

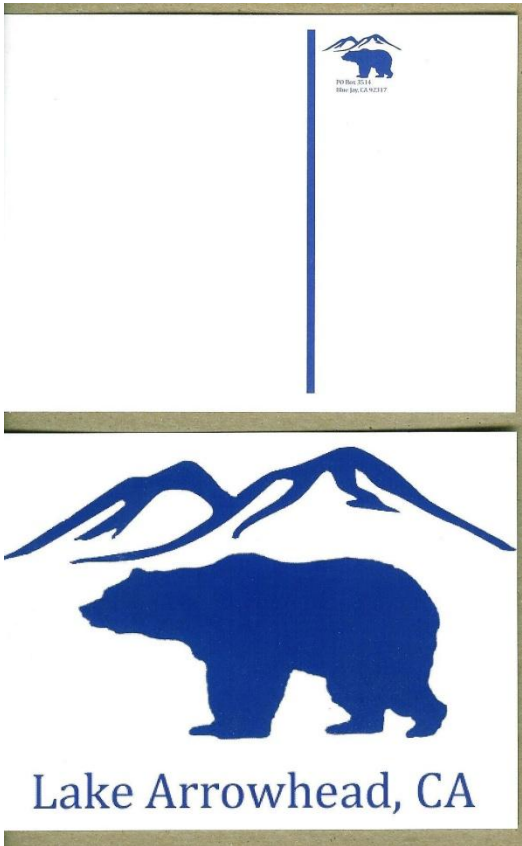


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LAST MEETING



Postcards can be expensive. With a 37-cent stamp and a cost for the card of from 33-50 cents, you can easily kill a buck. Club Secretary Keith Martin ordered some online for only a dime each . . . so you can get 100 for ten bucks and have enough to make yourself heard by ANY elected official!

Our Paul Cook, our (R)epresentative to the House, has made contact difficult, wrongly assuming there is no common ground with constituents who aren't rabid Tea Party members. He's been so out of touch with locals that some have started to wonder if something has happened to him! In a snarky online campaign that went viral on Twitter and then hit the TV airwaves (even onto the BBC), a

"Wanted" poster campaign has brought his face to the media. Hopefully it will bring him to a Town Hall meeting and a discussion of issues that matter to our local population.



Contact information for our elected representatives was made available to those who attended. Marlene Crossner has since [added the list to our website](#) for the convenience of those that couldn't. Every Club member is urged to make regular contact to insure our needs are met by a government that is increasingly seen to be disinterested in the population.

County Supervisor Janice Rutherford (Second District)
Assemblyman Jay Obernolte (District 33)
Senator Mike Morrell (District 23) • Governor Jerry Brown
Congressman Paul Cook • Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Kamala Harris

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Last Meeting (cont.)

Martin Luther King Jr.'s daughter, shared steps of wise advice for standing up to a bully who now occupies our White House - "Don't use his name; EVER (45 will do)," "Remember this is a regime and he's not acting alone." "Do not argue with those who support him — it doesn't work," "Focus on his policies, not his orange-ness and his mental state." "Keep your message positive: they want the country to be angry and fearful because this is the soil from which their darkest policies grow." "When you post or talk about him, don't assign his actions to him, assign them to 'The Republican Administration,' or 'the Republicans.'" "The Republican legislators will either have to take responsibility for their association with him or stand up for what some of them don't like," "45 will not get the focus or attention he craves." "Republican representatives will become very concerned about their re-elections."

Our treasury remains solidly in the black thanks to conscientious payment of dues by our over 60 members. Dues for 2017 may be paid (***and mailed to Mountain Bears Democratic Club PO Box 3514 Blue Jay, CA 92317***) until March 31st without compromising your status of "Member in good standing." **Individual \$25, Couples \$40, Students & Seniors (60+) \$15, Couples \$25.**

President Mickey Laws reports our Charter was received from the County Democratic Party with no problems this year! The Central Committee reports that the consensus is that our Democratic Party members prefer to resist the Administration's policies. By logging onto the [Party website](http://www.cadem.org) (www.cadem.org) and clicking on the "Take Action" tab, many good suggestions can be found.

Our County government was known for graft, bribes and collusion ten years ago. Charges were brought against two supervisors, and the case is just now being heard in San Bernardino. You can [read details of the case](#) and even possibly make a difference.

