



MORONGO BASIN DEMOCRATIC CLUB  
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## **JANUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER**

### **JANUARY MEETING**

This Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. we begin the first meeting of the new year. Everyone is invited to come at 9:00 and share a \$10 breakfast – a time to visit and get to know people. Everyone is invited ! Please come and help the Democratic presence in the high desert grow stronger.

### **MBDEMS POTLUCK AND AUCTION**

A flyer about this event is attached to this newsletter. It is January 15<sup>th</sup> at the Aztec Mobile Home Park clubhouse. We hope everyone will come – but it might be good to carpool as parking is limited. You may come for the whole evening or come at 6:30 for the live and silent auctions. The money raised will be used to introduce and support candidates who are running for office in the basin.

### **HIKES BEING SCHEDULED**

Eric Diesel, Chair of the Political Research and Strategy committee is in the process of scheduling Botanical, Geological and Scientific hikes in the basin. The thinking is the more we know about the natural environment around us the more we will want to protect and preserve it. He is recruiting experts to lead these hikes. We will be asking the general membership to vote in support of this proposal.

### **STATE CONVENTION SCHEDULED**

February 26-28, 2016, in San Jose the state Democrats will meet. We have four representatives attending; Karalee Hargrove, Don Krouse, Ron Cohen and Matthew Mark Campos. If you are interested please speak with them.

### **DEMOCRATIC PARTY COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**

President Ron Cohen is hoping that a large number of our members will become members of the County Central Committee. There are limited membership opportunities for primaries but alternates are always

encouraged. The committee meets monthly in San Bernardino. A person seeking primary membership must apply thru the SB Registrar of Voters (ROV) and their name will be placed in the June primary ballot for democrats for this region (Assembly District 42) – the application must be started in person at the SB ROV and then requires 20 registered democrats to sign the petition. Once elected, there is a yearly \$40.00 membership fee to the County Central Committee (alternates are \$25.00). Alternates are chosen by the elected members. If you have questions contact Ron Cohen.

### **LETTER FROM MBDEMS TO PRESIDENT OBAMA**

Debra Thompson, corresponding secretary and President Ron Cohen sent President Obama a letter in support of setting the lands aside for public use offered by Senator Feinstein. It is scheduled to appear in the Hi Desert Star and Desert Trails papers this week.

### **SEEKING CANDIDATES**

We have set a goal of having at least one candidate run for each open position ! We believe strongly that we can make a difference as more Democrats come forward to become involved. Please consider seriously running for an office. The openings are listed below.

- Yucca Valley town Council – 2 seats
- 29 Palms Council – 2 seats
- High Desert Water District – 2 seats
- Joshua Basin Water Board – 3 seats
- High Desert Memorial Health Care District – 3 seats
- Copper Mountain College Trustees – 3 seats
- Morongo Unified School District – 3 seats.

The club recommends that if you are interesting in running for any of these positions that you start attending the meetings now – in order that you become familiar with the specific issues as well as become an informed candidate for the office. It is also important that you file a 501 – intent to run – document. Marv Sawyer and/or Ron Cohen are both happy to talk with you about the process and about serving.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

We are happy to report that the Club membership has climbed to 100 ! Because it happened so quickly we made the decision to set a new membership goal – 125. Earlier in the fall we decided to offer a prize to the

member who brought in the most new members. We will announce the winner of the prize – free annual membership – at the January meeting.

## **CAMPAIGN AND CANDIDATE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

This committee will be meeting every month, the Sunday before the Executive Board meeting. Please check with Marv Sawyer if you would like to be a part of the process.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

Our committee is all set – planning to award three \$500 scholarships this Spring. There is one last hurdle for them to climb over – they need to raise about \$500 more. The fund has just over \$1000 and would like to raise another \$500 in order to meet our goal.

## **WEBSITE**

Don't forget to check the website. Ron updates it regularly.

## **FACEBOOK**

Morongo Basin Democratic Club is the group name. Missy Boyd and Rebecca Unger are updating it regularly. There is an old group so make sure you join the current and active one.

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING – JANUARY 9**

**NEXT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING – FEBRUARY 7th**

Paula Durrant, Secretary

Officers:

Ron Cohen, President ron@deenron.com

Dianne Markle-Greenhouse, Vice President auntpink2@gmail.com

Gary Biggs, Second Vice President garybiggs@gmail.com

Debra Thompson, Corresponding Secretary coratpk@roadrunner.com

Paula Durrant, Recording Secretary pdurrant1@gmail.com

Carol Sawyer, Treasurer