



Laguna Woods Democratic Club

Post Office Box 2243
Laguna Hills, CA 92654-2243

STAY SAFE. STAY WELL.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

October Meeting Planned	1
Officers & Directors	2
Welcome New Members	2
3-Stars Luncheon Speakers ...	2
The V.P. Corner	3
Katie Porter Update	3
United Nations Day.....	3
Our Members-Sayre Weaver..	4
International Day for Elderly ..	4
Democratic Party of O.C.....	5
Meeting Survey Results.....	5
Black National Anthem.....	6
We Voted, It Mattered!	6
CA Digital Vaccination Card. ...	6
Club-Proof of Vaccination.....	7
Newsom is Still Governor	8
Critical Race Theory	8

Village TV is every Wednesday in October from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

OCTOBER MEETING-IN PERSON (Back Patio of Clubhouse 2 at 7 p.m.)

By: Sue Dearing



Meet four great Democratic candidates, three of whom you will be able to vote for in the June 2022 primary. It is important to support these candidates early! For some of those races, if the candidate receives more than 50% of the vote, the June vote is final and there is no election in November.

PETE HARDIN FOR O.C. DISTRICT ATTORNEY: A former Judge Advocate in the U.S. Marine Corps, Deputy District Attorney, Special Assistant United States Attorney, and one of Southern California’s leading litigators, Pete Hardin is running to enhance safety, heal victims, and to restore integrity and professionalism to the Orange County District Attorney’s Office. After departing public service, Pete worked at two of the nation’s premier litigation law firms before starting his own law practice. Pete earned his Juris Doctorate from The George Washington University.

Website: <https://www.petehardin.com/>

JOE KERR FOR O.C. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, DISTRICT 5: Joe Kerr is a second-generation professional firefighter who served with the Orange County Fire Authority and Orange County Fire Department for over 34 years, including 27 years as a fire captain. He was the first President of the Orange County Professional Firefighters Association, the former Vice President of the California Professional Firefighters, as well as a former Vice President of the Orange County Central Labor Council (AFL-CIO).

Website: <https://www.joekerr.com/>

Please Note:

Proof of vaccination will be required for this meeting and future meetings. Please see the article on page 7 of this newsletter.



Pete Hardin



Joe Kerr

Continued on page 2

LAGUNA WOODS Democratic Club

Welcome to the Laguna Woods Democratic Club.

We promote Democratic values through education and activism.

The Democratic Club serves as the meeting and gathering place for registered Democrats and friends of the Democratic Party in Laguna Woods.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

- Rosalind Russell
- Mary Sheets

October Television Program –3 Stars at Annual Luncheon

By: Sue Dearing

Luncheon speeches from Congresswoman Katie Porter, State Senator Dave Min and Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris at the Annual Luncheon will be shown on Village TV in October on Wednesdays from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. If you were not able to attend the luncheon, you still have a chance to hear them speak.

There will be no Black in Laguna Woods program in October. We are on hiatus.

Look for an update next month on how much money was raised at the luncheon from the generous donations of our members!

2021 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

DIRECTORS

- President Sue Dearing, Program
- 1st V.P. Rebeca Gilad, Outreach & Fundraising
- 2nd V.P. Nancy Hensel, Special Events
- Secretary Allan Feldman, Central Committee Associate Member
- Treasurer Pat Leftwich, Budget

AT-LARGE DIRECTORS

- Jonathan Adler, Legislative Action
- Dana Barraclough, Bylaws
- Janice Burstin, Activism
- Debra David, Membership
- Heide Krueger-Gerson, Historian
- Jeanne Lepowsky, Field Organizer
- Maureen Mehler, Nominating
- Jeanette Peck, Campaign
- Mary Ribando, Voter Registration

SPECIAL DIRECTOR

- Debo Orrill—Publicity, Website & Newsletter

OCTOBER MEETING-IN PERSON

Continued from page 1

SHERINE SMITH FOR O.C. BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 5:

Sherine Smith has been a teacher, principal, and deputy superintendent of education. She capped her career as the Superintendent of Laguna Beach Unified School District. Sherine held the Chair of the Orange County Superintendents' Organization and was the California Region 17 Representative for the Association of California School Administrators' State Superintendency Council. In 2016, Sherine was honored as the Orange County Superintendent of the Year. She earned her doctorate in Educational Leadership at the University of Southern California.



