



# The WDC Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 6

June 2009

## DEM RIVERSIDE UPDATES

Sheila Kay Riley

WDC Campaign/Election Committee Chair

Let's applaud both of our Democratic incumbents who were recently re-elected to the Riverside City Council! We're so grateful to those who campaigned for them and for the voters of Riverside. Nancy Hart will continue to represent Ward 6 and Andy Melendrez will serve his second term representing Ward 2. Congratulations Nancy and Andy!

### Bill Hedrick For Congress Update

Bill's campaign sends a **BIG THANK YOU** to Women's Democratic Club for their generous donation to help the campaign meet its June 30<sup>th</sup> goal!

Bill continues to be very busy and needs volunteers. He is now blogging on both [CALitics.org](http://CALitics.org) and [DailyKOS.org](http://DailyKOS.org) websites on a regular basis. Look for his blogs and be sure to add a comment in support of Bill. The more buzz we can generate for Bill locally, the better support we get nationally.

On Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, the campaign will be participating in the Organizing for America – Riverside Free Health Fair Expo. The event will be held at 3555 Market St, downtown Riverside from 10:00am-3:00pm. All Democrats are encouraged to attend. Bill will speak and in addition to free health care services the campaign will have a video team to film those who share personal healthcare stories. Contact Katie Mantz to sign up and volunteer: [kmantz@hedrickforcongress.com](mailto:kmantz@hedrickforcongress.com).

As you know, Bill's campaign is not about putting Democratic or Republican policies first – it's about putting families first. When represents us in Washington, every vote he casts will

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## President's message

By Becky Foreman, WDC President

The debate over at what point life begins may never be resolved, but here in California we have defined when life ends: age 65. At least that's the magic number if you are a low-income woman with breast cancer. If the governor's budget proposals are all passed, women 65 and older will no longer receive treatment for breast cancer. Well, I guess poor older women are a drain on the economy anyway. Sorry lady, but hey, I'm sure you've had a nice full life. Now just – go somewhere and die?

And it's not just women who will die. Anyone who needs dialysis had better be able to pay for it, because the state won't help anymore. Nothing personal, just doing a little belt tightening, sonny, you understand. Buh-bye now.

The worst part of this budget insanity is there are a lot of Californians who think this is okay. Read their comments on internet news sites. The continuing theme is that our economic mess was created by poor folks and "illegals". Get rid of all of those troublemakers and the rest of us, those who were virtuous and clever enough to "pull ourselves up by our bootstraps" will be just fine. It does no good to try to argue that this state (like this nation) was built on the backs of immigrants, and that wealth is not necessarily the product of honest work (Madoff, party of one). The folks who hold these twisted beliefs seem to have hearts (and brains) of stone.

In the meantime, the democratic led budget committee is frantically trying to avoid the wholesale slaughter the governor proposes by trying to salvage bits and pieces of vital programs. There is an interactive budget tool on the L.A. Times website which lets you try your hand at eliminating the \$24 billion shortfall using only existing proposals. I tried this, using only revenue increasing measures (read "taxes") and found that we could eliminate almost the entire deficit without slashing any programs. But of course, this is a moot point because the governor has declared he will not sign a budget with any new taxes or fees, and we would not have enough votes to override his veto if we tried to push one through.

I understand how volatile the subject of taxes is. Nobody wants to be painted with the "tax and spend" brush. But when you look at the increases proposed

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support families first by securing our homes, advancing our schools, and making our communities thrive once again!

**Precinct Walking** has begun and the campaign is looking for folks to take on their local neighborhoods. Walk sheets and everything needed is provided by the campaign. Volunteers will only be knocking on Democratic doors. Contact Henry to sign up: [henry@hedrickforcongress.com](mailto:henry@hedrickforcongress.com).

**House Parties** are also being scheduled – so sign up or encourage a friend to host one now as the campaign is trying to top the last election cycle’s 110 house parties.

