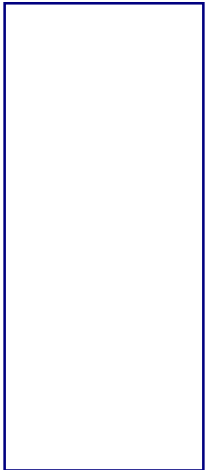




YosemiteDems.net

The Mountain Democrat  
Newsletter Editor  
PO Box 760  
Oakhurst, CA 93644



# **MOUNTAIN DEMOCRATS**

## **yosemitedems.net**

### **JUNE-JULY 2006**

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*The Mountain Democrat* is published bimonthly by the Democratic Clubs of Eastern Madera and Mariposa Counties which are affiliated with the California Democratic Council, and is distributed to all current members of those clubs. For a membership application see the inside back cover of this newsletter.

### COMING EVENTS

#### June 2006

Jun. 3: Oakhurst Club Meeting  
Jun 6: VOTE !!!  
Jun 10: Mariposa Club Meeting

#### July 2006

July 2: Oakhurst Club Meeting  
July 9: Mariposa Club Meeting

### CONTACT US

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For more information about our Democratic Clubs and Democratic happenings around the state and nation open your trusty web browser and visit our web page at:

**YosemiteDems.net**

## **CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE**

### **ENDORSEMENTS**

For the June 6, 2006

### **California Primary**

**US Senator:** Diane Feinstein

**Governor:** Phil Angelides

**Lt. Governor:** Jackie Speier

**Attorney General:** Jerry Brown

**Secretary of State:** Debra Bowen

**Insurance Commissioner:** Cruz Bustamante

**Controller:** Joe Dunn

**Treasurer:** Bill Lockyer

**Supt. of Public Instruction:** Jack O'Connell



## California Democratic Council Report

By Jerry Lacayo, CDC Area Vice-President

### IT'S ALMOST OVER--AND IT'S JUST BEGINNING

It's hard to remember when we weren't gearing up for an election. We had an election for governor, quickly followed by an election to recall our elected governor, followed by a special election designed to give our new governor unlimited powers to mess with our lives, and now we find ourselves facing yet another election. It is tempting to relax a bit, enjoy the fact that winter has finally ended, the sun is shining. Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day all invite us to sit by a pool, enjoy some outdoor cooking and check out the wildflowers. HOWEVER, as responsible Democrats who care about the future of our State, County, Community and each other, we must resist the temptation to take a rest.

In my opinion, and I know I am not alone, the Bush Administration is the worst in my lifetime by a wide margin. I remember when Nixon was the worst and Goldwater was a fright. All that seems to pale by today's nightmare.

The primary will soon be history and our candidates will be in place for the general election in November. No matter who you support in the primary, please be ready to support the winner for the next round. WE ABSOLUTELY MUST take back the House and hopefully the Senate as well if we are to put any curbs on this corrupt and ruthless administration. This is not the year to take it easy--it is the year to take it back!

Every letter you write, every phone call you make, every voter you register, and every contact you make is important. Please respond to the programs offered through your clubs, and/or candidate committees, and be a part of the solution. Personally, I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to witness the destruction of the Constitution without a fight.

## Oakhurst Club Presents First Scholarship Award

By Ginny Terrell

Community awards night was held at Yosemite High School on May 10th. Ginny Terrell, President of the Oakhurst Democratic Club, presented the club's first award to a graduating YHS student. The Eleanor Roosevelt Service Award had several criteria, but the most important, as the title suggests, was service to the community, currently and in the future.

The winner of this award was Patricia Byers who has set an excellent example for others to follow. She maintained a high GPA while being very active in community service, including luminaria sales for the "Relay for Life", getting donations for the annual "Kids Day Newspaper Event" for Children's Hospital, and tutoring students in math. Her plan is to pursue a medical career geared toward women and pediatrics, with a long-term goal of opening a women's free clinic.

We extend our congratulations to Patricia and wish her a long and successful life.



Ginny Terrell presents award to Patricia Byers

## From the Wilds of Mariposa

Discount Drug Plan for ALL County Residents

By Les Marsden

Those unfortunate enough to be in e-mail communication with me on subjects of political impact know my e-mail identity for such matters is [actlocally@sti.net](mailto:actlocally@sti.net). And while I do firmly believe that the most unifying and important positive political changes may be brought to bear from a strong NATIONAL progressive Democratic presence, there is much to be done right here--from home. Those attending the Mariposa Club Breakfast Meeting of May 13th received a great example of what can be done at the local level as Mariposa County District One Supervisor Lee Stetson presented a proposed Mariposa County Discount Drug Plan which would cover every county resident - at no cost whatsoever.

