

# The Rossmoor Republican

May 2012



## Welcome Our Candidates, May 9

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**June 15  
4:00 PM**

**Rossmoor Picnic  
Grounds**

**Contra Costa  
County  
Republican  
Party  
Annual Picnic**

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Listen up, Fellow Republicans, the June 5 Primary is going to be a humdinger. We've never had an election like this.

First, the candidates for every office (except President) will be listed on the ballot without being grouped by party. Their party preference will be given, but candidates will not be aggregated by party.

Second, we can vote for anyone listed for a particular office regardless of party.

Third, there will be no primary winner no matter how many votes any candidate receives. Thus, if one candidate gets 90% of the vote, that candidate plus the second-place candidate will face a run-off in the General Election in November. So, the top two candidates move to the General Election on November 6. This means there could be two Republicans on the November ballot, or two Democrats, for

each office.

Fourth, the Presidency is still considered a "partisan" race. Thus, each of us will receive a ballot with only the names of our party's candidates for President.

June 5 primary candidates expected at our May 9 dinner meeting for brief presentations, followed by Q & A are:

**Candace Anderson (R), Contra Costa County Supervisorial District 2**

**Elizabeth Emken (R), U.S. Senate (against Dianne Feinstein (D))**

**Virginia Fuller (R), U.S. Congress (against George Miller (D))**

**Al Phillips (R), State Assembly District 16 (against Joan Buchanan (D))**

**Mark Meuser (R), State Senate District 7 (against Mark DeSaulnier (D))**

Anderson



Emken



Fuller



Phillips



Meuser



**A blue dinner reservation form for May 9 is included in this issue of the Republican. The form **MUST** be returned by noon, Friday, May 4. Reservation questions: 937-0125.**



## Remember \$1.84 Gas? ...President Fran Cavanaugh

The Obama administration's mindset has been to reduce our dependency on fossil fuels in favor of other energy sources. Barack Obama has said "oil is the fuel of the past." Actually, it's the fuel of the present. Alternatives have not yet been developed to the point of practicality, so almost everyone's car runs on petroleum.

Several months before winning the presidency, Obama tipped his hand: "If somebody wants to build a coal-powered plant, they can; it's just that it will bankrupt them because they're going to be charged a huge sum for all that greenhouse gas that's being emitted." Further, he said "Under my plan...electricity rates would necessarily skyrocket."

When elected, he chose as Secretary of Energy Steven Chu, who said "Somehow we have to figure out how to boost the price of gasoline to the levels in Europe." Chu doesn't own an automobile. A true believer.

When Obama was sworn in, on January 20, 2009, the average nationwide price of a gallon of regular gasoline was \$1.84. Let's look at some of the policies which have since been put in place.

The administration has squandered taxpayer money on unproven or unworkable ventures such as Solyndra, and is now even threatening to "invest" your money in algae.

The administration has blocked drilling in the Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge (although the area which would be affected is the size of a postage stamp relative to a football field).

The administration put the kibosh on the Keystone pipeline which would have provided us Canadian oil--which may now go to China (how will that reduce pollution?) instead.

The administration had decreased by 36% the approval of permits for drilling on federal lands. (Approvals increased under both the Clinton and Bush administrations).

The administration has supported the development of offshore drilling in Brazil, telling them "we want to be your best customers...the United States could not be happier with the potential for a new, stable source of energy."

The administration has established a \$7500 tax credit for purchasers of certain hybrid vehicles including the Chevy Volt (MSRP over \$39,000) and the Fisker Karma (MSRP over \$100,000). Isn't that a "tax break for the wealthy"? The Volt's charging system caught fire in government testing and GM recently suspended production due to low demand. Oh, by the way, the Karma is manufactured in Finland. How many American jobs does that provide? Despite these subsidies, the market share for hybrids and electrics is less than 4%.

During a recent press conference, Obama was asked "Your critics on Capitol Hill will say that you want gas

prices to go higher because you have said before that will wean the American people off fossil fuels onto renewable fuels. How do you respond to that?" The president responded as if the question was ridiculous: "Just from a political perspective, do you think a president of the United States going into re-election wants gas prices to go up higher?" Apparently the president and his Energy Secretary have had an election year conversion to the position that higher energy prices are no longer a good thing.

It can't be the Obama administration's fault, so who to blame? That's an easy one. Big Oil and oil speculators.

But the latest industry comparisons show that the oil and gas drilling and exploration sector has a profit margin of 13.6%, which is lower than the profit margin for brewers, wineries and distillers, drug manufacturers, railroads, soft drinks, and others. And the profit margin for the oil and gas refining and marketing sector is only 3.0%---one of the lowest of all sectors of the economy. Yet the administration proposes to increase taxes on Big Oil. What do you think that will do to the price at the pump?

