

MOUNTAIN DEMOCRAT

Dec. 2012 – Jan. 2013



The Mountain Democrat

Newsletter Editor

PO Box 760

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YosemiteDems.net



The Mountain Democrat is published bimonthly by the Oakhurst Democratic Club and the Mariposa Democratic Club, and is distributed to all current members of those clubs. For a membership application see the inside back cover of this newsletter.

COMING EVENTS

CONTACT US

December 2012

Dec 1: Oakhurst Club Meeting

Dec 8: Mariposa Holiday
Potluck (pg. 3)

CDC Yosemite Gateway
(Vacant)

Mariposa Democratic Club
209-742-1010

Oakhurst Democratic Club
Scott Hill: 559-658-2342

January 2013

Jan 5: NO Oakhurst Meeting

Jan 12: Mariposa Club Meeting

Newsletter Editor
Scott Hill: 559-658-2342

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

YosemiteDems.net or MariposaDemocraticClub.org

Annual December Potluck!

The Mariposa Democratic Club's December meeting will be our annual holiday potluck. It will still be on the second Saturday of December—December 8th—but at lunchtime instead of breakfast!

Bring your favorite dish to share, lots of holiday joy, and any relatives, friends, acquaintances who happen to be in town!

The event will be held at the MidPines County Park; this is off 140 in MidPines, east of Mariposa. Please call Anne, 209-742-6872 for directions. Arrive around 11 or so; we will be eating at noon!

Our normal meetings will continue starting in January; second Saturday of the month at Miner's Inn Restaurant. Hope to see everyone in December!



A Christmas Wish

By Peter Cavanaugh

Good for us! As a consequence of the November elections, our California Democratic Party now enjoys supermajority status in State government and can take great satisfaction in the approval of Proposition 30 to the delight of Governor Brown and defeat of Proposition 32 to the horror of corporate union haters.

Nationally, President Obama has decisively won a second term in office, we have increased the Democratic majority in the U.S. Senate to 51, bringing our strength to 53 counting two additional "Independents"—and have begun to narrow heavy Republican domination of the House with the new tally now 242 "them" vs. 193 "us."

Here in Oakhurst, it was terrific arranging for a "Meet and Greet" session with Fourth Congressional District Democratic Candidate Jack Uppal at the Queens' Inn in cooperation with the Oakhurst Chamber of Commerce on October 10th, then concluding our local club campaign efforts on the 27th with wall-to-wall, standing room only attendance for "Koch Brothers Exposed" and a live link-up with Film Director Michael Moore at the Met Cinema. This event sadly marked the last "full crowd" turnout for the complex prior to its untimely closing four days later. I'd like to think we gave it a fine goodbye.

And where are we now? Pretty much where we were before, but with a bit of welcome traction.

One thing has not changed—a mindless, poisonous, unwarranted hatred of Barack Obama by a Conservative core continually fed by FOX News, Talk Radio and the Christian right. The name "Obama" has become emotionally synonymous with such classically condemned figures as Satan, MaoTse Tung and even, according to local righter, J. R. "Junior" Froelich, Adolf Hitler.

Froelich even closed a recent Sierra Star column with the words of "You should be afraid. Be very afraid" in a final burst of pure, purple prose paranoia bemoaning the President's 332 to 206 Electoral victory.

We should have a lot on our agenda. My own list would include a quicker end to our involvement in Afghanistan, movement to amend the Constitution with negation of the Supreme Court's now infamous "Citizens United" decision, continuing evolution of "Obamacare" toward truly universal health care (i.e., "Medicare for ALL"), Immigration Reform, and the restoration of Glass Steagall regulations to harness future Wall Street abuses. Those are highlights.

I would also push for restoration of the FCC "Fairness Doctrine" tossed aside by Democratic leaders following Obama's first election in 2008 in an attempted indication of bipartisanship—an abandonment of basic principles that gained us absolutely nothing except snickering Republican ridicule at such a display of novice naivete.