Its beauty lies in its utter simplicity: the great strength in numbers and the ability to negotiate prices with pharmaceutical companies. Everything a national discount drug plan (such as Bush's ludicrous Medicare Part D) should be but isn't. In the case of Part D, Medicare is specifically outlawed from negotiating prices from the drug companies, which in turn allows those companies to not only monopolize this critical commerce but to then charge anything they like.

Supervisor Lee Stetson (the only Democrat on the Board of Supervisors, incidentally) discovered this Prescription Discount Card plan, offered in a joint effort of participating county governments and the National Association of Counties (NACo). The plan offers free enrollment, family coverage, no limits, no age requirements, no income requirements and provides an average savings of 20% on the cost of prescription drugs. Savings can vary from about 11% to 34% depending on the drug and means by which purchased: drugs may be acquired from local participating pharmacies (and yes - there are local participant drugstores ready to go in Mariposa County) or through mail-order prescription fillings, by which the greatest discounted savings can be made.

From the Wilds of Mariposa (continued)

Currently, only Plumas County has offered this plan in California but all it takes is the approval of the Board of Supervisors to be made a reality right here in Mariposa.

For full details, please visit the really user-friendly website at <https://naco.advancerx.com> and please note that address carefully as it is a secure (https) site. Further information is also obtainable by calling 1-877-321-2652.

My hat is certainly off to our Supervisor Stetson, who will present this plan to the Mariposa Board of Supervisors for consideration and I urge every one of you to investigate the details. I encourage you to contact your supervisor and request they support enacting it in our County. After all: it costs nothing but will yield great progressive benefits. Let's demonstrate right here in the wilds of Mariposa what our federal government should be doing nationally. And if you don't live in Mariposa, please inform YOUR county supervisor about what is possible and the great benefits to be gained from this outstanding program. Remember: act locally!



Les Marsden, Willow Polson, TJ Cox at the Jefferson dinner

**BEVERLY SCOTT FOR SUPERVISOR  
A CLEAR, STRONG VOICE FOR THE FUTURE**

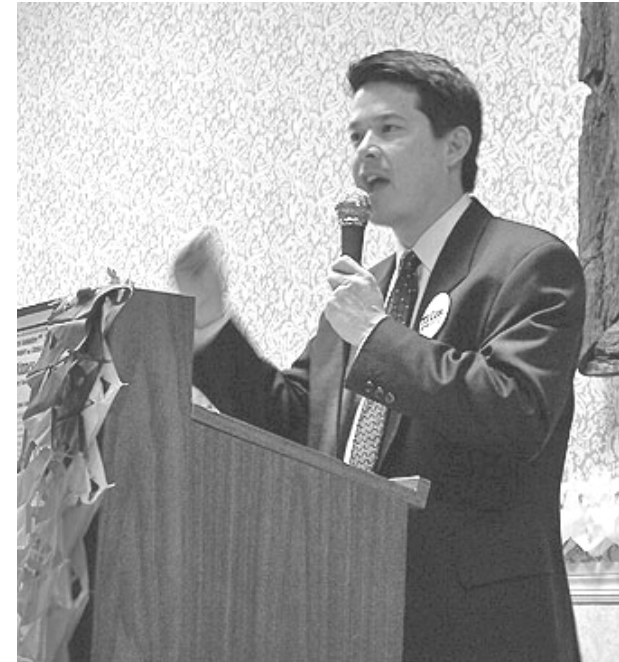
Endorsement by Monika Moulin and Ed Bailey

- \* As a fourth-generation Mountain Area native and proud honors graduate of YHS, Beverly Scott's commitment to protecting our rural culture is second to none.
- \* As a veteran, she knows how smart planning and teamwork are vital to success.
- \* As a former instructor at professional schools, she has passed on specific, marketable expertise so students became contributing members of the workforce and their communities.
- \* As a former staffer in key technology-based departments of Sierra Telephone, she knows how good jobs that make for stable families, distinguished schools, and enviable living conditions are critical.
- \* As an entrepreneurial business owner, she believes in prudent budget planning, creative problem-solving and aggressive monitoring of expenditures and resulting outcomes.
- \* As an award-winning community leader, she is part of the fabric of service clubs and numerous other community organizations that actively enhance our quality of life.
- \* She believes that speaking up and speaking out for what's right is of utmost importance.
- \* She cares intensely about future opportunities and challenges that may lie ahead for the next generation of Mountain Area residents.

**TJ Cox**

**Candidate for**

**United States Representative; District 19; Democratic Party**



**Campaign Contact Information**

call (559) 246-3250 or  
email [info@tjcox.com](mailto:info@tjcox.com).

