



THE SANTA CLARA COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CLUB

DEMOCRATIC VOICE

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March Meeting
Monday, March 16
2009 Budget Crisis
Speaker: Richelle Noroyan

Carrows Restaurant
3180 El Camino, Santa Clara
dinner 6 PM, meeting 7 PM

Volume 28 Number 3

March 2009

Fair Elections Resolution

by Craig Dunkerley, Board Member

(SCCDC members will vote on the following resolution presented by the Clean Money Campaign at the March meeting. Two-thirds vote by members present is required for the resolution to be adopted. This resolution will be considered by other clubs throughout the state and presented to the resolutions committee at the party convention.)

WHEREAS: The current finance system burdens candidates with the incessant rigors of fundraising and thus decreases the time available to carry out their public responsibilities; and

WHEREAS: The current campaign finance system undermines the First Amendment right of voters and candidates to be heard in the political process, undermines the First Amendment value of open and robust debate in the political process, diminishes the free speech rights of non-wealthy vot-

ers and candidates; and

WHEREAS: The California legislature passed, and Governor Schwarzenegger signed, the California Fair Elections Act to allow the voters to pass a Fair Elections pilot project and to meet the citizens' desire to ensure the integrity of future Secretaries of State to administer lobbyist disclosure programs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the California Democratic Party supports the California Fair Elections Act that will appear on the June 8, 2010 ballot to establish a pilot program providing public financing for Secretary of State candidates in the 2014 and 2018 election campaigns; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of this Resolution be provided to members of the Democratic Caucus of the California Legislature and Congressional Delegation.

California Single-Payer Bill Gets New Number

by Carol Dalrymple, SCCDC Healthcare for All Chair and Healthcare for All - California

California's single payer healthcare bill, formerly SB 840, has been reintroduced by new author State Senator Mark Leno under the title "California Universal Healthcare Act" with a new number SB 810.

Also introducing healthcare reform legislation this year are Senate Health

Committee Chair Elaine Alquist and Assembly Health Committee Chair Dave Jones.

Senator Alquist has introduced two new healthcare bills: SB 56, which seeks to cover all children and enact certain reforms to health insurance underwriting *(continued on page 2)*

Understanding the 2009 Budget Crisis

Richelle Noroyan, District Director for Assemblymember Ira Ruskin, will provide an overview of the 2009-2010 budget recently passed by the legislature and signed into law by the Governor. She will explain the nature of the deficit, where the cuts were made, and how revenue will be raised. While the biggest challenge should have been addressing the \$42 billion deficit, trying to acquire a 2/3rds legislative majority to pass a budget with Republican legislators who refuse to compromise has proven to be a recipe for failure and dysfunction. Richelle will share Assemblymember Ruskin's point of view of this year's budget process and explain some of his solutions for getting California out of the dysfunction by which the state currently operates.

After graduation from CSU Fresno with a B.A. in Political Science, Richelle was the Campus Outreach Coordinator in Los Angeles for the 1992 Clinton/Gore campaign staff. She went on to work and manage political campaigns in Santa Cruz, Los Angeles, Fresno, Vallejo, and San Francisco. She worked as an outreach coordinator for CREDE, a federally-funded Department of Education research program, and managed the California Department of Health's Tobacco Education Clearing House of California. Richelle has been an elected member of the Santa Cruz County Democratic Central Committee since 1995, chairing the committee in 1998 and again in 2005. She served as a Santa Cruz City Commissioner on the Sister Cities Commission and currently serves on the Santa Cruz City Public Works Commission.

The meeting begins at 7 PM and will be held in the banquet room of Carrows Restaurant, 3180 El Camino, Santa Clara. If you wish to join us for dinner, please try to arrive no later than 6 PM. For more information, call Jay James at 408-533-3132.