We are planning to complete our [list of needed actions](#) after further discussion. Anybody who reads over the list of "unconscionable conditions" or "needed actions" and feels more is needed should contact [VP Glen Thompson](#).

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Last Meeting (cont.)

Member Hugh Bialecki gave a thorough review of the situation with Nestlé and the options we have for attempting to halt the water extraction from Strawberry Creek, which experts have determined is harmful to our environment. See the [S.O.F.A. website](#) for more.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, March 28, 2017 in the Community Meeting Room of Alpine Escrow, Blue Jay Mall at 7:00 p.m. No presentation has been scheduled as of this date of publication, so recommendations are welcome! Our plan is to complete the action list and choose coordinators. We'll be deciding what is needed to accomplish the first goals and how we can provide the needed support.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY NEWS

Rep. Beth Fukumoto may leave Republican party after its [attempt to muzzle her](#). When she attended the Women's March the day after the Inauguration ceremonies, her Party and other minority members of the Hawaii House of Representatives objected strongly to her negative views of the new Administration. Republicans there demanded she back off or resign.

SUPPORT PLANNED PARENTHOOD

A Texas judge set down an extraordinary judgment that protects the funding of Planned Parenthood – and tells the legislators that made the attempt to end it just how illegal their legislation was – and why! Enjoy this [Political Nation article](#) on the subject.

The Club realized during its recent meeting that our best method for offering support for women's rights and [Planned Parenthood](#), was to visit the [website](#) and organize a local support group.

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CIVIL RIGHTS

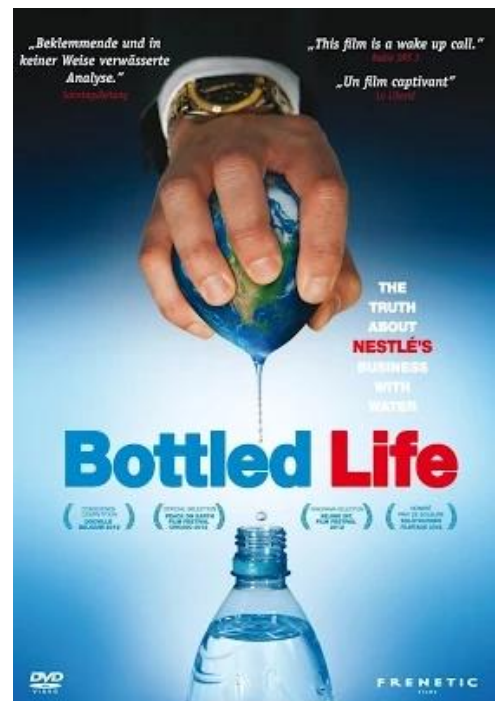
There is (still) a 1st Amendment, and it certainly protects the rights of free speech - to the detriment of our own sensibilities, at times. This time, the "Boy who cried Wolf" was eaten by the wolves, and nobody is mourning [the internet death of Milo](#).

If you're planning a protest gathering or march, the [ACLU has good advice](#) for you. If you're thinking of running for office, here's [the best guide](#) for your effort.

WATER RIGHTS

Sunday afternoon (Jan 29th) the [League of Women Voters](#) and the Save Our Forest Association ([SOFA](#)) co-sponsored a community hearing at the Twin Peaks Community/Senior Center. The standing room only crowd came out to hear more about the Nestle Waters North American ground water removal operating under a 30-years expired permit from the US Forest Service. An [Alpenhorn News article](#) appeared in the following issue, as well.

As part of a continuing effort to resist the designs of this multi-national corporation, petitions to remove Nestlé products from snack vending machines in high schools and local markets will be initiated. [Votesmart](#) and similar sites will be used to urge action in our State and Federal legislative bodies. Banners and pamphlet drops are to be scheduled and ideas for picket lines, demonstrations and campouts were discussed. This would have to sting were our Resident a person who could actually take a wider view of ANYthing –even relatively tiny and powerless [Slovenia is protecting its water](#) against corporate greed on behalf of their citizens. And they did so with a UNANIMOUS Constitutional amendment.



