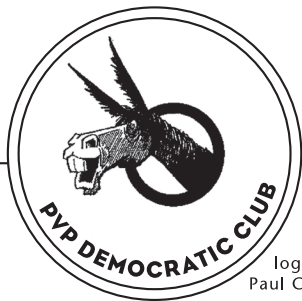


Palos Verdes Peninsula  
Democratic Club  
Founded 1952



logo by  
Paul Conrad

## October 2009 Newsletter

P.O. Box 2234, Rolling Hills Est. CA 90274  
Visit Us on the Web at [www.pvpdemocrats.org](http://www.pvpdemocrats.org)  
"One of the oldest Democratic Clubs in California"

### COMING EVENTS

#### *OCTOBER MEETING:*

Sunday, Oct. 18, 2:30-4:30 p.m.  
Community Room, Peninsula  
Center Library, 701 Silver Spur  
Road, RHE

#### **FEATURED TOPIC:**

International Day of Climate  
Action

#### *NOVEMBER MEETING:*

Save the date! Sunday, Nov. 15,  
2:30-4:30 p.m. Peninsula Center  
Library  
Program: Repairing state  
government

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### **October Meeting to Look at International Effort to Halt Climate Change**

At our October meeting, we will learn how each of us can be part of a worldwide movement to stop global warming. We'll get the details on Sunday, Oct. 18, 2:30-4:30 p.m. at the Peninsula Center Library's Community Room, 701 Silver Spur Road in RHE.

Our club's first vice president, Hans Grellmann, will present a slide show titled, "What is 350," referring to the amount of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere that many scientists believe is the safe limit for humanity. Currently, those scientists say we are beyond the safe zone. If we don't bring carbon dioxide levels down to 350 parts per million, they say, the Earth could suffer irreversible effects.

According to NASA climatologist James Hansen, "If humanity wishes to preserve a planet similar to that on which civilization developed and to which life on Earth is adapted, paleo-climate evidence and ongoing climate change suggest that CO2 will need to be reduced from its current 387 ppm to at most 350 ppm."

Hans will tell us about the International Day of Climate Action, planned for Oct. 24 and geared to raise public awareness about the 350 limit in time for the United Nations' climate conference scheduled in December in Copenhagen. Organizers of the day of action hope to convince world leaders attending the UN conference to consider the 350 ppm limit as they finalize a new global climate change agreement.

We can join people around the planet

taking part in the 350 movement by participating in a local event being organized by the South Bay 350 Climate Action Group. Organizers are planning a big event at Manhattan Beach that will illustrate with a human chain where the new tide line will be if global warming is allowed to proceed unchecked.

Our club is a member of this alliance of many South Bay organizations and all club members will be invited to participate on Oct. 24. Please put this date in your calendar and join us for this month's Democratic Club meeting at the library on Sunday, Oct. 18.

### **September Meeting Report** By Lynn McLeod

Barbara Dye, VP for Programming, led our monthly general meeting in the absence of President Kay Jue. The agenda focused on candidates in the upcoming November 3 election.

All six candidates for the PVP Unified School District Board—Democrats and non-Democrats—participated in a forum. The meeting also included short presentations from two Democrats running for RPV City Council, followed by a short talk by State Senator Rod Wright.

Each of the School Board candidates had the same amount of time to present an opening statement. The gist of their remarks follows. The candidates are presented in alphabetical order. Note that none of these candidates is endorsed by the Club, although for your information Karen Bird, Anthony Collalos, and Gregg Royston are Democrats.

Karen Bird is a first time candidate. With a BA in music from UCLA and two sons in the PV schools, Karen is a part-time attorney and community

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Candidates for RPV City Council: Jim Knight & Paul Tetreault

activist who has served as a room parent at Montemalaga, President of the PTA, President of the Council of PTAs and a Peninsula Education Foundation trustee. She states that she is a good analyst and has the listening and leadership skills to build consensus.

Anthony Collatos is a first time candidate. A professor of education at Pepperdine University, Anthony states that his goal is to figure out best practices and apply them. He has been a high school social studies teacher and has experience communicating with students to understand the education process better.

Barbara Lucky is an incumbent. A school law attorney and elementary teacher with a perspective to make good decisions, Barbara states that her primary focus is on the students. She lists as achievements during her Board tenure reopening neighborhood schools, settling the Trump lawsuit, and establishing the program for underachieving students.

Heather Matson is a first time candidate. With a bachelor's degree in psychology and masters degrees in special education and educational administration, Heather states that she has been in PV for 13 years. She is active as a room mother and PTA member and feels that we need people on the Board who understand classroom realities. As a Board member she would visit the schools and classrooms.

Greg Royston is a first time candidate. With a degree in finance and serving as a business attorney who owns his own firm, Greg feels that he has the real world experience to be an effective negotiator and financial watchdog, and says that his experience and humbleness can help the Board to build strong

relationships with stakeholders and stop the blame game.

Malcolm Sharp is an incumbent. With years of leadership experience on the Board and a family background rich in political controversy, Malcolm states that he is well equipped to help the Board arrive at consensus. He has been in Palos Verdes for 25 years and served as Peninsula Education Foundation president for two years. He will focus on keeping student achievement high, meeting the needs of the whole child and maintaining strict and conservative fiscal responsibility.

Following the presentations by the six School Board Candidates we heard from the two Democratic candidates for RPV City Council.

