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# LAST MEETING

Nineteen members and one guest were at the August meeting. Roger LaPlante, past Voter Registration chair, and Hillary Clinton delegate to the DNC in Philadelphia, spoke with energy about the trip, the opposition by the purported supporters of Bernie Sanders, and the determination he now has to continue his career in politics with the information he gathered while there.

Russ Newmen of the Arrowhead Foster Parent Services spoke briefly about the agency, its goals and service population, and the yearly Fair scheduled for September 25<sup>th</sup>. Further details about becoming a Foster Parent or events and volunteer positions can be obtained by calling Russ or his wife Jill at 909 336-1416 or e-mailing russ@arrowheadffa.com.

Club business was reported on and statements approved. The Unity Banner, and ideas for using it in promotional photos was discussed. VP Glen Thompson is scheduled to visit the Inland Communities Democratic Headquarters PAC in Pomona on Saturday afternoon, and promised to bring back information on campaign materials available there. The materials are shown on our [WEBSITE](#).

Standing rules for endorsing a candidate were read, discussed and passed, and endorsements were authorized by the Club for both Dr. Rita Ramirez (Congress, CD-08) and Scott Markovich (Assembly, AD 33). Campaign material support checks were authorized for both candidates from the Treasury.

High School voter registration on three days of one of the last two weeks in September has been approved by the school and volunteers are requested. A schedule will be announced via e-mail in the near future. The Mock Election that is promoted by the Secy of State of California and the Elections Office has found a champion in Heather Dominguez, the Director of Educational Services of the Rim Unified School District. Our Club has offered to lend volunteer support if needed. Ms. Dominguez will contact us if volunteers are needed.

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## **Last Meeting (cont.)**

### Announcements:

Club members Dianne and John Grady are going to perform as members of "Grits and Grady" at St. Richard's Episcopal Church on Friday, Sept 9<sup>th</sup> from 4-7p.m. and then again at the Tudor House on Sunday, Sept 25<sup>th</sup> from 3-6 p.m. as part of "Concerts across America," which will feature over 100 concerts in support of victims of gun violence and a call for responsible gun legislation. More information will be distributed with regular e-mails to all interested parties.

## **NEXT MEETING**

Meeting will be on Tuesday, September 27th.

## **CLUB NEEDS**

- **A Phone Tree Chairperson**
- **Voter Registration Chair**
- **Guest Speaker suggestions**

**Contact Mickey Laws, (760) 567-6159**

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## IN THE COMMUNITY

The County Democratic Party fundraising picnic was held Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Elks Lodge in Redlands. The \$50 admission will be used to fund election efforts for Democrats that represent our County. Details are available on the [Party Website](#). Member Brian Conley donated a gorgeous fine art piece for the silent auction that represents an American Flag blowing in the wind (value in excess of \$1,400).



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# CALL FOR POLITICAL ACTION

The Republican controlled Congress have ignored calls by President Obama to handle the spread of the Zika virus for over 200 days now. The number of effected children born will now start to mushroom. New York is already experiencing 531 cases (including 56 pregnant women. The New York City government is combating this on their own, as [this document](#) shows. When Congress returns on Tuesday, it makes sense that this health threat is confronted directly and immediately. If you agree, call and let them know. Contact information is on our Website.

## VOTING NEWS

If you are ready to begin to examine the ballot propositions, here's the list and a very comprehensive breakdown. During the Central Committee (San Bernardino County Democratic Party) meeting on August 25<sup>th</sup>, the County voted unanimously to support Proposition 61, the **CALIFORNIA DRUG PRICE RELIEF INITIATIVE**. When the 'door hangers' which we will be mailing to people in our area arrive, the list of propositions and the recommendations of both the State Party and the County Party will be included.

## LOCAL CANDIDATES



Scott Markovich, Club member and candidate for Assembly (AD 33) has received the endorsement of [Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon](#), as he reported in our June meeting. He has endorsed the [High Desert Cannabis Association](#) and their effort to pass [Proposition 64](#), the Marijuana Legalization Initiative. That is in line with almost 60% of all voters in California.



