



Democratic Voice

www.DemocraticClub.SCC.org

president@DemocraticClub.SCC.org

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Large turnout for Christensen talk on Propositions

by Shirley Odou, Editor

At SCCDC's September 19th meeting, they sat on the floor, leaned against the walls, and spilled over into the hallway at Harry's Hofbrau. Guests and members, some 200 of them, came to hear Dr. Christensen, San Jose State University Professor Emeritus, talk about state propositions on the November ballot.

The choices are dizzying. Prop 61, for instance—in competing 30 second spots on TV, Bernie says it's good and puts Big Pharm in its place, veterans' groups nix it saying it's bad for them. Then there's Prop 56, the tobacco tax: an ad with a rather unhealthy looking doctor speaking with authority tells us the money raised will go to "special interests," (I guess he's referring to Big Pharm) and what do you know, Bernie agrees, urging a no vote in a rather

grainy ad because the tax would fall mostly on the shoulders of the poor. Just more confusion. I know how I stand on the death penalty so I had no question that I would vote

yes on Prop 62, and no on Prop 66, and a no-brainer, yes on Prop 59, the Move to Amend resolution, but on Props 60, 65, and 53, I needed clarification. In his power-point presentation, Christensen put forth the pros and cons of the measures, ranging from legalizing marijuana for recreational use for adults to protecting the state ban on plastic grocery bags. Still, even after Christensen had demystified the Propositions for us, I was uncertain how I would vote on some. He was *(continued on page 4)*



Dr. Terry Christensen

Bonaccorsi presents CTA perspective on Prop 55

At SCCDC's October 17th meeting CTA Board Member Greg Bonaccorsi will present the case for voting yes on Proposition 55 in November. An extension of Proposition 30, passed by voters in 2012, the measure would maintain the tax increase on the wealthiest two percent of Californians until 2030; without Proposition 55, Prop 30 will sunset in 2018. The monies generated from Prop 30 have been used to fund public education and health services for children. Bonaccorsi will discuss the gains made since 2012 attributable to the new source of funding created by Prop 30 and the consequences if Prop 55 fails in November.

For 27 years, Bonaccorsi has taught life and physical science at William Hopkins Junior High in the Fremont Unified School District. Inspired by his father, a high school teacher, who, after retirement served as an adjunct professor at Ohlone Community College, where Greg is now serving on the Board of Trustee. The Bonaccorsi family was honored for their commitment to education with a community award from the Fremont Education Foundation. Deeply committed to union work, he represents educators in the Fremont Unified School District, parts of Santa Clara County and all of San Mateo County on CTA's Board. He received his BS in biological science from Humboldt State University. He lives in Fremont.

September Meetings
Monday, October 17

Dr. Lisa Chamberlain
Early Childhood Education

Greg Bonaccorsi
Prop 55

Harry's Hofbrau
390 Saratoga Ave, San Jose
Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM

The power of early childhood education

The time to act is now

New strategies are needed to support young children so that they can reach their full potential, providing them opportunities to succeed. Dr. Lisa Chamberlain, SCCDC guest speaker at its October 17 meeting, will discuss the power of early childhood programs and their impact on child development and school readiness. In addition, she will address the economic opportunities that investments in children 0-5 provide.

She is committed to do this in two ways: 1) transforming the way pediatricians practice by developing and disseminating models of community engaged pediatrics by combining principles from both medicine and public health, and 2) conducting health services research to inform policy.

Dr. Chamberlain Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Stanford Children's Hospital is a family doctor in East Palo Alto, and is affiliated with multiple hospitals in the area, including Lucile Salter Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford and Stanford Hospital and Clinics. She received her medical degree from University of Arizona College of Medicine, Tucson and has been in practice for 16 years. She is one of 19 doctors at Lucile Salter Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford and one of 133 at Stanford Hospital and Clinics who specialize in Family Medicine. She has won numerous awards, including the H.J. Kaiser Foundation Award for Outstanding & Innovative Contributions to Medical Education, Stanford School of Medicine (June 2008).

The meeting will be held in the banquet room at Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Avenue in San Jose. The program begins at 7 PM, following a no-host dinner at 6 PM. If you want to join us for dinner, please arrive no later than 6 PM. We have a very full agenda so arriving on time is important. For more information, call 408-247-9513.

