



The Official Publication of ACT
P. O. Box 40074, (626) 795-2798

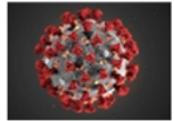
the phoenix
On-Line

Volume 48
Number 4
April, 2020

Published by Chuck Hains & Sally Beer



COVID-19 and *The Phoenix*



Dear ACT and ADC members and other *Phoenix* readers,

We are glad to be able to mail you this April 2020 *Phoenix* in spite of the coronavirus pandemic that is now dominating our lives. Our Altadena printer is still working, Bulk Mail at the Pasadena Post Office is continuing with regular hours, we were able to prepare the *Phoenix* for mailing without the customary gathering of Mail Committee members and (as far as we know) we are all healthy.

Thanks to Jon Fuhrman for yet another 'Political Notes' column. (Jon has been writing his column since January 1980! We know you are quite addicted to it, as are we.) Thanks also to Ron Garber for his 'My Two Cents' column, ahead of schedule as always. (This is not a dig at Jon.) And thanks to Assemblyman Chris Holden and Senator Anthony Portantino for sharing their news.

The March Primary seems long ago. The L A vote count was certified March 27. So, congratulations to Chris and Anthony, to our stalwart Congresspersons Judy Chu and Adam Schiff, as well as to locals Jim Osterling in PCC Area 2, Steve Madison in Pasadena Council Dist. 6, and Felicia Williams in Pasadena Council Dist. 2! Most of our Blue Wave CD winners won reelection too, but there will be run-offs to watch in CDs 25 and 47. Also State Senate District 29.

Our coronavirus response continues: shelter at home, stay 6 feet apart, wear masks when you go to the store, disinfect often-touched surfaces... In answer to one Internet wit, "Yes, you can take showers now. But please, keep washing your hands, too." Take care and stay healthy. We wish you the best of luck in your search for toilet paper, cleaning supplies, disposable gloves and good bread. We found an interesting option for custom face masks at <https://boardshortworld.com/collections/face-masks> ... with dozens of colorful designs.



~ The Editors

The *Phoenix* Editorial Policy: Signed articles and letters appearing in the *Phoenix* represent the opinions of the individual writers and not of ACT. Their appearance does not imply endorsement by ACT or agreement with the opinions expressed. The accuracy of facts is not guaranteed. We welcome articles of interest and encourage members to write.

From Felicia Williams

Greetings fellow ACT members from afar! For the past couple of weeks I have been working from home, walking my dog and reporting sidewalks that need repairing, and sewing face masks, trying to help where I can. I miss each and every one of you, hope you are well, and look forward to seeing you soon.



The results of the March 3 primary election were certified by the LA County Registrar/Recorder on March 27 and I won the election in the primary with 52.85% of the vote! Since there will be no run-off election in November, I can take the time to focus on priorities and plans for when my term begins in December. I want to thank each and every one of you – I am here because of your friendship, support, and advice. At the ACT candidate forum I was so nervous, but every time I looked in the audience and saw a friendly face it reminded me of why I was running and gave me the confidence to answer with knowledge and truth coming from the heart.

The City will have a lot of challenges after COVID-19 and my focus will be on economic repair to help our local businesses and the jobs that they provide so people can pay rent, mortgages, and take care of their families. Fiscal stability will be a focus, too, as we manage the General Fund to provide relief as well as essential services to the public. The landscape will change as many new State and Federal financial resources become available, and I would like to ensure Pasadena is in the best position to receive these funds. As we look to the future, resiliency is now more important than ever, along with continuing to address housing affordability, homelessness, and protecting the environment.

No one person is an island, and, as with my City Council race, I cannot do this alone. I look forward to working together to address the

needs of the people: celebrating the times that we agree, and searching for compromise when we don't. This is all part of the democratic policy-making process, and I could not think of a better group to have with me on the (electric!) bus as we navigate this journey.

