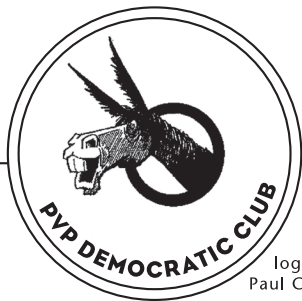


Palos Verdes Peninsula
Democratic Club
Founded 1952



March 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

MARCH MEETING:

Sunday, March 21
2:30 pm - 4:30 pm
Community Room, Peninsula
Center Library, 701 Silver Spur
Road, RHE

TOPIC - June 8 Ballot Measures and a
Judicial Race

APRIL MEETING:

Save the Date: Saturday, April 10,
3-6 p.m.

LOCATION: Union Hall auditorium,
25949 Belle Porte Ave., Harbor City.

In lieu of our regular monthly meeting,
we're participating in a statewide
candidates forum in association
with other area Democratic Clubs.
Carpooling will be arranged.

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March Meeting to Focus on June 8 Ballot

Before you mark your June 8 ballots, you'll want to attend this month's meeting, set for Sunday, March 21, beginning at 2:30 p.m. at the Peninsula Center Library's Community Room, 701 Silver Spur Road, RHE.

We'll hear from some of the Democrats running for a Superior Court judicial position. And a state Democratic Party officer will talk about the propositions appearing on the ballot, especially Prop. 14, the open primaries measure.

In addition, we will vote on the club's proposed revised bylaws.

One of the more interesting issues on the June ballot is Prop. 14, which supporters claim will reduce the partisan logjam in Sacramento by making it possible for more politically moderate candidates to win elections.

If passed, Prop. 14 would allow California voters to choose any state or Congressional candidate on the ballot regardless of his or her party affiliation. Then, the two highest vote-getters, again, no matter their party affiliation, would face each other in a runoff election.

We'll hear from Sergio Carrillo, director of Region 17 of the state Democratic Party – which includes PVP – explain the party's position against Prop. 14. You'll also be able to ask him about other measures on the ballot

Three Democratic candidates for Superior Court Judge office 28 – a highly contested race – have asked to speak to our club and they will have a chance to say a few words and answer your questions at our March meeting.

Randy Hammock has served as a Superior Court referee at the Dependency Court in Monterey Park since July 2007. He also has been filling in for the incumbent judge during her leave of absence. She has decided not to run for re-election. You can learn more at www.hammock4judge.com.

Mark Ameli has practiced law for 29 years. During the last 15 years, he has been an arbitrator and mediator, concentrating on mediation of cross-cultural disputes. You can learn more at <http://electmarkameli.com/>.

Chris Garcia works as a Deputy Los Angeles City Attorney assigned to the Identity Theft and Fraud Unit. He recently returned from a three-year appointment as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney in Major Frauds. He's practiced law for 24 years. You can learn more at www.chrisgarcia2010.com.

Your board, and especially Treasurer Jerry Parker, has worked to update and streamline the club's bylaws for a number of years and they're now ready to be put to a vote by the club membership. You can read the proposed bylaws ahead of the March meeting by visiting the club's Website at www.pvpdemocrats.org. Please bring any questions or comments to the meeting and we'll discuss them before the vote.

Hope to see you at the library on Sunday, March 21!

Report of February Meeting

Club Business

Club President Kay Cooperman Jue called the meeting to order. Kay introduced the following:

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U.S. Marine Corps Corporal (retired) Rick Reyes speaks to our members about his experiences in Afghanistan and Iraq

- Lynn McLeod, membership chair, reported 87 membership renewals thus far this year.
- Hans Grellmann, First Vice President, encouraged attendees to sign a petition for a voter initiative to increase the vehicle license fee by \$18 annually to pay for state parks.
- Roy Waters from the Beach Cities Democratic Club urged members to sign a petition for a voter initiative to restore simple majority (50%) rule for the purposes of raising taxes and/or passing budgets in the legislature.
- Club Treasurer, Jerry Parker reported a treasury balance of \$3499.50.
- One of the orders of business for the March meeting will be to vote on the proposed revised club bylaws, which can be reviewed at the club's website (www.pvpdemocrats.org). Those without Internet access were encouraged to pick up a hard copy in the back of the meeting room.

Guest Speakers

Kay introduced the first speaker, Carol Tanenbaum, PhD, representing The Soldiers Project, a non-profit group that provides free counseling and support to military service members who have served or who expect to serve in the Iraq and/or Afghanistan conflicts. The therapy sessions can begin before deployment, continue via Internet or phone

while the soldier is overseas and continue after he/she returns home. The services are also available to family members and significant others. Dr. Tanenbaum emphasized the enormous mental health and brain injury burdens these two wars have imposed on their veterans. She noted that suicide among military personnel supersedes that of the general population.

