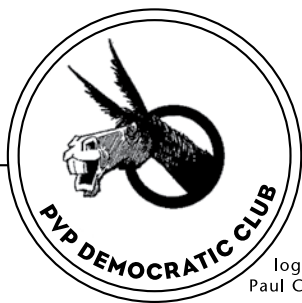


Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Club

Founded 1952



July 2009 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 MEETING:

Sunday, July 19, 4-6 p.m.
Private home, 2229 Chelsea Road,
PVE

FEATURED SPEAKERS:

RON SMITH, West Basin Muni Water District

MIGUEL LUNA of Urban Semillas

CONNER EVERTS of Southern California Watershed Alliance

AUGUST MEETING:

Save the date!
Sunday, Aug. 16, 2:30-5 p.m.
Peninsula Center Library
Program: TBA

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Bonnie Lowenthal presents a Certificate of Recognition to Betty Karnette — Story on page two



July Meeting to Look at California's Dwindling Water Supply

This month's meeting will focus on a very important and timely topic – water. The meeting is scheduled for Sunday, July 19, beginning at 4 p.m.

There will be three speakers. First will be our own elected representative to the West Basin Municipal Water District (WBMWD), Ron Smith. He is a Democrat and Peninsula resident who was elected in 2006 to represent the Division I Cities of Carson, Palos Verdes Estates, Rancho Palos Verdes, Rolling Hills Estates, Rolling Hills and portions of San Pedro.

The WBMWD is a public agency that purchases imported water from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. West Basin wholesales the imported water to cities, mutual water companies, investor-owned utilities and private companies in southwest Los Angeles County.

To protect against seawater intrusion, West Basin provides barrier water for injection into the South Bay's groundwater basin. West Basin also supplies the region with recycled water for municipal, commercial and industrial use.

Our other speakers will include Miguel Luna, executive director of Urban Semillas, and Conner Everts, executive director of Southern California Watershed Alliance.

Urban Semillas is part of the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water, which is working toward preserving, restoring and managing watersheds in environmental justice communities and supporting sustainable watershed management. Working together with other organizations, they will coordinate and integrate efforts to create community-based watershed programs and plans that educate and advocate for watershed protection, restoration, management and policy enforcement.

The Southern California Watershed Alliance works to achieve sustainable local water and watershed management for the long-term health of our ecosystems and communities.

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They accomplish this mission by conducting outreach and education to empower and organize the public on water issues in their watershed; by actively opposing developments and policy that would negatively impact our waters; advocating for policy that promotes sustainable water supply and watershed management; and holding the government and polluters accountable to ensure our existing laws are enforced.

The meeting will be held on the lovely patio of club member Betty Lukas' home, 2229 Chelsea Road in Palos Verdes Estates. Light refreshments will be served. We hope to see you there!

June Meeting Report: Honoring our Assemblywomen, Past and Present

By Darlene Loiler



Barbara Lucky of the PVPUSD School Board, John Addleman, Mayor Pro Tem RHE, Betty Karnette, Susan Seamans, RHE City Council Member



Kay Jue, Betty Karnette, Bonnie Lowenthal and Barbara Dye

June's monthly meeting was informative and festive all at the same time. We heard an update from our California Assemblywoman, Bonnie Lowenthal, and then honored our beloved former assemblywoman and state senator, Betty Karnette.

And we tried something different. Since the third Sunday of the month – our normal meeting time – was Father's Day, we decided to meet on a Thursday evening at Pacific Unitarian Church in RPV.

Bonnie shared with us how challenging the transition has been from being a Long Beach councilwoman with considerable power in a small arena to being just one of 80 Assembly members. There are 51 Democrats in the Assembly and most issues need 54 votes for a two-thirds majority.

Bonnie, who won the seat in November after Betty was termed out of office, is the chair of the Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care and she sits on a number of other Assembly committees, including Accountability and Administrative Review.



Betty looks through the picture book we presented to her as a gift. The book was signed by club members and had photos of Betty at various events.

She told us she had no idea how bad the state's budget problems were before arriving in Sacramento. She related how she got to know her fellow legislators well when they all spent two nights in February locked down at the state Capitol to finish the budget.

Bonnie passed out a printed summary of the present budget and told us about upcoming meetings to get public input. She said that much of the testimony about budget cuts proposed by Gov. Schwarzenegger is heartbreaking, including predictions that

some people could end up dying due to the severe cuts in social safety-net programs. The Democrats' priority is education. The federal stimulus bill will alleviate some pain, but cannot make up for the missing state tax income. Democratic legislators were able to hold on to Healthy Families and CalWORKs. They're calling for an increase in the tax on cigarettes and the oil severance tax.

Bonnie asked us all to contact the governor's office to demand that as many valuable programs as possible will be spared the budget ax.

During the question and answer period, many ideas were floated about balancing California's budget. Bonnie said the last time that our budget was balanced was 1997.

Among challenges facing the state are term limits, which prevent legislators from developing expertise in policy-making, and the two-thirds majority required for the Legislature to pass a budget, which some believe gives the Republican minority too much power.

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Many expressed a need for a constitutional convention, believing that California at present is ungovernable.

Someone brought up the movement to legalize marijuana with sensible taxes and controls. Not only would this greatly increase our state income, but it would greatly cut our expenses since so many prison inmates are minor drug offenders. A vote was taken of those present at the meeting and an estimated 90 percent favored legalizing marijuana.

We then took a break to cut the cake provided for Betty Karnette while people signed a commemorative book of photographs. Then club members and guests – including local city council and school board members – shared memories of the many wonderful things that Betty had done for the Peninsula.

