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**SAVE THE DATE!**

## Christmas Luncheon

Wednesday,  
Dec. 9

Watch the newsletter and [www.SVARW.com](http://www.SVARW.com) for details on time and place

**Mark your calendar**

- **Oct. 21:** SVARW regular meeting, 9:30 to 11 a.m., Three Flames Restaurant, 1547 Meridian Ave., San Jose. Check-in from 9 to 9:30 a.m. Meeting starts at 9:30 a.m. Cost: \$15
- **Nov. 18:** SVARW regular meeting, 9:30 to 11 a.m., Three Flames Restaurant, 1547 Meridian Ave., San Jose. Check-in from 9 to 9:30 a.m. Meeting starts at 9:30 a.m. Cost: \$15

**Membership:**

Contact Gail Desmet with membership questions. Email Gail at [membership@svarw.com](mailto:membership@svarw.com).

## Upcoming Events at SVARW

### Returning California to prosperity

#### October speaker to shed light on mismanagement of public pension plans

**Time:** 9 a.m. check-in; program called to order at 9:30 a.m.

**Date:** Wednesday, Oct. 21

**Place:** Three Flames Restaurant, 1547 Meridian Ave, San Jose, CA 95125

**Cost:** \$15 includes breakfast; free to Reagan, Gold and Sponsor members

The public employee unions are stuffing their pockets with benefits awarded by Democrat lawmakers, kept in office by generous contributions from the public employee unions, Democrats are only too happy to continue to vote expansive agreements to the unions.

Unfortunately this merry-go-round comes to a screeching halt as cities are plunged into bankruptcy because these lawmakers never provided for funds to pay off these long-term debts. In short, these cities are left with unfunded liabilities.

Economist Lawrence J. McQuillan, a senior fellow at the Independent Institute, will discuss his new book, "California Dreaming: Lessons on How to Resolve America's Public Pension Crisis," in which he pulls back the curtain covering the unfunded liability disaster. After describing the true extent of the problem, McQuillan will discuss the critical policy actions that drove California's government pension debt sky-high. He will also talk about a more fundamental problem: the perverse incentives facing lawmakers and pension officials that

reward them for mismanaging the pension systems and letting the debt escalate. Finally, McQuillan will discuss the immorality of the crisis, the key reforms needed to fix the problem, and the long-term benefits of a permanent solution.

McQuillan earned his doctorate in



Lawrence J. McQuillan

economics from George Mason University, and he has served as chief economist at the Illinois Policy Institute; director of business and economic studies at the Pacific Research Institute; research fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution; and was founding publisher and contributing

editor of Economic Issues.

McQuillan's books and major studies include:

- California Dreaming: Lessons on How to Resolve America's Public Pension Crisis
- Jackpot Justice: The True Cost of America's Tort System
- U.S. Tort Liability Index
- The Facts about Medical Malpractice Liability Costs
- U.S. Economic Freedom Index
- Tort Law Tally: How State Tort Reforms Affect Tort Losses and Tort Insurance Premiums
- Bringing More Sunshine to California: How to Expand Open Government in the

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## Silicon Valley Association of Republican Women

P.O. Box 3194  
Saratoga, CA 95070

### Executive Board

**Debra Janssen-Martinez, President; Jane Kearney, First Vice-President; Jan Soule, Second Vice-President; Sherrill Martinez, Recording Secretary; Kirsten Williams, Corresponding Secretary; Lisa Seago, Treasurer; Diane Owen, Parliamentarian**

The board meets at 9:30 a.m. typically on the last Wednesday of each month. All members are welcome to attend board meetings. Contact Debra Janssen-Martinez at [President@svarw.com](mailto:President@svarw.com) and she can provide details.

## SVARW sunshine

Norine Bacon is SVARW's official ray of sunshine. When a member is ill or has lost a loved one, Norine reaches out to them with a card and a personal call. Please don't hesitate to call her if you know someone in need. Her number is 408-377-7111.

### Contact your officials

**Gov. Jerry Brown,**  
Mail to: State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: 916-445-2841  
FAX: 916-445-4633  
Email: [www.govmail.ca.gov](http://www.govmail.ca.gov)  
**Assemblyman Rich Gordon,**  
650-691-2121  
**Assemblyman Evan Low,**  
408-371-2802  
**State Sen. Maj. Ldr. Ellen Corbett,**  
510-794-3900  
**State Senator Jerry Hill**  
650-212-3313  
**State Senator Jim Beall**  
408-558-1295

### President's message

## Settle in-party disputes, direct energy at defeating Dems

It seems that I have the radio or TV news on more lately, while battling our horrific traffic, preparing meals, too often for a peaceful mind. I reached my personal news overload and outraged maximum this past busy news week. Another lunatic mass murder blamed on Republicans, the Middle East moving quickly toward terrorists dictating our foreign policy and continuing diplomatic humiliation of our President and Secretary of State, Republicans staging a civil war in the Congress and on the Presidential campaign trail. After the Depends commercial, I was absolutely ready to buy that product.

