

# WELCOME TO THE CLARION DWCCV'S NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT C.J. KEAVNEY - NEWSLETTER EDITOR JEAN CASTAING



## *A New Beginning! Nancy Pelosi Accepts the Gavel!*

*"I am particularly proud to be the woman Speaker of the House of this Congress, which marks 100 years of women winning the right to vote, as we serve with more than 100 women in the House of Representatives — the highest number in history."*

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Speak up "A clear sound. Hard to ignore..." that definition for the adjective **clarion** describes DWCCV's goal for bringing you this newsletter. We hope you'll enjoy this inaugural edition and future issues. Special appreciation to DWCCV's photographer and **The Clarion's** editor Jean Castaing!

### EDITOR'S MESSAGE

We are excited to offer our members a new newsletter. We welcome your input and ideas. Please email me at [jeancastaing063@gmail.com](mailto:jeancastaing063@gmail.com). I look forward to hearing from you.

Democratic Women's Council  
OF THE CONEJO VALLEY

Instead of Brunch, we're kicking off 2019 with



# Fundraiser

Featuring

**JACQUI  
BOWE**

Comedy-Variety Entertainer

A Winner in Funniest Female in California Contest



Portion of proceeds to benefit funds for mass shooting and wildfires

**Saturday, January 12, 2019**

**2 – 5 PM**

**Cisco's Mexican Restaurant**

1712 Avenida De Los Arboles

Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

\$35 ticket admission through Jan 7

\$45 tickets from Jan 8 – 12

[www.DWCCVSpecialevent.online](http://www.DWCCVSpecialevent.online)

**Elected Officials and Democratic Leaders invited**

For Info and RSVP

Click **HERE**

Select go to page.

**Senator Fran Pavley, SD 27, retired  
to install 2019 officers**



#### **President**

Carol (C.J.) Keavney

#### **Vice President**

Laurie Alban

#### **Treasurer**

Michele Vivirito

#### **Recording Secretary**

Barbara Skala

#### **Corresponding Secretary**

Jody Avery-Smith

#### **Founding President**

Mary Kay Donahoe

**\$35 Early Bird Registration Extended to January 9**

## THE EARLY DAYS

### History of the Democratic Women's Council of the Conejo Valley by DWCCV's Founding President Mary Kay Donahoe

It was the summer of 2004. George Bush was running for re-election against John Kerry. I was strongly opposed to the war in Iraq and the non-existent "Weapons of Mass Destruction." A good friend's son serving the Army in Iraq was recently killed. I couldn't stand to just watch it all unfold on TV. I started thinking: *Wouldn't it be great to have lunch and talk with like-minded people?*

Most people in the area believed they were the "only Democrat in town." Having worked at the North Ranch polling place, I knew there were other Democrats. So, I called the Democratic Club of the Conejo Valley and made an appointment to meet with the president Virginia Rogalsky, at the club's headquarters. Since it was buzzing with activity, we stepped outside to talk about starting a women's group. Instead of stopping me, Virginia provided the names of DCCV members who might be interested. *It was a start!*

Where could we meet? Believing that most restaurants owners were Republicans, I was hesitant about making calls. But I called a few. Some were Republicans and politely said we could meet at their restaurants. Then I called Boccaccio's. Hamid was very gracious. I also called Piatti's. He was friendly too! *There had to be more!*

When we set our first luncheon at Boccaccio's, I wasn't sure anyone would show up. A life-sized John Kerry cutout greeted people at the door. Fran Pavley was our speaker. That meeting was in Boccaccio's small side room, and it overflowed. We were delighted—and encouraged!

After electing officers, we started making plans down to the smallest details, including assigning members to specific tables to ensure guests felt welcomed. Each brunch featured a DJ. We mailed, phoned and emailed invitations. Since this was pre-scholarships, membership dues funded our mailings and the DJ.



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We experimented with various programs including local government, Afghan Girls' School, Wells Bring Hope's water wells in Niger, The Greater Contribution's micro loans in Uganda and other topics. But the most popular programs focused on political issues.

In 2009, we started a scholarship program. We awarded \$500 scholarships to young women graduating from Conejo Valley public high schools. In 2014, we increased each scholarship to \$1,000. The next year to honor our first speaker, we renamed the awards to the *Fran Pavley Scholarship for Empowering Young Women*.

Fun-filled boutiques, holiday parties, awards ceremonies and more held at interesting locations help support the scholarships. We also host candidate forums and opportunities for like-minded organizations to share their activities. We make new friends, too. *And it is a good thing!*



Since 2009, DWCCV has awarded \$30,000 to 43 seniors graduating from public high schools in the Conejo Valley. **The Fran Pavley Scholarship for Empowering Young Women**, which is supported through memberships, donations and fundraising events, enable students to move toward achieving their educational goals.



## SPOTLIGHT ON DWCCV MEMBERS

Elda Soderquist and her husband Ron were among our founding members. Both Elda and Ron are highly recognized and respected family therapist serving our community for over forty years. We are so lucky that they remain active members of our club. Their contributions continue to be invaluable.



## DWCCV Endorses This Slate. Make Your Voice Heard!

For More Info Click [HERE](#) And Select go to page



### Democrats United for AD44

Affiliations are listed for identification purposes only

<b>MELISSA DEMARCO</b> <small>Democratic Women's Council of the Conejo Valley</small>		<b>TIM ALLISON</b> <small>ADEM, Educator CSUCI</small>	
<b>LAURA GALLARDO</b> <small>2nd VP, Democratic Club Of Ventura, ADEM</small>		<b>STEVEN AUCLAIR</b> <small>Greater Oxnard Organization of Democrats</small>	
<b>LIBBY HIGGINS</b> <small>Democratic Moms of Camarillo</small>		<b>LIAM AKEMY BON FLORES</b> <small>SEIU-721</small>	
<b>TIFFANY LEWIS</b> <small>President, Camarillo Democratic Club</small>		<b>JOSH DONNER</b> <small>President, California College Democrats</small>	
<b>VIANEY LOPEZ</b> <small>Oxnard City Council</small>		<b>CLEO NAVARRO</b> <small>ADEM, United Democrats for Progress</small>	
<b>KIMIA MOHEBI</b> <small>Never Again, Indivisible</small>		<b>DAVID POLLOCK</b> <small>Moorpark City Council, Ventura County Democrats</small>	
<b>KAREN SHER</b> <small>Trustee, Oxnard Union High School District</small>		<b>MERCY URREA</b> <small>Southwest Carpenters</small>	

Endorsed by AD44 Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin

## VOTE THIS SLATE

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 26<sup>TH</sup>**

**UFCW BUILDING**  
**816 CAMARILLO SPRINGS RD CAMARILLO, CA**

**REGISTRATION & VOTING | 12-2 PM.**  
 Voters must be in line no later than 2pm to be eligible to vote.

### DWCCV 2019 Meeting and Event

**January 12**

**February 15**

**March 16**

**April 13**

**May 18**

**June 15**

**July 20**

**August 17**

**September 21**

**October 19**

**November 16**

**December (dark)**