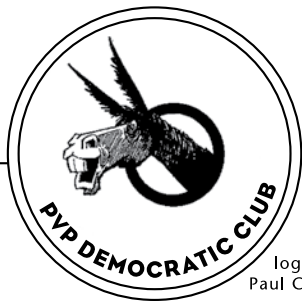


Palos Verdes Peninsula
Democratic Club
Founded 1952



March 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

March Membership Meeting

March 15th - 2:30 pm - Peninsula Library

WE BEGIN the first part of our new lecture series "The Economy and the Peninsula."

SPEAKERS :

ANDREA VONA, Executive Director of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy and

DAVID ALLGOOD, the Southern California Director for the California League of Conservation Voters

April 19th - 2:30 pm Peninsula Library -

Photo by Mary Meade



Club members enjoyed hearing State Controller John Chiang speak

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Report of February Meeting

We know the saying "It's an ill wind that blows nobody good", and that was certainly the case at the February Democratic Club Meeting. We were looking forward to hearing Assemblyman Ted Lieu, who was going to tell us about the issues before the California Assembly. But because of those issues, Assemblyman Lieu was spending the whole weekend in Sacramento and could not make it to our meeting.

Ted Lieu's friend, John Chiang, had come to the meeting hoping to hear Mr. Lieu. John Chiang is the California State Controller (the person who takes care of and spends all the State's money), so President Kay Cooperman Jue asked Mr. Chiang if he would give us an update on California's money problems. He agreed, and gave an extremely enlightening talk on the financial problems of the state

and what he is doing to keep the State afloat until more revenue comes in. He spoke in such an easy-to-understand way that we all left feeling much better about California's problems, and I think all of us now have great confidence in the wisdom and abilities of our State Controller. After the talk someone in the audience said "You should run for Governor".

After Mr. Chiang's talk we heard from four candidates for the Community College Board.

Our hospitality chair, Teresa Savo, had prepared homemade cupcakes and coffee for refreshments, which people enjoyed as they stood around and became better acquainted. For those who didn't attend this meeting, you missed a treat.

Kudos for Outgoing Officers

In the February Newsletter we expressed our thanks to Tony Hale, the outgoing president, but we also want to inform our members of the many hours of work of other outgoing officers.

Evelyn Granata, who served as club treasurer for three years, did a terrific job! Because of federal laws pertaining to non-profit organizations such as ours, she was required to make detailed reports monthly of our expenditures and income. If members donated food or money for food, Evelyn had to place a value on the donation and report it as "income". She also had to bank our money and make payments for our P.O. Box. Many of you may not know Evelyn, but she gave a lot of service to the club. When you see her at a meeting, try to say thank you to her.

Other outgoing officers who deserve thanks are Tammy Minion and Jocelyn Wilson. Tammy was our Hospitality Chair. She made coffee, furnished refreshments and the paper goods needed, and then cleaned up afterwards at all of our meetings. Jocelyn Wilson was our Newsletter Editor, which required hours of her time to solicit, edit, proofread the material, and send it all to the printer. Sometimes she didn't receive the material until the last minute and was required to stay up until late hours to "put the paper to bed". Jocelyn resigned as the Newsletter Editor, but has graciously agreed to format it for the current Newsletter Chair this year and get it to the printer.

All the rest of last year's officers are still serving on the Board, but you don't have to wait until they are out of office to appreciate their service. Please remember that a successful club does not "run itself", but requires work by all of its officers. When officers are introduced try to remember their faces and thank them from time to time for their work. And if you would like to help, please let any one of the Board members know of your willingness and you will be contacted and signed up for a job.

Energy Efficiency Is The Way To Go.

After doing an extensive study Calpirg (California Public Interest Group) concluded that investments in nuclear power would be poorly spent. They found that energy efficiency can deliver five times the energy savings that a nuclear power plant would produce.

Recommended Reading

Making War - By Dr. Robert Borman

Summary by Ruth McGrew

Some people believe all wars are wrong, but the dominant school of thought in the U.S. is that war is morally permissible, but only under certain conditions. The criteria for conducting a "moral war" are as follows.

1. Just Cause:

This criterion means that you have to be fighting on the right side. You can't be helping an aggressor gobble up his neighbor. You have to be on the side of the innocent victim (assuming there is one.)

2. Competent Authority

The armed conflict is authorized by the appropriate lawful authorities.

3. Right Intention

War may be justified for the protection of human rights or defense against actual or threatened actions against human life.

4. Last Resort

Military action is not taken until all peaceful alternatives to deter or reverse aggression have been exhausted.

5. Probability of Success

War cannot be justified unless you have the probability of winning. It may be noble to sacrifice one's life in a false attempt to save another's life, but it is not noble to sacrifice the lives of others, (including one's enemies) in a war one has little prospect of winning. (eg. Vietnam and Iraq)

6. Proportionality of Goals

This criterion requires that the goals to be achieved outweigh the costs of war. All costs are to be considered, including money, resources, human life, suffering, broken relationships, and energy.

