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

March, 2012

#### **Next Meeting**

Manhattan Bread and Bagel 1808 N. Sepulveda Boulevard Manhattan Beach Wednesday, March 28 7:30 PM

Featuring Jamarah Harris, LA Community Outreach Coordinator from the Office of Attorney General Kamala Harris (Jamarah is not related to Kamala Harris).

We look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting and at our club-sponsored event for Al Muratsuchi on the 31st.

#### President's Message

Several of us just returned from the California Democratic Convention. We participated in caucus meetings and the general sessions – ramping up for the 2012 election. At the Convention the California Young Democrats announced that they have adopted our Assembly District and will be walking precincts with us. We also learned that our AD – the new 66th – has been named as an important district to win in 2012. More info is on the CADEM Battleground website: http://www.battlegroundca.com

The June 2012 Primary is a little less than 4 months away! Now is the time to make sure that our friends and neighbors – especially those who have just moved into the area - are registered to vote! Republicans are predicting that the California primary will be an election for their delegate gathering. We can expect lots of Republican money and ads in our area – and an increase in Republicans voting in the June Primary. This will be a challenge for us because of the Open Primary.

At last month's meeting, members took Permanent Vote by Mail forms. We are all registering our friends and neighbors and bringing the completed forms to the March meeting. If you need an additional copy of the form, you can print it from the LA County Registrar of Voters website: http://www.lavote.net/Voter/ Absentee\_Voting.cfm

With the new Open Primary, we need to make sure that Dems get out to vote in June. We have one candidate in our Assembly District race – Al Muratsuchi – and there are two Tea Party Republicans. Other voters, including Independents, "Decline to State," and Moderate Republicans will help us make a difference in the outcome. Al Muratsuchi will need every vote so that he is one of the top two vote getters in the Primary election. With the Open Primary, we cannot assume that there will be a Democrat on the November ballot – as in the past.

If you haven't yet met AI, please come – bring a friend – and meet AI at our March 31st event.. Membership in the BCDC will also help encourage people to become more informed, get active, and vote. BCDC will be accepting new and renewal memberships for the 2012-13 membership period after April 1st. You can find a printable membership application on our website: http://www.lafn.org/politics/bcdc

Or, if you would like to renew or become a new member online after April 1st, you can go directly to this website: https://secure.actblue.com/page/ bcdemocraticclub

The program for our March meeting will be really interesting, featuring the Community Outreach Coordinator for the Office of Attorney General Kamala Harris. She will be sharing some of the recent efforts of Kamala Harris on behalf of California citizens – homeowner's bill of rights and privacy policies for owners of smart phones. Kamala Harris has just been named one of the co-chairs of President Obama's re-election campaign. Come to the meeting with your ideas for issues that the Attorney General can address in the future.

Diane Wallace

# Beach Cities Democratic Club Supports Al Muratsuchi



Join the Beach Cities Democratic Club for a reception supporting Al Muratsuchi, the endorsed candidate for California's new 66th Assembly District. Our fundraiser will be held at the home of Dale and Ken Petrulis in Redondo Beach. Here are the key details:

Date: Saturday, March 31, 2012

Time: 4 - 6 PM

Address: 607 Ruby Avenue

Redondo Beach RSVP: Genelle Buchert

at gbuchert@earthlink.net or 562-981-2111

The primary is getting closer and Al's campaign expenses are ramping up. Your support right now is absolutely critical. Please consider giving at the Bronze level or above to ensure a blue 66th district!

Suggested contribution levels:

Individual: \$25 Bronze Sponsor: \$66 Silver Sponsor: \$250 Gold Sponsor: \$500

Donations may be made online by going to the link to our ActBlue account at <a href="https://secure.actblue.com/paqe/bcdc4al">https://secure.actblue.com/paqe/bcdc4al</a>, or you may bring a check made out to "Muratsuchi for Assembly 2012." Please invite a friend and join us for this important event for Al.

## Special Presentation: CDC

Henry Vandermeir, President of the California Democratic Council, was the featured speaker at our February meeting.

The California Democratic Council, the statewide umbrella organization for California's Democratic Clubs, provides training, resources and guidance for existing and new clubs. Beach Cities Democratic Club is affiliated with the CDC.

