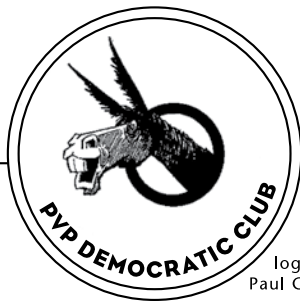


Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Club

Founded 1952



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Paul Conrad

October 2011 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

OCTOBER MEETING:

TIME: Sunday, October 23, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Rancho Vista Elementary School, 4323 Palos Verdes Drive North

PROGRAM: Robert Greenwald of Brave New Films

NOVEMBER MEETING:

DATE: November 20, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

LOCATION: To be announced next month

PROGRAM: The Privatization of Public Assets and Services

October 23, 2011 Meeting: Robert Greenwald of Brave New Films

You've heard him on Thom Hartmann's radio show. You've seen him on MSNBC. And soon he'll be here on the Peninsula with us! The club is very proud to present Robert Greenwald, founder of Brave New Films as the sole guest speaker at our next meeting.

On October 23 we will meet at 2:30 pm in the multipurpose room of Rancho Vista Elementary School, which is located at the corner of Hawthorne Blvd. and Palos Verdes Drive North (the actual address is 4323 Palos Verdes Drive North). The entrance to the school is accessed off Palos Verdes Drive North just east of the intersection with Hawthorne Blvd.

According to the Brave New Films Facebook page: "Robert Greenwald and Brave New Films are at the forefront of the fight to create a just America... Using cutting-edge new Internet video campaigns, Brave New Films informs the public, challenges corporate media with the truth and motivates people to take action on social issues nationwide. We are an organization that can produce a hard-hitting three-minute video in less than 24 hours."

Robert Greenwald began his career directing theater in New York City. In the 1970's he moved to Los Angeles and began directing and producing films for television and the big screen. He won three Emmy awards over the next decade.

In 2000, he founded Brave New Films and turned his attention towards making issues-oriented documentaries. His Brave New Films library includes: Outfoxed: Rupert Murdoch's War on Journalism; Iraq for Sale: The War Profiteers; The Big Buy: Tom Delay's Stolen Congress; and Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price.

His most recent video series is entitled Koch Brothers Exposed and Greenwald intends to provide our club with a sneak preview of the latest chapter in this series.

This event is being co-sponsored with the Beach Cities and Torrance Democratic Clubs. Please join us for this very special event. And be sure to tell your friends they're welcome, too.

September Meeting Report

By Christine Mei

Club Business

The meeting was called to order by Club President Connie Sullivan. Connie again urged club members to sign up as permanent absentee voters. She also announced the proposed change of club by-laws related to membership rules, which would help us conform to the LA County Democratic Party by-laws.

Status of the Redistricting Process

The first speaker was Mary Ellen Early. Mary Ellen has represented California as a member of the Democratic National Committee since 1988 and is an active member of the California Democratic Party Executive Board.

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Mary Ellen Early reports the status of redistricting



Rochelle Schneider of the Beach Cities Democratic Club

Mary Ellen first talked about the Redistricting Commission. It began when the voters approved Props. 11 and 20. These two propositions took the redistricting out of the hands of the legislature and put it in the hands of a commission. Redistricting affects four statewide elected bodies: the State Assembly, the State Senate, the Board of Equalization and U.S. House congressional districts.

The commission was composed of 14 members: five Democrats, five Republicans and four Decline to State (DTS). When the commission deliberated the new districts, they had to strictly follow several ground rules: 1) achieve the exact number of people in each district, 2) comply with the Voting Rights Act, 3) be geographically contiguous, and 4) respect the geographical integrity of the city, county and any local community. The commission did not give any consideration to protecting incumbency.

Mary Ellen then gave us a brief overview of redistricting's impact on several South Bay districts:

Assembly District 66 – Includes the South Bay beach cities and the Palos Verdes Peninsula. It is 24% Asian, 5% African American and 21% Latino. Among the registered voters: 19% Asian, 5% African American and 16% Latino.

It is a swing district with 38% Democrats, 35% Republicans and 22% DTS. There is currently no Democratic incumbent running.



Al Muratsuchi, candidate for the 66th Assembly District



Dave Emehiser, RPV city council candidate

State Senate District 26 – Includes cities from Santa Monica, West LA, Beverly Hills to the Peninsula. It is 14% Asian, 4% African American and 14% Latino. Among the registered voters: 11% Asian, 4% African American and 10% Latino. It is a solid Democratic district with 47% Democrats, 25% Republicans and 23% DTS. Ted Lieu is the incumbent.

