

**DECEMBER 2007**  
News Around The County

# Democratic *Dispatch*

Next Meeting **DECEMBER 20, 2007** at the IBEW Hall in Martinez @ **7:00 PM**



**2006--2008**

**OFFICERS**

**Nagaraja Rao** Chair

(510) 235-1184;

[Ranii@aol.com](mailto:Ranii@aol.com)

**Cecilia Valdez** Vice Chair

[Cecilia\\_Cecy\\_Valdez@comcast.net](mailto:Cecilia_Cecy_Valdez@comcast.net)

**Carlyn Obringer** Secretary

(925) 324-9595

[carlyno@yahoo.com](mailto:carlyno@yahoo.com)

**George Van Hasselt**

Treasurer

(925) 754-9514

[gvanhasselt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gvanhasselt@sbcglobal.net)

et

On The Inside

1. Chair's 'Message
2. DPCCC Minutes
3. Exec Minutes
4. Agenda
5. Editorial Comment
6. Standing Committees
7. Democratic Clubs
8. Announcements
9. Letter to the Editor from the Times
10. Membership

**EDITOR-PUBLISHER**

**Rich Verrilli**

[RLVee@aol.com](mailto:RLVee@aol.com)

(925)228-2595

**Chair's Message**

Americans working in Iraq for various contractors, including Halliburton subsidiary Kellogg, Brown & Root (KBR) and Blackwater USA, have been outraged by the massive contractor fraud they have witnessed, as should the American people. Since the beginning of the "war on terror," the scale of contractor-related fraud has reached

unprecedented levels. This is evidenced by the fact that an increasing number of former contractor employees have been contacting non-profit organizations such as Taxpayers Against Fraud and the Project on Government Oversight for assistance in filing Iraq War-related fraud claims.

The Department of Defense has annually increased its private contractor spending, which rose from \$106 billion in 2000 to \$297 billion in 2006. These contracts are often "cost-plus," meaning that whatever amount the contractor spends, the government agrees to reimburse, with the addition of a three percent fee. Contracting companies that spend more earn more. As a result, the amount of American taxpayer dollars spent on contractors since the Iraq War began in 2003, is staggering, exceeding \$100 billion--10 to 50 percent of which have been lost to fraud and waste. All of this money is being wasted, despite the fact that the Bush Administration refuses to fund SCHIP, education, mental health services or hundreds of other worthy programs.

Although originally an attempt to save the U.S. government money, the Pentagon's plan to outsource everything from building American army bases in Iraq, to washing soldiers' laundry, has gone wildly awry. The contractor fraud taking place in Iraq is fast becoming yet another scandal that will haunt the legacy of the Bush Administration, and the American people, for years. The time has come for Congress to re-examine current contracting practices and re-evaluate whether contractors such as KBR and Blackwater USA, should be used at all. Otherwise, the U.S. will continue to amass national debt, and contract out ill will throughout the Middle East, at a dizzying rate.

Nagaraja Rao, Chairman, DPCCC

**Minutes of the DPCCC**

11/15/07 MINUTES of the 15th meeting of the 2006-08 Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County (DPCCC), at

IBEW Local 302, 1875 Arnold Drive, Martinez, CA.