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LOCAL POLITICS

Cheryl Brown is involved in the California Commission on Aging, a worthy successor to a career of public service, and certainly just a mid-point of this dedicated local's [political career](#).



Our new California Attorney General weighs in on a number of topics with [Patt Morrison and the LA Times](#). He seems a decent sort, and a solid thinker. It's never a good idea to sanctify anybody while they're still alive, however. If we're forced to resist a frontal attack (either politically or literally) by the Russian agent in our White House, it's going to mean hard work and commitment by all of us, but [Xavier Becerra](#) seems capable of leading that fight.

"The Alpenhorn News will print letters addressed to the editor, at our digression, based on the appropriateness of the content. We welcome and encourage interaction with our readers.

The letter should be 200 words or less in length.

Full name, town and phone number needs to be attached to letter.

Letter can be mailed to us at P.O. Box 4572, Crestline, CA 92325-4572 or emailed to info@alpenhornnews.com.

Full names and town are printed in the paper with the letter.

The phone number is not printed, but is required for our records.

Diane Lund, Editor - The Alpenhorn News"

[909.338.8484](tel:909.338.8484)

diane@alpenhornnews.com

You might want to submit one in response to this [letter from our Representative](#). He's not really interested in hearing from his constituents, it appears. Unless you're part of the groups that have supported him in the past, that is. If you do write one, please send the Club a copy, ok?

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Local Politics (cont.)

Redlands is changing to by-district Council elections. Tuesday, Febr 7th, the Redlands City Council held a public hearing to [select the map](#) that will work best for the city. As of this date, the maps drawn by the city's consultants have not won over a majority of citizens, as they have been drawn to keep the city council intact as it is. Most of the Council members live near each other so it was hoped they heard the public's message that the selected map should not be one that divides the current Council members into separate districts. Without a consensus, the Council [delayed the decision](#) as to which map to use.

"Rumors of the Congressman's demise are highly exaggerated" Congressman Cook's spokesperson in the Victor Valley [denies resurgent rumors](#) the Representative is retiring in favor of Jay Obernolte. The spokesperson was not questioned whether Assemblyman Obernolte was circulating the rumors himself.

BUSINESS AND NATIONAL POLITICS

"The vast multiracial, socioeconomically diverse defense of public schools that DeVos set off may show that we have not yet given up on the ideals of the public — and on ourselves."

[Claire McCaskill has words for Betsy DeVos](#). "Ms. DeVos doesn't believe in public education. She doesn't believe private schools receiving taxpayer dollars should be held to the same standards as public schools. Missourians expect me to fight for them, not for an ideology or a party affiliation, which is why I've carefully considered each nominee before casting my yea or nay vote—and that's also why I do not support Ms. DeVos for Secretary of Education. "

Despite the two Republicans that voted against her, [Betsy Amway](#) (as many prefer to call her) managed to use VP Pence's tiebreaker vote to become our next Secretary of Education. Now, the only way to get rid of her is to oust the entire Administration.

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Business and National Politics (cont.)

Behind her appointment are millions of dollars of donations, wisely applied to just the right member of Congress and the right candidate for the Presidency. There is also a long history of trying to milk the system and [steal money from public schools](#).

All of those states that didn't support Hillary Clinton have a larger number of rural or semi-rural residents than they do urban residents. Does where you live make THAT much of a difference? You betcha. This light toned article from [Loey Nunning](#) steps through the basic differences in perception.

Our new Secy of State wouldn't allow a fracking site near his property. Why? Fracking operations have a total of [660 spills PER YEAR](#), that's why!

It isn't difficult to put a face on the resistance to this Administration. They are everywhere, holding signs and chanting out protests. But putting a name on it? Not so easy. Except it really is – it is [the Democratic Party!](#)

[Sen. Sanders](#) and [Sen. Gillibrand](#) (NY) introduced [S.427](#) - A bill to enhance Social Security benefits and ensure the long-term solvency of the Social Security program. It aims to do so by skipping the income bracket of \$127,000 and \$250,000 (for now) and then kicking back in to require the very wealthy kick in to the fund. It is estimated this would make the fund solvent through 'at least 2078' despite large sums being taken by past Administrations for other purposes (see [the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare article](#) for details). The bill was introduced on Feb. 17th – the day a millionaire stops paying into the Social Security fund.

