



The Official Publication of ACT  
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Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer

## Keep Pasadena Moving at ACT/ADC October Meeting

Please join us on **Thursday October 10** for the next ACT Steering/Arroyo Democratic Club Meeting. We will meet at the home of Fred and Jeanne Register, **2438 Highland Avenue, Altadena** - that's between E. Altadena Drive and Mendocino Street. Socializing begins at 7 p.m., with the meeting following at 7:30 p.m.

**Frank Duerr**, an IT executive with Kaiser Permanente, will speak about using social media in grassroots organizing. Duerr is the unofficial spokesperson for **Keep Pasadena Moving**, the citizen coalition that successfully fought City Hall over its "road diet" plans for Orange Grove Blvd. The group continues to advocate for citizens to have more of a voice on matters that have a direct impact on quality of life in Pasadena.

Come and bring a friend. Everyone is welcome.



### Pasadena Election Schedule

Mayor and City Council Primary Election

Date: March 3, 2020

General (City run-off) and PUSD Election

Date: November 3, 2020

Mayor Nomination Filing Period:

November 12, 2019 to December 6, 2019\*

City Council Districts 1, 2, 4, & 6:

November 12, 2019 to December 6, 2019\*

PUSD 2, 4, & 6: Summer 2020

PCC 2, 4, & 6: Nov. 12, 2019 to Dec. 6, 2019\*

\*Extended to December 11, 2019 if incumbent does not run or qualify to run.

Dates Provided by Mark Jomsky, City Clerk,  
Pasadena. [www.cityofpasadena.net/cityclerk](http://www.cityofpasadena.net/cityclerk)



### ACT & ADC 2019 Meeting Calendar

ACT Steering Committee and ADC meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month. Meetings are called to order at 7:30 p.m. after time for socializing beginning at 7 p.m.

Thursday, October 10

Thursday, November 7

Thursday, December 5 (Holiday Potluck Meeting)

## November Speaker is SGV's Representative to First Citizen Redistricting Commission.

Amid keen opposition, California's first Citizen Redistricting Commission was formed in 2009. In fact, the original proposition passed by only 51 percent of voters. "We could not let it fail," says Jeanne Raya, San Gabriel Valley resident and one of the original 14 commissioners.

ACT's guest speaker for the November 7 steering committee meeting, Ms. Raya will touch on the challenges and successes of the commission, which supports the criteria in the Voting Rights Act. The successes are far-reaching, thanks in part to an Ash grant from Harvard University which allows the commissioners to travel to other interested states and share their experiences.

In June the US Supreme Court ruled that partisan gerrymandering is a political question that federal courts will not police.

Common Cause, Unite America, Unrig the System, League of Women Voters, National Democratic Redistricting Committee and others are thus working overtime to establish independent commissions. Ones that would redraw district maps to ensure that a more diverse citizenry can elect representatives that share their concerns.

Kathay Feng, national redistricting director of Common Cause, which spearheaded our state's initiative, calls independent citizen redistricting commissions the gold standard of reform.

"People are much better at drawing maps because they care more about their neighbors than protecting political parties," she stated.

California's inaugural commissioners have now been serving for nearly 10 years, and there are no more lawsuits to contend with. Meanwhile, the state has begun the process of

new member selection to serve for the next 10 years.

Those wanting to brush up on California's redistricting efforts can go to the Cal. website: [wedrawthelines.ca.gov](http://wedrawthelines.ca.gov)



## In Memoriam – Allen Gross

We are saddened to learn of the death of Allen Robert Gross at age 75 on August 20. Allen was the longtime director/conductor of the Caltech Orchestra, serving there for 36 years. After degrees at Stanford, Queens College, NY and UC Berkeley, his distinguished career began in Germany and took him to places around the world. During his Caltech years, he was also music director and conductor of the Santa Monica Symphony Orchestra and taught at Occidental College, retiring as emeritus professor of music in 2014. He served 20 years as the conductor of the Pasadena Summer Youth Chamber and was music director/conductor of the Pasadena Young Musicians Orchestra as well. Working to develop young musicians was a passion of his. He and his wife Karen were also loyal members of ACT.



We extend heartfelt sympathy to Karen, children Alexander and Miriam, son-in-law Martin, and grandchildren Oren and Leo.