- 1) CALL TO ORDER. 7:42 pm, by Chair Nagaraja Rao.
- 2) ROLL CALL. {Key: Voting Member (Alternate). [P] = present, [E] = excused, [A] = absent}  
District 1: Rick Alcaez [A] (Hilary Crosby [E]), Cecilia Valdez [P] (no alternate), Nagaraja Rao [P] (Irma Anderson [A]), Harpreet Sandhu [E] (Ludmyrna Lopez [A]), William Walker [A] (Gabriel Baty [P]). District 2: Herman Blackmon [E] (no alternate), Diddo Clark [P] (no alternate), Rich Verrilli [P] (Christine Kiernan [P]), Evelyn Centeno [P] (no alternate), Michael Menesini [P] (John Hall [E]). District 3: Richard Bates [A] (Neil Linden [A]), Steve Filson [A] (Pat Baran [P]), Ray Link [P] (Barney Rubin [A]), Mark Tornheim [P] (Penny Denenberg [A]), Frank Quattro [P] (Mat Atkins [A]), District 4: Chuck Carpenter [P] (no alternate), Brian Lawrence [P] (Anne Batey [A]), Marie McDonald [E], (no alternate), Carlyn Obringer [P] (Marcella Colarich [P]). District 5: Greg Enholm [P] (Anna-Marie Bustos [P]), Angel Luévano [E] (Elaine Van Hasselt [A]), Sharon Mossman [A] (Richard Mossman [A]), George Van Hasselt [P] (Jeanne Variz [A]). CD 7: Congressman George Miller [A] (Melanie Mintz [P]). CD 10: Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher [A] (Glen Fuller [A]). CD 11: Congressman Jerry McNerney [A] (Ellen Nelson [A]). SD 7: Senator Tom Torlakson [A] (Valerie Sloven [E]). SD 9: Senator Don Perata [A] (Neku Pogue [A]). AD 11: Assemblyman Mark DeSaulnier [A], Argentina Dávila-Luévano [E], AD 14: Assemblywoman Loni Hancock [A] (Tony Suh [E]). AD 15 nom: Terry Coleman [A] (Chris McGinnis [P]). CDP 3: Region 3 Director Owen Jackman [A] (Jacob Litke [A]). CDP 6: Region

6 Director Royce Kelley [P] (Carol Toms [P]).

- 3) GUESTS. Maria Alegria, (Mayor Pro Tem, City of Pinole), Mary Horton (Councilwoman, City of Pinole), Rao Kaza (Associate Member, DPCCC), Jeff Lee (Planning Commissioner, City of Richmond), Reggie Moore (Councilman, City of Antioch), Stephen Tilton (Councilman, City of Pinole), Tony Tiscareno, (President, United Steel Workers Local 1440).
- 4) CLUB PRESIDENTS' REPORTS. George Van Hasselt (East County Democrats for Action): In an effort to reach out to the Hispanic community in East County, the East County Democrats for Action, in conjunction with Friends of LULAC, conducted voter registration at three churches on Sunday, October 28, 2007, Gabriel Baty (El Cerrito Democratic Club): Annual Club Dinner held on October 20<sup>th</sup>, Brian Lawrence (Iron Horse Democrats): New club, in the Walnut Creek area, forming for 25 to 40-year-olds; Meetings to be held on the second Thursday of the month, beginning in January 2008, Diddo Clark (Lamorinda Democratic Club): Dr. Daniel Kammen speaking at November 15, 2007 meeting, Chuck Carpenter (Labor Democratic Club): Congratulations to Councilman Moore, who was elected to the Executive Board of the California Democratic Party, Ray Link (San Ramon Democratic Club) Assemblywoman Loni Hancock to speak at next meeting.
- 5) APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 2007 MINUTES. M/S/U. (Errors noted include the

following: Herman Blackmon was excused, not absent; Clyde Rich is the President-elect of the Democrats of Rossmoor.)

- 6) DISCUSSION OF PINOLE RECALL. City Councilwoman Mary Horton asked the DPCCC to look into the issues surrounding the recall, or to not get involved, as the situation is much more complicated than it appears.

Mayor Maria Alegria stated that the issues surrounding the recall are not that complicated and come down to the fact that she and Councilman Tilton voted not to renew the City Manager's contract. As a result, they were threatened that they would be the victims of a recall. Mayor Algeria asked for the DPCCC's support in opposing the recall.

Councilman Tilton described the recall as "personal politics" and expressed his opinion that the recall would take Pinole back 20 years. He stated that the following are opposed to the recall:  
Assemblyman DeSaulnier  
Contra Costa Sheriffs  
Senator Torlakson  
and asked that the DPCCC vote to oppose the recall.

- 7) DPCCC OPPOSITION TO PINOLE RECALL. M/S/C that the DPCCC supports Mayor Alegria and Councilman Tilton in opposing the Pinole recall.

