

P.O. BOX 875, SONOMA, CA 95476-0875

President Lynn Burkart

**November 2009**

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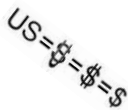
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**Luncheon Meeting, Thursday, November 12th**

**The Lodge at Sonoma,  
 1325 Broadway**

11 AM Registration, 11:30 AM Speaker,  
 Luncheon to follow Speaker (12:15 ish)

**Tom Del Beccaro**



Tom Del Beccaro is the President of the California Republican Party County Chairman 's Association which represents all of the County Republican Parties in California and was elected without opposition to that role in 2005.

Tom is also a Member of the Board of Directors of the California Republican Party and the Chairman of the Contra Costa Republican Party.

In 2003, Tom launched the first of its kind California website dedicated to volunteers, *www.Politicalvanguard.com*. Since then, PV's readership has grown exponentially and has been visited millions of times by those seeking up-to-date news and commentary. PV also features Tom's weekly column with his political commentaries and his views on world

Tom became active in Republican politics back in 1980 by walking precincts for Ronald Reagan. He was the Bay Area Chair of Bill Jones for US Senate, served as the Contra Costa Chairman for the Simon for Governor Campaign and has consulted on many campaigns.

Tom has served as Lamorinda Republican "GOTV" Captain. He is a past member of the Executive Board of the Lafayette School PTA and member of the Las Trampas Creek Council, Founder of Lafayette's citizen advocacy group "L.A.S.T.," and past Committee Member for the City of Lafayette .

Tom is also the founder of the Walnut Creek Law Firm, Del Beccaro, Hornsby & Blake.

**NOVEMBER LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2009**

**THE LODGE AT SONOMA**

11:00 am registration, 11:30 am Speaker, lunch to follow

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME of GUEST** \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR CHOICE OF THE FOLLOWING LUNCH MENU:

**VEGETARIAN (DETAILS TBD)** \_\_\_\_\_

**HORSERADISH CRUSTED SALMON** \_\_\_\_\_

WITH LEMON BEURRE BLANC, MIXED GREEN SALAD  
 WITH BALSAMIC VINAIGRETTE, YUKON GOLD WHIPPED  
 POTATOES, SEASONAL VEGETABLES, POT DE CREAM

**\$30 per meal due by THURSDAY, November 5th**

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Sonoma Valley Republican Women (SVRWF)

**SEND TO: P.O. BOX 875, Sonoma, CA 95476**

OR CALL/EMAIL (if your check will be late): Barbara Nobles at 938-8034/nobles2@att.net  
**A RESERVATION MADE, IS A RESERVATION PAID**

(no refunds unless canceled **four days** prior to the event)

**CFRW NORTHERN  
 DIVISION  
 FALL CONVENTION**

**NOVEMBER 14-15, 2009**

**CONCORD, CA**



**President** — Lynn Burkart

It is hard to believe that another month has passed so quickly. It is also hard to believe that the Health Care Reform bill made it out of the Senate. But then again, there are lots of things that are hard to believe today, especially the promises from the President that this health care reform bill will not lead to socialized medicine, it will not cost any money, and will not lead to a rationing in services. The other day an e-mail came in from the Democrat group called "Organizing for America" (formerly called "Organizing for Obama") that urged me as a supporter of the President to call all my congressional representatives and let them know how supportive I am of the proposed health care reform bill. The plan is apparently to muster their forces to make a big push with radio, TV, telephone, internet and sky writing (not really) to convince and wear down all the Independents and Republicans that this is a great thing to do, and that we should all rally around the President. The **big push is set for Tuesday October 20<sup>th</sup>**. I urge you to do just the opposite and make sure that we keep the members of congress advised that there are more of us that oppose the bill, as it is now then those that support it. So I urge you to please stay on message. **Don't be discouraged or distracted**. Keep writing letters to the editor, keep calling congress, and tell anyone that will listen that this bill as it now stands is not bi-partisan, it will increase both health care costs and taxes, and it will not cover all the people who are uninsured today. The reform we need is tort reform, more market competition across state lines, reduced medical malpractice rates, and less defensive medicine by good doctors afraid of being sued.

