



The Official Publication of ACT  
P. O. Box 40074, (626) 795-2798

Volume 47  
Number 1  
January, 2019

Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer

## Democrats to Meet 41st Assembly District Election Meeting

Sunday, January 27, 2019

at

United Food and Commercial Workers, Local 1428,

705 W. Arrow Highway, Claremont, CA

(on Arrow Highway west of Indian Hill Blvd.)



The doors open at 10 a.m.; candidate speeches begin at 10:30 a.m.; registration starts at 11 a.m. and ends at 1 p.m. You don't have to stay the entire time; you may leave after you have registered and voted if you wish. Parking is free. Registered Democrats are urged to attend this important meeting.

Assembly District Election Meetings (ADEM) are held every January in odd-numbered years to elect 7 men and 7 women to represent their Assembly District to the Democratic State Central Committee. Any registered Democrat in a given Assembly District votes for these 14 representatives in that Assembly District.

Since many of us are registered in the 41<sup>st</sup> AD (Chris Holden's AD) we have listed information for that district. For more information about all candidates and ADEMs other than the 41<sup>st</sup> AD visit <https://www.cadem.org/our-party/adem/elections>.



### 41st ADEM Candidates Recommended

At our January 10 meeting the ACT Steering Committee voted to recommend supporting Arroyo Democratic Club (ADC) members Jess

Rivas, Teresa Lamb Simpson, Joanne Wendler and Tim Wendler in the 41<sup>st</sup> AD January 27 balloting for representatives to the State Democratic Central Committee.

## Minimum Wage Campaign Needs Your Phone Calls

The next round in the effort to continue the Pasadena's increase in the minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2020 is imminent. In 2016, when the Pasadena City Council voted unanimously to raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour by July 1, 2020, it also voted for a "pause" so that the impact of the Pasadena's minimum wage increases could be assessed.

The Pasadena City Council will hear the results of two economic studies on Monday, February 11, one by UCLA economist Edward Leamer and the other by Cal Berkeley economist Michael Reich. The studies will report on the financial impact that raising the minimum wage has had on the local economy.

ACT members voted overwhelming in 2015 to support the ordinance raising Pasadena's minimum wage in five steps to \$15 an hour. I am encouraging all ACT members to call Mayor Tornek (an ACT member) and their City Council member and urge them to vote YES on the last two minimum wage step increases.

Since enacted in 2016, there have been three annual increases in Pasadena's minimum wage that have benefited thousands of individuals and families who live and work in Pasadena.

Pasadenans Organizing for Progress (POP!) Co-chair Kim Douglas has met with many low-income workers. "Workers often describe to me how the additional income has changed their families' lives," she said. "They struggle less to meet their basic needs and have more money to spend in our city which helps the economy continue to grow."

Douglas continued, "We shouldn't just measure the minimum wage's impact on business and employment. We should also look at wage in-

creases in terms of improving the lives of local families and helping them to pay the rent which keeps skyrocketing. While it's true higher wages help to buy necessities, what's also important is higher wages improve learning outcomes for low-income students in our schools by reducing hunger and by allowing them to stay in their homes rather than face eviction and displacement."

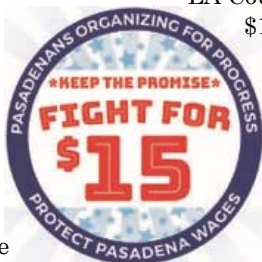
Currently, Pasadena, Los Angeles City and LA County, are all on a similar path to reach \$15 per hour by 2020. If the City Council votes NO in February, local low-wage workers will not get a raise until January, 2021. That's when the State of California minimum wage increases to \$14 per hour. The State of California will not reach \$15 per hour until 2022.

However, the State's longer time frame to reach \$15 per hour was set up with smaller regional and local economies in mind, such as those in the central valley and in northern California. Meanwhile, all signs suggest that the LA County economic recovery since the 2008- 2009 recession has boosted employment and business prospects.

Pasadenans Organizing for Progress (POP!) and the National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON), which is now headquartered in Pasadena, are once again mobilizing the coalition of low wage workers, leaders in the faith based and non-profit communities, as well as small business supporters along with local progressive activists, to call on members of the City Council to vote YES on continuing with the last two steps of minimum wage increases to \$14.25 per hour on July 1, 2019 and \$15 per hour on July 1, 2020.

POP! and NDLON are organizing a 100-vehicle "Pasadena Workers Justice Parade" to protect Pasadena's minimum wage Ordinance,

*Continued on page fourteen*



## My Two Cents

By Ron Garber



We've just come off a very successful election where we've flipped the House with a 40-seat pick up. While I'm gratified, I'm not as comforted as I thought I would be. You see I knew it was a long shot for us to also flip the Senate because the way it set up we would have had to virtually run the table. I figured the 2020 outlook would have to be much, much brighter but now I'm not so sure. While many more Republican incumbents are up for reelection than are Democrats, most of them are in what would be considered safe seats. I do see possibilities to flip Maine and Arizona and possibly one or two more, but I realistically don't think we can hold Alabama which was a wonderful special election pickup but a fluke.