CDC has been organizing the grassroots since 1952. It is the umbrella organization that helps coordinate the Democratic clubs and also makes endorsements. Vandermeir became President in 2007. The CDC now offers a 300-page Leadership Manual that teaches new club leaders about Robert's Rules, fundraising, bylaws, etc. It includes a CD

with software for newsletters and other resources. The CDC also provides banners, signage, brochures, a free website, and more. They teach candidates how to win in red districts. Vandermeir urged us to focus our efforts on red areas as being the places where we can do the most good. We should target NPP (No Preferred Party, formerly called Decline to State, or DTS).

Despite the registration advantage for Democrats in California, over half of our counties are Republican controlled today. Vandermeir also emphasized that we have to educate our friends about the importance of voting in primaries with the new Open Primary system to ensure that a Democrat is on the ballot in the general election.

The CDC website is: CDC Website: http://www.cdc-ca.org



CDC President Henry Vandermier delivered a dynamic presentation at our February meeting focusing on turning red districts blue.

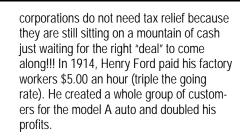
# Monroe's **Ruminations**

Monroe Weinstock

Economically, as a functioning company, the USA today would be considered a "loser." We

are no longer the eager, vigorous advocates of advance activity & progressive thinking. We have become a bunch of disgruntled uninspired crotchety old fuddyduddys! Technology has brought on massive efficiencies & allows the world to produce a great deal more with the expenditure of much less effort. To compound the problem, our tax structure is cumbersome, antiquated and an inept monstrosity.

We must face reality & admit that we are all in this together, including the 99% OCCUPIERS & the top 1%. Our major



What needs doing NOW, is to get more cash into the pockets of consumers. Stimulate economic activity with a WPA & a CCC camp, rebuild our roads & bridges, reconstruct our infra-structure..... and if it sounds familiar to seniors. I mean the NRA of 1933.

Unaffordable wars & tax cuts (a la George Dubyah) can & did quickly regurgitate and depress the economy, putting us in the proverbial hole!!! Added to our sins we now have the fiasco of burning old copies of the Muslim holy Koran. This forces us to send additional troops to protect the troops already in place. Nobody remembers why they are there in the first case!!!

Our government today has dropped into a political ditch which benefits the top 1% at the expense of everyone else. The folks in the Nation's Capital seem far removed from the real world and have created a serious disconnect with "we the people." As a political point I must say that the GOP is no longer the Grand Old Party of Abe Lincoln, but is now the Guardians of Privilege. An appropriate quotation now is one made by the long departed Supreme Court Judge Louis Brandeis, "You can have wealth concentrated in the hands of a few, or you can have democracy. You CANNOT have both!!!!! "



# **CDC Background**

The California Democratic Council (CDC) is the statewide association of Democratic Clubs and County Committees. Founded in 1952 by a group of Democrats including Alan Cranston to win back political control of the state from Republicans, CDC supported the growth of California's modern Democratic club system. CDC was a driving force behind the state's development as a Democratic stronghold in the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s. Although other states have Democratic clubs, the CDC is the only organization of its kind in the United States.

At its height, the CDC coordinated hundreds of Democratic clubs in every corner of the state. In some years, the CDC's conventions were attended by as many as 1,800 delegates. The effectiveness of the CDC as a party-building institution was officially recognized by Presidents John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson. Among CDC's past presidents were former US Senator Alan Cranston, former State Senate President Pro Tem John Burton and legendary LA activist Quincy Beaver. We now have a new group of dynamic leaders, led by Henry Vandermeir, who has worked tirelessly to ensure CDC is ready to step forward to face the challenges ahead.

The CDC provides a powerful forum for local Democratic clubs to communicate with one another and forward a statewide progressive agenda. They support clubs and Democratic County Committees by providing training, operational best practices guidance, and a variety of services to help clubs and county committees grow and prosper. In addition, they are primarily responsible for fostering the growth and development of geographically focused Democratic clubs. Our President serves on the executive board of the California Democratic Party and appoints three delegates to the CDP convention each year.

## **February Recap**

Following is an edited version of the minutes of our February meeting courtesy of Kathy Campbell.

#### Treasurer's Report

For the period 1/1/12-2/23/12 Beginning Balance \$1,064 (Federal), \$358 (State balance) Deposits & Transfers: \$64 (Federal) from renewals and donations
Expenditures & Transfers: \$120
(Federal), for newsletter related expenses, \$315 (State), primarily to DAC Ending Balance \$1,008 (Federal), \$43 (State).

