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# THE VOORHIS VOICE

A Liberal Voice of the Inland Empire

March 2009

[claremontdemocrats@yahoo.com](mailto:claremontdemocrats@yahoo.com)

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

Editor Laura Ditte Lo

## MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

We have made a successful transition to the El Ranchero Mexican Restaurant, 984 W. Foothill Blvd, Claremont for our luncheon meeting. El Ranchero is on the south side of Foothill about a block west of the previous location. The buffet menu contains a choice of meat and non-meat entrees (no pork) rice, beans, green salad, chips and salsa. Beverages are included. Restaurant staff is available to help those who need assistance with the buffet. All are welcome to attend, enjoy the speaker, and engage in lively discussion. The cost is \$10.00 including tax and gratuities.

The next general meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 30 at 7:30, in Porter Hall (Pilgrim Place). The speaker will be Pitzer Professor Lako Tongun, a Sudanese native, will discuss Darfur.

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## VICTORY FOR LARRY SCHROEDER

**Gar Byrum**

The city council election of March 3, 2009 brought with it a victory for our endorsed candidate Larry Schroeder. With the help of our club, the hard work of volunteers and the endorsement of the two local newspapers an upset victory took place. Larry ran hard and overcame his initial lack of name recognition, a late start and a lack of money. This election was gratifying for me on a personal level because not only did the best person win but the election showed that by going door to door and actually talking to voters, a candidate can still win and overcome the odds. Larry deserves all the credit in the world for showing true grit. When he met the voters they could see within him the ability and skill that he exemplifies. On March 10, Larry will be sworn in and, with his election, Claremont will be the better for it. I want to thank all of those who gave up their time and who provided their homes and gave money towards his candidacy so that Larry Schroeder could win.

## POLITICS TODAY

**Gar Byrum**

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President Barack Obama has been in office now for a little over six weeks and the country has already seen a change in the way we do things. We have seen a dramatic effort by this administration to combat the challenges that we face in the days ahead. The Bush Administration left our new president and the country in quite a mess.

We are at the dawn of a new era an era of fear and uncertainty. With uncertainty comes opportunity. Health care for all, an effort to save the planet from global warming and many other hopes that we have cherished are all within our reach.

We face the intransigence of a Republican Party as we move forward. Except for a very few they have become the no on everything party. As Democrats, let us be the truth squad. We have seen, in the days preceding and subsequent to the passage of the stimulus package, an effort on the part of the Republican Party to rewrite history. It is interesting to see their rejection of bi-partisanship thus far. We need to set the record straight when lies are told. This is not a Socialist President. Even in the dark days of the Great Depression the Republican Party was more cooperative in joining with Democrats to work together for the common good. The Republican Party is great when it comes to waving the flag and claiming to be patriotic. The issues that we face in overcoming the threat of another Great Depression will take all of our efforts in answering the questions of how we solve the problems left by the previous administration. They are trying to put the blame for our present problems on our new president. We cannot let this lie and all of their lies go unanswered.

I think that sometimes our expectations for this President are unrealistic. We expect too much too soon. Let us give him our help and time. Change will not come overnight. We have lacked leadership for so long let us not diminish our chances for real and profound change by being quiet and too critical. After all the Republican Party will do their part to try to stop the future. They are the party of the past. Let us work to make a future for our children and grandchildren. There will be difficult days ahead but as one of my favorite presidents once said the "Only fear we have is fear itself."

## **“D” RATING FOR AMERICA’S INFRASTRUCTURE**

Laura Ditte Lo

Dick Platkin, retired Senior Planner for Los Angeles County, presented “The U.S. Infrastructure Crisis-Its Causes, Consequences, and Possible Solutions” to the DCC luncheon meeting on March 30<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Platkin prefaced his discussion by stating that “the tragic neglect of public infrastructure in the United States has become increasingly apparent”. According to the data presented, the American Society of Engineers (ASCE) estimates that 2.2 trillion dollars are required for repairs and upgrades. One report calls for 225 billion dollars annually for the next 50 years to maintain our infrastructure. In fifteen categories the overall GPA rating was a dismal D. In terms of transportation, 47,000 miles of interstate are reaching retirement and one quarter of our nation’s 600,000 bridges

are deficient or obsolete. A mere 40% of necessary funding is allocated for infrastructure. Minimal financial resources such as bonds and a lack of skilled construction labor further contribute to this problem. Mr. Platkin cited Katrina and the I-35 bridge collapse in Minneapolis to illustrate the consequences of our lack of planning and budgeting.

Mr. Platkin stated that California suffers from “major deficiencies” with Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) calculating 531 billion dollars required for transportation investment over the next 25 years. Prior to the financial crisis, 411 billion dollars was available and the 120 billion dollar gap will continue to grow under current economic conditions. SCAG also estimates that 700,000 housing units will be needed by 2014 in Los Angeles with over half in the moderate and very low categories. Due to the collapse in the housing construction industry, it is projected that most of these units will be private-public partnerships.

As a Senior Planner, Mr. Platkin, described the planning process as a disjointed, unmonitored, severely underfunded endeavor with planning conducted on “parallel tracks”. His solution was simple: update general plans, integrate principles of sustainability, and connect budget to planning.

He concluded by stating that we cannot expect a New Deal type of infrastructure scenario since only 3 billion will be available for California out of the total 50 billion dedicated for national infrastructure. Most of the projects will be smaller scale and awarded to private contractors. Nine trillion was given to prop up Wall Street and only 50 billion for national infrastructure.

## **IN MEMORIAM**

Alfred Sheldon, a long-time member of our club, passed away in February. Mr. Sheldon leaves his wife, Helia, who remains a member. We offer Helia our sincere condolences and our wish that she enjoy her many happy memories of their life together.

## **IRAQ INVASION ANIVERSARY MARCH 19**

The Iraq invasion began March 19, 2003. Six years later we remember the many thousands who have died and millions displaced. Almost 4,250 military deaths-at least 1 million Iraqi civilian deaths. One in five (20%) of US soldiers have PTSD. 184 US Army, Marine suicides in 2008. 4.2 million Iraqi refugees. \$800 billion authorized so far for the invasion and occupation.

## **MEASURE THE DAY**

**Surging people  
Seeking to see  
Reality achieved  
Still unbelieving  
This moment  
Manifested today  
Oath of office, powerful words  
Coursing change forging new with old  
Marching bands diverse and culturally true  
Warming unity in the bitter cold  
Bonding me with you and you and you**

**Impossible to measure the day  
When Obama became President**

**I watched still unbelieving  
As history seeped through and  
Saturated my soul  
Assigning America and the world  
To measure the day  
Hidden no more deep in my being  
But released to rejoice and celebrate  
Now look  
*You* can measure the day  
It's for all to see  
Measure it here  
It's still inside of you and me**

**By Sandra K. Hester**

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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Occupation

Employer

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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](http://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](mailto: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 for Voter Registration
- Work a shift at a weekend table in Montclair Plaza for Voter Registration
- Help to decorate our booth or parade vehicle on July 4<sup>th</sup>
- Work a 2-hour shift in our July 4<sup>th</sup> booth
- Ride our "float" in the parade on July 4<sup>th</sup> (mount at 3:45 pm)
- Help to decorate our booth at the Village Venture on October 24
- Work a 2-hour shift in our Village Venture 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: \_\_\_\_\_

**The Voorhis Voice**

Democratic Club of Claremont

**PO Box 1201  
Claremont CA 91711**

**Return Service Requested**

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**the Past President**

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