~ Felicia

Felicia Williams will be representing District 2 on the Pasadena City Council.



My Two Cents

By Ron Garber



While Sally, Jon, Chuck and I were exchanging emails about whether or not we could get an edition out this month as the ACT/ADC meeting had been cancelled and we couldn't get together for a mailing party due to social distancing, I was reminded of an episode of an old television show called Lou Grant about a fictional Los Angeles daily newspaper.

I love everything about journalism from the First Amendment which not only provides for freedom of speech, but also a free press down to the actual printing and delivery. Everyone from the editors, reporters, columnists, printers and delivery personnel are considered brothers and sisters. There is a romanticism about journalism that was captured by the Lou Grant television show and a 1980 episode called "The Blackout" embodies that feeling and speaks to today's concerns even down to our getting out this issue.

In that episode a powerful thunderstorm knocks out power to all of downtown Los Angeles and the newspaper's record of not having missed a day in print for 64 continuous years was in jeopardy. That installment goes on to enumerate all the tribulations in getting that next morning's edition out, with them ultimately enlisting the aid of a competing Long

Beach paper to print an abbreviated version and saving the day.

Admittedly, the loss of the *'Phoenix'* April edition would not have amounted to a calamity, but wasn't it nice for you when retrieving today's mail to find it included? I'm both proud to be a part of this newsletter and proud of this product and feel a kinship with all those that produce it and put it together for the mailing. I encourage all of you to submit news articles, opinion pieces or just provide information that other members can use or will enjoy and know that our mailing parties provide lots of interesting conversation and comradery.

On a final note regarding whether or not to get this hard copy edition out, Sally contacted the Post Office and determined that bulk mailing is continuing during the crisis. Chuck checked with the printer and, even though there was a death in her family, she is ready to proceed. And Jon pointed out and I quote "It's our patriotic duty to support the Post Office in their time of need. Have you noticed a sharp decline in the amount of advertising and junk mail you've been receiving this week?"

We've overcome our tribulations.



Yesterday watching one of the many inspirational and heroic health care providers on one of the MSNBC programs, this doctor said that by the time this is all behind us, each and every one of us will have known someone who has passed on. While I'm not certain that is totally the case, I am certain that it will apply to most of us.

I own a rental in Las Vegas. Last summer the HOA sent me a notice saying that the tree in the front yard had unsightly suckers growing out of its base. While I could have had my property manager hire someone to take care of it, I like to visit the property once or twice a year so I drove to there, arriving at about 7 a.m.

as I hoped to complete the job before it got hot. At about 7:45 the family who I had not met exited the house to go to work. The young husband and wife I estimated to be in their early 30's. The two children, maybe ages 5 and 3, were going to be dropped off at child-care on their parent's way to work. The young man introduced himself and retrieved a trash can from the back yard for me to use instead of the trash bags I had brought with me. He also told me that in the future I should call him and he would take care of this rather than for me to have to come out and do it. He was very nice and I was very impressed.

My property manager emailed me on March 16 reporting that the wife had called him and her husband had gotten sick on the 13th. He was immediately diagnosed as having pneumonia. His organs began to fail the next day and he had a fatal heart attack on the 15th. That would have made him one of the first to die of this horrible virus. I pray that he is the only acquaintance I have who will have passed and I urge all of you to do everything in your power to keep yourselves and your families safe.

