



This document is searchable. Click on any subject in the Table of Contents and you will be taken directly to the article. To return to the Table of Contents, click on any "back to top" link.

Table of Contents

LAST MEETING	2
NEXT MEETING	3
DEMOCRATIC PARTY NEWS	3
SUPPORT PLANNED PARENTHOOD	4
CIVIL RIGHTS	5
WATER RIGHTS	6
LOCAL POLITICS	7
FAKE NEWS AND RELIABLE SOURCES	10
Environment and Climate Change	12
THE SUPREME COURT AND LAW	13
THE WHITE HOUSE RESIDENT	14
EDITOR'S PAGE	16

LAST MEETING

Seventeen members and guests were on hand to hear Kim McGuire from the Mountains Community Hospital Foundation speak. She gave an overview of the Hospital, the funding it receives, that funding's sources and Measure D – the traditional ballot that keeps a tax on property owners funding the Hospital. She also laid out why the ACA has completely changed the way the hospital operates – allowing it to aim for a higher quality of service and the physical buildings at the same time. On the horizon? Bringing Crestline into the list of supporters, and making the tax perpetual, so \$37,000 in funding the ballot is no longer needed.

A coalition has been formed by 11-12 Clubs in Mountain communities and the High Desert. At this point the President or assign of each club is meeting the fourth Friday of each month to coordinate and plan events. If you have any ideas that were too big for a single club, now is the time to submit it to President Mickey Laws.

The Central Committee of the County Democrats meeting reviewed Resolutions opposing the DAPL and supporting the 1951 International Convention and Accord protecting immigrants. Copies of them will be added to the Website, as the information contained within is valuable. These will be presented at the Convention in May.

Members are advised to visit the [CADEM website](#) to see what actions are available locally.

Old Business – Glen led a final discussion of possible actions to take and the Committee Chair volunteers needed to affect those issues. The chosen action areas were: 1.) Hold the Media accountable and 2.) Eliminate gerrymandering from electoral districts. No volunteers for Chairs stepped forth. Those in attendance were urged to consider the opportunity and the Executive Board offered much assistance and guidance if desired. Both Chair positions remain open. See the Website for [details of the options discussed](#).

[Back to top](#)

Last Meeting (cont.)

You can reply to the e-mail that introduced this Newsletter if you wish to Chair either of the Action Committees. These are the vehicles the Club will use for Activism for the rest of the year, so don't be shy – step up and participate – it feels GOOD! [I can personally vouch for the truth in this].

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, April 25, 2017 in the Community Meeting Room of Alpine Escrow, Blue Jay Mall at 7:00 p.m. Suggestions for topics and speakers are welcome. Discuss the Vice President opening with an Executive Board member if you or somebody you know is interested.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY NEWS

Join our Action Team! We are California's strongest force for justice. Get involved with the [California Democratic Party](#) and find out how you can help advance our values.

Honestly, the Internet is literally packed with right wing commentary on the Party. If you need some thorough and honest information about the Party, the principles that drive it, and an overview of its direction, the best place to find it is [HERE](#).

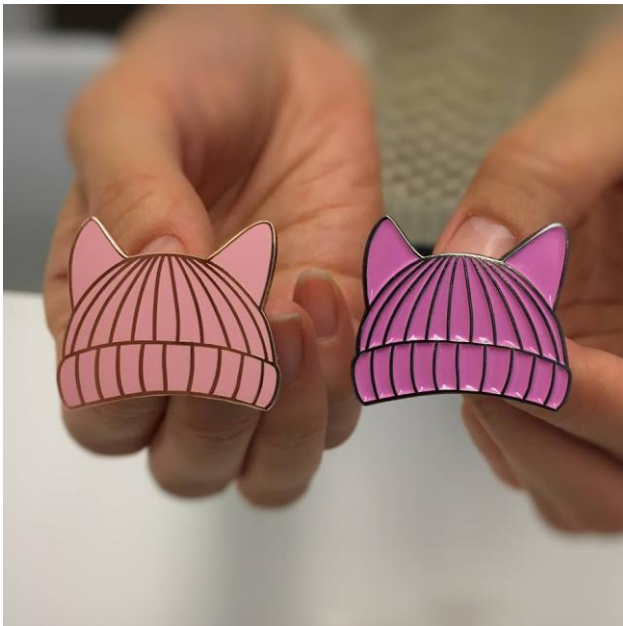
[*Back to top*](#)

SUPPORT PLANNED PARENTHOOD

In this time of an Administration that attacks every revered institution in our country, [Planned Parenthood](#) is certainly not immune. In exchange for \$550 Million dollars in annual funding, he is [asking them to stop performing abortions completely](#). In other words, he's willing to put women's health on the table as he seeks approval from the people who voted him into office.