Motion Made By: Cecilia Valdez  
Motion Seconded By: George Van Hasselt

Note: Councilwoman Horton was refused the opportunity to rebut the proponents of the resolution; A request from a Committee member to give the Councilwoman four minutes to speak, was also denied; Brian Lawrence presented a motion to postpone voting on the recall for a month, so that DPCCC members could have time to review the issues; This motion was seconded by Secretary Obringer, but not accepted by Vice Chair Valdez as a friendly amendment.

- 8) CHAIR'S COMMENTS. Chair Rao announced that the Lamorinda

Democratic Club was holding its meeting concurrently with the DPCCC meeting, which is why many DPCCC members were absent. Other DPCCC members were traveling to Anaheim for the Executive Board meeting of the California Democratic Party.

Marie McDonald is seeking an alternate.

Terry Leach has proposed that Secretary of State Debra Bowen speak to the Contra Costa County Democratic community on Thursday, February 21, 2008, in lieu of a regular DPCCC meeting. DPCCC business could be conducted briefly before the Secretary of State speaks.

- 9) HOLIDAY POTLUCK AND CELEBRATION. Vice Chair Valdez requested that all DPCCC members who plan to attend the December 20, 2007 Holiday Potluck sign up to bring a dessert, beverage or main dish, to collect the admission fee at the door, or to be part of the clean-up crew; A \$15 contribution is requested for admission; Chuck Carpenter has assumed the responsibility of inviting all the elected officials in Contra Costa County.
- 10) APPROVAL OF CLEANING FEE PAYMENT TO IBEW: M/S/U that the DPCCC approves the payment of the \$100 cleaning fee to the IBEW for use of the hall for the DPCCC Holiday Potluck.
- 11) TREASURER'S REPORT. Treasurer Van Hasselt distributed the Treasurer's Report and announced that the balance in the DPCCC federal bank account totals \$1,353.20, while the balance in the state account comes to \$12,048.58; The total balance in both the DPCCC federal and state bank accounts is \$13,401.78; Treasurer Van Hasselt is in the process of fulfilling additional Form 460 financial filing requirements resulting from the fact that proceeds from the barbeque exceeded \$1,000.
- 12) APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT. M/S/U that the DPCCC

approve the November 15, 2007 Treasurer's Report.

- 13) ENDORSEMENT OF RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SB 840.** M/S/U that the DPCCC endorses the Resolution in Support of SB 840.
- 14) FOOD COLLECTION FOR FOOD BANK OF CONTRA COSTA AND SOLANO COUNTY.** Secretary Obringer reminded DPCCC members to bring canned goods or boxed foods to every general body meeting of the DPCCC, for donation to the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano County.
- 15) UPDATE ON THE CITY OF ANTIOCH.** Councilman Moore of the City of Antioch reported that expanding the Antioch police department, extending the youth curfew and holding community forums has had a dramatic effect on crime; The Antioch Medical Center run by Kaiser Permanente has opened, providing 1,400 new jobs and boosting the Antioch economy.
- 16) BYLAWS COMMITTEE.** Committee Chair Centeno presented the following proposed change to the DPCCC bylaws:  
Existing  
Section 1. Organizational Meeting.  
(1) The DPCCC shall meet biennially, in the second month following the primary in even numbered years, for the purpose of reorganization, as set forth in the Elections Code;  
Proposed change  
Section 1. Organizational Meeting.  
a. The DPCCC shall meet biennially, for the purpose of

reorganization as set forth in the Elections Code, in the second month following the primary Election in which a new County Central Committee is elected.

- 17) APPROVAL OF PROPOSED CHANGE TO BYLAWS, ARTICLE IV. MEETINGS.** M/S/U that the DPCCC approves the proposed change to the bylaws, to read as follows:  
Section 1. Organizational Meeting.  
a. The DPCCC shall meet biennially, for the purpose of reorganization as set forth in the Elections Code, in the second month following the primary Election in which a new County Central Committee is elected.
- 18) FUNDRAISER FOR ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 15 CANDIDATE FILSON.** Pat Baran announced that a fundraiser for AD-15 Candidate Steve Filson will be held on December 16, 2007, in Walnut Creek, to kick off his campaign.
- 19) CLOSING REMARKS.** Mayor Alegria thanked the members of the DPCCC for their vote of support. She expressed her respect for the work done by the DPCCC and thanked all present for the opportunity to address them.

