



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

Volume 45
Number 6
June, 2017

Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer

ACT & ADC Summer Potluck and Meeting



Thursday, July 6, 6:30 p.m.

at the home of
Bobbie and Henry Moon
1961 Mar Vista Avenue, Altadena



For good food and a good (and informative) time, please come to ACT's and the Arroyo Democratic Club's Annual Summer Potluck and Meeting in the Moon's lovely backyard.

Special guest is Patrick Conyers, Executive Director of the Pasadena Educational Foundation.

Socializing and the Potluck will begin at 6:30 p.m., with the meeting following at about 8 p.m. All are welcome and urged to attend this General Membership meeting. Potluck assignments are listed below:

A – G Main dish **H – O** Dessert or fruit **P – Z** Salad or vegetables

Please bring enough for about six people and provide your own serving utensils. See you there!

League of Women Voters News

In California, the same corporations avoid paying nearly \$9 billion in property taxes every single year. That money could help provide healthcare to families, educate our children, build affordable housing, train workers, feed our seniors, tend our parks, and so much more.

There's a bold plan, the "Make It Fair" amendment, to close Proposition 13's property tax loophole for the biggest corporations and recover those funds. State lawmakers from the Assembly to the governor need to hear from their constituents now

to build the momentum to get the Make It Fair amendment introduced and passed. http://act.couragecampaign.org/sign/MakeItFair/?source=ja_ex_p_MIF_LWVC

LWV Ice Cream Social

League of Women Voters Pasadena Area is holding its annual ice cream social on Sunday, July 23 from 3-5 p.m. at Western Justice Center, 55 South Grand Avenue, Pasadena. Join area elected officials for afternoon socializing and lively conversation. To RSVP, call the LWV-PA office 626-798-0965 between 10 & 1.

CDP Statewide Officer Election

To Interested Parties From Chris Masami Myers, Executive Director California Democratic Party

The California Democratic Party held an open, transparent election of officers at the May 19-21, 2017 State Convention.

- As of 1pm on Saturday, May 20, 2017, 2,994 delegates were credentialed and eligible to vote.
- A total of 2,953 ballots were cast in the officer elections.
- 9 ballots were voided during balloting. All “voided” ballots were “spoiled” in public view of any candidate representatives who were observing the process.

Observers from all candidates were present as votes were counted and recounted. No objections were raised in this process. The final vote count was as follows: (Note total votes ≈2900, 1735 for Sunday run-off)

Chair

Eric Bauman	1493	51%
Kimberly Ellis	1431	49%
Lenore Albert Sheridan	7	<1%

Vice Chair – Female

Alex Gallardo-Rooker	1584	55
Norma Alcala	1289	45

Vice Chair- Male

Daraka Larimore-Hall	2333	83
Cullen Tiernan	378	13
Ronald O'Donnell	38	1
Roger LaPlante	73	3

Secretary

Carolyn Fowler	1374	48	844	49
Jenny Bach	1359	48	891	51
Alex San Martin	112	4		

Controller

Daniel Weitzman	1707	60
Michael Thaller	1140	40

An agreement was struck between the out-

going Chair, the Kimberly Ellis campaign, and Chair Bauman to allow for a review of the ballots and supplementary materials. As agreed by outgoing Chair Burton and the Kimberly Ellis campaign, the following were provided for review:

- Ballots
- Voided ballots
- Balloting sign-in sheets
- Registration sheets (pre-registration and onsite)
- Proxy forms

The Ellis campaign team spent 4 days reviewing the materials. During the review, Ms. Ellis was represented by an attorney and other members of her team.

The Party received notification of a challenge from the Kimberly Ellis campaign on May 27, 2017. Ms. Ellis was also provided an additional 7 days to provide support for her claim.

The Party also received three challenges in Regional Director Races (Regions 6, 11, 18), one having been withdrawn (Region 6). The Party also has received a challenge in the Vice Chair - Female race from Norma Alcala related to the audio-visual program. In the Secretary's race, Carolyn Fowler is continuing her review of all the election materials.

The Compliance Review Commission will continue to investigate all challenges in accordance with the standard practices described in the CDP Bylaws.



Delegates Tim & Joanne Wendler at the Convention. Joanne is an ACT Co-Chair and Tim is ADC's Vice President.