Those two propagandists have been [charged with fifteen felonies](#).



Some days a Pussy Hat just doesn't 'go' with your outfit. Never mind, **Brandy Bingham** has got you covered . . . "I've added pussy hat enamel pins to my [Pinscriptshop](#)! 100% of proceeds go to the [International Planned Parenthood Federation/Western Hemisphere Region](#). Visit [pinscript.etsy.com](#) to purchase!" with hand model Karen Ho, [NSP Merchandise](#) and [International Planned Parenthood Federation/Western Hemisphere Region](#).

[Back to top](#)

CIVIL RIGHTS



In our Congressional District, a right wing activist named Joseph Turner got a bright idea to raise his profile. He would introduce a ballot initiative to [deny the children of illegal immigrants an education](#). [Channel 7](#) is covering.

It isn't often that the release of a newsletter coincides with an activism opportunity, but this is

certainly one. If you are an active or retired educator, this has (no doubt) gotten directly under your skin. Research is needed. Respond directly to the Editor's e-mail (demnewseditor@gmail.com) and I'll make sure it gets to the right people. In two days or so, this will hit the national news and both logical and emotional responses need to be there to halt it in its tracks.

Nevada has reversed its opposition to the [Equal Rights Amendment](#). For those who did not literally grow up with it, there is an [excellent history](#) available to review.

The [California Senate](#) advanced a bill that would make California able to resist ICE agents in all ways regarding illegal immigrants who have not committed felonies. "We will cooperate with our friends at the federal level with serious and violent felons. But we won't cooperate or lift a finger or spend a single cent when we're talking about separating children from their mothers, mothers from their children," [[Senate President Pro Tem](#) Kevin] de Leon said. "That's not who we are as a great state."

We can all hope this puts a chill on development of an [incarceration facility in Adelanto](#). This stunning piece of pork barrel politics has been fought every inch of the way by our own [San Bernardino County Sentinel](#). A digital subscription will help guarantee this investigative journalism with an 'old-school' attention to detail is not lost [hint, hint].

[Back to top](#)

WATER RIGHTS

A few days ago members of a number of local groups, members of our own club and several local residents took to the road . . . Highway 18 to be exact, to protest the [actions of Nestlé in our mountains](#). The full length video is available for those who couldn't attend [on YouTube](#), thanks to our member [and videographer] Don Knight. Your Vice President was interviewed for [The Desert Sun](#) and the article was reproduced as widely as in [USA Today](#). This is an item of national interest, and our actions may be given an extra boost of power by that. Many thanks to Amanda Fry for sharing her invaluable media contacts, at the [San Bernardino Sun](#) (which carried a great article as well) and in radio and TV markets!



[Back to top](#)

LOCAL POLITICS

[BACA found guilty on three charges](#)! Despite the fact this took a decade to reach the verdict stage, this should give the local trial defendants some pause. The public smells blood, and corruption leaves a wide trail of it that never seems to lose its attraction. In a similar but different area, you couldn't sell this script to a daytime soap opera, but ten years ago, these shenanigans were going on in the offices of the County Board of Supervisors. Great writing in [The Sentinel](#)!

The State's Controller, [Betty Yee](#), puts out a [monthly newsletter](#) that is full of interesting articles, not all of which are finance based. This one focuses on the attacks from the Administration on network neutrality.

Sen. Morrell's [latest newsletter](#) is about as "Party Line" as can be. He continues to earn the OTHER "Useless Legislation King" title.

[AB 14](#) remains in committee since January 19th . . . you know, the bill introduced to give dark money in political TV advertising the star billing it deserves. One has to wonder if money is being paid to keep it there. Money won't keep this bill from passing if we [get petition signatures](#) and make sure it doesn't "die" in that committee.

California and Vancouver, B.C. are still headquarters of the film industry. But [where does a teacher go](#) to get their name in lights, like we all know they deserve? It could be . . . California, if [SB 807](#) gets a sign-off by Gov. Brown.

The Chamber of Commerce Exec Board voted to support [AB 18](#), a \$3 Billion dollar bond issue to add parks to California statewide and improve maintenance and use. A [Facebook](#) survey will start this Thursday, April 6th and run through Sunday, April 9th to determine if we support it with them.

Results of the Ides of March ["You're fired" postcard campaign](#).
Can't tell – presidential mail is delivered to a closed warehouse and sorted – orders came down to suppress comment on the mail and to avoid disclosure (in other words, reduce transparency).