Edna Murphy, Treasurer, reported that the accountant, recommended to us by the LA County Democratic Party, charged us \$202 to enter and electronically file the written reports that she gave them. She plans to meet with them and discuss reducing our charges going forward.

A motion was made and passed to approve the County Project: Registering Democrats as Permanent Absentee Voters (PAVs). President Diane Wallace asked all of us to get 1 – 2 people to register as PAVs, since they have a much higher rate of participation in elections and Democrats in LA are registered PAV at a below average rate. [Secretary's note: you can download and fill out the app here: http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/vote-by-mail/pdf/fill-in-vote-by-mail-app-instruct.pdf]

#### **Reports from Electeds and Candidates**

Veronica Zendejas spoke from Ted Lieu's office. She thanked us for our support of Ted. She announced that SB 746 (Tanning and Cancer Prevention) had just been signed, as well as SB 719 (Animal abuse) and SB 757 (Insurance Equality for Domestic Partners). Senator Lieu also introduced SB 1055, which would stop landlords from forcing tenants to pay rent online only. Also introduced was SB 956, aimed at "buy here pay here" car dealers; and SB 1066, related to the Coastal Conservancy's continued existence.

Lori Geittmann suggested a \$25 fundraising event for Al Muratsuchi at Dale and Ken Petrulis' home. She suggested Saturday, 3/31 in Redondo Beach, midafternoon. A motion made and passed to approve.

Also announced was a planned 4/14 "Meet & Greet" event planned at Dency and Moira Nelson's house.

Diane Wallace has a list of Al's remaining available dates for a meet and greet event. Contact her when you can volunteer to if you'd like to host an event. Campaign rep Genelle Buchert suggested to Diane

that volunteers sign up to host small "Meet & Greets" coffee parties. Teresa Bird suggested that you should only do so if you think you can draw in at least 10 – 12 friends to make sure that AI is spending his time appropriately.

#### Reports from other area clubs

LAX-Area Democratic Club: Tuesday, February 21st

Mark Pash, Founder & Chairperson, Center for Progressive Economics

Topic: Solutions for Occupy Wall Street Palos Verdes Democratic Club: Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 at LA Harbor College, a Governor Dukakis event in their Music Building. A discussion is planned about maintaining strength of the healthcare reform law.

#### **New Business**

We need to start planning to table for: Earth Day (Saturday, 4/28/2012) Fiesta Hermosa Art Festival (Memorial Day weekend, 5/26 – 28/2012) Manhattan Beach Hometown Festival (10/6 – 7/2012)

A motion honoring Ted Kennedy's birthday today was made and passed.

# Pro-Consumer Insurance Petition

The people who brought you lower car insurance rates and some of us rebates are at it again. Remember Proposition 20? The Consumer Watchdog Campaign is circulating petitions for an initiative to permit the California Insurance Commissioner to approve any increases in the premium rates of health insurance rates. This does not apply to large group health plans. It provides for public notice, disclosure and public hearing on rate changes.

Furthermore, it prohibits denial of coverage for health, homeowners and auto insurance based on credit history or lack of prior coverage. I would favor this petition drive and will have petitions at our next meeting. For further information go to www. JustifyRates.org.

Lori Geittmann

James McGreevy-310-320-1638 лэбеиегүү дэлл 2feve Zucker-310-546-7562 BuilieM bne sedeted uba.baar.inmuls@sariom Moira Zucker-310-546-7562 JƏJJƏJSMƏJ\ Edna Murphy—310-545-6292 Treasurer Kathy Campbell—310-316-4375 *ΣθCLGξgLλλ* Diane Wallace—310-540-1425 Acting President

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

> > Democratic Club Beach Cities



# Please Print

Beach Cities Democratic Club Membershit Form

| Name              |                                  |                       |                          |  |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|
|                   | nd that only registered Democ    |                       | ing to register, may joi | in the club.                             |
| Address           |                                  |                       |                          |  |
| City              |                                  |                       |                          |  |
|                   |                                  |                       |                          |  |
| Employer          | Occupation                       |                       |                          |  |
| ☐ Distributio     | n of the club newsletter via e-n | nail saves money. C   | heck this box only if    | you would like to receive it by US mail. |
| I volunteer to:   |                                  |                       |                          |  |
| □Telephone        | □Help with mailing               | $\square$ Hospitality | □Write for newsle        | tter                                     |
| □ Register voters | □Programs                        | □Legislative          | □Membership              | □ Other                                  |
| 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