

Beach Cities Democratic Club



P.O. Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278

February, 2008

Next Meeting

Tuesday, February 26, 7:30
2000 Artesia Boulevard
Redondo Beach

Our speaker will be Kathy Feng, Executive Director of California Common Cause. We will also hear a representative from State Senator Jenny Oropeza's office, and we've invited judicial candidates and a candidate for the El Segundo City Council to speak.

A Tale of Two Conventions

BY TERESA BIRD

The best scenario for the upcoming National Convention is that either Obama or Hillary has enough pledged delegates to be the nominee of the Democratic Party. In order for that to happen, one of them has to win overwhelmingly the remaining primaries. *Let us hope that happens.* If not, and they do not have the needed delegates to win outright and we have to go to the superdelegates to decide the outcome, it will be messy and a joy to the media.

(Continued on page 2)



Melissa Ramoso from Ted Lieu's office

53rd AD Democratic Congress Needs You!

The new 53rd AD Democratic Congress has just completed its first and very successful year as a "super club," chartered by the California Democratic Party. We held regular meetings with all the local Democratic clubs, registered voters, participated in all the local fairs and tabled at farmer's markets in every city in our district.

Our members worked on local elections by phone banking and walking precincts, helping elect City Council, School Board and Neighborhood Council Members in Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, and Venice.

We participated in veterans' events and marched with LAANE and union members in support of the hotel workers at the LAX Hilton.

We held a very successful dinner at the State Convention in San Diego and sponsored two tables at the LACDP FDR Dinner.

Our members were instrumental in the enormous success of the California Democratic Council State Convention held at the LAX Sheraton.

We started a district-wide voter registration drive and joined the CDP Voter Registration Program.

We sponsored a "Day at the Fair" registering voters at the LA County Fair in the LACDP booth.

Our precinct committee has been working on a comprehensive precinct manual for all the clubs to ensure that everyone in our voter outreach organization is working in unison. We will be able to watch how each club progresses and help when needed, without missing a beat.

The 100-page manual, created by our dedicated committee of Edna

Murphy, Marianne Tyler, and Tony Hale, will include information on our new software including a program developed by Bill Nuttle from the WLA Dem Club that prints walk and call sheets and collects information. The other is CDC software that works over the Internet. The Nuttle system is excellent for year round walking, the CDC for electoral cycles.

Governor Michael Dukakis, who strongly believes in precinct organization, has agreed to edit and write a foreword for the manual. His willingness to lend his experience to this effort is invaluable and we're proud and grateful to him for his help and time.

At our next meeting, we will demonstrate the software. We'll also hold a training meeting on April 5 with the presidents of all the local clubs.

Our membership is at about 70 to date, but we invite everyone to join as we begin our second year. Our yearly dues are \$25.

Please join us at our February meeting "Retreat and Reinvigorate 2008," on **Saturday, February 23, 11AM, at the D and D Gallery (Diane Strack and David Buchanan's new Art Gallery), 311 West Seventh Street, in San Pedro.** Brunch will be served.

Senator Jenny Oropeza will be our guest speaker and we are hopeful that Assemblyman Ted Lieu will also.

We look forward to a very busy second year with the State Convention in San Jose at the end of March and Presidential Election in November.

We have a lot of work to do in the months ahead to put a Democrat in the Oval Office, who will heal our nation and save our world. Please join us.

Bobbi Buescher

Visit our Website at lafn.org/politics/bcdc

From the President

HOPE IS IN THE AIR

Whether it's Hilary or Barak leading us next January, we have high hopes. Here



are a few hopes: End the War in Iraq; provide health care for all; restore fair trade in international relations; provide equal opportunity for education to all; provide real justice for all; and make sure that every vote counts.

Electing a Democrat next November will provide the necessary but not the sufficient condition to move this agenda. We also need leadership in Congress. It is important to support Congressional candidates who will pursue the liberal agenda. In spite of the damage done by Cheney-Bush, this is still a system of checks and balances. Our leaders in all levels of government are important and have major impacts on how well our democracy functions. We do not want to ignore the Congressional races we might help.

Kathy Feng of Common Cause will be at our meeting to explain the Initiative Petition being circulated and sponsored by Common Cause, League of Women Voters and AARP. Electoral reforms are needed to improve the functioning of our government. We've attempted to reduce the power of money in the legislative arena by supporting "clean money." We have been

unsuccessful so far.

Another electoral reform now being proposed is changing the way districts are drawn every 10 years following the census. State legislatures draw the boundary lines in ways that generally favor the majority party. As Democrats in California, we may like that, but there are resulting problems that undermine the effectiveness of our legislature. Our legislature has drawn districts that favor the incumbents, whether Democratic or Republican.

They were so effective after the 2000 census that it has been almost impossible to defeat the incumbent's party in any given district in the following elections. This has led to hardening of positions. Since we require a two thirds majority to pass budgets and taxes, they can say no with impunity to funding of schools, health care, or any of the progressive agenda. If the districts were all relatively close in party registration, we might have the majorities needed to pass legislation to meet the needs of our state's people.

Some of the candidates running for local offices in April and June will be in attendance. Also, Democracy for America sponsored a film showing the way votes disappeared in the elections of 2004 and 2006 which I showed on Feb. 13. We will have a film review and schedule another showing soon if there is a demand for it.

We look forward to meeting new or returning members. Join us at 7:30 in the usual venue.

Ray Waters

(Conventions, continued from page 1)

The possibility of a brokered Convention will be unacceptable to both campaigns, therefore causing a not too pretty event. I remember 1972 when McGovern was nominated after many fights on the floor and back rooms, we left the Convention spent and unhappy. We lost the Presidency and got Nixon for a second term and Water-

gate.

