The election results are in and there are many post mortems about how and why the Republican Party was victorious in so many states at local and congressional levels. My personal opinion is that instead of backing and touting the real accomplishments of President Obama, Democratic candidates ran away from him and his progressive agenda. They withered in the face of the constant Republican demonization of the President and, somehow after they had obstructed everything the President tried to do, they managed to blame him for the dysfunction in Washington. Nor were Democrats able to convince voters that their stagnant pay checks were partly the result of the refusal of House Republicans to consider real tax reform that might make it harder for corporations to avoid taxes and send jobs overseas. This left Democratic voters, especially the young and minorities who supported Obama, with nothing positive to vote for, so they stayed away from the polls. Perhaps Democratic campaigners had the misguided idea that the progressive agenda was unpopular in many contests in red and purple states. If so, its unpopularity had to do with the failure of Democrats, including the President, to get their message out—not the failure of the message itself. This was illustrated by voters in many states who voted in favor of increasing the minimum wage as ballot measures while at the same time voting for candidates opposed to the idea. In order to win in 2016 the Democratic Party must remain true to its base, run on a real progressive agenda of supporting the middle class, and oppose the stranglehold of big corporations on our politics and economy, and then contrast those ideas with Republican policies.

However, here in Rossmoor, our Club had many volunteers who worked very hard to have their message heard; I would like to devote the rest of this column to summarizing their work and thanking them for their efforts.

Our intrepid group of 29 volunteers for voter registration, coordinated by board member Carol Weed, did an outstanding job. Carol reports that they visited 30 events in 14 locations, re-registered 117 voters who had moved, registered 14 new voters, and trained 7 volunteers. In addition, in an active community outreach, they registered 150 new citizens after naturalization ceremonies at Oakland’s Paramount Theater. They made sure that surrounding colleges had voter registration available, and coordinated their efforts with neighboring Democratic clubs. They also registered students at local high schools, an effort that continues today. Some of the voters they registered were Republican, but many were Democrats and most of the state and local elections in California went our way. We
Looking Back at a Year of DoR
Election Action
Cindy Ware

2014 started with an Election Action double-header. First off, many of us talked with California Assembly District (CD) 16 Democratic candidates Newell Arnerich and Tim Sbranti, California State Senator Mark Desaulnier, and Democratic congressional district (CD) candidate Michael Eggman from nearby CD 10 at our January Candidates’ Forum. Then 23 DoR delegates attended the CA Dem Party Region 2 Endorsement Meeting in Fairfield to vote for Tim Sbranti, the candidate DoR members voted to support at the Candidates’ Forum.

Election Action slowed in the spring – except for the quiet flow of members’ checks to their favorite candidates. Then, in May and at the beginning of June, 2,000 calls went out from 15 DoR phone bankers to Dem voters in Tracy and neighboring communities, urging them to get out and vote for Michael Eggman, who placed second in the primary, earning him a slot on the November ballot.

One caller, Barbara Farhner, attended every one of our 5 phone banks. Many thanks to her, to frequent callers Sue Gerson, Jean Geyer, Jane Walter, and Carol Weed, and to ALL of our members who reached out to explain why it was important to vote out Eggman’s Tea Party opponent!

October marked a first: DoR joined the Rossmoor Republican Club to co-sponsor a very well-attended debate between Catharine Baker and Tim Sbranti at the Event Center. A number of our members went to one, two, and even three earlier debates, and helped come up with good questions to submit for possible inclusion in our Rossmoor debate, which was moderated by the League of Women Voters.

In October we diversified our phone banks to include several days of calling registered Dems in Rossmoor for Tim Sbranti and for Keep the Senate Blue candidates around the country, as well as reaching 1,600 households in support of Michael Eggman. We had 9 returning Eggman phoners and 6 fresh voices plus our steadfast data-entry team, Mary and Bud Lembke. Many thanks to everyone for working hard to get out the vote and support our Democratic candidates.

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Election Action added two trips to Tracy, one Saturday knocking on doors and one departure from Rossmoor at 4 am on Election Day to distribute 250 GOTV doorhangers before commuters in Tracy left for work. We did treat ourselves to lunch there afterwards at Vita Dolce.