## In Memoriam – John Blue

We are sorry to note the death of John A. Blue on August 23 at 76 years of age. John's long and distinguished law career began when he earned a J.D. from Harvard, after he had earned a degree in chem-



ical engineering, worked in that field and then served as an officer in the U.S. Navy in Vietnam.

He was with the Seabees during the Tet Offensive. He and his wife Betsy came to Los Angeles from New York and settled in Pasadena in the 1970s. He worked in his profession while also taking on important community projects. He led two capital campaigns for Neighborhood Church and was its president from 1990-92. He co-founded Jericho Road and served as its first president. John and Betsy have been longtime ACT members, as has their daughter, Catherine.

We extend our sympathy to Betsy and Catherine, son-in-law Ryan, grandchildren Jane and Thomas and other relatives and friends. The family suggests that any memorial contributions may be made to Jericho Road Pasadena or the Neighborhood Unitarian Universalist Church.



## Progressive Discussion Group



PDG meets every first and third Friday of the month from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., currently at Dupar's Restaurant, 214 S. Lake Avenue, Pasadena in the back Sun Room. Parking behind the restaurant can be entered from Cordova or Mentor. Please consider ordering something; separate checks are provided.

The next PDG dates are September 20 and October 4 and 18.

Ed Washatka is the PDG convener and Ron Garber is in charge of programs. Contact Ed at [ed.washatka@gmail.com](mailto:ed.washatka@gmail.com), or Ron at [ronagarber@yahoo.com](mailto:ronagarber@yahoo.com). Please let Ed know if you would like to receive meeting notices.

We look forward to seeing you at any or all of our meetings.

## Fannie Lou Hamer Event Makes a Strong Impact



ACT recently joined the Pasadena NAACP and the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance (IMA) in support of a wonderful dramatic presentation about the 1960s impact of Fannie Lou Hamer in bringing about the 1965 Civil Rights Act. One average African-American woman in Mississippi, who was "sick and tired of being sick and tired," confronted the entire U.S. political system until she and others like her were allowed to vote at their local polling places.

Actress Mzuri Moyo Aimbaye gave a stirring performance of Fannie Lou Hamer in a one-woman drama presented at First AME Church on Sunday, August 18. The standing-room-only audience was emotionally moved and inspired to make a difference in the important election season ahead of us. The presidents of the two sponsoring organizations, Rev. Dr. Larry Campbell of the IMA and Allen Edson of the NAACP, pledged to work together on a strategy to maximize voter participation in the community. Volunteers from ACT, Pasadenans Organizing for Progress (POP!) and the League of Women Voters were active following the event, registering voters and signing people up to volunteer in voting-related activities over the next year.

~ George Van Alstine



## Welcome New and Returning ACT Members

Helen Baatz, Pasadena  
 PUSD Board Member Michelle Richardson Bailey, Pasadena  
 Judy Hochenauer, Pasadena (ACT Charter member)  
 D. Jason Lyon & Tim Hartley, Pasa.  
 Emily Stork, Pasadena

## Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Tuesday, Sept. 10.

We finally had the last election of the 2018 cycle – the special “do-over” election in North Carolina’s 9<sup>th</sup> CD. The 2018 election, where the Republican beat Democrat Dan McCready by 900 votes, was thrown out because of rampant and flagrant absentee ballot fraud, perpetrated by GOP consultants. The 9<sup>th</sup> is a traditionally GOP district, stretching east from the suburbs of Charlotte along the state’s southern border; it is ranked as R +8 by the Cook index (meaning it is 8% more Republican than the average district in the whole country), and President Trump and Mitt Romney carried the district by 12%. The late polls suggested the race was a toss-up, and although our Democratic candidate lost by 2%, that was a pretty solid showing, especially in a special election where the turnout typically favors the GOP. In fact, 189,000 voters cast

ballots – actually not bad for a special election – but in 2018, 280,000 ballots were cast. That 1/3 drop in the turnout was lethal for McCready, who lost by only 3,938 votes.

McCready’s performance was pretty consistent with what we have seen in nationwide polling. In the suburbs of Charlotte, he did even better this time than in 2018; but in the more rural counties, his percentages were worse than in 2018. It’s hard to tell if that was due to the lower turnout, with Democratic voters disproportionately dropping off, or if swing GOP voters were returning to the fold, or if non-typical GOP voters were newly motivated to go to the polls. McCready had a substantial lead in the absentee votes, but the election-day votes swung back to the GOP. Part of that effect may have been due to the personal appearances of both President Trump and Vice-President Pence Monday afternoon; their campaign rallies may indeed have prodded enough GOP voters to get out and vote and swing the election back to the GOP. The President’s entire re-election thesis is, basically, a belief that he can expand their base by motivating occasional or new GOP voters to come out on Election Day.

