

Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Club

Founded 1952



May 2013 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

MAY MEETING

DATE: SUNDAY, Sunday, May 19, 2013

TIME: 2:30-4:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Peninsula Center Library
701 Silver Spur Rd, RHE

TOPICS: "The Pentagon Papers,
Subsequent Wars and Beyond"

SPEAKERS: John Powers, Lt. Col (ret.)
David M. McCarthy, USMC and Tim
Goodrich

JUNE MEETING

DATE: Sunday, June 16, 2013

TIME: 2:30-4:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Peninsula Center Library
701 Silver Spur Rd, RHE

TOPICS: Homelessness in Los Angeles
and the South Bay

SPEAKERS: TBD

Inside This Month's Issue:

**May Membership Meeting
Announcement** - Page 1

April Meeting Report - Page 1-3

June Board Election - Page 3

**Connie Sullivan named Democrat
of the Year!** - Page 3

**Report: 66th Assembly District
Democratic Council** - Page 3

May Meeting: The Pentagon Papers, Subsequent Wars and Beyond

Do you remember when the Pentagon Papers were brought to the attention of the public? The leaked document titled United States – Vietnam Relations, 1945-1967: A Study Prepared by the Department of Defense, hit the front page of The New York Times in 1971. However, it was not until June 2011 that the full report was released to several Presidential Libraries. From Truman to Johnson – the administrations had misled the public regarding their intentions.

We will learn more. John Powers is a theater artist with an emphasis in dramatic writing. He has examined key historical characters and events and presented them to general interest audiences. He adapted the abridged edition of the Pentagon Papers for a stage presentation, which became a four-part video, a paperback and an e-book. Currently, he leads an innovative course for El Camino College Community Education, "Ten Years After," an exploration through text, imagery, and discussion of major events from the year 2003. He is a graduate of USC with an MFA and BFA in Drama.

Lieutenant Colonel David M. McCarthy, USMC, Retired, was commissioned in 1981 and served in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Arabian Peninsula and the Horn of Africa. In 2007 he was injured during a 122mm rocket attack in Iraq and was later awarded the Bronze Star Medal. In between these deployments he managed to obtain a law degree, pass the Bar in New York and in California, work on Wall Street and serve as the City Attorney in Culver City. He now volunteers for several 501(c)(3) charities and Operation Mend at UCLA Medical Center.

Tim Goodrich is a veteran who served three deployments in the Middle East. Since then, he has earned his Masters in Public Administration from USC. He lives in Torrance, where he serves

as a board member and a volunteer for several local nonprofit organizations. As a member of Plug in America and a Partner with the Truman National Security Project, he advocates for clean energy solutions to break us of our dependence on foreign oil.

April Meeting Report

By Christine Mei

Club Business

Club President Connie Sullivan presented a gift certificate to Jerry Parker to thank him for his six years of service on the board.

A club member recommended a book, Pity the Billionaire by Thomas Frank. It is about how the Right turned the biggest capitalist breakdown since 1929 into opportunities for themselves.

Connie read the slate of the new officers and committee chairs for next year. The slate will be voted on in June.

There is an upcoming election to select one of the three co-chairs of the 66th Assembly District Democratic Council. Please inform Connie if anyone is interested in that position. Currently, Carol Moeller is serving as the co-chair on an interim basis.

Convention Delegate Teresa Savo congratulated Connie for her being named Region 17's Democrat of the Year at last week's California Democratic State Convention in Sacramento.

Marcia Hanscom, executive director of the Ballona Institute, made a presentation on the fight against the restoration plans proposed by the Annenberg Foundation for Ballona Wetlands. The Annenberg Foundation wants to build an education center, a veterinarian hospital and an adoption center for domestic animals on the wetlands. They signed a memorandum of

continued from page 1



Teresa Savo, our delegate to the state convention understanding (MOU) with several California agencies without any public oversight.

Marcia hopes that the proposed plans can be altered or stopped during the environmental review process. She hopes this club will join the efforts of many other groups including various Democratic Clubs in the South Bay to oppose the Annenberg plans.