Sherine Smith

Website: <https://votesherine.com/>

KATRINA FOLEY FOR O.C. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, DISTRICT 2:

Katrina Foley currently serves in this position, to which she was elected in a special election in March 2021. Foley, a successful attorney, became the City of Costa Mesa's first directly elected Mayor in November 2018 and was re-elected in 2020. She served on the Costa Mesa City Council for 14 years.



Katrina Foley

Foley previously served on the Newport Mesa Unified School District Board of Trustees from November 2010 to November 2014, with a focus on making Orange County better for local families.

Website: <https://www.katrinafoley.com/>

THE V.P. CORNER

By: Rebeca Gilad

Help, Please! I need mouth to mouth resuscitation! I am fainting! Why, you ask? Let me tell you why: I have been in this, our beloved country, for the past 44 years. You can't tell by my accent, I know. Throughout this time, some people and the media have tried to convince me that compared to our country, Mexico is "just" a third world country, filled with drug cartels and undocumented people. Would they be undocumented in Mexico if they are Mexican citizens who can't read or write? Well, my dear friends, I hope you read that the Mexican Supreme Court voted UNANIMOUSLY that it is UNCONSTITUTIONAL to make abortion a crime. Yes, we are talking about Mexico, a very conservative Catholic country. Remember that Texas used to be part of Mexico? Well, what can I say? I guess Texas didn't get the memo from Mexico about how Catholics, yes Catholics vote to respect women's rights and protect women. My thoughts? I will vote from this day forward that all schools in the United States, starting in fifth grade, should make it compulsory that every student read *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood. If you haven't read the book, do it now! Before we become part of that story. After you read it, let's continue this conversation.

OUR CONGRESSWOMAN: KATIE PORTER

By: Maureen Mehler

Katie Porter was in her home district in August so there is nothing to report about DC activities. But I thought you might be interested in which groups she met with while home. This is just a partial list:

1. American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee
2. CBP Office of Field Operations, San Ysidro Port of Entry
3. Camp Pendleton and Naval Hospital
4. Clay Farell (Fountain Valley Regional Hospital CEO)
5. Del. Maria Melendez, delegate to the US House Special Delegation from Puerto Rico
6. Dreamers Resource Center at California State University Fullerton
7. Embajadores de Jesus Shelter
8. Harvest Solution Farms
9. Human Options Inc.
10. Irvine Police Department National Night Out
11. Marshallese Community Members
12. OC Diaper Bank
13. Serrano Water District, PFAS Toxin Removal Plant
14. The Anti-Defamation League
15. The Wall - Las Memorias AIDS Project
16. US Border Patrol, San Diego Sector Border Fence



OCTOBER 24—UNITED NATIONS DAY

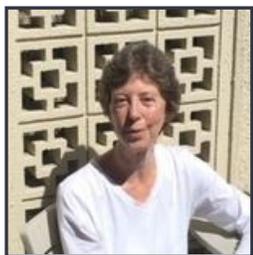
This event recognizes the United Nation organization and all who serve and participate in this world organization. The United Nations is dedicated to world peace, and to the betterment of humanity through a wide range of programs from world hunger to the environment and health issues.

Almost all of the more than 100 countries in the world are members of this organization.



OUR MEMBERS—SAYRE WEAVER

By: Rebeca Gilad



Sayre Weaver

This month San Francisco became California's first local government to adopt an ordinance banning sales of "ghost guns", untraceable firearms becoming the weapon of choice for criminals. Adopting ordinances to reduce gun violence is a viable strategy for

California's local governments today because of the groundwork laid in the 1990's to address the "junk gun" scourge.

Rebeca: Sayre, tell me about the intersection between your career and local laws regulating "junk guns".

Sayre: In the early 1990's, I assisted West Hollywood in drafting an ordinance banning the sale of "junk guns." These cheap, highly concealable handguns, made of inferior metals and lacking basic safety features, were being mass produced by a ring of companies around Los Angeles. They were increasingly associated with violent crime and were unsafe for lawful self-defense. Facing inaction by the state, West Hollywood adopted its junk gun sales ban, defying the gun lobby myth that only the state had authority to regulate firearms. The city was promptly sued by the California Rifle & Pistol Association. I defended the city in court, and we prevailed. The published appellate decision established that California's local governments have broad authority to regulate many aspects of firearms, paving the way for local laws such as the ghost gun ban San Francisco is advancing.

Rebeca: Did this legal decision have an impact on the state legislature?

Sayre: Yes. After we won the lawsuit, cities and counties across California adopted ordinances banning junk gun sales, and many other ordinances regulating firearms. This development demonstrated to state legislators that their constituents wanted legislative

action addressing gun violence. Many of these local ordinances "trickled up" and became models for state laws, including California's Unsafe Handgun Act.