On the other hand I'm much more sanguine about holding the forty seats gained in the House because, 1. demographics are continuing to change for the better in our direction in most of those districts, 2. our candidates will be running as incumbents, 3. I doubt they will have other Democrats challenging them in the primaries, 4. they figure to be well funded which may even discourage Republicans from fielding top candidates, 5. it's a Presidential election year and Democrats are more likely to come out and vote and finally, 6. we should have a very fine Presidential candidate who will hopefully have long coat tails. We may even add a few seats.

Back to demographics, we lost a Senate race in Texas and Governorships in Georgia and Florida but came very close with good progressive candidates. All 3 of those candidates are dynamic and young and will be back. As of 2015 more American babies have been born to women of color than to white mothers, while

at the same time more than half of all Americans who have passed on were white. Sometime between 2024 and 2032 the States of Georgia, Texas and Arizona will become minority/majority states like California and Hawaii already are. Florida continues to welcome those migrating from Puerto Rico who already are U.S. citizens and in this last election passed a referendum which will restore voting rights to most of those who have successfully completed their prison terms and probation periods. All of this bodes well for Democratic (big D) politics in the future.

As I write this the Government shutdown is two weeks along with no end in sight. It occurs to me that this could be a record setting shutdown because Trump is convinced that he can't back down without losing his base and his base is all he has, while Pelosi and all the House Democrats were just elected with a mandate to NOT fund a wall, which leaves them no way to back down.

How could this impasse be settled with both sides being able to save face? Two thoughts; 1. pass budgets for all agencies except Homeland Security which leaves leverage for negotiation, or 2. add other issues (trade offs) like the plight of the 'Dreamers' which would provide victories for both sides. I doubt that either of these would satisfy all constituencies on either side but enough would be mollified for us to at least move on.

– Ron Garber



## From Tim & Joanne Wendler

Dear fellow Democrats –

We need your votes on Sunday, January 27!

We have been joined in our efforts by 12 other great candidates, unified in our commitment to support our Democratic party in taking our country back (please vote for all 14 of us). (Slate cards will be available at the event.)

## Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Sunday, January 13.

Last month the Secretary of State released the final, certified vote totals for California, and the results were surprisingly impressive. Over 12.7 million voters cast ballots, generating a 64.5% turnout among registered voters. That's the highest turnout percentage for a mid-term election since 1982, and a full 22 percentage points higher than the turnout in 2014. Nearly 2/3 of all ballots cast were sent by mail, continuing the trend of recent years away from in-person voting and towards voting by mail.

This has enormous implications for how campaigns plan their activity. In the good old days, the critical climax of the campaign was the GOTV effort, starting the weekend before and continuing through Election Day. But in 2020, the campaign will practically be over by then. In some ways, it will simplify GOTV – many fewer voters will remain as targets for

the GOTV effort. (The Registrar publishes daily lists of all those voters whose absentee ballots have been received and logged in – even though the ballots are not counted until the polls close – so campaigns know who has voted and who has not.) On the other hand, all the efforts at voter contact and persuasion will have to start much earlier – basically at the beginning of October. Often, that is before some of the Presidential Debates, and certainly, for local candidates, before many of the community forums that local groups often sponsor in the weeks before the election to help voters make up their minds, and it is generally before newspapers and major media make their editorial endorsements.

Further complicating campaign plans for 2020 will be the fundamental changes in our voting system which the Registrar is planning to implement. We will be moving to a combination of mail ballots and voting centers, and the traditional precinct polling places will be eliminated.

Every voter will automatically receive a vote by mail ballot about one month before the election (which is the same timing currently used for mailing absentee ballots). In addition, there will be voting centers throughout the County open during the 11 days prior to the election. Any voter in the County will be able to go to any voting center in the County and vote, either with or without his or her absentee ballot. There will even be an app for your cell phone, allowing you to mark your ballot on your phone and scan in the encoded results, to avoid having to spend time marking the ballot at the polling station.

Further, these voting centers will offer same day registration. Thus, anyone who is not registered, or who has moved and needs to update their registration – or even change their party affiliation – can simply go to any center anywhere in the County, register, and then immediately vote.

As of 10 days before the election, the plan is to have at least one voting station for every 30,000 voters; but from the weekend before Election Day through Election Day, they aim to have one voting station for every 7,500 voters. Existing precincts have about 1,500 voters each. This means there will be one voting station replacing 5 precinct polling places in the days just before the election, but only one station for every 20 precincts in the week prior to that.