My sincere thanks to Mary Logasa for filling in for me again at last month's luncheon. Not only is she great at lining up those wonderful speakers, she is also able to wear multiple hats at the same time. I was really sorry that I missed **Brad Dacus**, he is a great speaker and really inspires us to become more active in our futures.

This month's speaker, **Tom Del Beccaro** is another inspirational speaker. He was scheduled to speak to us last year, but had to cancel at the last minute due to a court date. He serves as the co-chair of the California Republican Committee, but he also has a real job as an attorney, among his other responsibilities. Tom is leading the fight to help **save talk radio** which is in danger of being limited by the "**Fairness Doctrine**". Make sure you bring a friend to hear Tom tell us how the next wave of socialism is going to effect us all, and what we can do.

I want to thank Willy for her hard work bringing in new members. We are now at an all time high in membership. She is doing a great job, along with Eleanor Berto who has been registering the Democrats that are leaving to join the "right" party. I also must bid a fond farewell to one of our dear friends, **Dave Kennedy** who passed away very unexpectedly this past month. He loved going to the Tea

Party rallies, and coming to our luncheons. He enjoyed talking politics and had some great insights. We are going to miss him. May he rest in peace.

**1st Vice President/Programs/Parliamentarian** — Mary Logasa

Our October speaker, **Brad Dacus**, from the **Pacific Justice Institute** gave us a real insight into the frightening attempts by government (be it local, state, or national) to deny or take away the religious and civil liberties we Republicans/Conservatives value so highly. We all can be thankful that the **PJI** exists to defend an individual's or church's constitutional rights. Brad was surprisingly optimistic about the future for the 2010 elections and managed to give us some real hope, unlike what we are getting from the Obama administration. One positive idea he gave us (which I found to be most interesting) was when he said, "**Not using our freedoms is more of a crisis today than actually losing them.**"



Our November speaker will be **Tom Del Beccaro** who is the Vice-Chairman of the California Republican Party, publisher of [PoliticalVanguard.com](http://PoliticalVanguard.com), author of The New Conservative Paradigm, and has often been a guest on the Lee Rogers morning radio program. You can learn more about him on his web site, if you so choose. Some of you will remember he was booked to speak to us a year ago last June, but was unable to come due to being called to court that day. I look forward to seeing you on November 12, when Tom will tell us about the status of the California Republican Party. Do bring a spouse, an offspring, or a guest or two, if at all possible.

Also may I remind you that we elect new officers for the next two years at this meeting

The nominating committee, Marilyn Avrit and Maureen Daly presented to us a slate of nominees that will make you proud of our organization. The officers will be installed at the December meeting.

**2nd Vice President/Membership** - Willy Hoekstra

Let us all welcome **Carolyn Alioto, Renee Chantrill, Leona Hayden, Marcy Chambers** and **Mary Smith** to our Federation.



Mary Logasa's great choice of speakers has sparked a lot of interest in our meetings and SVRWF.

**Ray Spencer** and **John den Dulk** are our newest associates. We should all spread the word that gentlemen are very welcome to join our group.

We presently have **131 Regular Members, 13 Associates** and **1 Life time Member**.

On a sad note we have to announce that **Dave Kennedy** an associate member suddenly passed. He will be missed very much.



**2009 MEMBERSHIP (includes Assoc. Members) = 144**

**New Members**

Carolyn Alioto <i>calioto@comcast.net</i>	1450 Castle	939-1835
Renee Chantrill (Lorenzo Reffreger) <i>rchantrill@yahoo.com</i>	1345 Brockman Lane	934-7064
Leona Hayden <i>ldesimone@att.net</i>	17305 Arnold Drive	996-0306
Marcy Chambers <i>marcy@marcychambers.com</i>	297 Theodor Lane	996-2040
Mary A. Smith <i>nanapaah@hotmail.com</i>	177 Academy Lane	935-9360



