

# -THE VOORHIS VOICE

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Progressive Voice of the Pomona Valley

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FEBRUARY 2019

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[www.claremontdems.org](http://www.claremontdems.org)

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## MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS



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### DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF CLAREMONT MEETINGS

Fridays, 11:30-1:00 pm

#### **Issues Luncheon**

Village Grill, Claremont  
Get informed – and inform

Friday, February 8, 12-1:30

#### **Luncheon**

Eddies' Italian Eatery

Stater Bros Shopping Center (Foothill Blvd)

Speaker: Robert Blackey, Emeritus Professor of History, CSUSB:  
'American Exceptionalism'

Cost: \$17 includes non-alcoholic beverage, tax and tip - Italian dishes, some vegetarian. (Note: the meal is served promptly at noon so try to be there a little earlier.) The talk, beginning at about 12:45, is free and open to the public

Saturday, February 16, 9:30am

#### **Executive Board Meeting**

Monday, February 25, 7-9 pm

#### **Member's Meeting**

Napier Center Pilgrim Place

Speaker: Sienna Ross, Ditzner College Democratic Student

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The meeting is free and open to the public. A club members' business meeting (beginning about 8:15) will follow the speaker

### **OTHER MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS**

Claremont is being forced to move from a system where Council members are elected at large to a district system. (See City Council <http://www3.ci.claremont.ca.us/WebLink/DocView.aspx?id=254518&dbid=0&repo=CLAREMONT>).

Two public hearings and two public workshops were held in January. The demographer's proposed maps will be available for inspection by January 28<sup>th</sup>. Four more public hearings and workshops will be held in February concerning the draft maps before the ordinance has its first reading.

**February 4: Public Hearing #3:** Discuss and take public comment on draft maps and proposed election sequence; 6:30pm Council Chamber

**February 9: Public Workshops:** Public input on draft maps and proposed sequence of elections; 11am Youth Activities Center - 2pm Claremont Place Senior Living

**February 12: Public Hearing #4:** discuss and take public comment on draft maps and proposed sequence of elections; 6:30p Council Chamber

**February 12:** Introduce ordinance for first reading establishing by-district elections, district boundaries, and transition plan/sequence of elections; 6:30 pm Council Chamber

**February 18: Pomona Reawakening:** a major conference initiated by Progressive Christians Uniting but being sponsored by many organizations and churches. It celebrates the signing by Pomona of the International Charter of Compassion. Venue: Temple Beth Israel 8:15 – 2:30. See [https://Pomona\\_reawakening.eventbrite.com](https://Pomona_reawakening.eventbrite.com)

**February 19: Pomona Valley Chapter UNA-USA:** Professor Monty Hempel will talk about "Surviving the Anthropocene", Hahn Hall. Pomona College, 7pm.

**April 14: Claremont Earth Day** Sustainable Claremont is seeking volunteers to help with this year's celebration of Earth Day. Volunteers are needed to plan, fundraise and carry out "a fun, educational and inspirational Earth Day." Last year's celebration was coordinated with CicLAvia so that thousands of bicyclists attended. Volunteer: [earthday@sustainableclaremont.org](mailto:earthday@sustainableclaremont.org)

The DCC will have its booth at Earth Day: we will focus this year on the Green New Deal with displays and handouts. Attend – and

The DCC will have its booth at Earth Day! We will focus this year on the Green New Deal with displays and handouts. Attend – and volunteer to help: jackncarolee@verizon.net



## Democratic Club of Claremont News

### From the Editor:

Ivan Light, after 7 years of editing the Voorhis Voice, has decided that it is time to stop. The Executive Board of the Democratic Club of Claremont has voted to have me replace him. Though badly overworked, I have accepted.

Having come to the position without seeking it, I had no agenda. But I was forced to ask myself ‘Is there anything different that I might do in our monthly newsletter that would be expressive of my interests and outlook?’ I have discovered a few changes and probably as I continue to work and think I will find more.

One of the changes you are now reading: here, and I suspect in the future, I will be writing some comments as editor. Exactly what these turn out to be in the future, I don’t yet know.

A second change will be noticeable in this issue: I will be expanding the calendar of events that club members should know about.

In fact, I strongly urge readers to use the calendar to create a monthly political action agenda for themselves.

