

Beach Cities Democratic Club



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

April, 2011

Next Meeting

Manhattan Bread and Bagel
1808 N. Sepulveda Boulevard
Manhattan Beach

Wednesday, April 27
7:30 PM

Come and hear the latest on the campaigns and the coming State Party Convention.

President's Message

"Why do people become involved in politics?" one young neighbor asked me the other day when I was putting a Bowen bumper sticker on my car. I told him I could not speak for anyone else but myself. I said the reason was I liked to fix things, to make life fairer for all. Since he is a middle school student, I didn't want to get into a morals discussion with him. I feel that is his parents' responsibility.

The reasons people become involved, I believe, are many. Some find politics like a puzzle and they want to understand the many moves made by the players. Others involve themselves for social reasons. I would imagine if you surveyed our club members, most are like me, they want to deal with what they consider unfairness.

Then there are the people who are

involved for their own ego. For example, I asked one man why he voted for Janice Hahn in the caucus and he replied that Janice had called him six times while Debra Bowen had called him only once, just a few days before the caucus. Golly, Debra didn't call me until after I declared for her. I decided, based on her record, I would support her.

Another person admitted voting for Janice because that person's appointment to state committee depended upon it. This person claimed it would give him/her his/her own independent slot on the committee. Never mind that the appointment was conditioned on a vote for Hahn.

Finally a couple of people said they voted for Hahn because she took care of them. They never defined that.

Our club voted unanimously to support Debra Bowen. Some said they did it because of her campaign against the voting machines that counted votes inaccurately. Others pointed to her stand on environmental issues.

Other than her marching with the hotel workers in the airport area, I have yet to learn how Janice has helped the community. She has supported the AEG which wants to build a football stadium in downtown Los Angeles, furthering the traffic problems. Also she is in favor of ten-story high electronic advertising signs on

skyscrapers in Los Angeles.

In my opinion, the party caucus on April 2 was a study in contrasts. Its purpose was to see if one candidate could get enough votes to win the party endorsement. It took a 60 percent win to get the endorsement. All candidates fell short. Hahn had 65, Bowen 46, with two more challenged by Hahn, Marcy Winograd had two and there was one for no endorsement.

I described Hahn's campaign as one of desperation as she called many people at least six times. Bowen chose not to go to those extremes. One young woman was visited by Hahn the night before the caucus and felt so intimidated she called Teresa Bird early the next morning and Teresa arranged for the young mother to be escorted to the caucus.

Bowen's supporters were all grass roots volunteers. Teresa recognized paid workers among those carrying proxies for Hahn.

I identified many union employees at the caucus. The LA County Federation of Labor has endorsed Hahn. Service Employees International Union has recently concluded negotiations with the City of Los Angeles, now the most populous union in the County Fed. Ironically, Debra Bowen has a 97 per cent union voting record. Go figure.

Lori Geittmann



The Debra Bowen headquarters in downtown Torrance was busy on a Saturday morning as volunteers came in to get precinct walk sheets and go over the script together.

Visit our Website at lafn.org/politics/bcdc

March Recap

Water Politics

Our March meeting opened with a greeting from Melissa Reynoso from Ted Lieu's office, who presented us with a check for \$1,000 from the Senator. She



said that Lieu is currently working on several bills including one focusing on public safety.

Next, Diane Wallace introduced our speaker, Connor Evert. He is the executive director of the California Watershed Alliance and co-chair of the Desal Response Group. The latter group formed after five utility companies in Southern California convened a group of environmental organizations to gather support for desalination projects. Concerned that there were more questions than answers, the group decided to question the rush to place desalination plants in their communities. Their goal is to promote sustainable alternatives to desalination such as watershed management, water conservation, reclamation and reuse, and low impact development.

Evert said that desalination is expensive and we do not have a large scale working plant. Desalination works well in Australia, Israel, and Spain, but the infrastructure in California does not exist on a scale that would address our water problem. He is not against desalination technology so much as he is in favor of the alternatives.



Left, Debra Bowen Field Organizer Zach Yeates. Above, Ted Lieu staffer Melissa Reynoso thanks BCDC for supporting Ted. She later presented the club with a check for \$1,000.

He talked about the Salton Sea, a man-made lake consisting of agricultural runoff and sewage, which is becoming more and more saline over time. He praised the Surfrider Foundation, a water

Monroe's Ruminations

Monroe Weinstock

There was a time when union reps all carried a blackjack for defense or intimidation. In those days professional hit-men worked for the likes of Henry Ford to keep labor in industrial servitude; there are many today who want to go back to those "good old days."

We would all like to think that the "bad old days" of labor abuse are comfortably long gone, with new enlightened management. We would all hope that management is fair, honest, decent, and just...

But it ain't happening that way. The



fight still goes on endlessly, with the need for better working conditions, higher wages, reasonable pension guarantees, and fairer health coverage. Someone has to pay for all this, even in the face of global coolie wage competition.

Labor unions have generally supported the Democrats, who in turn have supported union labor. This is essentially the major reason for the blow-up in Wisconsin. The issues in Wisconsin are solving a financial crisis, which was NOT caused by the public sector union contracts. The union has acceded to lower wages, pension reductions, and some paybacks. However, the infamous Koch brothers with limitless funds & serious anti-labor bias have pounced on the unions with a vengeance. The Koch brothers' father was one of the two men

who started the viciously angry John Birch society some years ago.