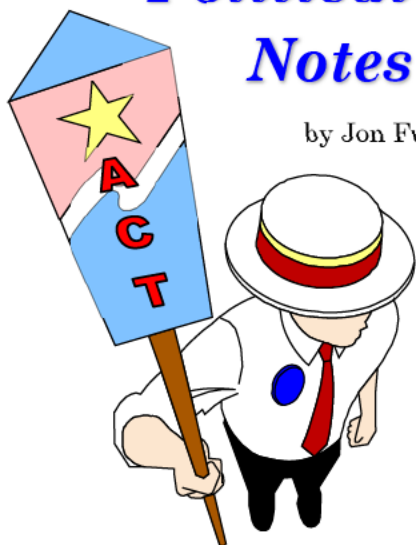


Last month I reported to you that my resolutions this year were to lose 85 pounds and write 10,000 Get Out The Vote postcards. Since then I've lost another 9 pounds dropping my weight to 236 with the cumulative loss being 29 pounds. This month I wrote 1,166 GOTV postcards for Christy Smith in her bid to replace Katie Hill as the Congressional Representative for the 25th District. Adding that to the 170 I had previously written leaves me 8,664 to go. Unless I can get either Mark Kelly or John Hickenlooper, Senate candidates from Arizona and Colorado respectively, on board soon, I may fall short as UDH probably won't be opening until later than planned due to the virus and Democratic Convention being pushed back. Stay tuned for further updates.

~ Ron out.

Political Notes

by Jon Fuhrman



Tuesday, April 7

When I wrote my last column, just a month ago, we were talking politics as usual. Vice-President Biden had swept Super-Tuesday, and he was about to sweep the next set of primaries in Michigan, Missouri, Mississippi and Washington. The question was: when would Sen. Sanders formally concede?

That's still a question, but it has receded almost to irrelevance. The entire Democratic primary campaign is practically an afterthought. The issue is not whom we will nominate, but how – can we have a traditional convention, even as we push it back into August, or will we need to adjust to the new norms of social distancing and living our collective lives on Zoom?

I'm a traditionalist. I think we'll manage to get back to a semblance of pre-COVID existence by mid-summer. I think we need conventions – albeit with masks and hand sanitizers,

without embraces, and maybe even with temperature checks before entering the convention hall – and that the Democratic and Republican conventions help the country turn our collective attention to the November campaigns.

What will campaigning look like this fall? The only clear answer is that there will be enormously greater emphasis on, and interest in, absentee voting. There will be lots of traditional phone calling, but fewer and fewer people are answering calls from unknown numbers, fewer and fewer voters have land lines in their homes, and it's not clear that volunteers will be willing or eager to come together for traditional phone banks. Most campaigns have already been using software that allows volunteers to make phone calls from home to pre-arranged lists of targeted voters. That approach may move from an important supplement to the overwhelming majority of campaign activity. In addition to phone calls, texting is fast becoming a favorite means of contact, since voters don't actually have to answer the phone. Campaigns need cell phone numbers for that, but those are becoming more readily available. Lastly, absentee ballot harvesting – going door to door physically to pick up voters' AV ballots and either mail them in or drop them off – will be a major activity, at least in those states that allow that technique.

To get to the bottom line, is it too early to predict a winner, or at least which side seems to have an advantage? No, at least not for those willing to go out on a limb (which is part of my job description).

I'm predicting Biden will win with 350 – 400 electoral votes. My rationale? Start with the states Hillary Clinton won, which takes you to 232. Minnesota and New Hampshire are two states President Trump's forces think they might have a shot in, but I don't buy it – both seem relatively secure to me. In addition, so do Pennsylvania and Michigan, where Dem-

ocrats had huge wins in 2018 and which continue to poll strongly Democratic, even though most pundits leave those states in the Toss-Up column.

That leaves Wisconsin as a Toss-Up, along with Arizona, Florida and North Carolina, with Georgia, Iowa and Texas seen as longer shots. Winning any one of those Toss-Ups gives Biden a majority, but I think he's likely to win most, and possibly even all, of them.

One piece of evidence underlying my optimism is the analysis of the 2018 off-year elections. Since there were Congressional elections in every single district in every single state, one can add up the votes cast for Democratic Congressional candidates in each state and compare that to votes cast for the Republican candidates in each state. That gives you a proxy, of sorts, for how the vote might have gone state-wide. The turnout in 2020 is likely to be higher than that in 2018, but increased turnout traditionally has helped Democrats. One might worry that the President could do even better in 2020 than he did in 2016 in turning out non-traditional voters on the GOP side to pad his margins in rural and ex-urban areas of these states, but there didn't seem to be much evidence of increased GOP turnout in their 2020 primaries or in polling.

