



YosemiteDems.net

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



The Mountain Democrat

Oct. - Nov.
2009

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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

October 2009

Oct 3: Oakhurst Club Meeting

Oct 10: Mariposa Club Meeting

November 2009

Nov 7: Oakhurst Club Meeting

**Nov 14: Mariposa Cajun Feast
and Costume Ball)**
(page 3)

Nov 14: **NO** 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

Saturday Evening, November 14-
NEW LOCATION: Mariposa Fairgrounds, Building A

MARIPOSA'S *FAMOUS* CAJUN FEAST AND COSTUME BALL!



Featuring that
Great, Hot
Yosemite
Dixieland
Band - LIVE!!

Hot Dixieland Music,
Authentic Cajun Feast &
***YOU* in COSTUME!**

Doors open 6:00 - All-You-Can-Eat Dinner at 6:45

Adults: \$20, Children: \$10

For Tickets or Information: (209) 742-6872

A GREAT Family Event Co-Sponsored by the Mariposa Democratic Club and
the Mariposa County Democratic Central Committee - *the Party that REALLY knows how to PARTY!*

From the Campaign Trail

By Les Marsden

That once-far-off-election is now little more than a year away. And I'm really pleased with the growth and direction of our campaign. Not only because I've been seeing more and more of this huge district; not only because I've been meeting more and more of the constituents, but also because of the growth in our staff. We've added a whole new eager crew of student interns in Stanislaus County - and they're coordinated under our new staffer Jacklyn Shirley. Jackie (who just celebrated her 21st birthday herself) has been working closely with Stanislaus County Chair Frank Ploof - and also with Campaign Manager Dr. Peter DeCaro. One of Jackie's first projects was the construction of the Les Marsden for Congress Facebook Page; in addition to her work on the Marsden Campaign Jackie is also the chair of the CSU Stanislaus Chapter of Progressive Democrats of America. Though it's just barely going to be public by the time you receive this newsletter, please visit my new Les Marsden For Congress Facebook Page and join the group.

Healthcare has been an increasingly important issue nationally and in the 19th District. Frank Ploof coordinated an officially-affiliated healthcare vigil in Modesto on September 2 and while only 20 people registered online, well over 200 showed up - to our amazement. There were no protestors: only those who had come to speak on behalf of meaningful reform, including myself. And just so there's no confusion: I stand fully in favor of a public option. As you know, healthcare in America is crippled by the insurance industry's profit motives. Costly premiums make coverage out of reach for far too many, pre-existing conditions are used to deny coverage, long-time insureds suddenly find themselves dropped when they need care. The stories are legion; the deprivations and behavior of far too many insurers is inexcusable. Mere regulation of the healthcare insurance industry will have little positive effect in curbing the problems we face today. And co-ops have a long record of failure. What's truly

From the Campaign Trail (continued)

needed is an option which will offer serious competition to private insurers - a public option. Let's make it even simpler: Medicare for all. I know Medicare well; I've been a recipient since becoming disabled at age 42. And it's a great program: don't listen to the lies. It's solvent (as was announced by the last actuarial report in August of 2008) through the year 2041. Its operating overhead is between 2 and 5.2% (private insurance overhead is in the 20 - 35% range, depending upon the company.) As a working guest resident in both Canada and the United Kingdom, I was treated under both nations' healthcare systems and found them just as good as our own, if not better. As a matter of fact, our US healthcare ranks 37th world-wide. And if you'd like more stats, a Harris poll of Canadians released less than two months ago showed that 91% of Canadians find their healthcare system to be superior to that of the US.

I attended Congressman Radanovich's hurriedly-announced healthcare 'town hall' in remote Oakdale in Stanislaus County on September 18th (with many other Democrats and members of my campaign including Eileen and Peter Cavanaugh, Frank Ploof, Jackie Shirley, Region 7 CDP Director Gary Robbins, Stanislaus County Democratic Central Committee Chair Mike Burtch - and many others. (As a sidebar, read Peter's wonderful piece in this newsletter about the Cavanaugh's experience in San Francisco just before the Oakdale event: can you imagine the scene had Michael Moore been able to make it to Radanovich's 'town hall'?) The tightly-controlled, scripted event was a ghastly marvel of the uptight in suits: humorless young staffers everywhere in paranoid electronic conversation with others of their ilk. Though attempting to appear magnanimously charming, Radanovich failed. He griped about his party 'being out of power' and I can only reply that there's a reason for that. He presented a very biased, deceptive, incorrect overview of what he described as the 'Obama healthcare plan.' After constantly rhetorically questioning why the President hadn't offered a bill to Congress, an attendee finally stood in the audience

From the Campaign Trail (continued)

of 400 to point out that the Constitution does not grant the power of making bills to the President. While there were no overtly disorderly right-wingers, plenty did (during the public period) offer yet more firmly resolute and wholly self-assured yet totally incorrect non-truths to Radanovich's nodding or vocal approval. When anyone on our side spoke on behalf of a public option, Radanovich shifted to another speaker with dismissal or little to no comment. It's easy to see why we need to replace Radanovich: as on so many other issues, he simply doesn't care about what will benefit Americans. As he himself repeatedly noted, he doesn't want to interfere in the 'free market.' That's exactly the problem. When the 'free market' has been allowed to monopolize a service, it's time for reform - as Teddy Roosevelt courageously showed. And when that manipulated service involves the very lives of Americans, reform has never needed to be made more urgently nor more severely than at present in our health insurance sector.

