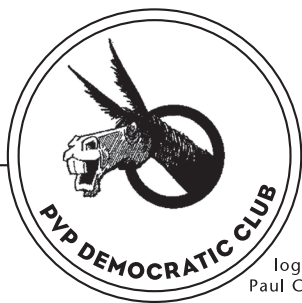


Palos Verdes Peninsula
Democratic Club
Founded 1952



September 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

SEPTEMBER MEETING:

Sunday, Sept. 20, 2:30-4:30 p.m.
Community Room, Peninsula
Center Library, 701 Silver Spur
Road, RHE

FEATURED SPEAKERS: Candidates
running for PVP school board, library
board and RPV City Council

October meeting:
Save the date!
Sunday, Oct. 18, 2:30-4:30 p.m.
Peninsula Center Library
Program: TBA

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September Meeting to Feature Candidates Running in PVP Elections By Barbara Dye

Three local elections – all nonpartisan – are on the horizon and during this month's Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Club meeting, you'll hear from some of the candidates vying for your vote.

We'll gather at the Peninsula Center Library's Community Room on Sunday, Sept. 20, beginning at 2:30 p.m. The address is 701 Silver Spur Road in Rolling Hills Estates.

The meeting will focus on the three seats up for election on the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District Board of Education. Six candidates – including two incumbents – will appear on the Nov. 3 ballot. Those accepting our invitation will participate in a candidates-forum format, giving club members an opportunity to listen to and ask questions of those seeking to serve.

We've also invited candidates running for two seats on the Rancho Palos Verdes City Council and two seats on the Palos Verdes Library District Board of Trustees to stop by and say a few words.

Choosing the people to run our cities, schools and libraries is more important than ever, with our financially troubled state government continually eyeing local coffers as potential ATMs. As Democrats we have a vested interest – even in non-partisan races such as these – in identifying candidates who share our values and who can keep the party's leadership pipeline flowing.

We hope you'll join us for this terrific opportunity to brush up on the local issues and ask questions to help you decide which candidates to support in November.

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PVP Club Member Hans Grellmann is Honored at Roosevelt Awards Dinner



Club Vice President Hans Grellmann, with his wife Annerose, displays one of many certificates of recognition bestowed on him at the Roosevelt Awards Dinner. Photo by Jean McDonald

By Kay Cooperman Jue

Our club's first vice president, Hans Grellmann, was among 54 men and women named Democrats of the Year at the Los Angeles County Democratic Party's Roosevelt Awards Dinner held last month at the Radisson Hotel at LAX.

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Nine club members joined honoree Hans Grellmann and his wife Annerose at this year's Roosevelt Awards Dinner. Not pictured, Shuja Oberoi.

PVP Democratic Club members and guests filled a table plus two additional seats to show our support for Hans, who is one of the club's most active members. Among other things, Hans mans the club's table at the Peninsula Center farmer's market and oversees the entire PVP precinct operation during election years in addition to serving as vice president and volunteering in leadership roles for recent Congressional campaigns.

Every year the LA County Party honors a man and woman from each Assembly District within the county and recognizes them at the Roosevelt dinner.

August Meeting Report: Our Broken Healthcare System

By Darlene Loiler

At our August 16th meeting we ate popcorn and watched the movie Health, Money and Fear, which showed some of the many ways that our American health system is broken.

Americans pay an average of \$7000 per person per year while persons in other advanced nations pay only \$3500. Yet people in those other nations live longer, healthier lives.

One problem is the way that doctors are paid. Doctors are now paid not by their

results, but by the number of procedures which they order. Therefore both profit and fear of possible lawsuits motivate them to order many unnecessary tests. Taking the time to listen to their patients' concerns and answer their questions is vital to patients care, but is time consuming and unpaid. Ordering procedures takes very little time and is well paid.

Another problem is that there are too many specialists and not enough general practitioners. GP's, the gatekeepers and the doctors closest to patients, are paid far less than the specialists. Many GP's are not paid enough to pay off their student loans.

