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LAST MEETING

The adopt-a-highway program is moving ahead at the pace of Caltrans. Several sites were chosen for safety and need, and we now wait to be informed when we can get our training and gear and get to cleaning!

Vice President Stan Haren reported on the Campaign seminar held July 8th at the Marriott in Hesperia. The Power point Presentation is available to members that request it. The most important point made is that candidates who win have reasons for running that are compelling – and never focused on defeating the incumbent or personal needs.

President Mickey Laws explained the pre-endorsement system and the need for physical addresses to verify active members in good standing. When a Membership Chair was explained and solicited, Jane Haren volunteered, and was appointed by the President with unanimous agreement of those present. The process of the Club endorsing a candidate was explained. At the next meeting members will discuss the process and at the September meeting we will hold a vote to amend the bylaws. An Endorsement Chair and Committee will be needed, and applications or recommendations are solicited.

Mickey and Glen presented a joint report on the SB 562 Town Hall. Copies of the notes taken by Glen are available upon request. There are three stages to the bill – the first (requiring a majority vote in both Chambers of the Legislature) is on the policy – how the workings of a single payer healthcare system are to be defined. The second is the financing (requiring a 2/3 majority vote or a ballot initiative). The third is the necessary change in Prop 98 and make the funds raised from new taxes exempt from the “50% goes to education” clause (also requiring a 2/3 vote, or ballot initiative).

Nestlé lawn signs are now available, and come with a “real estate” wire structure for easy placement. Glen has them almost all the time in his car!

The Unity Picnic at Fairmount Park was recounted, emphasizing Congr. Mark Takano and Penny Newman’s willingness to speak at our Club. Both were welcomed by those present.

Don Knight and Carol Kennedy donated \$100 toward the Odyssey of the Mind educational project. Ellen Laventhal and Mark Smolin donated an additional \$25. It was agreed this amount would be transferred to the appropriate party, once that person is identified. President Mickey Laws read from an LA Times article [“What would Lincoln think of #45”](#) to a warm acclaim.

NEXT MEETING

Go to the [website](#) for details.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY NEWS

When confronted with pundits, either online or in person, just refer them to the [Party Platform](#). If you haven't read it for a while, it's worth another go.

Despite desperate attempts by media ratings seekers, the “Better Deal” affirmation of Democratic ideals still sounds so much sweeter than anything offered by the GOP campaign of last year. [The Los Angeles times](#) even (though begrudgingly) agrees.

SUPPORT PLANNED PARENTHOOD

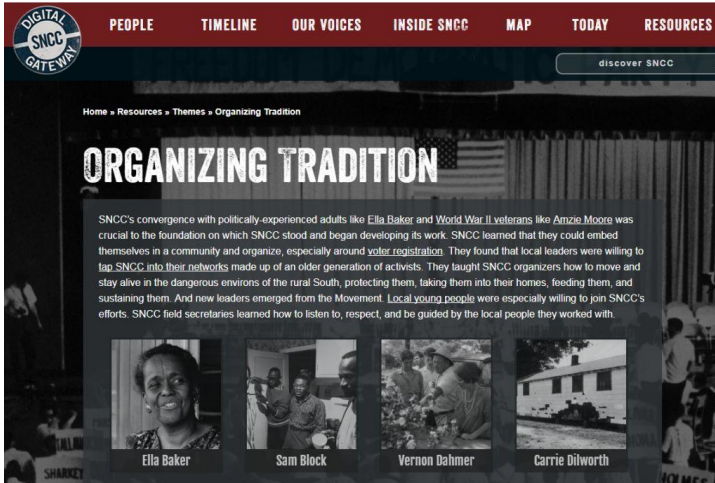
[Elle magazine reports](#) that Proenza Schouler (fashion design house) and their film supporting [Planned Parenthood](#) is a hands-down favorite of the fashion world and the rest of New York.

Believing the election race for Governor of West Virginia to be critical to the future of women's health care, [Planned Parenthood offered its endorsement](#) to candidate and Lt. Gov. Ralph Hortham at an August 3rd event. They also handed his campaign a promise of \$3 Million in funding for the Democratic ticket in Virginia this fall.