I asked my mom, an "evolved" Scoop Jackson Democrat who has voted Republican since Eisenhower, if she'd ever felt as if she'd been pummeled by an out of control tennis ball machine just by tuning in the evening news.

"Worse," she said, "We had Watergate, the awful Jimmy Carter years and the first and second reigns of Pat and Jerry Brown."

Her generation feared we Baby Boomers were lost to Communism, LSD and zero population growth. She reminded me of our multigenerational discussions at Thanksgiving with my suffragette Republican (and DAR) grandmother and her Sons of the Confederacy Dixiecrat husband. I also remembered the constant fear of nuclear war my college professors warned of and the violence and activism raging not far away in Berkeley. Then came Prop 13 and soon after the Reagan years.

As our Board meets to chart our priorities and activities over the coming very important year, we'll remember

that national and international situations can change very quickly. Game changing elections often resonate worldwide. County Sanctuary Status, water policy, property taxes and school choice will have massive impacts on



our area and our lifestyle. Everyone is angry and feels the need to act.

Our goal is to focus on programs and speakers who will interest and motivate our members to take action within

our group as well as to join with other groups such as the Conservative Forum, the SVGOP, the NRA, or actions organized in schools, universities and places of worship, where we can be stronger.

Our club will focus as best we can on issues and candidates we think can help make a difference in our little, but very important, part of the world. We think there are opportunities for conservative voices of all ages and variations of policy positions. We especially hope to reach out to the next generation through issues such as immigration and tax reform, and stifling speech and opportunity regulations that increasingly affect their daily lives. It's time to settle our differences and gather our allies and save our anger and energy for the enemy who isn't going to surrender easily. Look for more ways to join together and take action in the coming months.

— Debra Janssen-Martinez

### Newsletter Editor

Joyce Swanson-Hall  
[jswanhall@yahoo.com](mailto:jswanhall@yahoo.com)

## Legislative update

# Legislator wants bigger transit authority

By Trish Cypher  
SVARW Legislative Chair

Attributed to both Mark Twain and Gideon John Tucker is the quote:

*“No man’s life, liberty or property are safe while the Legislature is in session.”*

Perhaps we may want to consider adding government to this list.

“No man’s (or woman’s) form of government is safe while the Legislature is in session.”

Assemblyman Marc Levine (D-Marin County) has introduced legislation in the First Extraordinary Session (Assembly Bill 1X-24) to create the new Bay Area Transportation Commission. You might be wondering what an “extraordinary session” is, but we’ll have to save that explanation for another time.

This assemblyman claims that a publicly-elected commission would operate in a more transparent and accountable manner than the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA) both combined which will be eliminated by AB 1X-24.

According to this press release: AB 1X-24 is written to accomplish the

following:

- Create the Bay Area Transportation Commission, governed by directly elected Commissioners, effective Jan. 1, 2017.
- Provide that campaigns for elections of commissioners shall be publicly funded.
- Provide that the commissioners will serve four-year terms representing districts drawn by an independent redistricting authority.
- Eliminate MTC effective Dec. 31, 2016.
- Eliminate BATA effective Dec. 31, 2016.

Levin’s press release is filled with optimistic generalities, but we all know the devil is in the details. What is transparency? Why isn’t this public agency accountable now? Has he conducted his due diligence on this issue? Let’s hope someone asks him the who, what, where, when, why and how questions to get to the specifics. Has he consulted the State Constitution for his legal authority to create new election districts and specialty regional agency?

Yes, eliminate the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Bay Area Bridge Toll Authority and

absorb these regional transportation functions into the existing state executive transportation agency district that can operate and coordinate among counties throughout the state, with counties taking on a portion of this public transportation function.

Let the people in the counties decide how to spend their transportation money. I wonder where the estimated \$700 million collected each year from these bridge tolls goes anyway. Maybe this question needs to be answered.

Please consider contacting Levine and your Assembly and Senate representatives to let them know how you feel about AB 1X-24.