**And now** that we’ve gotten the attention of the DCCC (Democratic Candidate Congressional Campaign), we’ve got to raise some BIG BUCKS to demonstrate just how much we support Bill! We need **YOUR HELP** to make the big **June 30th** milestone. Please use the campaign website: [www.hedrickforcongress.com](http://www.hedrickforcongress.com) where you’ll find the “donate” button to contribute. Encourage friends & family to donate as soon as possible. Yes, it is early; but, remember **EARLY MONEY IS LIKE YEAST: IT MAKES THE DOUGH RISE!**



#### RIVERSIDE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY UPDATE

The **Riverside County Democratic Party** recently unanimously endorsed the **Employee Free Choice Act**, a proposal to amend the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) to make it easier for employees to form, join and support labor organizations. President Barack Obama, an original co-sponsor in 2007 is in support of this legislation.



#### CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY UPDATE

As you may know, the **CDP** Convention was held the last weekend of April and the new **CDP** Chair, John Burton was elected. The following is an excerpt of his message sent to **CDP** E-board Members:

*“... Change has come to America and the California Democratic Party. We must continue to make our voices hear and our votes count. And we must continue to turn red counties blue, reach out to young and decline-to-state voters, and keep our hold on the White House.*

*“... Now is when we must lay the groundwork for the 2010 elections so we can elect a Democratic governor and statewide Constitutional officers, protect Senator Barbara Boxer and our legislative and congressional Democrats, and deepen our bench by electing more Democrats at the local level. Plus, we must prepare to pass a majority vote budget, defeat the Louisiana-style, top-two primary, and fight for real marriage equality in California.” ❖*

## RECIPIENTS OF 2009 WDC FOUNDERS SCHOLARSHIPS

After a great deal of consideration, the **WDC Scholarship Committee** awarded four \$500 **WDC Founders Scholarships** to the following recipients for 2009: **Paulina Villanueva**, La Sierra High School; **Denisse Lopez** and **Karina Lopez** of Norte Vista High School; and **Isaura Ochoa** of Rubidoux High School.

2009 marks the second year that the **WDC** offered the **Founders Scholarship** to four students.\* Congratulations 2009 scholarship winners!



*Karina Lopez receives her scholarship award from Donna Wolfe at June’s WDC General Membership meeting.*



*Donna presents Denisse Lopez the WDC Founders Scholarship.*



*Paulina Villanueva receives her scholarship.*

\*Isaura Ochoa’s scholarship will be presented at the July meeting. ❖

### POLITICAL TRAINING WEEKEND A HUGE SUCCESS

Last month, **DFA** (Democracy for America) provided an exciting weekend of political training. The event was hosted by the **Riverside and San Bernardino Democratic Central Committees** as well as **CDC** (California Democratic Council). Over 100 people attended the training held for candidates, including those who were interested in just working on campaigns. These people came from Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara, San Diego and Ventura counties. The six trainers came from all over the country and were headed up by Matt Blizek of **DFA** from Vermont.

Topics covered included **GOTV** (Get Out The Vote), Canvassing, Phone Banking, Online Organizing, Building an Organization, Precinct Organization, Working with the Media, Budget, Fundraising and Using a Voter File. In addition, our very own **Bill Hedrick**, 44<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Candidate, spoke to the group on Sunday afternoon. ❖

## MYTHS CONSERVATIVES BELIEVE ABOUT PROGRESSIVES

Sheila Riley  
WDC Secretary

Following is an excerpt of the sixth in a series of articles from Sara Robinson.

### MYTH #6: “Liberals are against ‘family values.’”

This is one of the biggest disconnects between us. As George Lakoff has pointed out, conservatives and liberals have very different ideas about what families look like, how they function and what rules they should run under. The problem is that liberals are quite willing to recognize the conservative model as a legitimate and valid way to do family, even if we don't always agree with it. But when conservatives look at liberal families and their patchwork of made-up arrangements, they see a chaotic free-for-all that doesn't follow any of their strictly mandated rules of family organization – and thus doesn't qualify in their minds as any kind of “family” at all. We think it's creative and flexible. They think it's unstable and scary.

