

DEMOCRATS OF NAPA VALLEY
General Meeting
March 18, 2019
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Napa Public Library
580 Coombs Street, Napa, CA

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Call to order at 5:35 p.m.

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Sally; Motion seconded by Kelly Hurst; Motion carried.

III. APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (February 25, 2019)

Motion by Kelly Hurst; Motion seconded by Conchita Marusich; Motion Carried.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT (See attached)

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next General Meeting: Monday, April 15., Napa Women's Club, 218 Franklin Street, Napa. Next Following General Meeting May 20, 5:30 pm Napa Women's Club, 218 Franklin Street, Napa: Napa General Plan.

- Next DONV ExCom Meeting April 1 5:30 p.m. Napa Sport

- Volunteer to Help Napa Valley Immigrants on their Path to Citizenship. To sign-up go to: <https://napavalleydems.org/take-action-events/>

- Volunteer with the Democrats of Napa Valley for the 2020 Census. To sign up, email: napavalleydems1.org

Johanna O'Kelley addressed the issue of the 2020 census: One uncounted person will cost California approximately \$20,000 over the ten year period until the 2030 census.

In order to adequately "count" California's population, the state census program will need as many people as can be hired. Contact the website below for more information.

- Apply for a Census 2020 Job - <https://2020census.gov>.

- Apply for Napa County Committees and Commissions: <https://www.countyofnapa.org/1420/Committees-Commissions>

- President O'Kelley urged all DONV members to be sure their membership is current. The 2020 election is almost here and each California club gets one vote per 20 members at the

CADEM pre-endorsement conference. So please be sure your membership is current. Population of Napa Valley may be small, but we have a good sized club and we want the voice of Napa Valley to be heard. The California Democratic Convention is a three-day event starting May 31.

Volunteers should contact Johanna via the phone number or email available on the DONV website.

The club bylaws are being updated to include certain wording mandated by the state Democratic party, as well as some changes in wording to more accurately reflecting the Democratic Mission locally. The changes must be voted on and approved by the membership, so this document will be coming to you in the very near future for your review and will be voted on at the next general meeting.

The CADEM pre-endorsement conference is scheduled for October 5 & 6; delegates will be selected from the membership. Members must be: A registered Democrat; At least 18 years old by the time of submitting the roster of Members. Cannot be a member of the Central Committee

VI. TONIGHT PROGRAM: IS CLIMATE CHANGE FUELING CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES?

Guest Speakers are from the Citizens' Climate Lobby:

- **Jerry Hinkle** has been an economist in banking for the last 30 years, holds Master's degrees in Economics and in Climate Policy.

Jerry Hinkle states he evening's intention is to bring up to date on peer reviews economics and peer review science on wild fires and climate change. g

"We hear a lot of 'noise' 'out there', but this is not the Democratic view, and it is not the Republican view. This is what we know."

Hinkle elaborates that Yes, climate change is the predominate force that has increased the frequency and ferocity of wild fires, such as been experienced by people of Napa, Sonoma and Lake Counties in the last two years.

We can come a long way to stabilizing global warming if we dramatically reduce pollutant emissions starting NOW and not ten-twelve years from now.

"If we do NOT succeed in doing this, If we do not dramatically reduce these emissions, the effects by the end of the decade will increase by five multiples. the consequences are going to be horrendous; and ...to me that is unacceptable."

There is a bill introduced on a bipartisan basis that has been re-introduced to the House ... HR763 ... has about 18 cosponsors at this point ... one Republican ...but we are assured more are coming. Passage of this bill, "...this will do it; it will stabilize that risk..." This will

do it and we can get to work on having the planet efficiently habitable for the next generations.

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• **Dana Nuccitelli:** "Dana Nuccitelli is an environmental scientist, and author of *Climatology versus Pseudoscience*. He has published 10 papers related to climate change in peer-reviewed journals, including three studies on the expert climate consensus. Nuccitelli has written about climate science for *SkepticalScience.com* since 2010, for *The Guardian* since 2013, and for *Yale Climate Connections* since 2018." – *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*.

He has a background in Physics from University of California, Berkeley and Davis, and in addition to above, has been writing for several other publications as well.

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Nuccitelli briefly reviewed Northern California fires in the few years, noting that the Camp Fire was the most destructive in California recorded history. He tied this "record" into statistics that show that over most recent years California fires each year have consumed greater areas on a strong uptrend ... arriving to the massive record-breaking Camp Fire.

Why is this happening? "We are a non-partisan organization, but points out that the current administration has blamed the massive wild fire proliferation on California not managing their forest correctly. Nuccitelli agrees that the changing of fire policies in forest management can take some of the responsibility, the management problem in no way relates to administration accusations, and those policies are being reviewed in face of climate change.

He refers to the National Climate Assessment Report, Part I (downloadable as a PDF file ... run a search for the title). The report is a legally mandated report, the fourth since its inception in 1990. To quote from the introduction of the second volume, "The Global Change Research Act of 1990 mandates that the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) deliver a report to Congress and the President no less than every four years that..."

Nuccitelli points out that Part I was released on Black Friday with the hope that people would not notice it. He notices one salient statistic --- that there was twice as much acreage burned in 2018 as 2016.

One of the major conclusions drawn from the report is that the single greatest contribution to the upward trend of fire consummation Climate Change, based on all the available information.

Nuccitelli goes on to show various visual aids showing graphs, trends and statistics and describes probable circumstances for the future.

How does this work? The first obvious cause is Global Warming which causes a rise in mean temperature. You get higher temperatures, you get more drying, more evaporation, and less resistance to approach flames. Everything gets drier; drier means more fuel; more fuel means faster growing and hotter fires.

Another contributing factor is the Arctic melting really fast; but we won't have time to get into that today.