**New Associate Members**

John denDulk <i>jd@middleclassworld.com</i>	541 Alcatraz Ave., Oakland, 94609	510-290-3937
Raymond F. Spencer, Jr. <i>ray@skyparkflying.com</i>	2030 Napa Road	227-5670

**Changes**

Nancy Percival (new address only)	800 Oregon Street, Apt. 285
Marian Kirby (new email only)	<i>mariansk3@gmail.com</i>



Please add this change to your 2009 Roster.  
 Please let our Membership Chair, Willy Hoekstra, know of any changes, corrections or updates:  
 996-0661 or *willyhoekstra@att.net*

**IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!!!**

When you renew early, your name gets entered into a drawing for a FREE year's membership. Please fill out the form below, and **thank you** for being a Republican.

NEW MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_ **SONOMA VALLEY REPUBLICAN WOMEN, FEDERATED** RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_  
RENEWAL/NEW MEMBER FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Name (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_

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

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ Printed in Roster? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE INDICATE THE APPROPRIATE MEMBERSHIP**

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>ACTIVE MEMBER \$26.00</b>    | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality   | <input type="checkbox"/> Vintage Festival (Parade or Booth)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>ASSOCIATE MEMBER \$26.00</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> Phone Bank  | <input type="checkbox"/> 4th of July (Parade or Booth)   |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Luncheon Reservations   | <input type="checkbox"/> May Picnic/Fundraiser   |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Voter Registration<br><small>(helping at Tuesday night Farmer's Market)</small> | <input type="checkbox"/> Photographer(s) (and submit photos<br>to website/newsletter/calendar committee—Tina Grippi) |

PLEASE MAKE CHECK  
 PAYABLE TO SVRWF, AND MAIL  
 TO:

**SVRWF**  
 P.O. BOX 875,  
 SONOMA, CA 95476

**I would like to help with (please check one or more)**  
 I would like to receive the Newsletter via: \_\_\_\_\_ Email, \_\_\_\_\_ Paper only  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Email and Paper

\*\*\*The club recommends Email only in order to cut back on printing and postage costs\*\*\*



### The Sonoma Valley California Republican Assembly

The November meeting will be  
**Wednesday, November 4, 2009, 7PM**  
at the **Chanterelle Club house,**  
165 St. James.

Note: The SVCRA meets the  
**1st Thursday of each month.**

Please contact Roger Jack Young with any  
questions: [joven@hughes.net](mailto:joven@hughes.net) or 938-2582



December 10th  
luncheon

**Lynne Leach**  
LEADERSHIP



She is a veteran business woman, an experienced state legislator and community leader who will address business challenges and struggles, ethics, leadership, patriotism and the responsibilities of citizenship. She is also a member of the Ygnacio Valley Republican Women and an Associate with: Lamorinda, San Ramon Valley, East Contra Costa County and Blackhawk Republican Women Federated.

### TAKING STEPS TO SAVE AMERICA

*Contributed by Ruth Ney*



### THE AD-HOC COMMITTEE

**The Ad-hoc Committee is going strong.** Our next meeting will be on Thursday, October 29th, 10am, at my house (4005 Grove Street).

The Committee has been successful in submitting letters to the editor for publication in local newspapers.

We invite our members and friends to join us in this endeavor to inform, educate and motivate via the available resources of newspapers, e-mail and telephone calls.

To receive up-to-date information on legislative issues use the the CFRW website for Edelweiss Geary's reports. She is the Legislative Issues Chair and can be read at [www.CFRWnd.org](http://www.CFRWnd.org)

Please mark your calender for October 29Th and call me at (996-2177) or [thomasandruth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:thomasandruth@sbcglobal.net) for further information.

Kind regards, Ruth Ney



Congratulations to  
**Cecelia Dahl**  
as the drawing winner  
for a **FREE LUNCH**  
at any future meeting!!!!



Congratulations to  
**Joy Jenkins**  
as the winner of our  
50/50 drawing!!  
Don't spend it all in one place, or  
maybe so???????

