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Mark your calendar

- **Feb. 17:** 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
- **March 16:** 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

2016 Membership

If you have not yet paid your 2016 membership, you may pay online at SVARW.com, at the February meeting, or mail a payment to SVARW, PO Box 3194, Saratoga, CA 95040. There are several levels of membership. Contact Gail Desmet with membership questions. Email Gail at membership@svarw.com.

New members

SVARW welcomes the following new members for 2016: **RaeAnn Ramsey, Cynthia Pickford and Marla DeBroekert.**

Upcoming Events at SVARW

Speaker to detail changing gun culture

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

Date: Wednesday, Jan. 20

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

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

While conservatives agree that every American has a right to own a gun, many who did not grow up around guns are a bit hesitant about owning or firing one. Our February meeting is the perfect place to learn more about how gun ownership is evolving and how you might get started. You will be fascinated to learn what the National Rifle Association does besides raise money to fight anti-gun campaigns

Our speaker is **Hilary Goldschlager**, the youngest member elected to the Executive

Committee of the NRA Women's Leadership Forum. A supporter of the right to keep and bear arms, Ms. Goldschlager promotes the NRA as a civil rights organization dedicated to the protection and advancement of the Bill of Rights. She promotes right-to-carry laws that permit peaceable, responsible, law-abiding citizens to use, possess and enjoy their private firearms.

An NRA-certified instructor, Ms. Goldschlager promotes firearms education, safety and marksmanship training for all peaceable Americans, especially women, minorities and youth. A native of the San Francisco Bay Area, she has always been an avid outdoorswoman.

At our February meeting we will announce an opportunity for you to participate in a fun, hands-on introduction to firearms.

SVARW straw poll puts Trump ahead of Cruz, Rubio

During its regular monthly meeting Jan. 20, SVARW asked the more than 100 attendees to participate in a straw poll of the Republican candidates for president. Donald Trump topped the list with 33 percent of the vote, Texas Senator Ted Cruz came in second with 27 percent and Florida Senator Marco Rubio was close behind at 26 percent. Neurosurgeon Ben Carson was supported by 11 percent, while Kentucky Senator Rand Paul and former Florida governor Jeb Bush were tied at 2 percent. The remaining candidates – businesswoman Carly Fiorina, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, Ohio Governor John Kasich and former Pennsylvania senator Rick Santorum – received no votes.

“Our straw poll shows that voters want

candidates who promise real change, including a return to prosperity, strong national security, and smaller, less intrusive government,” said SVARW President Jan Soule.

Attendees also weighed in on what actions they want the next president to take. Topping the list was repealing the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare). There was a tie between revoking the agreement with Iran and securing national borders. Following those top three actions, voters want the next president to meet with military advisors to devise a strategy for destroying ISIS, identify radical Islam as an enemy, pursue Hillary Clinton for national security breaches and invite Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to the White House.

Silicon Valley Association of Republican Women

P.O. Box 3194
Saratoga, CA 95070

Executive Board

Jan Soule, President
Jane Kearney, First Vice-
President
Debra Janssen-Martinez, Second
Vice-President
Sherrill Martinez, Recording
Secretary
Susan Calderon, 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 Jan Soule at
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, State Capitol,
Sacramento, CA 95814; Phone:
916-445-2841; FAX: 916-445-
4633; Email: www.govmail.ca.gov
Assemblyman Rich Gordon, 650-
691-2121
Assemblyman Evan Low, 408-
371-2802
State Sen. Majority Leader Ellen
Corbett, 510-794-3900
State Sen. Jerry Hill, 650-212-
3313
State Sen. Jim Beall, 408-558-
1295

President's message

Feeling left out of presidential race?

Can 2016 be different?

As Republicans living in California, we often feel that we are "left out" of the process of selecting a nominee for president as well as electing our next president. By the time California votes in June, often the GOP frontrunner has clinched the nomination. In November, we are fortunate if the major networks wait until the polls close here to announce the next president.

