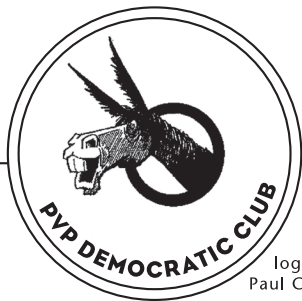


Palos Verdes Peninsula
Democratic Club
Founded 1952



**April 2010
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 MEETING:

NEW DAY AND TIME: Saturday, April 10, 3-6 p.m.

NEW PLACE: UFCW Local 770 Labor Auditorium, 25949 Belle Porte Ave., Harbor City

TOPIC: Statewide candidates forum

MAY MEETING:

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, May 16, 3-5 p.m.

PACIFIC UNITARIAN CHURCH, 5621 Montemalaga Drive, RPV

TOPIC: How PVP local governments function and how we can play a role

PVP Club Joins with Other Local Clubs for Statewide Candidates Forum

In lieu of our regular monthly meeting, our club is joining with other South Bay/Long Beach-area Democratic clubs to present a candidates forum on Saturday, April 10, from 3-6 p.m.

The forum will be held at the UFCW Local 770 Labor Auditorium at 25949 Belle Porte Ave. (two blocks south of the intersection with Pacific Coast Highway) in Harbor City. (see map) Admission is free and open to the public. Carpooling is available and is described below.

The forum will feature Democrats running for statewide offices appearing on the June 8 ballot. It will be the only chance voters in the South Bay/Long Beach area will have to see nearly all Democrats running for statewide office gathering at one location to discuss their campaigns.

Each candidate will be given time to speak and then will answer questions submitted by members of the audience.

Democrats running for statewide office who were confirmed to attend at press time include Secretary of State Debra Bowen; state attorney general candidates Pedro Nava, Alberto Torrico, Ted Lieu, Chris Kelly and Rocky Delgadillo; state insurance commissioner candidates Hector De La Torre and Dave Jones; and superintendent of public instruction candidates Gloria Romero and Tom Torlakson. Lieutenant governor candidates Janice Hahn and Gavin Newsom were maybes.

In addition to the candidates, sponsoring Democratic clubs will have information tables onsite to encourage voters to get involved and to vote on June 8. As many as 12 area Democratic clubs – including our club – plus the

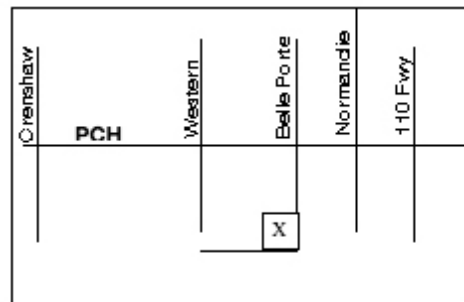
Torrance-based Democratic Action Center are co-sponsoring the event.

The South Bay/Long Beach candidates forum is being presented in tandem with a second forum sponsored by Westside-area Democratic clubs scheduled earlier that afternoon. That forum will be held at the Culver City Veterans Memorial Auditorium, 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City, beginning at noon. The candidates will stop there and then continue on to our forum.

Any of our members interested in carpooling to the candidates forum should meet behind the Wachovia Bank building at the corner of Hawthorne Boulevard and Silver Spur Road on the Peninsula Center parking lot. Look for Dick and Barbara Trakas and their van in the lot between the bank and the PV Bicycle Center. They'll help everyone organize into carpools. The carpools will depart the parking lot at 2:15 p.m.

If you're interested in volunteering at the candidates forum, please contact Kay Cooperman Jue at pvedem@yahoo.com.

For more information about the candidates forum, visit www.socaldems.org. Hope to see you there!



UFCW Local 770 Labor Auditorium, 25949 Belle Porte Ave., Harbor City

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Invitation for Submissions

The PVP Democratic Club Board invites members to contribute to the monthly newsletter. We accept submissions in the form of opinion pieces, reviews of books of interest to our members, reports of conferences on Democratic issues, etc. We welcome any and all such input, so don't be shy, if you have something to say, our newsletter could be your forum!

Connie Sullivan, Newsletter Editor

Report of March Meeting

By Connie Sullivan

Our March meeting focused on the June 8 ballot. We heard from four Democrats running for Superior Court judge and two Democrats running for our Congressional District seat. We also discussed Proposition 14, the open primary initiative. We're providing candidate Websites for your information.

Candidates for Superior Court Office No. 28

Mark Ameli told us he immigrated to the U.S. from Iran in 1966 and became a lifelong Democrat after Governor Ronald Reagan cut the University of California budget as his first official act. Mr. Ameli has 29 years of experience as an attorney and litigator and 15 years as an arbitrator and mediator. He summed up by saying that he has the judicial temperament, knowledge and compassion to be a judge in family court. www.electmarkameli.com/

Chris Garcia, who currently serves as Deputy Los Angeles City Attorney for identity theft and fraud, said he finds public sector legal work more rewarding than working in a private legal practice, which seemed to be "just fighting about money." Mr. Garcia serves voluntarily as a judge on the Los Angeles Superior Court as a crash settlement officer and as a member of the Superior Court's Dispute Resolution Services. www.chrisgarcia2010.com/

Randy Hammock currently serves as the Superior Court Referee (since 2007) in Office 28. He is running to fill this position permanently. Mr. Hammock previously served as a temporary judge, mediator and arbitrator (voluntary basis) and volunteered as a Municipal Court judge from 1998-1999. www.hammock4judge.com/



Chris Garcia, candidate for Superior Court Judge, Office 28



Randy Hammock, candidate for Superior Court Judge, Office 28

Candidate for Superior Court Office No. 117

Patricia Vienna, has been an attorney for 24 years specializing in business litigation. She has volunteered as a judge in traffic and small claims courts. She said she understands that people who appear before judges feel intimidated, confused, and frightened and she likes to help them get their stories out so that the court can arrive at the truth. www.ViennaforJudge.com.

