

Issues Ballot Inside



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

Volume 43
Number 7
July, 2015

Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer

Judy Boggs Memorial Fundraiser



Meet-the-Mayor Wine and Cheese Party

Sunday, July 19, 4-7 p.m.

at the home of

**Marilee Marshall & Bruce Wright
654 S. Madison Avenue, Pasadena**



Hear from Pasadena's new Mayor, Terry Tornek! Other honored guests include former Community College Chancellor Jack Scott and former Pasadena Area United Democratic Headquarters (UDH) interns. Among them are: Mark Gonzalez (Co-Chair L A County Democratic Party), Martin Medrano (Field Rep for Assemblymember Christine Garcia and candidate for the Hacienda La Puente Unified School Board), Steven Butcher (Field Rep for Assembly-member Adrin Nazarian), and Anthony Reyes (VP of Finance, Associated Students, University of LaVerne).

As you know, the Judy Boggs Fund is a tribute in memory of Judy, ACT's late founding member and long-time Executive Director. By tradition the Fund is used to award stipends to outstanding students to intern at our United Democratic Headquarters during the three months leading up to the general elections. Past interns have used this experience to go on to work for elected officials, to hold offices in the Democratic Party, and to run for political office.

(See more information on internship at <http://tiny.cc/17d29xx>.)

Suggested Sponsor donations: \$1,000; \$500; \$300; \$100 or \$25 per person. Everyone is welcome. No one turned away for lack of funds. Send checks to: ACT, P.O. Box 40074, Pasadena, CA 91114-7074 or pay at the door. Or online at www.ACTpasadena.org.

RSVP: Marilee Marshall mmlegal@sbcglobal.net or 626-564-1136.



Community Panel to Support Huntington Nurses' Rights

Sunday, July 26, 3-5 p.m.
Pasadena Church—404 E. Washington Blvd,
Pasadena, CA

This event offers a safe space for Huntington nurses leading union organizing efforts to share testimonies of their experiences at Huntington Memorial Hospital

Panelists include:

- Pasadena City Councilmember Victor Gordo
- Pastor Kerwin Manning of Pasadena Church
- Professor Peter Dreier from Occidental College
- Professor Mark Maier from Glendale Community College
- Monica Hubbard from League of Women Voters
- Tarek Shawky of Masjid Al-Taqwa and criminal defense attorney
- Rev. Andy Schwiebert of (a) Spire Ministry of the First Congregational Church of Pasadena—United Church of Christ
- Ed Washatka, ACT Treasurer

ACT members and friends are welcome. For further information contact ACT member Jen Suh at jsuh@calnurses.org.



Congratulations, Jeanette

On July 11 ACT member Dr. Jeanette Mann received a “Breaking the Glass Ceiling” award from the National Women’s Political Caucus of California (NWPC-CA) as the first woman elected to the Pasadena City College’s Board of Trustees. Dr. Mann already had an outstanding record of leadership in the field of higher education when she was first elected, 32 years ago.

Her contributions to youth development, violence prevention, foster care services, equity, and diversity have brought her awards by many organizations, including the YWCA, the NAACP and California State Senator Jack Scott. An outstanding leader, she is the immediate past president of the California Community College Trustees Board, formerly president of the Community College League of California.



ACT Meeting Calendar

NOTE: There will be no ACT Steering Committee/Arroyo Democratic Club meeting in August. In addition there will be no August *Phoenix*.

The ACT **Coalition Building and Outreach Committee** next meets on **Tuesday, July 28 at 7:30 p.m.** at Yuny Parada’s office, 1015 N. Lake Avenue, Pasadena. Parking is available in the back.

The **Research Committee** will meet to interview PCC Board candidates on either **August 15 or August 16**. Contact Research Committee Chair Marilee Marshall at 626-564-1136 for details (or mmlegal@sbcglobal.net).

The next Steering Committee/ADC meeting will be on Thursday, September 3 (before Labor Day) at the home of Jeanne and Fred Register, 2345 Midlothian Drive, Altadena. The agenda will include discussion of the Research Committee’s Report on the candidates for PCC Board seats.

The October Steering Committee/ADC meeting will be on Thursday, October 3. The program will be a discussion of fracking (hydraulic fracturing).

As always all ACT and ADC members are welcome at these meetings.

Wonderings and Wanderings

By Inman Moore



Unfinished Business

I woke up one morning this past week, listened to Celine Dion and Andrea Bocelli sing “The Prayer,” and suddenly realized that there is a lot of unfinished business in my life. I am approaching ninety years of age and there are many things left on my “bucket list.”

1. I have not always appreciated the things that my wife, Nellie, does for me in her unassuming way. I think I will go in right now and tell her what she has meant to me, our four children, our six grandchildren, our two great grandchildren, and all of our “in-laws.”

2. I have not always appreciated the privilege I have of living in a free country, with food to eat, water to drink, decent healthcare, the privilege to pursue a vocation of my choice, many educational choices, and the right to freely move about the country.

