

Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Club

Founded 1952



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Paul Conrad

April 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

April Membership Meeting

April 19th - 2:30 p.m. - Peninsula
Center Library

PENINSULA CITIES and the Budget
Crisis— the second in our series "The
Economy and the Peninsula."

SPEAKERS :

JUDY MITCHELL mayor of Rolling Hills
Estates.

LARRY CLARK mayor of Rancho Palos
Verdes

May Membership Meeting

Location & date TBA



Proud Moment – Our own club vice president, Barbara Dye, has received a huge honor from Assemblywoman Bonnie Lowenthal. Barbara was named the 54th Assembly District’s “Woman of the Year” last month in recognition of her years of community involvement, especially her work to preserve open space on the peninsula. She is pictured here (fourth from left) with her family in Sacramento accepting the award from Lowenthal (to Barbara’s right). A big congratulations to Barbara!

April Program: Peninsula Cities and the Budget Crisis

As the saying goes, all politics is local. And for our April program, we’re going to take that maxim to heart.

We will learn how the state and federal economic crisis is affecting us closest to home – at the city level here on the Peninsula. Both of our speakers are on the front lines of the battle to maintain quality municipal services with fewer resources and they will tell us what they are facing.

Judy Mitchell is mayor of Rolling Hills Estates and president of the League of California Cities. She also has served on a number of regional boards, including the South Bay Cities Council of Governments. She has been on the city council since 1999 and has served on various city commissions since 1984. She is a strong environmental advocate and has played a leading role in preserving open space in the city, creating parks, restoring natural habitats and maintaining RHE’s rural character.

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Inside This Month’s Issue:

A proud moment for Barbara Dye

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April Program continued

Larry Clark is mayor of Rancho Palos Verdes, a former board member of the League of California Cities and current member of the California Coastal Commission representing Los Angeles and Orange counties. He has served on the RPV Council since 2001 and has been instrumental in such city successes as the storm drain user fee ballot initiative of 2005, the city council term limits initiative passed by voters in 2003 and the acquisition of an additional 1,000 acres of open space in the Palos Verdes Land Reserve.

As an added bonus, both of these esteemed public servants are Democrats!

The April program is the second in our series on "The Economy and the Peninsula." Please plan to attend on Sunday, April 19, at the Peninsula Center Library's Community Room, 701 Silver Spur Road, RHE, beginning at 2:30 p.m..

President: Kay Cooperman Jue,
pvadem@yahoo.com

March Meeting Review

The program for the March meeting was the first in a series on how the current economic problems are affecting our own club members.

Andrea Vona, the Executive Director of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy, spoke of the conservancy's projects now in progress and of future plans which the organization has. But because the California State Budget has become so out of balance the State has put a hold on the bond money which had been delegated for the use of the PVP Land Conservancy, necessitating a halt to all work on these



Carol and Ron Moeller, the speaker David Allgood, and Hans Grellmann at the March Meeting

projects.

David Allgood, the Southern California Director for the California League of Conservation Voters, spoke of the same kinds of problems being experienced by his organization. He pointed out that rather than working for conservation, many programs are just being eliminated.

Both speakers left us with a feeling that our local areas are definitely feeling the pinch of the economic problems of the nation and the state.

Our Club Supports Organizing for America

By Hans Grellmann

Obama's Organizing for America has kicked off a nationwide campaign to develop grass-roots support for the President's budget. The budget will take this country in a new direction in the areas of energy, health care and education. There are powerful groups in Washington who are opposed to this new direction.

We the people must speak up to support Obama.

The campaign is called the Pledge Project Canvass. It was kicked off on the weekend of 21/22 March. The intent is to gather pledges to support the President's budget priorities. The project includes people going door to door to talk to their neighbors. It also includes people gathering pledges at high volume sites. Our club did the latter. We gathered over 40 pledges at the club table at the Rolling Hills Estates farmer's market on March 22. We also handed out forms with the telephone numbers of our Representatives in Washington. Everyone should call them and let them know we support the budget as proposed. (Hold your nose when you call Rohrabacher if you like, but call him).

We will do this at the market every Sunday from now on.

Rep. Dana Rohrabacher 202-225-2415
Sen. Dianne Feinstein 202-224-3841
Sen. Barbara Boxer 202-224-3553

Member Essay : An Idea for Democratic Elections

By Hal Garvin

I think the argument about election problems is not worth the trouble at this time. We Democrats have managed to create a Rube Goldberg system of selecting our party's presidential candidate. Who in the world organized this system of primaries, caucuses, and in the case of Texas, a primary and a caucus? Why did we quit having winner take all in the elections? Dividing it up as we do leaves us little chance of collecting enough delegate votes to become a winner (at least that is the case this year). Leaving Florida and Michigan out of the contest was some crazy system of trying to force everyone into giving Iowa and New Hampshire the privilege of being first. It makes no sense; neither of those states is very representative of the rest of the nation. We should encourage our representatives in Congress to come up with some kind of national primary system that is fair and effective. Of the plans I have read about, the one that makes the most sense to me is to divide the nation into four groups of states, as nearly equal in electoral votes in each group as it is possible to make it. Allow one of the sections to vote first and then the other sections will vote each a month later covering a four month period early in the year. Every four years rotate the order of these groups so that each is first every four elections. If this idea is no good, come up with another, but let us get rid of this crazy system.

We should not wait until four years from now to try to change our presidential election problems. Let's begin working on it now.

All members are encouraged to submit an essay. We would like to print one each month.



Club Members Should Be Activists

Every day there are political things happening which call for citizen action, but many of us feel helpless about what we can do. I know I sometimes think "what influence can my one call or letter have?" and I fail to write or call. There are probably many of our club members who feel the same as I do. But the recent uproar over the bonuses paid by AIG is a good example of the power the people have if enough of them make a fuss over what is happening and let their legislators know of their feelings. There would not have been so much media attention (if any at all) if there hadn't been so many people writing or calling to express their outrage at the bonuses given.

Do enough of us think it would be worth our while to organize a communications committee to choose one topic each week for club members to contact a designated legislator and let them know of our feelings? If the club generated 100 letters a week on a designated topic I believe it would have some effect. What do you think about it?

If you think this idea is worth pursuing, will you please call Ruth McGrew at 310-375-3407 or ruthmcgrew@juno.com

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Palos Verdes Peninsula
Democratic Club
Founded 1952

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 & 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 - 2 memberships)

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ Zip _____ Cell _____

Email Address _____

*Select One: Individual: \$ 20.00/Year () * Family Membership \$30.00/Year ()
Young Adult \$10.00/Year ()

Amount enclosed _____ Renewal New Member

I might be interested in helping in the following areas:

Hospitality Newsletter Membership Refreshments Publicity

Correspondence Voter Registration Campaign Work Website

I might offer my home for a meeting or social event Phone Tree