So the bottom line is that Dems still have work to do in winning traditionally red districts. But the GOP can’t be happy that they barely eked out a 2% win, in a special election, in a district the President won by 12%, and did that only after massive spending by their national committees and personal appearances by both the President and Vice-President. There are about 30 House districts, currently held by Republicans, which are less GOP-friendly than NC-9, and all of those GOP incumbents will be nervously looking over their shoulders.

Talking about swing seats in the House, Democratic freshmen (and women) raised a collective \$24 million in the second quarter of 2019.

This is a staggering record, and suggests real staying power for these new members. They will all be natural targets for the GOP in 2020, but it looks like our new incumbents are already running strong re-election efforts, and will be amply funded in those efforts. This just adds to the long odds Republicans are facing in their attempt to regain a majority in the House.

Further, this fundraising success amplifies the perception that there is little chance of overturning the Democratic majority, and that sense seems to be leading to a wave of GOP retirements, creating open seats which lessen even more the chance of a GOP resurgence.

Some of those retirements are in entirely safe GOP seats, but some are in districts that will be closely contested. So far, 13 Republican incumbents have announced their retirement, including 6 from Texas alone, including two key battleground districts. (Texas has a very early filing deadline for their March 3 primary, which forces their delegation into some very early decision-making.)

Our own Cong. Adam Schiff has been tasked by Speaker Pelosi with leading the national effort to re-elect all 39 of our new Congressmembers who ousted Republican incumbents. Schiff has been tireless in his fundraising efforts (while he was not busy chairing the Intelligence Committee in the House and guiding its various investigations into the Trump Administration). He ended the quarter with \$6.7 million cash on hand in his campaign committee, topping all other incumbent House members. This will help enormously in protecting our current majority. And it also will help promote Schiff's career in the House – he is as likely a candidate to succeed Speaker Pelosi as

anyone else. True, he might face opposition as another Californian taking the Speaker's job, but he'll have the gratitude of a wide swath of House members, and the respect nationally of Democrats for having taken on President Trump and his Administration on national security issues.

This Thursday, Sept. 12, will be the next Democratic Presidential debate. We're finally down to one night, thank goodness, although even with three hours, each of the ten candidates will have only about 15 minutes to talk. Probably the most pressure will be on Joe Biden, to justify his leadership position as the polling gaps among the candidates continues

to narrow.

The field is still pretty fractured, although Sen. Elizabeth Warren does seem to be moving ahead of Sen. Bernie Sanders as the favorite of the more progressive or activist wing of the party. My guess is the biggest fireworks in Thursday's debate will be between Biden and Warren, as each tries, politely and delicately but nonetheless firmly, to distinguish themselves from the other and provide both positive and negative

contrasts between the two leading candidates.

The most interesting question will be where supporters of the other candidates end up. Sen. Sanders remains squarely in the double-digit range, but all of the other candidates are languishing in the single-digit range and are unlikely to emerge. My guess is that, within a few months, their support will begin to evaporate, and their adherents will have to pick a second choice. If either Vice-Pres. Biden or Sen. Warren becomes too caustic, that might drive away those supporters of other candidates; yet if they fail to draw a contrast or fail



to put themselves forward with sufficient energy and vigor, they may also lose the “second-choice” race. Right now, I see Biden as the overwhelming “second-choice” favorite, but that could change.

Biden gained a bit of an advantage last week when the Democratic National Committee vetoed the plans of Iowa and Nevada to expand access to their caucuses by allowing phone-in participation. The DNC tested the telephone-caucus plan, and they apparently found it was relatively easy to hack into the telephone-caucus. Each state may still come up with a plan to expand access to their caucuses, but it will be substantially scaled back. My sense is that the old system operationally favors participation by older voters, who have the time and resources to participate, and that universe of older voters is likely to favor Biden. Further, although all candidates will likely have an intense ground operation in Iowa, and apparently Sen Warren has led the pack with the earliest and most extensive ground effort, the candidate with the most money to spend will have an advantage, and that advantage probably goes to Biden (although as of June 30, 2019, the last date for which we have public filings, Sen. Warren had \$19 million cash on hand, while Sen. Biden had only \$10 million cash on hand).