"The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today." ~ Franklin D. Roosevelt

Single-Payer Medicare For All Would Create 2.6 Million Jobs and Spur the Economy

by Carol Dalrymple, SCCDC and Health Care for All - California

A recent study by the Institute for Health and SocioEconomic Policy, the research arm of the California Nurses Association/National Nurses Organizing Committee, has found that a single-payer, Medicare for All system of healthcare reform would create jobs throughout the economy. It would also inject \$317 billion in revenue and \$100 billion in wages.

While 792,248 or 30 percent of the new jobs would be in health and social services, a surprising 507,784 would be in retail trade, 131,413 would be in accommodation and food services, 154,535 would be in manufacturing, and 176,626 would be in administrative services. All of these benefits, the study finds, could be achieved at less cost than the federal bailouts for Wall Street giants such as AIG, CitiGroup, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and others.

“The new data reminds us that the most effective solution to our healthcare crisis would also provide a dramatic, immediate help towards economic recovery,” said CNA/NNOC Co-President Geri Jenkins, RN. “The jobs creation that would come from a single-payer system is just one reason RNs know that single-payer is the right thing to do for our patients, for ourselves, and for our country.”

HR 676 (Conyers), the United States National Health Care Act, reintroduced into Congress on January 26th, will provide for a single-payer, Medicare for All health insurance system for all

United States residents.

The IHSP projections apply economic analysis to a wide array of publicly available data from Medicare, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Bureau of Economic Analysis, and other sources. It is the first known study to provide an econometric analysis of the economic benefits of healthcare reform to the overall economy. Healthcare presently accounts for \$2.105 trillion in direct expenditures. More importantly, however, it accounts for nearly \$6 trillion in indirect spending when purchases of services and supplies by providers and spending by healthcare workers are added in.

The IHSP has conducted research for members of Congress and state legislatures as well as the CNA/NNOC. Robert Fountain, a frequent economics consultant for the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS), served as a consultant on the study. The full study can be viewed at www.CalNurses.org.

Carol Dalrymple coordinates the Santa Clara County Chapter of Health Care for All and serves as the chair of SCCDC’s committee on Single-Payer Health Care For All. She can be reached at 408 984 8708 or ymples@msn.com.

(continued from page 1: NEW NUMBER FOR HEALTH CARE BILL) in the private market and SB 227, which seeks to reform the Major Risk Medical Insurance Fund.

Assemblymember Jones also has two healthcare bills: AB 119 which would eliminate price discrimination in health insurance plans based on gender and AB 786 which would sort health care plans into five categories based on benefit levels and enact other reforms.

These bills can all be viewed at www.leginfo.ca.gov. Information and analysis will also be available at www.health-access.org. The daily WeBlog is especially useful.

Membership Application: Annual Dues are: \$20 individual, \$30 two/same address, \$15 limited income, \$25 two/same address limited income, but we appreciate any additional help you can give! Make checks payable to **SCCDC** and mail to SCCDC, c/o Herb Engstrom, 5974 Friar Way, San Jose, CA 95129

\$20: regular \$30: two \$15: retired \$25: two retired
 \$50 \$100 \$_____ your choice

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone (home) _____ (work) _____

e-mail _____

Federal law requires: Employer _____ Occupation _____

The SCCDC is my primary Democratic Club affiliation **unless the following box is checked:** The SCCDC is **NOT** my primary affiliation.

Please sign here: _____ Date: _____

FPPC ID# 1288723 FEC ID# C00229997

Abbreviated March Issue

by Karen Powers, Board Member

You will notice that the current issue of *The Democratic Voice* has been greatly abbreviated. Just last week, Shirley Odou, our newsletter editor, had surgery to correct a broken separated kneecap and is only starting her recovery. She expects to be back walking soon and back in action in time to edit April’s issue, and says she will cover the February meeting in then.

We wish her a speedy recovery.

Upcoming Events

March 16--SCCDC General Meeting, Carrows Restaurant, 3180 El Camino Real, Santa Clara. Dinner at 6; meeting at 7 PM.

March 25--E-Board Meeting, Engstrom home, 5974 Friar Way, San Jose, 446-1609, 7 PM. Coffee and dessert will be served.