I hope that does not happen. Two conventions, one with unity behind our nominee or one with disillusionment and so unhappy that they will drop out. We cannot let that happen again. We cannot afford to have John McCain as our President. I hope both Obama and Hillary step in and come to some compromise that allows for a sensible solution.

January Recap

The January meeting brought an update on Health Care for All Californians from Sheila Hoff. She represents the South Bay chapter and said the bill, SB 840, will be carried forward after Sheila Kuehl, its lead author, is termed out. She talked about why we don't want an incremental approach—the Governor's plan—because it would not lead to universal care.

Mandates don't work and would not cover the unemployed, self-employed, and retired. Hoff pointed out that SB 840 would cost many employers less than they currently pay for coverage, and costs keep rising.

Among industrialized countries, the US ranks lowest in health care availability and value. We spend over \$6,000 per person, two to three times the amount spent in other countries



Sheila Hoff

that insure everyone. By correcting the inefficient way we finance health care and by improving care quality, we can save lives and money.

Asked about the effect the bill would have on Medicare, Hoff said it would provide even more coverage. Medicare has to cover the most costly population; but with everyone eligible, administrative costs would be spread over the entire population. In addition, the state would save an estimated \$5 billion by being able to negotiate drug prices and another \$5 billion by keeping people out of emergency rooms for basic care.

Those interested in supporting SB 840 can join the organization, write letters when there is a call to action, and visit the website onecarenow.org.

We also met Ted Lieu's new field representative, Melissa Ramoso. She told us about the bills currently in play:

AB 69, requiring mortgage lenders to report monthly on how they're helping consumers who face possible foreclosure. The bill would keep foreclosure consultants from using predatory methods to take advantage of homeowners and would require lenders to provide more and better notifications of expected mortgage payment hikes;

AB 86, mandating nutritional standards in food prepared in elementary, middle, and high schools;

AB 1502, establishing a Banking Development District to encourage the establishment of bank branches and services in locations in need of mainstream financial services.

Other recent and pending legislation addresses Internet safety, air quality, and online financial literacy resources.

Ramoso said Lieu is also working on a Green Buildings bill, AB 888, requiring that all commercial buildings built in California be environmentally-friendly by 2012. If

passed, the bill would be the first of its kind in the nation.

At the close, Dency Nelson conveyed thanks to Assemblyman Lieu for his 100% voting record with Environment California, a leading advocacy organization. Lieu is one of their "Environmental Champions" because of his perfect voting record on green issues in the Assembly.

Ray Waters then opened the meeting to hear from Democratic Presidential candidate campaigns. Gary Ste-

Monroe Redux

So far the political pundits, wizards, critics, pawns & kings have all registered Presidential commentary, criticism, & apologies. I'm not yet ready to jump on the bandwagon or join the cat's chorus. There is still much anti-Bush/Cheney ammunition for more than a year, perhaps until the next century! I'd like to focus on California & our Governor who needs a lot of slapping down.

Return with me now to the days of yesteryear when "Arnold" was bad-mouthing Gov. Gray Davis for a budget deeply in the red; for raising taxes; for incompetence; for sins of omission & commission. To put it in context, California is now \$14.5 BILLION in the RED!!!! The GOVERNATOR has proposed an end to "binge & splurge" expenditures. He plans to close 48 parks & beaches; release thousands of non-violent criminal inmates early; further slash school budgets; add "fee-charges" (aka taxes). He also plans to expand medical coverage to the uninsured, with no visible



Gary Stevens, speaking on behalf of Kucinich

means of paying the tab! The trouble with his plans for no new taxes, is that we face a bankrupt ruptured Governor duck!

Stevens spoke for Kucinich, saying that the Ohio Congressman is the only one in the race who will place an immediate end to the invasion in Iraq. Corporate interests paint him as an extremist, but his views represent mainstream America. Stevens suggested everyone take the online quiz at freerepublic.com to see which candidate best fits one's views.

Tony Hale spoke on behalf of John Edwards, claiming he's the one who can unite the Party and the country. At the State Convention, his address was the one that got everybody cheering; and he has promised to withdraw all troops from Iraq within one year and to have no permanent bases there.

Lee Fink gave a rousing talk for

Obama, claiming that his initial vote against the Iraq war was the number one issue. Kucinich and Obama are the only candidates who pass the Iraq test, and Obama is the one who could win the White House. We have been looking for this kind of leadership for forty years, Lee said. While Kerry and Dukakis were worthy men, they were technocrats. Not since JFK have we had a candidate who could so inspire people.

We recently had our primary vote for Presidential nominees & deciding on some propositions. Prop #91 was of little or no consequence & yea or nay did not matter. This lost! Prop #92 proposed cutting credit costs at Community Colleges but unfortunately would have split school funding between primary & secondary schools. This lost! Prop #93 would juggle term limits again, but favor two major Honchos to extend their longevity unconscionably long. This lost & I'm glad! And then came Props #94 #95 #96 #97, all of which favored tribes that operate Native American Casinos, and this passed. I know that we owe the Native Americans for the American expansion holocaust, but this does nothing to help the state, the economy or their rights.

We still have a budget deficit. We are still in the "red." We still have to live with the same Governor, but only till his term runs out & we can run him out on a rail! We must fight any & all of his pie-in-the-sky fantasies!

Monroe Weinstock

We heard a report from the Executive Board; the endorsements were: No on Proposition 91, neutral on 92, Yes on 93, and neutral on 94 through 97, the Indian Gambling initiatives.



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Beach Cities Democratic Club



Beach Cities Democratic Club
Membership Form



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

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