



Next Meeting

Manhattan Bread and Bagel
1808 N. Sepulveda Boulevard
Manhattan Beach
Wednesday, July 25
7:30 PM

Our meeting will feature campaign representatives and ballot proposition discussions. There will be a special presentation by Jim Montgomery on Proposition 37, California Right To Know.

President's Message

Dear Beach City Dem Club members,

Our Dem Club business is ramping up for a busy election season so it's recommended that you get some R & R now!

We have new Club officers for the 2012-13 year and we look forward to serving you!

President – Diane Wallace
Vice President – Mark Drabkin
Secretary – Lisa Power
Treasurer – Edna Murphy

Additionally, Isabel Rodriguez was appointed as the Chair of the Membership Committee. Thanks to everyone that has already renewed their membership. For those who have not yet renewed, there are several ways to renew:

- 1) You can find a printable membership application on our website.
<http://www.lafn.org/politics/bcdc>
- 2) If you would like to renew or become a new member online, you can go directly to this website:
<https://secure.actblue.com/page/bcdemocraticclub>
- 3) Come to a meeting or an event to get a membership form.

The Los Angeles County Democratic Central Committee is the largest

Democratic organization in the state. The LACDCC meets on the second Tuesday of each month. There are seven elected representatives from each Assembly District but other Democrats are welcome to attend. If you would like to attend a meeting, please let us know. We usually car-pool to the meetings and you are welcome to join us.

In the June Primary election some of our members as well as other South Bay Dems were elected to the Los Angeles County Democratic Central Committee and were sworn into office on Monday, July 9th by the Speaker of the Assembly John Perez. These individuals were elected to serve a four-year term: Bobbi Buescher, Don Dear, Tim Goodrich, Lori Geitmann, Kay Jue, Diane Wallace, and Ray Waters.

And congratulations as well to friends and members from the former 53rd AD who are now in the 62nd AD and were elected to the LACDP from their new AD: Cara Robin and Marianne Tyler.

The primary election results have given us a clear choice for the November election:

66th AD – Al Muratsuchi
33rd Congressional District (CD) – Henry

Waxman
US Senate – Dianne Feinstein
President – Barack Obama

Al Muratsuchi and Henry Waxman are very interested in meeting with you and your neighbors and friends in the coming months.

Congressman Waxman is hoping that Beach Cities Club members will open their homes for small gatherings in August so that he can get to know the Democrats in our area. Please call me (310.266.1241) or email me (BCDC.DW@gmail.com) if you would like to schedule something during August. Seriously, are you a member of a book club? Are you in a tennis group? Do you have a walk group? Do you live in a neighborhood with a few Democrats, Independents, and moderate Republicans? Let's work together to welcome the Congressman to the South Bay!!

Additionally, there will be several propositions on the November ballot that will be of interest to Club members. We are planning to spend some time discussing these in the coming months.

Wishes for a warm and wonderful summer!
Diane Wallace



Our new Club officers, from left: Edna Murphy-Treasurer, Diane Wallace-President, Mark Drabkin-Vice-President, Lisa Power-Secretary

BEACH CITIES GREEN

By Dency Nelson

I started writing this month's column while sitting on my Hermosa Beach roof deck watching the sun set into Santa Monica Bay. As I watched it go, I thanked the sun for a good day's work! Actually, I needed to thank it for a good *month's* work!

You see, I had just opened my paperless, online version of my June 5 – July 3 Southern California Edison bill, and what I saw made me very happy. This period was the first month of Summer rates (SCE's summer rates for time-of-use metering run from June 1 to September 30) with the new TOU-D-TEV rate schedule that I switched to late last year, a few



months after acquiring my second fully electric vehicle (I now have two). With two fully electric vehicles, both charging almost nightly to provide my daughter and me with enough "fuel" to get us back and forth to work (me) and to UCLA (her), I had decided to take advantage of the super low Super Off Peak rates that SCE offers us EV drivers if we charge our cars between midnight and 6:00 am, when demand is low.

I was worried, though, that my switching to those off-peak rates might possibly reduce the substantial payback I had been receiving for over 10 years for the electricity my rooftop solar panels generate during the Summer Peak hours.

Well, all is well! Our electric bill for the entire month of June, which included the "fueling" of two electric vehicles (the only vehicles we use for 95% of our driving

needs) and electricity for our 3,000-sq.-ft. house, was minus \$69.27. This is not a typo; what you see is correct. SCE owes me \$69.27!

Why have I told you this story? Am I gloating? Well, maybe just a little. But my purpose is primarily to counter the "haters" out there who continue to say that my fellow solar/EV users and I are "pie-in-the-sky, tree-hugging dreamers" and that the use of alternative energies can't possibly work out financially or practically.

Well, it does work! And it has been working for me and many others for over 10 years! I also tell you this story because I'm hoping that you will finally decide that it can work for you, too. I am inspired to once again get on my soapbox not only because of my SCE bill but because of an article forwarded to me by Sona Kalapura, the Environmental Programs Manager for the City of Manhattan Beach. The article is from the current issue of *Forbes Magazine*. (*Forbes*, I think you'll agree, can hardly be considered a left-wing, tree-hugging publication.) In that article, entitled "How California Is Democratizing Solar for the 99," author Todd Woody states that in the early years "Californians going solar tended to be affluent homeowners who could fork over the five-figure cost of a typical photovoltaic system. Now the big growth in the market is coming from lower and middle income residents." He goes on to say that falling prices for solar equipment have surely helped, but that the real difference is due to companies like SolarCity, Sungevity and others to whom homeowners can "lease their roofs" for the installation of solar panels

(Continued on page 3)

Monroe's Ruminations

In my 88 plus years, I have made many decisions. Some more worthy than others. Some decisions were critical and many were trivial. Admittedly, none had global or national repercussions. What I am approaching to say is that I am making a personal decision that is timely, fitting & proper... I am discontinuing my personal Ruminations column. SORRY!!!