Wonderings and Wanderings

By Inman Moore



Land of the Free – Home of the Brave

In recent months I have never been more proud of America from a very personal standpoint. Oh, I know we have a tragic gadfly as president at the moment. But, because of past vision, seniors in America have Medicare as well as Social Security. These fortunate programs date back to the vision of the Franklin Roosevelt Administration. These days I often pause to thank God for this vision. My wife and I are now 91 years of age, and we would not be alive today without Medicare. My wife especially has had several severe medical bouts including cancer, a heart attack, and a broken back. Up until this last bout, she has rebounded to live a full normal life. My point is that without Medicare Nellie and I would have long ago been totally bankrupt.

Unfortunately, there are people in America who seem to resent that social security and Medicare has made life a happy experience for millions of Americans. Their philosophy seems to say, "I made it and am rich. Why can't everyone else?" I remember years ago on the Sean Hannity radio show, he had a guest who was a wealthy stock broker. The stock broker said, "I don't see why anyone would want to be a school teacher where they will never be rich. Sensible people choose jobs that can make them wealthy." Hannity, in agreement, replied, "I have 15 Hummers in my garage and I don't apologize to anyone for having them while some people are starving." His attitude was that "I made it big-time. Why should I be concerned about those that don't?" Plus the total misunderstanding that success is only having a healthy bank account.

Thank God for those that see a great country

with many opportunities to be in satisfying jobs that mean something to society as a whole but may not make them millionaires. What we really need at the moment in America is not to cut back on Medicare and Social Security for the elderly, but to expand them where we have single pay Medicare for all, and to continue Social Security as a hedge that makes life better for millions of people.

Francis Scott Key says at our best we are "a land of the free and a home of the brave!" Let us also have the vision to make it a land that at our best we are all brothers and sisters whose goal is to spread health and happiness and full acceptance irregardless of race, creed, or color.

-- Inman



Progressive Discussion Group

Friday Morning Progressive Discussion Group meets every first and third Friday of the month from 9-10 a.m. in the back room of Dupar's Restaurant, 214 S. Lake Ave., Pasadena. Parking is available in the big lot behind the restaurant off Shopper's Lane. You can always count on a lively discussion of a current political topic at a PDG meeting.

Upcoming PDG meeting: July 7, Assembly-member Chris Holden with a legislative report.

Come and join the discussion. Everyone is welcome. Order breakfast, coffee, etc., or not. Check with Dale Gronemeier at 323 254-7600 or dlg@dgronemeier.com for additional information.



Where Have You Been Recently?

Either near or far. Please send a high-resolution photo (of you) to Chuck Hains at hains27@sbcglobal.net for inclusion in *The Phoenix*.

Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Wednesday, June 21.

There are lots of explanations, lots of reasons why we shouldn't be disconsolate over last night's [Georgia] election results, but it's hard to overcome the emotional anger. One wonders, what further evidence do we need to convince voters that the Trump Administration, and the Republican Party, are leading our country in the wrong direction? Who are all those people who are voting for the other side?

I do have a few observations and thoughts to help us see through the letdown. First and foremost, this was a special election, and as in most special elections, the lower turnout tends to hurt Democrats. In Georgia, the turnout was reasonably strong (although torrential rains on Election Day may have dampened it somewhat); 259,000 voters cast ballots yesterday, notably better than the 211,000 who voted in 2014 but also notably less than the 326,000 voters who voted in November of '16, when incumbent Tom Price was re-elected by

a 24-point margin (62% to 38%). So even with a smaller turnout, we shrank the margin by 20 points (cold comfort, I know, but some comfort nonetheless).

In South Carolina, again we closed the margin dramatically, despite low turnout. Last night, 87,000 voters cast ballots; but in '16, 273,000 voters cast ballots. In Montana, last month, there was a similar drop in turnout: 376,000 voters participated in the special election, but 494,000 had voted in 2016.

So the results across the country – Kansas, Montana, Georgia and South Carolina – are remarkably consistent: somewhat lower turnout in the special, a substantial shifting in margin, but not quite enough to overcome a large GOP margin in these traditionally and strongly red districts. The pattern seemed to hold regardless of funding levels or the degree of national interest or attention or the particular strategies employed in the campaigns. If that same shift in margins were to prevail nationwide in 2018, Democrats could pick up close to 80 seats. Of course, much will happen between now and November, 2018, which could improve or worsen the public's perception of the Trump Administration and the Republican Party. Given the complexities of trying to tackle health care reform and tax reform and find compromises within the GOP to pass a budget and a debt ceiling increase, my guess is that the public's perception will steadily erode, rather than improve, but we'll have many months to watch that process unfold.