Councilman Tilton stated that he cherishes the support of the DPCCC and thanked all members from the bottom of his heart.

ADJOURNMENT. 9:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Carlyn Obringer,  
Secretary

Executive Minutes

At the Exec. Meeting on 10/29/07 with five members present, Gabriel Baty, Chuck Carpenter, Carlyn Obringer, Nagaraja Rao, and George Van Hasselt. It was decided not to hold Exec meetings in November or December.

Personal Note from Nagaraja

Hi, All : Happy holidays. Our DPCCC meeting will begin @ 7:00pm on 12-20-2007. Please arrive at least 30 minutes early and help out in various tasks for our annual party. Please encourage your friends and families and neighbors to join in party for this evening. I am sure you will also stay a while longer after the party to clean up the hall so we could continue to use it. This is the time to plan strategies for our upcoming campaigns. Totalling 3 campaigns. So much to do and our volunteer force needs to be increased by introducing our democratic party ideals to the young adults who are going to be our future leaders. We need to encourage them. It's also essential for us to search for leader type of individuals (perhaps some of them may be working on city planning commissions etc.) who can implement our goals in our communities and groom them to be on the city councils and other city and county boards and supervisorial districts. We need several of these individuals. We do not want that in any election the other side would run unopposed. This can not be tolerated. Time is short and the tasks are immense. Let us rise to the occasion and accomplish our goals unitedly in the year 2008. There is no otherway. Please have a peaceful, happy and a harmonious holiday season.

Nagaraja Rao

### Agenda 12/20/2007

- 1 Welcome by Acting Chair of the DPCCC, Cecilia Valdez
  3. Attendance
  4. Guests
  5. Club presidents report
  6. Chair's Comments
  7. Approval of minutes of Nov. 2007
  8. Treasurer's report (Approval)
  9. Announcements
- PARTY PARTY

### Ed. Comment.

Party or no Party this is still an official meeting of the DPCCC which is a body established under State Law This agenda does not allow for Motions from the constituent

members that I think it must under both State law and by Roberts Rules of order. !

Partying is fine but we have a controversy Involving the procedure followed and notice given to the DPCCC regarding the surprise resolution passed at the last meeting opposing the Recall in Pinole..

At a meeting of the City Redevelopment and City Council of Pinole our Chair Nagaraja Rao indicated he had death threats aimed at himself and perhaps other members of the DPCCC relative to the recall. The West County Times has ran two Stories on this matter with comments from the Chair.

The Times reporter has requested to see the tape of the meeting which, although DPCCC property, was turned over to Maria Alegria. Maria refused to do so indicating that she needed the OK of the Chair. This permission of the Chair was not forthcoming. The Chair seemed to indicate that a vote of the Committee was necessary- tho there was no vote about giving it to Alegria in the first place.

I intend to move that we require the return of the Tape to the Committee and that it be made available to the Press. **Or do we have something to hide ?**  
**Rich Verrilli**

#### Standing Committees

Finance Chair **George Van Hasselt** (925) 628-6127  
By Laws Chair **Evelyn Centeno** (925) 957-1209  
Voter Reg Chair **Gabriel Baty** (510) 923-3666  
Elections Chair **Chuck Carpenter** (925) 323-7153

Issues Chair **Angel Luevano**  
Clubs Chair **Frank Quattro** (925) 352-9839  
Media Communications Chair **Marilyn McNulty** (925) 979-0244  
Office manager **Ellen Nelson** (925) 838-9741  
Demo Dispatch **Rich Verrilli** (925) 228-2595

#### C.C. Democratic Clubs

Diablo valley Democratic Club  
**President Sally Sweetser** (925) 335-2647 Meets 3d Wednesday of the Month  
[Sally.sweetser@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Sally.sweetser@sbcglobal.net)

Antioch Democratic Club  
**President Richard Mossmann**  
925.754.6032 Please Contact  
[Rmossmann@Pacbell.net](mailto:Rmossmann@Pacbell.net)

East County Democrats for Action  
**President George Van Hasselt**  
925. 754-9514 Please Contact  
[gvanhasselt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gvanhasselt@sbcglobal.net)