Alas, all of our concerted efforts before the primary and again this fall did not, after all, see Tim Sbranti succeed Joan Buchanan in AD16 or turn the conservative tide in CD 10. Turn out, turn out, turn out! Had the same number of Dem voters here in AD16 and in CD10 turned out this year as in 2012, the Dems would have won hands down. That’s a reality Democrats must address nationwide.

As the head cheerleader for Election Action, I thank you, DoR members for attending our election presentations, sending checks to candidates and encouraging the phoners and walkers, who remained undaunted by answering machines, wrong numbers and unanswered knocks. We did make a difference! Here is to a well-deserved rest, a Happy Thanksgiving, and then onward with renewed energy for the next fight.
Solar Power to the People
Bob Hanson

Want to lower your electricity bill? - Go solar.
Want to do your part to lessen climate change? - Go solar.
Want to help the U.S. become energy independent? - Go solar.

How many more good reasons do you need?

For years, folks have said that the sun was the energy source of the future. Well, the future is now. Electricity from solar panels is now very competitive with energy from fossil fuels. Remember: Once those solar panels are paid for, the electricity they produce is free and your home will be worth more when it is time to sell. There are no moving parts to wear out.

We have had our panels since 2003, and they produce as much power today as the day they were installed.

I have been wondering why it is that a cloudy, rainy country like Germany is putting in solar at a higher rate than we are here in sunny California. I’m sure part of the answer is government priorities and subsidies. But I suspect a bigger part of the answer is apathy here in California. We know we should, but just never get around to it.

Sure, Rossmoor management hasn’t been overly welcoming.

When I first went up to MOD to ask about it, I was told it was impossible. Then Steve Adams popped out of his office and said “Well, that’s not exactly true... state law requires us to allow it.”

Nevertheless, management and the mutual boards haven’t gone out of their way to encourage everyone to go solar. One has to be a bit persistent.

I’m excited about the formation of Rossmoor’s newest and fastest-growing club... Solar Powered Rossmoor. This group has big plans to turn sunlight into electricity for homeowners and lobby GRF to become energy independent with regard to our common facilities. The Villages retirement community in San Jose is setting a great example for us on what can be done.

Notice to the Membership

Remember that the February 26 membership meeting is a dinner meeting, catered by Hamilton Catering in Pleasanton. Menu entrees have not been finalized this far in advance but the menu will include hot hors d’oeuvres and lemon meringue pie. The social hour will begin at 5 at the Event Center, followed by dinner at 6 and a speaker, also yet to be determined, at 7.

Mark your Calendars!
and stay tuned!

DoR Annual Dues Are Really Now DUE!
It’s time to pay your annual dues for 2015. Dues are $20 per person; checks should be made out to the Democrats of Rossmoor and (1) turned in to the DoR mail box in Gateway, (2) turned in at any DoR membership meeting or major event, or (3) mailed to Patsy Sharaf at 3441 Golden Rain, #4, Walnut Creek, CA 94595. Your dues enable DoR to recruit well-known and respected speakers and pay for DoR’s many activities throughout the year.

"Don't forget what I discovered that over ninety percent of all national deficits from 1921 to 1939 were caused by payments for past, present, and future wars.”

(Franklin Delano Roosevelt)

DoR President Jane Walter presented a $250 check to Steven Hughes, president of the Rossmoor Scholarship Foundation.
Continued from page 1 (president)

hope that the voices of the voters registered by our Club were heard and will continue to be heard in future election cycles. This was an effort that was extremely well done and will be ongoing right up to the 2016 presidential election.

A second group of 26 volunteers worked directly to support candidates. Our Club’s Candidates and Issues committee decided early in the year to make an effort to support Democrat Michael Eggman’s campaign in neighboring Congressional District 10, our neighboring district to the east. It was hoped that Tea Party Republican Jeff Denham would be vulnerable in the heavily Latino district. Cindy organized phone banks for Eggman before the June primary; 15 volunteers reached 2,000 households. A second series of get-out-the-vote phone banks for Eggman started up in October and November and reached over 1,600 households in the Central Valley. In addition to this effort Cindy, Carol Weed, and Barbara Farher drove to Tracy and knocked on doors and, along with other volunteers, placed door hangers on Manteca homes beginning at dawn on election morning. Unfortunately, Republican big money poured into the Denham campaign, and despite these heroic efforts of our Club volunteers to mobilize Democratic voters, Michael Eggman was defeated in the Republican wave that swept the country on election night.