3. I have not worked as hard as I should for the causes I believe in, such as: peace, women’s rights, gay rights, racial equality, free education, freedom of religion, a just wage, an infrastructure that makes it easier to move about the country, and my belief that love, not hate, is the cement that holds us all together.

4. The need to go to another Dodger game, play another hand of bridge, go to another movie, go again for a family week at Cayucos, and to walk again through the Caltech Campus and visit my old friend, Tenjin, sitting astride his water buffalo.

I will never see the end result of many things on my “bucket list,” but it has been a great ride. And I am so very thankful.

--Inman Moore

ACT-Endorsed PUSD Board Candidates Support Foster Youth Program Funding

Last April the members of ACT overwhelmingly voted to support using all supplemental funds received by PUSD through the local control funding formula (LCFF) for targeted, disadvantaged youth (those receiving free and reduced lunch, English-language learners and foster youth) for educational programs to improve the academic achievement of these youth; to count foster youth who might fall into more than one category as foster youth; and to use a proportional amount of LCFF funds received for foster youth for programs for foster youth. The membership further voted to use a candidate’s position on the use of supplemental LCFF funds for foster youth as a criterion in evaluating candidates for seats on the PUSD Board of Education.

In December a question on the use of LCFF supplementary funds for foster youth was included in ACT Research Committee’s interviews of PUSD Board Candidates. This question was also raised at several community forums. In June in a meeting with the three ACT-endorsed School Board members, all three indicated that they had first become aware of the issue of local control funding formula (LCFF) funds through the ACT interviews and of ACT’s position on funding programs for foster youth. Under the leadership of the new Superintendent, Dr. Brian McDonald, the draft 2014-15 LCAP provided for the use of supplemental LCFF funds for foster youth for programs and services to meet the unique educational needs of foster youth. All three stated they would support this position, which is also ACT’s position.

In June of 2014 at the public hearing on the 2013-14 LCAP, 157 letters, including 30 from ACT members, were presented to the PUSD

Continued on page seven

Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Monday, July 13.

The Presidential election is sixteen months away, yet we seem already fully immersed in Presidential election politics. For those election wonks among us, it is great fun, but it must be at least a bit wearing on most voters. However, we can thank Donald Trump for adding a certain sparkle to the proceedings. With sixteen Republican contenders, it's hard to be recognized, but the Donald does seem to be sucking all the oxygen out of the room. Be sure to watch the Republican debate on Aug. 6 – my guess is that Trump will ride roughshod over his colleagues, leaving the moderators perplexed as to how to rein him in.

The interesting thing to me, though, is how the delegate allocation rules are going to work with such a large field. Democrats have a rule that, even in the early caucuses and primaries, a candidate must get at least 15% of the

vote to earn any delegates at all. This tends to discourage, and even eliminate, minor candidates quite quickly. It may be a bit unfair and lead to deal-making; you may remember that supporters of New Mexico Gov. Richardson, in the 2008 Iowa caucuses, seemed to migrate en masse to Barack Obama (thus sealing Obama's victory) when Richardson failed to hit the 15% threshold in most caucuses, leading to accusations of a back-room deal.

But the Republicans have no such national threshold. They do allow states individually to set minimum thresholds, but the early states have not done so yet. Any primary or caucus prior to March 15th must use proportional allocation. After the traditional early primaries and caucuses (Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina in February) comes "Super-Tuesday" on March 1, with Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont and Virginia, all using proportional allocations. Thus, the early delegate counts could be highly fractured.

On and after March 15th, however, primaries or caucuses can be winner-take-all, which you might think would tend to eliminate lesser candidates. Florida, for example, moved its primary to March 15 and went winner-take-all, as did Ohio. But Florida will likely be won by either Jeb Bush or Marco Rubio. Ohio, on the same day, may well go to Gov. John Kasich – by all calculations a minor candidate but highly popular among Ohio Republicans, so he could well win as a favorite-son candidate with 20 – 25% of the vote. Thus these winner-take-all primaries may actually make it more difficult for any candidate to amass a majority of delegates before the convention and give local favorites, like Kasich, some significant clout at the convention. The Republican National Convention is scheduled for July 18 – 21; not since 1952 has a Republican Con-

vention actually had to choose the nominee.

Of course, the Presidential race isn't the only excitement. Democrats will be working hard to recapture the Senate, and even, perhaps, the House, although that would require some really huge coattails (or an opponent like Donald Trump). On the Senate side, Dems have to pick up at least four seats, which seems like a big hill to climb. But remember that this year's class of Senators were elected back in 2010 – the first wave of Republican gains in an off-year election. So there are quite a few incumbent Republicans who rode to victory based on meager turnouts in swing or Democratic states. Sen. Mark Kirk, from Illinois, for example, squeaked through in 2010, but is facing the likelihood of a massive Democratic turnout in 2016. Further, Democrats have done exceptionally well in recruiting strong candidates; Representative Tammy Duckworth, a wounded Iraq war veteran, is challenging Kirk, and, even this early, has to be the odds-on favorite.

