



# **THE MOUNTAIN DEMOCRAT**

**December 2016  
-  
January 2017**

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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

#### December 2016

Dec 3: Oakhurst Club Meeting  
8:30AM Denny's

Dec 10: NO! Mariposa Club  
Meeting in December

#### January 2017

Jan 7: NO! Oakhurst Club  
Meeting in January

Jan 14: Mariposa Club Meeting  
9:00AM Miner's Inn

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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 pages at:

[YosemiteDems.net](http://YosemiteDems.net) or [MariposaDemocraticClub.org](http://MariposaDemocraticClub.org)

# Season's Greetings



# Holiday Cheer

Credit: [onenessinterfaith.com](http://onenessinterfaith.com)

## Free Fall

By Peter Cavanaugh

It was the greatest political upset in American history.

We are in free fall.

I'm still reeling from the shock. As national returns started scrawling across the screen, it was like being nailed with a 2' by 4' right between my eyes, again and again. Even if I enjoyed that sort of thing, Election Night 2016 wasn't any fun.

No one knows what Donald J. Trump is going to do, particularly Donald J. Trump. They say a chimp on a computer keyboard, given enough time and random opportunities, will eventually write "Romeo and Juliet" word for word. So the Trumpster DOES have a chance to make America White Again. I mean Right. I mean Great.

There does seem to be potentially persuasive evidence suggesting that Trump is a savant.

The word savant is derived from the Latin "sapere," meaning, "to be wise." "Savant syndrome" is defined as a condition in which a person with a developmental disability, such as autism spectrum disorder, demonstrates profound capabilities far in excess of that which could be considered normal. Savants often exhibit highly functioning behavior combined with obsessive compulsions, simultaneously displaying pronounced deficits in social and language skills. This would account for Trump's five-hundred word vocabulary and his limited attention span akin to that of a goldfish.

High function can nonetheless bring low outcome.

President-Elect Trump is now stating that he is about to "modernize" Medicare with the help of House Speaker Paul Ryan.

## Free Fall (continued)

Ryan has been trying to phase out Medicare and replace it with private insurance for several years. It will be based on a voucher system. Everyone will get a certain amount of money from the government to buy the best policies available on a free market, "free" in this instance potentially meaning unregulated—and expensive. If your voucher won't cover the cost of adequate protection, maybe that serves you right for not setting aside enough retirement money back when you could. It's really your own fault. Don't blame the Speaker of the House. He hopes you've learned your lesson.

Mr. Ryan will finally enjoy a unified Republican government under Trump's leadership, or lack thereof, and has signaled he will rush things along to realize his goal of establishing a "*patient-centered health system*"—whatever that might be—other than warm and fuzzy words that suggest everything and promise nothing.

Descend we now to a future uncertain and unforeseeable.

Consider the first two schizophrenic twitter tweets of our President Elect less than 48 hours after the polls closed as he watched thousands upon thousands of protestors march spontaneously in dozens of cities against his ascension to prominence:

6:19 PM—"*Just had a very open and successful presidential election. Now professional protesters, incited by the media, are protesting. Very unfair!*"

3:14 AM—"*Love the fact that the small group of protesters last night have passion for our great country. We will all come together and be proud.*"

In the immortal words of the late Jackie Gleason: "*Away we go!*"

Free Fall (continued)

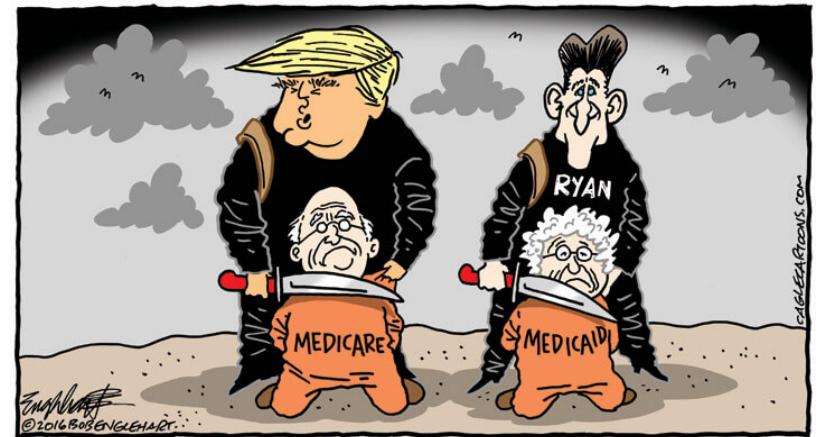
How optimistic ring the words of The Rolling Stones in their classic anthem with which Trump closed his victory speech after his win was assured.

