

WESTLAKE VILLAGE REPUBLICAN WOMEN FEDERATED

# ***THE TRUMPET***

VOLUME 19 / ISSUE 1

WWW.WVRWF.ORG



## CONTENTS

- 02 President's Message
- 03 Membership
- 05 Save the Dates  
Upcoming Events  
& Volunteer Opportunities
- 06 December Event  
Holiday Luncheon & Installation
- 07 January Event  
Lunch with Travis Allen
- 09 National News  
Republican Women Celebrate  
Historic Wins in Congress  
Trump is Right,  
Congress Needs to Do its Job
- 13 California News  
Reform California  
How to Opt Out of the  
"Clean Power Alliance"
- 20 Culture  
Vice or Virtue? The Left Gets It  
Wrong Again
- 22 How to Contact Your Legislators



### **Happy Elephant Hour**

Each month, WVRWF members gather at a local water hole for whine and wine. These popular events give our members the opportunity to gather with like-minded Conservatives.

Watch for times and locations!





Top: Gloria Pemberton, Donnell Nichols, Jeanne Llewellyn, Elaine Anthony, Rose Hernandez, Bonnie Baker. Bottom: Dale Thomas and Karen Wetterlind

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's a New Year. That's the good news. A New Year means new beginnings, new chances to right old wrongs, new green hills growing to replace the burned out black horizons of last year. A New Year that brings with it fresh rain to wash away the pain of the past year. 2018 can now be seen in your rearview mirror where it belongs, in the past. It's gone and with it went the hopes and dreams and plans of so many. Plans for the future of young people who would never see the promise of the new year, plans to maybe paint the house or build a patio or plant rose bushes for a house that now sits in ash. These are the real broken pieces of 2018.

There were others with plans as well, not so devastating as the loss of life or the loss of homes, but perhaps a deeply felt loss all the same. 2018 was supposed to be the year that Californians came to their senses. The year that sanity would rule at the ballot box and conservative values would once again rule the halls of state government. Many of us worked very hard, donating money and weekends and hours of our time because this was going to be our year to save our state from the clutches of those who would destroy it.

Finally, to be rid of Governor Brown and his liberal ideas, his reckless spending, his defiance of our federal government, his sanctuary state and his train to nowhere. We were certain that no one in their right mind would want to see this continue.

Our ethical, hardworking candidates would surely save us from this insanity and our state would return to one where the middle class could afford to live, small businesses could thrive and our citizens could walk the streets in safety. Yet, even in the face of the highest income taxes, highest sales taxes and the highest gas prices, lowest school rankings and high crime rates, still we faced the agony of defeat. We watched in horror as our candidates fell one by one taking any hope for our future with them. What the hell happened?

What happened was wrong on so many levels, but primarily wrong because it shouldn't have happened at all. Vote harvesting combined with the DMV's illegal voter registrations, the well-oiled machine called the Democratic Party and the millions of dollars spent by special interest groups were a formidable enemy and they prevailed.

So – do we throw up our hands and wail? Do we run with our tails between our legs or hide under the bed. I'm sorry but no! The lesson is learned. It is time to reorganize our Republican Party and prepare for battle. Congressional seats are only for two years which allows us the time to regroup, reenergize and take a serious look at how we can come together to "Take Back California". That needs to start today – with a New Year and a new attitude.  
God Bless!

# The Trumpet Newsletter

## Editor

Ariana M. Perfecto

## Board of Directors

### President

Dale Thomas

### VP of Programs

Jeanne Llewellyn

### VP of Membership

Bonnie Baker

### Co-VP of Membership & Corresponding Secretary

Rose Hernandez

### V.P. of Ways and Means

Donnell Nichols

### Recording Secretary

Karen Wetterlind

### Treasurer

Gloria Pemberton

### Parliamentarian

Elaine Anthony



## NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### Marjorie Ormsby



Marjorie has been a resident of WLV for over 30 years. She began her journey in the Conejo Valley at First Interstate Bank (with member Rose Hernandez)

where she had numerous financial management roles. She moved into Pharmaceuticals in 1996 and has been with the same company since 1999 (Sepracor – Sunovion Pharmaceuticals). This company financially supported her MBA degree at Pepperdine University and she has been able to travel extensively. As Regional Account Manager, she negotiates rebates for their drugs to gain formulary access with managed care plans. Marjorie is VP of Out-of-State Skiing at Conejo Skii & Sports Club, a member of two book clubs, and has been married for 29+ years to Brad Ormsby, the father of her two girls, Ashley and Kirstyn.

## Welcome, New Members!

Karole Aldrich  
Gina Bellisario  
Terese Bisignamo  
Margie Davidson  
Lilly Klink  
Lorraine Mensch  
Janet Moore  
Marjorie Ormsby  
Fay Ray  
Judy Ureda

## Birthdays

Catherine Inbar	1/6
Bonnie Baker	1/11
Jennifer Chebi	1/17
Diane Manson	1/25
Rosalie Strong	1/28

## Become a Member



Our conservative agenda must be guarded and nurtured by us always. Join the WVRWF today and fight for conservative values!

You will find the 2019 Membership Form on the following page or visit [www.wvrwf.com](http://www.wvrwf.com).

## Renew Your Membership



Your membership dues enable us to be aligned with the California Federation of Republican Women.

This year we are welcoming Sisters, Mothers and Daughters as associate members. Men and Spouses are, of course, still included!

Renew your membership now to help us get started on another great year!

## Gift of Membership



Give the Gift of Membership to anyone! We will send them a welcome email and let them know that they are now part of our Club!