Please visit <http://www.MarsdenForCongress.com> to learn more. Please donate to our campaign. As ever, electing a stronger voice for the 19th can only be a collaborative effort and I absolutely request your help. And accept it with great appreciation.



Be a Mover and Shaker!!!

By Anne Brock

Want to have some real power? Become an officer of the Mariposa Democratic Club!

If you are interested in running for the 2010 executive committee, contact one of the members of the Nominating Committee:

Kathy Landers - 209-966-6423 - mntnma@yahoo.com

Sally Punte – 209-852-2559 - sallyp@finestplanet.com

John Stewart - 209-628-2839 - jstewart@csea.com

Offices in the club are:

President

First VP

Second VP

Recording Secretary

Corresponding Secretary

Treasurer

Assistant Treasurer

And four At-Large positions

Elections will be held at our December lunch-time potluck!

“GREAT! Where’s Oakdale?”

By Peter Cavanaugh

Mike’s handlers were getting jumpy.

We were in San Francisco, where Eileen and I had the great fortune of attending a special screening of “Capitalism: A Love Story”, later spending time with an old friend.

Michael Moore had joined us on the sidewalk in front of our hotel to continue an extended conversation about Flint times and new challenges. A crowd was quickly gathering. He’d just been on Leno. His security team was understandably growing increasingly uncomfortable. Those death threats are real.

“Mister Moore, please get back in the car.”

But Michael was captivated by the wild idea of possibly gracing George Radanovich’s “Town Meeting” the following day in Oakdale with an impromptu appearance. Saddened to learn that a 7 AM flight to Minneapolis would prohibit such sport, Mike nonetheless offered his support in nailing a (D) after our next 19th District Congressional Representative’s name.

Michael lives in a Republican dominated rural area, too. His year-round home is in Antrim County, Michigan - population 24,109. He’s all too familiar with the curious George Radanoviches of the flying monkey right embracing vices as virtues, treasonably trashing our American middle class, offering a smile all the while.

While any attempt at true objectivity would be folly, I feel safe to say that Michael’s new film will not disappoint. It is a powerful call to action.

The star?

...Franklin Delano Roosevelt!

“GREAT! Where’s Oakdale?” (continued)

Our 32nd President of the United States visits us in poignant, never-released, never-seen, granular black and white footage captured shortly before his death.

He outlines all that could be.

Which still has never been.

Seventy years down the road, it’s our job now.

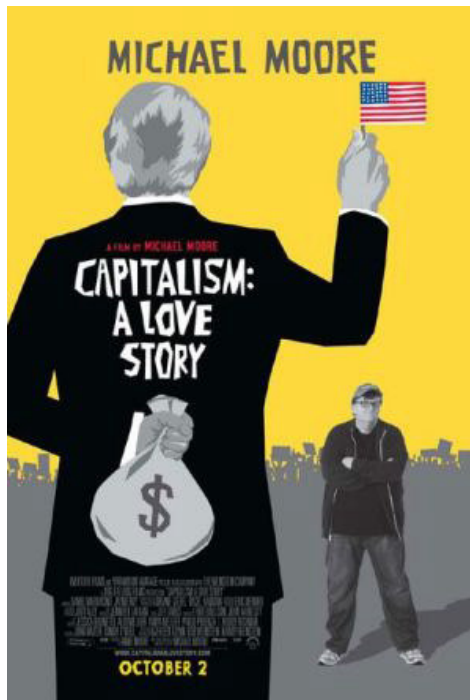
Mike’s done his.



Eileen (left) and Peter Cavanaugh (right) with Michael Moore (center) in San Francisco



Franklin Delano Roosevelt, star of *Capitalism: A Love Story*



***The* PRESIDENT'S HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM GUARANTEES**



1. NO DISCRIMINATION FOR PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS

Insurance companies would be prohibited from refusing you coverage because of your medical history.

2. NO EXHORBITANT OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES, DEDUCTIBLES OR CO-PAYS

Insurance companies will have to abide by yearly caps on how much they can charge for out-of-pocket expenses.

3. NO COST-SHARING FOR PREVENTIVE CARE

Insurance companies must fully cover, without charge, regular checkups and tests that help you prevent illness, such as mammograms or eye and foot exams for diabetics.

4. NO DROPPING OF COVERAGE FOR SERIOUSLY ILL

Insurance companies will be prohibited from dropping or watering down coverage for those who become seriously ill.

5. NO GENDER DISCRIMINATION

Insurance companies will be prohibited from charging you more because of your gender.

6. NO ANNUAL OR LIFETIME CAP ON COVERAGE

Insurance companies will be prevented from placing annual or lifetime caps on the coverage you receive.

