

Lamorinda

DEMOCRATIC CLUB

www.ldclub.org

April 2016

THIS MONTH'S MEETING AT-A-GLANCE

Thursday, April 14
7 p.m.

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

*\$5 donation at the door waived
for students and Lamorinda
Democratic Club members
who have paid their 2016 dues.*

COMING UP

May 12:
Time to Get Set for the June Ballot:
Learn about Important Measures
& BYOB (Bring Your Own Ballot)
To complete and mail!

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CA's Children in Crisis: What We Need to Do to Give Them the Right Start Club's April 14 Meeting to Feature Common Sense Kids Action's Craig Cheslog

The Lamorinda Democratic Club's next meeting on Thursday, April 14, will feature Common Sense Kids Action Co-Director and Vice President for California Policy Craig Cheslog, who will report on the release of the Right Start Commission's report on early childhood in California.



The Right Start Commission, a team of business, education, health and early childhood experts convened by Common Sense Kids Action, will release a report the day before our next meeting detailing gaps in California's early childhood services, including recommendations to improve delivery and provide more resources to create a "child-centered" and streamlined system of early learning and care for children ages 0-5.

The Commission is co-chaired by former Senate President pro Tem Darrell Steinberg and Dr. Nadine Burke Harris of the Center for Youth Wellness. Former Congressman George Miller is one of the Commission's members.

In California, millions of children face challenges that could put them at a disadvantage later in life. Our state has the second-worst standard of living for
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BART Director Speaks to Club

by Mike Rusk, Lamorinda Democratic Club Secretary

The LDC met Thursday, March 10 at the Lafayette Library. Our members and guests heard about BART improvements, labor relations, future plans, and a proposed bond measure from BART Director Rebecca Saltzman.

Saltzman shared some interesting statistics about recent growth in ridership and BART's importance in Lamorinda. This February, BART ridership grew

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BART Board Member Updates LDC

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to an historic high of 446,000 riders per weekday. The benefit to Contra Costa County is illustrated by the fact that nearly as many people travel on BART into Oakland as through the Caldecott tunnel on a weekday morning peak hour. Another example of the benefit is that residential property values are 12.8% higher 1/2 mile from a BART station compared to 3% higher within 2 to 5 miles.

Saltzman described a number of areas where BART is making improvements. A \$1 billion project is underway and under budget that will make BART safe in an earthquake and reduce recovery time afterwards. Other current projects include improved station access and signage, additional bicycle storage (which is always fully utilized), canopies above entrances to underground BART stations, and the system extension to Antioch utilizing Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU) technology.

There is a significant need to update BART's infrastructure, some of which is 45-years old. Projects to address aging infrastructure include 775 more comfortable and efficient cars with additional doors and a new train control system for a 25% increase in traffic through the transbay tube. It is interesting to know that the new train control system will allow closer spacing between trains, because the location of trains will be more precisely known.

A \$3.5 billion bond measure is one potential funding source for the estimated \$9.6 billion cost of these infrastructure projects. There will be benefits of reduced crowding and delays as well as increased safety.

Saltzman received many questions from the audience were many about labor relations. She responded that steps are being taken, which she believes ensure negotiations, to start next year, will be successful. She said there has been a recognition of the mistakes made and the management inexperience that led to the strike. There are also joint labor-management efforts this year to build trust and a common understanding of BART data. She also explained that the right-to-strike for BART workers was established by state law and is therefore not up to the Board.

Saltzman also received questions about station conditions, parking, late night hours, and expansion around the bay. Generally what the Board can do is limited by funding and may also require action by others.

Join Us at the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County's Roosevelt Awards Dinner on April 23

The Lamorinda Democratic Club is putting together a table for the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County's Third Annual Roosevelt Awards Dinner on Saturday, April 23 at the Crowne Plaza, 45 John Glenn Drive, in Concord. Please join us by purchasing a \$90 ticket to the dinner through the club.

We hope to have a fun and active table at this event, which will honor former Assemblymembers Susan Bonilla and Joan Buchanan and State Senators Loni Hancock and Lois Wolk. Please contact John Hall at jdhall@mac.com to purchase a seat at our table and get ready for a great evening that begins at 5 p.m. (reception) with dinner at 6 p.m.

Nominations Committee Announces Officer Slate for 2016-17

The Lamorinda Democratic Club's Nominations Committee, in accordance with the club's by laws, announces its slate of club officers for 2016-17. The officer elections happen at our club's June 9 meeting.

President Katie Ricklefs, Vice President Tom Duckworth, Treasurer John Hall, and Secretary Mike Rusk have all been nominated for another term. Nominations can also be taken from the floor.

2016 Club Membership Dues Now Due Support Your Club's Activities!

Membership dues for the Lamorinda Democratic Club for 2016 are now due. Dues are \$55 per year for a single membership and \$110 per year for a family membership.

Membership in the club gives you the right to vote in club elections and for club endorsements. We also welcome additional contributions to support our work. Membership dues help to cover the expenses of our monthly meetings, our outreach efforts like the distribution of this newsletter, and our endorsement activities to promote the election of Democrats at the local and state levels.

If you pay your dues, the \$5 suggested donation at the door for our regular meetings will be waived. We hope you will take advantage of this by attending more of our meetings to get more value for your membership. Please pay your membership dues today! You can use the remittance envelope included in the newsletter or you can pay on-line via our website at www.ldclub.org. Look for the "Join/Renew" button in the website's left column.

California's Children in Crisis (continued)

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kids in the nation. In families with young children, a single minimum wage earner cannot afford both rent and child care—the two largest expenses for most California families.

Common Sense Kids Action convened the Right Start Commission based on the fundamental principle that every California child deserves the right start. High-quality early learning and care, supportive family environments, and preventive health care are essential to ensuring every child has the opportunity to thrive in school and in life.

Craig served as the staff director of the Commission that has worked over the last several months to develop strategies to better serve California's 9 million children, with a particular focus on the 3 million children age 0–5. This report will serve as a foundational document, reflecting the commission's ideas and priorities for a more child-centered approach to our workplaces, our policymaking, and our civic life.

Craig joined Common Sense Kids Action (www.common sense media.org/kids-action) in January 2015 as its Co-Director and Vice President for California Policy. Based in Common Sense's San Francisco office, Craig is the co-director of the organization's advocacy platform and is responsible for California-specific policy development and legislative campaign execution across all of Common Sense's policy areas.

Craig previously served as the Principal Advisor to California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson at the California Department of Education for four years. Before joining the California Department of Education, he served as Torlakson's district director for his Assembly and State Senate offices for eight years. A past president of the Lamorinda Democratic Club, Craig was elected the California Democratic Party's Region 2 Director in April 2013 and re-elected in May 2015. He is a member of the Planned Parenthood Northern California Action Fund's Board of Directors. Craig also serves on the Leadership Council, and is a past chair, of CREATE CA: California's statewide arts education coalition.

**Speaker Rendon Says AD 16 is the Top Priority!
So Let's Help Walk for our Candidate: Cheryl Cook-Kallio!
Canvass Kickoff Walk ~ Saturday, April 2nd at 11am
Tawny Park, 400 Tawny Drive, Pleasanton**

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 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.

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