Read more about this topic at these websites:

**MTC Consolidation:** [www.abag.ca.gov/media/2015\\_merger/](http://www.abag.ca.gov/media/2015_merger/)

**Regional elections:** [www.mercurynews.com/california/ci\\_28871655/](http://www.mercurynews.com/california/ci_28871655/)

**From Levine Press Release on MTC:** [www.asmdc.org/members/a10/newsroom/press-releases/assemblymember-levine-proposes-transparent-accountable-bay-area-transportation-commission](http://www.asmdc.org/members/a10/newsroom/press-releases/assemblymember-levine-proposes-transparent-accountable-bay-area-transportation-commission)

Contact Trish at [advocacy@svarw.com](mailto:advocacy@svarw.com)

Help RealOptions advance a culture of life by joining us for our Fall Fundraiser. As fuel to a fire, give your time and donate your treasure.

**igniteLife 2015**  
It only takes a spark.

*Fall Fundraiser*  
**October 22**

Club Auto Sport, San Jose  
Doors Open at 6PM

RealOptions  
Pregnancy Medical Clinics

Register at [www.FriendsofRealOptions.net/ignite](http://www.FriendsofRealOptions.net/ignite) or call 408-229-9836 for more information.

## In November, Brad Dacus to discuss defense of civil liberties

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Golden State

- The Case against the International Monetary Fund
- The International Monetary Fund: Financial Medic to the World?

He is also author of more than 400 articles in such leading outlets as the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Chicago Tribune, Los Angeles Times, San Francisco Chronicle, Investor's Business Daily, Forbes, USA Today, and the Encyclopaedia Britannica.

He further created the California Golden Fleece Awards to highlight a state or local spending program or regulation that fleeces California taxpayers, consumers, or businesses.

He has been an advisor for Colorado Gov. Bill Owens; the Index of Economic Freedom; Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's task force on a constitutional spending limit for

California; Tax & Fiscal Policy Task Force of the American Legislative Exchange Council; and the Law & Judiciary Policy Committee of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. McQuillan has appeared on NPR, Fox Business Network, CNBC, CNN, and radio stations across the country.

### November meeting

At the Nov. 18 meeting, our speaker will be Brad Dacus, president of the Sacramento-based Pacific Justice Institute, an organization which defends religious freedom, parental rights and other civil liberties.

Dacus has spoken to SVARW previously about the important work PJI does to protect our constitutional rights and this meeting will bring us up-to-date about the institute's most recent court battles.

In recent legal action, the Institute has filed lawsuits against school districts in southern California for failing to inform parents on their right to have their children opt out of testing on the controversial Common Core standards.



Brad Dacus

In northern California, the institute is representing a Vacaville pro-life pregnancy clinic that had its lease cancelled in order to protect a Planned Parenthood facility in the same building from competition.

In case you missed it: September meeting

## Howard Jarvis Association fights to retain Prop. 13 protections

By Joyce Hall  
Newsletter editor

For 37 years, supporters of Proposition 13 have diligently worked to preserve the voter-approved measure that changed how real estate is taxed throughout the state. Each year, legislators in Sacramento attempt to change or overturn some provision of the landmark law.

John Coupal, president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, told the audience at SVARW's September meeting about the group's continuing efforts to make sure that property owners can count on the protections of Prop. 13. Without Prop. 13's limitations on the rate of real estate taxes, many homeowners would have lost their homes to sky-rocketing property taxes. Prop. 13, passed by California voters in 1978, limited the annual increase in property taxes to 2

percent.

Before Prop. 13, "People were being taxed out of their homes, particularly seniors, who were getting tax bills they could not afford," Coupal told the group. "We still have people who come up and say they, or their parents, and now their grandparents, would have lost their homes without Prop. 13."

Coupal countered some of the common arguments against Prop. 13: that it only benefits those who have owned their home a long time and that it destroyed California's great education system.

New homeowners also benefit from Prop. 13 because they will always know how much their property taxes will be. Without Prop. 13, a boom in the real estate market would mean a dramatic rise in property taxes, for both long-time home-owners as well as new buyers. In fact, Coupal

explained, the real estate crash in 2007 would have decimated local government revenues as property values declined. Instead, Prop. 13 protections keep revenues stable during both boom and bust cycles.

Regarding the argument that Prop. 13 gutted money for public schools, Coupal pointed out that California is now spending on a per student basis, 30 percent more in inflation-adjusted dollars than the state was spending in the mid-1970s. Coupal blamed the growth of collective bargaining by teachers' unions for shifting the focus from the students to the school employees as one of the main sources of the decline in California's education system.

Coupal urged the audience members to educate others about tax issues and the value of Prop. 13 protections.

Learn more about the organization at [www.hjta.org](http://www.hjta.org)