

THE VOORHIS VOICE

A Liberal Voice of the Inland Empire

January 2009

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claremontdems.org

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

****Monthly luncheons take place on the second Friday of each month in the rear banquet room of the Captain KJ restaurant, 921 W. Foothill Blvd. in Claremont. The event begins at noon and ends at 2 pm. Food is served family style. The menu is 50 percent vegetarian and contains no pork. Attendance is free, but the lunch costs \$10, which includes meal, tax, and tip. There is plenty of free parking, and there are no stairs to climb.**

****The next general meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 26, in Porter Hall (Pilgrim Place). There will be no outside speaker, since our agenda is full. The agenda will include the following:**

Nominating committee recommendations

Nominations from the floor

Approval of Laura Lo and Ethel Benton as new members of the Executive Committee

Discussion: involvement in city council election campaign

Discussion: identifying high priority issues for consideration by the Issues Committee

(COME PREPARED TO MAKE SUGGESTIONS!)

Approval of two by-law amendments as follows. The added language is underlined.

ARTICLE VII

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A. ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE

A member of the Club who is nominated for office must be a registered Democrat, have been a member of the Club for at least one year, have paid current dues and be in good standing as determined by the Executive Board. If no candidate who meets these qualifications is nominated and is willing to serve, the requirement to have been a Club member for at least one year is automatically waived.

***Submitted by the Executive Committee**

-- OR --

A member of the Club who is nominated for office must be a registered Democrat, have been a member of the Club for at least one year, have paid current dues and be in good standing as determined by the Executive Board. If no candidate who meets these qualifications is nominated and is willing to serve, the Vice Presidents, in the order of succession, shall act as President in the interim until a candidate who meets these qualifications is nominated and elected as President.

*Alternative submitted by Zephyr Tate-Mann, J.D.

ARTICLE IX

DUES AND EXPENDITURES

A. DUES

Dues shall be proposed by a majority vote of the Executive Board and shall be approved by a majority vote of the membership present at a regular meeting upon due notice. Due notice shall consist of notice of the coming vote at least one (1) month in advance. In case of financial hardship, a member's dues shall be waived by majority vote of the Executive Board. Annual dues are due on January fifteenth of each year.

*Submitted by the Executive Committee

ACTIVE MEMBERS NEEDED!!

Now that we have a Democratic President (or will shortly), our role changes from one of "loyal opposition" to "active support." Your Claremont Democratic Club needs you! Please volunteer. Think (if you dare) about becoming an officer or committee chair! Call Merrill Ring, Chair of the Nominating Committee, for further information: (909) 626-8467.

THOUGHTS ON THE INAUGURATION

By Gar Byrum

January 20, 2009, Inauguration day. Barack Hussein Obama will take the oath of office as our next President of the United States. History will be made and the world will be watching as we have a peaceful transition of power. The dream of many will be fulfilled in

what is one of the most anticipated inaugurations in our history. I don't know about you but I will be watching and listening. A sense of pride and joy will fill me knowing that we have not only elected the first person of color to the Presidency but we have elected a person of enormous potential to the highest office in the land. This is the year in which we will celebrate the bi-centennial birth of Abraham Lincoln, the irony and symmetry are amazing.

There have been but a few times in the history of the United States where a President has taken office with so many challenges facing the country and the world. Our prayers and collective hopes go with him as he will go forward with the enormous weight of so many problems on his shoulders. I personally hope that we won't be disappointed by expecting too much too soon. Change will come but it will not come easy. We did not come to this place in history quickly, it took awhile and to solve the enormity of the problems we face will take time. No pressure huh, just the economy on the brink, the planet in jeopardy and the world in turmoil. With the difficulties we face opportunity for well needed change comes with the danger. Mistakes will be made but clearly we will have a calm hand at the tiller and a strong voice of reason and hope leading us out of the wilderness. President-elect Obama may not be Moses but he definitely is not President Bush

January 20, 2009, a day that will begin a new era. We did it! Break out the champagne or cider. Change has come. Let us enjoy the day and welcome the new President with hope and pride.