33rd Congressional District – This is a long and thin district which includes communities from Malibu to Palos Verdes. It is 13% Asian, 3% African American and 11% Latino. Among the registered voters: 10% Asian, 3% African American and 9% Latino. It is a strong Democratic district with 44% Democrats and 29% Republicans.

More information on redistricting can be found at www.redistrictingpartners.com. You can also go to the LA Times website to compare old and new districts.

The second speaker was Rochelle Schneider from the Beach Cities Democratic Club. Rochelle is now leading the effort to form a new 66th AD committee for the purpose of



Dora de la Rosa, RPV city council candidate



Jim Knight, RPV city council candidate



Eric Alegria, RPV city council candidate

ensuring election of Democrats to all seats in this district. Representatives of all local Democratic clubs are welcome to participate in this organization.

The third speaker was Al Muratsuchi, a Torrance School Board member and a prosecutor for the State Department of Justice. Al is interested in running for the assembly seat of the 66th AD. He talked about his background and explained why he wants to run for the seat. His listed priorities include good jobs, good schools, safe neighborhoods, clean environment, and local control of public schools. He believes his name recognition in Torrance, the largest city in the district, and his law enforcement background will help him win this race.

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Democratic Council Candidates Forum

Hans Grellmann, the club political director and the First VP, chaired the second segment of the meeting. Hans introduced the four Democratic candidates who are running for the three open seats: Eric Alegria, Dora de la Rosa, Jim Knight and Dave Emehiser.

The forum began with the candidates' opening remarks. Most of them touted their experience in the city government and school board. The candidates then fielded questions from the audience:

Q: As city council member, what can you do to bring the city together?

The candidates used their various backgrounds and experiences to stress the importance of listening to the community, seeking input on the front end of decision making, explaining to people after a decision is made, and making the government as efficient and transparent as possible.

Q: How do you handle the no tax pledge?

None of the candidates signed the pledge or were petitioned to sign it. They each felt that signing a pledge like this would be irresponsible without looking at each situation, researching the truth and coming up with a reasonable solution. Two of the candidates used the San Ramon Canyon repairs as a prime example of fixing infrastructure problems through taxes or bonds.

Q: Is the city workforce the right size? How do you preserve workers' jobs? Are pensions the right size? Do they need to be reduced?

All candidates agreed that we currently have an excellent city staff. They all agreed to the pension reform under review by the current city council. Dave felt that the number of consultants in the city government and the number of planners in the planning department can be reduced.

Q: What is the benefit of having Democrats elected to the city council?

All candidates stated that they differ philosophically from the Republican candidates in that they feel local government is part of the solution, not the problem. Dave said that the government is important to bring people

together to solve common problems. Dora said that the local government should be a partner with local businesses and the local community. Jim said that we need to run government using facts, not ideology. Eric said that the government is necessary to solve some infrastructure issues.

Q: What do you plan to introduce to the city council regarding environmental issues?

Eric wants to have the council focusing on developing a work plan to improve the environment in our area. The city also needs to take an internal look at how it manages its energy. Dora wants to adopt similar energy saving programs that the PV schools have employed. Jim wants to use his experience working for the National Community Conservation Programs (NCCP) to preserve the open space. He also would like to preserve the natural habitat on the peninsula, implement energy conservation, and strengthen the Green

Building program for the city. Dave wants to cut the city usage of water and engage the port authorities to reduce the air pollution that the east side of the city faces. He also would like to maintain a relationship with the LA Land Conservancy to preserve the open space.

Following the Q&A session, the candidates each spent two minutes to deliver their closing remarks. They reemphasized their backgrounds and experience and reaffirmed their commitment to the future of the city.

Connie concluded the meeting by reminding the audience that, in addition to the city council race, there is another important local election: the school board election with two open seats and three candidates. There is one Democratic candidate, Larry Vanden Bos who is the incumbent. Another Democrat, Debby Stegura, is going to be elected to the library board. There are three open seats and three candidates.

Elizabeth Warren comments on "class warfare"

Republicans brand President Obama's deficit reduction plans that include raising taxes upon the wealthy as "class warfare".

Elizabeth Warren, Democratic candidate for Senator in Massachusetts responds to these Republican charges:

"You built a factory out there? Good for you. But I want to be clear: you moved your goods to market on the roads the rest of us paid for; you hired workers the rest of us paid to educate; you were safe in your factory because of police forces and fire forces that the rest of us paid for. You didn't have to worry that marauding bands would come and seize everything at your factory, and hire someone to protect against this, because of the work the rest of us did.

"Now look, you built a factory and it turned into something terrific, or a great idea - God bless. Keep a big hunk of it. But part of the underlying social contract is you take a hunk of that and pay forward for the next kid who comes along."

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Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Club

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

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

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 _____

Mailing Address _____

(If different from residence)

City _____ Zip _____

Email 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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