There are a few observations about the recent special elections worth noting. First, Karen Handel ran as far apart from President Trump as was humanly possible. She was happy to have Vice-President Pence headline a private fundraiser for her, but wanted no part of any public appearances with him. She touted herself as an independent voice for Georgia, not as a Trump acolyte. Further, she had a long career in Georgia politics preceding Trump,

having run for state-wide office twice, and was never closely associated with the Tea Party faction. So she was a known and comfortable quantity to many Georgia voters, with an identification distinct from the President.

In contrast, John Ossoff, the Democratic candidate, was brand new to Georgians. While he had no record to attack, he had to build name recognition from scratch, and he was vulnerable to all the vicious GOP attack ads. Further, although he grew up in the district, he actually lived outside the district (so he couldn't even vote for himself), living with his girlfriend as she completes medical school at Emory. Finally, the most consistent and apparently effective attack ads portrayed him as a puppet of Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, trying to associate him with all those evil San Francisco liberal morals and policies.


Should Ossoff, who ran a relatively high-road, centrist campaign, have gone full Bernie? Would that have made a difference? Should the national Democrats have poured some of the \$50 million that went to Ossoff into other races, like Montana and South Carolina? Do we need a fundamentally different message for voters?

It may be counter-intuitive, but I don't think more money or a different message would have made any difference. I think most voters have a pretty fixed sense of which side they are on, and they are successfully rationalizing their allegiance in the face of any evidence that ought to make them question that allegiance. Abandoning a chosen side is a slow process, one that surely takes more than a few months. It may be that, by November of 2018, more voters will have gone through that painful process and recognize their folly, or it may

be that President Trump will accomplish enough to hold on to that loyalty. The President crafted an appeal that exploited simultaneously the economic suffering and the cultural alienation many voters felt, and he wrapped that up in a false nationalism that made that anger seem noble. It will take a lot to move voters seduced by those unrealistic expectations. It may be that, after nearly two years, with no new jobs in the coal industry and automation continuing to reduce the manufacturing work force, voters will recognize the President's con game **for what** it is.

But it is also incumbent upon Democrats to present an alternative vision, to give voters in economically depressed areas some plausible hope and a reason to support our candidates. And that's hard, especially for a party that tries to be intellectually honest. In the 1980's, it took 10 man-hours to produce a ton of steel; today, it takes only two man-hours to produce that same ton of steel. That efficiency eliminated many blue-collar jobs, and that's not going to change. Those lost jobs are never



coming back, which is a tough thing to say to unemployed workers. At the same time, the unemployment rate is at historic low levels; the number of first-time applicants for unemployment insurance are at lows not seen since the 1970's; the stock market is at record highs; and corporate profits are similarly at record levels. Clearly, our society seems to be bifurcating. The surest indicator of how a county voted in 2016 was whether it was experiencing economic growth or decline. That so many counties are experiencing economic decline tells us how difficult it will be, despite indicators of overall economic prosperity, to address the real concerns of many voters and win back their allegiance. 

**From
25th District
State Senator
Anthony
Portantino**



Dear ACT members,

As you know, education was the centerpiece of my campaign for the State Senate. Thus far, I have been very pleased that I've been able to give it the focus I had hoped to be able to do. As the Chair of the Education Budget Sub-Committee many of the committee's priorities have successfully made it into the 2017-2018 State Budget, including an increase to k-12 funding, an increase to Local Control Funding Formula implementation, and a significant increase of one time discretionary money. This is particularly important this year as many of the districts face fixed costs rising greater than the COLA originally proposed by the Governor in January. In addition, I was very honored to have teamed up with Senate Pro Tem Kevin de León on SB 569, which I believe is the most significant higher education initiative before the legislature this year. SB 569 increases Cal Grants to ensure college affordability for our most needy students and allows grant money to be used for transportation and other related costs. The Senate also strongly supported the restoration of early child care funding and ASES after-school programs.

After the Senate "house of origin" deadline, 16 of my authored bills have passed on to the State Assembly and three important Resolutions passed our house, too. Several of my specific education policy proposals are gaining momentum: ensuring school start times match health science, helping community college students garner transfer degrees, helping our veterans get into the college of their

choice, helping students leaving court schools prepared for success, and translating Individualized Education Programs for families that don't speak English, have all been well received.