Democrats are similarly well-positioned in four **other key states**: Pennsylvania, where early polling now shows Democrat Joe Sestak ahead of incumbent (and very conservative) Sen. Pat Toomey; Wisconsin, where former Sen. Russ Feingold is running against incumbent (and very conservative) Sen. Ross Johnson; Florida, where Rep. Patrick Murphy is running against incumbent (and Presidential contender) Marco Rubio; and Ohio, where former Gov. Ted Strickland is running against incumbent Sen. Rob Portman.

You might notice something else about these four states – they are all pure battleground states, where the Clinton campaign will be devoting exceptional resources on the ground and in the media. This convergence between

Presidential election dynamics and local Senate races will likely provide a vital edge to our Senate candidates. If the Presidential campaign succeeds in replicating the turnout levels we saw in 2008 and 2012, that virtually guarantees success in retaking the Senate.

And there are other key battleground states where similar dynamics may be in play: Nevada, where we need to hold the seat of retiring Sen. Harry Reid; New Hampshire, where Republican incumbent Kelly Ayotte could be vulnerable; North Carolina, where Democrats are still struggling to find a strong candidate to oppose incumbent Sen. Richard

Burr; Arizona, where Sen. McCain will be opposed by Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick; and Indiana and Missouri, where Democrats also have strong candidates but where we face longer odds.

My guess is that, indeed, our Presidential candidate will generate turnout close to, or at, the levels we saw in 2008 and 2012, and that turnout will give us 6 or 7 new Senate seats, and control of



the chamber. Similarly, that turnout will give us upwards of 20 House seats, but perhaps not the 27 we need to take control of the House.

In part, I think this will happen because the Democratic Presidential nominee will be focused on Congressional races and be determined not to have their Presidency mired in partisan warfare with a hostile Congress. So they will fund ground operations in the battleground states necessary to turn coattails into solid Congressional victories. Also, the recent Florida State Supreme Court ruling throwing out their gerrymandered Congressional map could impact between 8 and 12 Congressional seats. The ruling, based on state Constitutional grounds, is essentially not subject to appeal and must be implemented within 100 days, in

plenty of time for 2016. If the state “unpacks” Democratic voters and spreads them more widely among Districts, the Florida delegation could be dramatically changed from its current 17 – 10 Republican tilt to a more even, or slightly Democratic, tilt, echoing its voting pattern in Presidential elections.

The other key factor that makes me optimistic is that the economy continues to improve. The June jobs figure showed another month of growth in excess of 200,000 jobs, with the unemployment rate dipping to 5.3%. This steady rate of job growth points to a substantially improved economy by late 2016, and the rate of improvement seems to exceed that of most forecasters.

We see that impact here in California, as the June revenues exceeded expectations by over \$500 million. Further, those expectations were published in late June – they’re only 3 weeks old, and already we’re showing substantial excess revenue! If that continues at merely half the pace, that would mean an extra \$3 billion in state revenue in the 2015 – 2016 fiscal year, adding to our rainy day fund and allowing further restoration of the safety-net programs slashed in prior years. That impact trickles down to local governments, as, for example, the Governor and Legislature look at resurrecting, in some form, the redevelopment powers that local agencies used to have. Further, property tax revenue is increasing steadily and solidly – up about 6% for this year -- providing a strong underpinning for local government budgets.

So look for local, state and the federal governments all to benefit as revenues surge along with the economy.

-- Jon Fuhrman



Special Thanks to Our Patrons

Edith Grady, Pasadena
Fred & Jeanne Register, Altadena

Mary Lois Nevins



Mary Lois (Minton) Nevins, who with her husband Richard Nevins was a Charter Member of ACT, died on May 25 at age 90. Mary Lois was born in Garden City, New York and grew up on Long Island. Her family moved to California with her military father during WWII. She graduated from Westover School and Vassar College. She married Richard in 1946 and they moved to Pasadena where they raised their three sons.

Mary Lois was always active in Democratic politics. She walked precincts (for Adlai Stevenson in 1956 and Pat Brown in 1958) through the 1990s. She did volunteer work for the Altadena-Pasadena Young Democrats, the FDR Club, the California Young Democrats, the CDC, the LWV, and NWPC of Greater Pasadena. As her sons grew up she enrolled at L A State College and earned a teaching credential. She then taught at Hillside for 18 years. She was an early childhood education proponent who served on the Pacific Oaks Board and the Mothers’ Club Board, and she provided a 2006 lead gift that enabled the creation of the Mothers’ Club Family Learning Center on N. Fair Oaks.

We extend our sympathy to sons Richard, William and Henry, their families and other family members.

Any memorial contributions may be made to Mother’s Club Family Learning Center, 980 N. Fair Oaks Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91103.