## 2019 MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

CELL: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTHDAY: Month/Day \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse\*: \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

**Circle one:** New Member or Renewal

\_\_\_\_\_ Active Member Annual Dues\* .....\$35

\_\_\_\_\_ Gold Elephant Sponsor .....\$100

\_\_\_\_\_ Platinum Elephant Sponsor .....\$200

*Sponsorships include dues and receive special recognition in newsletters, website, programs and directory*

\_\_\_\_\_ Student Member.....\$15

\_\_\_\_\_ Associate Member Annual Dues .....\$25

*Associate membership eligibility is limited to men, non-U.S. citizens and regular members of another Republican Women Federated club. In what Federated Club are you presently a member? \_\_\_\_\_*

\_\_\_\_\_ \*SAVE when Spouses join together..... \$50 (as an Associate Member)

\_\_\_\_\_ Name Badge (optional).....\$20

*Name to appear on badge:* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Total Payment

Do you want your contact information to appear in the **2018 Membership Directory**? \_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_No

*The directory is for members only and will not be used for commercial purposes.*

How do you want to receive your monthly **Newsletter**: \_\_\_\_Email [cost effective for the club] \_\_\_\_Mail Only

Three payment methods:

Online at [www.WVRWF.org](http://www.WVRWF.org)

Credit card: CC# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp \_\_\_\_\_ Sec Code \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**OR... Pay by check for your dues (and optional name badge)**

Westlake Village Republican Women Federation

**MAIL TO: WVRWF 3835 R. East Thousand Oaks Bl Box 109 Westlake Village Ca 91362**

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Become engaged in our Club, Help our Republican Party, and our Community. Share your talents!

Event Planning \_\_\_\_

Facebook/Social Network \_\_\_\_

Website \_\_\_\_

Election/Precinct Work \_\_\_\_

Community Svc/Literacy \_\_\_\_

Young Republicans \_\_\_\_

Mailings \_\_\_\_

Fundraising \_\_\_\_

Hospitality \_\_\_\_

Legislation \_\_\_\_

Membership Outreach \_\_\_\_

Newsletter \_\_\_\_

Photography \_\_\_\_

Programs/Speakers \_\_\_\_

Publicity \_\_\_\_

Military Support \_\_\_\_

Voter Registration \_\_\_\_

Scholarship \_\_\_\_



## *SAVE THE DATE!*

**30  
JAN**

### **Happy Elephant Hour**

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm, Grissini Ristorante Italiano  
\$10.00 members; \$15.00 non-members  
Enjoy shared appetizers, no host bar.



**21  
FEB**

### **Dinner with Bill Whittle**

Nationally known conservative blogger and political commentator.  
5:30 pm – 8:30 pm, Hyatt Westlake Village  
\$50.00 members by 2/16; \$60.00 non-members or after 2/16



**8-10  
MAR**

### **CFRW 2019 Winter BOD/Advocacy Meeting**

Sacramento Marriot Rancho Cordova



**31 MAY  
-  
2 JUN**

### **CFRW 2019 Spring BOD Meeting/Conference**

DoubleTree by Hilton Santa Ana Orange County Airport



**18-20  
OCT**

### **CFRW 2019 Fall 40<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention**

Bakersfield Marriot at the Convention Center



## **Volunteer Opportunities**

Please reach out to help make us the best club in Ventura County! There is great talent within the membership and there is a role for everyone. Registering Republican voters is one of our most important efforts as a club. Watch for dates and locations in 2019! Please contact Dale Thomas at [dale91377@aol.com](mailto:dale91377@aol.com) or (818) 257-2358 if you wish to serve.

# THE WVRWF ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON & INSTALLATION

WVRWF is a club made up of women who care and the focus of our annual Holiday Luncheon was on an entire community who care-particularly our first responders. The last few weeks of 2018 were an extraordinarily difficult and tragic time for our community. We saw despair at every turn. The Borderline shooting- the fires-the destruction - we were truly tested. But the inspiration that rose from the ashes was the outpouring of support from our community. We are a community and a country who hurt together and we will heal together.

Our Christmas Luncheon was a dedication to our first responders and a way to personally thank our newly elected Ventura County Sheriff Bill Ayub who brought along our Under Sherriff Monica McGrath and our new Division 2 Fire Chief John Spykerman. These gentlemen graciously joined us in representation of their men and women and we appreciated the opportunity to thank them for all they have done for our community. We also had the opportunity to hear from Paige Peel who sang her heartbreaking song "Our Town". The installation of the new WVRWF Board of Directors for 2019 took place at the luncheon and was officiated by Sheriff Bill Ayub.

The luncheon brought out more than 70 members of the club who enjoyed a wonderful Four Seasons lunch and beautiful decorations by Crystal Salapatas and Donnell Nichols. A great day was had by all.

**- Dale Thomas, *President***







## Lunch with Travis Allen

By Stacy Flaig

Travis Allen wants to Take Back California! – and through his recent appearances and appeals across the state, he is gaining legions of California Republican followers in that effort. Travis Allen is a man with a plan. We had the opportunity to hear that plan on Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup> when he came to speak to our group at the Westlake Village Inn...

It was a cold and heavily rainy day and so I wasn't sure many would make the trip out to attend the luncheon to support Travis Allen. Fortunately, my concerns were alleviated once I reached the welcome table and saw that the Wine Cellar venue was packed full. Almost too full! Donnell Nichols (our event coordinator) said they considered getting a larger venue, but she's glad they didn't as she preferred a 'packed' room to one with too much open space. It was a good choice as it felt cozy and festive. It was a warm and intimate setting in which Travis could engage us with his message more closely.

After enjoying a delicious lunch entrée of salmon *or* filet mignon,

Travis Allen was introduced to us by our president Dale Thomas as the prime candidate for California State Republican Chair. He gleefully grabbed the mic and began sharing why and how he plans on re-building our once great state. Passionately, he said "Californians deserve a strong Republican Party that supports our values, ideals, and our Republican President. It's time we rebuild the Party from the ground up and Take Back California!" – this was, of course, met with an equally passionate round of applause.

Travis Allen is a self-described "So Cal surfer" (originally from San Diego). He was a Certified Financial Planner for several years before entering politics. He noticed that many friends and family were fleeing the state because of how mismanaged it became under Democrat leadership. He watched as Democrats used union money and election fraud to win power in this state. He stated that "the Democrats have out-planned and out-executed our party for over 2 decades." Travis Allen couldn't idly stand by anymore while things got worse, so he decided to 'jump in

the ring' and fight for this state. In 2012 he successfully ran for California State Assembly (72<sup>nd</sup> district), and for 6 years he authored and sponsored legislature for Republican values such as Voter I.D. laws, repealing gas taxes, and opposing the California Sanctuary State bill.