## Local Candidates (cont.)

Dr Rita Ramirez (CD-08) Will keep the focus of her campaign through the General Election on making sure people get to the polls to vote on Election Day! If you can help, don't hesitate to call Campaign Manager Denise Wells 760-401-7726

More detailed information (that might give you some volunteer ideas) is available on our [WEBSITE](#).



## LOVE TRUMPS HATE



In a move that is both feel good and sweet music to many ears, Herb Alpert makes an enormous gift to Los Angeles City College which will make it possible for students to major in music TUITION FREE. This [LA Times article](#) explains how generous this truly is.

When a judge crosses the line into protecting privileged families, is promising to not do it again enough, or should they be removed from the bench entirely? Some believe it is cause for him to be removed from the bench, especially since the judge and the convict share similar histories. [NBC NEWS](#).



No surprise – the effects of the campaign are extending beyond the rally venues. Locally, Rim High is seeing the rhetoric being reflected in four students' trucks flying various combinations of the Tea Party flag, the Confederate Flag and the US flag off the back. Overall, bullying is increasing and students of color or representing minority groups aren't at all comfortable on campus. [Politifact](#) and the [Mountain News](#) describe these disturbing trends.

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# CALIFORNIA POLITICS



A day after the President's guidelines for anti-gender discrimination in bathrooms suffered an attack, legislation to correct it in California heads to Gov. Brown's desk. The [Sacramento Bee](#) describes how California stays on the forefront of acceptance in this social issue.

Many see the use of taxpayer dollars to develop new drugs as a partnership with the large drug companies – a partnership quickly dropped when the pricing is set too high for those same taxpayers to afford the drugs they require to live.



Proposition 61, the Drug Price Relief Act, will bring \$100 Million in advertising to California from Big Pharma seeking to defeat it. Ballotpedia describes this and other propositions in a non partisan manner.



Even seemingly minor bills can get mired in non-partisan politics. The decision to end Daylight Savings Time, for instance, is described as something that should 'be handled at the Federal Level' in this [Fresno Bee article](#). When you've stopped laughing at that suggestion, the article provides an interesting glimpse into the daily lives of our legislators.

Remember when we decided to spend more on K-12 schools? Well that choice was not permanent and the funds are drying up. This [Fact Sheet](#) from the CALIFORNIA BUDGET & POLICY CENTER shows why this November's ballot will include Prop. 55, and the wealthiest income earners won't be off the hook for a while ([Ballotpedia](#)).



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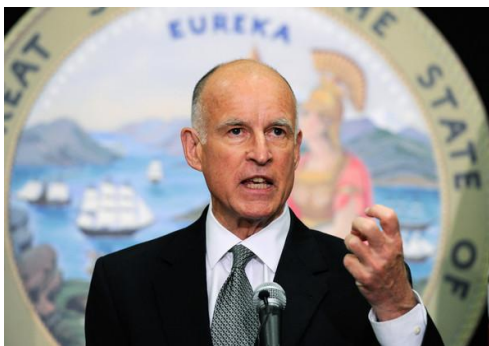
# BUSINESS AND NATIONAL POLITICS

It makes sense that the [cost of living](#) in Paradise (or Hawaii) might be higher, but how does that explain New Jersey?



GOP candidates and their media lackeys are claiming that the recovery we're experiencing is 'slow' due to President Obama. They're flat lying.

The [Economic Policy Institute](#) explains clearly that "The recovery since 2009 has been historically slow, and the disappointing pace can be explained entirely by the fiscal austerity imposed by [Republicans in Congress](#)." And yes – those are our House members playing "Solitaire" on the floor.



California, on the other hand, has been spending and [adding jobs](#) faster than nation, on average. That has lured job seekers to the State, boosting the unemployment rolls temporarily. And we've created the problem of asking OUR Legislature to decide how to [spend the surplus](#).

Veterans are in the crosshairs . . . of wealthy drug pushers and politicians. [The Nation](#) claims "The plutocrats who corrupted veterans' health care and now want to shut it down, and the plutocrats who profit from this country's endless wars are one and



the same. And they have bigger plans for us all."

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## Business and National Politics (cont.)



The Sanders revolution has a bumpy start with Weaver being the bump – or barrier, depending on your perspective. [Politico](#) is predicting more than a little difficulty with insider shuffling. [Vox](#) describes the rest of the barriers to a new political landscape.