I've also worked closely on several important public safety, mental health and community issues: stemming the flow of rifles on main street California, increasing transparency for elected officials, freezing rents for the 710/Caltrans tenants and increasing financial transparency and accountability for politicians. Recently, I was pleased to host a town hall with the 710 Caltrans tenants and to have received a personal shout out from Transportation Secretary Kelly for my role in the negotiations to end the threat of the 710 tunnel.

Plans for designating a portion of the 134 for President Barack Obama and 210 freeway signs for the Pasadena Armenian Genocide Memorial have also moved to the Assembly. The Senate has justifiably been ground zero for standing up to the mean-spirited Trump agenda and for passing progressive legislation. We passed SB 562, advancing the cause of healthcare for all Californians, SB 54, protecting our immigrant community, and SB 1, one of the largest infrastructure packages in California history. The Senate also is working to ensure the proper financial disclosure of tax returns for all future Presidential Candidates to appear on the California Ballot. In short, it's been a busy couple of months and I value the trust you've placed in me to be your State Senator.

I can't believe that Bella has completed her freshman year. She's taking a summer school class, volunteering at the Glendale Y and at Girl Scout Camp. I'm very proud of both of my girls. The other day, I mentioned to Bella that it was time for the Los Angeles Gay Pride March and she quickly corrected me that it was "Gay Pride Month" not just one day, "DAAAD".

Warmly,

Anthony



**From
41st District
Assemblymember
Chris Holden**



Dear ACT Friends,

Much has happened since I last wrote to you, both in Sacramento and the 41st Assembly District. One of the biggest stories was the Los Angeles Metro Board of Directors' historic vote to pull Measure R funds from the 710 Tunnel project, shifting them to the Transportation System Management/Transportation Demand Management Alternative and leaving the remaining funds available to locally recommended projects. The vote moves us closer to implementing 21st century transportation solutions to relieve traffic congestion, connect communities, and reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. I'll continue to work with California State Transportation Agency Secretary Brian Kelly on this issue to permanently remove the Tunnel Alternative from consideration.

It was my pleasure to recognize La Verne resident and Sport Clips franchise owner Arif Taj as the "Small Business of the Year" for the 41st Assembly District. Taj started his first Sport Clips Haircuts franchise in 2008. He is now a proud owner of five Sport Clips Haircuts, including two in the 41st district, La Verne and Upland, and one in Rancho Cucamonga just outside of the district. With each store Taj opens, he partners with a local non-profit and offers free haircuts with a small donation for each Grand Opening weekend, with all proceeds going towards the designated non-profit. Taj is a model citizen and entrepreneur who exemplifies the positive impact one can make in our community.

In Sacramento much of my priority legislation

has moved to the Senate side including Assembly Bill 17 and Assembly Bill 1008. AB 17 establishes the Transit Pass Program that will provide safe, reliable and low cost means for students to get to class, reduce our state's greenhouse gas emissions, and instill lifelong ridership habits among our high school and college students. AB 1008 prohibits employers from asking about an applicant's criminal history on an initial application. Additionally, the Legislature also passed a budget agreement that is not only responsible, balanced, and on-time, but also protects and expands California's progressive gains to meet the challenges we face.

In my role as Chair of the California Legislative Black Caucus, I am spearheading an effort to increase diversity in Silicon Valley's tech industry. A delegation of legislators including myself, representing the California Legislative Black Caucus, and my colleagues from the California Latino Legislative Caucus, California Legislative Women's Caucus, and the California Asian Pacific Islander Caucus met with the decision-making executives of technology industry leaders to discuss current diversity efforts in the Silicon Valley.

Organized by TechNet and hosted by PayPal, the meeting's attendees included top executives representing Uber, Lyft, General Motors, ChargePoint, SunRun, Bloom Energy, Instacart, AirBnB, and tech giants Google and Apple. All in attendance agreed to be more transparent in their efforts and to work with the Legislature in diversifying their boards. The summit not only allowed for communication from industry to the legislature, but assisted in the exchange of ideas amongst the technology companies.