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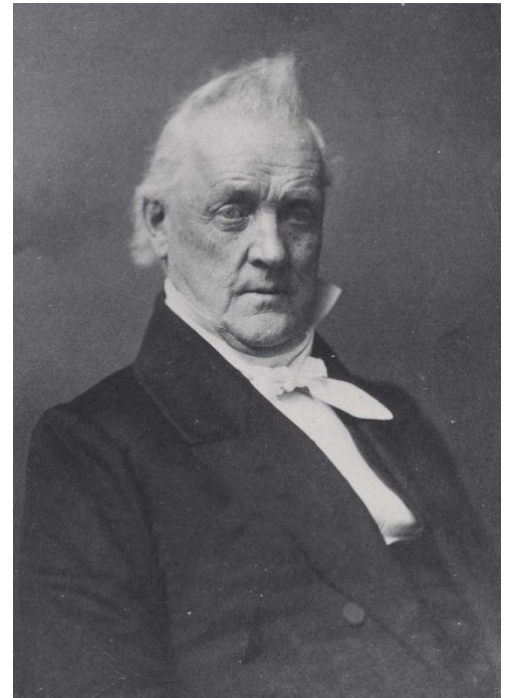
CIVIL RIGHTS and DIVERSITY

End of life care is not equal. About that there really is no question. If you want proof, [just ask a doctor](#).



[Editor] I've been returning to the SNCC website for quite a while now – it is a treasure trove of history and comment from the groundbreaking civil rights activists of the 1960s. Now the official opening of the [SNCC Digital Gateway](#) allows modern activists to easily access the lessons of the past for the resistance of the present. Bookmark it and visit often!

You might wonder where all this hatred and racism came from in our political discussions. It actually has a single source: “[James Buchanan’s] prescription was a “constitutional revolution,” creating irrevocable restraints to limit democratic choice. Sponsored throughout his working life by wealthy foundations, billionaires and corporations, he developed a theoretical account of what this constitutional revolution would look like, and a strategy for implementing it.” [This article](#) brilliantly describes the source of the political events in both Europe and the United States.



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WATER RIGHTS

Proponents of [AB 313](#) claim it is the only way to protect our residents from a Water Control Board that is incapable or unwilling to enforce decent water regulations. [The LA Times editorial board](#) thinks otherwise.

Seriously – if you dig deep enough to understand this law and the issues surrounding it, you'll be ahead of 80% of the State's population.



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LOCAL POLITICS

It has been revealed that Rep. Paul Cook has sided with those who wish to open our Monuments (San Gabriel Mountains - Mojave Trails - Sand to Snow) to commercial development.

This is consistent with his past behavior, and is a major reason there are over eight activist groups who are determined to replace him in 2018.

This is not the intent of the majority of residents in this area - it is his method of fundraising. He solicits

special interest money for his campaign in return for access to public lands for commercial development. In some instances, he is able to sway public opinion into agreeing that his plans are actually environmentally beneficial (like the recent Santa Ana basin land swap legislation he was able to push through), but in others, he simply doesn't comment publicly in order to duck responsibility for his acts.

We're wise to him, and we're wise to this administration and the head of the Department of the Interior. Everything done by these people will be replayed with their names on it for the foreseeable future!

A [Lancaster – Victorville corridor](#) is being considered – one which might change the profile of the High Desert for the better – and forever.

It seems #45 has 'grabbed' more than he can handle. [Women aren't just marching](#) – they are running!

There are positions in California's state government that [aren't filling up with candidates](#) as quickly as expected. Democrats with experience in government at ALL LEVELS should consider running!

[Cook's voting record this week](#) – as recorded by the Riverside Press Enterprise. This is a very useful tool to read long with his 'slightly' slanted newsletter.



Local Politics (cont.)