T.J. Cox  
Congressional Campaign Committee  
P.O. Box 16037  
Fresno, CA 93755  
[www.tjcox.com](http://www.tjcox.com)

## Jefferson Dinner 2006

Laura E. Lee

On April 8th Mariposa and neighboring Democrats honored Thomas Jefferson, father of the Democratic Party, third President of the United States, and founding father and author of the Declaration of Independence.

Bouquets of red tulips decorated the tables and local musicians played chamber music entertaining approximately 120 enthusiastic Democrats throughout the evening.

Les Marsden, President of the Mariposa Democratic Club, was the chef again this year, planning and preparing both vegan and interesting stuffed pork tenderloin. Without going into the details of the menu, in both English and French, I assure you that it was very tasteful as well as exotic.

The special guest speaker was T.J. Cox, Democratic candidate for the U.S. Congress, 19th District. David Raboy, Mariposa County Coordinator of the Cox campaign, introduced Mr. Cox. If elected, he will support affordable health care for all, seek more funding for Yosemite Park, and concern himself with education. He believes that the "No child left behind" law is ineffective. He will "stand up for the people".

Les Marsden introduced the honored guest speaker, Alexandra Gallardo-Rooker, First Vice Chair of the California Democratic Party. She has been active in the labor movement and was on Governor Howard Dean's transitional team.

She believes that infrastructure is needed in the state Party; more people are needed to start Democratic Clubs and that we should begin the quest to restore Democratic principles in November. She is concerned about schools, the environment, and health care. "We need leadership to put people first." She is a dedicated State

## Jefferson Dinner 2006 (continued)

Democratic officer. I was one of the last few to leave, and she was still sharing information with us. Both speakers were enthusiastically applauded. The above comments are a small portion of their speeches. We hope that next year we will hear again from Congressman Cox. To aid in that project Pandora Edmonston donated her winnings from the 50-50 drawing to the T. J. Cox campaign - all \$294.

An amazing number of people worked before, during, and after to make this yearly event successful. It is a very good feeling to spend an evening with so many thoughtful and insightful people.



A big crowd had a big time at the annual Jefferson Dinner

## California State Democratic Party Convention

by Ginny Terrell

The California State Democratic Party held its annual convention in Sacramento this year, April 28-30. It was very interesting to be a part of, since this was an endorsing convention. Way more of the party's stars come out when their name is going to be on the ballot, which gives everyone a chance to schmooz, listen up, and finally, make a decision on who you feel will best fit the job description.

But there was so much else to do, too! First, after registration and getting your bag of goodies, it's time to meet up with old friends from around the state, and plot your course for all the caucus meetings and workshops. More time is spent going by all the booths that are trying to get you to endorse their candidate, pick up literature or buy a new T-shirt. And the halls were packed with mostly young people carrying signs for either Phil Angelides or Steve Westly. Sometimes the noise level became really intense.

Saturday was when things really started happening, unless you're into the nightlife (Chair's welcome reception, hospitality suites, etc.) But back to Saturday... The morning general session had some great speakers, led off by Willie Brown, Jr. And no matter where you stand on his politics, the man does know how to warm up a crowd! We also had Nancy Pelosi, Phil Angelides, Jack O'Connell and Steve Westly sharing the stage. One of the highlights for me was the panel discussion featuring Barbara Lee, Maxine Waters, Diane Watson and Karen Bass. I missed the candidate forum for Lt. Gov., because I'd already heard it at the CDC Convention.

After lunch we had the chance to listen to Cruz Bustamante, Bill Lockyer and Betty Yee, then several candidate forums (Attorney General, Secretary of State and Controller). Then it was time for some housecleaning business, and Statewide endorsements, the special dinner for those who paid the price, and more hospitality suites.

## California State Democratic Party Convention (continued)

Sunday morning was one of the best! We had Max Cleland speak to us at the general session. He is just amazing! Then the Regional Director Awards, Adoption of the Pre-Endorsement Calendar and the 2006 State Party Platform. Willie Brown adjourned the session just after noon, which was an amazing feat, being at least one hour ahead of schedule. Democrats ahead of schedule, you say? It's true, and I was there to witness it.

By the way, if any of you are interested in becoming a delegate to the conventions, the easiest way is to join your County Central Committee. It's too late to take out papers and be on the ballot, but I'm pretty sure there are spaces available on both the Madera and Mariposa committees. They need the help. This is an excellent opportunity to find out more about how your government works, and how we all have an impact.



### **FLOAT FOR RENT**

Our giant, bodacious, and otherwise totally big, splashy and wonderful float is for rent! Tell your friends and relations.