THE CONFLICT WITH GAZA

By Andy Winnick

I think one of the most critical things we can do is to combat the simplified idea that “ Hamas was just rash and irresponsible and provocative in refusing to continue the truce and that Israel is simply defending itself, perhaps disproportionately, from the rocket attacks.” The various U.S. traditional media sources refuse to discuss the fact that during the so-called truce, Gaza was being starved, fuel and medical supplies cut off or restricted, borders sealed, etc, etc. and that the nightly arrests and harassments on the West Bank were continuing without let-up. Hamas entered and maintained the truce not simply to mutually stop the rockets from and the attacks on Gaza, but to gain an opening of its borders to Gaza for trade and commerce, if not for the free movement of its people. And Hamas was trying to gain a stop to all violence, including that by Israeli police and army units on the West Bank, to say nothing of the arrests of its members on the West Bank.

NONE of this happened. So, except for an end to the bombings, Hamas gained almost nothing from the truce. While this gain was significant and important to be sure, the key

difference is that the people of Gaza were being starved and effectively imprisoned, while the Israeli population enjoyed both an end to rocket and suicide attacks AND a booming economy and the good life. Hardly parallel gains.

The blockade of Gaza during “the truce” was an act of violence and must be seen as such. People died because of it (262 due to a lack of access to medical supplies and facilities). Just how long did the world expect the people of Gaza to accept such disproportionate treatment? But Israel thinks that it has the right to treat the people of Gaza with such violence simply on the basis that they were led by Hamas. The Israeli government acts as if it thinks that visiting this sort of violence upon the people of Gaza can go on without any consequences.

But the U.S. media refuses to discuss any of this. So, we must try to educate people about this.

Finally, we have to educate people about the motivations behind the extreme violence of the Israel attack on Gaza. It is NOT simply a response to the breakdown of the truce and the rocket fire. It is also a cynical effort by the leaders of the Labor and Kadima parties to position themselves for the up-coming (Feb 10) elections. It is also an attempt by the politicians and generals to grab a long awaited opportunity to try to recoup from the debacle of the Lebanon war, to rebuild the reputation of the Israeli Army, and to re-establish “deterrence”, that is, fear of reprisal, by the Israelis. That is, the people of Gaza are dying so that Israeli politicians can score political points, not because the safety of Israeli citizens requires this level of violence. But that too is rarely mentioned in the U.S. media.

As educators in the broadest sense, we have our work cut out for us.

TAIPD AND HEALTH CARE

By Merrill Ring

As most of you know, the Democratic Club of Claremont spun off a think-tank last year: The American Institute for Progressive Democracy. The board members of the institute are, so far, all members of, and active in, the DCC.

TAIPD ran its first meeting in mid-November: a conference on health care. It is was not about how to pay for health care but about how the public can be activated to support a massive change in how we get and pay for our health. Representatives of many different constituencies and organizations met and discussed the issue.

Because the soon arriving Obama administration has, through its change.gov site, asked communities their ideas about health care, TAIPD also prepared a strong presentation of how the country should pay for and deliver health care. We signed up to hold one of the community meetings which change.gov was sponsoring and submitted the

institute's proposal as the recommendation of the meeting. Moreover, the document was sent to Senator's Teddy Kennedy and Max Baucus and also to the committees they head, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee (Kennedy) and the Senate Finance Committee (Baucus) – those are the two major committees presently working (swiftly) toward a new health care package. So the Institute's program is in the hopper.

Community Discussion of Health Care for the Obama Transition

By Myron Chapman

Community discussions were held at the Mount San Antonio Gardens about Health Care for the Obama Transition Team in the morning and evening on December 29. There was a good discussion in both sessions by both healthcare professionals and by healthcare users, all intensely interested in the subject, all wanting Reform Now.