Welcome New and Returning ACT Members:

Elaine Frieden, Pasadena
Councilmember Laura Friedman, Glendale
Christophe LaBelle, Pasadena
James Lomako, Pasadena
Gerald Phillips, Altadena

Frances Dyer

Longtime ACT member Frances (Grunewald) Dyer died on June 11 at the age of 91.

Frances was a powerhouse as an advocate and volunteer worker for the Pasadena Unified Schools and the civil rights movement. She was born in Minnesota, the seventh of eight children and grew up in Boone, Iowa. She came to California in 1941 and worked as a Secretary at Union Oil Company in L A. She married Virgil Dyer, who predeceased her, in 1949 and they settled in Altadena.

Frances earned four PTA Life-Membership awards plus many certificates of appreciation and plaques for her community service. The Altadena Chamber of Commerce named her Altadena Citizen of the Year in 2005.

She served as President of the Altadena/Crown City Kiwanis Club at the age of 77. She was a LWV member and a life member of the Pasadena Branch NAACP.

We extend sympathy to Virgil's daughter Nancy and to Frances and Virgil's daughter and son, Krista and Thomas and to the many other family members.

Any memorial contributions may be made to Altadena/Crown City Kiwanis Foundation, P.O. Box 215, Altadena, CA 91003-0215.



Special Thanks to Our Sustaining Members

Joan & Jeff Palmer, Pasadena
Rachel Dewey Thorsett &
Stephen Thorsett, Salem, OR

And to Our Benefactor

Nancy Warner, M.D., Pasadena

And for Additional Contributions

Fred & Jeanne Register, Altadena



Environmental News Update

President Obama has designated three new National Monuments using his Executive Order authority. The newest monuments are: Berryessa Snow Mountain (CA), Waco Mammoth (TX), and Basin and Range (NV).

Under the Antiquities Act of 1906, President Obama has added a total of nineteen National Monuments, protecting more than 260 Million acres of public lands and water. He has turned to the Act more than any other president, viewing it as a means to leave some of our country's greatest legacies. In addition to the preservation aspect, comes a boost for the local economy.

If you have not been to Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument, it is located approximately 100 miles from the Sacramento, Bay Area. A must see, make it #1 on that Bucket List.

-- Barbara Paul



Foster Youth, Continued from page three

Board. Because foster youth are a small, separate at risk group with unique educational needs, the Board was urged to use the supplementary funds received for foster youth to support programs for foster youth. The Board was also urged to increase the \$55,000 in the draft LCAP to \$155,000—a proportional amount of the funds (3%). At its next meeting the Board unanimously voted to approve the LCAP and to reduce the funds for foster youth by \$2,000 to \$53,000.

This year the draft 2015-16 LCAP included a proportional allocation of supplemental LCFE funds for programs for foster youth: 2.5% of the funds. The LCAP was approved unanimously by the Board on June 25 with \$527,375 for programs for foster youth.

-- Jeanette Mann

Revised Minimum Wage Motion from the ACT Steering Committee

Following on the heels of the Los Angeles City Council vote to raise the minimum wage to \$15 by 2020, the ACT Steering Committee approved a motion calling on the Pasadena City Council to raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour. The language of the proposal states **“ACT supports the adoption of a minimum wage in the City of Pasadena with the goal of reaching \$15 per hour according to a timeline deemed feasible by the City Council.”** The new motion gained near unanimous approval of the ACT Steering Committee with a yes vote of 25-1.

This Phoenix contains an ACT Issues Ballot for the General Membership on the Minimum Wage issue. The ballot must be returned by August 7th.

Last October, the ACT General Membership was asked to support a similar proposal calling on the Pasadena City Council to amend its minimum wage ordinance and raise the minimum wage to \$15 by 2017. Although supported by the Steering Committee with 19 yes votes, 3 no votes and 2 abstentions, the former proposal was supported by only 58% of the General Membership. ACT by-laws require 75% yes votes before a motion is adopted for ACT official support.

There continues to be growing support for increasing the minimum wage in cities and counties throughout California. LA County is slated to vote July 21 on a motion to raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour by July, 2020 to match the City of LA's new ordinance. Now is the time for Pasadena to join in the regional solution to raise the minimum wage for workers within the City.

Pasadenans For A Livable Wage, a broad

based coalition of local labor, faith and community organizations is leading the local campaign. Over 800 petition signatures have been gathered, and two community forums have been held in the past several months. The group has begun lobbying the city council since the completion of the recent council election. Council members indicating support for raising the minimum wage include Mayor Terry Tornek, and Council Members Victor Gordo, John Kennedy, and Tyron Hampton although they have yet to specify an exact hourly rate or time line for raising the wage.

ACT Members Mike Babcock, Marty Coleman, Peter Drier, Kim Douglas, Dale Gronemeier, Skip Hickambottom, Mark Maier, Jen Suh, and Ed Washatka have joined **Pasadenans For A Livable Wage**, and participate regularly in the weekly coalition meetings and organizing activities.