Candidates for Congress

Two Democrats running for the 46th Congressional District seat (currently held by Republican Dana Rohrabacher) spoke to our group.

Ken Arnold, a computer analyst from Fountain Valley, said it is time to retire Dana Rohrabacher; the district deserves someone who understands economics because we live in a complex world, someone who understands statistics, science, and technology, not someone who believes junk science. Mr. Arnold said he would use his technology



Ken Arnold, candidate for the 46th Congressional District

expertise to make government more efficient and effective. Mr. Arnold is a very active member of the Democratic Party in Orange County. www.democracyforamerica.com/campaigns/3581-ken-arnold-for-congress

Dr. Jay Shah is a retired physician who worked for many years in rehabilitation medicine at L.A. County Harbor/UCLA hospital. Before that he was a flight surgeon in the U.S. Air Force. He emphasized his belief in term limits as a way to guard against corruption by elected officials. He promised to serve only four terms in Congress if elected. www.drjayshah4congress.com



Sergio Carrillo, Regional Director of Region 17 of the California Democratic Party,

Proposition 14

Sergio Carrillo, Regional Director of Region 17 of the California Democratic Party, which covers PVP, explained the party's opposition to Proposition 14, the Open Primaries ballot measure. The measure would institute a single primary for state and congressional elections, allowing voters to choose among all candidates, regardless of party affiliation. The two candidates garnering the highest vote tallies would run against each other in November. Backers believe an open primary would lead to the election of less politically extreme candidates.

continued from page 2

Sergio reported that the Court of Appeal issued a stay against the proposition, so as of the date of the meeting it was unclear whether it would appear on the ballot.

He said the party opposes the measure because candidates would not be required to designate their party affiliation on the ballot. Conceivably, two Republicans could be the only two candidates moving on to the November ballot.

New Club Bylaws Include Operational Changes

By Kay Cooperman Jue, President

Club members attending last month's meeting at the Peninsula Center Library voted unanimously to adopt a new version of the club's bylaws that clarifies some language, consolidates certain sections and hopefully will streamline club operations.

The revision is the culmination of years of work by several different boards and led by current treasurer Jerry Parker.

As a result of the membership's adoption of the new bylaws, we'll see some changes in the way the club operates.

Most dramatic is establishment of a new fiscal year, which changes the dues and board-election cycles. Beginning next year, the club's fiscal year will run from July 1 through June 30. Previously, our fiscal year was from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31.

Board members who proposed the change felt that trying to form a nominating committee, recruit new board members and hold an election at the end of the year was proving difficult, especially during election years, when so many people's time and attention are focused on the November general election. The period also falls during the busy holiday season.

Under the newly adopted bylaws, starting in 2011, the nominating committee will be formed in January and a slate of board candidates will be published in the March newsletter. Elections will be held at the May general membership meeting and the new board will be installed during what now will be the club's annual meeting in July.

These changes will take effect next year, and as a result, the dues all members paid for 2010 will extend through June 30, 2011. Also, current board members will serve through June 30, 2011. Dues for the 2011-2012 fiscal year will be

Join PVP Democratic Club on Facebook!

Don't forget – join us on Facebook and stay connected between monthly meetings and newsletters. Get the latest information about Democratic Party happenings and share your interests with others.

Go to www.facebook.com and follow the directions for signing up. Then do a search for "Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Club" and join!

To ensure your privacy, click on "settings" and then "privacy settings" and consider limiting access to most of your information to "only friends."

collected beginning in July 2011.

Another change in the revised bylaws allows decline-to-state candidates running in non-partisan races – like local city council and school board elections – to bring their campaigns to club membership meetings. Previously, only registered Democrats were invited to address a membership meeting.

Board members who proposed this change felt it reflected the political reality of the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Those board members felt the club should be open to candidates who may be Democrats at heart but felt the need to be registered as decline-to-state voters to win local elections.

Finally, the new bylaws changed the quorum required for a vote during a general membership meeting to 10 club members plus 5 percent of

the full membership. Previously a quorum was 10 percent of the full membership. This change was suggested by the L.A. County Democratic Party parliamentarian as a way to protect the club from anyone trying to paralyze club business by grossly inflating the membership.

In the coming months, the board will work on finalizing a manual of operations. This is a new concept for our club and will serve as a blueprint for future boards. It will contain more detailed information, definitions and advice to help board members run the club. Because it is separate from the bylaws, it will be easier to amend as needed by future boards.

The club's bylaws will remain posted on our Website, www.pvpdemocrats.org.

Progressive Email News

by Hans Grellmann

Members of the club executive board occasionally get a request to send some information to the full club membership. We have been reluctant to do this, because some people don't like to get inundated with emails.

There is a potential solution for this.

I have a group of nearly 200 people I send emails to on a regular basis, usually one or two each weekday when I'm in town. These emails include articles from non-mainstream online media (stuff you don't hear about in your newspaper or on TV). During election years such as this one I also send out information about candidates and about local political events.

If enough of our club members were to join my email group, then when our board gets a request to send out information, I could send it to the group. This way only those club members who have signed up will receive the information.

If you would like to join my email group, just send me a short email at pvegrellmann@dslextrreme.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 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 - 2 memberships

Residence Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ Zip _____ Cell _____

Mailing Address _____

(If different from residence)

City _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

*Select One: Individual: \$ 20.00/Year Family Membership \$30.00/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
 I might offer my home for a meeting or social event