When one adds up the 2018 Congressional votes, Democrats have clear majorities not just in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin, but also in Arizona, Iowa, North Carolina and probably also in Florida (where the analysis is complicated by several Congressmembers running unopposed). Republicans dominated in Georgia and Texas, but not by much. The 2018 mid-term election results pretty much mirror Biden's electoral success in the primaries – winning big in the center cities

and among African-American voters, and also showing unusual strength in the suburbs. Having a woman as his running mate is likely to amplify his success in pulling suburban women voters across the aisle and into the Democratic camp (and into voting for Democratic Senate and House candidates, as well).

Will Trump's performance as a "virus-time" President redeem him? Will the economy noticeably recover by November, and rebound to the President's benefit? It could happen, but I'm skeptical. It seems to me that voters' opinions of the President are relatively firmly established. His polling moves up and down,

but in a relatively narrow range – the same range it showed in 2018, when his party lost the House. So, I don't see the likelihood – even if we do recover from the virus, and the stock market does rebound, and unemployment does sink back down – that a recent recovery would counteract three years of egregious behavior. My guess is that he'll soon have lots of time to brush up on his golf game (assuming his resorts haven't gone bankrupt in the meantime).

~ Jon Fuhrman



**From
25th District
State Senator
Anthony
Portantino**



Dear ACT friends,

I hope you are staying safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please stay inside and venture out only when necessary for essential services. I've been known to be a little social in my life. If I can shift to staying away from people and social distancing, everyone can. I've been using three words as I encourage friends and neighbors to stay focused: calm, serious and safe. Please stay calm, take this crisis seriously and be safe.

As California resident, I am very pleased with the leadership being shown by Governor Newsom. I think he has done an excellent job and set the national standard for a strong and measured response to the crisis. Sadly, we are getting chaos and not leadership from the White House.

To see all of Governor Newsom's executive orders you can follow this link:

<https://www.gov.ca.gov/newsroom/>

The County of Los Angeles has also created a dedicated COVID-19 web page. For up to the minute County Health Information please go here: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/>

The California Department of Health has also created a dedicated portal to get important information: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/covid19>

My office staff remains ready and able to help where we can. Don't hesitate to call (818) 409-0400.

Before the legislature went local, we passed two important measures, SB 89 and SB 117, to address the COVID-19 crisis. SB 89 auth-

orized \$1B from the General Fund to help with California's medical response and SB 117 provided needed security for our public schools.

From my family to yours, I hope you will join us in thanking the many essential service workers in healthcare, public safety, food supply & delivery and many other jobs and professions who are working everyday to help shepherd the rest us through this crisis.

We will get through this together because we are in this together.

Warmly,

Anthony



Letter to the Star News Editors

Subject: Gun rights and the current viral pandemic. Editorial, April 3

While I hate guns and have been an advocate of the strictest gun control legislation I have to agree with your editorial upholding the 2nd amendment during this pandemic crisis. When the founders created the 2nd amendment one of their arguments for its necessity was the need to form militias to 'safeguard against a tyrannical government. Suppose this unbelievably horrendous pandemic continued to worsen and extended beyond May and even through the summer and the President were to declare that this was not a time for a National election and unitarily called it off. Would that not comprise a 'tyrannical government'. Would we not need a civilian militia to overthrow it and restore our Constitutional rights?

Ron Garber

If I'm arrested for sedition you'll understand that the federal government under this particular administration has no sense of humor and doesn't understand the phrase 'tongue in cheek'. Oh, and somebody send the ACLU to defend me. Thanks,

~ Ron

**From
41st District
Assemblymember
Chris Holden**



Dear ACT Friends,

I hope you and your family are safe in these difficult times. As you may know, the legislature has not convened for session since March 16th. Like most people in the state and country, we are practicing social distancing and staying at home. Prior to leaving the Capitol, we passed a \$1.1 billion-dollar Budget (AB 89 and SB 117) to bolster the State's response to both the medical needs of people with the virus and to help implement drastic mitigation efforts necessary to deal with the pandemic.