Along with insistence on being able to obtain equal time for opposing viewpoints on Federally regulated broadcast stations, I would also call for license revocation of any facility claiming to be "religious" that offers significant political commentary of a clearly non-spiritual nature, including specific candidate endorsements.

It's infuriating.

Check 91.5 FM (K218CZ) beaming down from Deadwood. Here's a Christmas wish for the station's "Contemporary Inspirational" programmers. How about a little Holiday reflection upon the words of Exodus 20:16?

"Thou Shalt Not Bear False Witness Against Thy Neighbor."

Especially if he lives in The White House.

Mariposa Democratic Club November 2012 Meeting

By Steve Smallcombe

The Mariposa Democratic Club held two events in November right after the election. On election night, we had a party at the Hideout Saloon in Mariposa with about 50 people in attendance. Good beer, good snacks, good friends, a great location and a good night in general for Democrats lead to a very festive occasion. We stayed till Obama's re-election was well and truly in the bag and props 30 and 32 were well on their way to passage. The only downer of the night was, of course, that Jack Uppal lost to Tom McClintock, and so we will have one of the most conservative Tea Party types "representing" us in Congress for the next couple of years.

The celebration continued at our November Club Meeting on the 10th where we watched two videos, one with Rachael Maddow outlining the gains Democrats made across the nation,

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zRpSAKw0V48>

and a second video about the origin of our current national debt.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LcvLHHMC4iI>

Lynn Jacobsson then spoke briefly and passed out materials outlining various proposals for dealing with our upcoming so-called "Fiscal Cliff." We'll be uploading a letter drafted by Lynn to our website and encouraging everyone to write our Congressional representatives.

Dem Club member, Suzette Prue, was reelected to the John C. Fremont Hospital Board. She spoke briefly about a proposed reduction in State support for the long term care provided by the Hospital. She noted that the Hospital already loses approximately \$500,000 each year on long term care and, if the reduction is

Mariposa Democratic Club November 2012 Meeting (continued)

implemented, that loss will double—a situation that is obviously not sustainable. Suzette advised that a meeting with the Board of Supervisors will be scheduled soon. When a date has been set, Anne Brock will send a notice so that everyone who's interested can attend and express their concerns.

John Carrier, who had spoken at our July meeting and has attended club meetings regularly since then, spoke about his election victory as District 5 Supervisor for Mariposa County and shared his thoughts on some of the issues the County will be facing in the upcoming year.



WHY ARE WE SO SILENT?

By Lucille Apcar

Dick Nixon (I won't grace it by calling him a President) called us "The Silent Majority". And if I recall correctly both Harry Truman and Lyndon Johnson urged us time and again to speak up and express our opinions. Yet one characteristic of the Democrats seems to resonate again and again, speaking only through our right to vote as demonstrated by the re-election of Barack Obama on November 6, 2012 plus a handful of representatives to Congress. NOT ENOUGH.

An article appearing in The Nation (Nov. 26 issue) by William Greider makes a strong point for the voice of the people. Our economy is badly in need of further stimulus to bring our country out of the recession, yet the only vocalizing seems to come from the likes of Paul Ryan, Rush Limbaugh, Mitt Romney, et al; ad nauseam.

Who can and will, upon the direct communication of people like you and me, take the necessary steps to alleviate the joblessness, the underwater mortgages, the students struggling to learn under onerous fees, the farmers losing their shirts due to climate excesses, middle-class bankruptcy over huge health-care bills? THE FEDERAL RESERVE.

Before you discount this, think first about what the bailout did for the auto industry. And it is paying us back with interest.

To quote Mr. Greider "Fed money is not exactly 'free' but it has the great virtue for government: it doesn't cost the taxpayers anything. Fed expenditures do not show up in the national budget nor do they add anything to the national debt. In a sense this freshly created money belongs to the people... and can be used in

WHY ARE WE SO SILENT? (continued)

various ways to advance the shared public interest. Lincoln did this when he printed Greenbacks during the Civil War".

