

Laguna Woods Democratic Club  
Post Office Box 2254  
Laguna Hills, CA 92654-2254

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## JUNE 2019 NEWSLETTER

**HAPPY SUMMER!**

**Return Service Requested**



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**NO REGULAR JUNE MEETING - ANNUAL PICNIC ON SATURDAY, JUNE 29, IN CLUBHOUSE 7 INSTEAD!**

**COMING TO AMERICA! CELEBRATE THE USA's FOURTH of JULY**

*and the diverse cultures and communities of Laguna Woods Village in our wonderful State and Nation built by Immigrants!*

**ANNUAL PICNIC - SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 2019, CLUBHOUSE 7, 12:15 'TIL 3:00 P.M. (Indoors)**

**\*\*\*\*\*Potluck - Bring a dish \*\*\*\*\*\$5 at the door\*\*\*\*\***

**Beverages provided – beer, wine, iced tea, lemonade**

***Democratic candidates for State Senate will visit with us - Katrina Foley and Dave Min!***

Membership, Voter Registration and other Volunteer Opportunities available.

**All Villagers are Welcome! Bring a photo of your Descendents!**

Bring a dish to share for 6-8 persons - preferably a recipe from YOUR family's "Old Country." Choice of appetizer, salad, main dish, or dessert. Please bring your own serving utensils and warming devices for hot dishes, and identify them with your name. Paper plates, plastic cups & glasses, and silverware will be provided.

For info, call Special Events Chair Nancy Hensel 703-964-6993 or e-mail [hensel.nancy@gmail.com](mailto:hensel.nancy@gmail.com)

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Paid for by Laguna Woods Democratic Club FEC# C00447185 FPPC# 1307188

Laguna Woods Democratic Club - Club meetings are held the **third Tuesday** of each month in **Clubhouse 2 Main Lounge**, at **7 p.m.**, except occasionally when a special event preempts a regular meeting; the date or location of any meeting may be changed due to holidays; members free, guests are asked for a \$3 donation at the door. Meeting flyers are posted in each clubhouse at least two weeks prior to every meeting, whether regular or special event. Board of Directors meets the **fourth Tuesday** of each month in Clubhouse 2 Grevillea Room at 6:30 p.m.

### **2019 Officers and Directors**

**President** (Newsletter & Publicity) Linda Nearing, 460-0640; **1st VP** (Program) Susan Dearing, 855-6965; **2nd VP** (Fundraising) Rebeca Gilad; **Secretary** Allan Feldman; **Treasurer** (Budget) Gary Bennett; **Activism** Janice Burstin; **Campaign & GOTV** Jeanette Peck; **Club Election & Nominating** Maureen Mehler; **DPOC Associate Member and Historian** Heide Krueger; **Hospitality** Heather Bennett; **Legislative Action** Jonathan Adler, 581-2178; **Membership** Janet Means; **Outreach** Special Director Jeanne Lepowsky; **Special Events** Nancy Hensel; **Voter Registration** Mary Ribando; **(All area codes are 949)**

Mailing Address: Laguna Woods Democratic Club  
Post Office Box 2254, Laguna Hills, CA 92654-2254

We're on Facebook!

Website: [lagunawoodsdemocrats.org](http://lagunawoodsdemocrats.org)  
E-mail Address: [lwdemoclub@Yahoo.com](mailto:lwdemoclub@Yahoo.com)

# SAVE THE DATE

**June 1, 2, Sat. and Sun.** - California Democratic Party Convention, San Francisco; election of new state party chair and other things

**Sat., June 8** - 3:30-5 p.m. Memorial for Frank Barbaro, former Chair of the County Party; please RSVP to [LCarlsson@frankbarbarolaw.com](mailto:LCarlsson@frankbarbarolaw.com)

**Fri., June 21** - 10 until noon; CH 5; OC Registrar of Voters staff informs residents about vote centers

**Sat., June 22** - food drive; call Sue Snyder 714-329-3386

**Sat., June 29** - Annual Picnic, CH 7, 12:15 until 3

## REGISTRAR OF VOTERS NEAL KELLEY - ON TV 6

Allan Feldman interviewed ROV Neal Kelley recently; the broadcast dates on Village TV, Channel 6, are: Sat., June 8, 1 p.m.; Wednesdays, June 12, 19 and 26 at 2:30 p.m. Find out all about the new ways to vote in 2020! No more polling places in the Village!