Travis Allen called out his/our own party by observing that the GOP has been far "too lazy," citing that the we have not done a statewide registration in over a decade! He mentioned, for instance, that we as a party have not been this weak in legislature since 1883!

Although Travis Allen did not win our party's bid as the candidate for governor last November, it may just prove to be a blessing in disguise for us. Travis Allen knows what it will take to rebuild our party in California and if elected as our State Party Chairman, he is in prime position to ignite a revolution that will make our party relevant and powerful again in this state. He may be just the guy to put us back on the map as a threat to the Democrats - who take for granted

that they've got the 'hold' on California politics.



He will be running against Republican Steve Frank who he says "is a good guy with similar values, but he doesn't have the support needed to win." He will also be running against Republican Jessica Patterson, with whom he is less impressed. "She's 'establishment politics' and she leads the 'proxy ballot' drill against the interest of the Republican party"

Travis has the support needed to win this race. "I currently have more volunteers: 50,000 - and more individual donors; 20,000 on average - than *either* of the other candidates. I also have more social media followers than they do."

He has been dubbed "California's Trump" by some liberal media outlets, and it is a label he is proud to wear! - He tells it like it is and on Thursday he emphatically stated that "The Establishment is NOT working in California! Our party needs to be for the people, not for Special Interests!" - very 'Trump-like.'

**The Plan:** Travis Allen believes passionately, that the Republican party can re-gain influence in California with action and effort on our part. He stated that "it will take time, but if we get out there, person by person, community by community, and organize a unified effort, we will succeed in Taking

Back California." He's asking us - no, *imploring* us - to believe with him and begin taking action. Specifically, his plan for this 'revolution' involves the party reaching out to every single registered Republican in California and recruiting a "street captain" for every street in the state in order to bring the true message of Republicans to every neighborhood and registering new Republicans. It just requires a willing (and courageous) soul on every street to reach out to neighbors and speak about "common sense values" which are Republican values. He stated that our message must be clear, concise, and above all unified. Travis Allen said each street captain (and precinct captain) will be trained by local Republican volunteers. They will also be sent cards with the title "Republican Street Captain" to convey a sense of designation in which to approach their neighbors. Travis believes in the power of numbers and support to ensure success.

Travis Allen shared his plan to financially support this endeavor. He calls it "The California 100,000." The party will reach out to registered Republicans across the state to enlist 100,000 people who are willing to donate \$10 a month to the Party. Travis stated that "every dime of the \$10 will go directly to this effort of registering Republicans." He went on to say "we will start empowering all GOP organizations up and down the state. Each club, (like WVRWF) will get paid with each new register to the Republican Party."

Travis Allen concluded his appeal by stating, "In recent years, the California GOP has not been

fighting for you! They have been too timid!" If elected as our Party's State Chairman, Travis promises to pursue criminal charges with voting fraud in our state, among other things. He said, "We have the power of recall! When Gavin Newsom violates our constitution (as he's intent on doing), the Party needs to be ready to recall! I will not be timid. I will pursue criminal charges whenever necessary."

Travis Allen just might be the man who can turn things around for us in California. He certainly made an impressive case for it. Now it's up to us to ask ourselves, how willing are we to be a part of the solution?







**Blackburn**



**McSally**



**Noem**



**Kim**



**Herrell**



**Miller**

## **Republican Women Celebrate Historic Wins in Midterm Elections**

*"We held back the so-called Democrat blue wave to a ripple."*

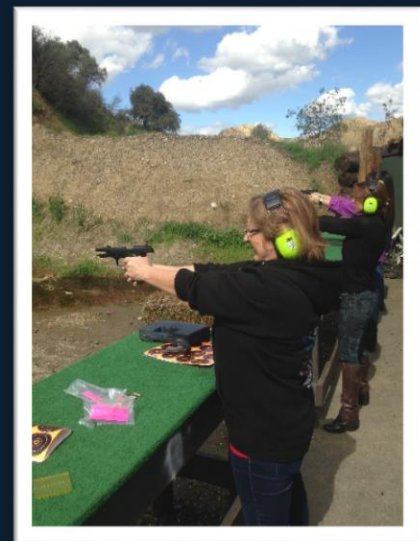
ALEXANDRIA, Va. - The National Federation of Republican Women (NFRW) is celebrating the historic elections of several Republican women to federal and statewide office on Tuesday.

Marsha Blackburn is the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate from Tennessee, and Kristi Noem will be the first woman governor of South Dakota. Martha McSally, who is currently ahead in the vote tally in her race, will be Arizona's first woman senator if she wins. "We are proud of the distinguished leadership and successful candidacies of these Republican women, and we are proud of their commitment to our organization," NFRW President Jody Rushton said. "We look forward to continuing to work with them after they take office in January."

The NFRW is also celebrating the election of at least three new Republican women to Congress. Young Kim won her race in California's 39th congressional district. She will be our nation's first Korean-American congresswoman. Yvette Herrell was elected in New Mexico's 2nd congressional district, while Carol Miller was elected in West Virginia's 3rd district.

In addition to Noem, at least 10 new Republican women were elected to statewide executive office, including lieutenant governors Jeanette Nunez of Florida, Janice McGeachin of Idaho and Pamela Evette of South Carolina, and more than 165 new Republican women were elected to state legislatures. Moreover, despite a few disappointments, most Republican women incumbents won reelection. "President Trump and Republicans have a lot to savor today," Rushton said. "We held back the so-called Democrat blue wave to a ripple, gaining seats in the U.S. Senate and retaining many of our crucial state offices and legislative chambers. Thank you to Republican women across the nation for working tirelessly for victories in your states and communities. Your grassroots efforts are second to none."

Founded in 1938, the National Federation of Republican Women is the largest and most influential Republican women's group in the nation, proudly representing the party that first made it possible for women to vote in the U.S. The NFRW works to increase the effectiveness and relevance of women in the cause of good government. Our mission remains to recruit and elect Republican candidates, promote the principles of the Republican Party, educate the public and inform the media.