STUDIES INDICATE BENEFITS

There is much recent data from various sources, including the US Census Bureau, Economic Roundtable of Los Angeles, UCLA Labor Center, and UCLA Institute for Research on Labor and Employment) that identifies the need to raise the minimum wage and supports the positive impact such a raise would provide to the regional economy.

- **Many Pasadenans earn low wages.** Nearly one third of working Pasadena residents earn less than \$15 per hour, despite working full-time, year round. About 15 percent of those employed in Pasadena earn less than \$15 per hour. (American Community Survey published by the US Census Bureau.
- **Families aren't making enough to get by.** More than 17 percent of households in Pasadena live on less than \$25,000 per year. An astounding 28 percent of households here spend more than half their income on rent.

- **A higher minimum wage would create economy-boosting jobs.** A \$15 per hour Pasadena minimum wage would inject over \$150 million per year into the economy; increase tax revenue; and reduce spending on the social safety net.

We ask the General Membership to return your enclosed ballot and vote **YES in support of the Steering Committee Motion.**

Respectfully submitted: – *Co chairs -- John McLean, Jeanne Register, Executive Director - Jon Fuhrman, Treasurer - Ed Washatka, Steering Committee Members — Beth Gertmenian, Dale Gronemeier, Chuck Hains, Dolores Hickambottom, Susan Kane, Mark Maier, Jeannette Mann, Marilee Marshall, Fred Register, George Van Alstine, and Bruce Wright.*

ACT ISSUE BALLOT

on Pasadena Livable Wage Ordinance



Issues Position Ballot Instructions

Members whose 2015 dues are current may vote. Each member listed on the Phoenix address label may cast a vote. Mark the attached ballot and return it in the enclosed envelope with the address label, so we know how many votes your household is entitled to.

Ballot Deadline Ballots must be received by 5 p.m. Friday, August 7. Further voting information can be found on page twelve.

If you lose the enclosed return envelope, mail ballots to ACT, PO Box 40074, Pasadena, CA 91114-7074. A 75% majority of ballots cast is required to endorse an issues proposition. Members may vote for or against the proposal, or may vote not to take a position. There is no minimum quorum required.

Example: (family has 3 ACT members qualified to vote), Member #1 supports Affirmative Position; Member #2 supports Negative Position; Member #3 decides to vote "No Position":

Vote for one	Voter: #1	#2	#3
Affirmative Position	X		
Negative Position		X	
Take No Position			X

ISSUES PROPOSAL:

This proposal states “**ACT supports the adoption of a minimum wage in the City of Pasadena with the goal of reaching \$15 per hour according to a timeline deemed feasible by the City Council.**”

The Steering Committee recommends an Affirmative vote (25-1-0).

ACT Issues Ballot:

Vote for one	ACT Voter: #1	#2	#3
Affirmative position			
Negative position			
No position			



From Anthony Portantino



As I get older, life seems less complex to me. Enjoy your family, respect and help others, endeavor to leave our community in a better place than how we found it and just plain smile. That's why, I love this Mother Teresa quote, **"We shall never know all that good that a simple smile can do."** I'm determined to leave the frowns to others and continue to move on in a positive & productive manner.

ACT was an awesome sponsor of the Crescenta Canada Democratic Club's 10th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday. We had a great party where we honored Senator Carol Liu, Congressman Adam Schiff, our club founders and our club's current and past presidents. It was a very nice celebration. Thank you ACT for the support of a sister Democratic Club.

Community Happenings

As I've been out and about, I'm reminded every day just how special our communities are and how many people make a positive difference to keep them so. Listening to the stories of those of our veterans who came home, and those who did not, on Memorial Day puts things in perspective. A lot of folks paid a steep price for what we enjoy today.

I was able to attend the San Dimas Historical Society Installation Dinner to celebrate a small town that values its rich heritage. And, I was able to take Bella to a horse show fundraiser that uses terrific horses as therapy for children that need special care. It was a very nice place to spend time with my daughter supporting a terrific cause.

At a recent Glendale Rotary meeting, Father Greg Boyle inspired and reminded everyone about our interrelation to one another and what it truly means to be a humble servant. I smiled again after leaving the program when I

went into my local Ralphs and purchased Home Boy tortilla chips. Father Boyle's mission to spread education, jobs and economic hope is certainly making a difference.

All and all, I'm enjoying everyday I'm out across our communities.

Athletes Making a Difference

In addition to making headlines, Caitlyn Jenner made something that might seem complex simpler for all and perhaps might lead to a student or teen somewhere getting an encouraging hug rather than a judgmental stare when faced with a similar situation. And, that just might save a life someday. Jenner reminded all of us that it's what's inside that matters most and that the world's greatest athlete is still the world's greatest athlete. I was proud to attend a rally last weekend in Hollywood with the transgender community. Far too many of our youth face too many struggles and I just don't want to read about another tragedy that could be avoided with the proper dose of love and support.

Speaking of athletics, how about our Women's World Cup. Team USA played and won the most watched soccer game in US TV history. It was sure fun to watch the games with Sofia and Bella. Don't know if anyone noticed that several of the players had links to New Jersey, were Italian Americans and also to the San Gabriel Valley. It was awesome!!!