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Shirley Odou
1231 Lafayette St.
Santa Clara, CA 95050

Newsletter Editor: Shirley
Odou, 408-247-9513
Lizloyal@aol.com

Graphic Design:
Karen Powers

**Santa Clara County
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Nominating committee recommendations for 2017

by Shirley Odou, Editor

The nominating committee met on Tuesday, October 4th at the Headen-Inman House to consider nominations for officers and members-at-large to serve on the SCCDC Board in 2017. Members of the nominating committee include: Dee Alarcon, Joe Alvarado, Eleanor Pedraza, Fred Rehhausser, and Paul Rust. Fred was elected chair, and Dee took minutes of the meeting.

Following is the slate of recommendations by the nominating committee for SCCDC Executive Board offices for the 2017 term:

President—Rob Means

Vice President—Tom Pyke

Treasurer—Bill Barrett

Recording Secretary—Eileen Sargent

Corresponding Secretary—Gwendolyn McDaniel

Members-at-large: David Donaldson, Herb Engstrom, Dixie Johansen, Carol Miller, Shirley Odou, Fred Rehhausser, and Allan Thiessen.

After many years serving as members-at-large, Dan Hoffman, Al Alarcon, and Joe Alvarado chose not to seek reelection. Dan is retiring from his long held position as representative to the Central Committee. The Board will miss his input, as Dan shared his vast knowledge of Democratic politics and the political process throughout his tenure as a member-at-large.

Nominations to SCCDC's Executive Board for the 2017 term will be taken from the floor at the October 17th meeting.

Members-at-large take on important tasks

Traditionally, in practice, members-at-large are expected to as-

sume responsibilities as chair/co-chairs of committees or take on vital assignments. In these roles, they carry out necessary tasks to assure that the club will function smoothly. Following are a list of members-at-large currently serving as chair/co-chairs of committee or in some other essential capacity:

Al Alarcon and Joe Alvarado—Co-chairs of the Audio-Visual/Facilities Committee

David Donaldson—Public relations and membership chair

Herb Engstrom—Parliamentarian, representative to the Central Committee

Shirley Odou—Program chair and newsletter editor

Fred Rehhausser—Endorsement committee chair

Eileen Sargent—Phone tree chair, liaison to the Consortium

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SCCDC endorses candidates for Santa Clara City Council at September meeting

On September 26th SCCDC held its second pre-election meeting of the month, hosting a forum with seven Santa Clara City Council candidates, five of whom are club members. Although the audience was sparse compared to the turnout for the discussion of ballot measures a week earlier, it was an informative meeting for attendees from Santa Clara especially, and, on several issues, like open government, transportation and housing, for anyone interested in civic policies in general. With SCCDC President Rob Means acting as moderator, the candidates, unlike many other politicians, were direct, on topic and well-informed in their responses to questions from the moderator and audience members. The seven council candidates (all Democrats) who participated in the forum are: John

McLemore (Seat 3), Raj Cahal and Patricia Mahan (Seat 4), Suds Jain, Dr. Mohammed Nadeem and Kathy Watanbee, (Seat 6), and Teresa O'Neill (Seat 7), Ahmad Rafah was unable to attend due to an unexpected emergency.

Dominating the political scene in Santa Clara this election are the problems surrounding the 49ers. In light of a grand jury investigation concerning the team's compliance with its contract with the city, candidates who are viewed as "being in the pocket of the 49ers" may be facing a backlash among voters in November. An audience member showed how divisive the issue is when he asked the candidates to reveal publicly if they were receiving campaign contributions from the 49ers. Though they had favored the city's involvement in the

team's move to Santa Clara to build the Levi Stadium on city-owned land, all of the candidates were definite in saying their campaigns had not received money from 49ers in this election cycle, a response that did not seem to satisfy the questioner.

Other areas of concern the candidates discussed included the shortage of affordable housing, planning and development, transportation and traffic problems, transparency in government and lastly, their opinion of how newly-appointed Mayor Lisa Gilmore is doing her job. The candidates agreed Gilmore was performing well, presiding over a council that is working smoothly as a team since she was appointed to replace former Mayor Jamie Matthews. (Matthews resigned suddenly earlier this year amidst the controversy over the 49ers). However, Suds Jain and John McLemore were more circumspect. McLemore said, while she is doing *(continued on page 4)*

Ballot Measures Endorsements

by Bill Barrett, Treasurer

The Santa Clara County Democratic Club held its monthly meeting at Harry's Hofbrau in San Jose on September 19. The top agenda item was the presentation of the upcoming ballot initiatives on the California ballot by Dr. Terry Christensen, Professor Emeritus at SJSU. Christensen presented each of the ballot measures with some background commentary. A paper ballot endorsement vote of the attending members was held at the end of the evening. A yes for the endorsement on each proposition required 2/3 of the members vote for that proposition. The result is captured in the attached table along with the recommendations from the California State Democratic Party.

