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Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer

ACT/ADC Scares Ed Royce into Retirement

OK, maybe there was a little more to it than that :) But the fact remains that on Monday, mere months after ACT/ADC adopted Congressman Ed Royce for early retirement, the Orange County Republican announced he will not run for re-election in 2018! His retirement could be a major step toward turning Congress Blue next year.

There had been some quiet rumors that this might happen, but it still came as a major surprise to both parties. Royce's 39th District is one of many diverse, suburban districts that have been trending away from Republicans under the weight of Donald Trump's massive unpopularity. Registration is expected to be dead-even or slightly Democratic by election day 2018, and Hillary Clinton carried the 39th by 8% in 2016 (after Romney carried it easily in 2012).



As a result, Royce was facing a brutal re-election fight for the first time in decades. Several well-funded Democratic challengers were already campaigning, grass-roots enthusiasm in the district was surging, and liberal groups of all kinds (ACT/ADC included) had targeted the race.

Darrell Issa Retires too!!

Royce's retirement does not make this a slam-dunk for Democrats. But national organizations promptly moved the 39th from the "leans Republican" column to "leans Democratic." This will now become one of the most hotly-contested open seats in the country and could see bitter, divisive primaries in both parties.

At least two more Democrats have recently jumped into what was already a crowded field (seven Dems and two independents at last count). Meanwhile, Republicans have a deep bench of potential candidates, including: Michelle Steel, chair of the Orange County Board of Supervisors; former Assemblywoman Young Kim; Scott Baugh, former chair of the Orange County Republican Party; former state Senate minority leader Bob Huff, who represented parts of this district; Assemblyman Phillip Chen; and former Assemblywoman Ling-Ling Chang.

Whoever wins the Republican primary will have plenty of resources for the November election – but

probably less than Royce, who had more than \$3,500,000 in cash-on-hand. On the one hand, the next Republican will now not have to defend Royce's lock-step voting record in support of Trump. On the other, winning the primary will probably require a lip-lock embrace with Trump.

In light of this development, we are temporarily halting our series of articles on Democratic challengers in the 39th. We may resume the series once the dust has settled – or ADC could revisit our targeting decision. Now that the blue-team's odds in the 39th are so much better, some may prefer to look at other red-to-blue target districts where help is needed.

— Fred Register



Help Flip the 39th CD

January 8: Ed Royce has just announced he will retire at the end of his current term!! Please double check the Swing Left calendar below to check for possible changes.

Arroyo Democratic Club members were working with Swing Left and other groups to bring about Republican Congressman Ed Royce's early retirement in the 39th CD. You can still help by joining other volunteers canvassing Democratic and independent 39th CD voters at upcoming Swing Left events:

Sun., Jan 21, 1-4 p.m. in La Habra

Sat., Jan 27, 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in Chino Hills

Sun., Jan 28, 1-3 p.m. in Brea

Mon., Jan 29, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Fullerton College (voter registration)

Sign up and get full details at swingleft.org/district/CA-39/calendar. You can also reach the Swing Left calendar via ACT's webpage, ACTpasadena.org. Volunteers will be provided with clipboards and materials and compre-

hensive training before heading out in pairs. Please bring a fully charged smartphone. (If you don't have a smartphone you will be partnered with someone who does have one.) Wear comfortable shoes and bring some water.

You may contact ADC President Bill Hackett at billhackett2002@yahoo.com or 626 705-2180 to talk about ridesharing.

NOTE: Swing Left is a national grassroots network that helps people take action in their closest Congressional Swing Districts to swing the House in the 2018 midterm elections and put a check on the Trump agenda.



Election of Officers for ACT and ADC for 2018-19

At a duly noticed general membership meeting on January 4 at the home of Marilee Marshall and Bruce Wright, ACT and ADC members elected the following officers for 2018:

Welcome and thanks to all for being willing to take on these important jobs!

- Co-chair: Darla Dyson (Ed Washatka and Joanne Wendler will continue to serve for the second year of their terms.)
- Treasurer: Ed Washatka
- Co-recording Secretary: Barbara Paul and Mona Fields
- Co-corresponding Secretary: Beth Gertmenian and Monica Hubbard.