Money in Politics

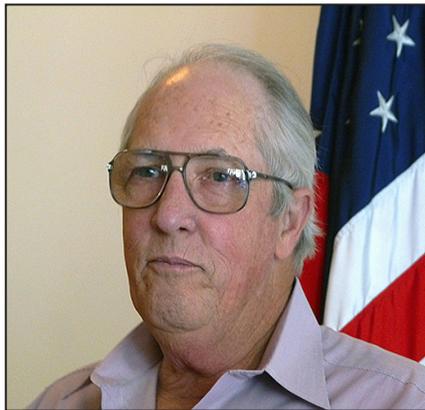
The Supreme Court's decision on Citizens United allows corporations and unions to spend an unlimited amount of money to influence elections. Although that decision cannot be reversed, our first speaker, State Senator Ted Lieu, has introduced Senate Bill SB2 to make the system more transparent. SB2 will do the following:

- A) Require the top four donors of an independent expenditure committee to be disclosed;
- B) Require candidates to "Stand by Your Ad" in their advertisements;
- C) Require quarterly or monthly campaign reports to increase transparency;
- D) Increase penalties for violating campaign finance laws.

Common Cause cosponsors this bill. It considers this bill as the most comprehensive bill to overhaul California disclosure laws since 1974. To pass this bill requires a two-thirds vote,



State Senator Ted Lieu



John Smith, Common Cause

which means all Democrats in the state senate have to vote for it in order for it to pass. It is not a sure bet yet. Senator Lieu urged the audience to help him get this bill passed.

SB2 is a companion bill to SB3, of which Senator Leland Yee of San Francisco is the lead author. SB3 requires electronic filing, disclosure of late contribution to a campaign, training of treasurers who control more than \$250,000, etc.

The Senate Election Committee will review the two bills on April 30, 2013.

Senator Lieu also supports SB27 introduced by Senator Lou Correa. This bill specifically

addresses the disclosure of large donations to campaigns made by non-profit organizations.

Workshop on Overturning Citizens United

John Smith, Southern California district coordinator for Common Cause, conducted the workshop. Common Cause is pushing to amend the Constitution to overturn the Citizens United decision. It is taking three approaches to accomplish this goal:

A) **Pass city resolutions:** More than 500 cities have passed resolutions calling for a constitutional amendment. Common Cause is working with more cities to pass resolutions. When an overwhelming majority of cities passes resolutions, Congress will take notice. Currently, there are already 14-15 amendments introduced in Congress.

B) **Pass a California initiative:** A California assembly bill, AB 644, written by Assemblyman Bob Wieckowski, would put an initiative asking voters whether they favor a constitutional amendment on the 2014 state ballot. The bill was recently pulled, but it will be reintroduced in January 2014. Common Cause wants to build support for AB 644 to ensure the passage of the bill.

If an initiative is passed, California will become the third state after Colorado and Montana to pass an initiative to overturn Citizens United. The impact will be enormous. Many other states may follow.

C) **Support bills for full disclosure:** Common Cause is examining disclosure bills such as SB2, SB3, SB27, and SB52 and works on endorsements.

The purpose of this particular workshop is to lay the groundwork to pass Citizens United resolutions in the four cities on the hill. John advised the audience to use the following tactics:

A) **Talk effectively.** Do not attack the council members' political base. We should tell him or her that this is not a partisan issue. It is not about corporations versus unions. What we are trying to do is to stop huge amount of money from coming in and taking over local elections.

B) **Learn about your own city.** Talk to the city manager or city clerks and find out the procedure for the city council to adopt a resolution. Ask them what's the best approach and learn about the city council members and their politics.

C) **Find the appropriate way to present it to the city council.** Do not demand passing the resolution right away. Instead talk to the

continued on page 3

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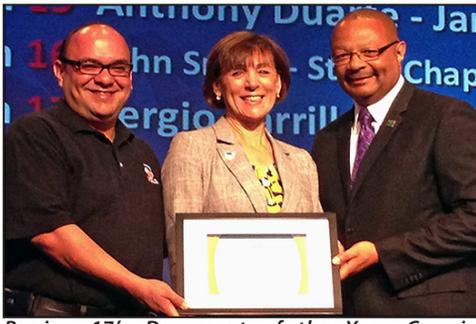
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continued from page 2



Region 17's Democrat of the Year Connie Sullivan(center), Regional Director Sergio Carrillo (left), Party Secretary Reginald Jones-Sawyer (right).

Photo by Jimmy Gow.

council members about Citizens United. You can then ask the council members whether you can bring a sample of the resolution for them to consider. This was how people in Claremont got their city to pass the resolution.

