

# Lamorinda

## DEMOCRATIC CLUB

www.ldclub.org

January 2016

### THIS MONTH'S MEETING *AT-A-GLANCE*

#### SPECIAL EVENT NOTE DAY AND TIME

Saturday, January 30  
9:30 a.m.

Lafayette Library and  
Learning Center  
Community Room  
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd  
Lafayette, CA

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## Lamorinda Democratic Club to Host Annual Brunch on January 30

**Join Us to Get  
Ready, Set, Go!**

### **For Successful 2016 Elections**

The Lamorinda Democratic Club's annual brunch will help launch this important election year on Saturday, January 30, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd, in Lafayette.

This year's brunch theme is READY, SET, GO for 2016!

We need you to help us elect great Democrats and win key ballot initiatives in 2016.

This brunch will be a dynamic and action-oriented morning, giving you easy opportunities to get involved in our campaigns.

When Democrats vote, Democrats win. That's why this brunch will be about setting the stage for a successful election year.

We will be working to Get Out the Vote for our candidates and key propositions. We want to make sure our voters are ready to provide the margin of victory this June and November!

Among the candidates and elected officials we expect in attendance is Cheryl Cook-Kallio, a former Pleasanton City Councilmember who is our Democratic candidate to defeat Republican Assemblymember Catherine Baker.

What can we do to help? How can you play a part in Democratic wins this year? Please come to our club's January 30 brunch to start the conversation!

We hope to see you on January 30 as we prepare to READY, SET, GO! for a successful 2016 election cycle!



# **From the Club President**

*By Katie Ricklefs  
President, Lamorinda Democratic Club*

Happy New Year to all members and friends of the Lamorinda Democratic Club! We have a lot to look forward to in 2016, and I hope you will join me in getting “Ready, Set, to Go” and WIN this year.

Looking back, we started 2015 on a high note, sending our trusted friend, Mark DeSaulnier, to Congress to fill Congressman Miller’s very large and accomplished shoes. Congressman DeSaulnier’s departure left a big hole in our State Senate, resulting in a hotly contested Special Election for Senate District 7.

On the positive side, Contra Costa had several outstanding Democratic candidates for SD7; on the negative side, millions of dollars from “outside funders” were spent in negative ads that seemed to turn everyone off to voting.

Welcome to the world of Citizens United and Independent Expenditure Committees and lots of money in politics.

As progressive people, we have plenty of reasons to feel depressed. Listen to the Republican presidential candidates; look at the headlines of police shootings or terrorist acts or bigotry or gun violence; feel the polarization over wages, climate change, women’s rights, income inequality, immigration, health care, taxes, etc. It’s enough to make anyone cynical.

That’s why it is crucial, now more than ever that we let our cynicism move from (mild) outrage to action. In 2016 we MUST get Democrats out to VOTE because when Democrats vote, Democrats win.

When we recently asked 100 Democrats in Lamorinda and Rossmoor about their priorities for the 2016 election. The responses revealed that the economy/jobs, the environment, education, and healthcare were top of their list. The path to achieving legislation that supports these “public goods” is to elect leaders who will fight for our shared priorities.

To accomplish this will require all of us working together to Get Out The Vote!

Please join us and fight for the Candidates and Initiatives that excite you. Come to our annual brunch January 30 at 9:30 and sign up to work on campaigns for Bernie, Hillary, and Kamala; or work on Cheryl Cook-Kallio’s AD16 campaign; or work on one of the ballot initiatives that matter to you; or offer your time to a Candidate in a local race. No matter what your interest, there is an important role for you.

And finally, please renew your membership in the LDC. Our dues are increasing for very important reasons (please review the article on page 3). But we’ve decided to stop collecting the \$5 donation at the door, so anyone attending 7 or more meetings this year will come out ahead as compared to previous years.

We need everyone to do this vital work to move our state and country forward.

I look forward to working with you in 2016 to achieve some great WINS.

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**Visit the Lamorinda Democratic Club’s website  
[www.ldclub.org](http://www.ldclub.org)**

# **How Our Members Will Benefit From Our Club's Dues Increase**

*A Letter to Our Members  
from the  
Lamorinda Democratic Club's Board of Directors*

By the best estimates from our longest-standing members, it appears our club's annual dues have not increased in almost two decades.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of our operating costs.

We pay substantially more now for space rentals for our meetings and special events, food, beverages, special event expenses, and insurance than we did the last time that we raised our dues.

Consequently, the board has voted to increase The Lamorinda Democratic Club's annual dues to \$55. Based on our research, this is consistent with other clubs our size. Annual dues, moreover, are our primary source of raising funds.

As part of this dues change, the board has decided that we will no longer ask members to make a \$5 at-the-door donation for monthly meetings and most special events.

This change means that if you attend seven or more meetings a year, you will end up paying less than you have been in previous years. It's another good reason to join us at our meetings and events as we share information and give you a chance to meet candidates and elected officials in our area.

For some occasional special events, we may need to fundraise on an as-needed basis.

Before the end of this calendar year, we also hope to be able to offer automatic annual renewal via credit card.

Thank you all for your continued financial support of The Lamorinda Democratic Club. Your annual contribution assists in educating, engaging, and electing Democrats.

It builds community, and ultimately, strengthens our democracy.

Please consider sending in your 2016 dues by January 31. If you have any questions, please send us an email at [president@ldclub.org](mailto:president@ldclub.org).

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## **California Democratic Party Endorsement Conference**

Representatives of the Lamorinda Democratic Club will be participating in the California Democratic Party's Pre-Endorsement Conference on Saturday, January 30, at 1:30 p.m. at the Fairfield Cordelia Library Meeting Room, 5050 Business Center Drive.

Our club representatives will have the opportunity to vote for potential endorsement recommendations in Assembly District 16, Senate District 7, and Congressional District 11.

The process is run by California Democratic Party Region 2 Director Craig Cheslog, a past president of our club. If you have any questions, please visit [www.cademregion2.com](http://www.cademregion2.com) or e-mail him at [craig@cademregion2.com](mailto:craig@cademregion2.com).

## **Contribute to the Club's Newsletter**

We welcome contributions of letters and articles to the newsletter. Please limit submissions to 400 words. We also welcome notices pertaining to events and activities of interest to Democrats. Publication is subject to the discretion of the Lamorinda Democratic Club's Board of Directors. Please contact Craig Cheslog at [craig@cheslog.com](mailto:craig@cheslog.com) for more information.

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are the opinions of the authors and not necessarily of the Club or the Club's Board of Directors, unless otherwise expressly stated.

## **Lamorinda Democratic Club Board of Directors**

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