[Back to top](#)

BUSINESS AND NATIONAL POLITICS

[The LA Times article](#) "US Military escalation, off the radar" describes unannounced deployments of armed service members to Syria. But not in specific terms, because that policy is not being used in this Administration. "I do not think it is right for the U.S. military to become involved in the Syrian civil war based on the 9/11 AUMF," he said. "I voted for that AUMF as a House member. I never imagined that vote being used to justify U.S. ground troops in Syria in the year 2017. And I don't think anyone else who voted in favor of it did either." The AUMF was the authorization for use of military force agreed to by Congress in 2001 and was the 'permission' granted to GW Bush to invade Iraq. It has been argued and decried as arguably the worst legislation ever, and was used against Hillary Clinton by detractors as proof she is a 'war monger.' She, however, never used it. #45, apparently is doing so now (article by William Hennigan @wjhenn).

The White House is accused of disguising or [eliminating evidence of banking](#) ties between Russia and #45. This while some analysts predict he actually has more money in Russia than he does in the U.S.

The Dutch ('Hollanders' or 'Nederlanders' as they are often known) decided that Russian hacking was too threatening to their elections. So they [got rid of the possibility](#) by eliminating computers altogether! Then they voted racism down in their [general election](#), favoring inclusion and welcome to immigrants. Oh, and an enviable 81% of the population turned out to cast a ballot.

The appointment of Betsy DeVos was paid for to promote Charter Schools at the expense of public school funding. It is having the intended effect, according to the [article in the Los Angeles Times](#). Schools that provide education to Native American children (which can't rely on property taxes for ANY income due to the sovereign nature of reservations) are especially hard hit. After a cursory few visits to public schools, she attempted to characterize some teachers as "[waiting to be told what they have to do](#)." Her behavior is so much like the old joke – "We bought her books and sent her to school and all she did was eat the covers."

[Back to top](#)

Business and National Politics (cont.)



[Cutting NPR and PBS funding](#) will not end either of those systems – but it will make rural stations serving 45's supporters close their doors, according to [PBS's CEO Paula Kerger](#).

Don't expect it to happen, but our Administration

could learn from the [difficulties facing British industry](#) since the vote to exit the European Union. "While politicians can deny reality, a shampoo produced on the continent [is now 17 percent more expensive](#)," Bruno Monteyne explained to the Wall Street Journal.



Our local Chamber of Commerce in Lake Arrowhead (and partner in many activities) has a new home in the Lake Arrowhead Village. The lofty space, located on the end of the 2nd level 'balcony' with the Mountain News office, is delightful, and will be the



home to our Club brochures for the public as of Saturday, when it will be officially 'open.' Here are some 'teaser' pictures until you can pay a visit and say 'hi' and 'welcome' to the delightful staff!

[Back to top](#)

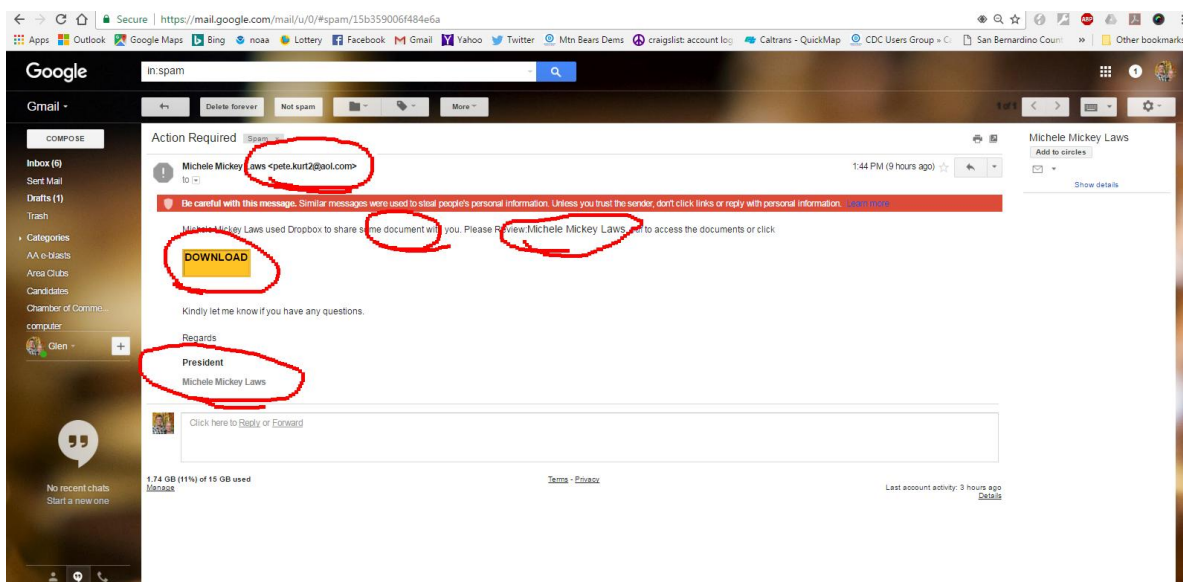
FAKE NEWS AND RELIABLE SOURCES

Now and again, a story appears that is well crafted and solid. This one on the AHCA and the [significant failure to perform](#) by Republican elected officials, is one such.