In addition to supporting the Michael Eggman campaign, phone banks were held in October and November to support Democrat Tim Sbranti, who ran for Joan Buchanan’s State Assembly seat in District 16. Our Club also made an enormous effort to co-sponsor, with Rossmoor Republicans, a Sbranti-Baker debate that was moderated by the League of Women Voters and held here in October in the Event Center. Unfortunately these efforts did not sway enough voters to vote for Sbranti, who reflected the most liberal and progressive views.

There is no question that person-to-person contact is the best way to motivate voters, and phone banks are an efficient and inexpensive way to do this. However, these efforts can be drowned out when big outside money enters campaigns, buys up TV and radio air time, and repeatedly sends misleading messages to voters. There was too much of this in many of the congressional and state elections. However, if the Democratic Party stays true to its message and is able to mobilize its base of minority, young, and working class voters (who must be convinced that this is the party working for them), there is hope that some of the election losses of 2014 can be reversed in 2016 and the Presidency retained. Please join me in thanking the volunteers who worked so hard this year, and get ready for an all-out effort in 2016.

Best wishes,

Jane

Meet new DoR member Kristi Johnson.
Kristi and her husband Russ moved to Rossmoor almost exactly a year ago. Kristi grew up in Idaho as the granddaughter of an Idaho State Senator (a Republican) but switched to the Democratic Party soon after leaving Idaho and beginning her teaching career. Retired after 38 years as a teacher, mostly in the Mt. Diablo School District, Kristi says she’s committed to Democratic ideals. She said, "The Democrats seem to be the closest to my belief that you are your brother’s keeper."

Be sure to introduce yourself to Kristi and Russ when you see them at DoR events. Welcome, Kristi!

DoR sponsored a party at Creekside to
Toward a Sustainable Rossmoor  
Cindy Ware

This is the first column in a new regular feature focusing on re-invigorated efforts here in Rossmoor to expand energy efficiency, water conservation and active and passive solar energy and power. A number of our DoR members have been very active over the years in spearheading efforts in these areas. During the summer, a new club took shape, Solar Powered Rossmoor (SPR), which meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7 pm. **The December 2 meeting will be in the Fairway Room at Creekside.**

In addition to studying options for a large-scale solar array here in Rossmoor, the current SPR focus is to make energy efficiency, water conservation, and possible active solar power all priorities in the new Del Valle Fitness Center/Pool design. The benefits are not only in saving resources but also in helping manage the rise in residents’ coupons in the years ahead.

One of the most effective ways all of us can bring ourselves up-to-date on what is now possible for alternate energy is to read this book:

In 2009, *Time* named Amory B. Lovins one of the 100 most influential people in the world, and *Foreign Policy*, one of the 100 top global thinkers.

His very readable book, *Reinventing Fire*, complete with charts and illustrations, is a must-read for all of us as we prepare for a sustainable future nationwide, worldwide ... and right here in Rossmoor.

**Amazon Book Review:**

*Imagine fuel without fear. No climate change. No oil spills, no dead coalminers, no dirty air, no devastated lands, no lost wildlife. No energy poverty. No oil-fed wars, tyrannies, or terrorists. No leaking nuclear wastes or spreading nuclear weapons. Nothing to run out. Nothing to cut off. Nothing to worry about. Just energy abundance, benign and affordable, for all, forever. That richer, fairer, cooler, safer world is possible, practical, even profitable - because saving and replacing fossil fuels now works better and costs no more than buying and burning them.*

Popular in tone and rooted in applied hope, *Reinventing Fire* shows how smart businesses are creating a potent, global, market-driven, and explosively growing movement to defossilize fuels. It points readers to trillions in savings over the next 40 years, and trillions more in new business opportunities. Whether you care most about national security, or jobs and competitive advantage, or climate and environment, its startling innovations will support your values, inspire your support, and transform your sense of possibility.