That clearly is a major cost savings for the Registrar, reducing locations and reducing the number of poll workers. But the new poll workers will need to be trained on far more complex systems (and the polling stations will need to be staffed for 11 days, instead of just one day). They won't need to have voters sign in on index rosters and they won't need to hand out ballots, but they will have to assist voters in using the new electronic voting systems that, based on the voters' address, will produce a ballot with all the right legislative, county, city, school and special district candidates for that particular voter. The system will ultimately produce a paper ballot that is stored in the ballot box and then counted at the Registrar's headquarters; the electronic systems do not tally votes at the voting station, which eliminates many concerns about potential hacking into the systems. (And the voter gets a paper receipt showing the candidates they voted for.)

In addition to the voting stations, the County will have vote by mail drop boxes distributed around the County, and of course voters can simply return their ballots in the mail (with free postage) as absentee voters are accustomed to doing. The County is actively consulting

with community groups and local governments to determine the best placement for voting centers around the County to maximize convenience and accessibility.

Yet the very ease of registration and voting introduces fascinating challenges for campaign managers. It used to be that, by two weeks before the election, one knew exactly who could vote, and the campaign could focus their efforts on that known universe. Further, one could often make educated guesses about who was likely to vote, based on their having voted in prior elections.

But now, a campaign could bring any person, registered or not, to a voting station and they could vote. So does that change the campaign's strategy or focus? Theoretically, this should increase accessibility and empower those who have been left out of, or felt excluded from, the system. In reality, my guess is that even with these new rules and new systems, those who vote will largely be those who have voted before. Those who haven't voted, or aren't even



on the voting rolls, will be a tough group to attract to the polls.

Now, there is some evidence to the contrary. Data from the mid-terms show an impressive surge in voting – defined as people who didn't vote in 2014 but did vote in 2018. However, most of those people did in fact vote in 2016, so they are not so much new voters as lazy voters who became less lazy, voters who had typically voted in Presidential elections but not in mid-term elections. We saw that phenomenon very clearly in 2010 and 2014, where Democrats lost seats around the country after winning the Presidency and Congressional seats in 2008 and 2012, as the turnout on our side dropped due to those “lazy” voters.

With the emphasis on vote by mail, it's not clear how the new system will impact, or accommodate, homeless or transient voters. That will be an interesting challenge for the Registrar's outreach team and for campaigns. But with every voter automatically receiving a vote by mail ballot, it turns the entire campaign into an absentee ballot sweep operation, which changes the entire focus of precinct walking and voter contact efforts. With this new system, every voter contact will need to be informed by the latest data as to which voters have, or have not yet voted, and focused toward getting the voter to complete and seal that absentee ballot and put it in the mail. Technically, campaign workers should not "harvest" absentee ballots – that is, collect the ballots and bring them to a voting station. But that rule will be hard to enforce, as campaign workers could simply drop them in the nearest mail box and no one would be any the wiser. But the recent election in North Carolina's 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District shows the huge potential for fraud surrounding absentee ballots – from collecting and purposefully holding ballots from those suspected of voting for the "other guy", to altering ballots not sealed, to simply falsifying the signature on the outside of the ballot and filling out someone else's ballot. Fortunately, California has not seen any significant electoral fraud of that sort, but the new system will present opportunities for abuse as well as opportunities for increased voter participation and empowerment.

– Jon Fuhrman



## The Phoenix Wants You

Please share a high-resolution photo (of you) with *Phoenix* readers. Send it to Chuck at [hains27@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hains27@sbcglobal.net) for inclusion in an upcoming issue.

## One Thousand Vote Centers Coming to LA County

LA County residents will have an easier time voting in California's March 2020 primary after the Registrar-Recorder's Office installs Ballot Marking Devices in 1,000 Vote Centers.

The system upgrades and expanded voting options were inspired by Colorado's efforts, which saw an impressive voter turnout in recent elections.

Now in the public review process, the county's Voting Solutions for All People project plans to offer residents 1,000 location choices over an 11-day period prior to and including Election Day. A person living in Pasadena but working downtown LA, for example, can vote either place; the computer program will retrieve her home precinct and corresponding ballot.

The upgraded technology promises cyber-security and convenience, and works in 13 languages.

The Vote Center tally system will then use image processing for a more transparent counting process. The companion Get Out the Vote option, Vote by Mail, had its computer program upgraded in time to tally ballots in the November 2018 elections.

Meanwhile, residents in our San Gabriel Valley are adding and reviewing location options for local Vote Centers. If you have an accessible location recommendation (Pasadena may be allotted 10-20 locations), go soon to [vsap.lavote.net](http://vsap.lavote.net) and enter an address or click on the map and tell the county what makes it an ideal location.

For more information on the portal call 213 623-1443 #2108.



## In Memoriam - Bob McBride

We are sorry to note the death of longtime ACT member Robert C. McBride on November 7, 2018 at age 92. Bob was predeceased by his wife Alberta.

He taught English at Union El Monte High School for 37 years. He will be remembered as a strong and caring educator.

We send our sympathy to sons John and Richard and to grandchildren Shawn and Jennifer.



## In Memoriam – Calvin Schoonhoven

We are saddened by the December 2018 death of Calvin Schoonhoven. He was 87. Calvin and Arlene, longtime ACT members, moved to Covington, Tennessee after retiring.