By the time you read this, the voters of Iowa will have awarded their 30 delegates to a GOP candidate and New Hampshire will award its 23 delegates on Feb. 9. That's a total of 53 delegates. While we are focusing on who won and who came in second, it is the amassing of delegates to the Republican National Convention that counts. The delegates are pledged to cast their vote based on the winner in the state. Different states have different formulas for awarding delegates.

The Republican National Convention will take place July 18-21 in Cleveland, Ohio. Through the state primaries a total of 2,472 delegates will attend. It takes 1,237 delegates (50 percent plus one) to win the nomination. If a candidate won every primary, 1,237 delegates could be amassed by March 15. With so many candidates in the race for the Republican nomination for president, it is unlikely that any one candidate would manage this feat.

California's nomination process

California will send 175 delegates to the convention, more than any other state. The next closest state is Texas with 155. California delegates are allocated as follows:

- 10 at-large delegates (AL) are statewide delegates who are



residents of that state and are selected at large. Whichever presidential candidate wins the majority of the vote in the June 7 primary will receive all 10 delegates.

- 159 congressional district delegates (CD) are selected by the congressional district they represent. Each state gets three delegates per district. In California, the candidate who receives the majority of votes in that congressional district receives the three delegates. Therefore the 159 delegates could be split among a number of candidates.
- Three Republican National Committee members are automatically national convention delegates and include the state's national committeeman, national committeewoman and state chair. SVARW member Margaret Metcalf is the national committee woman representing Guam.

Despite having the most delegates to the Republican convention, our June 7 primary means that we are in the last group of five states to vote. If there are a number of GOP candidates who win delegates in the February through May primaries, California's 175 delegates would make this a very interesting race. It would mean that *you* could make a difference by campaigning in our congressional district. Stay tuned.

— Jan Soule
SVARW President

Conservative Calendar is great outreach

For years California conservatives have done the same things over and over to change the political climate of the state, yet we are worse off in 2016 than we have ever been. The conservative landslide that swept across the country in November 2012 stopped at the Nevada border.

SVARW took a bold step to stop the insanity and move our county and state in a different direction by investing in building The Conservative Calendar (www.TheConservativeCalendar.com) to network conservative organizations. A weekly email lets fellow conservatives know about coming events.

Your help is needed

The more conservatives who join The Conservative Calendar email list, the quicker the goal of networking

conservatives will be achieved. Here's how you can help:

- Send an email to your friends and family and ask them to: Join www.TheConservativeCalendar.com to find conservative organizations and events in their area.
- Make a post to your Facebook page to invite your friends to join The Conservative Calendar and include the link: www.TheConservativeCalendar.com
- Add an invitation to join The Conservative Calendar to your email signature.
- If you know other conservative organizations that should be promoting their events on The Conservative Calendar tell them to click on "List Your Organization."

— Jan Soule

Looking forward

Growing up with guns in the desert

By Debra Janssen-Martinez
Second Vice-President

In February, speaker Hilary Goldschlager will tell us about the latest rules on gun control and why our Second Amendment rights are important to protect, even for those who will never touch a gun. As the SVARW Board considers what kind of hands-on experience we can offer our members following the presentation, it occurs to me that my own experience with guns is very different than most of the other ladies in our club.

I spent my early childhood in the deserts of Arizona and California. My father, grandfather and uncles were hunters and always carried loaded guns in their cars in case of breakdowns, bad guys, rattlers, or injured animals on the lonely desert roads, before cell phones and AAA. From an early age, my father taught my sister and I how to load, shoot, and be safe with pistols and rifles. Guns were secured from child access, but my mom always carried a loaded pistol when

we had to travel across the desert at night.

Thank goodness my mom or my dad never had to use their guns for self-defense, but I felt safer living on the edge of vast rural spaces, knowing they would, and I could, if necessary. As a volunteer deputy sheriff, my dad's holstered pistol and racked shotgun no doubt stopped a few bar fights and fender-benders from escalating. We all loved target practice and I'm proud to be a very good shot with pistol, rifle and shotgun. My sons became gun proficient through Boy Scouts, ROTC, the Army and later as very careful recreational shooters.