While attention is focused mainly on national politics (and whether Congress and the President will be able to agree on funding the government for next year, or if we’ll face another government shutdown on October 1, the beginning of the federal government’s new fiscal year), Governor Newsom and the State Legislature have been busily attacking a raft of complicated – and important – public policy issues, from the employment status of gig workers to governing public utilities and protecting them from bankruptcy to bond issues for public schools to vaccination rules for school children. As I write, many of these bills

are still being amended, or they are awaiting the Governor’s signature, so I’ll hold off until next month when the dust has settled. Similarly, on the local scene, we’re just starting to get a clearer read on who will be running for office; it looks like we’ll have significant races at least in Pasadena Council Districts 4 and 6 – but by next month we’ll have a better sense of the shape of the races for Mayor and the other Council Districts and the PCC College Trustee races as well. So hang tight until next month’s Phoenix when we’ll try to give you the inside scoop on city politics.

~ Jon Fuhrman



## L.A. County is improving how you vote!

*Explore the new voting experience.*

**September 28 & 29, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

Learn more: [LAVote.net/Mock-Election](https://LAVote.net/Mock-Election)

The MOCK ELECTIONS will show you what the new equipment and process will be in 2020 elections. Please try to get all of the eligible voters you know to attend and try these new systems out before they must go to the polls to actually vote! It will indeed surprise everyone how easy, simple, and safe the system will be! Just give it a test before the actual election.

Here is a partial list of participating locations. Find the location nearest to you by using our online Vote Center Locator on

[LAVote.net/Mock-Election](https://LAVote.net/Mock-Election).

### **Villa Parke Community Center Branch**

Library, 363 E. Villa St., Pasadena,  
91101

### **Verdugo Recreation Center**

3201 W. Verdugo Ave., Burbank, 91505

### **Pamela Park, 2236 Goodall Ave. Duarte,**

91010

### **Glendale Central Library**

222 E. Harvard St. Glendale, CA 91205

## My Two Cents

By Ron Garber



In December Ed Washatka asked me to help with the Progressive Discussion Group as Dale Gronemier was set to depart for Texas. I agreed to help with programming and immediately subscribed to the Pasadena Star News as a potential source for speakers. I find the reportage of the Star News to be fairly (as in fair not almost) balanced as their editorial bent is highly conservative which is their right. Both their editorials and op-eds lean heavily against the taxation of Californians. A day rarely goes by without that particular daily diatribe and sometimes four or five Sunday editorials and columns are anti new taxes. Two recurrent themes are California's successful rainy day fund which has amassed billions of dollars to help us weather an upcoming economic downturn and the underfunded state and local public employee defined benefit pension fund accounts. While I have thoughts about the rainy day fund today I want to explore the pension problems.

The Star News Editorial Board and stable of columnists posit that the underfunding of public employee pension funds is crowding out the ability of local and state governing boards to fund necessary and ordinary functions of government and they're not wrong but here are many reasons why that's irrelevant:

1. The Star News to its credit both understands and has pointed out that the courts in California have ruled that the pensions the funds cover are sacrosanct and must be paid whether the funds are there or not. The reason why this is the case is because defined benefit pensions are nothing more than deferred earnings.

In other words it's pay, they've already earned, that's put away for employees to access at a later date when they have retired and any reduction in those 'promised' payments would amount to nothing less than theft of wages. When employees were hired or when those benefits along the way were increased they (the employees) then made the decision to accept or continue that employment. The pension plans were a consideration of why they took or continued to stay. It's not like they can jump into a time machine, go back and change those decisions.

2. Why are the pension accounts short hundreds of billions of dollars? Where do I begin? Public sector employees (government) and their unions are political assets in that they work in campaigns and have PACs that provide lots of money which as we know is the mother's milk of politics. On top of that defined benefit pension plans pay participants based on years of service times the highest wages they have earned over a limited number of years. In order to fund the accounts actuaries have to make assumptions of how much the contributions will earn over the life of the fund. Funding comes from both the employee and the employer in this case cities, counties and the state of California. The higher the assumed rate of earnings, usually the stock market, the less that the managers of the funds again the cities, counties and state have to make. In good times government entities like to make high assumptions in order to keep their payments down but when the market goes south like it did about 11 years ago the sh%@ hits the fan.