The cost of drugs is another huge expense. Americans spend approximately \$222 billion on drugs each year. The drug companies like to say that we pay more because we have the best research and development in the world. However, only 32 billion of the 222 billion goes to R & D. 16 % of the 22 billion goes to the drug companies themselves as profit and a full 71% is spent on marketing. Their marketing often

Nancy Gomez Speaking at the August Meeting



Photo by David Hall

creates a need for a drug by targeting mild problems in otherwise healthy people and convincing them that they need a new drug. \$48 billion is not accounted for at all.

Administrative costs of insurance company procedures are another huge expense. The single payer system would save 25% of our outrageous costs. Not only does single payer cut out the huge profits and advertising budgets of insurance companies, but its simplified system is easier and less expensive to administer. Investor owned hospitals like to call themselves more efficient. They are not. They charge far more than general hospitals for what is often substandard care. VA hospitals work far better at far less cost. Their patient satisfaction level is 80%.

End of life care also raises expenses. Because so few people have made out a living will where they specify what procedures they want under different circumstances, many people are subjected to expensive, ineffective and

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PVPDC Group at the August Meeting



Photo by David Hall

even painful procedures that they would not have chosen. Many never learn about the kind and tender care that they could receive in the less expensive hospice care.

Nancy Gomez then spoke to us about what we can do to help bring about this needed reform. She urged us to read the summary of the proposed bills and promised to send us more information by e-mail. She also asked us to call and write not just to our own senators and representative, but to as many more as we can. So far the conservatives are out-calling and out-writing us. These calls and letters are counted and they do make a difference.

She also reminded us to use the information that we learn to convince friends and neighbors about the importance of passing this legislation this year. Inaction is not an option. Our broken health care system now bankrupts many families and will bankrupt our country if we do nothing.

Member Commentary: A Wrong Turn For Sure
By Adrian Tatum

Due to the financial straits many California residents find themselves in, state Senate Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg asked that his colleagues join him in an empathetic gesture of accepting

a 5 percent salary cut. All agreed, save two knuckleheads – a Republican and a Democrat.

The latter one, who represents most of the people reading this newsletter, had the following comments:

His salary – even though paid by California taxpayers—is his “personal business,” which he doesn’t discuss.

The salary reduction, he continued, is only a gimmick. “[I]t’s not like it would close the budget gap. I made a personal decision about the handling of my money and I don’t make those decisions for political advantage ... I have never been much of a follower. If all the senators jumped into the river, would I be expected to do so as well?”

Who would have thought that the arrogance of power could command such poetry!

But another question comes to mind: Is it too early to say “I told you so?”

For this kind of behavior dovetails nicely with much that has been displayed previously.

When the giver of the foregoing pearls of wisdom “served” in the California Assembly, he proved to be a tool of the energy interests. As chair of the Assembly’s Committee on Utilities

and Commerce, he proposed “a straight-out bailout” of Southern California Edison that would, according to the L.A. Weekly, “simply pass on the cost of a bailout to consumers with no state purchase of assets.”

Similarly, he was no friend of renewable energy. Not surprisingly, just prior to being termed out of the Assembly, our leader “sought an appointment ... from President George W. Bush to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission,” according to the L.A. Weekly article.

Yes, the same body that in essence told California “FERC you” when we sought regulatory relief from the shenanigans of Enron and the like.

On the subject of gun control, this public representative has been known as the NRA’s “go-to guy” while serving in the Assembly.

A year ago, this senatorial district was victim of more than a million dollars of campaign cash from interests backing the energy and tobacco industries, gun-nut organizations, and insurance companies. And this was in the Democratic primary, and guess what? The nefarious forces got their way.

So, look out, folks: the insensitivity to constituents is doubtless evidence of more interesting political activity to come.

If the kind of deeds described herein before are not deathly wrong, I don’t want to be wright.

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Pressing Issues Facing the PVPUSD
By Dora de la Rosa - School board member

- Budget – What can school districts do in light of their reliance on the state budget?
- Student achievement data – How to best use this information. Should it be used to evaluate teacher performance?
- Student achievement – How to ensure our students remain competitive in light of budget cuts.
- Our bond program – How do we maximize resources?
- Fiscal management – Should we spend down the district’s reserves to protect educational programs?

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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 _____

***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