7. Proportionality of Means

It is not moral to wage war with means which cause more damage than they prevent. If this is not possible then it is immoral to enter the war

in the first place. One military means for which it is difficult to conceive any justifying context is the nuclear weapon.

8. Discrimination

This oft-violated criterion requires that non-combatant immunity be preserved. The direct targeting of civilian populations has always been held to be immoral, and it still is.

It is easy to see that if all eight of the above criteria were honestly applied by governments, nations would never go to war. This leads us to conclude that differences between nations should always be solved through diplomacy and negotiation.

The Next and Future Programs

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Club is pleased to introduce a new series of lectures on "The Economy and the Peninsula." The series of Sunday afternoon meetings will focus on different topics. Each topic will explore how it impacts the economy and how the actions of the state and federal government will affect our area. Meetings are held on the third Sunday of the month at the Palos Verdes Peninsula Library Community Room at 2:30 pm.

The March 15th meeting will be the first in the series. Andrea Vona, Executive Director of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy, will speak on "The Economy and the Environment" and will talk about current conservation projects underway on the Peninsula, including those that have been suspended by the state's bond situation. At the same meeting David Allgood, the Southern California Director for the California League of Conservation Voters, will talk about current issues in conservation policy, including the impacts of these policies on So. California.

Mr. Allgood is the President of the Board of the Coalition for Clean Air, and immediate past president of the L. A. League of Conservation Voters.

The April 19th meeting of the PVP Dem. Club will feature Judy Mitchell, Mayor of Rolling Hills Estates and President of the League of California Cities, and Larry Clark, Mayor of Rancho Palos Verdes and a Coastal Commissioner, discussing the impact of the economic situation on local government.

For more information contact Kay Cooperman Jue at pvedem@yahoo.com

What Change Would We Choose?

By Hans Grellmann

Let's be idealistic for a moment. What would "change" look like if we could choose it?

We would choose equality of opportunity for all, affordable health care for everyone, a sustainable economy, respect for the environment. We would choose to reduce the debt our children will inherit.

Equal opportunity means an adequate minimum wage, progressive tax policies, opportunity for workers to join together in unions, and access to a good education for all.

Affordable health care means achieving health outcomes equal to those in other advanced countries, taking the profit motive out of the health care system and building a system that covers all citizens.

A sustainable economy means controlled capitalism. Unfettered capitalism has always meant that the unscrupulous and the greedy are able to enrich themselves at the expense of the rest of us. This is a democracy and we can choose to share the wealth our economy produces.

Respect for the environment means reducing our impact on our planet to a level that can be sustained. We must stop taking so much that what is left for our children is less and less for each succeeding generation. We must stop changing the environment in ways that risk severely worsened living conditions in the future.

Not leaving our children a mountain of debt means never going back to the fool's paradise of living large on credit that characterized the 1920's and the first years of this century. When our economy recovers, living within our means and debt reduction must be a high priority.

There is the big question of how to pay for these objectives. There is a part of the federal budget that has not been mentioned yet; the so-called "defense" budget. This too we would choose to change.

Since 1941, the United States has been continuously engaged in, or mobilized for, war. U.S. military spending is currently 47 percent of the world's total. Our military leaders insist on gold-plated weapons systems, many designed to counter threats that don't exist. President Eisenhower warned us about the military-industrial complex. This is a huge self-sustaining money-consuming machine generating immense profits for powerful interests. We have seen that if we have a powerful military force, it will be used, as it was by Cheney/Bush in Iraq. We would choose to get rid of the false notion that every problem has a military solution.

We would choose to drastically reduce our military expenditures. We can then address the many domestic problems our country faces and we would make the world safe from US military aggression.

President Obama has promised to bring many of the changes mentioned above. But he has not said anything about reducing the defense budget. Military contractors form a powerful lobby. It is up to us as citizens to provide the counter-force to that lobby. Let us join together and lobby our new President to reduce our imperial army to what the founders of our republic envisioned, a defense force.

Most of all, we would choose peace, not war.

Facts on Legislators' Ignorance.

In the 2009 Members Report put out by Project Vote Smart, an organization devoted to gathering information about voting records of the members of Congress and the Senate, gave the following information.

The Washington Post reported on a study by the Intercollegiate Studies Institute. The study found that 27% of our elected representatives could not identify a right or freedom guaranteed by the First Amendment, 43% did not know what the Electoral College does and 46% didn't know that the U.S. Constitution gives Congress the power to declare war but the President is NOT given this power.

Evidence of governance by ignorance was most evident when this civics literacy report stated, "Elected officials scored slightly lower than the general public; with an average score of 44% by legislators as compared to 49% by the general public."

The number of congressional candidates willing to provide the people with issue positions has now plummeted to 41%, a 30% drop since 1996. As a leader of my own party once told me, "it is not our job to educate, it is our job to win."

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Palos Verdes Peninsula
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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

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