California had a really bad drought from 2012 to 2016 (according to Nuccitelli). Because the drought got so severe, a new category of drought had been created called "Exceptional Drought", a category which fit California from 2014 to 2016.

The drought started to abate a little in 2016 ... we got a little rain; and then in 2017 we had some more rain. But in 2018, the whole state was back to drought conditions, the year of the Camp Fire.

So, there is a connection between drought conditions and wildfires. The drier the conditions, the greater the risk and consequence of wild fires.

An all-California Oak Tree survey showed how much water was available in a given year based on a comparison of tree rings number and width. Data of historical droughts and rich water availability contributes to today's understanding.

This data showed that the drought of 2012 to 2018 was the most intense drought in California in over 1,000 years. The drought data for 2015 was the driest year for California amongst that 1,000 plus record.

This drought is also tied to temperature records, 2014-2018, have also been the hottest on record.

These extremes have shown connections to increases in extreme wealth; Nuccitelli showed charts and statistics showing significant correlations, and discussed other factors which connected and affected the California fire seasons.

He further cited other publications in support of the statistics already delivered to the assembly.

Weather whiplash means that Global Warming is causing changes in the normal patterns of winter and summer in regards to droughts and rainy seasons. Rainy season starts later opens up the fire season to longevity. And then a drought slips in and increases the dry fire potentials.

The winter just ending is the wettest winter on record in the United States. There is no plan B for planetary health. Can't go to Mars, it's more inhospitable than Earth. Can't get 7 billion people through a Wormhole to find another planet. Earth is it and we've got to get this under control.

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Jerry Hinkle reassumes the podium.

WHAT COMES NEXT?

If we stay on our current path, by the end of the century, world temperature will go up 3 21/2 degrees. What that means is the risks and consequences seen so far will increase Radically.

If we somehow come together; if we all get on board, e.g., the Paris Accords, it's still grim. It's only a starting point. We must do better. Our policy, now before Congress, calls for a 90% reduction by 2050.

The goal is to achieve a maximum increase in temperature to 1.5 degrees C (currently at 1.0 C. We have provisions for incentives in the bill. It's going to be hard, but we think it's doable.

If we just meet the Paris Accords, we are talking in the future ten times the acreage lost to wild fires.

We're talking about a dramatic transformation of the American West! We've got to do better than this.

A study has indicated that the cost from 1980s decades has gone to triple the cost for this decade. trip, that is, without accounting for inflation; that is, the same dollar. Because of these costs coupled with damages, you'll hear, "We can't afford to tackle Climate Change."

"People ... we cannot afford to NOT address Climate Change."

What's happening now in Congress is between the Green New Deal and our HR736, which is quite different. We've actually got four Republicans supporting the bill, and we're getting more.

5 basic principles

Pollution shouldn't be free; we should charge a pollution fee against products coming into he country.

Now we know the rest of the world wants to get going on this. ... we're the ones dragging our feet.

We have a strong idea how get it going. A Carbon tax starting with \$25 a ton to be raised \$1.00 a year ... it will work.

This would work the same way that increasing the taxes, and thus the cost, on cigarettes ... a financial incentive to give up or slow down ones' own smoking.

Hinkle discusses other collateral ramifications of "charging" for Carbon contributions to the atmosphere.

Prime Minister Trudeau of Canada getting a Carbon fee to go national; British Columbia has already launched their own program, and Carbon emissions are down considerably due to the financial incentives. Hinkle says that Trudeau has told the nation that next year it will no longer be "free" to pollute.

Questions were then taken from the audience; one particular person seemed to be contentious and argumentative but the speakers were thorough and polite.

President Johanna O'Kelley wraps up the session with an announcement. During the presentation she emailed Supervisor Ryan Gregory to confirm that each uncounted person would cost the state \$20,000 over a ten year period. He did confirm it. We want to minimize that. We have ten thousand undocumented workers in Napa County. That would be 10,000 people times \$20,000 over a ten year period = \$200 million.

VII. ADJOURNMENT TO NEXT GENERAL MEETING 7 PM

Motion to adjourn by Grace; Motion seconded by Conchita Marusich; Motion carried.

Reminder: next General Meeting slated April 15 at the Napa Women's Club, 218 Franklin Street at 5:30 p.m.

Submitted by: Richard Bruns/DONV Secretary

Democrats of Napa Valley February 2019

	1/1/18 - 12/31/18	1/1/19- 1/31/19	2/1/19- 2/28/19
Income			
Refunds	\$300	\$0	\$25
Lobbyist Training	\$680	\$0	\$0
Memberships	\$7,200.12	\$260.00	\$1,065.00
Raffle	\$139	\$0	\$0
Election Night Party	\$6,515	\$0	\$0
Total Income	\$14,834.12	\$260.00	\$1,090.00
Expenses			
Adjustment	\$488	\$0	
Canvassing supplies	\$385.57	\$0	
Charter Renewal	\$0	\$0	\$502
Election Night Party	\$5,190	\$0	
Endorsements	\$356.06	\$0	
Fee's & Charges	\$541.37	\$6.18	\$33.28
Gifts/Donations	\$323	\$0	
Meeting Expense	\$3,443.27	\$50	\$585
Office Supplies	\$699.29	\$0	
Parade Registration	\$50	\$0	
Register to Vote signs	\$368.49	\$0	
Sponsorship	\$100	\$0	
Square Fee	\$1.94	\$0	
Text Training	\$23.16	\$0	
USPS	\$140	\$0	
Website	\$346.19	\$0	
Wine for Election Night	\$224	\$0	
Total Expenses \$	\$12,681	\$56	\$1,120.28
Net/Difference	\$14,834.12	\$203.82	(\$30.28)
Checking			\$7,862.55
Savings			\$3,017.64
Total Balance			\$10,880.19