At the same duly noticed meeting ADC members elected the following officers:

- President: Bill Hackett
- Vice President: Tim Wendler
- Treasurer & Secretaries: the same as ACT

NOTE: Most ACT Committee Chairs and members will continue serving in 2018. We

Continued on next page

Officers, continued from last page

welcome some new committee members: Karen Breau, Membership and Mailing; Ron Garber, Program and Mailing; Felicia Rusnak, Computer/Website; Lynn Appel, Membership and Susan Kane, Program. We will try to list all officers and Committee Chairs and members in the February *Phoenix*.



Wonderings and Wanderings

By Inman Moore



The Importance of The Printed Word

One of the important advances of the human race came when they could put down their thoughts for posterity through the development of a written language. While early incidents in the Bible, for example, circulated as campfire stories about much earlier things, it was not until the Prophet Amos in 700 BC that their thoughts about present things were put down in writing. The Book of Genesis is a compilation of many stories of the human race and how it came to be. These were campfire stories of much earlier days. But they were not put down in writing until 500 BC, many centuries later. What I am trying to say is that the preservation of human activities for posterity came with the development of language and the ability to write.

A huge advance in the preservation of human activities concerning what humans did and about what humans should have done came along with the invention of the printing press around 1440 and the formation of newspapers. The first newspaper in America was the Pennsylvania Packet and Daily Advertiser which began publication September 21, 1784.

Today much of our information comes via radio and television, but newspapers still play an important role in the dissemination of news. In our own household, in addition to television, we receive, in printed form, the Pasadena Star News, The Los Angeles Times, The Pasadena Weekly, and the Pasadena Outlook. Nationally, our finest magazine is The Week. It is a weekly magazine which does an incredible job of summarizing what occurred in the previous week. Its front cover each week is well worth the price of the subscription. We also receive The Nation, and Sojourners. Many of you may also have other sources of information. At any rate I have written all of this to better tell you about a movie I saw last week.

On Saturday, January 6, I went to see “The Post.” It is a “must see” movie. It is about the agony newspapers have of printing the news of spectacular events that oftentimes affect the lives of many people, and of people in spectacular positions of power. In this case it is the agony of Kathryn Graham, the owner of the Washington Post, and Ben Bradlee, her editor, in determining whether or not to print the Pentagon Papers they had acquired which were secret government documents showing the absolute lies by government officials during the Vietnam War which led to the unnecessary killing of thousands of American military personnel.

This movie is especially relevant to our present time when we have a president who cries “Fake News” to everything he dislikes that appears in the newspapers and on TV. From my viewpoint the greatest disseminator of fake news at the present time is President Trump. At any rate my main reason for writing this column is to urge you to see “The Post.” You will be glad you did!

— Inman

Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Tuesday, January 9.

Well, the Republicans got their tax cut, their crowning (and pretty much only) legislative achievement. It certainly will benefit their elite donor base, but not so much the working-class voter base who elected President Trump. Most pundits think the tax law will actually hurt the Reps, as most voters will see little if any benefit, and many voters may find their taxes actually going up.

In the short term, though, we'll be focusing attention on two areas. From an electoral perspective, the next special election is on Tuesday, March 13, in western Pennsylvania, where an incumbent conservative Republican was forced to resign in a mini-scandal. And from a legislative perspective, Congress is facing a January 19th deadline to renew funding for the government.

In Pennsylvania's 18th Congressional District, incumbent Tim Murphy, a fervent pro-life Republican, resigned after e-mails showed him urging his mistress to have an abortion. In Pennsylvania, the party organizations choose nominees in special elections, so the March 13th election is a winner-take-all run-off. The GOP candidate is State Rep. Rick Saccone, who describes himself essentially as an uber-Trump candidate, and whose capstone legislative initiative was a bill to require school districts to post "In God We Trust" in every school. The district had reliably voted for the GOP Congressional candidate; Murphy had gotten about 60% of the vote from 2002 through 2012, and he was unopposed in 2014 and 2016. The district is over 95% Anglo, but Democrats actually have a modest registration edge.

Saccone was first elected to the State House in 2010, when he beat a Democratic incumbent by 150 votes (in a huge Republican year). He hung on to the seat by 110 votes in 2012, and was more easily elected in 2014 and 2016.