Campaign

So Proud to announce that State Controller Betty Yee has endorsed my campaign, joining over 100 local School Board and Councilmembers from across the district. And, as referenced above, I'm going to keep moving in a positive direction. Judging by the harsh tone of some of the blogs out there directed toward me, I think I'm in a pretty good position.

I was also very pleased that the Foothills Community Democratic Club of Monrovia endorsed our positive campaign. I'm proud to

say that of the five local Democratic Clubs that have endorsed in the Senate race, all five have endorsed our effort. All politics are local and I'm pleased to report that a significant number of local leaders and institutions are lining up behind our collective effort. Thank you!!!

-- Anthony

Anthony Portantino is a two time former ACT Co-chair, State Assemblymember and Mayor. He is currently a California Film Commissioner.



From 25th District State Senator Carol Liu...



Sacramento Update

The big news of the summer is enactment of the 2015/2016 state budget. The budget includes total General Fund spending of \$115 billion, \$4.6 billion into the state's rainy day fund and reserve, and dedicates more than \$1.9 billion to paying off debt.

I was heartened by the Senate Democrats' success in restoring cuts to early care and education, health care for immigrant children, and making significant investments in higher education.

We've made the smartest investment in California's future –more than \$68 billion in K-14 schools and programs. That means more than \$10,000 per pupil – an increase of 15 percent in just two years. **We also made a targeted reinvestment in early care and learning with more than 13,000 new slots** for early care and learning.

The budget creates more access for Californians to attend college. The budget makes targeted investments in UC and CSU

to allow 15,000 more students to attend and graduate on time. It also restores CalGrant eligibility at private non-profit schools and provides an additional 3,000 competitive CalGrant awards.

This budget makes a commitment to improving elder care, health care and veterans care for California's children, seniors and veterans, and the plight of the working poor. For the first time ever, the budget invests in ALL of California's children by extending healthcare coverage to 170,000 immigrant children. It restores the seven percent cut in hours and implements overtime payments for those who care for seniors through In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS).

For veterans, this budget appropriates an additional \$3 million in General Fund to support County Veteran Service Officers; and establishes 36 permanent positions within the Department of Veterans Affairs to address the continued federal claims backlog. The working poor will benefit from a new state EITC that provides \$380 million in tax relief to 2 million low income Californians.

As the state deals with its fourth year of drought, the budget contains an additional \$2 billion to reduce the impacts of the drought. This includes investments in water conservation, recycled water, storm-water capture and money for food and housing assistance in regions in the most affected regions.

On the Legislative front, policy committee deadlines hit on July 17 when the Assembly and Senate go into recess for one month. I will update you on the outcomes for my pending measures in August, but I am pleased to say my bills are moving well. My package of bills on aging and long term care is progressing as are my measures to support community schools, increase accountability and performance in higher education, and improve the in-

tegration of state transportation and sustainability planning.

I trust you are all enjoying a good summer and I look forward to spending more time in the District over the break.

-- Senator Carol Liu

Sen. Liu represents about 930,000 people in the 25th Senate District, which includes Burbank, Glendale, Atwater Village, Sunland-Tujunga, Pasadena, La Cañada Flintridge, La Crescenta, Montrose, Altadena, San Marino, South Pasadena, Sierra Madre, Monrovia, Bradbury, Duarte, Glendora, San Dimas, La Verne, Claremont, and Upland. Visit www.senate.ca.gov/LIU.



ACT Coalition-Building & Outreach Committee Report - July 9

Police Oversight

Appellate argument June 24: The PPOA appeal of the trial court judgment to release 80% of the OIR Report on the McDade Shooting oral argument was June 24. The Court can take as long as 90 days to issue its opinion, but it probably will be released this month.

Independent Police Auditor developments: Although there were probably four votes for the IPA, the City Council ultimately did not vote on the IPA funding for \$175,000 after new member Andy Wilson indicated he would not support the IPA for the procedural – not substantive – reason that the IPA policy should be decided before any budget decision was made and it was consequently clear that the necessary votes were not yet there. The City Council instead unanimously voted to allocate \$50,000 to study it – a rather remarkable change, since John Kennedy had proposed such a study a year and a half ago and could not then even get a second for it. The Public Safety Comm. will hold its first meeting on July 20 at 4 pm; a scope of work proposal for the study should be on the agenda.

Police video cameras: ACLU Staff Attorney Peter Bibring led an informative discussion on the protocol for police body cameras at the June 19 Progressive Discussion Group. The deployment of car cameras is proceeding with cameras that do not give the officer a choice to not turn the cameras on (as occurred in the case of the McDade shooting). No protocol has yet been decided as to whether Pasadena will follow the best investigative practice of not allowing officers or witnesses to use of force incidents to see the video-recordings before they are interrogated on the incidents. Nor has the issue of whether the public will ultimately be able to see video-recordings been resolved; there is currently litigation in Gardena to prevent the public from ever seeing video-recordings.