So it comes as a considerable shock to conservatives when you point out that progressive areas of the country have significant **stronger** families, by almost any metric you can imagine. They have lower rates of divorce, teen pregnancy, infidelity, drug abuse, domestic violence and juvenile delinquency than the more conservative areas do. Massachusetts – the first state to offer gay marriage – also has the lowest divorce rate in the county. They like marriage so much there they think everybody should have a shot at it.

Looking at the statistics, it's possible to conclude that the conservative obsession with “family values” may reflect the fact that families in **Red America** really are beset by devastating problems that aren't nearly as common in **Blue America**. Rather than admit that maybe we know something about creating healthy families that they don't, they'll usually try to fix the blame for their family chaos on us and our crazy anything-goes family arrangements. (If there are Bible-readers at your table, you might suggest they re-read Luke 6:42 before holding forth.)

Liberals believe in family. We take our marriage vows just as seriously as conservatives do. We love our children just as much. Our families are at least as successful and happy as theirs. This shouldn't be a matter of debate; but it will continue to be one as long as they refuse to believe that our families are just as healthy, valid and sacred to us as theirs are to them.

Sara Robinson is a blogger for progressive websites such as [www.ourfuture.org](http://www.ourfuture.org) and has worked as a columnist or editor for several national magazines.

they are really not unmanageable. In fact, most of them would discourage people from doing things (smoking, drinking, driving gas hogs) that are damaging to themselves and the environment. And by passing these new taxes, we could keep people from dying. Why on earth can't everyone get behind this?

I have a theory that the governor actually does not want to eliminate life-saving programs, but can't do the right thing while toeing the party line. He has thrown this horrendous budget to the committee as a kind of dare, challenging them to save as much as possible while forcing “liberal democrats” to absorb any political fallout.

I guess we can live with that. In fact, we can live with anything, can't we? As long as we know that whatever political beat-down we take will enable others to live too.

Yours in peace and unity,

Becky



### FREE WORKSHOP FOR CALIFORNIA WOMEN

Co-sponsored by the California Commission on the Status of Women

Monday June 29<sup>th</sup> 5:30-7:30pm



California Women Lead  
ENGAGE • EMPOWER • ELECT

Riverside City Hall – 7<sup>th</sup> floor  
RSVP at [www.CaWomenLead.org](http://www.CaWomenLead.org)

## VOTER REGISTRATION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are very happy to announce that **Nan McCoy**, a long time **WDC** member has agreed to coordinate the club's **Voter Registration Effort**. We will be having a booth the **second Saturday of each month at the Riverside Plaza** beginning August 8<sup>th</sup>. **WDC** volunteers are needed! We're planning some training so that everyone who works in our booth will feel comfortable and knowledgeable in this effort.

You know, the way to elect **more Democrats** is to change Riverside County from a **Red County** (that means Republican) to a **BLUE COUNTY** (that means DEMOCRATIC). We cannot do this without YOUR help. So, please sign up right away for this very essential mission. Just by donating two hours per month for this cause, we CAN turn **Riverside County Blue!**

Contact Nan at **951-242-6032** or via e-mail: [nanos2nd@aol.com](mailto:nanos2nd@aol.com) to sign up **NOW!**

Thank you, Nan!

**CONTRIBUTE TO THE WDC NEWSLETTER!**

CONTACT US WITH NEWS, TIPS, AND IDEAS...OR SUBMIT A GUEST COLUMN OF YOUR OWN.

SEND YOUR SUBMITTALS TO:

**CORINNE.PARKER@YAHOO.COM**

Remember: this is **YOUR** newsletter, too!



**WDC Executive Board**

Becky Foreman, President  
Corinne Parker, Vice President  
Suzanne Tanenbaum, CFO  
Sheila K. Riley, Secretary  
Marisa Yeager, Membership Chair

**Please visit our website!**

**[www.RiversideWomenDems.com](http://www.RiversideWomenDems.com)**

**NEXT MEETING: WED JULY 1**

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