## Please Attend!!!! This will be a great event!!!!

Sonoma Battalion - Operation:  
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The American Legion Jack London Post 489 present . . .

### "Dance for the Troops!"

40's style food and wine \* Entertainment \* Fund-a-Need Auction  
Big Band Music - Dance to the Richard Olsen Orchestra  
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**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2009 \* 5 - 11 PM**  
Tickets \$40.00 per person

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*All proceeds will fund care packages to our troops!*

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- Pepperoni or sausage sticks, beef jerky strips
- Peanuts, sunflower Seeds
- Grandma's cookies
- Single dose Bayer aspirin packages
- Crystal Light or Gatorade drink mix
- Cocoa mix
- Campbells Chunky Soup
- Ramen Noodles
- Protein Bars
- Granola Bars
- Pop Tarts
- Nabisco Fruit Snacks (100% Vitamin C)
- Hunts Pudding Snacks
- Personal products for the ladies, female hygiene, tampons
- Scrunchies for females (black/brown/tan)
- Peanut butter & jelly in squeeze tube
- Tuna in pouch
- SMALL cans of soup or fruit/pull tops only

## Support The Troops

We are collecting monetary donations (for shipping) as well as physical donations. Please attend our SVRWF luncheon and give what you can (the 2nd Thursday of the month). See the list below for approved and needed items for our troops.

You may want to include a card or two for our Christmas mailings. Let's lift a heart and soul for our troops!!!



- AT&T phone cards
- Disposable cameras
- AA & AAA batteries
- Stationary and pens
- Letters & cards from you—unsealed envelope
- Cotton Socks (black & white NO LOGO)
- Travel size tissues
- Ground coffee & coffee filters & tea bags
- Hard candy
- Breath mints
- Seasonings (Mrs. Dash, garlic, etc)
- Crackers, Wheat Thins
- Recent magazines & paperback books
- DVDs, CDs, board games (travel size), playing cards
- Frisbee, nerf football
- Thumb tacks & scotch tape
- Sunscreen & hand lotion (small only), lip balm in tubes w/screw caps
- Insect repellant, anti-itch cream
- Toothpaste & small toothbrushes
- Deodorant (no gel or aerosol), bar soap, odor eaters/gold bond foot powder (small)
- Baby Wipes or Wet Ones, toilet paper & Q-Tips
- Boot brushes (hard bristle), pipe cleaners, small sponges, small garbage bags
- Hand warmers, foot warmers, knit caps



## AMERICANISM QUOTES

“There can be no fifty-fifty **Americanism** in this country. There is room here for only 100 % Americanism, only for those who are Americans and nothing else.”

-Theodore Roosevelt-

“**Americanism** consists in utterly believing in the principles of America”

-Woodrow T. Wilson-

“The cost of **freedom** is always high, but Americans have always paid it. And one path we shall never choose, and that is the path of surrender, or submission.”

-John Fitzgerald Kennedy-

“Americans, indeed all **free men**, remember that in the final choice a soldier's pack is not so heavy a burden as a prisoner's chains”

-Dwight David Eisenhower-

“We live in a great and **free country** only because our forefathers were willing to wage war rather than accept the peace that spells destruction”

-Theodore Roosevelt-

“(The Pledge was) born out of my own love of the flag and for all the lofty **Americanism** it represented”

-Francis Bellamy-

“Every immigrant who comes here should be required within five years to learn English or leave the country.”

-Theodore Roosevelt-

Contributed by Maureen Daley



## The Office of the Chaplains United States Congress

The custom of opening legislative sessions with a prayer began in the Continental Congress, which elected Jacob Duche, Rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, to serve as its chaplain from 1774 to 1776. The constitutionality of the chaplains' prayers was upheld in 1983 by the Supreme Court on the grounds of precedent and tradition. The court cited the practice going back to the Continental Congress in 1774 and noted that the custom "is deeply embedded in the history and tradition of this country" from colonial times and the founding of the republic. Further, the Court held that the use of prayer "has become part of the fabric of our society," coexisting with "the principles of disestablishment and religious freedom." Subsequently, on March 25, 2004, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, citing *Marsh v. Chambers*, dismissed a suit that challenged the practice of opening legislative sessions with prayer.

