

Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Club

Founded 1952



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Paul Conrad

June 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

JUNE MEETING:

NEW TIME: Thursday, June 18, 7 p.m.

NEW PLACE: Pacific Unitarian Church,
5621 Montemalaga Drive, Rancho
Palos Verdes.

FEATURED SPEAKERS: Assemblywoman
Bonnie Lowenthal and State Sen. Rod
Wright.

GUEST OF HONOR: former
Assemblywoman Betty Karnette

JULY MEETING:

Save the date! Sunday, July 19, 4
p.m.

PROGRAM: Our West Basin Municipal
Water District representative, Ron
Smith, speaking about California's
water crisis

LOCATION: Private home in Palos
Verdes Estates

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PVP Democrats to Honor Betty Karnette and Hear Legislative Report from Lowenthal and Wright

Wondering exactly what is going on in
Sacramento these days?

We'll find out from our two legislative
representatives at this month's meeting,
which we've scheduled at a new time –
Thursday, June 18, beginning at 7 p.m. – and
at a new location, Pacific Unitarian Church,
5621 Montemalaga Drive in RPV.

We'll also pay tribute to Betty Karnette,
who represented the Palos Verdes Peninsula
in Sacramento for many years. Please plan
to attend and help us say thank you to Betty
for her years of service to our area.

We've asked Assembly member Bonnie
Lowenthal and State Senator Rod Wright
to report on California's horrific financial
situation, including the status of budget
negotiations and the prospects for draconian
budget cuts in the state.

Then the program will focus on our past
Assemblywoman, who was termed out of
office last year.

Before entering politics, Karnette was a
classroom teacher for more than 30 years,
teaching math and science to students in the
Los Angeles Unified School District. In 1992
in an upset victory, she defeated incumbent
Republican Assemblyman Gerald Felando,
who had held the seat for 14 years. She
served one term, and then was defeated by
Republican Steve Kuykendall, who received
a last-minute contribution of \$125,000 from
Phillip Morris.

Betty did not give up, and in 1996 she was
elected to the 27th Senate District, where she
served two terms. The senate districts were
modified after the 2000 election, taking Palos
Verdes out of her district, but she continued
to be attentive to the Peninsula even though
technically she did not represent us.

After she was termed out of the state
senate in 2004, Betty was elected to two
more terms in the Assembly, representing the
54th District, which includes the Peninsula.

Some of Betty's legislative accomplishments
include:

- Removing cop-killer ammunition and
firearms from California streets and
neighborhoods.
- Helping enact the Amber Alert to rescue
abducted children.
- Authoring landmark legislation requiring
that voters be able to review the political
contributions received by candidates for
public office (SB 49).
- Authoring legislation allowing the use of
"battered woman syndrome" to be used in
defense of those convicted of killing abusive
spouses (SB 799).
- Fighting to improve oceanic environmental
conditions by creating the Aquatic Invasive
Species Council within the Department of
Fish and Game (SB 1573).
- Helping enact legislation to aid economic
development in cities located along the
Alameda Corridor rail system (SB 653).

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• Directing and assisting in development of a statewide study to improve transportation conditions linked with gateways for global trade.

We've invited our friends in the San Pedro Democratic Club to attend. We hope you'll join us for this important and festive evening program that will take us down memory lane as well as help us to understand what the future holds for our embattled state.

PVP Democratic Club Vice President is Honored

Hans Grellmann



Congratulations are in order for our own first vice president, Hans Grellmann, selected as the L.A. County Democratic Party's 2009 Democrat of the Year for the 54th Assembly District. The honor recognizes Hans' hard work and dedication to the party at the grassroots level.

He and other honorees of assembly districts throughout the county will be feted at the annual Franklin & Eleanor Roosevelt Dinner, scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 9, at the Radisson Hotel near LAX.

Each assembly district delegation to the County Democratic Central Committee nominates a male and female Democrat of the Year. The full committee approved the nominations at its May meeting.

