

May 2020

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DAVIS DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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Ed Note: Due to COVID, the Club has indefinitely postponed all scheduled events and meetings. The resulting disruption naturally affects our ability to accomplish our mission (see article below) and requires imagining new ways to campaign while sheltering in place (see p.3). Needless to say, our political engagement has never been more crucial than in the upcoming election (see photo captions below)! This edition will be published only online and not mailed.

Agonizing and Organizing (AKA: We need your help.)



The buck stops here.
(1945)



I alone can fix it. July 21 2016
No. I don't take responsibility at all. March 13, 2020



We don't agonize; we organize. Feb. 2017

Despite Speaker Pelosi's admonishment, a **little agonizing** will explain the Club's situation setting the stage for the necessary organization. Due to COVID, our Club has indefinitely postponed the Champagne Brunch its principal yearly fund raiser. In addition to the immediate income from this event, many members use this occasion as an opportunity to renew their membership and make their annual donation. Compounding this revenue loss, the Club had secured the lucrative beer concession at the annual July 4th celebration in Community Park. This celebration has now been cancelled. This significant shortfall in revenue now compromises our Club's ability to support political action in the upcoming election.

Historically, your Club has been crucial for **organizing** political action throughout Yolo County. One obvious example of its support is the familiar **Election HQ Office in Davis**, which is always funded by the Club. This office along with the necessary equipment (high speed copier, computers, furniture, consumable etc.) serves as the administrative center to marshal hundreds of volunteers, mostly enthusiastic students, to phone bank, walk precincts and engage in all forms of campaigning. Incidentally, these students always work nonstop right through their dinner but must naturally be fueled by pizzas and restaurant take-outs also funded by the Club. Of course, Davis and Yolo are reliably blue. However, much of this energy in the form of phone banking and precinct walking is **outsourced to competitive races** occurring in other California Congressional Districts and even sending volunteers to races to other states, e.g. Senate races in Nevada. **Your contributions make all of this possible.**

Further leveraging our limited resources, the Club **reaches out** to allied groups resulting in a **higher level of organization**. In previous elections, the DDC has contributed significantly to Congressman Garamendi who in turn channel funds to carefully targeted House races, to **Flip the 14**, (which did indeed make a difference by flipping seven congressional districts in California!), to sister district elections in other competitive State races, as the most recent example, to **Mark Kelly's** Senate bid in Arizona and to a long series of other contests. Money contributed to the DDC is not used for "singing to the choir" in Davis but is directed to where it will make the most difference.

In short, our political impact is increased by pooling and coordinating the use of our political contributions. Knowing the extraordinary gravity of the upcoming election (see the photos above) **please use this opportunity to renew your membership.** (*The membership renewal form appears on p. 4 of this Newsletter*). **Your continued support will make a much needed difference.**

Democratic News

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CA State Blue Ribbon Health Insurance Commission Begins Deliberations, As Presidential Candidates Defend Widely Different Views

By Dan Braunstein, Vice Chair, Health Care for All – CA

Democratic Club members do not need to be reminded that during this presidential election year, healthcare issues are emerging as one of the key battlegrounds of conflict, not only between but within political parties. Now that the first primaries are history, the top five Democratic candidates defended radically differing views of health care reform, from “single payer Medicare for all” (Sanders), adding a public option to Medicare (Warren, Buttigieg), to strengthening the existing the Affordable Care Act from Republican led destruction (Klobuchar, Buttigieg and Biden).

Since 2020 is also an election cycle for all members of the U. S. Congress, the entire CA Assembly, plus one third of the CA state senate, voters have a large number of alternative conceptions of state healthcare policy to choose from. In Yolo County, State Sen. Dodd, Assemblyperson Curry, and Congressman Garamendi will be running for re-election. It is safe to say that our local incumbents do not necessarily hold the same position on issues such as reforming private health insurance (Medicare for all, anyone???), reducing prescription costs, controlling the steep rise in doctor and hospital bills, minimizing surprise billing, and keeping a patient’s history of health conditions from influencing their insurance premiums.