The memberships also voted to endorse Santa Clara County Measures A, a bond to provide affordable housing for vulnerable populations, and B, a half-cent tax for transportation needs.

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Proposition	SCCDC Endorsement	California Democratic Party Endorsement
Proposition 51: Repairs and upgrades older schools, and relieves classroom overcrowding so all children can learn in safe schools	NO POSITION	YES
Proposition 52: Makes permanent current state fees on hospitals to pay for Medi-Cal healthcare services	YES	YES
Proposition 53: Requires voter approval (beyond legislation) for infrastructure projects costing more than \$2 billion funded by revenue bonds	NO	NO
Proposition 54: Requires the legislature to publish bills for 72 hours prior to the vote.	YES	NO
Proposition 55: Extends the 2012 Prop 30 increase in personal income tax on incomes over \$250,000 for 12 years to fund education and healthcare.	YES	YES
Proposition 56: Increases cigarette tax to \$2 per pack to fund healthcare, research, and use prevention.	YES	YES
Proposition 57: Increases opportunity for parole for felons convicted of non-violent crimes; judges, not prosecutors, decide if juveniles are tried as adults.	YES	YES
Proposition 58: Repeals 1998's Prop 227 requiring English immersion in schools; reinstates option of bilingual education.	YES	YES
Proposition 59: Directs California legislators to advocate for overturning Citizens United case.	YES	YES
Proposition 60: Gives every person in California the authority to sue adult film performers and other workers.	NO	NO POSITION
Proposition 61: Prohibits state agencies from paying more for prescription drugs than the lowest price paid by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.	YES	NO POSITION
Proposition 62: Repeals the Death Penalty. Replaces with life in prison without possibility of parole.	YES	YES
Proposition 63: The "Safety for All Act" keeps communities safe with common sense laws to curb gun violence.	YES	YES
Proposition 64: Controls, regulates, and taxes adult use of marijuana, ends criminalization of responsible adult use.	YES	YES
Proposition 65: New fees on plastic carry-out bags. Revenue would go into new state environmental fund, not state's general fund. Sponsored by plastic bag industry.	NO	NO POSITION
Proposition 66: Retains the Death Penalty. Speeds up and changes appeals process.	NO	NO
Proposition 67: Protects state ban on plastic grocery bags, reducing plastic pollution, protecting wildlife and the ocean.	YES	YES

Chavez and d'Souza debate VTA measure B

Cindy Chavez, Santa Clara County Supervisor and Chairperson of the VTA Board of Directors, spoke in favor of Measure B, a proposal by VTA to raise the sales tax in the County by a half-cent to fund transportation projects over the next three decades at SCCDC's September 19th meeting. Representing the opposing view was Gladwyn d'Souza, Regional Chair of the Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club. Chavez contended Measure B would not only finish the BART extension to San Jose and Santa Clara, but would also relieve traffic congestion on major Expressways in

Santa Clara County, repair roads and potholes, improve bicycle and pedestrian safety, increase Caltrain capacity, and connect BART/Caltrain to San Jose and Santa Clara providing rapid rail in the entire Bay Area.

d'Souza contended that Measure A passed in 2000 did not meet its goals as promised, including completing the BART connection to Milpitas, San Jose and Santa Clara, and expects the same would be true of Measure B if it gets the necessary two-thirds vote to become law. He argued that

adding more lanes to county expressways encourages people to commute alone in their cars, contributing to greenhouse gas emissions, a major contributor to climate change. Instead he maintained that to solve the traffic problem in Silicon Valley, the VTA should spend money to build new light rail lines, separating trains from cars. A part of the solution would also include connections to neighborhoods and transfer hubs.

Chavez's point-by-point presentation and answers in the Q&A session convinced a two-thirds majority of SCCDC members to vote to endorse Measure B.

(continued from page 1: LARGE TURNOUT FOR CHRISTENSEN TALK ON PROPOSITIONS) never dogmatic, instructing us how to vote, but, sometimes weighted the measures one way or another so we could deduce how he was leaning. Although his professor's objectivity was quite appropriate, my own tendency toward indecisiveness made me wish for more direction on some of the issues. Even Christensen's thorough analysis cannot eliminate my having to wade through several pages of the detailed legalize on some of the Propositions.