California's Controller, Betty Yee, thinks we might have the [best unemployment rate possible](#). Not bad for us liberals wrecking the State economy, huh? (snark)

The Colonies bribery case

<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20170717/defense-rests-in-colonies-bribery-case-without-calling-any-witnesses>

Cook has taken the political acceptance of compromise as unmitigated praise. The bill ([HR 53](#)) he is so proud of ("original co-sponsor") is not QUITE the golden ticket he makes it out to be. The long standing relationship of the Federal Government and the States regarding water rights, for instance, may well make this bill unconstitutional. But don't let me stop you from reading his lovely [newsletter](#). You'll particularly find amusing how he tries to align himself with a Calif. Public Utilities grant to Phelan for high speed internet development.



The "August break" is probably really attractive to Republican Paul Cook. Some don't think his votes to kill the ACA earned him any right at all for a paid vacation on the taxpayer's dime . . .

there are a few ideas for making it uncomfortable for him in this [TOOLKIT](#).

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BUSINESS AND NATIONAL POLITICS

It would be remiss to even have such a chapter heading without mentioning the seriously documented and utterly reliable [Business and Politics](#) quarterly newsletter. I hope one of our readers has an opportunity to open it up and READ it – I’ve run out of time . . . and yeah, it’s \$25 . . . but it was the best money I’ve ever invested.

One of the incentives in the Affordable Care Act was to allow treatment of addiction and mental health needs under it. There are bad actors that have perverted that part of the law into a [scam industry in California](#).

It’s not news that [business and politics really don’t mix](#). Go ask any store owner to put up a political poster . . . you’ll hear immediately why they don’t. It’s just that you can’t get #45 to turn off Fox “News” to learn even the basics . . .



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FAKE NEWS AND RELIABLE SOURCES



John Oliver lays out the details about [Sinclair Broadcast Group](#) and the nasty propaganda effort they are making to literally CREATE Fake News! If their merger with Tribune Media is allowed to go through, they will have a [larger market share](#) than Fox "News" and be able to dictate what you see on local news programs all over the nation. Now

all the claims of "Fake News" are beginning to make sense, aren't they?

Many are starting to examine the strange libertarian fantasies of the very wealthy – and how they fill government posts by cronyism. Steve Bannon's are examined in the [Joshua Green article for Vanity Fair](#).

"Propane Jane" is a well respected Twitter user and thoughtful writer. Her [piece for Daily Kos](#) is a compact and well-linked short course in propaganda.



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Environment and Climate Change



An impending strain on our State's resources will be the affordability of water for drinking and sanitary reasons. This [LA Times article reveals](#) some of the factors that show it may already be here.

Cap and Trade was extended in a rare [bi-partisan agreement](#) in the California Legislature. It seems as though that means both sides are [free to criticize](#) it equally. Trying to tell a partisan person that one step doesn't make a journey is like talking to a brick wall, though!



The Bullet Train is receiving pushback from Big Oil and their attorneys via the courts. This [LA Times article](#) explains how this will affect the project.

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THE SUPREME COURT AND LAW

“The High Court announced that it will make "virtually all filings" available to the public at no cost. It is part of a new electronic filing system, to be up and running by Nov. 13, 2017, and similar to programs already working in other federal courts.” [Findlaw blog by William Vogeler, Esq.](#)

In Illinois, there is a case certain to end up on the docket – [The Chicago Tribune reports](#). “For now, Illinois can't enforce a change in state law requiring hospital and medical clinic professionals tell pregnant women about all their available options, including abortion. Seems [‘Evangelical Doctors’](#) is a real thing.

That's because a federal judge out of Rockford ruled that until a lawsuit over the law is settled, it shouldn't be enforced statewide. The move comes after several [Christian clinics filed lawsuits against state officials](#), maintaining that their free speech and religious freedoms were being violated by an amendment to the state's right-of-conscience law that took effect in January. Doctors and other medical staff at the Christian clinics argue that they would have to give advice they find morally wrong.”