3. Understandably the Star-News rails against the politicians who have pandered to the employees by constantly enhancing their pensions but it's actually unfair to berate the current legislators because California has gone to term limits and the politicians responsible for the majority of the increases are long gone.

4. How do we fix the problem? I'm going to explain what the fixes are and why they can't be instituted. First of all there is no requirement that governments have to provide defined benefit pension plans at all. So you would think that the legislature would say that all employees coming to work after a date certain in the near future will be hired under the Social Security system with a non-matching 401 K component. This would be prudent if the current pension accounts were fully funded or close to fully funded. Unfunded pension accounts are like Ponzi Schemes in that in order to pay current retirees and those close to retirement fund managers have to use the funds from current employees. Turning that spigot off would exacerbate the problems we're already in.

5. Declare bankruptcy. Cities and counties can declare bankruptcy but states can't and even if they could there is a priority of who gets paid from whatever existing funds there are. Employees wages are near the top of that list and at the very bottom are bond holders because even though bonds are considered a relatively safe investment there still is an element of risk unlike expecting your salary for work performed. If a government entity defaults on bonds their borrowing rating falls through the floor and it becomes impossible to operate going forward.

6. This is my favorite. Stop allowing unions to participate in politics which allows them to elect those they are negotiating with on the other side of the bargaining table, undeniably a conflict of interest. This makes sense but tell it to the very conservative Supreme Court who in its 2010 Citizen's United ruling said that Corporations and Labor Unions for the purpose of 1st amendment free speech are people and cannot be denied their right to make political contributions. Many Progressives like myself would take the tradeoff of denying labor unions that right if corporations

were also stopped but knowing that big business spends exponentially more than does labor on influencing politicians even the Star News understands that business is favored over labor by that ruling and Congressional (Senate) Republicans aren't going to legislate against it.

7. That brings us to the only viable solution. We have to tax ourselves out of the problem. Do I like that, do I want to pay more taxes? Of course not but I don't see an alternative. Let me know if you can think of a better plan.

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

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Months ago I called for a campaign to recall Sheriff Villanueva and since then he has been admonished by the Los Angeles County Democratic Party and the ACLU. He is constantly at war with the L.A. County Board of Supervisors, of which 4 of 5 are Democrats and a week doesn't go by that the Liberal editorial board of the L.A. Times doesn't publish and editorial calling him out. I believe it's time ACT/ADC go on record with a motion repudiating any prior support we extended on his behalf.

~ Ron Garber, member in good standing  
of both ACT & ADC



## [ACTPasadena.org](http://ACTPasadena.org)

Please check ACT's website page at [www.ACTpasadena.org](http://www.ACTpasadena.org) for the current online edition (and previous editions) of *The Phoenix* (in color and sometimes with items we couldn't fit into the print edition).

Bruce Wright, our website manager, has created a page for listing local events for Democratic presidential candidates. Please let him know (at [brucewright@sbcglobal.net](mailto:brucewright@sbcglobal.net)) of local presidential campaign events he can add to the page.



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



Dear ACT,

What a wild month in America as the President continues to push the limits of propriety. And, with the latest assault on the purity of weather forecasts, he's lowered the decorum bar to a historic low. In California, we are in the middle of our last week of the 2019 legislative session. I am very pleased that several of my priority bills are on their way to the Governor's desk.

As always, education continues to be my top priority. I'm also proud to be a leading advocate for sensible gun control. You might remember that last year I raised the gun purchase age to 21. This year, I'm going after high powered center-fire rifles and requiring safe storage of firearms in homes and in residential care facilities. These assault type weapons are the rifle of choice for many of the most recent heinous deadly shootings. I am also helping students transfer from community college into four-year schools with their Associate Degree for Transfer and I'm helping small business owners better meet their minimum tax obligations.

Thus far, the following bills are awaiting action by the Governor:

AB 600 seeks to ensure fertility protection to women and men dealing with cancer treatments that have infertility as a consequence.

AB 163 will expand insurance treatment coverage for autistic children. Under current law, only one type of treatment is covered by insurance, forcing parents to pay out of pocket for alternatives.

SB 695 will help our most vulnerable special needs students who have Individual Education

Plans by translating IEPs into the top 8 languages. This will significantly help non-English speaking parents adequately engage with their children's educational needs.

SB 61 prohibits the sale of semi-automatic center fire rifles to anyone under the age of 21 and prohibits people from purchasing more than one semi-automatic center fire rifle per month. These assault type weapons are the weapon of choice for many mass shooters.