Yes, taking such action can and might result in some inflation, but would it not be infinitely better than breadlines of starving people? Or homelessness? Or bankruptcies?

Speak out to the FED. Here are e-mail addresses to the Federal Reserve Board Governors:

Ben.S.Bernanke@FRB.gov Janet.L.Yellen@FRB.gov
Elizabeth.A.Duke@FRB.gov Daniel.K.Tarullo@FRB.gov
SarahBloom.Raskin@FRB.gov
Jeremy.C.Stein@FRB.gov Jerome.H.Powell@FRB.gov



PHOTOS



John Carrier speaking to the Mariposa club in November



Phone Banking for Democrats

PHOTOS



Susan Rowe and Les Marsden at the CDC E-Board Meeting



Election Watch at the Home of Joanne Wagers

Your California Democratic Party At Work

By Les Marsden

Caucus meetings, procedural debates, endless discussion of rules, challenges and ripostes regarding resolutions, major divisions over new CDP regions, debates about *debates*—that's your California Democratic Party at work.

Until becoming active with the CDP several years ago, I never imagined what goes on behind the scenes. So I thought you might enjoy my entirely subjective account of the November 16 – 18 Executive Board weekend in Millbrae.

Background: The CDP has nine standing committees, 19 interest-based caucuses (I belong to five) and five current statewide or geographically-chartered organizations (I'm a charter member of the new California Armenian-American Democrats.) I'm also an officer (Central Trustee) of the California Democratic Council—the blanket organization of California's Democratic Clubs. With all those subsets plus the weekend's general sessions, meetings are inevitably cross-scheduled and attendees must choose between conflicting events.

After adjourning Friday's public hearing of the Mariposa Planning Commission, I left for the Millbrae Westin, site of the E-board. Friday was travel day with only a few caucus meetings, Voter Services Committee and Organizational Development Committee scheduled. The 60-year-old CDC met that evening with an in-depth discussion of re-structuring the organization; hard to believe I attended my first CDC convention 37 years ago at age 17! After that meeting ended, I met at 10:30PM with friends (networking, horse-trading and old-fashioned negotiation are always critically important parts of the weekends) for a late dinner. Believe it or not my first meal of the day.

Saturday: Rural Caucus at 8:00AM, under Chris Stampolis' dynamic leadership (Chris, incidentally, had appointed me as

Your California Democratic Party At Work (continued)

Trustee of the CDC many years ago when he led THAT organization. See? Cross-pollination!) Wide-ranging discussions included reaching voters in rural areas despite limited infrastructure and much more. I then sat in on the final portion of the ADEM Convener workshop. With the AD rep elections coming up in January I proposed a Mariposa location for that important event for the southern portion of our massive CDP Region to benefit all our Yosemite Democrats. My proposal was met positively; private discussion followed. Then off to the 11:00 AM General Session, while chatting with (among many others) CDP Vice-Chair Eric Bauman, who many of you will remember as our highly motivating speaker at our Jefferson Dinner in 2009.

The General Session began (characteristically) late—with 163 credentialed E-Board members. Reports, speakers, post-election analysis and glad-handing under always-irascible, usually-profane California political legend and CDP Chair John Burton; John's progressive leadership has led the CDP aggressively and positively forward in a way that should make us all proud. From there my good friend Dr. Jan Black and I went to the invitation-only coffee with California Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones who—as usual—wanted to know what's happening in Mariposa. I'll keep you posted on Dave's “Insurance Rate Public Justification and Accountability Act”—a November 2014 ballot proposition which we must absolutely help pass. Chatted with many, including our own wise Susan Rowe, with whom I usually spend much convention/e-board time.

3:30 PM Progressive Caucus meeting included a joint presentation with the Armenian-Americans on genocide; as a member of both groups, but representing the Progressive Caucus back in San Diego in February, I helped negotiate a very sensitive and divisive issue between the two groups which ultimately led to this afternoon's event. I offered an opening line to Progressive Caucus Southern VP Mike Thaller, who chaired for ailing chair Karen Bernal.