The official clergy of Congress are two chaplains – one in the House, the other in the Senate.

The chaplains perform ceremonial, symbolic, and pastoral duties. They open the daily session in the chambers of each house with a prayer. The chaplain for the House of Representatives is the

Rev. Daniel P. Coughlin (the first Roman Catholic chaplain) and the chaplain for the Senate is

Dr. Barry C. Black (the first black and first Seventh-day Adventist chaplain). Chaplains are chosen by each chamber as individuals and not as representative of any religious body or denominational entity.

The following prayer is as appropriate today as when it was first said 235 years ago.



## First Prayer of the Continental Congress, 1774

O Lord our Heavenly Father, high and mighty King of kings, and Lord of lords, who dost from thy throne behold all the dwellers on earth and reignest with power supreme and uncontrolled over all the Kingdoms, Empires and Governments; look down in mercy, we beseech Thee, on these our American States, who have fled to Thee from the rod of the oppressor and thrown themselves on Thy gracious protection, desiring to be henceforth dependent only on Thee. To Thee have they appealed for the righteousness of their cause; to Thee do they now look up for that countenance and support, which Thou alone canst give. Take them, therefore, Heavenly Father, under Thy nurturing care; give them wisdom in Council and valor in the field; defeat the malicious designs of our cruel adversaries; convince them of the unrighteousness of their Cause and if they persist in their sanguinary purposes, of own unerring justice, sounding in their hearts, constrain them to drop the weapons of war from their unnerved hands in the day of battle!

Be Thou present, O God of wisdom, and direct the councils of this honorable assembly; enable them to settle things on the best and surest foundation. That the scene of blood may be speedily closed; that order, harmony and peace may be effectually restored, and truth and justice, religion and piety, prevail and flourish amongst the people. Preserve the health of their bodies and vigor of their minds; shower down on them and the millions they here represent, such temporal blessings as Thou seest expedient for them in this world and crown them with everlasting glory in the world to come. All this we ask in the name and through the merits of Jesus Christ, Thy Son and our Savior. Amen.

Reverend Jacob Duche  
Rector of Christ Church of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
September 7, 1774, 9 o'clock a.m.

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## Obama's 5 Worst Policy Decisions

October 14, 2009

by Tom G. Del Beccaro

Last week, I detailed my list of Obama's 5 Biggest Political Miscalculations. This week, I cover Obama's 5 Worst Policy Decisions. Many readers wondered how I could limit last week's article to just 5. Well if you think last week was hard to limit to 5, this week's task is much harder.

From Guantanamo to Health Care, Obama is certainly seeking to *Change* America – or more accurately -to accelerate the pace of change from a private enterprise-freedom based civilization to a Big Government run society. A listing of the worst of his Policy Decisions along those lines starts right here:

5. **Bailing Out GM.** “His policy of public investments prevented necessary liquidations. The businesses he hoped thus to save either went bankrupt in the end, after fearful agonies, or were burdened . . . by a crushing load of debt. [He] undermined property rights . . . pushed federal credit into the banks and bullied them into inflating . . .” Historian Paul Johnson wrote that of Herbert Hoover. You can almost substitute Obama's name for Hoover's in every detail. By the way, Government Motors sales are declining at 3 times the rate of the industry as a whole. Hoover would be proud.

4. **The Energy Farce.** In what universe does economics work like this: A \$14 trillion economy is sinking, employers are cutting jobs, so let's raise the costs of doing business even more and that will lead to a recovery *fueled* by an industry, i.e. green technology, that barely exists? Cap & Trade is right out of a classic “command economy” model worthy of 1940's Eastern Bloc imaginations. If it passes, it's regulations will stifle the US economy for decades before someone is wise enough to junk it amidst global cooling.