Christensen, in answering his own question, "why are there so many," cited two reasons: (1) Since the number of signatures required to put propositions on the ballot is based upon voter turnout in the gubernatorial election, low voter turnout in 2014 led to a lower threshold for registered voters' signatures. (2) Democratic legislators, taking advantage of the presidential election year when the electorate tends to be more

liberal, placed more propositions on the ballot than in midterm elections.

It was evident from the audience's enthusiastic applause, both when he was introduced and when he concluded his presentation, that Christensen has a following unmatched by most professors in the area, active or retired. Currently a host of "Valley Politics," a monthly television show on politics and public policy in San Jose and Silicon Valley which airs Wednesday at 8 PM on Comcast Channel 30, he frequently guests on local TV news show, commenting on local and state political affairs.

With Christensen's popularity, and Public Relations Chair David Donaldson's campaign to advertise the meeting in the *Mercury News*, a mundane discussion of state ballot measures turned into a major event with an unprecedented turnout for a regular club meeting.

(continued from page 2: NOMINATING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS SLATE FOR 2017)

After eight years co-chairing the Audio-Visual/Facilities Committee, Al Alarcon and Joe Alvarado are tendering their resignations. SCCDC is seeking volunteers to fill these important positions. Al and Joe, along with Dee have done a remarkable job, arriving each month at the meeting location an hour and a half before the start of the no-host dinner at 6 PM for the set-up, which includes arranging the tables and chairs for attendees and the sign-in and special interest tables, and doing whatever else is required before members and guests arrive. They also coordinate with the management at the restaurant. If you are interested in volunteering to replace Al, Joe, and Dee on the Audio-Visual/Facilities Committee, please contact Al at 408-985-0471. He has offered to train volunteers in all aspects related to the use of the audio-visual equipment and the set-up.

Al and Dee and Joe have been valuable members of the club in so many ways it would be difficult to list them all in this article. To mention a few, they have hosted committee meetings and gift-wrapping and holiday basket decorating parties at their home. Al records the monthly programs to help me in reporting on the speakers' presentations in the *Democratic Voice*; he purchases the audio tapes and manages to come up with a recorder (hard to find since they are now obsolete) when the old one stops working. Then when I am in a bind, Al and Dee come to my aid and take care of mailing the *Democratic Voice*. Thank you Al, Joe and Dee for all you have done for SCCDC. We are pleased that you will continue to be loyal, dedicated members of the club.

The events committee is also looking for a volunteer to serve as chair; the committee already has five experienced members but none are willing or able to take over the chairmanship. Since I have resigned as chair, Eileen has agreed to coordinate the upcoming holiday party. However, she already has so many duties with the club, she does not want to continue in that role next year. If no one steps forward to fill the position, there will be no summer and no holiday event next year; planning for these events starts in January. If you are interested in volunteering to chair the events committee, please call me at 408-247-9513 or email me at lizloyal@aol.com.

(continued from page 2: SCCDC ENDORSES CANDIDATES FOR SANTA CLARA CITY COUNCIL) a good job now, he learned that she has asked three of the current candidates to run, an attempt, in his opinion, to make sure she has council members who she can count on to support her position on issues brought before them.

Receiving the club's endorsement for Seat 3 was the two-term Santa Clara City Councilman John McLemore, a retired vice president of operations for an electronics company, who also was SCCDC's president from . Patricia Mahan, attorney, and former mayor and city councilwoman serving the city in elective office for more than 20 years received the club's endorsement for Seat 4. Her opponent, Raj Cahal, a Santa Clara Planning Commissioner, fell short of the two-thirds vote. Seat 6 had three candidates seeking the club's endorsement: SCCDC members Suds Jain, a retired chip designer, currently serving on Santa Clara's Planning Commission; Dr. Mohammed Nadeem, a Fulbright scholar, a professor, and former two-term Santa Clara Civil Service Commissioner; and Kathy Watanabe, a community activist who was appointed to fill Gilmore's seat when Gilmore became mayor. The vote was almost evenly split between the three with none receiving the two-thirds majority vote required for endorsement.

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, December 3
SCCDC's Holiday Party
Fiorillos Restaurant, 6-9 PM

Upcoming Events

October 17—SCCDC General Meeting, Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Ave., San Jose. Dinner at 6; meeting at 7 PM.

October 20—Clean Money Campaign Meeting, Democratic HQ, 2901 Moorpark Ave, Suite 110, San Jose 7 PM.

October 26—SCCDC E-Board Meeting, Headen-Inman House, 1509 Warburton, Santa Clara, 7 PM. Coffee and dessert will be served.