Besides in Mom and Dad's spare rooms, where do the kids want to live? The answer to that question will decide how our country looks in the future. The [LA Weekly article](#) has both parents and Legislators going back to the drawing board.



## General ELECTION News

As expected, the General Election coverage by the national "Media" is all about creating enough hysteria so that the public is forced to pay attention.

There is no way to compete with all of that noise and expert attention grabbing in a little monthly newsletter, so we'll stick to the Propositions . . .



Too many surveys to count have already shown that Californians want to see less plastic in our landscapes and oceans and landfills. Single use plastic bags would no longer be permitted if [Proposition 67](#) passes. Vote "yes", like the old folks in [this video](#) say to!

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# California ENVIRONMENT



San Francisco has taken the plunge to ban single use water bottles. Many think these handy containers are recycled and don't harm our environment. That is a lie created and sustained by the oil industry that provides the raw material for their manufacture. This [SF Gate article](#) also points out that their use also disguises the reality that municipalities

aren't making enough safe and clean water available for the public.

Some observers see a path to smarter water use for California. The problem is, nobody actually measures how much we use, and how we're using it. This [GRIST article](#) lays out the issues. Where "habit", "convention" and "grandfathered water rights" exist, little hope remains of either monitoring or regulating its use. Speaking of which, how DOES Nestlé get away with pumping out our water for next to nothing? [LA Magazine](#) starts the discussion.



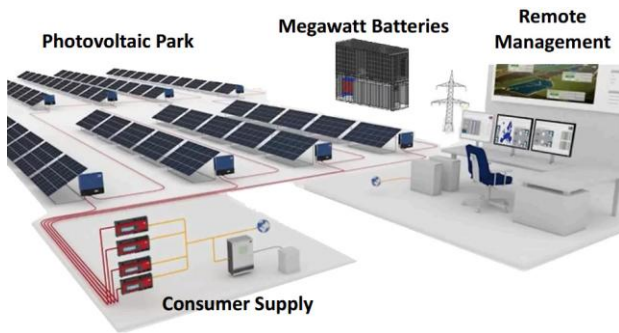
All over the nation, Oil Companies are finding resistance to their supposed "right" to feed us with fossil fuels – and destroy our environment in the process. While it is not simple to find unbiased information from either of the 'sides' of the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL), the [New York Times](#) is trying. While in California, hydraulic fracturing

(fracking) is being shown to poison our dwindling fresh water supplies. Only if you work for a water bottling company is that good news. The [Center for Biological Diversity](#) has filed a lawsuit to protect our precious aquifers and [ThinkProgress](#) describes it. Our own Legislature has passed a new and ambitious law as the [Sacramento Bee](#) reports.

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## California ENVIRONMENT (cont.)

The AQMD ([Air Quality Management District](#)) is faced with a proposed regulatory overhaul, so [meetings are being held](#) all across the State. Layers of legislation overlap, yet do not ensure compliance. [CEPA](#) is one agency that attempts to come to grips with the worst offenders. On the public side, Tom Steyer and the [NEXTGEN](#) organization stand up for clean air standards against the forces that want none.



Geeks have to figure out how to distribute energy from solar power after the sun goes down. The [San Diego Tribune](#) describes some of the efforts to integrate energy storage and the power grid. Everybody else seems to be arguing over how fast we can cut off fossil fuels, and how it should be done. [Capitol Weekly](#)

discusses the end effect – greenhouse gases. The longer it takes, the more certain people (with interests in the fossil fuel industry) benefit, as the [LA Times argues](#).

We're not the only state that sees the nasty results of Climate Change. Alaskans may be seeing them earlier than we are. These images are taken only seven years apart of the same spot.

[Bill Moyers chronicles](#) the effects.



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# THE SUPREME COURT AND LAW



How is it that with too few Justices on the Supreme Court all these [voting restrictions](#) are being shot down? Actually, it is the lower courts' judges that are fed up with being treated as patsies by right wing activists. And speaking of voting, let's tip a hat to the women who have fought for so long to make it a right FOR ALL. Take a very enjoyable adventure down

a [historical accounting of "feminism"](#) and how it has changed our world.