AB 89 allows Governor Newsom to utilize \$500 million from the General Fund, and potentially up to \$500 million more for purposes related to his declaration of a State of Emergency. SB 117 provides \$100 million to California schools to be used for purchasing personal protective equipment or for supplies and labor costs of cleaning school sites. Since then, Governor Newsom issued numerous Executive Orders to slow the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19), increase capacity of our healthcare system, and assist those in need with the most support.

Although we are not in the Capitol, our work does not stop. For the last month, my office has been working tirelessly to provide valuable information and resources for unemployment claims, small businesses, and other state related issues impacting constituents because of COVID-19. If you or your loved ones and friends need any assistance, please direct them to call my office at (626) 351-1917. We will continue to update our website with the latest information.

Lastly, I want to thank all of you and Califor-

nians across the State for adhering to the guidelines from our public health officials. Each one of you is the reason why we will flatten the curve and save thousands of lives. When everybody takes the proper action, resources will be available to those who need it. We will slow the virus, and together, we will overcome this hardship.

Sincerely,

Chris R. Holden

Assemblyman Holden represents some 420,000 people in the foothills communities of Altadena, Pasadena, South Pasadena, Sierra Madre, Monrovia, San Dimas, La Verne, Claremont, and Upland. He can be reached via his website at: www.asm.ca.gov/holden and fill out the contact form.



Letter to the LA Times

Mon, Apr 6

In regards to 'Biden's Court pick', because of Majority Leader McConnell's nakedly shameful actions to ensure a conservative Court, Biden when interviewing any candidate needs to review their age, health, and age of their parents and whether or not their grand parents are still alive or what age they were when they passed on.

On top of this while he can't control what they do upon their elevation to the court he should try and discern their feelings about whether they would be willing to retire early in the first term of a Democratic President. It's a shame that we have to make these considerations but Republicans have brought us down to this level.

~ Ron Garber



Welcome New and Returning ACT Members:

Ken Chawkins, Pasadena, Nancy Davis, Pasadena, Sandra Greenstein, Pasadena,
Julie Reiz, Pasadena, Peter Robinson & Bonny Shutt, La Canada,
Jan Rose & Eric Bosc, Pasadena, Rhodes Trussell, Pasadena

New Members from our Mock Iowa Caucus:

Jack Brierty, Pasadena; Aida Morales, Pasadena

Special Thanks to Sustaining Members

Gail Bardin, Betsy Blue, William & Edith Byerly, John & Joan Favvre, David Fertig,
Wendy Gordon, Judith Harris, Jim & Ginny Heringer, Cheryl Kane, Berjouhi Koukeyan,
Donald & Elaine Lomas, Jeanette & Kathryn Mann, John & Dr. Brooke McLean,
Herb & Karin Meiselman, Sue Miele, Connie O'Donnell, Greta Pruitt, Jan Rose & Eric Bosc,
Karen Rowinsky, Esther Schachter, Linda Ledeen Schwartz, Margaret Sedenquist,
Norri & Betty Sirri, Joyce Streator

Special Thanks to Patrons

Larry Eggers, Kathryn Fogarty, Jim & Priscilla Gamb, Connie & Glenn Garrison,
Beth Gertmenian, Meg & Don Gertmenian, Armando Gonzalez & Brenda Berg,
Sandra Greenstein, Jim Haight, Dorothy Matthiessen, Bobbie & Henry Moon,
Dr. Janice Nelson & Doug Hayes, Nancy Pine, Charlie & Eileen Read,
Peter Robinson & Bonny Shutt, Joel & Jil Sheldon, Kip Thorne & Carolee Winstein