I think the reason for gun proliferation is that the world feels less safe. Despite lower crime rates, and cell phones, people don't trust the government to keep them safe anymore. The answer is to elect leaders who take law enforcement (peace keeping) seriously, beginning with their own oaths. Expensive social programs do not help anyone unless everyone feels safe in their own homes, city and country.

Safety is just too important to put behind anyone's political agenda.

Newsletter sponsor



VOLUNTEERS

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Want to Learn More About Volunteering?

Come explore a variety of ways you can volunteer at RealOptions.

At this informational meeting, we answer key questions about who we are, where we are going, why we exist, and how you can get involved to help advance a culture of life in the Bay Area.

Union City

Saturday, February 20

Central San Jose

Saturday, February 27

9:00AM to 1:00PM

Light refreshments will be served.

Please RSVP online.

FriendsofRealOptions.net/volunteer

Want to be a newsletter sponsor?

Contact newsletter editor Joyce Swanson-Hall at jswanhall@yahoo.com to find out how to be a sponsor of SVARW and have your ad appear in the newsletter.

Local endorsements

SVARW recommends Brown, Davis, Le**Candidate Endorsements
for June Primary**

SVARW's policy is to interview and endorse candidates in non-partisan races. On occasion, we will consider an endorsement in a partisan race. The purpose of these endorsements is to let our members know who they should support to make a difference in Silicon Valley.

While you may not live in their districts, their election will make a difference in your life. It is important to support good candidates because they will influence the laws you live under.

Two of our endorsements are for San Jose City Council. While you may not live in San Jose:

- The decisions of the San Jose City Council are often emulated by other cities and towns. For example, it was the San Jose City Council that started the ban on plastic bags. Not only do we now pay for bags, but stores have reported more shoplifting when people bring their own bags. This results in higher costs for everyone. Other cities and towns in Santa Clara County followed San Jose's lead and so did the California legislature.

- San Jose is a sanctuary city for illegal aliens. Aliens who have committed crimes and not deported are free to roam over the

entire county.

Our endorsements for San Jose City Council—Non Partisan Race

Devora “Dev” Davis for **San Jose City Council District 6** representing the Willow Glen and Rose Garden areas of San Jose.

Website: www.devdavis.com

Steve Brown for **San Jose City Council District 2** representing the southernmost part of San Jose. Website: www.sanjosedistrict2.com

Both candidates impressed us with their knowledge of the issues facing our area and their willingness to work hard. Each candidate will need to be one of the top two vote getters in the June 7 primary in order to be on the ballot in November.

Our endorsement for California State Assembly

Van Le for **State Assembly District 27**. Van was born in Vietnam and knows the importance of conservative policies. She is an elected member of the Eastside Union High School District Board of Trustees. Website: www.vanle2016.com



Steve Brown



Devora “Dev” Davis



Van Le

Help teach college students the principles of liberty

The Independent Institute is a non-profit, public-policy think tank located in Oakland, California that is dedicated to promoting liberty and free-market solutions to today's social and economic issues.

The institute commissions scholarly, peer-reviewed research that turns into influential books, working papers, op-eds and media campaigns. We also know that today's young people are tomorrow's leaders. However, few young people have the opportunity to learn about the principles our country was founded on: individual liberty and free markets.

That's why the Independent Institute hosts the annual **Challenge of Liberty Summer Seminars**, which provide enriching educational experiences for students from around the world. At these weeklong seminars this year in Colorado and the Bay Area, students will learn from top

faculty and network with like-minded peers.

Independent is committed to providing *every* student the opportunity to be ignited by the ideas of liberty, and therefore offers student scholarships. As a non-profit organization, Independent relies solely on tax-deductible donations. Please consider sponsoring a student this year individually, or with a group. Sponsorships are \$525 per student. For more information or to donate please contact Katie Modesitt at (510) 568-2216 or kmodesitt@independent.org.