Rebeca: Have you been involved in other lawsuits involving firearms?

Sayre: Yes. I successfully defended the County of Alameda in a multi-year federal lawsuit by a gun show operator, challenging the county's prohibition of firearms possession on county property. I also prosecuted a lawsuit alleging negligence and public nuisance claims against certain firearms industry members, brought by the child survivors of Buford Furrow's shooting rampage and the family of murdered postal worker Joseph Iletto.

Defendants challenged the claims but in a published decision, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals held that they were viable under California law. In 2005 we were preparing for trial when Congress enacted a law immunizing firearms industry members from such lawsuits. However, we established that the manufacturer of the assault rifle Furrow used to injure the children was not entitled to immunity, and that company settled with them.

Rebeca: Do you continue to work on gun violence prevention issues?

Sayre: Yes. I am liaison to the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Gun Violence, a committee on which I have served for many years, and Policy Advisor to the Brady Orange County Chapter.

Rebeca: Our readers will want to know that you have been recognized for your work, including by commendations from the state legislature and many local governments. You are a past recipient of the Peace Prize awarded by the California Wellness Foundation, and of leadership awards by the Legal Community Against Violence (now Giffords Law Center) and Women Against Gun Violence.

OCTOBER 1—INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR OLDER PERSONS



In 1990, the United Nations General Assembly designated October 1st as the International Day for the Elderly, also known as the "International Day for Older Persons".

The holiday is the result of the U.N. World Assembly on Aging which was formed in 1982 to explore and tend to the needs of the elderly in the world.

WHAT'S UP WITH THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF O.C.

By: Allan Feldman



The Recall Election is now over, defeated overwhelmingly in California and narrowly in Orange County. Congratulations and thank you to everyone who registered voters, made telephone calls, wrote postcards, distributed door hangers, and did all the other things that win elections.

According to the Registrar of Voters, the voter turnout in Orange County was approximately 57%. The lowest turnout reported in the precincts that make up Laguna Woods was 71% and the highest was 85%. As usual, Laguna Woods has one of, if not the highest, voter turnout in Orange County. A special thanks to all those who did the most important job in any election: Vote.

Statewide, over 60% of the votes were against the recall. In Orange County a little less than 52% of the population voted “no.” While we are happy with the victory, the margin here in O.C. is a reminder of where we live and the political history of this area. While times are changing, we need to continue to work hard in all elections to get every Democrat to vote.

At the Central Committee meeting on August 23rd, early endorsements were voted for several candidates. The committee voted to endorse Pete Hardin for Orange County District Attorney, Joe Kerr for 5th District Supervisor (Laguna Woods) and current 2nd District Supervisor Katrina Foley for reelection. The committee feels that these are serious candidates who have run for office before or who have demonstrated that they have an idea of how to run for office and could raise campaign funds. The committee is attempting to prevent fringe or nominal Democrats, without a real chance to win, from entering the race and siphoning off Democratic voters in the June primary which could result in two Republicans on the ballot in November. All the above candidates will be speaking at the Laguna Woods Democratic Club meeting in October 19.

In the final days of legislative action in Sacramento, SB 264, a bill sponsored by 37th SD State Senator Dave Min, which prevents the sale of guns on state property, was passed and went to Governor Newsom for his signature. This bill, if signed, would prevent the annual gun show at the Orange County Fairgrounds. The State of California should not be helping sell unregistered guns to unlicensed owners, presumably what gun shows are all about.

MEETING PREFERENCES—SURVEY RESULTS



By: Sue Dearing

Thanks to Joel Goldstein and Debra David for creating the Meeting Preferences Survey we sent out and to all 194 members who responded!

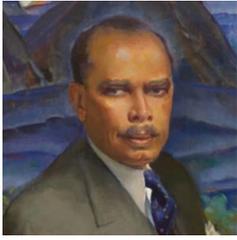
Since 88% of you said you would attend an outside meeting with masks and everyone vaccinated, the Board voted to go forward with in-person meetings on the back patio of Clubhouse 2. We also decided to ask everyone for proof of vaccination. (*See the article on submitting your proof of vaccination on page 7*).

Since 50% of you said you do not watch our programs on Village TV or YouTube, we decided not to record every meeting, but only special ones. That way we can save the club's money to donate to candidates.

Thanks for your participation!