3. **The So-Called Stimulus Bill.** So far, this is Obama's signature legislative “accomplishment.” In time it will be his albatross. The basic policy decision made by Obama was directly the opposite of the choice Reagan made. Reagan said government was not the solution to our problems - Government was the problem. Reagan dramatically cut taxes and regulations, the economy rebounded and tax revenues doubled. Obama's policy, on the other hand, was and is to have government spend our way out of our economic problems. Sadly for us, spending, taxing and borrowing is not an economic remedy for too much existing debt and the far too high existing tax burden. Indeed, as the Congressional Budget Office pointed out that, in the long run, Obamanomics will hurt more than it will help. Given its short term-failure, it's hard to imagine something worse and it is even harder not to dub this one of his worst policy decisions.

2. **Socialized Health Care.** Do I really have to explain the demerits of this decision? It doesn't work, never has and never will and will be nearly impossible to repeal – oh, and it will bankrupt us. Next!

1. **Cancelling the Missile Defense System.** On November 16, 2008, fresh off Obama's victory, Time Magazine carried an article that read: “Missile-defense skeptics yearning for a fresh look at the wisdom of pumping \$10 billion annually into missile defense aren't going to get it from Barack Obama when he moves into the Oval Office.” How so very wrong Time was. Obama did cancel the long range system – just as every liberal Democrat has been want to do to American defense systems in pursuit of less guns and more butter. So why was that Obama's worst policy decision? Even worse than nationalization of health care?

Let me count the ways:

1) Defense spending on defense technology is dollar-for-dollar very productive (compared to most gov't spending) and leads to break-throughs thereby employing and encouraging US scientists – I thought the liberals told me we needed to encourage future scientists?

2) You do not negotiate for years with an at risk ally, i.e. Poland, and then pull the plug on the deal – what does that say to future at-risk allies, like say Israel! It says you can't count on the U.S.

3) Obama's decision to abandon the longer range missiles is based on an assumption that Iran is no longer interested in longer based offensive missiles. You read that right, Obama is trusting Iran against the advice of Bush era advisors,

4) The decision leaves the U.S. without a long range system for the Eastern Seaborg – You are on your own NYC – don't worry it can't happen twice,

5) The Decision tells Middle Eastern countries, like Saudi Arabia, that you better defend yourself, i.e. it could/will start a local arms race.

6) It was an obvious caving into Russia without a tangible benefit, and

7) it is in keeping with his other defense cuts which send a strong message when you consider his weak rhetoric. Dean Acheson, who turned his back on South Korea, which led to the Korean War, could not be more impressed.

All in all, when it comes to the nuclear world, ignoring Jefferson's advice that “Weakness provokes insult & injury,” seems beyond a bad policy decision – it is his worst policy decision.

So there they are – the 5 worst. Stay tuned, however, the worst may be yet to come!



Photographer, Tia Gemmill, Sacramento

## California Federation of Republican Women

*Kathleen Brugger, President*

## Capitol Update

Friday, October 16, 2009

Allison Olson, Legislative Advocate

### Last Minute Action

At the eleventh hour, Governor Schwarzenegger took action on 704 bills before the signing deadline of midnight last Sunday. Here is the rundown:

- **Of 704 bills, 107 of them were Republican sponsored.**
- The Governor vetoed 229 of the bills, meaning 475 were signed into law.
- Of the bills we have been following, here are the outcomes (**CFRW OPPOSED these bills**):
- SB 572, Leno (D-3) "Harvey Milk Day": **SIGNED**
- SB 585, Leno (D-3) "Prohibiting Gun Sales at Cow Palace": **VETOED**
- AB 962, de Leon (D-45) "Ammunition Restrictions": **SIGNED**
- AB 1422, Bass (D-46) "Healthy Families": **SIGNED**
- AB 98, De La Torre (D-50) "Maternity Benefits Required": **VETOED**
- AB 119, Jones (D-9) "Gender Ratings in Healthcare": **SIGNED**

We had some successes and some failures. If you find that you do not like the outcome of some of these bills, next time take a more active part in the process! You CAN effect change and work for or against legislation produced in our Capitol. As your Advocate, I want to work with you on legislation YOU think is important. Together we can make a difference for the State of California!