The Democratic candidate is Conor Lamb, who got his BA and law degrees from Penn. He served three years in the Marines, both in Okinawa and then in DC for the Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals, after which he joined the Reserves. He then worked as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for three years. In 2017, he prosecuted and convicted a Naval Academy instructor for lying about sexual misconduct involving female Academy members. His family has a long history in local politics – his grandfather was a former State Senate Majority Leader, and his uncle is the Pittsburg City Controller (although the district does not include any of the City of Pittsburg).

Lamb is a relatively centrist Democrat; progressives would consider him off the reservation on gun control, for example. But he is

probably a good fit for his suburban and rural district in western Pennsylvania. While the district has virtually no minority voting blocs, it will be somewhat akin to the Alabama Senate race, with the candidate trying to focus on local issues –like the opioid epidemic, which meshes with his personal experience prosecuting cases in the US Attorney’s office – while taking advantage of the widespread dissatisfaction with President Trump. He will be looking toward the national Democratic groups to help fund GOTV efforts while, at the same time, maintaining his independence from those groups. It’s a fine line, but Doug Jones in Alabama was able to maneuver through that minefield quite successfully, and Lamb hopes to follow suit.

Neither candidate has filed their financial disclosure reports yet, so it’s hard to tell where they stand. But the GOP PAC run by Speaker Ryan has already opened two offices in the district, which used to be a solid seat. The Cook Report has the seat as Leaning Republican, but if the Dems can outperform historical norms (as we have in every prior special

election this cycle), this district could well be ripe for an upset. As is typical with lower-turnout special elections, the relative enthusiasm of voters on each side could well determine the outcome, and most analysts agree that, at least for now, Dems are running hot. My guess is that this will be the first House seat we flip, and with that outcome, you will see many more formerly safe House seats being classified as Toss-Ups or Lean Republican.

On the legislative front, Congress is facing, yet again, a deadline to pass the annual funding bill (or bills) for the government. As usual, the funding decisions are intimately intertwined with policy decisions – DACA, the

wall, border security, immigration policy, domestic versus military spending, infrastructure spending, and disaster relief. The leadership have been meeting on and off for a week now, but they seem to have made little progress as yet. The central problems seem intractable. The President wants a border wall, and if he gets that and some superficial increases in border security, he might compromise on DACA. The Democrats simply won’t agree to fund the wall in any way, and insist on solving the DACA issues now. The President and GOP Congressional leadership insist on significant increases in military spending, which Democrats are generally willing to accept,



but only if they get dollar for dollar similar increases in domestic spending, which GOP leaders are dead set against (although the President might be squishy on that one). The debt limit has to be raised, or the Treasury will run out of money (perhaps as soon as March or April), but not surprisingly a significant chunk of House Republicans won’t support increasing the debt limit unless we reduce

spending (while everyone else is talking about increasing spending, and they just happily passed a tax cut package that will add over a trillion dollars to the debt).

So, will the Congress punt once again, with another Continuing Resolution that keeps the government funded and simply postpones these fights once again? My guess, this time, is that they will not. The Defense Dept. really does need additional funding now; waiting until the fiscal year is half over won’t work for them. The issue of disaster relief similarly can’t wait another two to four months. The debt limit has to be dealt with now. And Democratic leaders face enormous pressure on the DACA issue.

They had promised not to agree to a funding bill last year without resolving DACA, but as the Christmas holidays and recess neared, it just was not practical to hold out. I think they made the right decision; it was too late in the year and too little time to work through these issues. But now, I think they have to hold firm, even if it forces a government shutdown. But if that happens, then we have to be ready for tough negotiations.

That means we have to be ready to give some ground if we're going to get some ground. Most likely, Democrat's demand for dollar-for-dollar equality on military and domestic spending will give way. Actually, if we can get 50 cents on the dollar – that is, increasing domestic spending by 50 cents for every dollar increase in military spending – we'd be doing pretty well. Dems might even have to go a bit lower than that, but hopefully not too much lower. The key issue will be DACA; how can we hold firm and require a fix (and what does that fix entail?) and yet still not yield on the wall. We might have to compromise on several core immigration policies – the lottery system, the so-called chain immigration policy whereby relationships to existing immigrants enable new immigrants to gain preferred status – as well as accepting some distasteful increases in border security systems (creating a “virtual” wall) to get the President to accept a no-wall, DACA reform bill. It would be worth forcing a government shut-down for a week or two to gain that compromise, and to be seen as the party fighting for fair treatment of the Dreamers.