# RESPONSIBLE GUN OWNERSHIP

What could be worse than the NRA? The [National Association for Gun Rights](#). While this group is more venomous, the National Rifle Association remains a powerful influence against legislation to guarantee responsible gun ownership. There is a simple way to solve gun crimes described in this [TIME article](#), yet the NRA again says "no."



Don't miss your best opportunity to support this effort on [September 25<sup>th</sup> at the Tudor House](#). Artists across the nation are going to bring attention to the issue with music.

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# THE PRESIDENT

AFFORDABLE  
BUTTONS  
888-603-0308



In a few days the campaign buttons designed and produced by our Club will be available. These will be a limited edition and immediately sought as collector's items. Grab a Club member and order yours today – only \$3.00 each!

How [Hillary Clinton](#) will help the millennials and the rest of the country.

Mountain Bears Democratic Club members have noted the near impossibility of getting clean

information from our national Media. We held a great potluck discussion meeting on Tuesday, August 30<sup>th</sup> that really helped. We will have another on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September, so be sure to plan to attend.

Next Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, we're having a potluck, but it's going to feature a showing of ["Making a Killing – guns, greed and the NRA"](#). It shows that Congress has prevented studies to collect data on how to reduce gun violence and have encouraged a bill to allow concealed weapons to be carried on college campuses nationwide. At the same time, the film exposes the high salaries of the NRA executives, such as executive director Wayne LaPierre (about \$900K/year) and how the money from the NRA then funnels to politicians who then vote in favor of what the gun manufacturers want.



"Gun violence is now so common an occurrence that we as a nation are somewhat inured to its horror," said filmmaker [Bill Benenson](#). "Put simply, the NRA is an institutional cancer on our way of life and this film is dedicated to making Americans aware of that clear and present danger."

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## EDITOR'S PAGE

This election year is no more crazy than I expected – it is no less crazy, either. As we approach the day of the Election, the craziness will likely ramp up even farther. It will be up to each of us to keep our heads on right and provide accurate information to those who seek it. As part of that effort, we're holding potluck dinners where we exchange counter-propaganda information, and we're showing films that educate and inform. Our next dinner is on September 20<sup>th</sup> - watch your e-mails for details. With the pace of the election year, you can expect two or more every week!



We're also continuing our effort to register voters – the next will be at the Cedar Glen Malt Shop on Tuesday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. We've arranged for a bilingual person to join us, and the Malt Shop has promised a discount coupon to each person who registers!

On a more personal note, I am working constantly to require more responsibility from media celebrities on TV and from reporters in newspapers. Not only do I point out failures after the fact, but suggest subjects from my connections on Social Media. If we are to ever return to a profession of Journalism that is worthy of the name, it will take a concerted effort from all of us.



Last evening, Mickey Laws, Scott Markovich (and his wife Susan), Roger LaPlante and I all attended the fundraiser BBQ hosted by the San Bernardino County Central Committee. It was a very enjoyable evening, and the contribution by member Brian Conley of one of his fine art paintings of the American flag helped the Silent Auction raise an additional \$1,000.00 toward electing Democrats to office. (photo shows Club Presidents in attendance)

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**Mountain Bears Democratic Club was founded in 2004. We are located in the San Bernardino Mountains of Southern California. We hope to do our part to inform and educate the public and bring newcomers to the party by registering new Democrats. The Democratic Party believes that the American Dream should be within the reach of all people. We welcome and encourage people from all walks of life to join us in discussion and debates regardless of your political affiliations.**

## **Mountain Bears Democrats website:**

<http://www.mountainbearsdemocrats.org>

Be sure to visit and check out our growing site, especially the "What's New" and "Local Events" sections, the handy 'widgets' on the right side of the pages and, of course, the "Candidates Corner" Section. If you want to see something else, please let us know!

**This newsletter is published by Glen Thompson, with tremendous help from Club members for the Mountain Bears Democratic Club on the fifth day of each month. Deadline for publication is five days before the end of the prior month. Contact the editor if you need assistance or have articles of interest to the Club members. Any views expressed by the editor or contributors are theirs alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mountain Bears Democratic Club.**

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