Calvin graduated from Fuller Theological Seminary in 1958 and taught at Fuller most of his adult life. He was the author of *The Wrath of Heaven* and *The God Files*.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Arlene.



## ACT and ADC Meeting Calendar for 2019

Our meetings will continue to be on the first Thursday of the month, with just a few exceptions\*. Meetings are called to order at 7:30 p.m. after time for socializing beginning at 7 p.m.

Thursday, February 7  
 Thursday, March 7  
 Thursday, April 4  
 Thursday, May 2  
 Thursday, June 6  
 Thursday, July 11\*

## Our Next Meeting

The next meeting of ACT and the Arroyo Democratic Club is on Thursday, February 7 at the Altadena home of Jeanne and Fred Register, 2438 Highland Avenue, Altadena (between Altadena Drive and Mendocino Avenue. Socializing will begin at 7 p.m. The meeting will be called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Our program will be "**Constituent Services**" presented by **Kristi Lopez from Senator Anthony Portantino's office**. It should be a real learning experience for us all!

We hope to see you there. Everyone is welcome.



## 2019 Officers Elected

(The following members were elected at the January meeting to be officers for 2019. **New Officers** are shown in **bold** type):

### *ACT*

Co-Chairs - **Barbara Paul**, Darla Dyson continues for her 2nd year, Joanne Wendler continues for one more year

Recording Secretaries - Mona Field, Joanne Wendler (back-up)

Corresponding Secretaries - Beth Gertmenian, Monica Hubbard

Treasurer - Ed Washatka continues

### *Arroyo Democratic Club (ADC):*

President – **Tim Wendler**

Vice-President- **Bruce Wright**

Secretaries and Treasurer – the same as ACT

If you are interested in becoming an officer or committee member and thus a member of the ACT Steering Committee, please contact Joanne Wendler at 626 590-1678 or [joannewendler85@gmail.com](mailto:joannewendler85@gmail.com) or Ed Washatka at 310 489-9951 or [ed.washatka@gmail.com](mailto:ed.washatka@gmail.com)

## Progressive Discussion Group

The PDG meets every first and third Friday of the month from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. in the back room of Dupar's Restaurant, 214 S. Lake Ave., in Pasadena. Park in the big lot off Shopper's Lane behind the restaurant.

We said our final thanks and 'goodbyes' to Convener Dale Gronemeier at the last December meeting before he moved away to San Antonio, Texas.

Also at that meeting ACT member Kris Ocker-shauser received PDG's Lifetime Achievement award for her work with the ACLU Pasadena Chapter and as the founder and leader of the Coalition for Increased Civilian Oversight of Pasadena Police (CICOPP). ACT member Ed Washatka was given PDG's Progressive of the Year award for his work with ACT and POP. Congratulations all.

In 2019 Ed Washatka will be the meeting convener, Ron Garber will be in charge of programs, and Monica Hubbard will maintain the list and send meeting reminders.

Contact Ed at [ed.washatka@gmail.com](mailto:ed.washatka@gmail.com),

Ron at [ronagarber@yahoo.com](mailto:ronagarber@yahoo.com),

and Monica at [consulting@mjhubbard.com](mailto:consulting@mjhubbard.com).

Everyone is welcome at PDG meetings. You may order breakfast, coffee, etc., or not. (If you plan to order breakfast, please try to arrive by 8:45 a.m.)



## Welcome New and Returning ACT Members:

Andrea Beal, Pasadena

Jane & Stephen Crane, Pasadena

Robert Nelson and Peggy Renner,  
Pasadena

## Special Thanks to Our Patrons

Kevin Ennis

Dr. Janice Nelson & Douglas Hayes

## ACT's Website

The current online edition (and previous editions) of *The Phoenix* (in color and often with items we couldn't fit into the print edition) are always available on our webpage.

Bruce Wright, our website manager, keeps the site updated with photos, links, and other items of interest to ACT and ADC members. Check it out at: [www.ACTpasadena.org](http://www.ACTpasadena.org).

Bruce wants to hear from you. Contact him with your ideas, photos, or comments, at [brucewright@sbcglobal.net](mailto:brucewright@sbcglobal.net).



## Neighbors Building a Better Altadena

Assemblymember Chris Holden is the speaker for the Saturday, January 26 meeting of Neighbors Building a Better Altadena. He will be giving a legislative update and responding to questions afterwards. Val Zavala will facilitate the Q&A session. Altadena civic organizations will give short updates following the speaker.

What: Neighbors Building a Better Altadena General Meeting

Who: Assemblymember Chris Holden

When: Saturday, January 26. Check-in at 8:45 a.m. Meeting begins at 9 a.m. (Note earlier start time.)

Where: First Presbyterian Church of Altadena, 2775 Lincoln Avenue.  
Parking at Lincoln and Harriet Street, Altadena

We look forward to seeing you on January 26. Questions? Give us a call or send e-mail.

