

South County Democratic Club

FEBRUARY 2006

NEWSLETTER

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CANDIDATES TO SPEAK

Salinas Mayor Anna Caballero and Watsonville City Councilmember Ana Ventura Phares will be making presentations to the Club on February 18. They are running for Assembly in District 28, which includes Gilroy. Both are attorneys by profession and bring strong political backgrounds from their respective communities to the race. At one point both were attorneys with California Rural Legal Aide.

The 28th Assembly District seat is being vacated by Simon Salinas, who cannot seek reelection because of term limit laws. Salinas has now declared as a candidate for Monterey County Supervisor.

Anna Caballero has represented the residents of Salinas for the last 15 years as a Councilmember and Mayor. Recently she headed two successful campaigns to save Salinas's public libraries.

Ana Ventura Phares was a Councilmember and Mayor of Watsonville for the last 8 years. Recently she was a major player in building a third high school in the Pajaro Valley School District.

Also speaking at the meeting will be Karyn Sinunu and Marc Buller, who are running for Santa Clara County District Attorney and Santa Clara County Supervisor Pete McHugh, who is a candidate for County Assessor. These speakers are Democrats who are running for non-Partisan offices.

CLUB BUS TRIP

The South County Democratic Club will be traveling by bus to Sacramento on Tuesday, April 4. Visits to the offices of Senator Elaine Alquist, Assemblyman John Laird and Assemblyman Simon Salinas are planned. Also included are a tour of the State Capitol and the chance to sit in on several Hearings in the State Legislature. The expected cost is about \$45 per person. Contact Mark Moore at mark-moor@garlic.com or (408)779-1510 to be placed on the "expected to participate" list, while we finalize.

OUR NEXT MEETING

Saturday, February 18, 2006

Our next meeting is at 10am on Saturday, February 18, at the home of Kristine Dillon and Harry Giretti, 3385 Hecker Pass Highway, Gilroy. To get to the meeting take Hecker Pass Highway (152) west out of Gilroy toward Watsonville. After driving about two miles, just after you pass Bonfante Gardens look for the "Democrats" signs on the right.

The following items are on the Agenda:

- *Introduction of Members*
- *AD28 Candidate Presentations from Mayors Anna Caballero and Ana Ventura Phares and Questions from Club Members*
- *Short Break*
- *Presentation from Supervisor Pete McHugh for County Assessor*
- *Presentation from Karyn Sinunu for District Attorney*
- *Presentation from Marc Buller for District Attorney*
- *Report on Winning Ways Seminar (February 11)*
- *Club Candidate Endorsements March 18 and April 15*
- *Pre-Endorsement Conference April 1*
- *Discussion of Club Bus Trip to Sacramento, April 4*
- *Jefferson-Jackson Dinner, April 7*
- *State Convention April 28-30*
- *Announcements*

JEFFERSON-JACKSON DINNER

The Santa Clara County Democratic Party will be having its annual fundraising dinner on Friday, April 7, at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose. Club Members should be expecting their invitations in the mail in the near future.

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET PUTS OFF DECISIONS

By Assemblymember John Laird

The Governor's recent visit to the Central Coast—where we both addressed a statewide education group—received wide news coverage. The stories largely repeated the Governor's points, understandable given California's complex and confusing education funding system.

But no matter how arcane the education finance debate may seem, unless certain fiscally responsible actions are taken this year, even tougher decisions will be needed next year.

For 2006, the Governor has proposed spending \$1.7 billion more than is required by Proposition 98 (which guides state support to public schools). He does this by taking increased revenue to the state budget from three years and spending it all in one budget year. However, on an ongoing basis, the state would spend more than it takes in.

This is where confusion really sets in. In his visit to our area, the Governor highlighted his proposal to add over \$4 billion to education next year. Problem is, all but \$1.7 billion is already required by state law. And that \$1.7 billion is just a partial down payment on what is owed to schools.

Adding to the confusion, the proposed \$1.7 billion directs money to new programs, such as music, arts, and physical and vocational education. I support these programs, but am not sure the state should mandate them while still owing local school districts over \$1 billion for programs mandated in the past.

With the state budget deficit at \$5 billion next year and almost double that the following year, it makes more sense to pay back debt owed local school districts and let them decide how best to use it.

In considering the future for our public schools, the key question is how to balance the state budget in the coming years without pitting funding for public schools against higher education, health care and support for seniors.

California's investment in education in the 1960s and 1970s was a major factor in the state becoming the sixth largest economy in the world.

As our economy continues to be challenged in a changing world, our decisions are really about whether California is going to remain economically competitive. The proposed budget just puts off that decision for another year.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, February 18, 7pm. South County Democratic Club Meeting. Home of Kristine Dillon and Harry Giretti, 3385 Hecker Pass Highway, Gilroy.

Thursday, March 2, 7pm. Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee Meeting, County Building Cafeteria, 70 West Hedding, San Jose.