Pasadenans for a Livable Wage (PLW)

PLW shifts to tracking LA's wage increase. PLW previously advocated and gathered petitions to expand the Pasadena Living Wage Ordinance to all employers and create a path to \$15/hour. With the passage of the LA minimum wage ordinance that will increase the minimum wage to \$15/hour by 2020, PLW now advocating and gathering petition signatures urging a minimum wage ordinance modeled on LA's minimum wage. Ed Washatka, Mark Maier, Skip Hickambottom and Dale Gronemeier continue to represent ACT in the coalition, and several other ACT members including Alex Maltun, Marty Coleman, and Jen Suh are regular attendees at its meetings. It meets every Wednesday at 4 pm at All Saints Church. You can get yourself added to the PLW network and thereby get notifications by going to PasadenaCFMS@yahoo.com.

Petitioning Wednesdays and Saturdays: PLW continues to gather signatures on a petition to the Pasadena City Council. Kristen Green at kgreen@dgronemeier.com has taken over coordinating the Wednesday petitioning and Ed Washatka at ed.washatka@charter.net

is coordinating the weekend petitioning; Alex Malthun at alexmaltun@gmail.com is assisting both. Petitioning has been done so far at the Orange Grove/Fair Oaks Von's shopping center, the Colorado/Sierra Madre Boulevard Shopping Center, Urth Café, Peet's, Starbucks at Washington and Lake, Starbucks at the Paseo, Starbucks at Lake and Californian, the Fillmore Starbucks and Metro Station, and the Hasting Ranch Whole Foods.

Report on McDade Shooting Report Appeal

The Pasadena Star News has a generally accurate report on the oral argument in the Court of Appeal yesterday. The link to it is <http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/generalnews/20150624/appeals-judges-again-asked-to-block-release-of-parts-of-mcdade-shooting-report>

The oral argument lasted for about 2 hours; an argument of that length is highly unusual and reflects the fact that the 3-justice panel (Rothschild, Chaney, and Johnson) are really drilling down and paying attention to this dispute.

It is likely that the Court will issue its opinion in 1-4 weeks from now.

Overall, it went about as we expected. It appears that the Court is not prepared to give any of the relief sought by the PPOA. The PPOA attorney, Richard Shinee, was grilled for nearly half of the time and did not appear to be convincing the Justices; the questioning of him was much more critical than the questioning of Kelli Sager, the *LA Times* attorney, or me (Dale Gronemeier.) Justice Johnson, an African-American man, in particular was highly skeptical of the PPOA position. My guess is that Justice Johnson is going to be writing the opinion.

The City's attorney, Javan Rad, did not have as rough of a time as Richard Shinee, but it was no cakewalk for him. When he said "we're happy with the Judge's decision," one of the

Justices said – seemingly sarcastically – "I'm sure you are." What the City has to worry about is that Justice Johnson's questioning suggested that Judge Chalfant's order – largely based upon the City's proposed redactions -- had over-redacted by suppressing criticism of the police department administration for not cooperating with the OIR investigation; if that is what is in the report and it is the Court's opinion and/or disclosed by the release of an OIR Report that does not redact as much as the 20% done by the City and authorized by Judge Chalfant, it would be a black eye for both the police department for failing to cooperate with the OIR and for the City Attorney's Office for suppressing that criticism by its over-redaction.

My presentation was relatively short; I focused on the issue of over-redaction that protected criticism of the police administration rather than protecting the privacy rights of officers. Kelli Sager had a much longer presentation; hers was clearly the strongest and most persuasive presentation of the 4 lawyers who spoke. She is very, very good, and it paid off in much greater deference to her than the Court gave to the other lawyers.



Beyond the water's edge

By John Grula, reprinted from the *Pasadena Weekly* with permission



Bad Water Choices

There are better ways to save California's most precious commodity

Now that Gov. Jerry Brown has mandated a 25 percent cut in urban water usage because of the severity of California's drought, city dwellers, the overwhelming majority of the state's populace, are looking for ways to comply with Brown's mandate.

Here are some good recommendations: Flush

toilets less often, cut back on lawn watering, take shorter showers and fix leaks. But in terms of our state's overall water situation, here's an even better one: Eat less beef, y'all. California agriculture consumes nearly 80 percent of the state's water, and beef production is the worst offender.

First, it takes copious amounts of water to irrigate various cattle food sources, such as alfalfa. Second, the animals themselves drink millions of gallons of water. Finally, huge volumes of water are needed to wash away the waste produced on factory farms and in slaughterhouses. When all is said and done, *The New York Times* recently reported, it takes 86 gallons of water to produce 1.75 ounces of beef. A very small lunch indeed.

According to a recent environment.national-geographic.com report, a vegan indirectly consumes nearly 600 gallons of water per day less than a person who eats the average American diet. Perhaps a serious water crisis requires some serious lifestyle changes.