I have also begun a series on Great California Progressives – the first of them is published this month

Lastly, I encourage readers to report to me anything that they think should be included in later issues of this great tradition, the Voorhis Voice.

Merrill Ring

Contact: on the subject line write EDITOR VV and address the message to m36ring@earthlink.net

### President’s Letter

#### **We Can do This!**

John C. Forney, President, DCC

“And I am proud. I’ll tell you what I am proud to shut down the

John C. Forney, President, DCC

“And I am proud. I’ll tell you what. I am proud to shut down the government for border security...” “I will be the one to shut it down. I’m not going to blame you for it.” I’m sure that it was all that Nancy and Chuck could do to keep from laughing up their sleeves upon hearing such braggadocio. For thirty-four days FBI agents, air traffic controllers, and TSA agents worked without pay. The first month without a pay check slipped by, then the second check was missed. I’m thinking that this can only end badly.

Now we all know that the Donald cares not a wit for the opinions of his fellows. He respects neither his generals or the contract workers who clean our government buildings. He’s equal opportunity! Distain for all and charity for none.

Then we all learned a big lesson. Actually, we relearned a long forgotten lesson from the picket lines of organized labor. Yes, workers were ordered back to work upon threat of termination. But there was no way of forcing them to be well. Hundreds upon hundreds screwed up their resolve and became sick. Things other than the government began shutting down. La Guardia was no longer able to safely to handle incoming traffic. The IRS was going to miss deadlines for getting tax refunds out. Wall Street could see the entire economy grinding to a halt.

Then, and only then, through coordinated, direct action did our federal work force make its voice heard. And Mitch McConnell finally had to come out of hiding. Vulnerable Republicans began crossing the aisle. They were on the verge of becoming a stampede.

We learned the truism of that old union chant, “The people united will never be defeated.” After all the pain that Trump has inflicted on the body politic and the economy – suffering inflicted on the most vulnerable – I’m convinced that even a dead, rotting cabbage could beat him in 2020. Okay, we thought that before and it didn’t work out so well. Actually, in this coming election we are going to work like our lives depend on it. And they do.

Democrats, we go into 2020 with a host of marvelous candidates.

Our growing field is diverse and talented. We have stalwart leadership in the House. Nancy certainly fooled the naysayers. She gave our president a lesson in the Constitution and how government works. She schooled him up good! There is no doubt as to holds the keys to the Peoples’ House. And Democrats, to their credit, did not spike the ball in the endzone or do a victory dance. Or at least too much.

Our program of this last Monday, with Karen May and her colleagues

much.

Our program of this last Monday, with Karen May and her colleagues in #SwingLeft not only brought down the average age of January's meeting by at least ten years, but convinced me that the State of our Democratic Club is totally excellent. The energy these activists poured into the midterms, and the results, far exceeded our wildest expectations. Orange County completely Blue! Who would have guessed?

Are we ready for 2020? Absolutely. We can do this.

As I prepare to pass the gavel of the club presidency to Sam Pedroza, I thank all who have been part of the team over these several years.

Our board has provided excellent leadership and wise counsel. We have rebounded from some difficult moments of division, but have rallied around the work to be done after 2016. We have strengthened the bonds of affection for one another. The death of our former president Gar was a tremendous loss and a great shock to us all. I imagine that probably not too many club presidents have ended up conducting the services for their predecessors. Our meetings, through the programming of Gar, Merrill and Chris, have brought in the best of local activists and informed speakers. As Sam Pedroza prepares to assume leadership of our club, I know that all of us will lend our support. Sam will take us to the next level. Sam, you have my best wishes. I am most gratified that the club has found someone of your caliber to continue our work towards electing and supporting progressive Democrats in our neck of the woods. We rise.

As President Obama would lead the chant, "Fired up! Ready to go!"

### **ADEM Results**

We here on the eastern side of Assembly District 41 were not asked for our advice on whom to endorse as the district's delegates to the state party. So we put together a slate of our own featuring outstanding people largely from our area. The Executive Board interviewed a number of candidates. We rejected one, recommended others. We had considerable success in the actual election. Candidates who received our recommendation who won were Bob Nelson for both the E-board and as a delegate; Pam Casey Nagler, Marguerite "Peggy" Renner, Mike Boos, Joe Salas, and Jason Schadewald.