Neighbors Building a Better Altadena  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/altadena>  
[NBBA/](mailto:NBBA/) (626) 344-7806,  
[mail@BuildingABetterAltadena.org](mailto:mail@BuildingABetterAltadena.org)



## Another Voice

**By Hoyt Hilsman, reprinted from  
*The Buffalo News*, 9/11/2018**

He was racist to the core. A raging narcissist and alcoholic, he barely made it through his rambling, bumbling inaugural speech. He believed in white supremacy and did everything he could to deny black Americans the vote. Deeply corrupt, he granted hundreds of presidential pardons in exchange for political support, while his mistress operated a network out of the White House that sold the pardons for cold cash. He fired his secretary of war and his military commanders for opposing his policies, reversing many of the accomplishments of Abraham Lincoln. His name was Andrew Johnson.

If anyone was a prime candidate for impeachment, it was President Johnson. A native of Tennessee, he had sided with the Union in the Civil War, but still had a strong allegiance to the South and southern values. Abraham Lincoln chose Johnson, a Democrat, as his running mate in 1864 (after dumping the sitting vice president, Hannibal Hamlin) in an effort to promote the peaceful reunification of the country. When Lincoln was assassinated, the Republicans in Congress, who held a powerful majority, assumed that Johnson would follow in the footsteps of his predecessor. Nothing could have been further from the truth.

As Johnson fought to block the vote for blacks and restore white supremacist governments in the South, many in the Republican Party were outraged. In February 1868, the House of Representatives adopted 11 articles of impeachment, which included "... bringing disgrace and ridicule to the presidency." Conviction seemed assured, since the Republicans controlled the Senate.

Virtually from the moment of the House vote on impeachment, an all-out campaign of

influence peddling, and even bribery, began. Supporters of the president, including members of his cabinet, established an "acquittal fund" that was used to bribe senators to support Johnson. At the same time, the anti-Johnson faction began promising plum government positions to senators who voted for impeachment.

Amidst widespread and intense public scrutiny (including a public petition to abolish the office of the presidency altogether), the trial muddled through to a conclusion. Thirty-five Senators voted to convict Johnson, while 19 voted for acquittal – one vote short of the required number for conviction. While Johnson served out his term, he was not renominated. In his final days in office, he pardoned all Confederates, including Jefferson Davis himself.

As Johnson's impeachment demonstrates – along with the recent failure to remove President Bill Clinton – the vague constitutional prescription for impeachment, not to mention the temptation for undue political pressure, and even corruption, make impeachment a very steep hill to climb.

*Hoyt Hilsman is a screenwriter who is developing a TV miniseries about the impeachment of Andrew Johnson. Hoyt is also a PCC Board member, UDH President and an ACT member. The above was printed in the Another Voice column in The Buffalo News.*



## Special Thanks to Our Sustaining Members

Mark & Sandra Esensten  
Mary Hayden & Carla Tomaso  
David Hodge  
Monica & Tom Hubbard  
Norman Thomas & Mae Gautier  
Arlene Schoonhoven, Covington,  
Tennessee

**From  
25<sup>th</sup> District  
State Senator  
Anthony  
Portantino**



Dear ACT,

Happy New Year everyone and congratulations to Pasadena on a wonderful Rose Parade and Game. I had a great New Year's Day; I took Bella to the Parade and Sofia to the game. Several floats in the 25th District won awards including Sierra Madre, Burbank, La Canada and South Pasadena, once again exemplifying the tremendous community spirit in the best Senate District in the State.

We are back in session and there is a lot of excitement in Sacramento. Governor Newsom was sworn in last week and has issued his first budget proposal. He is trying to continue the Brown legacy of fiscal caution and initiating some bold new programs. He is proposing a sizable investment in early childhood education and a second year of free community college. The Governor has also indicated that he will be taking a harder position on gun legislation than Governor Brown. I have reintroduced my bill to limit all firearm purchases to one per month. Governor Brown vetoed my bill from last year on the topic. I'm hoping to receive a better reception this year.

In the Senate, I was honored to be re-appointed by Senate Pro Tem Atkins to Chair the Senate Appropriations Committee. I am eager to have a full two-year cycle in this critical position. I enjoyed my time chairing the Budget Sub-committee on Education and I feel proud of the accomplishments I left after two years. Though I was sorry to have lost that post, I will continue to prioritize education during the balance of my time in office. I am

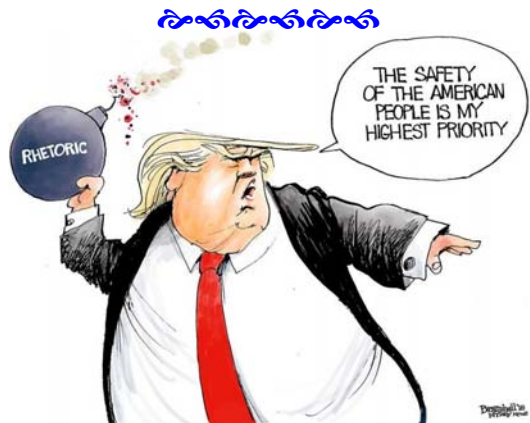
hopeful to bring forth a better plan for how we fund special education which is a very important public education responsibility.