THE BLACK NATIONAL ANTHEM

By: Debra David



James W. Johnson

Have you ever heard of the “Black National Anthem?” I hadn’t, until it was mentioned at the recent meeting of the LWDC’S African American Committee. I learned that the National Football League (NFL) has decided to play that anthem, “Lift Every Voice and Sing”, before

every game to demonstrate its commitment to racial justice. It is not a replacement for “The Star Spangled Banner,” which will continue to be played.

Because of the addition of the Black National Anthem, the NFL has come under sharp criticism from white political commentators such as Bill Maher, Megyn Kelly, and Sean Hannity, who argue that it politicizes sports. Some Black observers argue that playing the anthem is symbolic but doesn’t go far enough to make meaningful change.

The song was written as a poem by James Weldon Johnson and set to music by his younger brother,

John Rosamond Johnson. It was first performed in 1900 in Jacksonville, Florida by a chorus of 500 Black students for the anniversary of President Lincoln’s birth.

In 1919, the NAACP named it as its official song and dubbed it the “Negro National Anthem.” James Johnson himself called it the “Negro National Hymn.” It has become widely sung at church services, graduations, community events, and civil protests. President Barack Obama joined Black celebrities in singing it at a White House concert. (See it on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qT-CtZjtaQQ&t=6s>).

It’s been recorded by many Black artists, including Ray Charles, Leontyne Price, Aretha Franklin, and Stevie Wonder.

The lyrics make no reference to race and many people see it as an anthem of universal uplift, relevant to all groups that struggle. You can find the lyrics at <https://www.pbs.org/black-culture/explore/black-authors-spoken-word-poetry/lift-every-voice-and-sing/>.

We Voted Because It Mattered!

By: Mary Ribando

In our village we called, walked and knocked on doors to get out the vote for the September 14th Recall Election of our Governor. Our diligence paid off to stop it! These words couldn't be more fitting. We vote :

“To guard against 'unworthy candidates' and the 'vicious arts' of politics.”

- James Madison

GET YOUR CALIFORNIA DIGITAL VACCINATION RECORD

By: Deborah Orrill

If you have lost your white CDC card issued at the time of vaccination in California, or merely want digital proof to carry on your smart phone, you can contact the State of California.

Request a Digital Proof of Vaccination:

- Go to myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov
- Enter your first name, your last name, and your date of birth.
- You will then need to provide a cell phone number/email.
- Create a 4-digit PIN to for your vaccine record.
- Verify your identity by checking the box and click the "submit" button.
- You will then get a text or email with a link to your vaccine record. (It takes a few minutes.)
- Click on the link and enter that PIN that you just created.
- This will give you your vaccine record with a QR code, and details below.
- You can then take a screenshot and keep it on your phone for future use. It will be stored in your pictures file for easy access.

CLUB EVENTS—PROOF OF VACCINATION & MASK NEEDED

By: Deborah Orrill

KEEPING OUR MEMBERS SAFE!

To keep our LWDC members and guests safe we are requiring **PROOF OF VACCINATION AND MASKS** for all meetings and events effective October 1, 2021, until further notice. These requirements add a critical layer of safety, given the quickly spreading, highly infectious Delta Variant. We also are discouraging anyone who is sick from attending meetings. The requirement to verify vaccination status is designed to protect members in environments where airborne droplets or particles containing the virus spread easily because people remove their face coverings when they eat or drink.

CDC RECOMMENDATIONS

While the research shows that vaccination is highly effective against Covid-19, the CDC still recommends that those who are fully inoculated wear a mask in public settings. “The Delta variant has proven to be highly transmissible, making it easier to spread in crowds where people are near each other for long periods of time,” said Dr. Tomás J. Aragón, the California State Department of Public Health Director. UC Irvine epidemiologist and public health expert, Sanghyuk Shin, said these types of mandates, like vaccine verification could help reduce virus transmission.

WEAR A MASK, PLEASE!

Remember, all fully vaccinated people should wear a mask in indoor settings even if local transmission levels are not substantial, particularly to protect people who are immunocompromised or at increased risk of severe illness from Covid-19, or if they live with someone who fits that description. Masks are already required when traveling, regardless of vaccination status. This includes travel on planes, buses, trains, and other public transportation, as well as at transportation hubs such as airports and train stations.

We would like to express our thanks to all members and guests for cooperating with these requirements. It is our goal to provide a safe environment to those that are vulnerable in our community.