### Water Woes Continued

There is still no solution for our water problems. The Senate met this week to discuss some possible proposals, but nothing was finalized. There are some suggestions for a 9.4 billion dollar bond with voter approval, parceling out the money over several years. Other parts of the package may include environmental protections and create a "Stewardship Council" comprised of seven members, including 4 gubernatorial appointees, to make important decisions on water projects. The plan may also include the construction of two new reservoirs and potentially increase the water level of Los Vaqueros Dam. Lawmakers continue to be optimistic about a deal;

but for now, there is no end in sight for our water struggles.

### What Do YOU Think?

A recent Field Poll was published in the Sacramento Bee rating voters' approval of our lawmakers. The results were less than stellar for the Legislature. Only 13 percent of voters approve of the job lawmakers are doing, falling below 20 percent for the first time in a year. 78 percent of voters disapprove of the Legislature's performance, the highest percentage of disapproval since 1983. The Poll found that even Democrats are tired of the Democrat-controlled Legislature: 72 percent of registered Democrats expressed disapproval, with 86 percent of Republicans and 77 percent of non-partisan registered voters weighing in. Voters did, however, agree that a special session was necessary to resolve taxes and water, with 73 percent and 62 percent behind it, respectively.

### Speaking of Special Sessions...

As you know, the Senate met this week for a special session to tackle a water package and tie up loose ends. No water package has been passed, but there was some unfinished business to attend to. The Senate passed more than a dozen measures that were stalled last month, from funding for domestic violence shelters to giving tax credits to homebuyers. It was a display of bipartisan efforts that we can only hope continues as the Senate moves on to deal with water.

### HR 3200 Info

Fairbanks RWF prepared a spectacular booklet of information about the proposed health care reform that would serve as a valuable tool for your use in talking to your friends and neighbors, and in preparation for attendance at townhall meetings.

If you would like a personal copy, please email the advocacy office and we will email a pdf copy to you.

### Tracking Legislation

Although we are unable to give our members access to our web-based bill tracking service, there is a way you can find and monitor California legislation. You can access that information on the internet by going to the Legislature Home Page and completing the information on the right side by either indicating the bill number, the author, or key words. You can then subscribe to an email update and you will be notified when there is action on legislation of interest to you.



October 20, 2009

## **The Baucus Plan: Implications for Small- and Medium-Sized Firms**

by John L. Ligon  
WebMemo #2656

The health care reform legislation known as the "Baucus plan" will demand that firms with 50 or more employees offer health insurance coverage or pay an assessment fee to subsidize the cost of individual employee coverage through a State Health Insurance Exchange. This proposal essentially imposes a mandate on firms with 50 or more employees, which will dramatically affect companies' per-employee costs and their allocation of labor.

### **The Baucus Plan**

The Baucus plan outlines a small-firm refundable tax credit, which would apply to all firms with 25 or fewer employees--although the full amount of this credit would apply only to firms with 10 or fewer employees. The small firm tax credit in this particular proposal is phased out for firms larger than 10 employees (and not exceeding 25 employees) with either a 6 percent reduction in the tax credit for every additional employee above the 10-employee threshold or a 5 percent reduction in the tax credit for each \$1,000 increase of average wages for those employers with average wages between \$20,000 and \$40,000.

Additionally, the Baucus plan includes an assessment penalty on firms with more than 50 employees that do not currently offer health coverage. The Baucus plan defines this penalty as a flat amount equal to the national average subsidy multiplied by the number of employees receiving an "affordability waiver," or a capped amount of \$400 multiplied

by the total number of employees at the firm. The flat amount is abstractly documented in the proposed Baucus legislation, but it will be "set by the Secretary of HHS and published in a schedule each year." This amount will likely to be set at thousands of dollars.

