



# Official Minutes

Wednesday, August 20, 2009 7:19PM to 9:03PM

Democratic Club of the Santa Clarita Valley  
26523 Huntswood Lane, Santa Clarita, CA 91387  
Phone: (661) 295-9318;

Website: [www.scvdems.org](http://www.scvdems.org); Email: [scvdems@gmail.com](mailto:scvdems@gmail.com)

Meeting held at the Railroad Cafe  
24307 Railroad Ave, Newhall, CA 91321

Minutes: by Todd Hoover, Recording Secretary

---

PRESENT: Barbara Wilson, Bill Bailey, Bruce McFarland, Carole Lutness, Cheryl Bernstein, Chris Parizzo, Christie Smith, Daniel Wennerholm, Harrison Katz, Jenny Cuellner, Jenna Kunkle, John Zaring, Karen Lysic, Kari Suarez, Kristin Igram-Worthman, Maria Gutzeit, Michael Cruz, Michael Kulka, Minerva Williams, Patti Sulpizio, Rick Drew, Sandra Cattell, Steven Brooks, and Todd Hoover

---

1. **Bill Bailey** called meeting to order at 7:19.
2. **Minutes** from July 7 meeting were approved.
3. **Jonathan Kraut** was not present so no Treasury Report was given.
4. **Minerva Williams (Correspondence)** - Just got confirmation for the healthcare event at COC on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, but doesn't have room yet. This is at 4:00pm tentatively. President of COC Political Science Club, Kari Suarez. We must go to them with a general subject, but *not* as Democrat. She will get us on campus on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Minerva will assist her with programs, speakers, films and PowerPoints. Kari met Bruce McFarland and Michael Kulka. We are to promote their club and they will headline whatever the event is we are doing. Kari also happens to be a Dem. Also on Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> we'll be doing a Death Penalty forum with Mario Soliz March, an Air America radio host. Rosalind Scarbrough will bring someone from the NAACP. They have a representative, Robert Suiter, from the Sheriff's Department. The appearance of Azim Khamisa is also tentative. He is the representative whose son was killed by gang banger initiation in the San Diego area in 1996. He has subsequently started a nonviolence, no bully program, which is currently being implemented in over 3,800 schools throughout the United States. He is also an international banker. Minerva met him at Death Penalty rally in Los Angeles back in February. So far this write up has been given to the school so they can see what she is doing. She will provide more details as it develops. The Death Penalty Group in LA County will also participate and help get the information out.

Minerva is also working on getting Wendell Potter to come out. The latest thing is the campaign of the insurance companies is to get the healthcare reform movement to slow down. Obama's goal is to resolve this in 19 days. So far Wendell Potter has agreed to come out all day on Sep 26. Hopefully we can take him to different locations. Emphasis is to have him

come to Santa Clarita area and have event at the Hyatt or the Marriot. She will forward it to Mike Cruz or Sandra Cattell. Everyone is encouraged to pass the word and make a community effort.

5. **Mike Cruz** announces that Assemblyman Pedro Nava from the 36<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, who running for Attorney General, is coming out to Santa Clarita on September 16<sup>th</sup> for a “Meet & Greet”. It won’t cost anything to show up, but donations are strongly encouraged. Location will be announced later.
6. **Carole Lutness offered that Nava** led the fight against the oil companies drilling off the coast of Santa Barbara.
7. **Mike Cruz** indicated Ted Lieu will be our guest at the December Holiday Party that will be at Jonathan Kraut’s home.
8. **Patti Sulpizio** asked if Wendell Potter was charging a speaking fee and also how much it would cost to rent a room at the Hyatt and if this would necessitate charging a fee for the event. **Minerva** indicated that as of yet she has not gotten an indication of what Potter’s fee would be.
9. **Bill** asked for Committee Reports:
  - a. **Kristin** – LACDP Representative: Dave Jones at the LACDP meeting talked about his campaign for insurance commissioner. He also talked about the need for healthcare reform.
  - b. **Minerva** – DPSFV Representative: Phone banking for Krekorian. Aligning clubs for subject presentations was discussed. August 20 deadline for Truman Awards, the Torres Award and the Myers Award. Kristin has been nominated for the Truman Award. She’s really been there for us. Minerva sent a recommendation for the Torres Lifetime Achievement Award for Dr. Bruce Hector. He has been running the Parthenia Medical Center for over 30 years, he is an advocate for Hispanics, Indians and other minority groups that are underserved.
  - c. She suggested moving to nominate of Bruce Hector for Torres award. Todd Hoover made the motion and Cruz seconded the motion. There was some discussion concerning Bruce Hector’s credentials. Michael Cruz called for a vote and the ***Motion was approved.***
  - d. **Bruce McFarland** offered that Assembly person Paul Krekorian was endorsed unanimously at DPSFV and LACDP. **Sandra Catell** indicated her support for Paul Krekorian saying that he is pro labor and pro environment. **Bruce McFarland** LACDP will be sponsoring a club summit as they did last year. All the clubs chartered by LACDP will have an opportunity to send reps to this summit.
10. **Bill Bailey** encouraged people to use things such as Facebook, Twitter, Linkup and other email sources to communicate about local candidates.
11. **Bill Bailey** introduced the local candidates for the November 3<sup>rd</sup> Election, **John Zaring** is running for the Castaic School Board, **Christy Smith** is running for the Newhall School Board,

and **Mike Cruz** and **Maria Gutzeit** are running for Newhall County Water Board who asked for endorsements:

- a. **Christy Smith, who is a lifelong Democrat**, is running for the Newhall School District Governing Board. She is excited about the prospect of being elected. There are three seats and five candidates, one of which is held by an incumbent. She is dedicated to public service and education and has spent most of her career in education. She mentioned that the State shortsighted budget is frightening and diminishing public education. In Santa Clarita we have McGrath Elementary, Wiley Canyon Elementary and Newhall Elementary which serve the minority community. Right now you can't tell the difference in the test scores between the under resourced children and those on the West side. What is terrifying to her is that in three years Newhall Elementary will be upside down. Right now Newhall is paying a penalty. To avoid losing teachers they were forced to increased class size. This year they had to increase class size to 24, and the state penalized them for this. She feels this is appalling. It is wrong. She says she is good at being vocal and lobbying. She pointed out that this problem is not unique to Newhall District but that Hart was also shorted by the State by \$2 million. She has a Political Science Degree from UCLA, and have an extensive background as a Washington DC Policy Analyst during the Clinton years.
- b. **John Zaring** is running for the Castaic Union School Board. He is a first time candidate. He has lived in Castaic for ten years but a LA County resident for over 25 years. He was born and raised in Pennsylvania. He studied Political Science and then shifted to Business. He offered that "he is not a professional candidate. He is running because the issue of Education is very important to him and his family. He offered his brother is school teacher. Although he's not an educator however, he has been around education his whole life. He moved across the street from the Castaic Middle School and lives three blocks from a Castaic elementary school. He has a fourth grader and an eighth grader and is heavily involved in the PTA. He got involved in the campaign for getting a high school in Castaic. He formed the **CUBS** (Castaic United to Build a School) group. His involvement as the campaign manager led to his joining the committee to pass Measure SA. "It was an interesting time in Castaic; there was a great deal of anger about belief that Measure V funds were mismanaged. Several prominent school board members up took positions against Measure SA. This involvement ignited his interest in running for school board and understanding that in the next four years, there will be tough choices before all school boards. And decision that may be unpopular. He believes he can be a voice on what gets cut and to try to minimize the impact on students. Professionally he is an event producer. He has raised millions for charities. He can put this experience to use to help the schools make up their budget shortfalls. He is responsible for Santa Clarita's Fanfest (fundraising) event in April during spring break. He is doing this at COC and is support by Diane van Hook, the college president. Fanfest will feature young actors, entertainers, and a carnival. All proceeds will go to the Santa Clarita Educational Fund. He hopes to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars from that event to fund grants to Creative Education, which is very important to him.
- c. **Mike Cruz** is running for the Newhall County Water Board. The incumbent decided not to run. Cruz has secured endorsements from Bob Kellar and Bill Kennedy. He is being targeted for no other reason than for being a Dem against an extreme right-wing advocate. His plans are "to Reduce, Reuse, and Replenish our water supply". He wants

to encourage the use of low flush toilets. He is also advocating the **10/15 plan**, which is to reduce users' water bills by 10% if they are able to reduce water usage by 15%. He wants to use gray water to water the road medians and parks. He is interested in water on a regional basis and create a recharge facility similar to what they have in Orange County. He believes "water is going to be the next oil". The cost of purchasing water from the state is increasing. He wants to take a proactive stance. He wants to bring transparency. CLWA wants to get rid of Newhall District so they can have a monopoly. This is one of the things he is going to fight against. He works as a paralegal for the LA County District Attorney's office and he feels this gives him the ability to really look at things from both sides of a spectrum.

- d. **Maria Gutzeit** is running for the Newhall County Water Board. She is President of the board and was first elected in 2003 and again in 2005. She offered all of the following: "Water and the economy are the most important issues. There has not been a rate increase for the Newhall County Water District since 2007. The upcoming Santa Clarita water district rate increase will put them higher than Newhall. Newhall has just broken ground on a new headquarters. The building will be on Pine Street. It will be built with Green standards in mind. The water district will benefit from the Bermite settlement. This is something they fought to obtain for many years. Unlike the LA district there is no mandatory rationing, nor polluted groundwater, and they have also secured other supplies from the state."
- e. **Susan Christopher** had a prior engagement in LA and was unavailable to speak for herself. Christopher is an attorney, wife and mother who has been an advocate for education and human rights for the Santa Clarita valley for years. Surrogates Bill Bailey, John Varing, Todd Hoover and Minerva Williams spoke on her behalf.

12. **Bill Bailey** mentioned that candidates are better than ever. He says we should do whatever we can to help these candidates. A question and answer period where numerous questions are asked of the candidates and some discussions ensue regarding the platforms of the various candidates.

13. **Bill Bailey** asks for a motion to endorse all candidates including Susan Christopher. Todd made a motion and Kirstin seconded it, and it was voted unanimously to endorse all candidates: John Zaring, Christie Smith, Michael Cruz, Maria Gutzeit and Susan Christopher are now endorsed by the Democratic Club of the Santa Clarita Valley.

14. Meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm

Todd Hoover,  
Recording Secretary-Webmaster  
Democratic Club of the Santa Clarita Valley