



Gray Panthers Sacramento

On The Prowl

Volume 30 Number 1

January 2008

P. O. BOX 19438, SACRAMENTO, CA 95819

916-332-5980

January Meeting

Gray Panthers Sacramento

General Meeting

January 8, 2008

1:00-3:00 PM

Hart Senior Center, 27th and J Sts

SETTING OUR PRIORITIES

Have Our Concerns Changed?

Gray Panthers Steering Committee leads the discussion.

Members will have the opportunity to offer their personal insights about the issues that they feel should be priorities for Gray Panthers in the coming years. (see page 2 for detail)

Coffee - Cookies and a chance for fellowship as well.

Info: 916-332-5980

Everyone Welcome!



IN OUR COMMUNITY

Jan 8th - 3:30 PM County Board of Supervisors. Roger Dickinson will offer resolution to end the Iraq war and bring the troops home

Jan 8 and 17th, CSUS, ISHH Training Academy.
Contact 278-5179 for further details and directions

Jan 24, 2-4 pm: Legal Services of N. California will be at Hart Center for a monthly series of legal workshops for seniors. The first will address Powers of Attorney and Advance Directives. 551-2140

Note: Part 2 of Karl Stoffer's article on Global Warming will appear in February.

WHAT DO WE BELIEVE AS GRAY PANTHERS?

With a Gray Panthers National convention coming in September of this year, the time has come to begin work in earnest on our priorities and current issues. They can be viewed at www.graypanthers.org/issues/ Sacramento leadership, your steering committee, has been working hard to review each resolution or issue, looking for ways in which they might be enriched or amended to reflect the current situation. As noted on page one, our January meeting will give you a chance to hear recommendations as well find out what you are thinking.

This will also be a time to look into the coming couple of years and see what major issues need immediate and on-going action. With health care still in crisis, an administration still hawking for another war on yet another front ("Iran has been a threat, is a threat, and will be a threat!"), with the environment continuing to degrade and natural resources for our children and grandchildren under assault, there is no doubt some strong consensus as to what needs doing. The trick is to frame the message in a flexible enough way so the position can be used for action no matter the direction our nation, state and cities head.

Take a look at these major headings - categories we felt at our last convention in Seattle were worthy of priority:

I. HEALTH CARE

Gray Panthers strongly supports many changes including the creation and funding of a single-payer, nonprofit and universal health care system. But are we inclusive enough? What about long term care issues, and health-care for immigrants, legal or not?

II. Family Security

This category includes Social Security, housing, a safety net of benefits for all in need, living wages as well as consumer-oriented public utilities and other public services.

III. Peace and Community Safety

We call for an end to nuclear weapons testing and proliferation and many other strong remedies to the international situation. Then we would establish a cabinet-level Department of Peace. But closer to home, we oppose the death penalty. Shall we add here a position on military commissions and torture?

- What do you want to see here, if we are "Youth and Age in Action"?
-

VI. Jobs and Workers Rights

These are the very issues Maggie Kuhn first raised in her founding of Gray Panthers. Shall we look at issues of sexual orientation as they impact workers' rights? How does the NAFTA statement need changing?

IV. Political Integrity and Economic Justice

Campaign and voting reform measures are greatly needed, as is the end to the Electoral College. But public lands and resources in corporate hands are here as well. Should it be under a different category?

V. Education

Gray Panthers strongly support life-long public education, but there is much in this category that needs review and study. What do you want to see here, if we are "Youth and Age in Action"?

VI. Jobs and Worker Rights

These are the very issues Maggie Kuhn first raised in her founding of Gray Panthers. Shall we look at issues of sexual orientation as they impact workers rights? How does the NAFTA statement need changing?

VII. Environment

We increasingly ally ourselves with environmental activists and call for public and private action, particularly with the Global Warming crisis. Have we said enough?

VIII. Gray Panthers Organizational Policies

Gray Panthers considers intergenerational implications in all its programming and policies. However, there is perhaps a need to take a look at other issues in changing times.

Where do the following issues belong? Their own category or placed among those listed above?

We crafted a strong statement on IMMIGRATION, iterating our outrage at demagoguery on immigration issues. We say we will not yield silently to the politics of fear, racism, class warfare and divisiveness. Have we been strong enough? Can we use this position freely in coming debates, or does it need changing?

Gray Panthers will monitor and support legislation which includes actions consistent with these principles.

The IRAN position statement obviously needs further consideration, especially in light of recent revelations about their ending nuclear weapons development. ***Where shall we go with this?***

2008 Officers and Steering Committee of Sacramento Gray Panthers

- Convener:** Joan Lee 916-332-5980
- Interim Secretary:** Pat Naylor
- Treasurer:** Lola Young
- Staff Project Coordinator, Medicare Part D grant,** Margie Metzler
- Environmental:** Dr. Karl Stoffers
- Disability Issues:** Michael Dunne and Terry Terry
- Historian:** OPEN POSITION
- Hospitality:** Nell Ranta
- Housing Issues:** Linda Roberts, Karen Raasch
- Labor/Wage Issues:** Nell Ranta
- Newsletter Asst. Editors:** John Bernier and Betty Cooper Youngren
- SS/Medicare Advisor:** Peter D'Anna
- Transportation:** Dale Kooyman
- Members at Large:** Edie Poole, Pat Naylor, Jean Mellberg, Betty Merle, Judy Bietz
- Computer Assistant:** Beverly Crosby
- Webmaster Staff:** Margie Metzler

All members are welcome to steering committee meetings held monthly the 4th Tuesday at 1 PM in the Cypress Room at Hart Center.

Visit our website for Sacramento and California GP issues as well as Medicare Part D updates:
www.gpcal.org.

Gray Panthers National Action Network:
<http://graypanthers.e-actionmax.com/>

WELCOME TO GRAY PANTHERS:
 JoAnn Anglin

Gray Panthers Annual Dues are \$30 for individuals and \$35 for families.

This *includes* newsletters, membership in Gray Panthers National, and Gray Panthers California. If new members choose to join in coming months, they may pay the full amount or choose from the following monthly pro-rated schedule for 2006-2007. Be aware that you will be billed again in September.

Month	Individual	Family
January	\$20.00	\$20.50
February	17.50	18.00
March	15.00	15.50
April	12.50	13.00
May	10.00	10.50
June	7.50	8.50
July	5.00	5.50
August	Both \$3.00 + \$30.00 for 2007	

TODAY I /WE WANT TO JOIN GRAY PANTHERS SACRAMENTO

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

MEMBERSHIP:

Regular: \$30 or pro-rated amt. _____

Family:\$35 or pro-rated amt. _____

Newsletter subscription **only** \$15 _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Note: It is not necessary to pay for the newsletter if you join as a full member!

Make check to Gray Panthers of Sacramento. Send to PO Box 19438, Sacramento, CA 95819.

REMEMBER: Lack of funds will not deter belonging to our organization! Call Joan Lee for further information: 916-332-5980

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PEACE
IN
2008



GRAY PANTHERS of SACRAMENTO
P.O. Box 19438
Sacramento, CA 95819

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