Drive up Interstate 5 in the Central Valley and you will see many enormous alfalfa fields — often irrigated in the middle of the day with sprinklers — and huge factory farms crammed with many thousands of cattle. A few California cattle ranchers might be making a good living, but beef production is a bad water choice for our state, especially in a severe drought.

While we're on the subject of food, let's also consider a rather minor food item, the humble almond. Most of us would agree that they are tasty little morsels, but hardly essential for human survival. However, according to a recent Associated Press report, people around the world are eating 10 times more California almonds than they were just a decade ago.

In 2014 almonds became the state's top export crop, adding \$6.5 billion to our state's economy, according to the AP. But let's keep this

in perspective. California currently has a \$2.2 trillion economy, according to the Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy. The state's almond exports account for just 0.3 percent of that economy. If we were to ban the production of almonds tomorrow, our economy would barely notice it. But a tiny number of almond farmers still have the political clout to get the water their trees demand.

Meanwhile, it takes a gallon of water to produce just one almond. Rows upon rows of almond trees now cover nearly one million acres in California, nearly all in parched areas of the Central Valley that require vast amounts of irrigation. Almonds are currently consuming nearly 1.1 trillion gallons of water annually in our state, which is 20 percent more than all California families use indoors. And because most of our almond exports are sent to China, we are essentially exporting huge amounts of our water to that country, the AP reports.

Almonds aren't the only culprit. Other tree crops such as pistachio nuts, avocados and citrus fruits also need a lot of water. At the very least, perhaps the time has come for the state to declare a moratorium on the planting of any more tree crops or other water-thirsty perennials, such as grapes. It makes water sense and it makes economic sense, because again, while agriculture uses 80 percent of the water Californians draw from groundwater and surface supplies, it produces just 1.5 percent of our state's gross domestic product.

Other bad water choices are myriad, but one that sticks in many people's craw is the oil and natural gas extraction process known as fracking. This process often uses millions of gallons of water per fracked well. The water is mixed with sand and various chemicals, some of which are carcinogens, and is injected deep underground under high pressure to break up rock formations and free up previously unobtainable oil and gas. The process has

been so successful at increasing US oil production that during the last year burgeoning oil supplies have sent the price of oil plummeting by as much as 50 percent.

So, if we are awash in oil, why are we using and contaminating large amounts of water to extract more of it when the water could be used for much more urgent human needs, like living?

Most of the fracking in our state occurs in Kern County, which is also one of our biggest agricultural counties. Earlier this year officials discovered hundreds of illicit fracking waste-water pits in that county. The hundreds of pits are unlined, according

to the *Los Angeles Times*, and could easily contaminate underground water aquifers, which farmers are frantically drilling into and pumping to extract water for their thirsty crops. So now fracking is threatening food production.

Gov. Brown is to be congratulated for taking our state's water crisis seriously and mandating cuts in consumption. But a much more sane, sensible and comprehensive water policy needs to be put in place. Now that he is the majority leader in the state Assembly, it is time for Chris Holden to step forward and help our state devise and implement such a policy.

2015 ACT and ADC Membership Renewal

A red check on your address label on this *Phoenix* tells you that we haven't yet received your 2015 membership dues. Hey, it's time! Please use the form below and mail your check c/o ACT/ADC, P. O. Box 40074, Pasadena, CA 91114-7074. Or if you wish you may renew online at www.ACTpasadena.org. ACT and ADC dues are still a bargain, especially if you join both organizations. Your continued support is critical to our getting important work done.

P.S. Grateful thanks to everyone who has already renewed.

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

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**

Name	Home Phone
Address	Office Phone
City	Email address

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



Calendar

- July 19
Sunday
4-7 p.m. Judy Boggs Fund Wine and Cheese Fundraiser at the home of Marilee Marshall & Bruce Wright, 654 S. Madison Ave., Pasa. Mayor Terry Tornek and more special guests. Sponsorships for \$1,000 / \$500 / \$300 / \$100 or \$25.
- July 28
Tuesday
7:30 p.m. ACT Coalition Building & Outreach Committee meeting at Yuny Parada's office, 1015 N. Lake Ave., Suite 104, Pasadena. Parking in back.
- August 7
Friday
9 a.m. Progressive Discussion Group at Dupar's Restaurant, 214 S. Lake Ave., Pasadena. Call

Inman Moore for info at 626-795-2201.

- Aug 15 or 16
Sat or Sun Research Committee meeting to interview PCC candidates. Contact Marilee Marshall for info at mmlegal@sbcglobal.net.
- August 21,
Sept 4, 18 Progressive Discussion Group. Details same as 8/7.
- Sept 3
Thursday
7 p.m. ACT Steering Committee/ADC meeting at the home of Jeanne & Fred Register, 2345 Midlothian Drive, Alta. Discussion of Research Committee report on PCC Board candidates. Coffee at 7 p.m.; meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.

No Steering Committee meeting or Phoenix in August

There will be no ACT Steering Committee meeting and no Phoenix published in August.



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