WESTLAKE VILLAGE REPUBLICAN WOMEN FEDERATED

2018



# TRUMP IS RIGHT, CONGRESS NEEDS TO DO ITS JOB



Written by Rachel Boyard for amgreatness.com

As the partial government shutdown enters its third week with little hope of an end in sight, President Trump continues to demand funding for a southern border wall. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) flat out refuses to pass any funding at all. In the Senate, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) has washed his hands of the matter, telling Trump to work it out with Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) while he moves the Senate onto other topics.

Predictably, both chambers clocked out for the weekend on Thursday afternoon. When senators and House members make the rounds on the upcoming Sunday shows wringing their hands about the shutdown, somebody might ask why they only worked less than three days this week. Apparently, the crisis at the border, and the resulting government shutdown, are an emergency to everyone except the people responsible for addressing it.

In the face of congressional intransigence, President Trump has toyed with the idea of declaring a national emergency. On Friday, the president said that option was currently off the table, and with good reason. Although funding the wall through an emergency declaration is likely legal, it would create more problems for the president than it solves, both politically and practically.

For years, conservatives decried the “pen and the phone” approach that characterized the Obama years. From subverting the Senate and binding the United States to the Paris climate accords and engaging in illegal negotiations with Hezbollah to creating law out of thin air with the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, President Obama pushed the limits of executive power to the breaking point and beyond.

Champions of limited government rightly howled. The balance of powers was set to constrain the executive—not to anoint him. And just because Congress would rather cede its constitutional prerogatives than exercise them, the president should not feel compelled to upend a system designed to balance competing aims into a unified whole.

## FROM PEN AND PHONE TO GIANT ERASER

Philosophical disagreements aside, there are also practical reasons why a unilateral strategy is not a prudent course. Chief among them is that, like many perfectly legal actions Trump has taken, any executive action to fund the wall immediately would be thrown to the courts where it will be delayed, denied, and endlessly appealed. The Left has abused a legal strategy of national injunctions to great effect, with judges as far-flung as Hawaii and Boston contorting their jurisprudence to bind the entire country. Trump’s attempts to repeal DACA, impose refugee quotas, his efforts to roll back the Obamacare requirement forcing nuns to purchase birth control, and even his policies on transgender soldiers serving in the military, were or remain stymied by the courts.

But another reason to be hesitant about unilateral executive action is how easily it can be undone by the next guy. Trump has spent a substantial portion of his first two years in office unraveling President Obama's legacy— withdrawing from the Paris climate accords, the Iran nuclear deal, attempting to repeal DACA, and unwinding countless burdensome regulations. Though he's had to contend with the courts and faced obstruction by a bureaucracy that opposes his every move, Trump has been successful overall. But the same is very likely to be true for Trump's legacy if it is built solely on this foundation, as soon as the next Democrat takes over the presidency. As President Obama has no doubt learned by now, the downfall of "pen and a phone" unilateralism is that the next president can walk into the Oval Office with a giant eraser.

## **BIPARTISAN COWARDICE**

Ultimately, the solution to the current shutdown—and the solution to funding the wall—lies with Congress. Though they'd never speak of it openly, Republicans and Democrats would be delighted if President Trump took executive action to fund the wall. Democrats would seize on the move as further proof that Trump is a tyrant bent on undermining democratic institutions. Republicans would silently weep with relief that they could go back to pretending to care about border security while actually doing nothing. Trump should give neither side the satisfaction. Rather, by keeping the issue of our border security in the public eye, Trump is forcing a national conversation that both parties have spent decades avoiding.

As Trump said in his Oval Office address on Tuesday, the border is in crisis mode. In November alone, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol stopped 62,000 individuals from entering the country illegally. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has arrested nearly 300,000 illegal aliens with criminal records—including violent and sexual assaults—over the past two years. Ninety percent of the heroin plaguing communities around the country flows in through the southern border. Migrants, incentivized to come here illegally by our lax policies, report sexual assault, physical violence, and rape on the journey. Democrats refuse to acknowledge this, and Republicans in Congress aren't much better. House Republican leadership, now in the minority, is giving lip service to Trump's efforts while reportedly telling their members to "do what they have to do" when it comes to opposing the president.

## **A GULF IN NATIONAL PRIORITIES**

The Republican Senate appears to be on a different planet entirely. Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) has stayed away from White House negotiations, having decided instead devote his energies to passing a Middle East security bill. President Trump is rightly frustrated with Congress. He's not alone. Recently released polling suggests that more people disapprove of Congress's role in the shutdown than Trump's. It's almost like voters are catching onto the fact that members of both parties, after campaigning for decades on strong border policies, never quite intended to have to, you know, do anything about it.

But none of this means that Trump should stop holding Congress accountable. On the contrary, Trump is the one finally spurring a national conversation that voters want to have. Immigration topped the minds of voters leading up to last year's midterm elections. And now, a stunning 79 percent of people believe the border is in crisis.

The president should be goading Republicans—senators in particular—into action. Rather than spinning their wheels on pointless legislation, Republicans should be forcing Democrats to vote on all manner of border legislation—from sanctuary cities, to Kate's Law, to fixing family separation policy, to funding more judges at the border. Whether or not these policies pass isn't the only point. Why not use the opportunity to paint Democrats into a very public corner, and test the limits of how many times they can publicly oppose progress on an issue about which voters have demonstrated their sincere concern?

The country is paying attention to this border crisis. So, too, is the president. The only people who seem to be oblivious are in Congress. And, like a hapless Nero, they continue to fiddle while everything around them burns. The most arresting statement from President Trump on Tuesday remains true: "How much more American blood must we shed before Congress does its job?"





# Reform California

## Word from the Vice Chairman, Konstantinos Roditis

For those of you that didn't read my piece titled, "I warned you: California Democrats to raise taxes by over a hundred billion," legislators and the new Governor are moving to do so-called tax reform by implementing a sales tax on service and labor and removing Prop. 13 protection for commercial (including rentals, apartments, etc.) and industrial buildings.