*“You can’t always get what you want. But if you try sometimes—you just might find—you get what you need.”*

A trying time has begun.



The Trumpster



Goodbye Affordable Care Act

## November 18-20, 2016 Executive Board (E-Board) Report

By Rosemarie Smallcombe

Note: Sorry I didn't provide a report on the June E-Board meeting. As a County Supervisor, I was invited to attend President Obama's speech in Yosemite National Park, which I accepted.

The Executive Board meeting officially kicked off with the General Session on Saturday morning. The California Democratic Party leadership all expressed disappointment with national election results, but celebrated major victories in California. All the leaders also emphasized the need for California Democrats to finish grieving as soon as they can and begin to organize for the 2018 and 2020 elections. The leadership also noted its intent to stand together to protect California citizens from actions contrary to our values, such as reducing healthcare coverage and deportations of immigrants as proposed by President-elect Trump.

California Democrats have won a super majority in the State Assembly and, when all votes are counted, may also have a super majority in the State Senate. Ling Ling Chan currently holds the seat for the 29th Senate District, which includes parts of Orange, Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties. Democratic candidate, Josh Newman, was behind by only 187 votes on Friday, November 18th with about 15,000 mail and provisional ballots yet to be counted. Final results aren't expected until after Thanksgiving and would be further delayed if one of the candidates asks for a recount.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF OTHER MEETINGS

#### Rules Committee

Susie Shannon of Los Angeles asked the Rules Committee to add language to the CDP Bylaws that would require party leaders to fully disclose any compensation they receive to advocate for

## November E-Board Report (continued)

statewide ballot initiatives or candidates for state office. This call for greater transparency and identification of conflicts of interest was apparently precipitated by controversy resulting from opposition work on Prop 61 conducted by CDP Vice-Chair Eric Bauman's consulting firm, for which the company received over \$100,000. Prop 61 was intended to lower prescription drug prices by requiring that state agencies pay no more for medicines than the federal Department of Veterans Affairs. The Rules Committee approved the concept and established a subcommittee to develop appropriate language.

The established Imperial County Democratic Central Committee was challenged by two Democrats who had pulled papers, received signatures, held their own meeting and claimed ownership of the established Central Committee, including their bank account. After considerable discussion, the Rules Committee affirmed the originally established Committee, but ordered that the seated members convene and "take actions as appropriate to fully constitute the committee." The rather unpleasant exchanges serve as a reminder that it is important for Central Committees to have well-established procedures in their bylaws governing organizational meetings, the role of ex-officio members and election of officers after a Presidential election cycle.

#### Rural Caucus

Jamie Beutler, Chair of the Rural Caucus, led a good discussion of Democratic successes in rural counties as well as what we need to elect more Democrats. A specific outcome of the discussion is a call to urban, Democratic areas of the state to provide resources (money and people) to assist rural efforts. State Senator Mike Maguire provided an excellent overview of California's economic picture, which is very good for many, but he noted that many have been left behind by the recovery. He also emphasized the need for

## November E-Board Report (continued)

Democrats to work together to address issues such as homelessness, need for school buses, improved education and, above all, working to ensure that the state budget allocate more funding for rural counties to address these and other needs.

### Environmental Caucus

Mike Maguire also spoke at this Caucus; he advised that a new version of SB350's petroleum section will be introduced next year. This is very good news because a similar provision contained in SB350 last year was removed due to a heavy lobbying campaign by Big Oil.

R.L. Miller, Environmental Caucus Chair, and State Party Controller, Hillary Crosby, announced that John Burton and the CDP leadership have pledged to refuse contributions from Big Oil through the end of John Burton's term as CDP Chair.

### Closing Session

The various state committees, such as the Rules Committee, presented reports that were approved after more or less discussion by the E-Board representatives. The Resolutions Committee presented 12 resolutions for approval. Topics of these resolutions ranged from using scientific consensus as a basis for formulating policies on various issues to honoring Tom Hayden posthumously. One of the resolutions debated by the E-Board was a desalination and recycled water resolution, which incorrectly identified the Mariposa Central Committee as a sponsor. The E-Board representative of the Mariposa Central Committee and the head of the Environmental Caucus and several others spoke against this resolution in its current form; the Labor Caucus supported it. Despite E-Board approval of a resolution requiring Democrats to act in accordance with scientific consensus in considering policy, the resolution passed by voice vote.