However, our leadership does have to consider how long the shut-down might last. What happens if it drags out to two, or three, or four weeks? The GOP have an inherent advantage – a significant number of their members would be delighted if the shut-down became permanent, and we simply closed all of the non-critical, non-security functions of the gov-

ernment. Only electoral pressure might move enough GOP legislators to push for reasonable compromises, and it's not clear if they perceive those pressures now.

My guess, then, is that we will end up with a shut-down lasting one to two weeks, and a final resolution that rescues the Dreamers and stops the wall, but at the cost of a many changes in immigration policy and border security that are truly distasteful to Democrats.

— Jon Fuhrman



February ACT/ADC Meeting

Thursday, February 1, 7 p.m./7:30 p.m.

at the home of

Jeanne & Fred Register, 2438 Highland Ave.,
Altadena

(between Altadena Drive and Mendocino St.)

**Special guest: Mark Gonzalez, new L A
County Democratic Chair**

Most of us first knew Mark as a Judy Boggs Intern at our 2006 UDH – where he was often seen speaking for us on local television! His life story is the making of a Democratic activist and leader. At Eagle Rock Jr./Sr. High School he was elected class president each year from 8th grade through his senior year. He graduated from Cal State Northridge with honors and was increasingly involved in Democratic campaigns, advocacy work, and voter registration. He was appointed and then elected to the LA County Democratic Central Committee and has served in numerous positions there. He is also and E Board member.

He was Field Rep for then-Assemblymember Anthony Portantino, and Senior Field Rep for Speaker John Perez as well as District Director for Assemblymember Miguel Santiago. Please visit www.lacdp.org/about/meet-the-chair or use the link from ACTpasadena.org to see Mark's full biography.

Join us to hear Mark on local and state Democratic Party activities and plans, including flipping Republican congressional districts in 2018. Socializing begins at 7 p.m.; the meeting follows at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.



Black History Parade & Festival

Saturday, February 17, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Free event sponsored by the City of Pasadena

One of Southern California's largest Black History parades begins at Charles White Park and ends at Robinson Park. Enjoy the Festival at Robinson Park! The festival features live bands, dance performances, guests speakers, community booths, food to purchase and fun! Proudly coordinated by the Black History Planning Committee, and the City of Pasadena, Human Services and Recreation Department. For event information, please call Jarvis Emerson at 626 744-7300 or message ww5.cityofpasadena.net/main/.



Liberal Thoughts...

"Choose your leaders with wisdom and forethought.

To be led by a coward is to be controlled by all that the coward fears.

To be led by a fool is to be led by the opportunists who control the fool.

To be led by a thief is to offer up your most precious treasures to be stolen.

To be led by a liar is to ask to be told lies.

To be led by a tyrant is to sell yourself and those you love into slavery."

~ Octavia E. Butler, from *The Parable of the Talents*. Sent by Monica Hubbard.



Really special thanks to Our Benefactors

Bruce Wright & Marilee Marshall

Letter to the Editor



November's Wave?

All the cable news channels are talking about a -- **Potential Wave**- election in November where disgust for the President sweeps many Congressional Districts into the Blue column, but I'm not being sanguine as we were all feeling mistakenly confident about the first woman to become President. Personally, I'm treating this election as if the final outcome will leave us with 218 Congressional Representatives from one party and 217 from the other.

We need to pick up 24 seats and 23 Republicans currently are sitting in districts that Clinton carried. The DCCC has identified additional districts we can confidently go after. UDH has adopted district 39 to retire Ed Royce and many in ACT living farther North and West along the 210 are interested in working with Swing Left 25 to retire Steve Knight. I believe that those of us who are politically active in the San Gabriel Valley should concentrate on these two districts and we should feel comfortable in knowing that Democrats like ourselves living adjacent to other Republican districts South, East and North are as eager as we are to turn Congress **Blue**.

Of all the people in the world, John Dean of Watergate fame this week said, and I'm paraphrasing, that everyone should be waking up each day and saying to themselves what can I do today to make sure that this November we elect Democrats to put a check on this President. I've adopted this as an aphorism and every morning I wake up with the knowledge that I must take some ACTION to that end. My first ACTION today was to write this letter and ask all of you to help turn Congress **Blue**.

