



Bonita Democratic Council

Proudly Serving La Verne, San Dimas & the Adjacent Foothill Communities
P.O. Box 926 La Verne, CA 91750



Rebuilding the Grassroots! A message from Henry Vandermeir, CDC President

Fifty-five years ago we only had one Democrat in a statewide office (Pat Brown, Attorney General). After the 1952 presidential election, the California grassroots was left in disarray with hundreds of clubs across the state and no central method of organizing and communicating.

Out of this chaos was born the California Democratic Council (CDC), a statewide chartered organization whose job was to have endorsement conventions (the party wasn't allowed to endorse back then), organize the clubs and central committees, and rally the grassroots behind the endorsed Democrats. Providing such services as leadership manuals, training, speakers, and central communications, CDC began the process of bringing the Democrats together.

After a lot of hard work and organizing, the Democratic Party held all statewide offices by 1958! This was due to such pioneers as Senator Alan Cranston (CDC's first president), Pat Brown, and the hundreds of hard-working volunteers of the CDC and state party. So why the history lesson? Well,.... fast forward to today, where Democrats outnumber Republicans by over 1.3 million registered voters (SoS, Sept '07), yet we still have a Republican Governor, can't get a decent healthcare bill passed, can't get public financing passed, and have gone from 43 Democratically controlled counties down to 21

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Bonita Democratic Council Holiday Potluck and Political Shindig



**December 4, 2007
San Dimas Senior Center
7:00 – 9:00 PM**

Kickoff the Holiday Season and the run up to the Presidential Primary in conversation with fellow Democrats and feasting on Holiday food favorites. Bring a favorite food item to share and some money to buy raffle and 50-50 tickets -- and go home a well-fed, politically informed winner. The raffle will include DVDs of An Inconvenient Truth and Sicko, A Presidential Candidate Tabletop Expo (campaign material and position statements on the Democratic candidates for President will be made available) and internet access to the Internet Straw Poll Survey should be both informative and entertaining. A good time will be had by all. See you



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Visit us on the web at:

www.BonitaDemocrats.org

Join the California Democratic Council's Healthcare Committee

Make Single-Payer a Reality

Help support Sen. Shiela Kuehl's single-payer healthcare bill (SB840) here in California and Rep. John Conyer's single-payer bill (HR 676) at the national level.

We Democrats have always been on the side of society's less advantaged. Now, help us lead the way in healthcare reform.

We ask that every CDC Democratic club appoint at least one person to join this new committee. You can start by signing onto the CDC Health Issues Yahoo Group.

Contact:

Lynn Huidekoper, RN
Peninsula Democratic Coalition and
Health Care for All -- Santa Clara
County
lynn_huidekoper@hotmail.com

Bonita Democrats Council 2007 – 2008 Executive Board

Matthew Lyons, Chair

909-599-9661 (home)

909-631-6205 (cell)

mtlyons@aol.com

Dave McElwain, Vice Chair

democratmac@mac.com

Pat Connor, Vice Chair

sportsrodder@roadrunner.com

Joseph Lyons, Vice Chair

jlyons001@msn.com

Tracy Lee Taylor, Corresponding Secretary

tracylee22@earthlink.net

Bobbi Welch, Recording Secretary

bywelch@adelphia.net

Emma Hilario, Treasurer

HilarioEmma@yahoo.com

Rebuilding the Grassroots! cont.

CDC has to accept its fair share of responsibility. Like most large and old organizations, CDC has had its ups and downs throughout the years. Back when CDC was in its heyday, it began to lose track of its original intent — that of organizing and supporting the grassroots! Without its core services to bond with the clubs, CDC eventually became just another political organization looking for handouts and raising some hell here and there.

Well, all that is about to change! CDC will be returning to its core mission and showcasing a slew of new and revamped services and products designed to help our clubs and county committees prepare for the four elections we face over the next 12 months. This next year is an extremely important year for Democrats and we have a lot of work to do. Because the state and county parties rely heavily on clubs for support, we need to make sure our clubs are functioning as well as they can be to meet this challenge – hence the variety of tools we will be offering.

If we want to make sure that Democrats have a good year, we must be able to work with and trust each other as well as outside organizations. Sure, we sometimes have our differences with some party issues or policies, but no more or less than any of the other organizations out there. But at the end of the day, we need to remember that we are all Democrats working for the same cause—that of furthering the Democratic agenda.

As the new president, I am determined to partner with our counties and other organizations and build long-lasting coalitions that will ensure the growth and prosperity of the grassroots, the CDC and the Democratic Party.

I challenge you to reach out and work with us to help organize this state as hasn't been done in a long, long time!

Henry Vandermeir, CDC President
President@cdc-ca.org

Bonita Democratic Council Schedule of Events

Holiday Potluck December 4
Monthly Membership Meetings
January 17, 2008
February 21, 2008
March 20, 2008