For information call Jerry Lacayo

## Madera County Clerk Addresses Oakhurst Club

By Ellie Schermerhorn

Madera County Clerk-Recorder Rebecca Martinez addressed the Oakhurst Democratic Club on April 1<sup>st</sup> about the new requirements of the “Help America Vote Act” and its implementation in time for the June 6<sup>th</sup> primary.

Ms. Martinez said that HAVA has both state and county mandates, one of which requires the state to create a voter database to match against Department of Motor Vehicle records. This process will help identify people who are registered in more than one county.

Another mandate requires that counties have at least one electronic voting device per voting location that allows a voter with a visual impairment to vote without assistance. The equipment must also accommodate any voter with a disability.

HAVA also requires that voting equipment provide for “second chance voting”, such as alerting voters if they voted for more candidates in a race than allowed, or didn’t vote in a particular race. She plans to conduct an extensive voter education program to remind voters to make sure that “if it says vote for one, only vote for one.”

The county’s current system is paper-based, and Ms. Martinez stated she believes in it whole-heartedly. “It serves our interests well and this community well”. The greatest benefit of a paper-trail system is that “if you ever doubt it tabulated correctly, you always have the luxury of hand-counting.”

One of Ms. Martinez’s primary responsibilities is to ensure accurate and secure voting and vote counting. “In my opinion, accuracy and ballot security are paramount.”

She described the process for counting absentee ballots, and emphasized that the voter must be the one signing the ballot.

## Madera County Clerk Addresses Oakhurst Club (continued)

“Your signature is matched against your voter registration card”, and only then will the ballot be counted. If staff is unable to match the signature, “I put together a panel, and sometimes, depending on how many I have, I will go through the expense of hiring a handwriting expert.”

Ms. Martinez encourages anyone with questions to contact her office. “We welcome the scrutiny and recognize the importance of an open, transparent election process. It belongs to you.”

The County Clerk-Recorder reminds voters that ballots must be in her office by 8:00PM of Election Day.

*Mortimer Mouse sez:*

Your county clerk needs  
**HELP AT THE  
POLLING PLACE**  
Please Volunteer Today





Spread the Good Cheer!



**Presenting the Most Beautiful Sticker  
Ever to Grace a Bumper!**

**Yours for a meager \$1.00.**

**Available at club meetings or by calling:**

**Jery Lacayo 209-742-7891 or  
Scott Hill 559-658-2342**

**CALLING ALL OAKHURST DEMOCRATS**

*It is*

**Membership Renewal Time!**

July 1st begins our new Club year and we're greedy – we want each and every one of you back! Not so greedy is our low, low membership fee of only **\$5.00**.

**Such a deal!**

*Save your Club 39¢ by completing  
this super short form and sending  
in your dues today!*

---

Name (s)

---

Address

---

Phone

---

E-Mail

Mail to Oakhurst Democratic Club  
P.O. Box 760, Oakhurst, Ca. 93644

THANK YOU!

## ACTION ITEMS

By: Jim Landis

### Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

The Repugs have not given up. They will attach legislation to drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to anything including a passing dog. Keep reaffirming your opposition. Call your members of Congress. Prudhoe Bay (Alaska North Slope) is an environmental disaster which will be repeated in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. For a report on Prudhoe Bay send a request to [landis@yosemite.net](mailto:landis@yosemite.net)

### NO IRAN WAR

Please contact George Bush immediately and tell him that it is time for his Secretary of State to stop inflaming the situation (with Iran) with her bellicose statements and threats, and to do her job which is to solve problems with other nations. Send her to Tehran immediately to meet with her Iranian counter-part (face to face) and start talking, and talking, and talking, and talking, and she should remain there until the issues are resolved; whether it takes a day, or a month, or a year, or two years, or however long; it is better than killing thousands (or perhaps millions) of people in another endless, senseless war. There is a solution for this issue with Iran; the task is to arrive at that solution. If Ms. Rice cannot do the job, we should send someone who can. This situation must not be allowed to deteriorate into a war---possibly a nuclear war.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Annual Dues are \$5.00 per person  
(Mariposa lifetime membership is \$100)

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mariposa Club: \_\_\_\_\_ or Oakhurst Club: \_\_\_\_\_

New Member: \_\_\_\_\_ or Renewal: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you find out about us? \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisorial District (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisorial District (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please mail form and check payable to:

Mariposa Democratic Club	or	Oakhurst Democratic Club
5409 Tip Top Road		PO Box 760
Mariposa, CA 95338		Oakhurst, CA 93644
(209) 966-3367		(559) 658-2342