— Ron Garber

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



Dear ACT Members,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone came through the holidays healthy and happy. I'm looking forward to 2018. It's quite a different feeling to not be running for office every two years and I plan to make the most of my legislative time. I will continue to add my voice to efforts that will ensure a safe and healthy work environment in the wake of the recent serious harassment issues that have come to light. As the father of two daughters and someone who authored legislation to extend whistleblower protection and increase transparency and accountability while in the Assembly, it's important to take the politics out of the issue and focus on changing the Sacramento culture. The courageous #MeToo movement is having a positive and dramatic impact on the Sacramento culture and the impending success of whistleblower legislation is just an example.

As Chair of the Education Budget Sub-Committee, K-16 public education will continue to be my top priority. There is more work to be done on SB 328 which embraces 20 years of research in favor of setting school start times for teens that will maximize the health and welfare of students. I was very disappointed by the non-student focused opposition I received from the California School Boards Association (CSBA) and their questionable tactics. CSBA received pretty damning letters from Stanford University and the American Academy of Pediatrics for making inaccurate statements during their lobbying efforts. I'm feeling more committed than ever to make this public health issue a law and I hope that

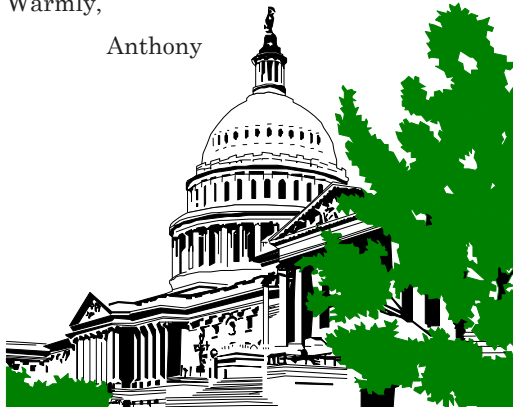
CSBA will put the interests of kids first in this debate.

As a former filmmaker, I plan to join with several of my colleagues on an effort to extend the important film and TV tax incentives which are keeping jobs in California. I'm also working on several gun control measures which continue my efforts in support of sensible gun control. One local issue that is of concern to neighborhoods and environmentalists in Glendale is the proposed expansion of the Grayson Power Plant. I recently supported efforts to take an honest look at alternative energy plans and I joined with Susana Reyes of the Sierra Club on a strong commentary published in the Glendale News Press. You can read it online by going to the Glendale News Press or by following this link: <http://www.latimes.com/socal/glendale-news-press/opinion/tn-gnp-me-commentary-reyes-portantino-20180105-story.html>

With Bella and Sofia home for the holiday, I spent a lot of time at home over break. Believe it or not, I've enjoyed taking Bella out for driving lessons. We had absolutely wonderful weather on News Years Day and I continued my tradition of taking Bella to the Rose Parade and Sofia to the Rose Bowl game. What a wonderful day in the 25th Senate District.

Warmly,

Anthony



**From
41st District
Assemblymember
Chris Holden**



Dear ACT Friends,

The second year of the 2017-2018 legislative session has officially begun. I'm currently putting together my legislative package for the year and look forward to your support. In addition to my new legislative agenda for this year, I will continue to pursue solutions to some issues left unresolved from my 2017 legislative agenda.

I'm continuing my conversation with Governor's office to reconcile the state's reimbursement rates for developmental disability service providers with locally mandated minimum wage increases. Without this fix organizations may soon close their doors on families that depend on their vital services.

I'm also submitting a funding request to allocate funds for a Student Transit Pass Pilot Program as described by my transportation pass legislation from last year, Assembly Bill 17. Providing transportation passes for students will ease financial burden for families and college students, reduce our state's greenhouse gas emissions, and create more sustainable communities.

As Chair of the Utilities and Energy Committee I'll be working with my colleagues to ensure we pass policies that grow our economy, save consumers money and protect our environment.

January is an important month as we celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I'm proud to announce that this year I will be honoring Ruthie and Joe Hopkins as the 41st Assembly District's Unsung Hero. They will

be recognized during the California Legislative Black Caucus Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast Celebration in Sacramento for their long-standing leadership in the San Gabriel Valley.