What would your Republican neighbor think if an Impeachment was a reality instead of just a goal? Not what you might expect, according to this [article by Issac Simpson](#). It might not be "the end", but it would certainly be a big deal.

The Supreme Court (as it stands) made a decision to support disabled student access in [a recent case](#). While funding for special programs is definitely at risk, at least the doors won't be barred to service animals.

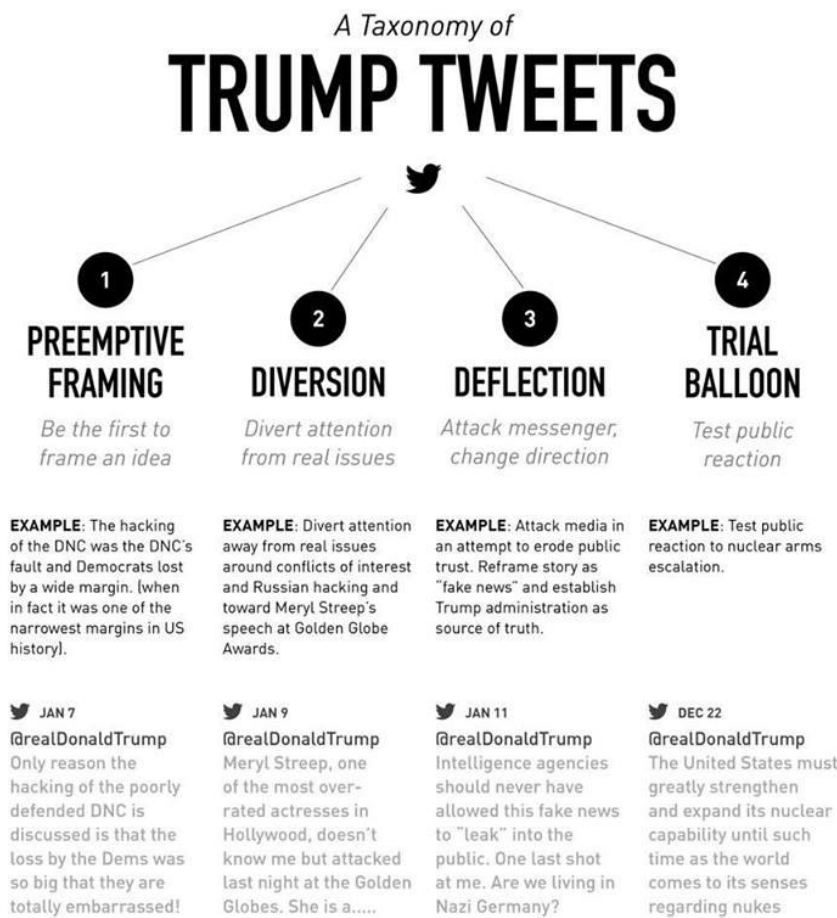
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FAKE NEWS AND RELIABLE SOURCES

There's a first time for everything, and this is the time for a link to a [VIDEO](#) to appear in this newsletter. Ladies and Gentlemen, in a shameless promotion of the startup of his social media publication venue [News and Guts](#), I present [Dan Rather](#) and a fine [interview with Jimmy Fallon](#).

Much has been claimed by Republicans about how "equal" they are to Democrats. It's easy to say that, but quite another thing to show it with your actions. This [article lays out how the DOING](#) makes it obvious which party has the most concerned members.

[George Lakoff](#) is a "cognitive linguist" who understands the fouls being played (especially by the White House press corps) on the English language. He is particularly interested in seeing our Media understand and respond appropriately to the seeming [craziness of the infamous Tweets](#).



Created by @gibilisco
Based on "A Taxonomy of Trump Tweets" by George Lakoff.
First aired January 13, 2017 on WNYC's On the Media.
<http://www.wnyc.org/story/taxonomy-trump-tweets>

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Fake news and reliable sources (cont.)

Every once in a while in Washington, the fuse is lit for what seems to be a big scandal. Much more rarely does that fuse lead to an explosion of the magnitude we are seeing with Russia and the new Administration, and frankly the Republicans in Congress. How can anybody say, with all this billowing smoke and sights of actual flames, that there is no need to at least independently investigate whether a fire is burning down the very pillars of our democracy?