While there are many concerns with the lack of diversity within the tech industry, there are five key issues the Caucuses would like to see addressed including closing the gender and ethnic pay gap; improving employment and

outreach opportunities; Increasing board diversity; Creating a pipeline for diverse technical talent and upward mobility; and retaining diverse talent with the development of a welcoming company culture.

-- Chris Holden

Assemblyman Holden represents some 420,000 people in the foothills communities of Altadena, Pasadena, South Pasadena, Sierra Madre, Monrovia, San Dimas, La Verne, Claremont, and Upland. He can be reached via his website at: www.asm.ca.gov/holden and fill out the contact form.



A few thoughts from CADEM 2017 Convention

from Malcolm Johnson



First of all, it goes without saying that Sacramento absolutely deserves to host a #CADEM Convention. But their facilities lacked for size. The bottom level of their Convention Center was just too damn small for a Convention of our size.

But what I really wanted to talk about was all the “New Blood” that has come into the party, *and my very mixed feelings about them.* Is it good to have new blood in a Political Party? *Of course it is.* New blood and new ideas help spur growth and change. But when the central core of those “new ideas” is that “The Party” sucks, well that’s never going to go over well.

I mean, I spent the weekend being told what an absolute failure the Democratic Party was, and how it needed to change or die. Really? Last I checked, my Party got 3 Million more votes than the other guy. With California in particular doing SPECTACULARLY well for Hillary in 2016.

So...what exactly are we failing at? Oh, that’s right. We’re not immediately signing to your new ideas. Thus we come to the crux of the problem. The new Berniecrats complete and utter failure to do the one key thing in politics: PERSUADE!

Obama Volunteers in 2007–2008 were masters at this. They recognized the need to persuade, to

convince others he was okay to vote for. This was not an easy sell. Like in 2016, Hillary was a known commodity, and...hell, Obama was black for pity’s sake. Some Democrats actually said the election was too important to take a chance on a Black Man.

But OFA Volunteers recognized that fact. They took the time to talk to folks, they answered peoples’ questions, they...yes...PERSUADED!!

If someone was a no-go on Obama, they moved on to the next person with no ill feelings (*why waste the time?*) They were professional and moved on to the next gettable voter. The people I saw in Sacramento (not all, but *way* too many) were not doing that. They basically approached people with the attitude of “You’re failing” and “It’s your fault for making it fail.”

The response from many a Democratic Delegate or Voter was “Uh, Excuse me?” It wasn’t so much nasty, as it was arrogant. *Arrogance of youth*, perhaps. If you worked in 2016 as hard as I did (to the point of being diagnosed with a case of Type II Diabetes), it’s a little insulting to hear.

Example: All throughout the first day’s floor session there were chants for SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE! Yes. At a DEMOCRATIC PARTY CONVENTION, people were chanting at OTHER DEMOCRATS over SINGLE-FREAKING-PAYER. Our outgoing Chairman, John Burton, took the podium at one point and asked “IS THERE SOMETHING DEMOCRATS FIND CONTROVERSIAL ABOUT SINGLE PAYER??”

John Burton, and why we love him so. He DGAF and lets you know it. *Yes*, there is a Bill going through the Legislative Process in Sacramento, and *yes* pressure needs to be applied, but WHAT KIND OF PRESSURE? I could also tell you about the time a Liberal tried to convince an ARMENIAN-AMERICAN that there was nothing wrong with the name “*The Young Turks*,” but that’s a whole other thread.

And should I mention how some of the more (ahem) active Berniecrat delegates tried to shout down DNC Chair Tom Perez at the Chairman’s Reception Friday Night, only to have John Burton tell them to shut the f**k up and go outside?

Side note: We love and will miss John Burton at CADEM.

The idea is to *rally* your friends, not confuse them...or worse...piss them off. It also did not help that Bernie Sanders' name was invoked at the Convention way more than the former nominee, Hillary Clinton. Granted, I know that people love ... Bernie (for whatever reason), but I also know that *Bernie is not a member of this party*. Not trying to be insulting, that's just the way it is. He...is not...a Democrat.

It also did not help that the so-called "Bernie" candidate for California Democratic Party Chair (Kimberly Ellis—nice woman. Former Executive Director of Emerge CA), brought on Nina Turner (whom I'm not nearly as fond of) to give her introduction. This would be the same Nina Turner who's been bashing Democrats all the live long day since dumping Hillary for Bernie, and dumping her in the most public way she could think of.