SB 172 establishes the "Keep Our Seniors Safe Act" to ensure that residential care facilities for the elderly (RCFEs) that allow residents to possess firearms on the premises meet certain requirements regarding the storage of firearms and ammunition, and adopts changes to broaden criminal storage crimes, add criminal storage offenses to those offenses that can trigger a 10-year firearm ban, and create an exemption to firearm loan requirements for the purposes of preventing suicide.

SB 349 is designed to help small business owners by reducing the minimum franchise tax, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2020 and before January 1, 2025, based on the gross receipts of the corporation.

SB 484 requires the governing board of each community college district to direct colleges to identify and notify students who have completed an associate degree for transfer (ADT), to automatically award these students their degrees.

I have other bills working through the system and will share them with you next month!

On the family front, we took Bella to the East Coast to see nine schools in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. It was a lot of fun and really made me face the reality that my daughter will be heading out to the world in less than a year. Watching her play soccer continues to be my favorite part of the week.

Respectfully,

~ Anthony

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



Dear ACT Friends,

It has been an eventful summer in the Capitol and in the District! I had four bills signed into law and we held another successful Block Party & Resource Fair (my 20<sup>th</sup>)!

Early this summer, my wildfire legislation, Assembly Bill 1054, that protects ratepayers and increases accountability for investor owned utilities was signed into law. This bill offers a durable solution to the problems arising from utility-caused wildfires in California. The incredible devastation catastrophic wildfires have inflicted on the lives of Californians, the cost to customers and the impact on solvency of the providers of power to all of us is the reason why this legislation is so crucial.

The solutions in this legislation were crafted after extensive hearings, debates and reports (including the Governor's Strike Force Report) on the many issues surrounding wildfires. The bill takes the necessary steps to ensure that we have fiscally stable electric utilities in this state which can keep the lights on in order to protect customers and our economy. AB 1054 will increase accountability for utilities, protect customers and taxpayers from wholly bearing the costs of devastating wildfires, and includes forward-looking mechanisms to ensure greater safety for Californians.

The Governor also signed the following bills I authored:

**Assembly Bill 669** authorizes the Attorney General to accept Assurances of Voluntary Compliance (AVC) when settling with companies that have violated consumer protection laws. This will increase accountability by ensuring that AVCs entered into by the Attorney

General have the same force and effect as a stipulated judgment.

**Assembly Bill 1152** allows the City of Pasadena to continue issuing vital records such as birth and marriage certificates to their residents.

**Assembly Bill 1540** strengthens standards for music therapists to protect consumers from potential harm or misrepresentation from individuals that are not board certified music therapists. Music therapists are helpful to a wide range of individuals, from helping children with autism develop their verbal and social skills, to helping veterans manage Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, to working with stroke victims, and many others.

At the end of August, six of my bills passed the Senate Appropriations Committee including Assembly Bill 29 which would eliminate any future possibility for the 710 tunnel, Assembly Bill 30 which would ensure dual enrollment opportunities remain available to students, and Assembly Bill 1328 which would require operators of idle and abandoned oil and gas wells to report pollutants found during the well plugging process.

Lastly, my 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Block Party and Resource Fair was a big success. We may have had our biggest turnout ever – in the thousands! We had over 70 government agencies and non-profit organizations providing resources to constituents on a beautiful day filled with entertainment, music and food.

Sincerely,

~ Chris R. Holden



### Special Thanks to Patrons

Bobbi Abram

Armando Gonzalez & Brenda Berg

John & Teri Buchanan

Bill & Jill Hawkins

Councilmember John Kennedy

## Humanitarians Respond to Dorian - Chef José Andrés



We are in the midst of setting precedent regarding natural disasters on Mother Earth. Many corporations and individuals answer the call to help their fellow human beings in dire need. One of those is Chef José Andrés, from the United States and founder of World Central Kitchen (WCK).

WCK was established in 2010 to respond to the people of Haiti by feeding those who have lost everything. It is a not-for-profit, non-governmental organization. Since then, Andres has provided millions of meals for displaced residents. Somehow, he manages to get this immense undertaking ready to move almost immediately. Just to acquire all this needed food and the expertise to feed so many people at a moment's notice is incomprehensible. Airports are often destroyed, but helicopters can land. He loads up transportation vehicles - in the Dorian situation it was a yacht with food items needed in FL - then headed 50 miles to the Bahamas. He is also assisting in North Carolina. WCK arrived in CA to feed displaced residents in the Thomas and Camp Fires.

