizers:

The rhetoric of the past election cycle has insulted, demonized, and threatened many of us--women, immigrants of all statuses, those with diverse religious faiths particularly Muslim, people who identify as LGBTQIA, Native and Indigenous people, Black and Brown people, people with disabilities, the economically impoverished and survivors of sexual assault. We are confronted with the question of how to move forward in the face of national and international concern and fear.

In the spirit of democracy and honoring the champions of human rights, dignity, and justice who have come before us, we join in diversity to show our presence in numbers too great to ignore. The Women's March on Washington will send a bold message to our new administration on their first day in office, and to the world that women's rights are human rights. We stand together, recognizing that defending the most marginalized among us is defending all of us.

This is an INCLUSIVE march, and EVERYONE who supports women's rights are welcome.

West Carson).

The ADDC provides a place for us to meet and get to know Democrats from these other areas. In the last two-year term we instituted Sunday morning breakfasts on the last Sunday of each month, hosted a talk by Betty Yee, California Controller, held a seminar with Democratic National Committee members explaining how the DNC functions and how they are elected, among other events.

If you would like to run to represent our club, please call me at 310-378-1554. We will vote on a representative at our January meeting.

PV Democrats Feed Campaign Workers

by Carol Moeller

PV Democrats' members Jean MacDonald, Teresa Savo and Carol Moeller answered a plea from Al Muratsuchi's campaign and provided a dinner for their workers. The Muratsuchi campaign included many college-aged young people over the summer, and when they returned to their campuses in the fall, high-

schoolers enthusiastically picked up the mantle. Well over 100 of these soon-to-be Democratic voters phone banked and walked precincts after school, and they had big teen-aged appetites! So in response to the campaign's request to help out in this way, the PV Democrats brought them a home-cooked chicken enchilada dinner.

Nominating Committee for 2017-2018 Board

by Carol Moeller

Even though our club officers aren't installed until July, we form our Nominating Committee in January to scout for members to hold the very important board member positions. The 3-person team generally consists of one board member, one long-term member, and one fairly new member. I know many of you have asked what you could do to help out in light of this past election, so here is one short-term opportunity. This committee usually only works for a couple of months, and then submits their list of candidates to be voted on by the membership. If any of you are interested in helping out in this way, please contact club President Lynn Bommer (labommer@gmail.com).





Palos Verdes Democrats Officers for 2016-2017

- President: Lynn Bommer 310-374-1188
- President Emeritus: Carol Moeller 310-541-5526
- 1st Vice President: Kathy Bradford 310-265-9812
- 2nd Vice President: Connie Sullivan 310-378-1554
- Recording Secretary: Rascha Hall 310-377-7334
- Corresponding Secretary: Arlene Korb 310-544-7203
- Treasurer: Al Shadbourne 310-326-4953
- Parliamentarian: Craig Williams 301-265-9812
- Membership: Susie Boone 310-686-0455
- Publicity: David Hall 310-377-7334
- Newsletter Editor:
- Hospitality: Teresa Savo 310-541-1139
- Precinct Captains: Connie Sullivan 310-378-1554
Dee Dee Gonzalez 210-367-9727
- LACDP Associate Member: Megan Crawford 310-766-8222

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

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