So how about the speculators? Economists differ on the degree, but it stands to reason that speculation affects commodity prices, just like investors' buy-or-sell decisions affect stock prices. But what influences the speculators? Speculators are influenced by their perception of market forces, among which are government policies. So when the administration blocks ANWR, nixes the Keystone pipeline, reduces the number of drilling permit approvals, threatens higher taxes on Big Oil, and supports "green" energy in preference to fossil fuels, the speculators assume lower supply and therefore future increases in prices. And sure enough, prices go up.

Obama has said repeatedly that there is "no silver bullet" to reduce gas prices. Likely, that's true. And it's also true that ANWR, Keystone, and increased drilling permits would not immediately produce oil. But their approval would influence speculators, which would reduce prices now even though the oil comes later. But not to worry---reducing prices by increasing supply from North American sources is not on Obama's energy agenda.

If gas prices remain high as the election nears, Obama could try for a temporary dip in prices by suspending the federal gasoline tax or by releasing supply from the National Strategic Petroleum Reserve. Either of these options would be only a cosmetic fix but might create the illusion that he had solved the problem.

In any event, the next time you fill up remember that on the day of Obama's inauguration a gallon of gas was \$1.84. And that our Energy Secretary doesn't own a car.

## Meet Susie White, Your Dinner Reservationist

Susie says, "My Republican background began with working for Republican Associates in San Diego in 1962—lots of memories there.

"I was a Republican volunteer in the 70s—precinct walking, calling etc.

"Then my teaching career began and I didn't have (or make) a lot of time to volunteer. I taught 5 years in West Covina and 16 years in Encinitas. I was one of the founding teachers of San Diego Academy in Encinitas, a public school of choice in an excellent school district. Lots of fun.

"After I retired in 2000, I supervised student teachers for San Diego



State before moving to Moraga in 2001.

"My husband, Norm, and I have lived in Rossmoor nearly 3 years and love it.

"Currently I manage the central office for California Business Education Association, which represents professionals involved in education for

and about business, marketing, and related information technologies at all levels of education in public and private institutions."

Your dinner reservations go to Susie at 2607 Saklan Indian Drive, # 3, Entry 2, and you may call her at 937-0125.

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(Correct phone # 472-0222)

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Membership

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Bud Semrau, Publicity

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**THE ROSSMOOR REPUBLICAN**  
Tom Fryer, Editor

## New Crop of Bumper Strips



**JOIN US!**  
Simply call Carol Worthington at 256-1313. She will handle all of the steps needed to make you a full member of the Republican Club of Rossmoor. Annual dues are \$15 per person; \$25 per couple.

### NEW MEMBERS

*Thomas Curtin & Caryl Adams  
Joan de Ganahl  
Sheafe & Jacquelin Ewing  
Betty Hagstrom  
Tom & Carolie Hensley  
Richard Schuler*

**A WARM REPUBLICAN  
CLUB WELCOME!**

## Club Calendar

**Ambassadors**, Tuesday, May 8, 10 AM,  
Room 4, Creekside  
**Dinner Meeting**, Wednesday, May 9, 5:15 PM,  
Fireside Room, Gateway  
**Board Meeting**, Monday, May 14, 1 PM,  
Room 4, Creekside  
**Discussion Group**, Tuesday, May 15, 2 PM,  
Garden Room, Dollar  
**Issues Committee**, Thursday, May 17, 2 PM,  
Ivy Room, Dollar

THE ROSSMOOR REPUBLICAN IS THE JOURNAL  
OF THE REPUBLICAN CLUB OF ROSSMOOR  
"SENIORS FOR A GOVERNMENT OF PRINCIPLE  
ABOVE POLITICS"

Gateway Complex Mail Box  
1001 Golden Rain Road  
Walnut Creek CA 94595



## **MAY DINNER MENU**

**Wednesday, May 9, 2012, Fireside Room, Gateway**

**5:15 pm Social Time, 6:00 pm Dinner**

**THERE WILL BE A HOSTED WINE AND BEER BAR**

### **Menu**

**Baby Greens, Raspberry Vinaigrette, Feta Cheese, & Candied Walnuts**

**Braised Short Ribs**

**Roasted Red Potatoes**

**Cut Green Beans Almondine**

**Vegetarian Option: Stuffed Portabella Mushroom**

**Berry Cobbler a la Mode**

**Decaf Coffee or Hot Tea**

**Reservation deadline: Noon, Friday, May 4**

**Reservation questions: Call 937-0125**