Wednesday, March 8, 7pm. South County Democratic Club Executive Board Meeting. Panera's Bakery, 6865 Camino Arroyo, Gilroy.

Friday, March 10. Filing period closes for candidates in the June primary election.

Saturday, March 18, 10am. South County Democratic Club Meeting. Home of Alex and Yarka Kennett, 15231 Perry Lane, Morgan Hill. (Candidate Endorsement Meeting for Congressional and Assembly contests)

Friday through Sunday, March 24-26. California Democratic Council Statewide Convention. Santa Clara Convention Center, 5001 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara.

Saturday, April 1. Regional Democratic Party Pre-Endorsement Meetings. Castroville and Labor Council Building, 2102 Almaden Road, San Jose.

Thursday, April 6, 7pm. Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee Meeting, County Building Cafeteria, 70 West Hedding, San Jose.

Friday, April 7, 5:30pm. Jefferson-Jackson Dinner (fundraiser for Santa Clara County Democratic Party). Fairmont Hotel, 170 South Market Street, San Jose.

Saturday, April 15, 10am. South County Democratic Club Meeting. Gilroy location to be determined. (Candidate Endorsement Meeting for County and State-wide contests).

Friday through Sunday, April 28-30. California Democratic Party Convention. Sacramento Convention Center, Sacramento.

Tuesday, June 6. California Primary Election.

THE PRIMARY SEASON IS HERE

The official California State Primary Filing Period opened on February 10 and will close March 10. As of February 10, the following Democratic candidates have declared their intentions with the Secretary of State, Federal Elections Commission or Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters to run for office:

Governor—State Treasurer Phil Angileles and State Controller Steve Westley

Lieutenant Governor---State Senator Liz Figueroa, Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi and State Senator Liz Figueroa

Secretary of State---State Senator Debra Bowen and State Senator Debra Ortiz

Attorney General---Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown and Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo

Insurance Commissioner---Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante

Treasurer---Senator Joseph Dunn, Attorney General Bill Lockyer, Senator Kevin Murray, Mark Saladino

Superintendent of Public Instruction---Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell

Controller---Board of Equalization Member John Chiang and Senator Joseph Dunn

Congressional District 11---Steve Filson, Jerry McNerney, Steve Thomas

Congressional District 15---Representative Mike Honda

Congressional District 16---Representative Zoe Lofgren

Assembly District 27---Assemblyman John Laird

Assembly District 28---Salinas Mayor Anna Caballero and Ana Ventura Phares

Santa Clara County Assessor---County Supervisor Pete McHugh and County Assessor Larry Stone

Santa Clara County District Attorney---Marc Buller and Karyn Sinunu

The California Democratic Party will be holding pre-endorsement conferences throughout the State on April 1 and 2. Candidates for Congress, State Senate and Assembly receiving 70% of the vote at these conferences will receive the Democratic Party endorsement at the State Convention. County Central Committee Members, Elected Club Delegates and Assembly District Committee Delegates to the State Convention all have votes at the pre-endorsement conferences.

The California Democratic Party will be holding its convention from April 28 to April 30 at the Sacramento Convention Center. At the convention Statewide Candidates, as well as Congressional, State Senate and Assembly Candidates, can receive endorsements if they get 60% of the vote. County Central Committee Members and Assembly District Committee Delegates will be voting here.

CLUB OFFICERS

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IMPORTANT WEBSITES

The following websites contain information that is of interest to Democrats:

- South County Democratic Club www.demsclub.org
- Santa Clara County Democratic Party www.sccdp.org
- California Democratic Party www.ca-dem.org
- Democratic National Committee www.democrats.org
- US Representatives Mike Honda and Zoe Lofgren www.house.gov
- Assemblymember John Laird <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a27/>
- Assemblymember Simon Salinas <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a28/>
- Registrar of Voters www.scc.vote.org
- Vote Smart (for voting records) www.vote-smart.org

Join Now!

- ___ Individual \$15
- ___ Family Membership \$20
 (please list each member)
- ___ Student/Senior, Ages 55+
 \$10
- ___ Junior Democrat, Ages
 15-17 (non-voting) \$5
- ___ Democratic Friend, Non-
 Citizens
 ___ (non-voting) \$5

Membership Application/Renewal South County Democratic Club

Join us to Further Issues within Santa Clara County in Support of Democratic Ideals! You are invited to join the South County Democratic Club, a local community-based organization focused on Southern Santa Clara Valley needs and democratic ideas. This vibrant and diverse organization was formed to influence legislators and legislation that affect our daily lives. If you have ever wanted to get involved, this is the time and this is the organization. For more information, call Mark Moore at (408) 779-1510 or e-mail democlub@garlic.com.

Name(s) _____

Email _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____ Fax _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____



Make Checks payable to the SCDC. Take this form to an upcoming meeting or mail it to: South County Democratic Club, P.O. Box 365, San Martin, CA 95046