Jim Knight said he has the core values of improving the community he lives in and preserving the quality of life, including open space, neighborhood compatibility, and a low crime rate. He has served on the RPV Planning Commission. He does his homework and wants to listen to citizens and explain Council decisions clearly and publicly.

Paul Tetrault said that he is a 27 year resident of RPV with six years on the Planning Commission. He also serves on the committee that considers and determines public uses of PVP Land Conservancy areas. He believes in maintaining a healthy budget reserve through fiscal responsibility, and protecting neighborhoods from overbuilding.

Both Assembly Member Bonnie Lowenthal and State Senator Rod Wright attended the meeting and each said a few words.

## Intensify Your Involvement!

### Join the Board

By Kay Cooperman Jue

The PVP Democratic Club wants you! Consider filling a position on our board.

This is how you can make your mark, have your say, share your ideas and help steer the direction of our club.

Most positions require minimal amounts of your time. The board meets once a month, normally on an evening during the week immediately following the Sunday general membership meetings.

Serving on the board is a good way to get to know other club members better, gain a clearer understanding of the Democratic Party and have fun!

In accordance with our club's by-laws we will hold board elections at our November general membership meeting. So please contact me soon if you'd like to get more involved in the Democratic Club by being on the board. We can discuss which office would work best for you.

My e-mail address is pvedem@yahoo.com and my phone number is (310) 377-3512.

### Report on our local Democratic Headquarters

The Democratic Action Center, the South Bay's only Democratic Headquarters, continues to remain open and active and is intended as a permanent headquarters for our local Democratic community.

Our mission is to provide resources first to Democratic Clubs, volunteers and voters, and then elected Democratic officials and Democratic Candidates. The office is open for organizing and promotion of issues important to local Democrats. We are able to provide: training, voter information, location for meetings, computers, printing services, and other materials needed for local political organizing. But this cannot work without politically active individuals, so if you or anyone you know in the area is interested in becoming more politically active, please let them know that they have opportunities in their local Democratic Club and Headquarters.

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Some of our more recent activities: Health care reform is of course at the top of the list right now, and we have helped organize a number of events to promote progressive health care reform. Not having numerous town hall meetings in our area, we first picked the town hall meeting of Adam Schiff in the Alhambra area as a target of support. Reaching out to MoveOn and Organizing for America members in Schiff's district, we provided them with contact information for local Democratic Households. We used our ability to send mass email blasts and automated phone calls to that area, because we knew anti-health care reform groups were targeting this meeting as well. In the end, some three thousand people attended Schiff's town hall with the majority in our favor.

Locally, we held a vigil for health care reform in Torrance with a hundred participants, and without opposition showing up. We also sent people to Maxine Waters's town hall meeting and that meeting was filled to capacity again without opposition. We also planned a simultaneous vigil and meeting with Senator Feinstein's office. Over one hundred showed up on the street outside Feinstein's office in west LA, they held up sign's for the public option while a smaller group met with the Senator's staff. At that meeting, Feinstein's staff told us that the Senator would support the public option, but she would not take a strong position until the bill had taken shape.

I want to thank the Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Club for it's continued support of the Democratic Action Center. The club has made a monthly donation of \$50 dollars to our headquarters, and its donations like this that make our office viable and independent.

Thank you,

Tony Hale  
Executive Director  
Democratic Action Center  
Former President  
Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Club  
(310) 536-0093  
Tony@DemocraticActionCener.org

## **Member Commentary: Here's a Way to Change the Course of California's History** **By Kay Cooperman Jue**

It's hard to argue with the commonly held view that our state government is a mess.

From where I sit, Sacramento seems to be a dead-end street where any meaningful reform effort goes to die. It's easy to feel frustrated and helpless as I watch important social safety-net programs fade away, our state universities deteriorate and local cities and school districts struggling to serve their constituencies.

I often wonder what I, as one individual, can do to make things right.

I am happy to report that at this very moment, there is something concrete that concerned individuals can do. There is a movement underway that is screaming for volunteers and donations. And I believe if this movement is successful, it will go a long way toward improving the logjam that is California government.

The movement surrounds a ballot measure proposed by UC Berkeley linguistics professor George Lakoff for the November 2010 ballot that will return majority rule to the Legislature. He calls it The California Democracy Act.

It's a simple idea, really. Lakoff maintains that Sacramento is dysfunctional because it is undemocratic. It is undemocratic because with the current two-thirds majority requirement, a minority of the Legislature is controlling budget and revenue decisions.

As Lakoff puts it, "One-third plus one – only 34 percent – of either the Assembly or Senate can block the will of the majority until their demands are met. This is undemocratic."

Lakoff wants to bring democracy back to Sacramento by calling for all legislative actions on revenue and budget to be determined by a majority vote. Period.

Many of you may recognize Lakoff's name. He is one of the foremost authorities and the author of several books on the art of framing political messages to win voter support.

This movement is just now getting underway. Here is a chance to get in on the ground floor of an important political effort.

The first step is to fund a poll of California voters, so donations are needed. The poll will help in campaign message strategy and demonstrate support for majority rule. The second step is to help spread the word about returning democracy to Sacramento.

What can you do? First, read Lakoff's article on the Huffington Post at [www.huffingtonpost.com/george-lakoff/ending-minority-rule-in-c\\_b\\_298493.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/george-lakoff/ending-minority-rule-in-c_b_298493.html). And then sign up to help on [www.camajorityrule.com/](http://www.camajorityrule.com/)

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Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Club  
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# Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Club

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

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310 377-7833

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

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Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_  Renewal  New Member

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