



## **Newport Beach Women's Democratic Club**

**Advocating for Democratic Values**

**in Newport Beach and neighboring communities**

PO Box 11761 | Newport Beach, CA 92658

NBWDC.org | Info@NBWDC.org | 949.423.6468

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram @NBWDC

### CLUB MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, May 22, 2019

Newport Coast Community Center

6401 San Joaquin Hills Rd, Newport Coast, CA 92657

[Ample Free Parking – Map Here](#)

[RSVP Form available here](#)

5:30: Check-In, Networking & Light Refreshments

- Admission (Cash, Check, Credit Card accepted)
  - Members: No charge
  - Guests: Free if you join; otherwise \$15 for Walk-in or \$10 with advance RSVP

6:00: Welcome & Introductions: President Tara Steele

- Dignitaries
- New Members
- First-Time Guests

6:10: **President's Message: Tara Steele**

- Annual OC Fair Voter Registration Drive
- Upcoming events and announcements

6:30: Speakers Program

- Cottie Petrie-Norris: State Assembly Member, Dist. 74
- Katrina Foley: Mayor, Costa Mesa & Candidate CA State Senate District 37
- Mary Navarro: Educator-Early Childhood Focus
- Melahat Rafiei: Political Consultant & Democratic Activist

7:30: Closing Comments: Tara Steele

7:45: Adjourn meeting



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### GUEST SPEAKERS



Cottie Petrie-Norris  
State Assemblywoman, Dist. 74

I am a businesswoman, community leader, wife and mom. I grew up in San Diego County in a hard-working family. My stepfather was a union machinist and my mom was a homemaker who worked various odd jobs to help make ends meet. I am a proud product of Southern California public schools. Thanks to good schools, great teachers, determination and hard work – I went on to Yale University where I double-majored in Economics and English.

Over the past 20 years, I enjoyed a successful career in finance and technology. I have built businesses and led teams at Fortune 500 corporations, small companies and start-ups.

I've lived and worked in Washington DC, South Africa, London and – for the past 6 years – back here in Southern California. I live in Laguna Beach with my family – my husband Colin, our two sons Dylan & Hayden and our rescue dog Flounder.

In 2018, I was elected as Assembly member for 74th District which includes South Huntington Beach, Newport Beach, Laguna Beach, Laguna Woods, Costa Mesa and most of Irvine. [I am running for re-election in 2020.](#) For more information about my work in the Assembly, please visit <https://a74.asmdc.org/>



Katrina Foley  
Mayor, Costa Mesa & 2020 CA State Senate Candidate (D37)

In November of 2018, Costa Mesa voters chose Katrina Foley to be the city's first directly elected Mayor. Katrina also served as Mayor in 2016-2017, and has been on Council for 10 years, (2004-2010; 2014-2018). She previously served the public on the Newport Mesa Unified School District Board of Trustees from November 2010 to November 2014. **Katrina's focus is on making Costa Mesa better for families.** She has 2 college age boys who attended Costa Mesa Public Schools and is married to Casey Swanson, a local teacher and high school golf coach.

Katrina is President of The Foley Group, A Professional Law Corporation in Newport Beach. The Foley Group, PLC provides services in contract negotiations for artists and athletes, civil business and employment litigation, and non-profit compliance matters. In 2001 and 2004, Katrina was honored by Women in Leadership and the National Association of Women Business Owners' at the annual Remarkable Women Awards event.

Katrina is a proud graduate of Head Start, UCLA (BA – English), and Seattle University (Juris Doctorate) on a Dean's Scholarship. Upon graduating from law school, Katrina received numerous public service awards including the National Association of Women Lawyers 1996 Outstanding Woman Graduate and Washington State Trial Lawyers Association Public Service Award.

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*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."*  
Margaret Mead



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Katrina is dedicated to collaborating within the community to improve our neighborhoods, public schools, and maintain a prosperous and vibrant business community. Addressing the climate crisis, creating jobs, and improving public safety and the quality of our community are her top priorities. She has announced her 2020 candidacy for State Senate District 37. For more information about Katrina, visit <https://katrinafoley.com/>



Mary Navarro,  
Educator, Early Childhood Focus

Mary is the Out-Reach Chair for the Orange County Commission on Early Childhood **Education, and Executive Board Member for the Women's Journey Foundation, LLC.** Mary is a strong advocate for public education and the empowerment of women and minorities through our public education system. She was a recent candidate for Orange County Board of Education and continues to work tirelessly as a community organizer, leader and activist.

Mary is a 3rd generation California Educator with more than 38 years of service in the California Public School System. **Mary believes that "Public Education is the great equalizer, and now more than ever it is the foundation of our democracy-our economy and our relationships in a global society."**

Mary supports public education from preschool to college-to the emeritus programs for seniors- **"Education is a basic right and must be affordable and accessible for ALL at every age. Especially now that technology is changing our industries, manufacturing and workforce, we must become resilient learners and that ability begins at birth! We must become a country of life-long learners in order to adapt to the fast pace changes and challenges that are unfolding before us. We must put children and families first and foremost at the center of our decision making."**

Join Mary in a presentation and discussion on the importance of protecting our progressive, democratic values through Early Childhood Education and how together we as a community can better support young families.



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Melahat Rafiei  
Political Consultant & Democratic Activist

Melahat believes in family, community and nation. She believes in community involvement, education and hard work as the way to a good life. She believes that the best for our people means the best for everyone.

She believes these things because she has, and is, living the American Dream we all talk about. She has gone from a frightened little girl, a political refugee from Tehran, to successful businesswoman, parent, mentor, community leader – because her parents and her adopted country gave her a foundation and real opportunity to excel.

From a first time volunteer, she learned, worked and rose to positions with more and more responsibility. After the campaign ended, Melahat moved on and up, bringing her considerable negotiating and leadership skills to the job of Executive Director the Democratic Party of Orange County in 2007.

From that position, Melahat was able to take the ground that was being prepared and plant the seeds that grew into **a beautiful blue "harvest" in the 2018** midterms. She oversaw the creation of things as diverse as a stable fund-raising base to organized voter registration drives to recruiting an army of passionate activists, who joined with experienced organizers to do the essential work of voter contact and education.

She also agreed to take a seat on the Board of Planned Parenthood of Orange and San Bernardino Counties, consulting with the National Iranian-American Council and other community-based projects.

Melahat has also built a very successful full service political consulting firm, Progressive Solutions Consulting. She has recently expanded to include a division for public advocacy.

Her skills and work ethic have seen her win many awards, including recognition by the California State Assembly and the US House of Representatives, The John F. Kennedy, Jr. Award from the California Democratic Party for service to the Democratic Party, Orange County Young Democrats Mentor of the Year, and the Democratic Foundation of **Orange County's Howard Adler Award** for Excellence in the Art and Science of Politics.

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