## November E-Board Report (continued)

There was considerable discussion about the \$5 fee assessed for votes cast in ADEM elections. A number of people have objected to the fee on the basis that it's essentially a poll tax. CDP Bylaws currently require that the fee be collected, but the E-Board has requested that staff and representatives of the Finance and Rules Committees develop an approach that deemphasizes the requirement for the next ADEM election cycle and that they consider a change to the Bylaws in the longer term.



Two of the speakers at the November E-Board

## History in the Making

By Lucille Aparcar

Diana Agabeg Aparcar, my grandmother, in her final manuscript wrote the following:

“Our knowledge and experience of the world suggests to us that two-thirds of its written history is, as likely as not, to be a lie. The historian of one country draws a different picture and gives a different version of the same historical event from the picture and version given by historians of another country. So, it may be in the future that some more of what are called ‘discoveries’ will be fathomed, and another batch of scholars will arise whose findings will upset the conclusions that are at present accepted.”

And so it is with the Presidential election of the year 2016 as occurred in the United States of America. Perhaps history will be kind and soften the prevarications that characterized this lengthy and ugly contest resulting in either the propelling of a totally unqualified, unprepared and deplorably untruthful candidate into this exalted position, or simple commonsense will prevail by rejecting the constraints imposed by an outdated system known as the Electoral College and allow the vote of the people to overcome.

As matters stand at the present time, during the month of November 2016, the popular vote exceeds those committed to the Electoral system by a margin of almost two million legal voters. It is uncontrovertibly a fact that this election as it presently stands should go to the opposing candidate for the office, by the name of Hillary Rodham Clinton.

I will not go into the qualifying details or make comparisons between the two top candidates for the Presidency, as they have been hashed over and over for weeks and months prior to the date of November 8, 2016 when the polls finally closed. But we can and we should call to the attention of those selected to finally

## History in the Making (continued)

declare the winner on December 19th that this election has been illegally skewed by tactics unbecoming to a democratic society and disenfranchising millions of voters in the process.

Let us not despair, let us take the appropriate steps. We are the people, we should be heard and our votes should count. There is still time for justice to prevail.



## **The Trump-Republican Plan for the Economy is Likely to Fail** By Ben Leet

First, some facts about the U.S. economy:

1. The Supplemental Poverty Measure, issued by the U.S. Census, stated in a 2013 report that: Families with resources below approximately 140% of the SPM threshold may be characterized as “not able to meet their basic needs and achieve a safe and decent standard of living.” The report states that about 30% of Americans fall into this category. The Survey of Consumer Finances shows that 50% of U.S. citizens have less than \$10,000 in “non-home” savings, and 30% have nothing in “non-home” savings.
2. William Lazonick’s article titled “Profits without Prosperity” won the prize for best article published in the 2014 Harvard Business Review. His article showed that over a 10 year period, 2003 to 2012, 90% of the corporations on the S&P 500 spent 91% of their \$4.44 trillion in profits on dividends to shareholders and stock buybacks. He states: “That left very little for investments in productive capabilities or higher incomes for employees.”
3. The Flow of Funds Report, shows that between 2008 and 2016 total financial assets grew from \$46 trillion to \$72 trillion, a 57% increase. During this same period, the U.S. economy was rocked with the worst economic cataclysm in 75 years. Nine million workers lost their jobs permanently, 5 to 6 million lost their homes to foreclosure, and the median household lost 40% of its life savings, returning that amount to 1985 levels.
4. Total household net worth stands at \$89.0 trillion (assets minus debts). This amount has grown by 60% since 2008. That’s about \$710,000 average net worth per household, yet 50% of households own just 1.1% of the total net worth. Total national debt is \$19.8 trillion, about a fifth of private net worth.

## The Trump Plan is Likely to Fail (continued)

5. Most American workers work in establishments with more than 500 employees, and 66% work in firms with more than 100 employees. The average weekly income of “production and non-supervisory workers” has not risen since 1964 according to a Federal Reserve graph at the FRED site. The per capita growth of the economy since 1964 has been 162%, nearly tripling from \$19,455 to \$50,970 in inflation-adjusted dollars.
6. A report from the Economic Policy Institute, “The Increasingly Unequal States of America,” states that between 1979 and 2007 the incomes of the top 1% increased by 200.5%, while the incomes of the rest, the other 99%, increased by 19%.
7. The report, “Who Pays Taxes in America” shows that the top 1%, with average income of \$1.7 million, pays an effective overall tax rate of 33.7%, while the middle income household, with average income of \$49,000, pays a rate of 27.3%.