HOW TO VERIFY YOUR VACCINATION STATUS

There are different ways to prove vaccination status, either before meetings and events or at the door:

Proof at the Event: for Members & Guests

- Provide your Vaccination Card issued by the CDC which includes the name of the person vaccinated, the type of vaccine provided, and the date/dates and the dose or doses administered.
- Provide a photo/copy of a Vaccination Card as a hardcopy or stored on a phone or electronic device.
- Provide written documentation of vaccination from a healthcare provider.
- Provide a digital CA COVID-19 vaccine record issued via myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov or that of another state, local, or foreign government. (See page 6 for directions on accessing the digital website.)

Proof Prior to the Event: For Members

For your convenience, you can submit proof in one of the following manners before the event:

- Email a photo or scan of your Vaccination Card and send to: lwdemoclub@yahoo.com.
- Text a photo of your Vaccination Card to: Rebeca Gilad: (714) 833-4888.
- Mail a photocopy of your Vaccination Card to: Dana Barraclough, 3115 Via Serena #A, Laguna Woods, CA 92637.
- Drive and show your Vaccination Card. Just pick one of the addresses/dates from the list below:
 - * **Enter Gates 1 or 4:** Home of Maureen Mehler, 415 Avenida Castilla #B, on Thursday, September 30th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. or Thursday, October 7th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
 - * **Enter Gates 5 or 6:** Home of Bethany Gilboard, 2391 Via Mariposa West #2E on Tuesday, September 28th from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. or Thursday, October 7th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
 - * **Enter Gates 7 or 14:** Home of Sue Dearing, 3197 Via Buena Vista #C, Friday, October 1st from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. or Monday, October 4th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

THANKS TO YOU, NEWSOM IS STILL GOVERNOR!

By: Jeanne Lepowsky

The remarkable people who comprise the Laguna Woods Democratic Club played a key role in keeping California safe from a Trumpist takeover in the September 14 Recall Election. Over half of our members volunteered in one way or another to help Orange County get out the NO on Recall vote. The effort included not only an initial set of phone calls and doorhanger drops to Democrats, but also a final push in the week prior to the election to reach those who had not yet voted.

Your hard work made a difference. Your dedication is noticed by Democratic leadership at the County level, and by those whom we have elected to represent us at the State and Federal level. Be proud!



CRITICAL RACE THEORY 2

By: Nancy Hensel

In last month's article about systemic racism, we discussed intentional and unintentional policies that discriminate based on race. One example was the discovery by a FEMA officer working to provide support for Hurricane Katrina victims. He discovered that many Black homeowners in the South were not eligible for disaster assistance to repair their homes after a hurricane because they could not provide a recorded deed.

Their homes had been passed on from one generation to the next without a sale or registered deed. A Washington Post article described the barriers such homeowners faced. On September 2, 2021, FEMA announced three immediate changes to reduce the barriers that some homeowners face. FEMA has expanded forms of documentation to prove ownership/occupancy for homeowners and renters as well as extended housing assistance and disaster-caused disability. This response is an excellent example of why it is important to discover, and then correct, systemic discrimination in government policies.

There are many other examples of such discrimination that need to be addressed in a similar way. In a May 23, 2021, New York Times opinion piece, Nicholas Kristoff said, "The IRS is more likely to audit impoverished Americans who use the earned income tax credit and typically earn less than \$20,000 than it is to audit people earning \$400,000. The county in the United States with the highest audit rate, according to ProPublica, is Humphreys County, Miss., which is impoverished and three-quarters Black."

One wonders why those who likely have few deductions are audited more than those who have many ways to reduce their federal income tax. This is an area that should be investigated as an example of structural racism.

Often the very programs that are designed to assist low-income people of color do not fulfill their promise. Sara Mizes-Tan, a reporter for CapRadio in Sacramento, for example, found that the awarding of the city council's pandemic-relief loans was higher in majority-white communities than in neighborhoods of color. Mizes-Tan reported that businesses in the Little Saigon district did not receive any support. Whether these results are intentional or non-intentional can be debated; however, federal forms for aid are complicated and difficult to complete. Small businesses may not know about such programs or have the expertise to properly fill out the forms. Since Miss-Tan's report, the Sacramento City Council has been more proactive in making equitable Covid-relief grants.

Our health care system provides many examples of systemic racism. Black women are 3-4 times more likely to die in pregnancy than white women. The average Black man lives five years less than the average white man. Many African Americans mistrust the medical system because of programs such as the Tuskegee syphilis study. Employment, education, and the justice system are also areas of structural racism that need more study and investigation. Exposure of structural racism makes a difference.