The second speaker, Jeff Norman is the director of The Veterans Project. He spoke about The Veterans Project, a nonprofit campaign that supports organizations that help veterans reintegrate into society when they come home. Its mission is to remove the stigma associated with post-traumatic stress and raise operating funds for organizations providing veterans with psychological care and job training in the aftermath of war. Bruce Springsteen has contributed a song to a CD compilation to be released in 2010 by The Veterans Project.

The final speaker was retired U.S. Marine Corporal Rick Reyes, from Iraq Veterans Against the War and Veterans Rethinking Afghanistan, who spoke of his war experiences. He described initially joining the Marine Corps infantry division in 2000 out of a sense of patriotism and then deploying to Afghanistan and later to Iraq after September 11, 2001. He began to realize the futility of trying to fight an enemy that blended into the civilian population. Time after time, his unit acted upon faulty intelligence and



Dr. Carol Tanenbaum, from The Soldiers Project



Jeff Norman, from The Veterans Project

destroyed innocent families' homes and beat innocent people for no real purpose. He came to feel his patriotism had been exploited for political gain. He is now speaking out about the futility of the U.S. military campaign in Afghanistan that President Obama recently expanded.

Budget Brief

Editor's note: This is a new feature for the newsletter. Whenever our board votes to financially support a candidate or other cause, it will be reported in the newsletter.

On Feb. 23, 2010, the board voted to contribute \$100 to be part of a group of South Bay Democratic Clubs producing a candidates forum. The forum, featuring Democrats running for statewide offices appearing on the June 8 ballot, will be held Saturday, April 10. Our club's name will appear in the program, in advertising and we'll have an information table set up at the event.

Watch the April newsletter for more details about the candidates forum.

Membership Renewal Time

By Lynn McLeod, Membership Chair

Thanks to all the new and renewing members who have joined for 2010. Your support is welcome and important. For those of you who have not renewed yet, please take this opportunity to fill out the membership form at the end of this newsletter and send it to the address on the form. Please note that you need to be a registered Democrat to join the Club, although everyone is welcome to attend our program meetings. We are planning a year of interesting and informative programs and look forward to seeing you there. We would also very much like to have your active participation with the committees and Board of the club, so please indicate the areas in which you would like to help.

Member Commentary

Don't Give Up On Obama

By Hans Grellmann

Although some of us may be disappointed that progress in Washington has been slower than we would like, President Obama and Democrats in Congress continue to be our only "hope" for progressive reform. We must actively help them in any way we can. They cannot win this fight without our support.

Let's face it; Democrats had unrealistic expectations when Obama won in November 2008. We all hoped he could, as promised, change the way Washington works. But that is very difficult, if not impossible to do in a short time. Washington, like California, has built-in procedural problems. In California we have the two-thirds requirement to pass budgets or taxes as well as gerrymandered Assembly and Senate districts, which allow members to take extreme positions without consequences. These make California very hard to govern.

In Washington the filibuster rule in the Senate allows the Republican minority to stop any progress. Also don't forget elected officials in Washington are indebted to (kinder words than bought by) entities that helped get them elected. These entities include the health insurance, drug and war industries. We want Obama to accomplish things these powerful industries vehemently oppose. He is fighting to achieve reform, but does not have a free hand. He is handicapped by the fact many

Democrats in Congress and the Senate are DINO's (Democrats in name only). Some are quite conservative. So Obama does not have the progressive majority in Congress a simple headcount of Democrats would suggest. He has no choice but to play the political game to get things done. He is fighting our fight and he needs to know we support him.

To help Obama get his (our) agenda through Congress, go to the Organizing for America website:

http://www.barackobama.com/learn/about_ofa.php

Sign up to stay informed, via email, about upcoming actions and events.

Get involved: Click on Take Action. This will take you to the Health Care Action Center. Here you can find information about health reform. You can pledge to support candidates who will fight for reform. Over eight million hours have already been pledged! There is also a way to contact Congress or write a letter to a newspaper.

This being 2010, you can also tweet your Senator or Representative! Boy, do I feel old-fashioned!

PVP Democratic Club in the News

Our club was featured in a full-page spread in the February issue of Peninsula People magazine. Writer and photographer Mary Jane Schoenheider covered our January membership meeting with a short article and lots of photographs.

The January meeting featured the installation of this year's board and speaker Michael Hiltzik, business columnist for the L.A. Times, not to

mention one of our great pot luck receptions!

Congratulations to publicity chair Hilary Bloom for getting this great media coverage for our club!

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."

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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