7. EXTENDED COVERAGE FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Children would continue to be eligible for coverage through the age of 26.

8. GUARANTEED INSURANCE RENEWAL

Insurance companies will be required to renew any policy as long as the policyholder pays their premium in full. Insurance companies won't be allowed to refuse renewal because someone becomes sick.

HEALTHCARE.BARACKOBAMA.COM

It's time for the Cajun Feast!

By Anne Brock

It's time again for that awesome party bash, the Cajun Feast. This year we're happy to announce that we will be holding it in Building A at the Mariposa Fairgrounds, Sat, Nov 14. We're also happy that the Yosemite Dixieland Band will once again be providing live music and Les Marsden will be working his magic in the kitchen. So purchase your tickets now (\$20) by calling 209-742-6872 or emailing mariposademclub@gmail.com!

Because we are at building A at the fairgrounds, we can hold a lot more people than the last few years. So invite all your friends to join you for the Feast! And don't forget to wear a costume – there will be prizes of all sorts!

As you know, this is one of our two major fundraisers for the year; so help us drive attendance to this non-partisan event. We welcome anyone who wants to party to this event! So tell all your neighbors about it too!

Look forward to seeing you at the Feast!

(Tickets will also be available at the Mariposa Democratic Club Oct. Meeting.)

Meeting Changes

Just wanted to remind everyone that there will not be a November meeting due to the Cajun Feast. And in December, we will hold a lunch-time potluck. Location is still to be determined; we will let you know. If you don't get email, please contact Anne, 742-6872, as it gets closer if you don't hear of the new location!

Mariposa County Fair Activities

By Anne Brock

Once again, the Mariposa Democratic Club had a fantastic booth at the county fair. Thanks to Mitch Terkildsen and Tom Martin for organizing it, and thanks to all the wonderful members who staffed it! We had a lot of people who were happy to see us there – we got some new members, sold a bunch of buttons, and even sold some Cajun Feast tickets. President Obama visited our booth (as a cutout figure) and people enjoyed having their pictures taken with them. Thanks again for everyone who makes this booth work!

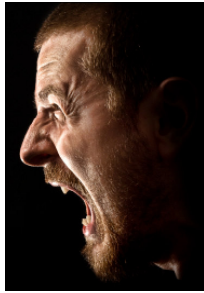
We also participated in the Labor Day Parade. We had a good turnout on the float, but what was even more amazing was the reaction of the crowd – very few hecklers and lots of cheers and hurrahs and applause! Thanks to Shirley Schmelzer and Cameron & Rosann Burley for organizing it, and thanks to all who came out to decorate and ride on the float! A special thanks again to Dave Raboy for using his veggie oil truck to pull the float!

The club got noticed by all over Labor Day weekend! Great work, everyone!

Or A Box of Rocks?

By David A. Love

The insurance companies have tapped into the anger of the unwashed fringes, and harnessed their rage at the town hall meetings - the tea-baggers and the militias, the birthers and the white nationalists, the jingoists and the secessionists. These folks don't know the first thing about healthcare, but they do know that they hate government, they hate Obama, and they believe he is a foreigner and an illegitimate leader. And a communist Nazi Muslim terrorist. They won't allow a black man to indoctrinate their children, nor will they allow one of them to take over their country.



Once again, moneyed interests use regular common folk - suckers that they are - to act against their own best interests. Rich Southerners had poor whites fight and die to maintain a system of slavery that rendered their labor unnecessary. During the struggles of the labor movement, corporations hired hooligans to beat up and shoot workers who attempted to organize. Appeals to white-skin privilege kept white workers from organizing with workers of color to better everyone's station in life. And today, particularly in states with the lowest educational and health standards, working class people who constitute the Republican party "base" fight alongside the corporations to keep healthcare expensive and inaccessible. Billy Bob is as dumb as bricks, and proud of it.

Courtesy of "The LA Progressive"

<http://www.laprogressive.com/>

Local Events in Our Area



Lloyd Carter speaking at the Oakhurst club meeting September 5th



The Madera Central Committee Booth at the Madera Fair

Float Scenes 2009



Fair Scenes 2009





FLOAT FOR RENT

**Our giant, splashy and wonderful float is for rent!
Tell your friends and relations.**

For information call 209-742-1010

Mortimer Mouse Sez...

**OooooooKayyyyy!
This is my costume for the
Kajun Feast and
Costume Ball.
Think anyone will recognize me?**



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Today's Date: _____

___ Mariposa: Annual Dues are \$10.00 per person
\$15.00 family
Lifetime membership \$150.00
or

___ Oakhurst: Annual Dues are \$5.00 per person

___ New Member or ___ Renewal:

How did you find out about us? _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____

E-Mail: _____ Fax: _____

Supervisory District (if known): _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$_____

Please mail form and check payable to:

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Mariposa Democratic Club | -or- Oakhurst Democratic Club |
| PO Box 5008-268 | PO Box 760 |
| Mariposa, CA 95338 | Oakhurst, CA 93644 |
| (209) 742-1010 | (559) 658-2342 |