

## Next Meeting

Wednesday, January 27  
7:00 PM

Hermosa Beach Community Center  
710 Pier Avenue, Room #4  
Hermosa Beach

Come hear from our local electeds! Our featured speaker will be Redondo Beach City Councilman Bill Brand, who will update us on the CenterCal EIR and the City Council's plans.

*Below: A scene from our well-attended Democratic holiday party, held at the beautiful Hermosa Beach home of Ray and Carol waters.*



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

January, 2016  
Looking Forward



I'd like to kick off 2016 by talking a bit about what the future holds for our club. As Vice President Dency Nelson often reminds me, the Beach Cities Democrats have existed in one form or another since 1982. During the last 34 years our community, our nation, and our party have gone through some extraordinary changes. In order to remain relevant, we should consider what our core mission is and how to remain relevant in a changing world. I believe our mission, which is basically to advance Democratic candidates and values, remains relevant. How we accomplish our goals, however, must continue to adapt to the times to be effective.

One of my primary goals as President of the Beach Cities has been to grow our membership and to increase our diversity. In particular, I have been actively looking for ways to reach out to young Democrats and to better integrate them into our activities, while also supporting them in their own goals as well. Thanks to efforts by prior Presidents Tony Hale and Diane Wallace, we have a long term relationship with the Mira Costa High School Young Democrats. That relationship had been dormant for the last few years, however, until recently renewed with the help of Dency and the current avo-President of MCYD, Matt DuMont. Now we are building an increasingly strong two way relationship. MCYD members have begun attending our events, while we are helping to connect them with local role models who can inform and excite their members about the power of politics to create change.

We have grown our membership base by 10 new members in the last year, not counting our new MCYD members. Our growth was largely due to outreach to the newly energized community members of Hermosa Beach, who have fought off oil interests and elected new, more progressive city council members with our help. Some of our newest visitors do not self-identify as Democrats (at least, not yet!), and that's okay with me. Did you know that No Party Preference Californians who usually vote for Democrats are actually *more* progressive in their views than long term Democrats?! I learned that at last year's convention. That's one reason that LA County Chair Eric Bauman has encouraged clubs to reach out to No Party Preference/"Independent" voters, including allowing them to become non-voting members of our clubs. So if you

*( Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

have a friend who does not think of themselves as a loyal Democrat, but would probably agree with most of our values, don't hesitate to invite them to a meeting! Given the stark contrast that the presidential debates have afforded us between Republican and Democratic ideals, this year is a great time to get our less active friends more involved in effective grassroots political activism.

Part of attracting new members and keeping our current ones engaged is to maintain an active and relevant programming schedule. At our recent eBoard meeting, some suggestions included presentations on improving police oversight, expanding voter participation, tackling local overdevelopment issues, solutions to the student loan debt crisis, marijuana legalization, and many others. If you have ideas to suggest, please reach out to the board and let us know what you would find interesting.

Another important element of expanding our reach and influence is improving our communications. To that end, board member Mark Drabkin has agreed to start posting our event information in the local newspapers on a regular basis—thank you, Mark! We are also making an effort to bring our long-dormant Facebook page to life. Please be sure and copy any pictures and news items related to local Democratic causes and events to our page as well as your own. It will help us reach new members of the community who don't yet know what we do and encourage them to attend a meeting. We are also working with our wonderful webmaster, Jim McGreevy, to update and consolidate our web presence, which is about a decade old. Jim recently secured the domain name "BeachCitiesDems.org" for us so we have an easily remembered name to publicize—thanks, Jim!

Last, but not least, our big focus this year will be on getting Al Muratsuchi re-elected to the California Assembly. Helping Al will not only help all Democrats on

our state ticket, but will also help strengthen the influence Dems have in our state Assembly. Republican David Hadley was elected in 2014 with the backing of oil money, and his environmental scorecard with the League of Conservation voters is just 45%. On reproductive rights issues, it's a dismal 17%. Let's reclaim our beach cities this year!

*Yours,  
Kathryn Campbell  
President, Beach Cities Democrats*

*Below, more scenes from our holiday party. We were honored to have Al Muratsuchi, Ted Lieu, John Chiang, and Ben Allen among the dignitaries who attended.*



### November Recap

President Kathryn Campbell greeted everyone. The meeting began with visitor introductions. Visitors this month included the Co-President, Matt DuMont, of the Mira Costa Young Democrats, as well as several of their members.