Really special thanks to Benefactors

Steve English & Molly Munger, Jackie & Ray Fisher, Yudie & Jane Fishman,
Tammy & Tim Godley, Fred & Jeanne Register

Thanks to Members for Additional Contributions to ACT's Operating Account

Ken Chawkins, Dr. Janice Nelson & Doug Hayes, Connie O'Donnell,
PUSD Trustee Elizabeth Pomeroy, Robert Smith

Thanks to Members for Additional Contributions to ACT's Political Account

Tammy & Tim Godley, Wendy Gordon, Betty Krachman, Helen Nedelman,
Dr. Janice Nelson & Doug Hayes, Connie O'Donnell, Greta Pruitt, Fred & Jeanne Register,
Rhoads Stephenson, Edie Taylor



ACT/ADC Webpage

Check our webpage, ACTpasadena.org for political news and views – especially now in the throes of the coronavirus pandemic. Also find the current issue of *The Phoenix* on the webpage. It's in color and sometimes with extra items we




Please continue to send suggestions or comments to Bruce Wright, our website manager at brucewright@sbcglobal.net.

Your Photo in *The Phoenix*

Share a high-resolution photo (of you) at an interesting place with *Phoenix* readers. Send it to Chuck at hains27@sbcglobal.net for inclusion in an upcoming issue.

Membership Renewal for 2020

Renew *your* membership in ACT and/or ADC today! A RED CHECK  on your address label on this Phoenix tells you we have not received your membership renewal check. Please use the form below or renew online at www.ACTpasadena.org.

Contact Executive Director Jon Fuhrman if you have any questions about your membership at 626 864-5255 or at jon_fuhrman@outlook.com.



I'd like to join both groups for one low price! (Checks payable to ACT/ADC)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$40 Single | <input type="checkbox"/> \$70 Single Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Each additional member per household | <input type="checkbox"/> \$90 Double Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Student or limited income | <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 Patron |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> \$275 Benefactor |

I'd like to join ACT (Checks payable to ACT)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Single | <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Single Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Each additional member per household | <input type="checkbox"/> \$85 Double Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Student or limited income | <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 Patron |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Gift Membership (NEW!) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$275 Benefactor |

I'd like to join the Arroyo Democratic Club (Checks payable to ADC)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Single | <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Single Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Each additional member per household | <input type="checkbox"/> \$85 Double Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Student or limited income | <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 Patron |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> \$275 Benefactor |

Extra Contribution

- \$ _____ Political Account (for endorsed candidates and issues)
- \$ _____ Operating Account (for organizational costs) \$ _____ **Total enclosed**

 Name

Home Phone

 Address

Office Phone

 City

ZIP

 Email address

Mail to ACT, P. O. Box 40074, Pasadena, CA 91114-7074

Information you provide will be available to other members and endorsed candidates upon request.



Calendar

- May 7 ACT Steering and ADC Meeting
Thursday via Zoom or other method.
7 p.m. Check ACTpasadena.org for
 details.
- August 17 Democratic National Conven-
 tion in Milwaukee, WI pushed
 back to the week of August 17.



ACT and ADC Meetings

ACT Steering Committee and ADC meetings are usually on the first Thursday of the month. And usually in person. Our May meeting will be done online with Zoom. Check our webpage, ACTpasadena.org for details.

May Phoenix Deadline

We expect that the May *Phoenix* deadline will be Sunday evening, May 10. Please send items you have for publication to Chuck Hains at hains27@sbcglobal.net. (Chuck will continue to contact regular contributors with a deadline reminder.)



Webpages of Interest

ACTpasadena.org – ACT and ADC information plus Primary Election results, local and national news.

Pasadenademocrats.com – Pasadena Area United Democrats (UDH) and related news.

LAVOTE.net – L A County March 3 election results.



The early bird may get the worm,
the second mouse gets the cheese.



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Pasadena, California
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