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THE VOORHIS VOICE

A Liberal Voice of the Inland Empire
May 2009

claremontdemocrats@yahoo.com



www.claremontdems.org

Editor Laura Ditte Lo

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Our monthly luncheon meeting will be held at noon on Friday, May 8 at the El Rancho Mexican Restaurant, 984 W. Foothill Blvd. El Rancho is on the south side of Foothill. 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. John Cobb, an eminent theologian, an Emeritus Professor of the Claremont School of Theology and the Claremont Graduate School, will be the speaker at the May monthly luncheon of the Democratic Club of Claremont. Professor Cobb, whose latest book is *The American Empire and the Commonwealth of God*, will be delivering a talk entitled 'Religion and Economics'.

The luncheon will be held at El Rancho on Foothill Boulevard in Claremont – it begins at noon on May 8; food is served first (\$10 per person); Professor Cobb will begin his presentation at 1:00. Please attend.

All are welcome to attend, enjoy the speaker, and engage in lively discussion. The cost is \$10.00 including tax and gratuities.

May 19 Statewide Special Election, May 12 last day to request an absentee ballot.

The next General Membership Meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 25 at 7:30, in Porter Hall (Pilgrim Place). The DCC will honor our veterans by hosting a panel

Of speakers, all veterans, speaking on the topic of military service and the foreign policies of the Democratic Party. The panel will include veterans of WW II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Iraq War. From Indian Hill Blvd., in Claremont, take Sixth St. west 2 blocks. Porter Hall is straight ahead; it has 3 arches. The public and your friends are invited. Attendance is free. Refreshments will be served. The agenda will include the following items:

ARTICLE IX

EXPENDITURES

B. EXPENDITURES

All expenditures must be approved by the Executive Committee, except prior approval is not required for the Treasurer and/or President for an amount totaling \$250.00 or less, provided expenditure is necessary for the benefit of the club and is not excessive. No motion to spend club funds shall be in order at a general membership meeting without prior approval by the Executive Committee and advance notice to the membership. No expenditure may be made to support a non-Democratic candidate for public office.

Proposal for General Meeting time change from 7:30 pm to 7:00 pm.

The Democratic Club of Claremont Executive Meeting will be held on Saturday June 6, 9:30 at Scrooby Lounge, Pilgrim's Place.

SPECIAL ELECTION MAY 19 LACDP AND STATE POSITIONS

PROP 1A
STATE BUDGET
LACDP-NEUTRAL STATE PARTY-SUPPORT

PROP 1B
EDUCATION FUNDING, PAYMENT PLAN
LACDP-SUPPORT STATE PARTY-SUPPORT

PROP 1C
LOTTERY MODERNIZATION ACT
LACDP-SUPPORT STATE PARTY-SUPPORT

PROP 1D
PROTECTS CHILDREN'S SERVICES
LACDP-OPPOSE STATE PARTY-SUPPORT

PROP 1E
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
LACDP-OPPOSE STATE PARTY-SUPPORT

PROP 1F
ELECTED OFFICIAL'S SALARIES
LACDP-SUPPORT STATE PARTY-SUPPORT

*Please refer to Ivan Light's article for commentary

VOLUNTEERS SUPPORT A SUCCESSFUL EARTH DAY

The Democratic Club of Claremont joined with many other local organizations in celebrating Earth Day on Sunday, April 26. Organized by Sustainable Claremont and other groups, the event drew many visitors who strolled throughout the Village, and especially along Second Street and in the Packing House. Our booth attracted at least 300 visitors

who each took a biodegradable cup of planted California poppy seeds and the printed directions on growing and transplanting them. While many people, especially children, chose to plant their own seeds, the majority of visitors took already-planted containers.

We also registered voters and distributed membership forms and current editions of our "Voorhis Voice" newsletter to interested visitors. Posters in our booth highlighted our schedule (days and times) of our monthly luncheons and general meetings. The featured poster, using data from the League of Conservation Voters web site, gave the 2007 and 2008 voting records of our elected California officials, under the heading, "Democrats Support Environmental Legislation". We hope to have pictures of our booth and posters on our web site, www.claremontdems.org.