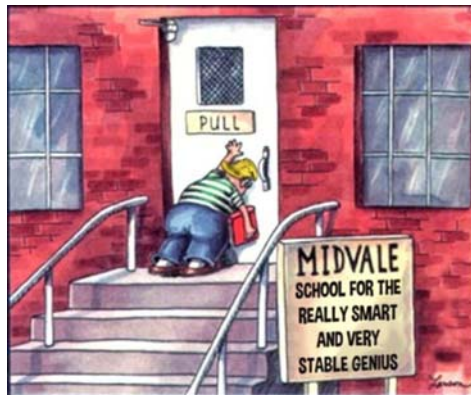
Joe and Ruthie Hopkins co-own and publish the Pasadena/San Gabriel Valley Journal News, the area's only African-American owned and oriented newspapers since 1989. The Journal addresses serious issues and concerns facing the Black community including hiring practices, lack of diversity, and racism in city governments, city departments, and law enforcement. Thanks to the continued advocacy of Joe and Ruthie Hopkins, and community support the Tournament of Roses will have its first African-American president in 2019.

In early spring, I will be honoring the district's Woman of Year whose service and work have made a positive impact in our community. I invite you to submit your nominations on my website at <https://a41.asmdc.org/>.

Lastly I want to congratulate ACT members Felicia Williams for her appointment as Senior Vice President of Kosmont Companies, and Ann Hickambottom as a new delegate from the 41st Assembly District to the California Democratic Party.

Sincerely,

— Chris R. Holden





Voters will decide future of Pasadena elections in June

At their meeting on Monday, January 8th, the Pasadena City Council approved major changes to City (and School Board) elections. Because the changes require amending the City Charter, they must be approved by voters. They will appear on the ballot in the June 5th election.

Here are the major changes:

- Primary elections for Mayor and City Council will no longer be held on the first Tuesday in March of odd years. Instead, they will be held in even years, concurrently with the statewide Primary for State and Federal offices.
- The statewide Primary Election is now held on the first Tuesday in June but, starting in 2020, it will move to the first Tuesday in March. The legislature has changed the primary election date several times in recent years, and may well do so again. But, for now, Pasadena's next round of local elections would be held on March 3, 2020.
- Local races in which no candidate receives at least 50%+1 of the vote will move to a run-off, to be held concurrently with the statewide General Election for State and Federal offices – on November 3, 2020.
- Newly elected Council Members will be seated in December of even years, instead of in May of odd years. This will add 19-months to the current terms of everyone on the City Council. For one term only, they'll serve 5-years and 7-months instead of four years.

The Council made these changes reluctantly, under compulsion of a new state law that seeks to increase voter-turnout by moving all local elections to coincide with state elections. An Attorney General's opinion concluded the law applies even to Charter Cities like Pasadena. Although some believe the AG's opinion is legally flawed, the Council decided not to risk the cost and disruption of defending our current election system in court. Hence the new system.

The Council was troubled by the 8-month gap between primary and general elections, fearing it would greatly increase the cost in money and time of running for local office. But the only way to avoid the lengthy gap was to switch from majority voting in March/November, to plurality voting (probably in November). They decided maintaining majority-rule was their top priority.

There was great interest on the Council – and maybe majority support – for “Instant Run-off” voting (in a November election). But L.A. County does not yet offer that option and will not any time soon. If Pasadena went ahead without the County, it would not only incur much higher election costs, it would also have to hold its own separate election on the same day the County was running the regular election. Every local voter would have to receive and submit two separate ballots. Council members considered that a recipe for mass confusion.

The School Board has not yet approved similar changes, but its elections are governed by the Pasadena City Charter. So if voters approve these changes, they will also apply to future School Board elections. PCC, which is not governed by the City Charter, has already approved similar changes and will hold its next round of elections on June 5, 2018.

— Fred Register



Volunteers Needed for the California Democratic Party 2018 Convention in San Diego

Every year, the California Democratic Party utilizes hundreds of volunteers to ensure that we have a statewide convention that goes off without a hitch.

Each volunteer makes a huge impact on the quality and efficiency of each convention, so CDP has asked us to reach out to see if you would volunteer during the next convention in San Diego.