**About the Author:**

Amory Lovins, a consultant physicist, is among the world's leading experts in energy and its links with resources, security, development, and environment. He has advised the energy and other industries for four decades as well as the U.S. departments of Energy and Defense. His work in more than 50 countries has been recognized with the Right Livelihood Award, known as the “alternative Nobel,” the Benjamin Franklin and Happold medals, MacArthur and Ashoka fellowships, and numerous additional awards and appointments.

A Harvard and Oxford dropout and former Oxford don, Lovins has briefed 20 heads of state and today advises major firms and governments worldwide, recently including the leadership of Coca-Cola, Deutsche Bank, Ford, Holcim, Interface, and Wal-Mart. In 1982, with his then-wife environmentalist Hunter Lovins, he cofounded and today serves as Chairman and Chief Scientist of Rocky Mountain Institute, an independent, market-oriented, entrepreneurial, nonprofit, nonpartisan think-and-do tank that creates abundance by design. His most recent visiting academic chair was in spring 2007 as MAP/Ming Professor in Stanford's School of Engineering, offering the university’s first course on advanced energy efficiency ([www.rmi.org/stanford](http://www.rmi.org/stanford)). The latest of his 30 books is *Reinventing Fire: Bold Business Solutions for the New Energy Era.*
problems caused by our dependence on oil and coal."--R. James Woolsey, venture partner, Lux Capital; former director of Central Intelligence; chairman, Foundation for Defense of Democracies.

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**Various Book Reviews:**

"In crisp and vivid language, Amory Lovins sets out a blueprint for a much-improved future in the generation and use of energy. We can all learn from reading this clear statement from a real expert."--George P. Shultz, former Secretary of State and Secretary of the Treasury, distinguished fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution, former president of Bechtel.

"My friend Amory Lovins knows that the most important question of the twenty-first century is the 'how' question-how we turn good ideas into working solutions. *Reinventing Fire* is a wise, detailed, and comprehensive blueprint for gathering the best existing technologies for energy use and putting them to work right now to create jobs, end our dependence on climate-changing fossil fuels, and unleash the enormous economic potential of the coming energy revolution."--President Bill Clinton.

“If you wanted to bring America happiness and prosperity, and address unemployment, government gridlock and climate change, and create meaning in a world rife with contradictory views and ideologies, you can do one thing: read *Reinventing Fire*. . .and then see to it that it is read by every decision maker in the land. This is a stunning work of enormous dimension. *Reinventing Fire* outlines an eminently practical path to a durable and meaningful future by reimagining how we use and produce the lifeblood of civilization-energy in its myriad forms."--Paul Hawken, author of *Blessed Unrest*, co-author, *Natural Capitalism*.

“A compelling call for action. From one of the brightest and most practical thinkers in America-straight from the heart, bold advice to America on how to handle energy, reduce the budget deficit, and create millions of jobs. Amory Lovins has written the definitive prescription for the twenty-first century American economy. Take these prescriptions on energy, and the rest of America will do quite nicely in the years ahead. Ignore these recommendations, and we'll find ourselves in a darkening struggle for our prosperity, our future, and our way of life."--Retired General Wesley K. Clark, former NATO Supreme Allied Commander, Europe.

“A brilliant, thorough, innovative plan for a complete and profitable restructuring over the next four decades of how we use and supply energy for transport, electricity, buildings, and industry. RMI's new fire will transform everything we do, and will especially help us see our way out of the massive

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**DoR Book Club Report**

Shirlee Loret

On the first Monday of every month there is a DoR book club meeting. We try out ideas by reading new, well-written books. In November, we read *The Impulse Society*, by Paul Roberts. Drawing on the latest research in the fields of technology and business ethics, the book is heavily influenced by a book written 30 years ago, *The Culture of Narcissism*, by Christopher Lasch.