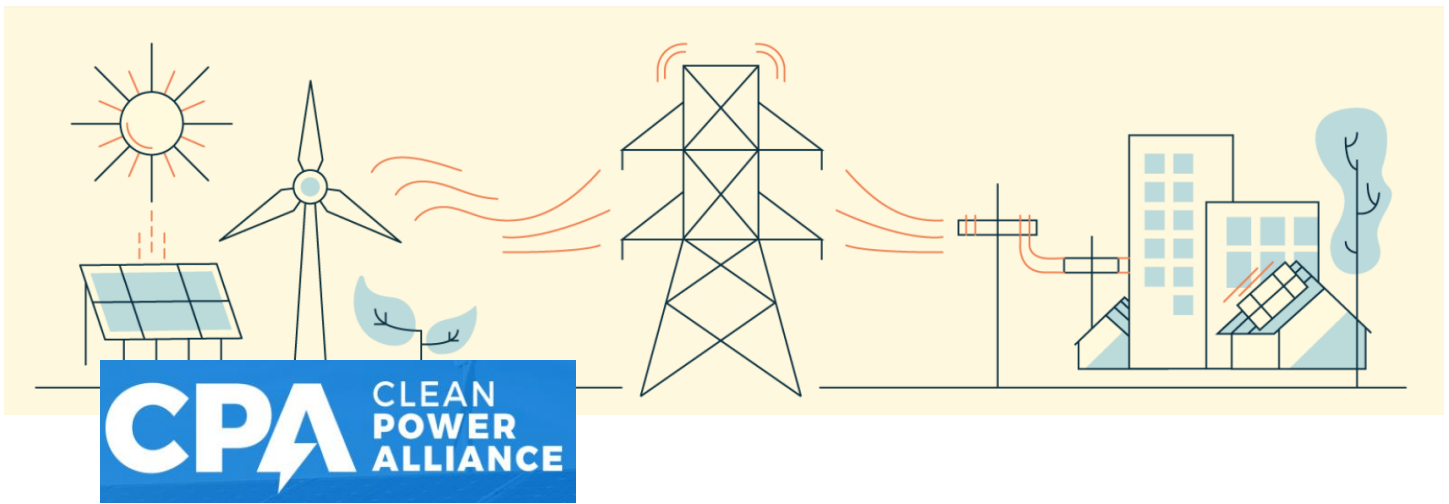
Even though eliminating Prop 13 protection for commercial

and industrial buildings will be on the 2020 ballot. Sacramento politicians are hinting at that they might go ahead and remove those protections in 2019. As you all know during the election cycle, I was not only a nominated candidate for California State Controller, but I was also the Co-Chair of the Yes on 6: Repeal the Gas & Car Tax Initiative.

Yes on 6 was lead by Carl DeMaio - Chairman of Reform California, and Carl has asked

me to be Reform California's Vice Chair, and I have accepted this great responsibility to work to turn California around and make it affordable for all Californians and help stop these terrible policies and enact real reform in California.

We have many new exciting things coming down the line in the new year, and I will keep you informed on what you can do to help us Reform California.



## ALERT: How to Opt Out of the “Clean Power Alliance” Which Will Otherwise Be Forced Upon You Shortly

Written by George Miller for CitizensJournal

Californians: chances are your electric bill will go up- way up- in the future, not just because fuel prices, regulatory and other costs are going up, but because government has enacted **still** another program.

### What Is It?

I had heard of the Clean Power Alliance (CPA) a while back. Authorized under CA AB117, it is a separate corporation invented by greens to increase the amount of “carbon-free renewable” electric power used. It has the ability to contract with suppliers, set rates, even do bond issues and may be less accountable than current utilities. My city first joined it, then later opted to set default amounts in a little over a week’s time from when we were informed of a council meeting agenda. Participation had been discussed and approved at a previous meeting a while back, very sketchily. There was little opposition to the measure at the meeting, which had little affect at all on the outcome of voting for it 4-1. In fact, the Council was emboldened to increase it from a 50% to 100% clean power default. The Mayor then immediately appointed the farthest left “green” council member as the local director.

More info- One city’s approach: Document: [K-3 Staff Report & Presentation](#)

### How Does it Work?

In many (31) jurisdictions in LA and Ventura County, legislatures voted to AUTOMATICALLY enroll you in CPA, mostly with default amounts of 50-100% of your power to be potentially “carbon-free.” Other jurisdictions throughout the state have created/selected

other “Community Choice Aggregation” (CCA) options, as they call them. It may be more expensive than you now pay, although this is complicated. How much more expensive, we really won’t know until it is fully implemented down the road. **But, you can opt-out.**

In SoCal, you would still be billed by SCE, which would pass through the CPA billings for your share of what they provide. If you change your mind, it will cost you to switch back to SCE. If you don’t opt out before the program starts, it will cost you to switch back to SCE. How much, we don’t know.

One wonders why all this is being done, since there is already a mandate in place for power companies to do all this. Keep in mind that the power companies already have an upcoming state mandate under CA AB117:

33% by Dec. 31, 2020  
40% by Dec. 31, 2024  
45% by Dec. 31, 2027  
50% by Dec. 31, 2030  
100% by Dec. 31, 2045

So, is this just “virtue signaling” or does it add some value and would it make it happen sooner? It does make the CPA directors into power brokers, in more than one sense of the word.