Thanks to his thousands of volunteers who assist, Chef Andrés is ready to start immediately; hunger does not wait. Other organizations/corporations have also joined forces with WCK. In the Bahamas, their government has been unable to get involved so far. Andrés arrived immediately to begin setup and food

prep. Each day thereafter, he expands the number by thousands he can serve as his supplies arrive. In Puerto Rico alone, he served 3.5M meals.

A little background regarding this humanitarian: José Andrés came to the US from Spain at the age of 21 with \$50 in his pocket and restaurant experience. He started as a cook and 30 years later owns 34 restaurants, some Michelin stars. His awards are innumerable. In 2016, President Obama bestowed him with the National Humanitarian Medal. He was scheduled to open one of his restaurants in Trump's Hotel in DC. After Trump made his disparaging remarks about Mexicans, he backed out of his contract, lawsuit filed, settlement reached. He remains a very outspoken critic of #45. For further info, see [WCK.org](http://WCK.org).

~ Barbara Paul



## Financial Gifts

I need to preface this with the admonition that I'm not suggesting this behavior for anyone other than myself. I'm making a conscience effort to limit my contributions both political and charitable to only political between now and the Nov. 3, 2020 General Election. I believe that putting a Democrat in the White House and flipping the Senate to BLUE will have far more leverage on society whether we're talking about the climate or gun control or immigration or the social safety net or any number of other Progressive issues. I understand that contributions to honor people for their good works or to provide a Rose Bowl float for a worthy cause or agency are valid, but for the next 14 months I'm restricting my giving. To that end I've pledged a thousand dollars to UDH and will spend several thousand more for postage and card stock for the GOTV Postcard Program that will run out of UDH.

~ Ron Garber



PASADENANS ORGANIZING FOR PROGRESS

# YOU'RE INVITED

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD CELEBRATION & FUNDRAISER  
*Honoring Dale L. Gronemeier*

Saturday, September 21, 2019  
4:00PM - 6:00PM

Neighborhood Unitarian  
Universalist Church  
301 N. Orange Grove Boulevard, Pasadena



Photo: Pasadena NOW

Cocktails • Hors d'Oeuvres •  
Live Music by Guitarist Chris Volak •  
Keynote Address by Rick Cole

**Tickets: \$60**  
*Ticket purchase includes entry in an exciting prize drawing and free drinks.*

To purchase tickets or become a sponsor of the event, please contact:  
**626.531.1041 or pop@poppasadena.org**

**POP!**  
PASADENANS ORGANIZING FOR PROGRESS

ACT is a sponsor of this event.

### Dale Gronemeier – Bio of a Progressive

Dale's first significant progressive activism was in 1959 when, as Illinois State University student body president, he wrote a resolution condemning loyalty oaths unanimously adopted by the National Student Association. In 1960-61, as a graduate student at Northwestern University, he organized a student forum that brought progressive speakers to campus and was the statewide director of Students for Paul Simon during his first run for the U.S.

Senate. In the army from 1962-1963, he organized opposition to racism at Fort Knox and, with students from University of Louisville, a counter-Veteran's day parade. In the summer of 1964, he participated in the Mississippi Freedom Summer, staying in Fannie Lou Hamer's home in Ruleville, Mississippi. From 1964-1967 he was Western Regional Director of the National Committee to Abolish the House Un-American Activities Committee, organizing congressional-level committees in the Rocky Mountain and West Coast states. From 1967-1969, he taught half-time at UC Berkeley, worked towards a Ph. D. in Rhetoric, and was Vice-President of AFT Local #1572. He organized the Rhetoric Department for the union, wrote a *White Paper on Racial Discrimination at UC Berkeley*, whereupon his teaching position was not renewed and he did not complete the Ph.D.

Dale married the former Temetra Smith in 1966 – when their interracial marriage was illegal in sixteen states. They first met in a freshman political science class in 1956 and both were interscholastic debaters at ISU; Temetra was the President of the campus chapter of the NAACP. After UC Berkeley fired Dale, they taught for three years in the Northern Illinois University Speech Department and worked organizing students and faculty on civil rights, anti-war, and union issues. Dale was subpoenaed by the Illinois "little HUAC" – its Joint Legislative Commission on Campus disorders – and successfully organized opposition to its activities both on the NIU campus and statewide. In 1972, NIU did not renew the contracts of either Dale or Temetra despite a demonstration by several thousand students and faculty supporting them.