Locally, First District PTA is holding two mental health workshops titled, Youth Mental Health First Aid. Participants will attend an 8-hour training on mental health awareness and first aid. Sadly, there are just too many mental health issues in our communities and we need to ensure that parents, teachers and administrators have as many tools as possible to uncover warning signs and appropriately engage one another for positive outcomes. The workshops are on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at Elliot Middle School and on February 15<sup>th</sup> at the Glendale Civic Auditorium. For more information, contact my district office at [\(818\)409-0400](tel:8184090400).

My deepest respect also goes out to the Martin Luther King Community Coalition for again leading Pasadena's efforts to properly respect the life and legacy of Dr. King and to help educate young people in our area. On Saturday, I was honored to attend the Rekindling the Light of Peace event at Pasadena City Hall hosted by the coalition which is the traditional kickoff event. I'm looking forward to the annual MLK Day program next week!

Respectfully,

– Anthony



**From  
41<sup>st</sup> District  
Assemblymember  
Chris Holden**



Dear ACT Friends,

Happy New Year and I hope you enjoyed the holiday season. After spending much needed quality time with family and friends, I'm ready to continue my efforts to best represent our community.

So far, in addition to my affordable housing and 710 legislation, I introduced a bill to ensure dual enrollment remains available to all California students. Dual enrollment programs benefit a wide range of students with encouraging results including lower dropout rates and lower costs of a college education by decreasing the time and the number of credits that students need to graduate. Most importantly, dual enrollment opens doors of opportunity for kids who may never have thought it possible to go to college.

As Chair of the Utilities and Energy Committee, addressing the aftermath of last year's deadly wildfires will be a top priority for myself, Governor Newsom, and my colleagues in the Legislature. Maintaining a reliable, safe, and affordable utility service for all Californians continues to be our ultimate goal. I will be organizing a town hall early next year and will be sharing the details once they are established.

Last week, Governor Gavin Newsom presented his proposed 2019-2020 Budget and I believe his proposal lays out a balanced and responsible budget that also reflects California's progressive gains in these challenging times. I look forward to working with the Governor and my colleagues in the legislature to expand

our rainy day fund while investing in shared priorities such as education, affordable housing, and public safety.

The Governor proposes continuing the state's commitment to increase early childhood education funding, including funding for universal preschool for all income-eligible four-year-old children. His budget would grow per-pupil funding for K-12 schools to more than \$12,000. He also proposes \$1.4 billion of new investments to support increased enrollment and a continuing tuition freeze at public universities.

His plan to address affordable housing and homelessness offers a great starting point which includes expanding the state tax credits to help spur development of low- and moderate-income housing, and \$500 million in new, one-time General Fund investments for local governments to build emergency shelters and navigation centers.

Lastly, I opened up the nomination process for my annual 41st Assembly District's Women of the Year and Women of Distinction celebration. For 30 years, in recognition of Women's History Month, the Legislature has honored the achievements of women throughout California during the annual Woman of the Year celebration. I invite you to visit my website and nominate a woman who you believe should be honored for her positive impact in our community.

The district's Woman of the Year will be invited to the State Capitol to be introduced on the Assembly Floor and be given a special resolution honoring her contributions to the community and the state. A Women of Distinction from each city in the 41st Assembly District, and the Woman of the Year, will be recognized at my Annual Spring Open House in March. Nomination forms are available at <https://a41.asmdc.org/2019-women-distinction>.

Sincerely,

– Chris R. Holden

## Postcards Work

I just attended “Resistance to Persistence,” a grassroots conference sponsored by Congresswoman Karen Bass’ PAC - Sea Change. Panels included: Perspectives from candidates and their campaigns, Grassroots efforts that helped build the Blue Wave, and How to engage and mobilize voters around the big issues.

While each and every speaker was of great value, it will come as no surprise to those who know me, that I was thrilled with Brian Colker, a pollster with “Code Blue,” who conducted a study intent on learning the effectiveness of 4 types of campaign-ing (Canvassing, Telephoning, Texting and Postcards).

All 4 methods had value and Postcards were more valuable than the Party had predicted especially when used to spur the vote. At the same time phone calling was still highly effective when calls were completed, but 71% of callers not recognizing the phone numbers the calls were coming from, did not answer those calls and each election cycle that percentage is increasing. When respondents were asked which method they preferred being contacted by, postcards beat telephone contact.

Finally, majorities of those receiving postcards said that it increased their tendency to vote and that they shared the contents of the postcards with other household members and/or acquaintances (secondary effect). It's expected that more studies exploring other aspects of postcards will be conducted and I will share them with you as I receive them.