Interestingly enough, CPA is claiming that they can offer slightly better rates (p. 439) than SCE for equivalent green percentage options- temporarily, anyway, *at least for 2019*, for the lower tier of options- 36% and 50%. But it will initially be 9% higher for



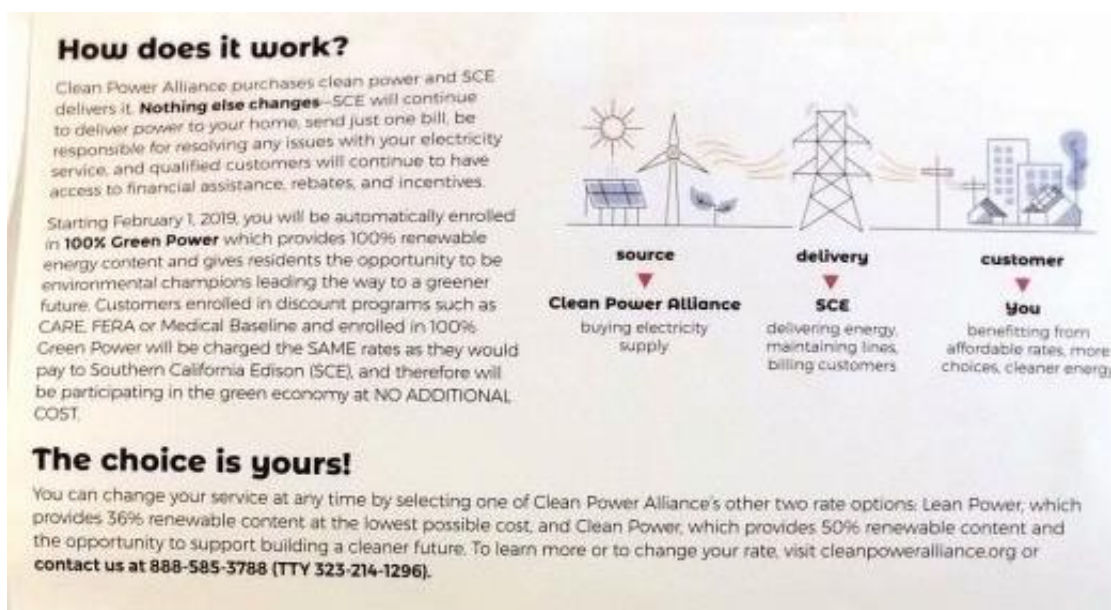
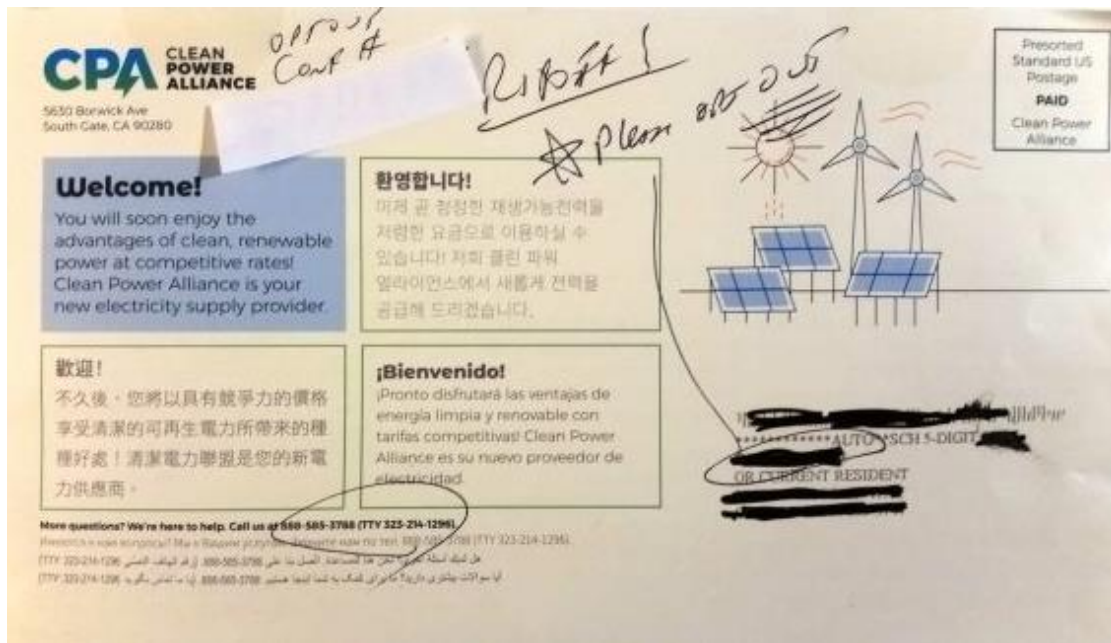
the 100% option. When we asked SCE how a newer, smaller group could do that, they responded that SCE clean power contracts are older and have older technology. But, newer contracts will not.

As far as we know, the sole notification local power customers in Oxnard received of impending AUTOMATIC ENROLLMENT IN CPA is a single folded sheet from CPA with rather vague information, which most people we have talked to either didn't even notice or didn't understand that it affects their electric bill. Really – it was news to nearly every one of dozens of people I talked to except a few very involved folks.

No wonder CPA is bragging that there is only a 1% opt-out rate. CPA shows four different notices on their web site. None would look anything like a power bill when you received it in the mail, so either people are overlooking them or they haven't been sent.

At the council meeting, we were told we would receive four notifications and an enrollment form. My wife, who does the utility bills, doesn't remember this happening, except for one mailer (below) and the deadline's now less than a month off. We have opted out.

Here's all we received (see what I mean?)





SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
**EDISON**

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## **SCE Views**

*We contacted SCE to get their take on some of our questions:*

**Q: How can SCE, or whomever is responsible, ensure that the power purchased by CPA and other CCA's is in spec and reliable?**

**A:** There are numerous standards and requirements that exist on the generation and sale of electricity. Among the many standards and requirements, the California Public Utilities Commission is responsible for ensuring that CCAs procure sufficient resources to meet their respective reliability requirements (referred to as Resource Adequacy).

**Q: Is it efficient to have many smaller, newer, less experienced CCA's with less leverage negotiate and manage contracts?**

**A:** Southern California Edison does not take a position on the benefits of CCA formation, but notes that disaggregating the procurement responsibility for energy procurement complicates the planning process for ensuring the right balance of generation resources are contracted for in an affordable manner for all customers.