Kimberly Ellis - It also didn't help that Nina wound up speaking (where she introduced Kimberly) for *three* of Kimberly's allotted *seven* minutes of speaking time. In the end, Kimberly lost the California Democratic Party Chair race to Eric Bauman by 62 Votes. A good friend of mine, also a Bernie and Kimberly supporter, lost his Region 11 Director race.

Eric Bauman — Instead of asking "*Gee? What can we do better next time*" too many Bernie/Kimberly [delegates] instead blamed the Delegates who didn't agree with them. And there's the problem, you can't start from the proposition that you're right and everyone who disagrees with you is wrong. You can't lose an election, then blame the people who didn't agree with you, or worse, claim that there was cheating or "Dirty Tricks."

And PROTIP-1: maybe, not so much with the legal challenges. And PROTIP-2: maybe not so much with the booging of the guy who got more votes. (What is it about the winner is the one with the most votes do these folks not understand?) Run a mother@#\$\$%^* better race. Convince more people. Hell, GET MORE VOTES!!! Don't say that the party is "fundamentally corrupt" because they didn't vote the way you

wanted them to. I saw way too many signs at #CADEM2017 saying just that, and it's too self-absorbed for words.

As I said...do what my friend who lost his Region 11 Director's race did, shake your opponent's hand and ask what you can do to help. Inevitably, that offer will be accepted, and when you get together, the subject of your differences in the campaign WILL come up. Any differences in between you and that opponent will be discussed, not necessarily resolved, but hearing each other out is important.

Maintain a good attitude. Be a happy warrior. In this case, these are Dem-on-Dem races. The winners are all Democrats.

In the Region 11 race, I thought my friend's opponent was a damn good candidate, and would do a great job as Director. He's also a good Union guy with the UCFW. I went into the race going, Hell, HE'S my backup plan? Win-Win! Embarrassment of freaking riches! I do not view him as my enemy for having won. He's going to do a good job, and I volunteered my help to him in every way I can.

Where's that attitude among the newcomers? It's there in some cases, but in way too many it was not. If you didn't see the result you wanted in these races, please...keep going to Democratic Club meetings, but don't just go to listen to your own ideas inside a bubble, go and find out where other Democrats stand. You don't need to shift your views, but you do need to understand what others believe, but also (and more importantly) WHY they believe what they believe. You don't have to agree with their position, but you do have to understand it in order to compete in the field of ideas. I understand why Berniecrats believe what they believe. We generally agree [with] them, just not in order of priority.

We also disagree on approach to getting things done, and the good being the enemy of the perfect (intentional reversal). And yet, because I don't fall into lockstep with how they view the world, I'm viewed as a "Neoliberal" and "Fundamentally corrupt." That's fine; I view them as clueless and about as deft politically as a sledgehammer being

used to dry the dishes.

In short...in my mind: Berniecrats are long on ideas and short on Political acuity. What makes me mad is, some of the Berniecrats are actually quite proud of being short on Political acuity. They see it as Feature, not a bug.

So we'll have to see. The Berniecrats of the world need to add some charm and polish to their resume of ideas in order to succeed. And no, Berniecrats...you're not above using charm to get what you want. You don't have to change the nature of your ideas, or even your overall position. But you do have to think about how to approach people, particularly other Democrats with whom you want agreement. Do that and you can accomplish the things you SAY you want to accomplish.

But what really scares me about the Berniecrats is they may be on a martyrdom kick. They'd rather be pure than succeed. That attitude kept us from getting Health Care Reform for a century. That attitude loses us elections.

Now, I'm only about stopping Republicans, particularly the Republican we have in office now. The only reason I'm against you...is if you get in my way while I'm trying to fight him.

Editor's Note: Malcolm Johnson was the Media/Communications Director for United Democratic Headquarters. He is also a talented photographer.



Special Thanks to Our Sustaining Members

Peggy Adams & Joel Edstrom
Robert & Elizabeth Neuwirth
Dick Smoak & Ferol Mennen

Special Thanks to Our Patrons

Armando Gonzalez & Brenda Berg
Councilmember Steven Madison

And Really Special Thanks to Our Benefactors

Clare & Christopher Tayback

Thank You to Karen Wingard



Karen Wingard has just stepped down from serving as our (Region 11) California Democratic Party Regional Director for an amazing 26 years. We thank her for all those years representing us, educating us, and holding the Democratic banner high. Well done, Karen.