## SOUTH COUNTY OUTREACH

Another successful food drive in May! Eight cheerful, dedicated, amazing, kind, loving, caring volunteers brought in 854 pounds of food and \$237 in cash. Thanks to the volunteers: Grace Carpenter, Donna Crewe, Estelle DeNunzio, Ginny Mareks, Maureen Mehler, Ray Perlstein, Lilly Rifkin, and Richard Snyder!

## MEMBERSHIP - DUES PAYABLE NOW!

Welcome to our newest members! Joseph Becker, Gail Ehrlich, Barbara and Richard O'Reilly, Patricia Vinciguerra, and Robert Williamson.

For questions about the status of your membership, call our Membership Chair Janet Means at 760-458-5871 or e-mail her at [letterlady@me.com](mailto:letterlady@me.com). Use a credit card at <https://tinyurl.com/yd2x47cl> to renew online with ActBlue.

## BRILLIANT FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN!

Fundraising Chair Rebeca Gilad continues her new 2020 Vision Campaign to raise funds for a campaign office next year and \$7,220 has been raised. Thanks to Beverly Brown, Gisela Huberman and Shelly Ilwitz for their recent donations. We are in a current pledge drive: <https://tinyurl.com/y8x9rn8m> or <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/2020lwdcvision>

## ACTIVISM REPORT

Activism Chair Janice Burstin and other LWDC activists attended the recent Protest the Abortion Bans events. Janice and Mary Ribando also attend the Laguna Woods City Council meetings.

To join Janice and Mary at a Homelessness 101 presentation on June 19 or at any other events, contact Janice at 949-583-9064 or [jburstin@comline.com](mailto:jburstin@comline.com)

## DPOC'S TRUMAN DINNER

Your club has purchased one table for ten at the DPOC's Annual Truman Awards Dinner on Saturday, September 28 and is subsidizing part of the dinner ticket price. Your price (as a paid-up member of the club) will be \$100. Make your reservation with Linda Nearing 949-460-0640 or [nearinglinda@yahoo.com](mailto:nearinglinda@yahoo.com). The DPOC is planning to host several of the more high-profile Democratic presidential candidates, so this is sure to be a sold-out event. It's at the Anaheim Hilton Hotel, a union venue.

## Has the "Blue Wave" Crashed?

By Jeanne Lepowsky, Outreach Chair

In 2018, with the election of Katie Porter, Cottie Petrie-Norris, and other Democrats to positions of power in government, Orange County turned Blue. But in March, in response to the failure of voters to elect Democrat Loretta Sanchez to the vacant seat on the Board of Supervisors, a Voice of OC article asked "Has the Blue Wave Crashed?"

No, the Blue Wave has not crashed. The evidence is clear from the amount of interest within our club to Brooke Weitzman's riveting presentation at our May meeting, describing her own activism with regard to homelessness. It is also clear from the actions of other Democratic Clubs around the county, in particular the Aliso Niguel club's proposal to use the Chet Holifield property as a location to shelter and provide much needed services for the homeless here in South County.

The real question for us is, how do we keep that Blue Wave rolling? How do we leverage it to improve conditions in Orange County and in the nation?

One important way is to be open and forthright about what our values are as Democrats. Democracy is, after all, about discussing and reconciling differing viewpoints. The success of Democrats in 2018 puts us in a strong position to speak out politely but firmly whenever there is an opportunity. We show our ideals and our values when we speak about them.

We also show our values when we live them. Of all the things Brooke said, what struck me the hardest is that there is someone living homeless in the Laguna Beach Shelter whose last address was right here in Laguna Woods Village. Someone who was once our neighbor has been forced to live on the streets. How do we reconcile ourselves to this?