### **Club Elections**

At the January member's meeting, the following people were nominated for elected DCC offices: Sam Pedroza, President; Chris Naticchia, Vice-President Programs; Murray Monroe, Vice-President Membership; Sarah Wilton, Treasurer; and Sam Pedroza, Secretary.

nominated for elected DCC offices. Sam Pedroza, President, Chris Naticchia, Vice-President Programs; Murray Monroe, Vice-President Membership; Carol Whitson, Treasurer, Carolee Monroe, Recording Secretary; John Forney, Corresponding Secretary. The election will be held at the member's meeting on February 25<sup>th</sup>. Please attend and vote on the DCC leadership.

### **Summaries of Talks at DCC January Events**

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*Laura Shultz, PAC Chair and Field Mobilization Representative, Teamsters 1932, spoke about "Labor Partnering with the Community: For a Better Future" at the January 11 luncheon. The talk was part of the DCC's Gar Byrum Distinguished Speakers Series.*

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As residents of Claremont, we have real interest in and concern for our neighbors of the Inland Empire. While Laura Shultz gave an up-to-date summary of the economic conditions of the Inland Empire, she focused on economic development projects in Ontario. She suggested a different, more inclusive, model beyond the partnership of developers and politicians.

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Ms. Shultz based her presentation on two publications, "State of Work in the Inland Empire", November 2018, by The Center for Social Innovation, UCR, and "The Need for a Better Deal for Workers & Residents in Inland Southern California: A Case Study of QVC Inc.'s Operating Agreement with Ontario, California from the UCLA Institute for Research on Labor and Employment. The first is a comprehensive study of the area with a conclusion that ends with "workers employed in the region are struggling to make ends meet." The second compares a local agreement with three others that are "Models for Policy Change". Both advocate for more community involvement.

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Teamsters Local 1932 has 12,000 members who, Shultz observed, are active in the Inland Empire as residents, workers and voters. The unions have supported candidates such as Tony Thurmond and issues such as "No on Proposition 6". It continues to hold local actions in the near-future. As a community is multifaceted, Shultz asserts, these groups need to be included, not excluded, when a development project is planned. Furthermore, she said that the partnership formed between developers and politicians results in outcomes not favorable for residents and laborers.

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Two local examples were given. First, the Victoria Gardens developers purchased property for \$13 million that had originally

Two local examples were given. First, the Victoria Gardens developers purchased property for \$13 million that had originally been valued at \$47 million. It now has a value of \$240 million and its owners are out-of-state. Second, QVC, the TV shopping channel, wanted to build a warehouse in Ontario. Shultz said that, if residents and workers had been included in the planning process, the result would have been better jobs, less damage to the infra-structure and more taxes paid. Both of these projects gave huge concessions to developers that were detrimental to the entire community.

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Unions want to work with small business, Shultz added, to benefit the community. Comparing dollars spent: when \$100 is spent at a small business, \$63 stays in the community. That same \$100 spent at a corporation results in \$43 remaining.

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Unions are aware that too often business agreements benefit corporations with little good return to the community. Shultz promotes collaboration at all civic levels for the betterment of the community.

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*Karen May of the Resistance spoke at the January Member's Meeting on "Resistance and The Blue Wave: How post-2016 activist groups flipped 40 seats".*

The 2016 Presidential election traumatized many people and led to the creation of "pop-up groups". Initially, efforts were based on the *Indivisible Guide* and people's general knowledge of civics. In this area, progressive grassroots groups, among them 909 Action Network, Freedom Uprising and Indivisible Claremont, formed. Seeing a need to coordinate local groups and national organizations, May was part of the Southland Resistance leadership that worked with others to form a national strategy for groups such as Daily Action Network, Swing Left, Sister District, Run for Something and Flippable.

Organizing by congressional districts, plans were made to coordinate and reduce duplication. Trainings, a shared calendar with a centralized data bank, new technical tools and a commitment to put aside ego resulted in coalitions of the "previously disengaged or complacent" into community activism. Originally a challenge to the existing Democratic Party structure, the new coalition integrated with it to achieve victory. An example May gave was the effort of working for California Congressional District 25: 300,000 doors were knocked on, 65,000 phone calls made and \$350,000 raised.