So many thanks go to those Club volunteers who worked in both planning and staffing for this successful venture: Jim Stripling, Anne Koegel, Beverly Sloane, Lois Thompson, Rhodes Thompson, and Loretta Arenas. Also, the Monroes (Gabe, Murray, Marlena, Jack, and Carolee).

STATE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION, APRIL 24-26

Ivan Light

At the California State Democratic Convention in Sacramento, approximately 1,200 delegates met to elect new leadership, review the condition of the California Democratic Party, the state of California, and the world, and to debate the ballot propositions.

Art Torres retired as Chair of the California Democratic Party after 13 years of leadership. Delegates elected John Burton, 76, to replace Torres. The two men set quite a different tone on the podium. Torres is friendly, smiling, slightly rotund, and carefully attired. John Burton showed up in a clean bowling shirt and never smiled. He is thin, angry, laconic, and all business. Burton is from the liberal wing of the CDP. He spoke earnestly about the Party's mission to relieve the suffering of those who are weak and voiceless. One had the distinct impression that Burton is a pit bull for the liberals.

Delegates elected Hilary Crosby to replace Eric Bradley as comptroller. Hilary Crosby is a CPA by profession. Some delegates complained that Eric Bradley had moved \$6 million of party money in irregular ways. There was no imputation of malfeasance or corruption on Bradley's part, but Hilary run on a platform of fiscal transparency and narrowly won.

Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi spoke for twelve minutes, recounting the successes of the Obama administration in 100 days. She was right: it is truly an amazing and inspiring record. However, Pelosi never mentioned "Iraq" at all. This is unsurprising because she had the legal authority to shut down that ignominious war in January, 2007, but failed to act.

Barbara Boxer invited delegates to get on board her re-election campaign. Boxer announced that the U.S. will have universal, affordable health care by the end of this year. Delegates greeted this announcement with massive applause.

Gavin Newsom, Mayor of San Francisco, announced his candidacy for Governor of California in 2009. Schwarzenegger is termed out. Newsom stressed his many accomplishments as Mayor of San Francisco, especially the municipal health care plan that provides universal care for San Francisco residents. San Francisco is the only U.S. City to

offer universal health care to residents. Jerry Brown is the only other announced Democratic candidate for Governor.

Current Chair of the Democratic National Committee, Howard Dean received a standing ovation. He is seen as the architect of the 50 state strategy that won the White House in 2009. Dean pointed out that in the 2008 election, voters 35 years of age and younger outnumbered voters 65 years of age and older. The 2008 election was the first national election in which younger voters outnumbered older voters. Sixty-one percent of younger voters preferred Obama. Without younger voters, Obama would not have been elected. But the bad news is the younger voters are preponderantly registered as “decline to state,” not as Democrats. Younger voters like Obama, but they are not yet firmly Democratic. Our task is to educate these younger voters so they become firm Democrats, said Dean.

The *Los Angeles Times* article (April 27, 2009, p. 3) stressed the emotional debates over the propositions 1A through 1F. True, the delegates were badly split; the debate was emotional. On the one hand, Democratic elected officials pleaded for passage of all six, especially 1A, on the grounds that without 1A, California will lose 27 billion dollars of revenue. This loss would have devastating impacts on virtually all services of the state government. But, delegates expressed repugnance and profound dissatisfaction with having to accept propositions that three rogue Republicans forced upon the Democratic Party as their price for allowing California to have a budget. Rescinding the 2/3d budget rule is a top priority for the CDP in 2010, but success in that project will not produce a state budget in 2009. There was general agreement that the propositions 1A to 1F represent bad government. Proposition 1A received 58 percent of the delegates’ vote where 60 percent is required for adoption. So, the California Democratic Party takes “no position” on this key proposition. The Republican Party opposes all six. The prognosis for these propositions is poor, and the expectation is that the State of California will experience a budget crisis of massive proportions when voters reject them too.