After Dale received his University of Illinois

JD in 1975, the Gronemeiers moved to the Pasadena area. In 1977, Dale headed the ACLU legal team that challenged at-large municipal elections as racially and wealth discriminatory. In 1979, Pasadena's at-large elections caused losses to progressive candidates for City Council Lois Richard and Morris Fisher; Dale's team challenged the at-large system for thirteen Pasadena community organizations. The lawsuit was the catalyst leading to the issue being put to the voters and passing. From 1985-1989, he successfully challenged restrictive regulations at the Plaza Pasadena for community groups seeking to gather signatures. In the mid-1990s, the City of Pasadena hired Dale's firm to challenge racial discrimination at King's Villages. PUSD hired him at the century's turn to steer its change from at-large elections to district elections. After Kendrec McDade was killed by Pasadena Police, Dale became active in the Coalition for Increased Civilian Oversight of Pasadena Police.

Dale has been a Steering Committee member of ACT and its coalition-building and outreach committee chair. He was a founder of Pasadenaans for a Livable Wage, which successfully lobbied for Pasadena's Minimum Wage Ordinance, and a founding Director and Executive Committee member of its successor POP! Representing the Altadena Library District's Library Director, Dale's and Skip Hickambottom's public disclosure of nearly a hundred Brown Act violations was the catalyst in replacing the offending majority of the old Board with a more progressive majority – including the November 2018 election trouncing of the only openly pro-Trump public official in the Pasadena area, replacing him with a union organizer.

Dale's law firm has provided approximately \$500,000 to Pasadena-area progressive organizations through direct fee awards or donations from settlements in progressive cases.

## October *Phoenix* Deadline

The October *Phoenix* deadline is Sunday evening, October 13. Please send items for publication to Chuck [hains27@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hains27@sbcglobal.net). (Chuck will continue to contact regular contributors with a deadline reminder.)



## Your Photo in *The Phoenix*

Share a high-resolution photo (of you) at an interesting place (whether near or far) with *Phoenix* readers. Send it along to Chuck at [hains27@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hains27@sbcglobal.net) for inclusion in an upcoming issue.



## Special Thanks to Sustaining Members

Michael Cornwell  
Eddie Newman



## Really special thanks to Benefactors

Judy Hochenauer



## Thanks for Additional Contributions to ACT's Political Account

John & Teri Buchanan



## 2019 Membership Renewal

A red check ✓ on your address label on this *Phoenix* means we are still hoping to receive your 2019 membership renewal check. Please use the form below, or renew online at [www.ACTpasadena.org](http://www.ACTpasadena.org). **We don't want to lose you!**

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



### 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

---

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 you provide will be available to other members and endorsed candidates upon request.

# Sept Oct

## Calendar

- Sept 20 Progressive Discussion Group  
Friday at Dupar's Restaurant, 214 S.  
9-10 a.m. Lake Ave., Pasadena.  
Also 10/4, 10/18.
- Sept 21 POP! Fundraiser to Salute Dale  
Saturday Gronemeier at the Neighbor-  
4-6 p.m. hood Church, 301 N. Orange  
Grove Blvd., Pasadena. See  
flyer inside, page twelve.
- Sept 28, 29 LA County Mock-Elections  
10am-4pm Explore the new voting experi-  
ence. See article on page six.
- October 3 Pasadena NAACP Ruby Mc-  
Thursday Knight Williams Awards Din-  
6 p.m. ner, Pasadena Hilton. 100 Year  
Anniversary.
- October 10 Next ACT & ADC Meeting at  
Thursday the home of Fred & Jeanne  
7 p.m. Register, 2438 Highland Ave.  
Altadena. Socializing at 7 p.m.;  
meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.
- October 27 Save The Date! UDH Oktober-  
Sunday fest! at the Pasadena Armenian  
2-4 p.m. Center, 740 E. Washington  
Blvd., Pasadena.
- November 7 ACT Steering/ADC Meeting.  
Thursday Jeanne Raya will speak on the  
7 p.m. Citizen Redistricting Commis-  
sion.
- Nov 16, 23 Research Committee Meetings  
Saturdays at the home of Marilee Marshall  
and Bruce Wright, 654 S. Madi-  
son Ave, Pasadena.



P. O. Box 40074  
Pasadena, California  
91114-7074