I now leave the literary & political scene at a time when much needs correcting. We must soon elect a President in these United States; we have an extremely politicized Supreme Court; we have an unresolved Healthcare program;



there is endless religious warfare in the Middle East; we have an objectionable tax structure; global warming needs management; and there is the never-ending struggle for press freedom.....

And so, I tip my hat, shrug a shoulder, smile, nod and say.....SO LONG.

Monroe Weinstock

Editor's Note:

Not only do we thank Monroe for his years of wonderful columns—which for some readers are the first thing they read—but we go further, and welcome him to either change his mind at any time, and/or contribute a "guest" column, also at any time. Monroe, thank you from all of us: your grateful readership and your grateful editor!

Maira Zucker



(Green, continued from page 2)

and receive solar energy with no up-front costs in exchange for a locked-in, reduced monthly electricity bill.

However the conversion to solar is accomplished, by lease or by ownership, the good news is that these installations mean jobs, increased demand for the products (which by the laws of good ol' American capitalism will eventually lower the cost for these systems), and the best news of all, a greener, more sustainable electricity grid, minimizing our carbon footprint by eliminating emissions and reversing our dependence on dirty, dangerous, unsustainable fossil fuels.

If all of this sounds like just some of the same-old-same-old that you have heard before, here's what was really exciting for me in the *Forbes* article, and what I hope will be the game changer for you, too -- statistics that come straight from the California Public Utilities Commission's June 2012 California Solar Initiative Annual Program Assessment: "The California Public Utilities Commission estimates that the state is generating 1,255 megawatts of electricity from 122,516 rooftops. (At peak output, that's the equivalent energy production of a big nuclear power plant.)" I want to make sure this last bit sticks with you. The rooftop solar generated in this state, right now, is enough electricity to eliminate the need for a big nuclear power plant! That means all of those rooftops that I can see from my Hermosa Beach roof deck that don't yet have solar, the "lost opportunity" that I referred to a few years ago, have the potential to replace the next nuclear power plant! If that isn't enough motivation for you, I don't know what is.

Here's the link to the entire article: <http://www.forbes.com/sites/toddwoody/2012/07/03/how-california-is-democratizing-solar-for-the-99/>

And if you want some help finding an installer or want to hear more about my solar/EV experience, feel free to get in touch with me at DLN52@verizon.net.

June Recap

The following report is drawn from minutes taken at the June 27 meeting courtesy of Anne Faas

1. Introductions:

President Diane Wallace opened the meeting at Manhattan Bread and Bagel. New members were introduced and welcomed.

2. Minutes:

Minutes of the prior meeting were approved.

3. Treasurer's Report:

Edna Murphy reported that \$228 in dues had been received and expenditures totaled \$126. The Club's current balance is \$1,287.

4. Nominating Committee:

The Committee, composed of Ray Waters, Dency Nelson, Lisa Power, and Lori Geittman, offered the following slate of officers: Diane Wallace for President, Mark Drabkin for Vice-President, Lisa Power for Secretary, and Edna Murphy for Treasurer. Dency Nelson called for nominations from the floor three times for each office, per protocol. As there were no nominations, the slate was unanimously voted in. Isabel Rodriguez will be the new membership chair.

5. Campaign Report:

At a kitchen cabinet meeting for Al Muratsuchi it was determined that the campaign should focus on decline-to-

state-voters and stress the right wing positions of Craig Huey. Huey is associated with the Tea Party and would be very instrumental in swinging the Legislature further to the right.

A hundred workers will be recruited to walk precincts, phone bank, etc. The League of Women Voters is planning candidate debates. A search is on for a campaign office in Torrance.

6. County Committee:

Don Dear noted that new members will now serve four years instead of two. Eric Bauman remains as Chair. The County Committee endorsed Lacey for County District Attorney.

7. Tabling Planning:

The Club will staff tables for voter registration, election information, etc. at Fiesta Hermosa over the Labor Day weekend and Manhattan Beach Hometown Fair Oct. 6-7. Sign-up sheets will be passed around at the next meeting.

8. Reports:

Diane Wallace spoke on attending a presentation for recycling rain water for irrigation rather than letting it run-off into the ocean.

Lisa Power said the Club had enrolled several new members. Full report will be given next meeting.

9. Adjournment:

Diane closed the meeting at 8:45.



Beach Cities and other South Bay Dems at the installation of the LA County Democratic Central Committee. Photo courtesy of Diane Wallace

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**Beach Cities
Democratic Club**



Please Print

*Beach Cities Democratic Club
Membership Form*

Name _____

I (we) understand that only registered Democrats, or those intending to register, may join the club.

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Employer _____ Occupation _____

Distribution of the club newsletter via e-mail saves money. Check this box *only* if you would like to receive it by US mail.

I volunteer to:

Telephone Help with mailing Hospitality Write for newsletter

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