Far left people are usually used as 'covers' for social media trolls – and many (make that VERY many) are actually Russian agents using those covers. More scholarly pieces seldom reduce their findings to lists, like the [Harvard Library research guide](#) did, but their list of articles is worthy.



This [list of questionable and fake sources](#) should be handy on your desktop. Keep checking – the market might actually force some of them to clean up their acts . . .



Don't think avoiding fake news will end the risk in today's Information Age tsunami - your editor has been subject to two hacking

attempts this week – one involved a hacker trying to pass themselves off as our Club President. Clues usually reveal that these are NOT legitimate e-mails . . . note that the e-mail address is not the one that Mickey usually uses . . . there are clumsy typos or grammatical errors . . . the 'President Michelle Mickey Laws' is robotically gleaned and not common. . . the "DOWNLOAD" button is not a common one. If you're in doubt, call or e-mail the sender yourself – especially if the mail is from a vendor or bank.

[Back to top](#)

Fake News and Reliable Sources (cont.)

A hidden gem is 'Freakonomics.' Once just a book, the author is now producing weekly radio episodes that cover unlikely subjects with a scientific rigor based in his studies of statistical analysis.

Does your name affect your future? Should tipping be banned? Should you bribe your children? In his weekly podcast, [Stephen Dubner](#), author of the best-selling [Freakonomics](#) book series explores the hidden side of everything.



"A must read!" Member book reviewer Sybille Phillips.

'Future crimes' by Marc Goodman.

Sheds light on cyber crime – including influencing countries and businesses by cyber criminals and foreign and domestic state actors! Written in 2015, he is also shedding light on the current investigations... Fascinating – but unfortunately real and NOT a novel! Avoid reading before bed time ... could give you nightmares ... Also available in CD format in Blue Jay. 392 pages.

Summary:

An FBI futurist and senior advisor to Interpol analyzes the digital underground to reveal the alarming ways criminals, corporations and countries are using emerging technologies to target individuals and wage war. Little information is related regarding actions to resist the crimes, leaving the reader to be frightened enough to do that on their own.

[Back to top](#)

Environment and Climate Change



This is more than just an [attack on wildlife protections](#)—it is an insidious assault on every American's right to access the courts to hold our government agencies accountable. Big Oil in California has defeated ballot initiative after initiative to rein in their choke hold on fracking, environmental impact and abuse of public lands. If you've had enough, perhaps it's time to align with

[represent.us](#) and end it.



Did you know that when a nuclear missile needs service it has to be taken apart and shipped to various different sites in a big rig? No, this is not the script for a re-make of "Dr. Strangelove"! [LA Times March 10th](#).

[Back to top](#)

THE SUPREME COURT AND LAW



Democrats are [not rolling over](#) for the majority pressure this time, and it has left the Republicans utterly confused about what to do next. Our Senator [expressed her concerns](#) about both last year's denial of Merrick Garland for the opening caused by the death of a justice in a timely manner. She also stated that dark money spent both against Garland and for Gorsuch is not the way advancement to the Supreme Court should be handled in our country. But [the further statements](#) laid her denial on his poor

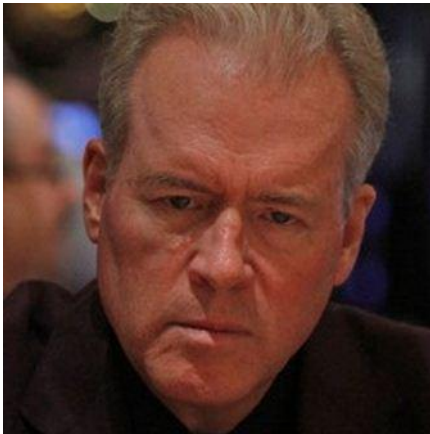
ability to judge – that his refusal to answer questions about Brown v. Board of Education, voting restrictions that are blatantly racist, his position on torture was that of 'clients' and not his. She demanded a justice be able at least to recall the circumstances of his decision. Then she laid out the timeline of his appointment to the judiciary and relating to the Bush Administration and its use of torture. She laid his unresponsive answers to her written questions as examples of his agreement with his supporter's philosophies, and not his own. She summarized that evaluation of a nominee includes his determination to protect the rights of all citizens. Gorsuch was determined to be lacking in the qualities and mental rigor Senator Dianne Feinstein expects in a Supreme Court justice.