Note that Region 11 includes Assembly Districts 41, 43, 51 and 53 – from Burbank to Claremont and beyond. Our new Region 11 Director, Mark Ramos, was elected at the state convention. He can be reached at Mark4Region11@gmail.com.



The Donald's Deportation Disaster

By John Grola



Trump's Draconian Immigration Policies Will Only Hurt the American Economy

President Trump has made a major issue out of the so-called illegal immigrants living in our country. "The LA Times" recently reported that deportation arrests have risen dramatically under the Trump regime. (5/18/17)

One question is what exactly do immigrants -- legal or otherwise -- contribute to our society and culture? The answer: A great deal, probably more than most realize. In fact, if not for these immigrants, American civilization as we know it -- including industries ranging from agriculture and hospitality to medicine, the law, education, and high technology -- would probably collapse.

First, let's dispense with the false notion that Trump's wrath is aimed only at Mexicans. We have immigrants in our country from many nations: Central and South America, Europe,

Asia, Africa, Haiti, various Muslim nations -- every corner of the world. The issues involved for each new immigrant vary depending on the countries from which they come, as do the consequences should they be deported -- not just for them, but for all of us.

For example, Trump recently sent chills down the spines of Silicon Valley civic and business leaders when he signed an order calling for a revision of the H-1B visa program, under which the government admits some 85,000 foreign workers per year, many of whom are from India and are in high-tech fields. Companies like Google and Microsoft rely heavily on highly-skilled H-1B workers, and do so, reports the "New York Times," Because they often can't find qualified American workers.

The consequences of Trump's policy will also have far-reaching impacts on our future. Take the case of the so-called "Dreamers," young people brought to our nation as children, and who have been protected until now by the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. Deportations of Dreamers have soared under Trump, according to a recent report in the "LA Times." Many of these youngsters have worked hard in our education system, and represent the doctors, lawyers and scientists of tomorrow.

Unbeknownst to many is that the economic power of Latinos in Southern California (many recent immigrants) is tremendous. According to the "Pasadena Star-News," in 2015 Latino household spending totaled \$60.1 billion. About 28 percent of Latino-owned businesses in Los Angeles County are engaged in professional and business services. And, like rest of us, these folks pay taxes, including sales taxes, among others.

Let's also dispel another myth: According to a new Cato Institute report recently covered by

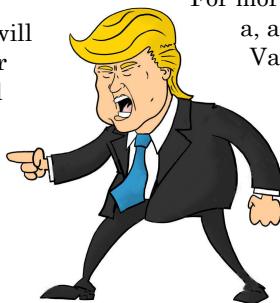
the "Star-News," illegal immigrants are much less prone to committing crime than are native-born Americans.

But it doesn't stop there. Take the world of processed food; the ham, steak, and processed meats that you enjoy? These meats have probably come from slaughterhouses in Iowa. There cattle and pigs are slaughtered, butchered and the various cuts are made. Who does this unpleasant and extremely hard work? Immigrants, many of them from Mexico and probably some them are "illegals." Very few "regular Americans" are willing to do this work, especially at the low wages that are paid. So, enjoy your meats this year, courtesy of immigrants.

For more on food, drive up to Oxnard, Ventura, and then up to the Central and Salinas Valleys. There you will see thousands of people doing the back-breaking and often dangerous work of planting, cultivating, and harvesting the vegetables and fruits for which California is so famous. Who are the people doing this work? Again, enjoy your lettuce, strawberries, oranges, lemons, avocados, etc., all courtesy of immigrants.

Many California growers are presently freaking-out because they can't find the farm labor they need, due in part to Trump's policies, according to the "LA Times." It seems "regular" Americans don't want to do this type of work, even with raises and perks. The "LA Times" has reported that about 90 percent of agricultural workers in California are foreign born, and more than half are undocumented. Of course, many of these desperate growers voted for Trump. Hope they are happy now.

These immigrants also know how to do other stuff quite well. Go to just about any restaurant and see who is doing the actual cooking -- Latinos, many of them immigrants. Let's not



stop at food. When it comes to construction, house repair renovation work, yard work? That's right, Latino immigrants.

Those guys willing to scale trees and do the hard and dangerous work of trimming trees, reducing the danger of downed power lines? That's right, Latino immigrants. How about the gardeners and armies of men who mow lawns, trim vegetation? Again, Latino immigrants. They work hard, yet make very little. How many white guys do you see mowing lawns and taking care of other people's yards? Not many, but many of them voted for Trump! Rank hypocrites.