What becomes of our neighbors when they can't quite make their monthly assessment – perhaps because they have outlived their savings? What are their options? As Democrats, it is easier for us than for others to be aware that, in the words of the Joan Baez song, "there but for fortune go you or go I."

We should, in my view, be open to a bit of sacrifice, a bit of risk to ourselves, so that we can make life easier for those at risk within our own community. We should consider it an investment.

Let's figure out what we can do as a community to prevent any more of our neighbors becoming homeless. Let's talk about solutions. Let's make a concerted effort to implement at least some of them.

**Editor's Note:** Jeanne Lepowsky became a Special Director of the Club by vote of the Board of Directors in April and by vote of the members at the May meeting. She has taken up the post of Outreach Chair. We thought you would like to read her thoughts on homelessness striking in Laguna Woods. To join her efforts, contact her at 949-636-9123 or e-mail her at [lepowsky@comline.com](mailto:lepowsky@comline.com)

## Abortion Stories by Sue Snyder

Abortion: Would I do it? The subject came up in my 12<sup>th</sup> grade English class once in a while. My students wondered. No subject was verboten in Mrs. Snyder's classroom. LGBTQ was a favorite topic. Also: gun control, the 9/11 incident, DACA, and the new "Free" Pepsi and Coke machines on campus. The machines were free, not the drinks. But, as I told my students, if the soft drink companies can get you addicted now, they'll forever get a chunk of your paycheck when you land that awesome career job.

So, back to the question of abortion. One hot spring afternoon I slammed on the brakes of my little yellow VW when I spotted two of my 16-year old female students hitch-hiking. "Get in this car. Now." They obeyed and told me they needed a ride to a place in Santa Ana. So I drove them to a little medical clinic called Planned Parenthood. O.K. Why are we here? Annie and Sarah told me they had appointments to get abortions. OMG, I thought. I'm in trouble. I went into the clinic with the girls and was instructed to join a group of twelve women sitting on the floor in a circle.

Each had a story to tell—and questions to ask about abortion. The nurse patiently answered each question. Sarah said her parents would kill her if they found out she'd had sex with her boyfriend so she wanted an abortion. Annie's story really got to me. At age 14 years she had a baby and gave it up for adoption. She said she never stopped thinking about her baby and where he went and was he OK and did the adoptive parents really love him and what if she could see him to be sure he was being cared for. She wanted an abortion this time.

Do you ever see pictures of criminals and wonder if they should have been aborted? Should drug-addicted women be granted abortions if they become pregnant? What about alcoholic women and mentally unstable and others? When I see sign-carrying protesters in front of Planned Parenthood Clinics I want to ask them how many children they've adopted.

I have six friends who have had abortions. All had valid reasons for needing control over their own bodies. Three of these women were married with children. They felt overwhelmed financially and emotionally and were depressed about bringing another child into the world. One of these women was told her baby had Down's syndrome. She was a special education teacher and could not cope with a mentally handicapped child. She cried for months after the abortion. One of my single friends had a "one-night" fling and unfortunately became pregnant. As a single mother of two teenage girls, she decided to have an abortion and not tell her daughters about her mistake. One of my friends was 17 when she got pregnant. With her mother's emotional support, she had an abortion.

I've asked myself—and my students have asked me—if I'd have an abortion. Good question to ask yourself, right? Here's my answer. "I'm not sure." I want every woman to have the right to an abortion without being questioned. I've never been pregnant. I have three beautiful fantastic children that some other women birthed and gave up. I am grateful that these women chose not to abort. And at 75 years of age, I don't have to worry about getting pregnant. Every female should have the right to choose. It's their choice. Their business. Their bodies. Their lives.

**Editor's Note:** Dr. Lisa Sparks, THE foremost critic of the California Healthy Youth Act, is running for Congress against our Representative Katie Porter. We thought the above was relevant and hope you agree. Sue Snyder is our Service Project Coordinator for South County Outreach. Contact her at [suesnyder0625@gmail.com](mailto:suesnyder0625@gmail.com) or 714-329-3386.