Club member Marilyn Landau reminded us about 1992, the year that women candidates, Betty among them, went from being sacrificial lambs running for unobtainable offices to serious candidates. Marilyn said few believed Betty, a classroom teacher and active member of the Long Beach Democratic Club at the time, could win the election.

The book of memories was then presented to Betty and we gave her a standing ovation for her many faithful years of service.

Club Members are Encouraged to Attend the Roosevelt Awards Dinner

The club's board of directors has voted to purchase a table for this year's Franklin & Eleanor Roosevelt Dinner and offer tickets at the table at a discount to the club membership on a first-come, first-served basis.

We're doing this in honor of club member Hans Grellmann – the club's first vice president and precinct organizer extraordinaire – who will be honored at the dinner as the male Democrat of the Year from the 54th Assembly District.

The dinner is an annual fund-raiser for the Los Angeles County Democratic Party. This year, it is being held on Sunday, Aug. 9, at the Radisson Hotel at LAX. Male and female Democrats of the Year from each Assembly District in L.A. County will be honored.

We encourage everyone to attend the dinner. Individual tickets are \$95 – \$90 before July 20. The first 10 club members to RSVP to club president Kay Cooperman Jue will be charged \$50. Only one discount ticket per member, please.

Contact Kay by e-mail, pvedem@yahoo.com, or by phone, (310) 377-3512, to request a seat at the club-sponsored table.

Or to buy individual tickets on your own, visit http://www.lacdp.org/roosevelt_dinner/ for instructions.

West LA Healthcare Forum Outlines Campaign to Pass Single-Payer Legislation

By Lynn McLeod

Three PVP Club members were among more than 200 Democrats attending a forum in Venice late last month where a number of speakers described a proposed single-payer health plan for California. Our club was among the forum's many sponsors.

Jim Hamilton, Shuja Oberoi and I listened to three impressive and persuasive speakers, two of whom are physicians:

- Susan Baldwin, MD, who represents Physicians for a National Health Program, an organization of 16,000 physicians advocating for a national single-payer health plan. She works for but did not represent the LA County Department of Public Health.

- Jo Olson, MD, who practices adolescent medicine at USC, caring for teenagers with HIV, transgender youth and youth with chronic pain (she was not representing USC). She has been active in the California Democratic Party's Progressive Caucus and as a party delegate.

- Don Schroeder, an award-winning film writer, producer and director who is co-chair of the California OneCare Campaign.

Key points made by the speakers were met with an enthusiastic response from the attendees. Here's a sampling of what they told us:

The current system of providing health care encompasses major problems.

- The profit motive results in major and morally questionable inequities in coverage and health care provision.

- A full one-third of the costs of private insurance plans goes to administration.

- There are glaring geographical and ethnic/racial inequities that result in reinforcing class lines.

- Choice of physicians by covered members is limited to those on any given health plan list.

- Uninsured people die earlier and at a faster rate than those who are insured.

- The US has higher costs (which are growing faster) and worse health care outcomes, including infant mortality, than a significant list of comparison countries and is ranked 37th in the world by the World Health

Organization – just ahead of Slovakia.

The single-payer plan encompasses the following features (this description is limited to the California OneCare plan, although the general features would be desirable in a national plan as well).

- State Sen. Mark Leno has introduced legislation (SB 810) that would create the California Health Care Agency to replace private health insurance plans in California. The delivery of health care by physicians and allied health professionals would remain the same, but the compensation would be handled by this new state agency.

- Under this system, citizens would have unlimited choice of their physician(s), no co-pays, no deductibles and no danger of exclusion due to pre-existing conditions.

- Businesses would have their costs reduced by the amount of the healthcare premiums they are now paying, thereby increasing their ability to compete.

- There would be a two-year transition period to allow the health plans to cease operations in a planned way and a retraining program for health plan employees.

By the current count, the legislation is only short of the two-thirds passage goal by three votes in the Assembly and two votes in the Senate, but it is not a shoo-in by any means. The insurance industry can be expected to fight hard as the vote deadline approaches.

The California OneCare Campaign is a single-issue group that has been formed to drive efforts to pass this legislation. The campaign consists of the following components:

- Grass roots – Local teams will table, phone and mail in every California zip code.

- Internet – There will be full use of websites (Facebook, YouTube, Twitter) to connect and advocate.

- State strategy – 365 thirty-second spots are planned for the website starting in September for every day leading up to the vote. There will be monthly themes, contests and outreach to encourage the maximum number of people to participate.

- Media and celebrities – Hollywood events are planned to recruit and build support (concerts, fundraising events, etc.) and house parties to spread the word.

- Political leadership – State Sen. Leno is proving to be an articulate and persuasive coalition-builder.

We will keep you informed in this newsletter about ongoing developments in this critical campaign. In the meantime, learn more at <http://pnhp.org>.

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PVPDC Officers for 2009 Contact Info

President: Kay Cooperman Jue,
pvedem@yahoo.com

1st VP: Hans Grellmann
310 373-3066

2nd VP: Barbara Dye
310 832-2564

Recording Secretary:
Mary Meade - 310 377-6108

Corresponding Secretary:
Sheila Papayans
310 373-7978

Treasurer: Jerry Parker
310 377-7833

Membership Chair: Lynn McLeod
310 375-2103

Phone Tree Chair: Judy Pang
310 375-5783

Newsletter Editor: Ruth McGrew
310 375-3407

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 - 2 memberships)

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ Zip _____ Cell _____

Email Address _____

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Young Adult \$10.00/Year ()

Amount enclosed _____ Renewal New Member

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