Have I mentioned child care? As a former resident of Altadena, I can't tell you how many times I have seen Latinas pushing baby strollers and otherwise taking care of other people's kids while they are at work. Again, I'm sure they get paid a pittance. But they do the job, and apparently people are happy with their services.

Trump would have many of these people deported, which is reason enough to believe he's either crazy, heartless or both. Personally, I stand with Gov. Jerry Brown, who has repeatedly said our diversity only strengthens our country.

Here's an idea: Lets instead deport Donald Trump to his favorite country -- Russia?

Reprinted from the *Pasadena Weekly* with permission.

John Grula, PhD, is affiliated with the Southern California Federation of Scientists.



Thanks for Additional Contributions to ACT's Operating Account

Michael Duran & Suzanne Spillane

And Thanks for Additional Contributions to ACT's Political Account

Clare & Christopher Tayback



ACT's Webpage: Wanted: Photos

ACT's webpage www.ACTpasadena.org has politically relevant links and events – local, statewide and national. Note that the current on-line edition of *The Phoenix* (in color and often with items that couldn't be fitted into the print edition) is always available on our webpage.

Bruce Wright, our website manager, asks for photos of local meetings, marches and other events for the webpage. Submit ideas and photos to Bruce at brucewright@sbcglobal.net.



ACT members Linda Centell, Jeanette Mann, Ed Washatka, Jon Fuhrman, Susan Kane, and Fred & Jeanne Register, at the Gran Teatro La Fenise Opera House in Venice. "La Fenise" translates to "The Phoenix"; how appropriate!

Does Your Address Label Have a RED CHECK?

Have you sent your 2017 membership check? A RED CHECK on your address label of this **Phoenix** tells you we haven't yet received your check and we are eagerly waiting for it. ACT and Arroyo Democratic Club membership dues for 2017 have not increased; they are still a bargain. We need your continued support! Please use the form below or renew online at www.ACTpasadena.org. Many thanks!



If you have any questions about your membership please contact Executive Director Jon Fuhrman at 626 795-5255 or jon_fuhrman@charter.net.

P.S. Thanks to all of you who have already renewed - for your amazing generosity and support.

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$40 Single | <input type="checkbox"/> \$70 Single Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Each additional member per household | <input type="checkbox"/> \$90 Double Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Student or limited income | <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 Patron |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> \$275 Benefactor |

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Single | <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Single Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Each additional member per household | <input type="checkbox"/> \$85 Double Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Student or limited income | <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 Patron |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Gift Membership (NEW!) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$275 Benefactor |

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Single | <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Single Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Each additional member per household | <input type="checkbox"/> \$85 Double Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Student or limited income | <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 Patron |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> \$275 Benefactor |

Extra Contribution

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

 Name

Home Phone

 Address

Office Phone

 City

ZIP

 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.



Calendar

July 6
Thursday
6:30 p.m.

ACT & ADC Summer Potluck and Meeting at the home of Bobbie and Henry Moon, 1961 Mar Vista Ave., Altadena. Special guest: Patrick Conyers of PEF. Potluck assignments on page 1. Potluck begins at 6:30 p.m.; meeting at about 8 p.m. All members welcome and urged to attend.

July 7
Friday

Progressive Discussion Group at Dupar's Restaurant, 214 S. 9-10 a.m. Lake Ave., Pasadena. Call Dale Gronemeier 323 254-7600 or dlg@dgronemeier.com for more info. Also 7/21, 8/4, & 8/18.

July 23
Sunday
3-5 p.m.

League of Women Voters Pasa. annual ice cream social at Western Justice Center, 55 S. Grand Ave., Pasa. For more details and to RSVP, call 626-798-0965 or visit <http://lwy-pa.org/summer-ice-cream-social/>

October 8
Sunday

SAVE THE DATE! United Democratic Headquarters (UDH) 2017 Fundraiser.



No *Phoenix* in July

This is our notice to remind you that we publish *The Phoenix* only 11 times each year. This year, partly because we put out the June issue late, we've decided that the July issue is the one that will be skipped for 2017. So ... your next Phoenix will be the August issue. Until then we wish you a very nice summer with not too many 90+ degree days and maybe some time at the beach.



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