**Q: SCE says that CCA's will have no impact on SCE's profits, but if SCE is contracting for less as a result, couldn't that mean it will have less leverage to control prices, terms and service?**

**A:** Southern California Edison is required by state regulation to resell the power it purchases for customers at actual cost with no profit. For the customers that SCE continues to be responsible for procuring their energy, SCE will continue to have control over the purchases it makes, subject to California Public Utilities Commission oversight. SCE does not have control over the direct energy procurement costs that CCAs incur to serve their communities' customers.

**Q: Since power companies already have a mandate, with milestones to reduce carbon-based power to zero, why are CCA's even needed, especially since SCE is already the greenest power company?**

**A:** Southern California Edison does not take a position on the benefits of CCA formation, but confirms that all electricity providers have the same state requirements to procure renewable energy and reduce carbon emissions associated with electricity generation.

**Q: CPA claims that they will charge less than SCE for carbon-free power for the lower tier options. Is that true, sustainable and how is such a new organization able to so easily undercut your rates? See below:**

**A:** Southern California Edison does not have control over the rates that CCAs elect to charge their customers. SCE's rates are approved by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and are designed to recover SCE's actual purchased power costs without a profit mark-up.

SCE's purchased power comes from hundreds of generation resources, many of them are renewable wind, solar, and geothermal sources that were contracted and approved by the CPUC years ago, at prices higher than currently available with today's technology. To ensure that all customers pay for their share of these historical power purchases, the CPUC has established a "departing load charge" (referred to as the PCIA) that is intended to recover the excess costs associated with the historical energy purchases. If the PCIA charge does not fully recover the excess costs associated with SCE's historical energy procurement contracts, it will provide an opportunity for CCAs to set energy sales rates lower than SCE's energy sales rates.

**Q: Interesting that AB 117 exempted government-owned utilities from AB 117. Any idea what the rationale for that is?**

This was a legislative decision- so we would not be able to respond to this.

**SCE's Background and Q&A** (requested and received from SCE 1-2-19):

Retail electricity service in California involves two parts: the buying and selling of electricity (or power procurement) for retail customers, and the delivery of that power to customers. The majority of electricity customers in California continue to rely on their utility for both the purchase and delivery of their power. Customers that receive both services from their investor-owned utility are called “bundled service” customers. Under certain circumstances, customers can receive their power procurement from other authorized service providers. One of these options is Community Choice Aggregation (CCA).

In 2002, the California Legislature enacted Assembly Bill 117 to establish CCAs, which offer cities, counties or other authorized California public agencies the ability to buy and sell electricity on behalf of utility customers within their jurisdictions, as long as no costs are shifted to the remaining bundled service customers who continue to purchase their power from the utility. This prohibition on cost shifting is an important consideration of the customer choice authorized by AB 117.

Interest in CCAs has been increasing in the last five years and a few are now operating throughout the state. And there are a large number of communities considering CCA formation. SCE supports customers’ right to purchase power from a CCA as long as there are no costs shifted to customers who continue to purchase their power from the utility.

**Q: The state has seen a great deal of interest in CCAs and now has more than a handful operating in various parts of the state. What is a CCA and how does it work?**

**A:** CCAs enter the buying and selling side of the electricity business for retail customers in their community while existing investor-owned utilities continue to own and operate the transmission and distribution grid infrastructure and transport and deliver the power to customers. Utilities also continue to provide customer services, such as metering and billing, for CCA customers, and offer public purpose programs, such as energy-efficiency and low-income programs, to customers served by CCAs.

Once a city, county or public agency forms a CCA and becomes operational, that CCA will be the default provider of power for the retail electricity customers in that CCA’s jurisdiction. Customers can continue to receive service from the investor-owned utility, but must affirmatively opt out of the CCA program to do so. Failure of any customer to opt out means they will receive their power from the CCA entity.

Customers of a CCA continue to have an SCE meter and receive a bill from SCE, and the power charge from the CCA will be on that same SCE bill. The SCE bill will be separated into energy charges from the CCA for the energy a customer uses, and for the distribution, transmission and customer services they receive from SCE.

**Q: If the CCAs are now providing a service that utilities used to provide, are the two of you in competition?**

**A:** No. SCE supports our customers’ right to purchase power from a CCA as long as there are no costs shifted to customers who continue to purchase their power from the utility. CCAs and investor-owned utilities, such as SCE, are not in competition for customers. When CCAs enter the market, they enter the buying and selling side of the business, creating a system somewhat like Texas, where customers have a choice in who sells them electricity.

The formation or growth of CCAs does not impact the number of customers SCE serves. When a CCA forms or expands, SCE continues to provide transmission and distribution service (poles, wires, transformers) and other services, such as public purpose programs, and reliability procurement for all the customers in its service area, including all CCA customers.

**Q: Will the growth of CCAs hurt SCE’s business and profits?**

**A:** SCE purchases most of the power we provide to our customers without any mark-up, so CCAs should have no impact on our business or profits. This does not mean, however, that a bundled customer (not in a local government territory that becomes a CCA) is not impacted. It is critical for customers that the provisions outlined in AB 117 intended to prevent cost shifting are followed to ensure that customers who remain with the utility, including those who may be low-income, do not subsidize the costs of those who take service from a CCA or other provider.

By law, SCE doesn’t make money for procuring energy on behalf of its customers. SCE is permitted to earn a regulated profit for the delivery portion of its business.

SCE strives to safely provide reliable and affordable service to all of its customers throughout Southern California, including those participating in a CCA.

*We asked the following additional questions and received answers from SCE:*



**– Interesting that AB 117 exempted government-owned utilities from AB 117. Any idea what the rationale for that is?**

This was a legislative decision- so we would not be able to respond to this.

**– The CPA people say that there is an opt-out fee. How much is that and what is the justification?**

CCA Exit Fee (PCIA)

In order to keep clean energy costs stable over time for all Californians, a commitment was made to enter into long-term energy contracts, which are paid primarily over 20-year periods. These long-term contracts were reviewed and approved by the CPUC (California Public Utilities Commission) and helped to develop a robust and competitive market for renewable power in California, lower prices for renewable power, and allow California energy to become cleaner and greener.