I am the son of a cake baker, who remembers his father coming home after working 16 hours a night, being too tired to eat his dinner. The union saved his life by cutting his work hours substantially to ONLY 10 hours. As someone once said, "Thank the unions for the weekends."

So now, at age 87, I must again watch labor re-negotiate its middle-class existence, see the light of day, and dream of a better tomorrow. There ain't no guarantees for tomorrow, but there is still HOPE...if we all keep up the fight for better days!!!

management organization whose website is at knowyourh2o.org. California is the only state that does not regulate groundwater. Diane spoke up and said that a community water conference is being planned for the last Saturday in September.

Next on the agenda was the redistricting bill that is now law in California. Dency Nelson said that the redistricting committee is chartered to be nonpartisan, but Democrats are certain to lose seats. If the committee cannot come up with a reasonable map, it will end up in courts that are dominated by Republican judges. The 53rd ADDC has formed a redistricting committee to work on this issue and more information can be found at www.redrawthelines.org.

From Debra Bowen's campaign, we heard from Zach Yeates, Bowen's field organizer. He said that Debra is receiving many endorsements including that of Democracy For America, and even from some Republican women. It was pointed out that Debra has never lost an election. Several members spoke up in favor of Bowen and the club then passed a motion to endorse her campaign, followed by a second motion to donate \$500. This promises to be a low-turnout election, so every bit of volunteering is crucial.

It was announced that BCDC has been invited to participate with other Democratic clubs in a candidates forum April 16, with the venue to be announced. Since Earth Day falls on this date, there may be a date change; watch your email for updates.

Democratic Action Center, which is not endorsing any candidate, now has a web page allowing people to vote and donate to their Democratic candidate of choice.

In conclusion, it was announced that a scholarship foundation at Long Beach State College is being formed in honor of the late Senator Jenny Oropeza. The club passed a motion to donate \$150 to the scholarship fund.

BEACH CITIES GREEN

By Dency Nelson

"I didn't get my nickname 'Governor Moonbeam' for nothing!" This from Governor Jerry Brown as he signed into law a requirement that California get 33% of its electricity from renewable resources, such as wind and solar energy, by the year 2020. Ya gotta love Governor Brown! What better way to commemorate the 41st Annual Earth Month than to lay down this challenge! "It's about California leading the country. It's America leading the world," the governor said, as he signed the most ambitious clean-energy effort in the nation. Once again, I'm proud to be a Californian and proud of this commitment from our governor. And you know what? We can do this!

An article entitled "Plugging Into the Sun," in the September 2009 issue of *National Geographic Magazine*, is a tool I have been using in my advocacy toolbox for the past couple of years. It states in unambiguous, factual terms that "energy equal to 6,000 times the world's electricity use constantly shines on Earth. Even with current technology, we could harvest enough to supply dozens of times our demand for electricity." In this same article, Eicke Weber, director of the Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems in Freiburg, Germany, states, "The total power needs of the humans on Earth is approximately 16 terawatts. (A terawatt is a trillion watts.) In the year 2020 it is expected to grow to 20 terawatts. The sunshine on the solid part of the Earth is 120,000 terawatts. From this perspective, energy from the sun is virtually unlimited." The article goes on to say that electricity that could be generated worldwide from all renewable sources (solar, wind, tidal, hydroelectric dams, and geothermal) equals a staggering 975,010 terawatt hours! To put this into perspective, the electricity generated worldwide from all sources in 2006, both traditional non-



renewable and the very small percentage of renewable, was 19,015 terawatt hours. Again, in no uncertain, factual terms, this *National Geographic Magazine* article demonstrates that we can run our industries, power our cities, homes and cars, and fulfill all of our energy needs from completely clean, safe and unlimited sources. Not a myth or a wish, but fact! No more dirty coal, oil or gas, foreign or domestic, with their Earth-scarring extraction processes and air- and climate-damaging residues. No more deaths from coal mining accidents and from black-lung disease. No more deaths or destruction from ocean-destroying oil well blow-outs, or from the toxic pollution released in the harvesting and combustion of these dangerous and unsustainable fossil fuels.

And, last but hardly least, as we are reminded by the Japan tragedy, no more need to look to planet-threatening nuclear energy! All the energy we need, many times over, can be harvested from our rooftops, from wind and solar farms, and from the constantly moving currents of our oceans. If photovoltaic panels covered just three-tenths of a percent of the United States, a 100- by 100-mile square, they could power the entire country. Not wishful thinking, but honest to goodness fact! Just about every other country in the developed world is doing a better job of switching to renewables than we are. Germany and Denmark, to name just two, and they are doing it with considerable government subsidies and incentives from an enlightened energy policy. We here in the South Bay can point with a certain amount of pride to the progress of Southern California Edison, which leads the state and the nation with its mix of renewable-energy production, falling just short of the previously mandated goal of 20%. But we can and we must do better. The 33% goal of the new mandate is the worthwhile prize upon which we are now focusing our eyes.

Thank you, "Governor Moonbeam," for your vision and for your challenge. Now it's up to us! Happy Earth Day!

(Next month: 10 Easiest Ways to Cut Your Energy Use in Half)

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

Beach Cities Democratic Club



Beach Cities Democratic Club
Membership Form



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