Sessions is but the latest person close to President Trump who seems to be ensnared in a story that is more worthy of Hollywood melodrama than the reality of the governance of our country. Democrats are calling for Sessions to resign, and this story could move very quickly.

We are well past the time for any political niceties or benefits of the doubt. We need an independent and thorough investigation of Russia's meddling in our democracy and its ties to the President and his allies.

Let's just make this clear. This is about a foreign and hostile power trying to influence our election while being in contact with close aides to the presidential campaign that the Kremlin wanted to win. Furthermore, there are serious questions about Mr Trump's longstanding ties to Russian money and influence peddlers. We don't know where this might go, but it isn't going away.

Dan Rather

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Environment and Climate Change



Big Oil wins more than you might think when it comes to legislation and their ability to drill as they please. The \$122,000,000 spent in the last six years has literally allowed them to get away with murder. This article by [Michael J. Mishak in The Nation](#) describes much of it.

Congress has begun hearings with the intent of [eliminating the Endangered Species Act](#). While it's not a 'done deal' yet, it is certainly in the crosshairs of Paul Ryan (Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, 700 ST. LAWRENCE AVE., JANESVILLE, WI 53545) and Mitch McConnell (Senator Mitch McConnell, 317 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 205100001). Do your job. Let your Senators know how you feel, then send a postcard (since they've [shut down other modes of communication](#)) to the two Chamber leaders. Originally passed with essentially every [member of Congress](#) voting "aye" (and an express intent to save the Bald Eagle), it has since been a drum that members of Congress use to whip up solid votes back home – especially from developers who want free rein to ignore the environment on the way to profits.



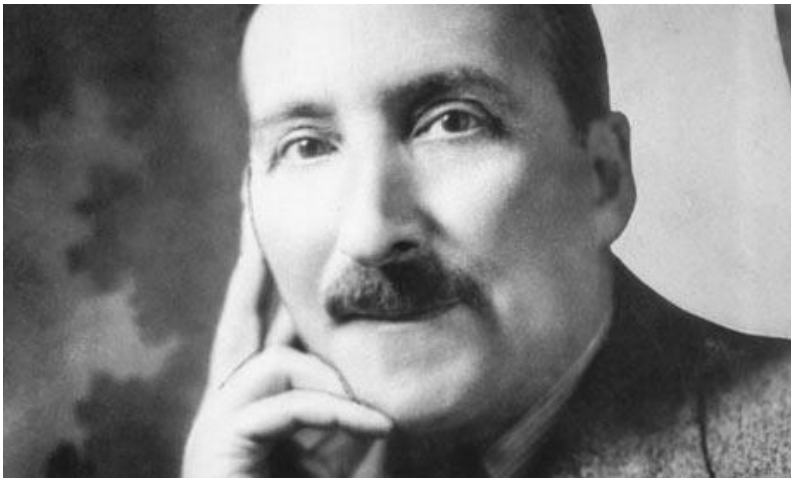
Legislators in Sacramento are considering an act to stop the Administration from gutting [protections of the environment](#) – at least in California. While California has relied for years on federal waivers from the Clean Air Act to set its own, stricter, clean air standards, Trump's Environmental Protection Agency administrator, [Scott Pruitt](#), has left open the possibility that the administration could revoke the state's authority. Then there's always the legislation ([HR 861](#)) to just eliminate the Agency all together.

Environment and Climate Change (cont.)

Pruitt, as an [Attorney General](#) famous for his anti-regulation stances, is one of Trump's most controversial Cabinet members, and has drawn intense criticism from California lawmakers. Following his confirmation, de León said in a prepared statement that "California will not follow Trump's destructive path."

Despite claims to the contrary by the oil companies and state agencies, you probably want to watch the actual residents' testimony regarding the [Porter Ranch gas leak](#).

THE SUPREME COURT AND LAW



This article about the autobiography by Stefan Zweig in the [New Yorker](#) is loaded with excerpts that both inform and chill. Given the striking similarities to today's headlines and the similarity of our country's status to pre WWII Germany, you may want to surround yourself with supportive friends before reading it.

THE WHITE HOUSE RESIDENT

These newsletters are built over the month prior. This month it has been difficult to stay current, as so much has been changing daily.

But here we go:

Where are your taxes? ● How many strings ARE there to Russia?