The California Legislature passed a law in 2002 to establish Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) which offers cities, counties or other authorized California government agencies the ability to take over the buying and selling of electricity on behalf of utility customers within their jurisdictions — as long as CCA and utility customers pay for their own share of the cost of electricity bought to serve their needs.

The laws that authorize CCAs and other customer choice programs require that costs are not shifted to remaining bundled service customers when customers depart the utility's procurement service for other options. The CPUC adopted a methodology intended to keep bundled service customers "indifferent" to departing load customers, and it involves departing load customers (like CCA customers) paying a Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PCIA) and/or a Competitive Transition Charge (CTC) in their rates. These charges were intended to ensure that departing load customers continue to pay their equitable share of costs of the utility's power procurement and utility resources that were procured on their behalf before their departure.

The fee structure is set by the CPUC and ensures that one set of customers does not have to pay more than another set of customers for the cost of power that was purchased for the benefit of all and which has helped California achieve its environmental goals.

In terms of individual customers opting out of CCA service-

Once a city, county or public agency forms a CCA and becomes operational, that CCA will be the default provider of power for the retail electricity customers in that CCA's jurisdiction. Customers can continue to receive service from the investor-owned utility, but must affirmatively opt out of the CCA program to do so. Failure of any customer to opt out means they will receive their power from the CCA entity.

## **Impact**

The power companies SCE and Public Service have for years been restricted to just power distribution/billing and contracting for power generation. They already have mandates for green power percentages, eventually reaching 100%, The CCA's allow some regional autonomy in the selection/deployment of power sources and could potentially hasten the switch-over to green power, but so could changing the mandate. There is potential for abuse with the CCA system, which could result in many organizations, parochialism, corruption and likely higher administrative costs and bureaucracy. Cost could be higher.

## **Rationale**

The justification for doing all of this is that there is a worldwide Global Warming (now known as Climate Change) emergency, which requires immediate and drastic action to forestall its allegedly disastrous predicted effects and that going to renewable and non-"greenhouse gas" emitting fuels would forestall this. Most people have been stampeded by the Climate Change rhetoric pushed by almost every establishment figure/institution, even though there isn't valid evidence to support the dire predictions, or even that going to all "green" power would have any significant effect if it was happening. Recommended programs, including this one, would impose huge costs and lifestyle changes.

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# *Vice or Virtue?*

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## The Left Gets It Wrong Again

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**Written by Arielle T. Perfecto**

Recently, British actor Christian Bale made headlines for his Golden Globe acceptance speech in which he thanked “Satan” for giving him the inspiration to play former Vice President Dick Cheney in director Adam McKay’s new film *Vice*. This was no doubt at least partially done in the hopes of scoring some Oscar points with Bale’s Leftist peers, as the media ate the actor’s reference to the Dark Lord right up. Even so, many conservatives (including myself), were surprised to find that there is actually little sign of Lucifer in Bale’s performance. If McKay and Co.’s intention was to demonstrate to at least some small portion of conservative audiences the evils of our own party, they failed pretty spectacularly.

Their portrayal of Cheney from his early years as a drunken college dropout all the way to his hawkish management of the crisis that followed 9/11 doesn’t exactly turn out to be a cautionary tale of rampant corruption of Republican politicians—at least not to this viewer. Through his gradual rise in the world of D.C. politics (from Donald Rumsfeld’s intern to George W. Bush’s VP), *Vice* is actually an incredibly enjoyable and even funny depiction of some of the conservative values we hold most dear (and which the Left inexplicably finds most despicable):

*ambition, strength, sacrifice, patriotism, marriage, family, and most importantly, the all-American ability to turn your life around if you truly desire to.*

Indeed, the film at times even depicts Cheney as a sympathetic character, particularly in one scene where Cheney’s youngest daughter comes out as



gay. It’s Cheney, not his wife, who pulls his daughter in for a hug and reassures her that she still has his unconditional love. If that’s not a picture of a supposed antagonist’s capability of the purest kind of love (and of the all-hailed Progressivism), I don’t know what is. (Not to mention that Cheney also decides not to pursue the Presidency to spare his daughter from media scrutiny).

Who even better exemplifies the aforementioned conservative values than Cheney is his wife Lynne (brilliantly played by the underrated Amy Adams), who transforms Cheney from the deadbeat he was into the political powerhouse he came to be. Lynne’s ruthlessness and unwavering wisdom and strength is the even truer depiction of what someone with the right brains and ambition can accomplish in the U.S., and is also a massive testament to the character and absolute necessity of conservative women in America.

There are times in *Vice* when Cheney displays the behavior of a perhaps all too-powerful politician that could make a viewer pessimistic about what really goes on in D.C.—as he takes many matters into his hands after 9/11 that belonged to the POTUS—but that’s hardly an exclusively Republican trait, even though McKay and Co. desperately want you to think it is. (To accurately pull the curtain back on the swamp of D.C. requires an examination of both sides.) The film also attempts to shock and disgust viewers by focusing on the treatment of



terrorists post-9/11, but I believe most conservative viewers are slow to pass judgment on a war-time Vice President, especially concerning matters of terrorism.

I love movies, and as a dedicated cinephile myself I have less trouble separating the true talents of *Vice*'s cast and crew from their (warped) political views. I gladly concede that Christian Bale is one of the finest actors working today, and if his portrayal of Dick Cheney earns him his second Oscar, you won't be hearing any protestations from me. Similarly, I have much respect for the film's director, Adam McKay, who has recently shifted his focus from slapstick comedies to American politics with movies like

2015's *The Big Short*, which recounted the lead-up to the Great Recession. I do take a greater issue with Bale and McKay's failure to see how *Vice* as a film actually serves as both a showcase for the greatest that American conservatism has to offer and as a demonstration of their Leftist audience's hatred for the values that built this country. *Vice* is ultimately an illustration of the increasing disconnect between the out-of-touch Hollywood elite (who on the daily trick their fans into thinking they genuinely care for their well-being) and the Americans who work hard to ensure that the U.S. remains a country where they can find such success. So Bale obviously shouldn't have thanked Satan for the inspiration for his performance. He should've thanked the USA.

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