Following is the message from the California Democratic Party Volunteer Coordinator:

The 2018 California Democrats State Convention will be here before you know it, and we are looking for some top-notch volunteers to help ensure this year's event in San Diego is a smash success. There's a lot of important work to be done and with your able assistance we'll map out how we will continue to show the nation that #CaliforniaLeads in our fight for progress.

Can you share your time and help us lay the foundation for the frontline work we're doing to protect our democracy? The convention will be held at the San Diego Convention Center, February 23-25. Sign up now to secure your spot as a volunteer.

We'll need more than 500 committed people like you to help with tasks ranging from assisting with events and receptions to registration and credentialing. Positions are available for a range of abilities and interests, and your volunteer credential will grant you access to all open events after you've served at least one shift.

Volunteer registration is filled on a first-come, first-served basis and all communication will be handled via email, so be sure to sign up

now with a permanent—email account and check it frequently -- including your junk mail folder.

To sign up to volunteer at the 2018 California Democrats State Convention, go to: <https://fs3.formsite.com/CADEM2011/form190/index.html>.

If you have any questions, please contact us at Volunteer2018@cadem.org.

Thank you, and see you in San Diego!

P.S. A mandatory training will be provided for all volunteers. You'll get more details on that after you sign up. Also, you must arrange for your own hotel and/or parking accommodations at the Convention.

Estevan Rojas
Volunteer Coordinator, California
Democratic Party, 916-503-7321



Progressive Discussion Group

Congratulations to Patricia Guzman and Dolores Hickambottom, the recipients of PDG's "Progressive of the Year" and the "Lifetime Achievement" awards, respectively, at the PDG meeting on January 5.

Patricia is the heroic Madison School teacher who has been in the thick of the struggle from the very beginning. Our dear friend Dolores has been a steadfast leader in the fights for civil rights, school desegregation, and women's rights forever. They make us proud!

Progressive Discussion Group meets every first & third Friday of the month from 9-10 a.m. in the back room of Dupar's Restaurant, 214 S. Lake Ave., Pasa. Parking is in the big lot behind the restaurant off Shopper's Lane.

Come and join in. Everyone is welcome. Order breakfast, coffee, etc., or not. (If you plan to order breakfast, we suggest you try to arrive a bit early.) For info msg dlg@dgronemeier.com.

The Chris Ballew/PPD Incident

A vicious Pasadena police beating of a young Altadena African American man: The Chris Ballew/PPD incident in November exploded when a social media video of the beating appeared in December on You Tube. (See LA Times coverage at <http://beta.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-pasadena-police-beating-20171220-story.html> and <http://beta.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-pasadena-police-violence-20171223-story.html>)

CICOPP, Pasadenans and Altadenans Against Police Violence, ACLU So Cal, POP and others are leading a petition drive calling on the City Council to address the incident by requiring an independent investigative review of it, by reviewing and revising use of force policies, assuring substantial discipline of the officers, and other policy changes.

— Kris Ockershauser

From Altadenans for a Better America:

Dear Neighbors:

You may have heard about the recent violence perpetrated against our Altadena neighbor, Chris Ballew, at the hands of two Pasadena Police officers. He was stopped for driving a car with tinted windows, but instead of being detained and receiving a citation, he ended up with a broken leg, abrasions and bruising on his face, and being arrested. Charges were dropped by the LA County DA. Nonetheless, the video of the incident is chilling. And all of it happened in Altadena.

A coalition has formed including the NAACP as well as the ACLU and other groups, called "Pasadenans and Altadenans Against Police Violence". They are working to hold the Pasadena PD accountable for what happened and to stop police violence in our communities. We hope you will join us in participating in actions to support Chris and support improved police policies in Pasadena and Altadena.

Heat waves, wildfires and carbon emissions contribute to more 'bad air' days



by John Grula | Reprinted from the Pasadena Weekly with permission

Southern California has had a severe smog problem for decades. In the '60s, '70s and '80s, the smog was so bad in Pasadena that often one could not even see the mountains because of the ugly haze.

Then, in about 1990, things started getting better. Southern California's heavy ozone days as measured by the Air Quality Index, which assigns colors to numbers ranging from 0 (green) to 300 (purple), dropped from just over 200 in 1993 to at times a little more than 100 during 2015. This was due mainly to increased regulation of vehicle emissions.