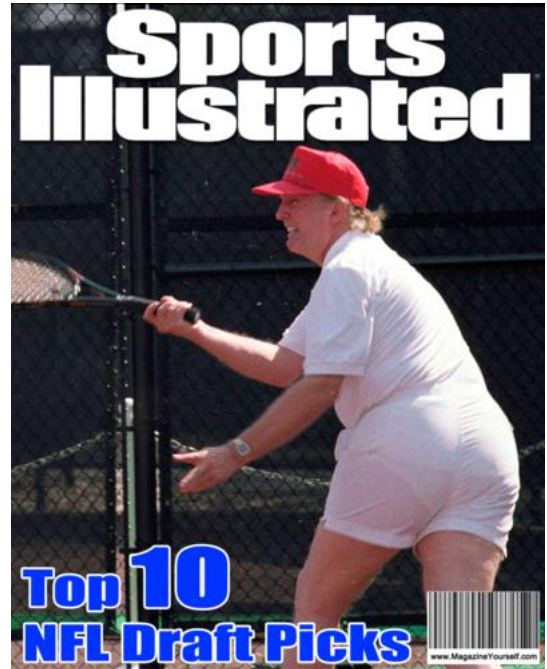
As the (currently) minority party, it is good to remember that fighting for those things we know to be RIGHT is always worthwhile. In a nation of laws, a loss in court can lead to an even more important victory. Data obtained during the [recall case in Wisconsin](#) may well lead to the end of gerrymandering in our country!

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THE WHITE HOUSE RESIDENT

Let's compare leaders, shall we? The [LA Times reports](#) on the enormous differences between Gov. Jerry Brown and #45.

In an obvious attempt to prove he's innocent of collusion with Russia, #45 has signed the bipartisan sanctions law from Congress, as [Aljazeera reports](#). Then, as to say, "That was harder than I thought" he took off for a 17 day golf vacation at his exclusive New Jersey Club. Think "Mar-a-Lago" without the celebrity history. We see you, Cheeto face. [We'll make sure we're seen, too!](#)



if

The propagandists in the White House are claiming sole responsibility for the economic rise we're seeing lately. [Nobody else is amused by that.](#)

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WORLD EVENTS



A Nuclear Weapons treaty has been signed by over 120 nations. According to this [Guardian article](#), none of the currently nuclear armed nations even attended the meeting. “The most vocal critic of the discussions, the US, pointed to the [escalation of North Korea’s nuclear and ballistic missile](#)

[programme](#) as one reason to retain its nuclear capability.”

The most pointed reason Canada is so pleased with their government and what it gives back? Canadians know that when it comes to government, you get what you pay for. [This Atlantic article](#) goes into gruesome detail.

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*** EDITOR'S PAGE ***

There is no question we are in the middle of a new campaign season – the solicitations for volunteers are everywhere and candidates are beginning to stump with their ideas for a better government.

The opposition is also ramping up activity, and in a way that is, considering their national agenda, pretty expected. They're sending out spoilers. These dedicated political activists have two main methods of wrecking the enthusiasm that's so necessary to volunteering.

First, the candidates themselves are targeted – with suggestions that they are too qualified for the office they seek. If a candidate is seeking an Assembly seat, they are told they would fit better as Attorney General or State Secretary, or even Congress.

Second, they promise that they're on the verge of writing an enormous check for a candidate that is 'waiting in the wings' but for the moment, is not announcing their candidacy. The existing candidate is called every 'progressive' bad name (if the spoiler is speaking to a progressive) – too old, an elitist, lacking enthusiasm, set in their ways, and establishment; if appropriate, "a woman." You know the drill – we heard all of it against the best candidate ever to throw their hat in the ring LAST election.

Since I'm not recognized as a moderate Democrat, I haven't heard the lies told to them. But I did recognize the other fairly distinctive trait – the spoiler has a Los Angeles area code on their cell phone – with a promise they have always felt 'truly at home' in the Inland Empire.

Don't fall for it. This is OUR Inland Empire, and it is simply awesome. It has an amazing population that is diverse, inventive, patriotic and aware. Its people seek environmental sustainability, educational excellence for its children, healthcare for all (instead of elected officials pimping for an insurance company), and livable wages paid for every single job.

We already have candidates who can deliver that, and I'm supporting them. I hope you will, too.

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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>

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