At the end of each discussion, we asked for a show of hands on a list of questions that we thought would give a snapshot of present preferences, a copy of which is shown below.

The Yes answers indicated a solid consensus for the questions underlined below. Many of the persons who did not give a Yes answer to several questions said that they needed more information and discussion about these questions, and did not know an answer to these questions at this time.

Questions that Congress will need to answer to reform Healthcare Insurance:

Reform Healthcare Insurance?

Start in 2009? (Now or later)

Universal coverage? (Insure all persons)

Universal mandate? (Require all persons to have Healthcare Insurance)

Single payer?

Public-private combination for Healthcare Insurance?

Regulate private insurance companies as Public Utilities?

Government should set all standards for Healthcare Insurance?

Must accept everyone?

Must insure all medical conditions? (No exclusions)

Must limit profits?

Eliminate private Healthcare Insurance companies?

Affordable for all?

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P.S. – Matt Lyons is the founder and past president of the Democratic club in LaVerne and San Dimas. He donates part of his sales commission to our club if you become his client and tell him you saw his ad in our newsletter.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR WORK IN 2009

Circle your choice: Lifetime \$250 Patron \$100 or more Contributing \$50

Family \$35 Individual \$25 Student/Limited Income \$5

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***Please complete both sides of this form and mail it with your check to:
Democratic Club, PO Box 1201, Claremont, CA 91711***

OR

Access our website: www.claremontdems.org

Select: Get Involved > Join Us (Complete the form. Then...)

Select: Get Involved > Donate to the Club (This will take you to the Act Blue website where you can pay your annual dues online.)

Our Email address is claremontdemocrats@yahoo.com

P.S. – Part of your dues and contributions may be contributed to Federal and State candidates. Individual contributions will be deposited into the club’s Federal account, subject to the Federal Elections Campaign Act. Non-individual contributions and contributions of individuals who so request will be deposited into the club’s State account. Contributions are limited under State law. No anonymous contributions of more than \$50 will be accepted. Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, address, occupation and employer of each individual contributor. Political contributions are not tax-deductible. FPPC #841491. FEC #C00404319.

SUPPORT OUR NEW PRESIDENT AND STRONGER CONGRESS!

HOW MANY HOURS WILL YOU VOLUNTEER THIS YEAR? _____

PLEASE CHECK OR PRIORITIZE YOUR INTERESTS:

Wherever I’m needed most!

Start or join an outreach team in my own neighborhood

Produce neighborhood contact lists from the online voter list

Maintain the club’s database of members and other contacts

Work a shift at our Sunday morning table at the Farmer’s Market to register voters

Work a shift at a weekend table in Montclair Plaza to register voters

- Help to decorate our booth or parade vehicle on July 4th
- Work a 2-hour shift in our July 4th booth
- Ride our “float” in the parade on July 4th (mount at 3:45 pm)

- Help to decorate our booth at the Village Venture on October 24
- Work a 2-hour shift in our VillageVenture booth

- Bring candidate and ballot literature to an outreach table, booth or neighborhood team

- Provide news or commentary for our monthly newsletter
- Help to fold and label our monthly newsletter for mailing
- Edit or assist in editing our newsletter

- Write an occasional letter to the editor of a newspaper
- Provide news or commentary for our website
- Improve and maintain our website

- Operate equipment/assist in video productions for Internet distribution
- Catalog our TV program DVD’s and other items

- Look up a voter’s polling place
- Give a voter a ride to the polling place
- Give a member a ride to the club luncheon or meeting

- Loan furniture or equipment to our campaign HQ
- Work a shift at our campaign Headquarters
- Deliver yard signs promoting our candidates or ballot measures

- Call or write other Democrats, inviting them to vote or to get active

- Other: _____

Executive Committee of the Club

Comprised of five elected Officers, appointed Chairpersons of Standing Committees and the Past President

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