Paul Roberts wrote this book with great charm and a love of the English language. It’s an easy read and written with an impressive simplicity; it’s also a book that makes you ‘think’. *The Impulse Society* is full of ideas, well known or sensed but never quite organized in quite this way. It possesses many philosophical questions. It makes the reader try to organize your own thoughts about such ideas as: In today’s society, is what we WANT what we really NEED? (Think of this in terms of today’s youth!);

Does the majority of today's global societies see our American way of life as an aberration?; Is innovation a detriment or a blessing? You may long for someone to discuss these questions with you as you read it. It’s organized in three parts: Part One: "Society," or empowering the individual. Part Two: Cracks in the Mirror," or the results of innovation and, Part Three: "We Society" and are there solutions to the changes innovation is creating? And what of the values that tomorrow will bring?

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"I think that people want peace so much that one of these days governments had better get out of the way and let them have it." (Dwight Eisenhower)
OTTO’S SWAN SONG
To all DoR Members and the Board:

Yes, I am really retiring from the DoR Board. I have been a board member now for 6 long years. On balance, I feel good about these years and I have learned a great deal from all of you. It was often hard work and sometimes even frustrating. We are all volunteers and need to be treated accordingly.

When Gary Hansen joined the board and became president, he innovated and created a new methodology to get great speakers for our membership meetings. And now Jane Walter has continued with the support of Gary, Jon Foyt and a committee. At first I resisted the idea of substantial speakers’ fees but eventually I came to see the benefits.

Meanwhile, Al Darby, the co-editor for production of our newsletter left us and I accepted the challenge of learning this job. I enjoyed this challenge and we all moved on. This new work led to my close collaboration with Marilyn Davin, the co-editor for content, beginning in January 2012. Marilyn and I have performed these tasks for the past three years and it has been a great relationship. She has just very recently told me that after seeing the job I have done on the November-December issue that she would not fire me – which I interpret to mean that she will miss this cooperative effort. I believe that she will miss my late night calls during our active work – we both are night owls, it turned out. However, she will also move on and get to work well with the new board member, Carol Pillsbury.

To tell the truth, not all has happened was to my satisfaction. Gary decided that he enjoyed making posters and edged me out of this job. I still think that mine were better, but I am hardly an objective judge and decided not to confront him.

I have come to face the fact that I have grown older and have less energy to expend. A new and younger generation has taken over the Democrats of Rossmoor and this is as it should be. After all, going to Tracy at dawn to distribute

GOTV doorhangers is not my thing at this stage of my life. Also, Carol Weed’s texting language in a recent email message is beyond me. I can just barely understand it. And now I have heard that Carol has urged members to tweet, again making me feel old. I have gone as far as using facebook to keep up with the activities of my grandchildren.

I will, no doubt continue to see you at future DoR activities. I send you all my best wishes for the upcoming holidays.

The Rossmoor Democrat 7 November-December 2014

I thought then, and I think now, that the invasion of Iraq was unnecessary and unjust. And I think the premises on which it was launched were false.

(Jimmy Carter)

"Experience has shown how deeply the seeds of war are planted by economic rivalry and social injustice."

(Harry Truman)
2014 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Use this form to join or renew membership in DEMOCRATS OF ROSSMOOR. Dues are $20 per member. Dues cover one calendar year, January 1 through December 31, and include our newsletter.

PLEASE CHECK ONE: [ ] New member [ ] Returning member

Please print

Name(s)_______________________________________________________________ Date_____________

Address_________________________________________________________________________________

Phone number____________________ E-mail _________________________________________________

Can you be an occasional volunteer? From time to time the Democrats of Rossmoor could use help with various tasks such as serving on committees or the Board of Directors, or helping with: 1) mailings, 2) voter registration, 3) social events, or 4) service groups. Please circle any item where you can devote some time.

Place your check (payable to Democrats of Rossmoor) and this form in an envelope and:

(1) leave it in the Democrats’ mailbox during office hours at Gateway,
(2) mail it to Emily Ehm, 2324 Ptarmigan Drive, Apt. 2, Walnut Creek, CA 94595 or
(3) bring your check and this form to the membership table at any meeting.

We thank you for joining / rejoining the Democrats of Rossmoor.