If this isn’t enough political conflict, now add a huge flame underneath the boiling pot! Club members will recall that Gov. Newsom ran on a single payer (state Medicare for All) platform. Now he has appointed a “Healthy California for All Commission to provide options for achieving a healthcare delivery system through a unified financing system, including, but not limited to single-payer financing .” Based on S.B.104, passed last July, this bill envisions completion of the 13-member Commission’s work by January 1, 2022. The Commission has already engaged with the public at an initial open meeting.

There are appointees made by Governor Newsom, by both houses of the legislature, and from various disciplines representing significant achievements in healthcare. Examples are internationally known Prof. William Hsiao (designer of the successful transition by Taiwan to a single-payer system), Jennie Hansen (Federal Commissioner of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission), Andy Schneider (chief counsel for the U.S. House Committee which enacted the Affordable Care Act), Richard Scheffler (Distinguished Prof. of Health Economics at UCB), Alice Chen, M.D. (Current Deputy Secretary of California Health and Human Services). How the Commission will respond to their charge and how the Governor and Legislature will then respond, is an open question. Both the State Senate and Assembly Health committee chairs are *ex-officio* members of the commission and were present at the opening public meeting. Of course, a continuous, significant background to the Commission’s work will be the events leading up to the Presidential election in November.

How will it all play out? Club Members should be aware that there is a local Chapter of “Health Care for All – CA,” a state-wide non-partisan advocacy group (Millie Braunstein - Chair), which will have up-to-date information. Watching the “Healthcare Follies” should be one of the best local sports in town this year!

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continued

Campaigning while Sheltering in Place

By Marie Bockwinkel

The Davis Democratic Club has started a get-out-the-vote letter writing campaign using voter lists from VoteForward.com. Packets are being delivered which contain a sample letter, list of voters with their addresses, pre-stamped envelopes and a pen. It's a great activity for shelter in place shut-ins. After the handwritten letters are completed and placed in the pre-stamped envelopes, the envelopes are addressed to the voters, and the completed letters are put back in a large manila envelope, to be mailed before the election by the committee. The letter writing committee is co-chaired by Marie Bockwinkel, with members Bob Bockwinkel (packets and deliveries), Francois Xavier Kaepelin and Dave Griffin (tech support and contact with the State Democratic Party). The committee has the support of the State Democratic Party and Bob Schelen, Chair of the Yolo County Democratic Central Committee. Members who have been writing the letters also include Koyoko and Dick Luna, Arun Sen, Judith Ann Whitmer and Corky Brown, Nancy and Tom Dowling, Kathy and Jerry Marr, Donna and Jim Provenza, Delilah and Bob Schelen, Robin and Steve Souza, Judy Gonzales, Chris Wagman and Judy Reynolds with others being added daily along with Marie and Bob Bockwinkel, Francois Kaepelin and Dave Griffin. The committee has received a pledge from Yolo County Democratic Central Committee of \$1,000, Steven Souza has contributed 500 pre-stamped envelopes, Corky Brown has pledged 500 pre-stamped envelopes and Marie and Bob Bockwinkel have donated \$230 for pre-stamped envelopes as well as reams of paper, printer ink and miscellaneous items.

If you would like to participate in letter writing, please get in touch with Bob Bockwinkel at 530-219-1896, or by email, bbockwinkellrn@gmail.com

We can deliver the packets with 20 voter names per packet to your home and pick them up when completed. If you can't participate in the letter writing, you can still make a donation to help the project. You can buy a box of 500 pre-stamped envelopes for \$315, half a box for \$157.50 or a quarter box for \$78.75. You can donate a ream of paper, or send in donations for any amount. *Here's to a great Get-Out-the-Vote effort for 2020!*

In Memoriam: Barbara Joy Langer

of West Sacramento passed away on February 15, 2020. She is survived by her devoted husband Barry Melton, former Yolo County Public Defender, her two sons, Kingsley (Jenny) and Kyle, and two grandchildren, Thomas and Conor. Barbara was a long time member of the Davis Democratic Club. Barbara was active in many local organizations, always working to improve the world. She will be missed by her family and many friends in Yolo County.

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See the website for cur-
rent events and photos:
www.davisdemocraticclub.org

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