– Ron Garber



## Thanks for Additional Contributions to ACT's Operating & Political Accounts

Dr. Janice Nelson & Douglas Hayes

## Dialogue on Community Policing:

Pasadena City Manager Steve Mermell and newly sworn in Pasadena Police Chief John Perez will join the “Let’s Talk, Let’s Learn” conversation about “Community Policing” on Thursday, February 7 at the Alkebulan Cultural Center at 1435 N. Raymond just north of La Pintoresca Park. Doors open at 6 p.m. The panel discussion moderated by Eshelle Williams and produced by James Farr will begin at 6:30 p.m.

This is the 4<sup>th</sup> in the series of “Let’s Talk, Let’s Learn” conversation between Pasadena Police and the community since June, 2018. The series of conversations, which focus on building better community-police relations, are co-sponsored by the Coalition for Increased Civilian Oversight of Pasadena (CICOPP), the NAACP, the Interdenominational Alliance (IMA), and Pasadenans Organizing for Progress (POP!).



## Is the administration leading us into a new Cold War?

by [John Grula](#), reprinted from the Pasadena Weekly, with permission, 1/3/19

The Trump administration’s recent announcement that it plans to scrap the 1987 Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF), agreed to by then-President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, would be a major step backwards. It threatens to undermine decades of progress on nuclear arms controls and plunge the world into a new arms race. It is reckless, foolish and will destabilize a world already experiencing significant upheavals. This important treaty defused a tense stand-off in Europe, and helped to bring about an end to the Cold War.

The US-Russia relationship is currently precarious, at best. Has it plunged to the depths of the US and Soviet Union’s standoff of the

early 1980s? Not yet, but we're rapidly getting there. And the decision to do away with the INF not only threatens progress on nuclear arms control, but will also create diplomatic chaos in other ways with Russia. The situation in Ukraine and Crimea comes to mind. Even though no solid evidence has yet emerged that Russia interfered in any way with our recent midterm elections, the last thing we need is further agitation with this formidable world power.

The reality is we're now living in a multipolar world. We need to recognize this. Russia has allies that we need to work with to defuse tensions in the Middle East, Europe and elsewhere. Germany, Iran, Iraq, Syria and Turkey are among the most important. We can't ignore these nations and hope to make progress in our efforts to promote world peace. So far, Trump has ostracized or marginalized them, as we have Russia. Not good. If a new Cold War is to emerge, we will probably be badly outnumbered, especially if we continue to burn our bridges with Western European allies, as Trump is doing.

Our relationship with China (also allied with Russia) is also fraught with tensions, as the Trump administration continues to push for tariffs and other economic sanctions against the world's second largest economy. Big mistake. If we are not careful, China is going to eat our lunch (if they are not already), and we will rue the day it became capitalistic. And Russia will aid and abet them. We must not let our arrogance get out of control or a major re-alignment of the world order is in store, and it will not be to our liking.

We are also trying to push around China militarily. Not wise. Among other disputes, there are disagreements about the status of the South China Sea and the Taiwan Strait. China regards Taiwan as a renegade province. There are deep historical reasons for this, which we should not disregard.

We have sailed large naval warships into the South China Sea and the Taiwan Strait on a routine basis. This is very provocative. How would we like it if China sailed major naval vessels into the Gulf of Mexico? We seem to be blind to these contradictions, but they threaten to escalate into something more dangerous.

US warships and attack submarines are armed with highly accurate Tomahawk cruise missiles, some of which are nuclear-tipped, while our warplanes are equipped with surface-to-air missiles that can hit targets hundreds of miles away. China knows this. Let's not push our luck and start trouble.

Finally, the Trump administration is poised to reignite proxy wars common in Latin America and other places during the Cold War. For example, the administration has threatened to cut off millions of dollars in aid to Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador for having trouble stopping immigrants from heading north. These people are fleeing violence and civil war to which our support of the right-wing governments in question contributes.

Further inflaming tensions, White House national security advisor John Bolton has recently accused Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua of being a "troika of tyranny," which regards the US as an "imperialist bully, the *LA Times* reported in November. All of this is reminiscent of George W. Bush's pronouncement of Iran, North Korea and Iraq as being an "axis of evil," and signals the possibility of war. Meanwhile, Bolton embraces the right-wing governments of Columbia and Brazil. Not a good way to win friends and influence people.

Trump, Bolton, and their ilk are leading us down a dangerous path. Maybe now that the Democrats have won back the House of Representatives, disaster can be averted. We can only hope.

### *Minimum Wage, continued*

on Saturday, January 26. Participants will gather around 8:00 a.m. to decorate their cars at the old Kaiser Medical Office Parking Lot at Lake and Villa. Enter the parking lot from Mentor just south of Villa. The parade will depart at 10 a.m. and travel first to City Hall and then through Old Town on Colorado Blvd. There will be a rally at the Job Center at 500 N. Lake before and after the parade. EVERYBODY LOVES A PARADE — JOIN IN and make Pasadena a “City of Raises.”