El Cerrito Democratic Club  
**President Hilary Crosby**  
510.527.5963  
[hilary@ckcpa.biz](mailto:hilary@ckcpa.biz)

Lamorinda Democratic Club  
**President Terry Leach,**  
925.210.7337 Meets 3d Friday of the Month  
[mail@lamorindademoclub.com](mailto:mail@lamorindademoclub.com)

Latina/o Democratic Club  
**President Andres Soto**  
Meets First Wed.. each month  
[adcso@hotmaill.com](mailto:adcso@hotmaill.com)

Richmond Democratic Club  
**President Ron Shoop**  
510.232.7255  
Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday each month  
[ronshoop@comcast.net](mailto:ronshoop@comcast.net)

Rossmoor Democrats  
**President Clyde Rich**  
925.979.0244 Meets 4th Thursday each month.  
[Http://ebaydemo.org/DOR.html](http://ebaydemo.org/DOR.html)

San Ramon Valley Democratic Club  
**President Ray Link** 925.820.5009

[rjlink@comcast.net](mailto:rjlink@comcast.net)

Delta Democratic Club  
**President Ron Borland** 925-625-2170  
[borlandp@ecis.com](mailto:borlandp@ecis.com)

Tri Valley Democratic Club  
**President Ellis Goldberg**  
[shgold237@aol.com](mailto:shgold237@aol.com)

The Democrats of Contra Costa have a new and constantly improving web site that you should visit often for relevant information.

[www.contracostadems.org](http://www.contracostadems.org)

Deadline for all inserts, corrections announcements and official business is Friday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
Editor

**DPCCC New Address**  
Democratic Party CCC  
Box 1615  
Martinez, Ca 94553

*New memberships and checks should be sent directly to the Treasurer George Von Hasselt*

Lisa Vorderbrueggen has a website on local politics see  
[www.ibabuzz.com/insidepolitics/](http://www.ibabuzz.com/insidepolitics/)

Letter to the Editor

The Times

Not Taking a Position

The members of the Pinole Police Employees Association have been asked to comment regarding the Pinole City Council recall effort.

Our membership believes in open government. We swore an oath to defend the U.S. Constitution and the California state constitution. These two documents guarantee the people the right to elect their representatives in free and fair elections.

This oath is nonnegotiable. Therefore, we will not take a position to endorse or oppose the Community's efforts to exercise free government.

Regardless of the outcome of the election, the membership of the Pinole Police Employees Association is committed to providing law enforcement services to the residents of Pinole with dedication and professionalism.

Les Lopez  
Pinole

Lopez is the president of Pinole Police Employees Association.

I retyped this from the Times of  
Dec. 10, 2007 Rich

*Please Join The Democratic Party*

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Employer\* \_\_\_\_\_

\*Applicable election law requires committees to report the name, address, occupation and employer (if you are retired, please write in "Retired") of all contributors of \$100.00 or more in a calendar year. FPPC #990861

*Sponsoring Member \$100*

*Associate Member \$24*

*VIP Member \$75*

*Other, I want to help!*

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO DPCCC, AND MAIL TO:  
Democratic Party of Contra Costa County  
4733 Knoll Park Circle  
Antioch, Ca 94532 (925) 754-9514

**THANK YOU!**

State election law allows limited contributions from individuals, partnerships, corporations, unions, and political action committees. Contributions to the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County (DPCCC) **are not tax deductible** for State or Federal income tax purposes. Contributions will be used in connection with DPCCC operating expenses. Not authorized by any candidate or candidate committee.

**DPCCC Monthly Meeting**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday**  
**7:30 P.M.**

**IBEW, Local 302, Hall**  
**1875 Arnold Drive**

**Martinez, CA 94553**

All Democrats Welcome!  
<http://ebaydemo.org>

No matter where you live in Contra Costa County, there is a Democratic club close by and every good Democrat should belong to at least one Democratic club.

Remember, even if you can't attend club meetings, belonging will help to keep you informed and connected to the Party.

The Democratic Party of Contra Costa County  
P.O Box 1615  
Martinez Ca. 94553