Luckily my line worked—all that more fortunate because Mike attributed my line to me BEFORE using it and if it had bombed, egg on MY face. The discussion included two highly distinguished progressive guest panelists: David Barsamian (prolific writer, broadcaster and founder of the Boulder-based “Alternative Radio”—as well as longtime collaborator with Noam Chomsky) and Michael Parenti (famed writer, historian and social critic.) After the session, I privately shared my Armenian and professional background with Barsamian, who insisted upon autographing one of his books to me with “Les is more.” He asked me to follow-up our personal discussion as soon as possible, which I will. I was invited to dinner with him but had to decline as I was immediately due at the meeting of the Disabilities Caucus, which I serve as an officer.

Two factions of the Disabilities Caucus have opposing sets of candidates for all officer positions in our upcoming April elections except mine: I'm running unopposed, strangely! That meeting ran well beyond its two-hour time-frame, but Jan kindly waited for me as we had planned a late dinner. She's a distinguished professor of International Studies at the Monterey Institute and a board director of Amnesty International; traveling the globe literally and constantly always makes her a fascinating conversation partner. We shared a dinner table with a State Senate legislative aide who had 15 years of remarkable insight. Others joined us during the meal but sitting at the next table throughout was Region 9 Director and Democratic National Committee member Shawn Bagley; Shawn had been elected to the one open DNC position at our Anaheim E-board in July from a field of 150 candidates. Shawn had actively pursued (and received) my endorsement and of course I'm sure THAT'S why he won! During dinner, Shawn helped himself to Jan's fries and I reciprocated by helping myself to Shawn's Crown Royal (neat.) Hey—it was a long day!

Sunday morning: a portion of a UC Berkeley musical based upon

Woody Guthrie songs as thanks from CDP Controller Hilary Crosby for supporting her very successful Dem 2012 project (soon to become Dem 2014.) Yosemite Dems remember Hilary and husband Kip from their attendance at our Cajun Feasts. Hilary introduced me to the student cast after their performance; I told them about performing my one-man show at UC Berkeley's Durham Theatre 33 years ago and they seemed nearly impressed.

Then: the final plenary session—the final 10 negotiated resolutions (including mine re: the Yosemite Visitors Center in Mariposa—which gratefully passed by acclamation) were presented, as well as the weekend's full Legislation Committee meeting report, Rules Committee meeting report—including the proposed rules for our April, 2013 CDP Convention—and one of the more contentious reports: the presentation of the new maps for our new CDP Regions: the outline for the physical areas of California by which the party proposes to organize us (by combined Assembly Districts.) Due to the size of some of the new ADs, some regions are immense: and though a revised map was presented after weekend haggling, factions were still not pleased. That map passed but only upon the condition that bylaws changes would be presented to the body at our convention to add regions, potentially divide the two largest CDP regions—and then enact it all via voting at our next CDP convention and E-board. Semi-newsflash: our current CDP region is 7 and our new one will be 5. For now, at least!

After adjournment, I drove the 3+ hours home in time for a late dinner—fulfilled with the knowledge of another successful weekend of accomplishment by our CDP. A whirlwind weekend about which I hope I've brought to you some elucidation.

PHOTOS



Peter Cavanaugh and Part of the Overflow Crowd
at the “Bringing Home the Truth Rally”



Jack Uppal and Friends
at the “Bringing Home the Truth Rally”

Fair Board Appointees

From Anne Brock

We are thrilled to announce that Carol Johnson and John Stewart, both Democrats, have been appointed to the Mariposa County Fair Board by Governor Brown! Congratulations to both of them!

There will be more openings before Gov. Brown leaves office; we encourage everyone interested to apply!



Mortimer Mouse Sez...

**Be sure to
BECOME A FAN
Of our Facebook Pages**

(click the little “Like” button)



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: _____

Physical Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____

E-Mail: _____ Fax: _____

Supervisory District (if known): _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please mail form and check payable to:

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