### **Ron Garber's Letters to the Editors of the LA Times and Pasadena Star News**

#### **Re. An oval office bully's threats, LA Times editorial, Jan. 10**

Past Presidents, be they the most liberal of Democrats or the most conservative of Republicans, have viewed all the citizens of our country as Americans, but President Trump views them specifically as Republicans or Democrats. Forty-six out of fifty-three California House seats are Democratic seats and Clinton's 2016 national plurality margin over Trump can single handedly be attributed to California, hence Trump's threat or perhaps actual order to cut off FEMA funds to California are his way of punishing the state and why, whether correct or not, would he specify that laid off and/or working unpaid Federal Employees are Democrats. Why would it matter what party they are?

— Ron Garber

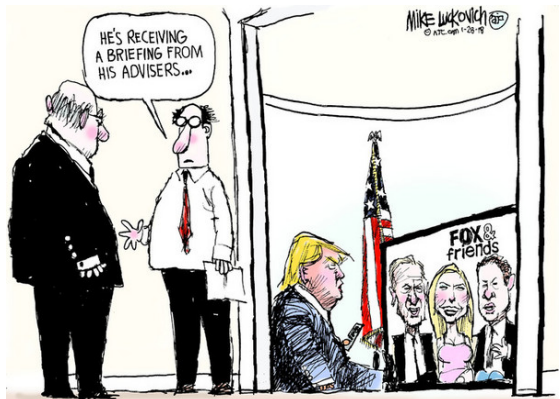


#### **Re. The Decline of Labor Unions, The Star News Editorial, Jan. 10**

While you're not incorrect about public labor unions often being the deciding factor in elections, I'd like to remind you of how this came to be. One of the most pernicious Supreme

Court rulings ever was Citizens' United. That ruling extended first amendment rights (read that as unlimited political contributions) to both corporations and labor unions. The only saving grace of that ruling is that it protected both. They would have been hard pressed to grant more rights to business than to labor. Even though a reversal of that ill conceived ruling would hurt both I doubt you would find many progressives like me who would complain.

— Ron Garber



## 2019 Membership Renewal

It's time to renew your ACT and/or ADC memberships. (Joining both is a real bargain.) You may use the form below or renew online at [www.ACTpasadena.org](http://www.ACTpasadena.org). Or wait and reply to your renewal letter. It will arrive in the next few weeks.

Thank you to everyone who has already renewed. Your generous response is heartwarming!

P.S. If you have any questions about your membership contact Jon Fuhrman at 626-864-5255 or at [jon\\_fuhrman@outlook.com](mailto:jon_fuhrman@outlook.com).



### I'd like to join both groups for one low price! (Checks payable to ACT/ADC)

\$40 Single	\$70 Single Sustaining
\$25 Each additional member per household	\$90 Double Sustaining
\$15 Student or limited income	\$150 Patron
	\$275 Benefactor

### I'd like to join ACT (Checks payable to ACT)

\$35 Single	\$60 Single Sustaining
\$20 Each additional member per household	\$85 Double Sustaining
\$15 Student or limited income	\$125 Patron
\$20 Gift Membership (NEW!)	\$275 Benefactor

### I'd like to join the Arroyo Democratic Club (Checks payable to ADC)

\$35 Single	\$60 Single Sustaining
\$20 Each additional member per household	\$85 Double Sustaining
\$15 Student or limited income	\$125 Patron
	\$275 Benefactor

## Extra Contribution

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Political Account (for endorsed candidates and issues)  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Operating Account (for organizational costs)      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Total enclosed**

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 Name

Home Phone

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 Address

Office Phone

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 City

ZIP

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 Email address

**Mail to ACT, P. O. Box 40074, Pasadena, CA 91114-7074**

Information provided will be available to other members and endorsed candidates upon request.

# Jan Feb

## Calendar

- January 20 UDH Volunteers and Friends  
Sunday  
2-4 p.m. 'Thank You' wine and cheese event at the home of Marilee Marshall and Bruce Wright, 654 S. Madison Ave., Pasadena.
- January 26 "Workers Justice" Car Parade  
Saturday  
8:00 a.m. SE corner of Lake and Villa, Pasadena
- January 27 41st AD ADEM, UFCW 1428,  
Sunday  
10 am - 1 705 W. Arrow Highway, Claremont. See details on front page.
- February 1 Progressive Discussion Group  
Friday  
9-10 a.m. at Dupar's Restaurant, 214 S. Lake Ave. Pasadena. See details inside.  
Also 2/15, 3/1 and 3/15.

- February 7 ACT Steering & ADC Meeting  
Thursday  
7 p.m. at the home of Fred and Jeanne Register, 2438 Highland Ave., Altadena. Socializing 7 p.m.; meeting 7:30 p.m.
- February 11 UDH Steering Meeting at the  
Monday  
7 p.m. home of Karen Wingard, 737 Magnolia, Pasadena.



### February *Phoenix* Deadline

The deadline for the February *Phoenix* is Sunday evening, February 10. Please send items for publication to Chuck Hains at [hains27@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hains27@sbcglobal.net).



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