"Palos Verdes Democrats have known for years how instrumental Hans has been in organizing volunteers and building support for party candidates and issues," said club president Kay Cooperman Jue. "Now, Democrats throughout the county will know. He is the heart and soul of our efforts here."

Active in Democratic politics since 2004, Hans has worked tirelessly to build grassroots activism for the party on the peninsula. He has become the face of the party on the Hill, dedicating countless Sunday mornings to manning the Democratic Club's table at the Peninsula Center farmers market, which in turn has helped to build the club's membership and a corps of campaign volunteers.

For the past two federal election cycles, he has almost single-handedly organized precinct efforts throughout the peninsula. And we can't forget the "Dump Dana" committee, born in Hans' living room for the 2006 election and reborn for 2008, that devoted hundreds of volunteer hours to trying to unseat our Republican Congressman.

Finally, with his well-known e-mail list, Hans has made sure his hundreds of contacts are never wanting for progressive reading material.

Hans has served on our club's board for four years. A retired engineer, he and his wife, Annerose, are the parents of three sons and grandparents of two grandsons. Hans has lived in PVE for 36 years.

Stay tuned for more details about the Roosevelt Dinner.

May Meeting Review

Our May meeting was held at the home of Sheila Papayans, who lives on Paseo del Mar in PVE. From the living room of her home one had a panoramic view of the ocean and the shoreline clear up to Malibu.

Each member brought a food donation, and all of it was delicious. The variety ranged from stuffed eggs, cookies,



salads, sandwiches, finger foods and fruit. Wine and sodas were furnished by the club. Teresa Savo had made a "flower" arrangement out of fruit, including pineapple, grapes, and apple "flowers". It was so pretty that we all hesitated to eat the fruit, but we did, and it was delicious.

State Senator Ted Lieu was scheduled to speak, but due to illness he wasn't able to attend. We were sorry not to hear him, but it gave more time to the other scheduled speaker, Dora de la Rosa, a member of the PVP School Board. She gave a very interesting report on the schools, and gave an account of the financial problems which are a result of the downturn in the economy. Because a lot of our school moneys are controlled by the State, which is having large budget deficits, she explained what measures the PVP schools will have to take next year in order to live within our school budget.

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Besides being beautiful, the home setting encouraged conversation among the members, which is always a pleasant experience. The timing of the meeting (from 4 to 6 PM,) enabled everyone to get home before dark. We were all grateful to Sheila Papayans for hosting the meeting. Those of you who were unable to attend missed a fun and informative afternoon.

An Organization for Activists

A group called "Organizing for America" has been formed and is dedicated to bringing about the changes people fought for during the last election. The mission statement of the group, (known for short as OFA), is:

1. To train volunteers to bring about change in their communities.
2. To grow and strengthen the grassroots movement.
3. To support the agenda of President Obama on education, health care, and clean energy.

Jean McDonald, one of our PVP Democratic Club members, recently attended a meeting of OFA and reported that it was a very instructive meeting. She learned that individuals and the club as a whole need to answer the following questions if we wish to help effect change in our communities.

1. How can we connect issues in our local communities to our national priorities of health care, clean energy, and education?
2. What resources do we need in our community to help us reach our goals as OFA volunteers?
3. What resources do we have to assist us in reaching our goals?
4. What should the Organizing for America look like by the end of 2009?

Mrs. McDonald says that the OFA gives us a great opportunity to connect with those throughout the nation who want to see President Obama succeed during his presidency. She suggests that we go the website BarackObama.com and join this group.

PVPDC Officers for 2009 - Contact Info

President: Kay Cooperman Jue,
pvedem@yahoo.com

1st VP; Hans Grellmann
310 373-3066

2nd VP: Barbara Dye
310 832-2564

Recording Secretary: Mary Meade
310 377-6108

Corresponding Secretary:
Sheila Papayans
310 373-7978

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

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Rolling Hills Est. Ca 90274

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Paul Conrad



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 & 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

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