Jason Chaffetz may have finally grown a pair, but the jury is still out as to whether they will get the investigation underway. He [wrote a letter](#) to the White House asking for an explanation of the obviously non-existent security 'during dinner' and for photo ops involving the nuclear football. Remember that? Doesn't anybody wonder why these aren't leading to an investigation?

Despite spectacular attempts to divert attention toward anybody (c'mon – blaming OBAMA???) and anything (crazy or not, you're still responsible for your actions until you plead incompetence) the nation still looks to a special investigator and an impartial (thorough) investigation of covert Russian involvement in our nation's elections and government.

These are the ten most toxic pieces of legislation recently introduced:

1. HR 861 Terminate the Environmental Protection Agency
2. HR 610 Vouchers for Public Education
3. HR 899 Terminate the Department of Education
4. HJR 69 Repeal Rule Protecting Wildlife
5. HR 370 Repeal Affordable Care Act
6. HR 354 Defund Planned Parenthood
7. HR 785 National Right to Work (this one ends unions)
8. HR 83 Mobilizing Against Sanctuary Cities Bill
9. HR 147 Criminalizing Abortion ("Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act")
10. HR 808 Sanctions against Iran

These aren't the bill titles; those are purposefully obscure – but they DO summarize the direction in Congress you need to watch. For every detail and the names of the people who are leading this attack on our system of values and the society they represent, please visit [CONGRESS.GOV](https://www.congress.gov) and put one of them in the search box.

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* EDITOR'S PAGE *

Again I find myself in awe over a published piece – this one is still anonymous (at least to me). If you find out who authored "[How did you suffer?](#)" I would really enjoy knowing.

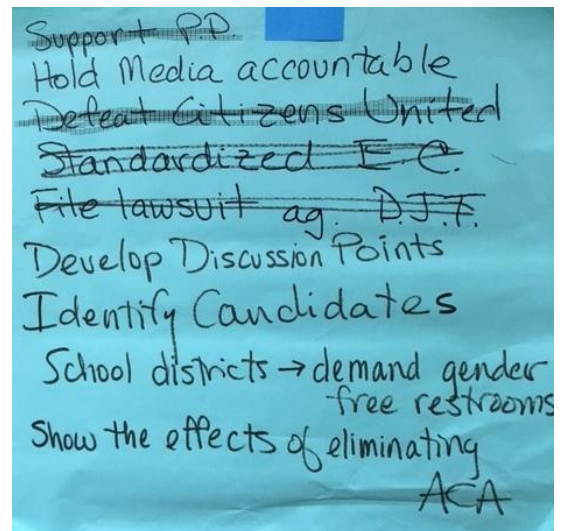
This month it's time to ring a very old bell once again. Women have been denied equal rights for far, FAR too long. No matter what other issues arise, the right to decide their own health care procedures, the right to a safe abortion, if it is medically indicated, and the workplace rights guaranteed any other citizen of this country should not be questioned, much less denied! This article [in the Eau Claire, Wisconsin Leader Telegram](#) by Sharon Weeks is stunning in its simplicity and impact. Since the cabal of jealous old white men still has the final say in history books, I'd suggest moms and grandmoms share this with their female heirs at an age-appropriate time!

At the February meeting, discussion centered around completing our list of unacceptable things in government and these were added:

Stop Worldwide Arms Sales, Resisting Anti-Semitism, Resisting Anti-Islam Zero Nuclear Weapons (you can see these turned into goals).

In addition, we resolved that each of us will make an effort to hold the 'media' accountable by objecting to false or badly handled articles, rather than taking a Club action. We discussed using Twitter or phone calls to call out poor journalism as we see it – rather than just screaming at the TV or tearing the newspaper to shreds!

The remaining goals were either scratched off the list as already being handled by other existing groups (articles will be appearing in the Club website as they are written to connect to the groups handling them) or remain to be prioritized and STARTED! Please attend the next meeting (March 28th) to be involved.



Support PP
Hold Media accountable
~~Defeat Citizens United~~
~~Standardized E.C.~~
~~File lawsuit ag. D.J.F.~~
Develop Discussion Points
Identify Candidates
School districts → demand gender free restrooms
Show the effects of eliminating ACA

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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>

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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