Six members of the Democratic Club of Claremont attended the State Democratic Convention in Sacramento. They were Garland Byrum, Bob Gerecke, Ivan Light, Rudi Mann, Zephyr Tate-Mann, and Ted Radamaker. Delegates attend at their own expense. If you would like to be a delegate next year, please inform Zephyr Tate-Mann. Hopefuls attend an early caucus at which delegates are elected by whoever shows up at the meeting. Usually if a person shows up, he or she is elected. Equal numbers of men and women are elected.

REQUIEM

Carolee Monroe, Producer

The ending of our Democratic Club of Claremont’s two cable television programs should not go unnoticed. For more than three years we produced programs that challenged viewers with stimulating content about then-current issues and topics. We later developed programs that focused on the personal histories of local residents. Our programs were informative, interesting, and entertaining. Production ended because of legislation in California that allowed cable television companies to stop providing communities with public access services. These services included the public access channel itself, along with professional mentoring, a studio, and videotaping equipment. The end, and even more so the life, of our

productions needs to be recalled because they captured, through intelligent dialogue, the perspectives of concerned and engaged individuals.

The typical format of a program was an interview with either of our two regular hosts. Ivan Light, then Vice-President for Education, was the original host. When we began taping two programs each month, Merrill Ring substituted so frequently that Ivan and Merrill shared the position. Merrill, besides being the then-Treasurer of our Club, was an active leader/member of our Issues Committee. With the Issues Committee planning topics for our Club to delve into while Ivan was arranging for speakers for our monthly luncheons and general meetings, we were provided the opportunities to be informed and educated about current subjects by politicians, labor leaders, authors, professors, and other knowledgeable speakers. Our original program, "Claremont Democratic Forum", maintained, throughout production, its focus on political issues and their implication to our community, region, state, nation, and world. With the City of Claremont's centennial year, we began our second program, "Democrats: People and Ideas", which featured the lives of local activists. Behind the scenes, Howard Steller was our Director while Jack Monroe and this author were Camerapersons. Altogether more than fifty half-hour programs were taped and aired. Some programs are now available on our Club website, www.claremontdems.org, as arranged by Ned Freed, our Webmaster, while a few are on YouTube. The remaining tapes may be in the possession of either host or guest but no complete archive exists.

The events preceding the demise of our public access programming demonstrate that media, as we know it, is in flux. The age of old style media, that is, the journalism of local/regional daily newspapers with sections of content including a thick classified, the weekly photo magazine, "Life", along with several radio stations, and, if one went to the movies, "Movietone News", has ended. Media evolved to include television with UHF and VHF channels and weekly news magazines. Later, we experienced the advent and rise of cable and satellite television and talk radio. Current developments include media consolidation, the web, blogs, hand-held communication devices, and digital television. These are transforming not only how news and commentary are reported but by whom.

It is an ironic that, although digital television will permit five times as many channels as were available with analog, California legislators made it probable that our programming would cease. We Claremont residents, although mostly Democrats, are represented in the United States Congress, the California State Senate, and the California State Assembly by Republicans. Our point of view, the learned opinions of local Democrats, no longer has a media outlet beyond our "Voorhis Voice" monthly newsletter. Other differing community opinions and perspectives have also lost a possible means of communication. It becomes even more important that net neutrality, which maintains a level playing field on the Internet, be continued.

The encouragement of Bob Gerecke, Past-President of our Club, needs to be acknowledged. He provided the names of many of the local activists, along

with their diverse accomplishments, for our programs. Finally, Gene Boutilier, a Club member and activist, knows, in detail, the background of the legislation that permitted our programming to end.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR WORK IN 2009

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

Con Family \$35 Fa Individual \$25 I Student/Limited Income \$5

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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

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 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 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 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

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Return Service Requested

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