### Officer reports

Vice President Dency Nelson commented on the fact that both of our endorsed candidates for Hermosa City Council were elected and Measure H, the hotel tax increase, passed as well. However, turnout was a very low 19%.

Edna Murphy presented the Treasurer's Report.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

**Federal Acct**

Beginning Balance	\$2,089
Money in	\$49
Money out	\$0
Total Federal	\$2,138

**State Acct**

Beginning Balance	\$550
Money in	\$15
Money out	\$0
Total State	\$535

Minutes from the October meeting, taken by Moira Nelson, were approved unanimously.

**Reports from local electeds**

Joey Apodaca, Field Rep for Congressman Ted Lieu, gave us an extended update on Rep. Lieu's initiatives in Washington and here at home. A few highlights:

- Rep. Lieu was the first congressman to call for a Dept. of Justice and SEC investigation into Exxon's climate science disinformation (despite having an Exxon refinery in his district);
- He's working with U.S. Chemical Safety Board Chair to investigate safety lapses at the Exxon refinery in Torrance that could jeopardize the entire region in case of a chemical gas leak;
- Sent a letter to the Airforce Secretary regarding the use of animals in medical training courses;
- Went to China with Rep. Pelosi and is working with her office on infrastructure investment projects;
- Was the first Democrat to call for resignation of the leader of the Office of Personnel Management over lapses that led to the hacking of public employees' personal data that left 20 million workers' most sensitive information exposed;
- Continues to work with the VA to tackle providing housing for homeless veterans.

**Vote for club delegates to upcoming pre-endorsement conferences**

The BCD unanimously elected four

delegates to the January pre-endorsement conferences. They were Maggie Bove-LaMonica, Andrea Valcourt, Adam Gerard and Jeff Duclos.

**Endorsement vote: Fair Wage Act of 2016**

Robert Miranda, Regional Political Organizer for the SEIU— United Healthcare Workers West, made a presentation in favor of the Fair Wage Act of 2016, which would raise California's minimum wage to \$15/hour. He mentioned that 3.3 million Californians currently work for less than \$15/hr. After his presentation there was a robust debate regarding where the current minimum wage is relative to historical levels in real dollar terms (members cited conflicting sources) and relative to other developed countries.

Secretary Cares expressed concern that such an increase could negatively impact the large numbers of already-challenged unskilled workers in California. In the end Ray Waters made a motion to endorse and the motion carried overwhelmingly.

**Redondo Beach CenterCal King Harbor Development**

President Campbell mentioned that Redondo Councilman Bill Brand would be having a district meeting to review the recently released Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the huge CenterCal development planned for the King Harbor area. He invited us to share our thoughts and concerns.

**Annual Democratic New Year Party**

President Campbell provided additional details regarding our annual fundraiser in January. It will be a joint fundraiser for BCD and Al Muratsuchi, who is trying to retake his seat in the California Assembly.

**BCD E-Board Meeting**

The BCD Board held a meeting on 12/23 to discuss ways to improve outreach, communications, programming, and other important matters. Stephanie Solomon took excellent minutes; here is an excerpt on the subject of programs:

Topics suggested by the group for new programming include:

- Bringing guests to the Democratic State convention in San Jose
- Presenting the Party platform to local constituencies
- Local waterfront and overdevelopment issues
- Election issues
- Speakers from campaigns
- Sharing the work of local representatives
- Local effect of Citizen's United
- Police oversight and the local enforcement issues in the Beach Cities
- Student Loan Debt
- Drugs, three strikes, and incarceration, and local house-break-ins
- Marijuana
- Immigration
- Syria
- TPP follow-up once Obama asks Congress to ratify
- Workforce changes/robotics

**IMPORTANT CONTACTS**

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Democrats  
Beach Cities

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Distribution of the newsletter via e-mail saves money. Check here only if you would like to receive it by US Mail.

*Annual dues are \$25.00 per person or \$40.00 for two at the same address*

*Please make checks payable to Beach Cities Democrats and mail to P.O. Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278*

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