Now, a look at why the Trump-Republican Plan is likely to fail:

1. Trump’s plan calls for tax cuts to millionaires and program cuts to the poor. It is hoped that the increased spending by the households with highest incomes will increase employment and create growth of economic activity. I don’t think that additional spending by the top 10% will create that much more consumption, production and employment. He also calls for an infrastructure program of \$1 trillion over his term in office, but he proposes to fund it with private investment, not government. In fact, the Congress has refused any fiscal stimulus since GWB left office, except for the 2009 Obama Stimulus that cost over \$800 billion, but a third went to states, a third went to tax cuts and a third went to stimulus. So it was not of great enough power to offset the recession’s loss of 9 million jobs and loss of consumer spending.



The Trump Plan is Likely to Fail (continued)

2. The Tax Policy Center evaluated Trump's tax plan, November 11, 2016, saying it will "lavish nearly half its benefits on the highest income 1%—those making \$700,000 or more." If the tax cuts are not paid for, the government will have to borrow the additional \$7 trillion. As a result, interest rates are likely to rise. Who would that hurt? American consumers who'd face higher rates on their credit cards and home and auto loans, and American workers since businesses would face higher borrowing costs also.

3. The Trump Plan, or the Ryan Plan, calls for reduced government spending on social benefit programs aiding the low-earning 30% who are unable to "achieve a safe and decent standard of living" that I mentioned above. Those programs make up 62% of all proposed cuts and they will be cut on average by 42% over a ten-year period, according to the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities.

FINUS: It's been a week since the election and the truth is settling in that the next four years will be radically unpleasant for most Americans. I was not enthused with the prospects of Hillary Clinton because I see the best plan lying in a much more aggressive remediation of the imbalances mentioned above, but we are saddled with something far more offensive and destructive, according to my analysis. I should finish by stating that I was watching the last game of the World Series and saw the joy as the Chicago Cubs pulled off an upset. I watched the faces in the crowd as the camera scanned the bleachers—I liked the faces—and I realized most of them were probably voting for Trump. They looked like intelligent and happy people I could admire. The burden is now on them to lift us out of the morass, which will be a major upset, should it materialize.

## Report from Your AD 5 Executive Board Representative

By Lowell Young

As your Assembly District 5 Executive Board Representative, I try to give you a report for each meeting of the CDP that I attend. Last weekend's meeting was very different from those that I have attended in the past. As you might expect, there was a somber feeling in the air, but for me it seemed to be more of an undercurrent than an overt feeling. It also seemed to me that the somber feeling was becoming a base for what all of us understands must be done—a base upon which we can and will build prior to the 2018 election so that we will be able to win back the Senate and the House of Representatives. I came away from the meeting understanding that for all of us, this is time to prepare for the future, rather than to despair. It is time to recognize that we are the heart and soul of the majority. We are not the darkness in our nation, we are the light, and because we are the light, we cannot compromise on the dignity, the health, the wellbeing and the freedom of any person. I know what we must do to win the war we are in, and so do you. So let us dig in and get to work doing it—right now.

Now that I've said my two dollars' worth, I'll move on with this report. It will be a bit different from the previous ones because numerous excellent handouts were provided to those who were in attendance. So, I am going to take advantage of what we received by scanning them and sending them to you if you would like to receive copies of them. I hope that you will find them informative and useful and that you share them with the members of your central committee and clubs. To receive copies of any of these reports, contact me at:

lyoung.dem@gmail.com

1. The first report is about a highly successful high school voter

Report from Your AD 5 E-Board Rep. (continued)

registration program. I was not able to get the contact information for the presenters, but if you would like to have it, let me know and I will get it for you.

2. A report which will tell you how many delegates and Board representatives you will be allocated: The 2017-2019 DSCC County Allocations.

3. The Rules Committee Report to the CDP Executive Board.

4. The Resolutions Committee Report to the CDP Executive Board.

5. The November 19, 2016 Finance Committee Report.

6. The Deep Blue Eric Bradley Grant opportunity.

7. The California DNC Press Democrat newsletter.



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

\_\_\_ Mariposa: Annual Dues are \$10.00 per person  
(Jan. 1 – Dec. 31) \$15.00 family  
Lifetime membership \$150.00

or

\_\_\_ Oakhurst: Annual Dues are \$5.00 per person  
(Jul. 1 - Jun. 30)

\_\_\_ 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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
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