



Off to a Good Start

A brief look at some of the speakers and events at DGR this year

So far this year we've hosted three meetings of the Democrats of Greater Riverside, and each one has been great. Here are some of our big accomplishments so far:

- We've adopted a new logo for our club to update our image and to use in flyers and print.
- We've created a balanced budget with a focus on getting involved in the community.
- We held our first fundraiser in years and raised over \$60 through a "Pot O' Gold" opportunity drawing.

Another focus this year has been our speakers. So far a number of prominent people from the local community have visited us.

In January, our featured speaker was **Tom Podgorski, last year's Democratic Candidate for Riverside's Ward 1 City Council seat**. Tom ran an awesome campaign, and he told us about what he learned from running and gave us some good advice for what we can do as a club to help others running in local politics.

In February, **Dr. Kevin Grisham, the Assistant Director of Research at the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at Cal State San Bernardino** visited us. Dr. Grisham's topic was, "San Bernardino Shooting Aftermath: Resisting the

Call of Hate.” Dr. Grisham gave an informative talk about the roots of hate, why hateful ideology can be so appealing, and what we as a community can do to keep hate from spreading and causing more harm.

Finally, our March meeting fell on St. Patrick's Day. To celebrate, Mexicali provided special happy hour drink pricing and festive green beer. We also threw an exciting **Pot o' Gold opportunity drawing** to help raise funds for our club and to support local candidates.

Our program for March featured three prominent speakers: First was **Andy Melendrez, Ward 2 Councilman for Riverside**, who told our club about recent City Council activities. Then we had **Tim Sheridan, who is running for US Congress in the 42nd district**. Mr. Sheridan gave us a brief rundown of his background, his campaign plans, and about his plans once he's elected. Finally **Sabrina Cervantes stopped by**. Ms. Cervantes is running for Assembly in the 60th district and told us about her recent endorsement from the California Democratic Party, and her work with Jose Medina.

And we have even more great speakers planned for the coming months!

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