Finally, with a "Last Weekend" of 75 partner groups coordinated and

were knocked on, 65,000 phone calls made and \$350,000 raised. Finally, with a “Last Weekend” of 75 partner groups coordinated and mobilized, all seven of the targeted California congressional districts were overturned.

An evaluation of the effort found that the best practice for voter contact is canvassing, with texting, phone banking and postcard writing also important.

Also, winning depended on attention to: coordination between the Democratic Party and grassroots groups, not underestimating progressive candidates, a need for basic civics education, vote by mail, and voter suppression/protection.

May then called upon several volunteers to share their experiences.

Lynne Marsenich told of choosing to focus on the Chino Hills area of CD39 and its over 55 population and on a Latino neighborhood in CD49. Debra Mendez spoke of the friendships developed with the Latino neighbors while Sorrel Stielstra told of coordinating with progressive activist locals in Chino Hills.



## Essays by Club Members

### Great California Progressives #1

*The Democratic Club of Claremont is in the progressive wing of the Democratic Party. We California Progressives have a long tradition of producing some of the great figures in American political thought and action. These essays are dedicated to ensuring that we current members of the club and the party know our ancestors.*

*I will start this series with Carey McWilliams – one reason, over and above his importance to American and southern California politics, is that his grand-daughter, Susan McWilliams Barndt, a Professor of Politics at Pomona College, is a resident of Claremont and a member of the DCC. I want to thank her for helping me with this brief account of her grandfather’s role in our political lives.*

Carey McWilliams migrated to the Los Angeles area as a young man, living catch as catch can. He ended up getting a law degree at USC and from there became one of the nation’s top progressive activists, a lawyer,

living catch as catch can. He ended up getting a law degree at USC and from there became one of the nation's top progressive activists, a lawyer, author, government official, editor, in all those activities making major contributions to worker's rights, civil rights, and immigrant rights. His book *Factories in the Field* became a nation-wide best seller being the first to raise the issues confronting migrant farm workers in California (and was a major source for Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath*.) He was head of the defense team for the famous Sleepy Lagoon murder case in the 1940's and his opposition to the incarceration of American citizens of Japanese descent (see his book *Prejudice*) was repeatedly cited in the dissenting opinion in the Korematsu case. Later he became editor of the major progressive magazine in the country, the *Nation*, and among many other things was the first to report on CIA activity leading up to the failed Bay of Pigs invasion. McWilliams was also a very important historian of Southern California (his writing on water issues was used in the film *Chinatown*.)

To learn more about McWilliams there is a good biography by Peter Richardson: *American Prophet; the Life and Work of Carey McWilliams*.

Even better, pick up some of McWilliams' books and read them.



## Letters from Club Members

### *Letter From Bob Gerecke: submitted*

A university president has suggested importing foreign-trained doctors to reduce our shortage of general practitioners. It's a good idea, but it should be unnecessary. American medical schools are expensive, and graduates incur a lot of debt, so they go into high-paying specialties. Many foreign countries avoid that by making medical school tuition free or by subsidizing it. That enables smart and dedicated but non-wealthy young people to enter a medical profession without incurring huge debt burdens. My wife and I met a Swedish dentist who said his dental school was tuition-free. Visiting Russians told us that university is tuition-free in Russia. Other countries make smart investments in their human resources, thereby benefiting the country as well as the individual students. Our country should do the same.

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Our country should do the same.



*Now YOU write!*



Or call . . . . & Complain (or Praise)

## **MEMBERSHIP: JOIN THE DCC or RENEW**

We have no corporate sponsors. Your membership dues pay all DCC's expenses which include our meeting expenses, P.O box, club charter, storage space for our booths, publicity, political donations, support for the CHS Young Democrats, and events such as Claremont's July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration and Village Venture,. Take this opportunity to renew if you haven't already done so. *Just complete and mail this form.*

**Mail this form with your check to: Democratic Club of Claremont, P.O. Box 1201,  
Claremont, CA 91711**

\_\_\_ Individual \$30 \_\_\_ Family \$40 \_\_\_ Contributing \$50-99 \_\_\_ Patron \$100-249 \_\_\_ Lifetime  
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**The Voorhis Voice is published by the Democratic Club of Claremont, PO  
Box 1201, Claremont CA 91711. The newsletter's name commemorates the  
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