The audience was then divided into two groups – one from Palos Verdes Estates and the other from Rancho Palos Verdes (there were not enough people from the other two cities to form groups). Hans Grellmann volunteered to organize the Palos Verdes Estates group, and Christine Mei volunteered to organize the Rancho Palos Verdes group. Each group will meet to talk about how to approach the city council members, frame the issues, and talk to the city clerks. Common Cause will be present at these meetings to provide the guidance the groups may need.

Report on the first 66th Assembly District Democratic Council (66th ADDC) Meeting

By Carol Moeller

Interim ADDC officers presented bylaws that had been agreed to by members of the PV, Torrance, Beach Cities, Gardena, and West Carson Democratic Clubs shortly after the boundaries of the new 66th AD were first announced.

Since the 66th ADDC is a state-chartered organization that primarily focuses on the 66th AD, the emphasis is different than that of county-chartered Democratic Clubs, who also engage in federal campaigns. As noted in the bylaws, the purpose of the 66th ADDC is to: motivate, educate and engage 66th AD Democrats to elect Democrats who are endorsed by the California Democratic Party; support the recruitment of the best Democratic candidates for local and state offices and elect a Democrat to the California

Assembly; serve as a resource and support for area Democratic Clubs in the AD; and support voter registration, voting, and precinct organization and work.

Elections to replace the interim ADDC officers will be held at the May meetings of the Democratic Clubs listed above. Please send any nominations for officers to Connie Sullivan at pvedems@gmail.com and any suggestions for 66th ADDC bylaws changes to 66ADDC@gmail.com by May 18.

Club President Connie Sullivan named Democrat of the Year

By Kay Cooperman Jue

Our club's president, Connie Sullivan, received the high honor of being named Region 17's Democrat of the Year during the state Democratic convention held in Sacramento in April.

Regional Director Sergio Carrillo bestowed the honor, noting Connie's dedication as a volunteer with the Al Muratsuchi state Assembly campaign last year.

In an e-mail to convention delegates, Sergio, who ran Al's successful campaign, said, "Connie was a key member of Team Muratsuchi. ... Connie ran our House Party Program and was in charge of our in-house mail program. She did whatever was needed and never asked for anything in return, except to make sure we got Al elected, and, with her help, WE DID!

"Connie has a heart of gold and is the epitome of what we seek in Democratic Party activists."

Connie has served as president of the PVP Democratic Club since July 2011. Region 17 of the state Democratic Party consisted of four Assembly Districts, including PVP's old 54th AD. With redistricting, our new 66th AD is part of the new Region 16.

Directors of each region of the state party introduced their Democrat-of-the-Year honorees during the final general session of this year's annual convention.

Board Election in June

The nominating committee for the 2013-14 Board of Directors of this club (Chair Barbara Epstein and members Rascha Hall and Lynn McLeod) have completed the slate of candidates for Board officers.

The slate is as follows:

Office	Candidate
President	Connie Sullivan
1st Vice President	Carol Moeller
2nd Vice President - programs	Hon. Tom Long
Recording Secretary	Judy Pang
Corresponding Secretary	Sheila Papayans
Treasurer	Shuja Oberoi
Parliamentarian	Lynn McLeod

Committee Chairs have also been identified and they will be appointed by the President per our club by-laws.

The election will be held by a show of hands (current members only) at the general membership meeting on June 16. We are grateful to the committee members and to the candidates for supporting our work in such an important way.

310-541-2458
 Newsletter Editor: Christine Mei
 310-375-2103
 Membership Chair: Lynn McLeod
 310-265-1037
 Treasurer: Shuja Oberoi
 310-373-7978
 Sheila Papayans
 Corresponding Secretary
 310-375-5783
 Recording Secretary: Judy Pang
 310-375-5135
 2nd VP: Tom Long
 2nd VP: Jean McDonald
 310-373-3066
 1st VP: Hans Grellmann
 310-378-1554
 President: Connie Sullivan

PVPDC Officers for 2012 Contact Info



Palos Verdes Peninsula
 Democratic Club
 Founded 1952

P.O. Box 2234,
 Rolling Hills Est. Ca 90274

Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Club

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

www.pvpdemocrats.org

As a member of the PVP Democratic Club, 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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 I might offer my home for a meeting or social event