Unfortunately, this trend has reversed itself in the last two years, with 2017 so far having had 145 "bad" air days for ozone, according to the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

The term "smog," an amalgamation of the words smoke and fog, is thought to have been invented in the early 20th century. Smog is a type of air pollution that can cause serious health and environmental problems, plus it has unaesthetic qualities that greatly degrade the quality of life.

One component of smog is ozone, which can be especially dangerous to human health. A colorless gas, ozone, which has been linked to lung disease and childhood asthma, is composed of three oxygen atoms and is formed when emissions from power plants, factories, cars and trucks are exposed to heat, sunlight and various chemicals in the atmosphere.

Ever wonder about the discomfort or pain you may feel in the chest after breathing on a smoggy day? That's caused by ozone. We

need it in the upper atmosphere to block the sun's ultraviolet radiation, which can cause mutations and skin cancer, but close to the ground it can be a serious health hazard.

In addition to ozone, the chemistry of smog in Southern California is complex. Other chemical components include nitrogen oxides (NOx), sulphur oxides, hydrocarbons, smoke and particulates, among others. NOx and sulphur oxide compounds, products of the burning of gasoline and diesel fuel in car and truck engines, as well as industrial fumes, are mainly responsible for the brown haze component in smog. Not only unsightly, these chemicals are also not good for your eyes and lungs. Less visible components of smog include carbon monoxide, which is deadly at certain levels, and chlorofluorocarbons. All together the chemicals that comprise smog are a noxious mixture.

The catastrophic fires that have recently wreaked havoc in Southern California are also a huge contributor to our smog problem. If you live near a fire, be very careful about breathing the air, which can cause sickness and shorten life. The inversion layer, an atmospheric phenomenon common in Southern California that traps pollution from fires and other sources close to the ground, can make the problem even worse.

So why is the number of bad air days rising again in the LA area, the nation's most air-polluted region? If emissions from cars and other sources are down, as we've been told, this is not what would be expected. One idea is that an increase in the number of hot days (for example, the heat waves we had this last summer and fall) is causing an increase in the production of ozone and other pollutants in the atmosphere. More hot days can also exacerbate the inversion layer problem. Perhaps this can be attributed to climate change, but so far the jury is out.

However, air quality officials are also starting to wonder if the data and models showing a steady decline in smog-forming pollution from cars, trucks, oil refineries, ports, and other big polluters are possibly flawed. Again, the jury is still out on this, according to recent stories in the Los Angeles Times.

Ultimately, to solve the smog problem, gasoline and diesel engines, as well as other air pollution sources, need to be replaced with near-zero emission power sources, such as electric, hydrogen fuel engines and other emerging technologies.

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



Calendar

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| January 19
Friday
9-10 a.m. | Progressive Discussion Group at Dupar's Restaurant, 214 S. Lake Ave., Pasadena. Contact Dale Gronemeier for more info at dlg@dgronemeier.com . Also February 2 and 16. |
| February 1
Thursday
7 p.m. | ACT Steering/ADC meeting at the home of Jeanne and Fred Register, 2438 Highland Ave., Altadena. Mark Gonzales is guest speaker. Socializing at 7 p.m.; meeting at 7:30 p.m. |
| February 17
Saturday
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. | Black History Parade and Festival. (Details inside.) |
| Feb. 23-25
Fri-Sun | California Democrats State Convention, San Diego Convention Center. For details see cadem.org/convention . |

February *Phoenix* Deadline

The deadline for the February *Phoenix* will be Sunday evening, February 4. Please send your items for *The Phoenix* to Editor Chuck Hains or Sally Beer at hains27@sbcglobal.net on or before the deadline.

We will prep *The Phoenix* for mailing on Thursday, February 8, 7 p.m., location to be decided.

Special Thanks to Our Sustaining Members

Mel & Renate Cohen, Arcadia

It's Membership Renewal Time!

Now is the time to renew your ACT and ADC membership. Please use the form below or renew online at www.ACTpasadena.org.

If you have any questions about your membership please contact Jon Fuhrman at jon_fuhrman@charter.net.

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



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
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	\$275 Benefactor

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

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\$20 Each additional member per household	\$85 Double Sustaining
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I'd like to join the Arroyo Democratic Club (Checks payable to ADC)

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Extra Contribution

\$ _____ Political Account (for endorsed candidates and issues)
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Information provided will be available to other members and endorsed candidates upon request.