### **Burden on Medium-Sized Firms**

Any potential health care reform legislation that punitively adds costs to employers will dramatically affect the way these firms treat their labor force. A company's decision not to offer health care will not be driven by a desire to deny its employees' coverage. Rather, it will be the result of the fact that, for many companies, it is too costly to offer health benefits in addition to current wage and other compensation. For example, if a firm with 49 employees decides to expand by one employee, then the potential marginal cost of the 50th employee could be \$20,000--a capped amount of \$400 multiplied by 50, the new number of employees at the firm--plus other costs of hiring this employee.

Moreover, the estimated share of average annual change in cost per employee as a share of per-employee compensation will rise by 5 percent on average for firms currently not offering health insurance coverage and 2.5 percent for those firms that currently do offer coverage. For all medium-sized firms, the estimated annual change in cost per employee as a share of per-employee compensation will be 4.6 percent for those currently not providing health insurance coverage and 2.2 percent for those that do currently offer health insurance.

These firms will likely not be able to absorb this increase in cost of providing health insurance coverage (or paying the assessment penalty); thus, this cost increase will be passed on to

employees in the form of reduced wages, increased insurance cost-sharing, discontinued hiring, or loss of employment. Some firms, instead of hiring an additional employee, will simply increase hours for current employees. These increased costs could also result in a large number of employers contracting low-skilled and low-income labor or hiring a greater share of non-permanent (part-time or full-time) employees.

### **Implications for Small Firms**

The Baucus plan's implications for small firms are not as dramatic as those illustrated for medium-sized firms--aside from reducing the incentive to expand. For instance, there is not a mechanism in the Baucus plan that requires small firms to offer health insurance coverage to their employees. As a result, under the Baucus plan, many small firms--perhaps most--either will decide to not offer coverage or drop coverage if they currently offer it. Subsequently, employees will have to procure coverage through the proposed State Health Insurance Exchanges.

### **Medium-Sized Firms under Fire**

Overall, the estimated effects of the Baucus plan on medium-sized firms are quite substantial and, in addition to the added cost burden on medium-sized firms, could create a strong disincentive for small firms to expand to 50 or more employees. Firms ranging in size from 50 to 75 employees will be the hardest hit, and all medium-sized firms will likely see an increase in average costs per employees as a result of the Baucus plan.

*John L. Ligon is a Research Assistant in the Center for Data Analysis at The Heritage Foundation.*

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### Websites of interest

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2009

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11 AM REGISTRATION, 11:30 AM SPEAKER,  
LUNCH TO FOLLOW

*DEADLINE FOR RESERVATION*

*THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH*

CFRW NORTHERN DIVISION FALL  
CONVENTION

NOVEMBER 14-15, 2009

CONCORD, CA

BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2009

9 AM SONOMA HILLS RETIREMENT HOME

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS DUE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH

TO TINA GRIPPI (TJGRIPPI@SBCGLOBAL.NET)

**DECEMBER 2009**

LUNCHEON/MEETING  
SPEAKER LYNNE LEACH

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2009

THE LODGE AT SONOMA

*DEADLINE FOR RESERVATION*

*THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3RD*

BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2009

9 AM SONOMA HILLS RETIREMENT HOME

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**Lake County Republican Women, Federated**—meets alternating 2nd Wed.& 2nd Sat. ([www.lakecouthrwf.tripod.com](http://www.lakecouthrwf.tripod.com))

**Marin Republican Women, Federated**—meets fourth Wednesday of each month ([www.mrwf.org](http://www.mrwf.org))

**Napa Valley Republican Women, Federated**—meets second Thursday of each month ([www.napagop.org](http://www.napagop.org))

**Napa Vintage Republican Women, Federated**—(information 707-554-4710)

**Upper Napa Republican Women, Federated**—(Marjorie Preston 707-226-2914)

**Santa Rosa Republican Women, Federated**—meets fourth Tuesday of each month ([www.srrwf.org](http://www.srrwf.org))

**Novato Republican Women, Federated**—meets third Tuesday of each month ([www.novatorwf.org](http://www.novatorwf.org))



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