[Back to top](#)

THE WHITE HOUSE RESIDENT

The GOP should be thoroughly blamed for #45. They created him. Not counting his [insomniac Tweets](#), the Information age and the Republican Party make an odd couple. The Republican Party [missed a very good chance](#) to both move into Congressional power and return to the honorable stature once respected, if not agreed with. That boat, as they say, has sailed. Now the GOP, along with the [Trump and Scion](#) names is [dying](#). While many argue about who poisoned the dream, the names that keep showing up in the commentary are few.



[Robert Mercer](#), the billionaire backer of Ted Cruz who then [switched horses to Steve Bannon](#), did so with his unique propaganda machine, [Cambridge Analytica](#), and the many [second generation mind control](#) companies. There is a web of connections between the Mercer [father and daughter team](#), Global Science Research, [Strategic Communication Laboratories](#), Bannon, the Conaways (yup, both of them) and [Aleksandr Kogan](#). This is the new face of the Republican Party; the creatures of the fetid swamp and the [high tech information technology](#) that spawned them. There are arguments about how effective [psychographics](#) (manipulation of the masses on cyber steroids) really is, but as analysts always urge, “follow the money to the truth.” If you do so, [the Party’s future](#) begins to take shape, and their willingness to use [every dirty trick](#) is obvious.

The stain of beets and vodka

Sen. James Lankford and Clinton Watts testimony – why has it worked so well this time? Because (#45) used ‘Russian active measures at time[s] against his opponents.’ How do we know this?

Because [sophisticated Russian cyber terrorists](#) are admitting it in court. Before now, we had to let Keith Olberman connect the dots . . . as he did so well at about 6:45 in this episode of ‘The Resistance’ called “[Donald Trump is Panicking about Russia](#).” Keith’s opinions are seldom totally contained within “FACT”, so watch with your tongue firmly in your cheek.



[Back to top](#)

The White House Resident (cont.)



In fact, it seems even spewing [hate speech isn't protected](#) under U.S. law, but the Tweets will be [saved for posterity](#) (and perhaps prosecution). Who knew that successful narcissism was so complicated!

It is no secret that #45 is less than respectful of women. Senator Kamala Harris, in return, is disdainful of him. But she still wants to see women [get paid equally](#) to their male counterparts. Incredibly, [Teen Vogue](#) and their millennial writers have become a trusted source of political news this year.

[Back to top](#)



*** EDITOR'S PAGE ***

This letter was sent to the media contacts that couldn't attend Sunday's demonstration due to the short notice. Cross your fingers they think highly of this and the videos and photos we sent . . .

April 2, 2017

Thank you fellow demonstrators!

Today's action might have been the first, but the enthusiasm and turnout was excellent! From the quality and spot on message of the signs to the camaraderie, I could not have been more pleased!

It was also great to put faces to the e-mail names and to actually shake the hands of people who have supported this action. It was invigorating to welcome them to the larger resistance to Nestlé and their arrogant determination. It was great to inform those new to the effort how Nestlé uses tricks to remove well water from Strawberry Peak and call it 'Arrowhead Mountain Spring Water.'

As the Water Board, the Forest Service, and even Nestlé Waters North America themselves notice our steely resolve and continued actions like this, they will understand that 'business as usual' simply won't happen. In fact, after today's demonstration, the list of volunteers is just starting to grow. Plans for new, fresh actions are starting. We are seeing agreement that Nestlé products are no longer welcome in our homes. As part of that resolve, a community group called Inland Empire Water Defenders is being formed. This group will specifically target the extraction of well water from slanted wells tapping the water table under Strawberry Peak (the one with the communication tower on the top), the Nestlé pipeline that carries it 4.5 miles to the bottom, and the bottling of it in fossil fuel containers as Arrowhead Mountain Spring Water.

Look forward to many more actions both here and on the Valley floor below. All the way to Corona, people are starting to realize this stolen water would have added to their water table. Inland Empire Homeowners with outrageous water bills are figuring out there is something wrong with Nestlé being allowed to drain that away for free.

I don't mind thanking the demonstrators, the photographers and the reporters who helped make this action such a success. I just don't want to be the only voice heard. There are lots of voices, and each one should speak up to share their stories. This is not about a few people – it's about an entire community and the fight with a predatory Swiss company!

[Back to top](#)

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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[Back to top](#)