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

June, 2013

Next Meeting

Manhattan Bread & Bagel 1812 N. Sepulveda Boulevard Manhattan Beach Wednesday, June 26, 7:30 PM

Program

The Affordable Healthcare Act Election of Club Officers

President's Message

It's been an honor for all of the members of the Board to serve the Club in the past year. I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve with our current Board: Mark Drabkin, Vice President, Lisa Power, Secretary, and Edna Murphy, Treasurer. We represent a blend of newer and longtime members and worked diligently to serve the Club. I am specifically grateful for the guidance and support of our former Club Presidents. Ray Waters and Lee Fink were particularly helpful. I am also grateful for the support of Club Presidents in our neighboring areas, including Sheila Michelson, Connie Sullivan, Al Lay, Cara Robin and Jimmy Gow.

Our collective efforts were so amazing in the past year. In 2012 we encouraged long-time and new members to volunteer with Democrats throughout the 66th AD to actively support the election of Al Muratsuchi, Henry Waxman and Democrats on the national ticket, including Dianne Feinstein and Barack Obama. And our efforts paid off – everyone won. I'm hopeful that everyone is looking forward to supporting Al, Ted and Henry as they seek reelection in 2014!

In the past year, our membership has increased significantly – thanks to current members who shared membership applications with friends and new members we met when tabling and campaigning. We

can all be grateful for the efforts of Isabel Rodriquez who guided the increase of current members and the renewal of previous members. A year ago we had slightly under 60 members and we now have over 80 members. For those of you who have not renewed your membership, it's time! Renew today!

Jim McGreevy has maintained our website and is truly one of those individuals who just makes things happen. And, of course, our newsletter would not be possible without Moira Zucker! Our readers have no idea how hard Moira works to put together the newsletter. And getting all of us to submit our articles is somewhat like herding cats! Thank you Moira!

I have always believed that leadership in a volunteer organization should change regularly so that more people have opportunities to serve in a leadership capacity. The Nominating Committee, led by Dency Nelson, announced a great new slate of officers for the coming year and the current leadership team will be supportive of the new officers.

Finally, while I am stepping away from the leadership of the Beach Cities Democratic Club, I will remain a member and look forward to seeing all of you at the meetings, starting July 2013.

I am looking forward to volunteering with all of you to support our candidates in 2014 – AI, Ted, and Henry!

With wishes for peace, good health, prosperity and happiness for all,

Diane Wallace

Dues Are Payable

June is membership renewal month and the beginning of our fiscal year. Please be sure to keep your membership current by mailing or bringing your check to the June meeting. Dues are \$25 for one person or \$40 for two people at the same address.



BCDC's table at the Memorial Day Fiesta Hermosa. Diane and Dency managed the tabling all three days with help from various club members. Photo courtesy of Diane Wallace.

Nominating Committee Slate

It is with great pleasure that I report to you the results of this morning's BCDC Nominating Committee meeting. The Committee met at 11:00 AM in my home, and the Committee was made up of long-time members Bobbi Buescher, Moira Zucker and Lori Geitmann (Ms. Geitmann participated via speaker phone due to a lingering illness that has kept her home-bound). The Committee was chaired by me, Dency Nelson.

The results of our discussion brought forth the following slate, and it is this slate that we will be recommending to the membership at large of the BCDC, pending email replies from the nominated candidates indicating their willingness to have their names placed in nomination on this recommended slate:

President – Tony Hale
Vice President – Dency Nelson
Secretary – Kathryn Campbell
Treasurer – Edna Murphy
To date, no additional names have been submitted as nominees.

Dency Nelson

Beach Cities Democratic Club

May Recap

Minutes courtesy of Lisa Power

Treasurer's Report

Federal Account: *Starting Balance:* \$1,179 as of 4/1/2013 Edna Murphy reported that \$40 was received in the month of April (1 Renewal).

Expenditure for the month of April was \$82 for the UPS Box.

Ending Balance: \$1137 as of 4/30/2013.

State Account: Starting Balance: \$33 Edna reported that \$0 was credited to the State Account in April.

\$15 deducted from State account for Bank Charges. *Current Balance: \$18.*

Election of the 66th ADDC Co-Chair

Elections for Co-chairs from the three areas of the 66th ADDC were held at the Club meetings in May. Lisa Power and Rochelle Schneider ran for Co-Chair to represent the Beach Cities Democratic Club. Election Results: Lisa Power is the Co-Chair for BCDC.

The 66th ADDC General and Membership Meeting will be held on Thursday June 27 at 7 PM at Zamperini Field Office. This meeting will include the Elections for Secretary and Treasurer of the ADDC. A meeting notice will be sent out shortly.

MOE - Mobilize, Organize, Elect

Tony Hale reviewed MOE, a free online voter database program, offered by the Democratic Party. Political Data Incorporated is the company that manages the database.

There was discussion on whether the Club will use MOE for use by phone banks, voter registration, precinct walking. According to Tony, the database is a powerful web-based application to organize voter data by previous votes, age, etc. MOE can easily create call lists or walk lists. Powerful tool, but only if you have people to actually *use* the tool to reach out to voters. This Club also has the right to buy a list of voters from the County registrar 's office. The ability to use a barcode scanner (~\$100) to update info and reformat is also available. Those

data sets can then be preserved for Club use. MOE is not the same system that was used by the Obama campaign.

Voter history is the most valuable data element in the database. Organizing your neighborhood: very valuable to target people who vote in Presidential elections but typically don 't vote in mid-term elections. MOE can be used to get out the vote for mid- term elections (e.g. Al Muratsuchi). Also IDs voters who are permanent vote by mail voters and EARLY vote by mail voters.

A motion was made to wait until the new BCDC officers are elected in June. Then the new President would make a recommendation. And the agreement, if approved, would include best practices, with procedures & protections in place. Motion approved unanimously.

Issues and Legislation for Consideration

HOA Voter Protection – The Club unanimously voted to oppose AB 968, AB 1360 and AB 19.

AB 968 – Assembly Member Gordon – Oppose:

This law would set up an election system without voter protections for associations that are 15 units or less. This law would specifically deny voter protections to the owners in small associations throughout the state. AB 1360 – Assembly Member Torres – Oppose:

This law would establish online voting for members of all HOAs. If online voting is not OK for the State of California, it is surely not OK for HOAs. This law was written by an organization that develops online voting systems and was submitted by CAI, an organization that represents vendors that sell their services to HOAs. *AB 19 – Assembly Member Ting – Oppose:*

This legislation would establish a pilot online voting project. Since the online systems are not fully developed and would not protect the voting rights of owners in HOAs. Therefore, a pilot program would not be appropriate.

Debra Bowen is opposing this

proposed legislation. The bills would eliminate protections of homeowners who have HOAs.

Reports From our Elected Officials Anita Avrick, Redondo Beach School Board: Ms. Avrick requested that we support Al Muratsuchi 's efforts to establish equal funding for all schools in the state. Funding for schools in the Beach Cities is being cut. Diane Wallace indicated that we were

Wallace indicated that we were supportive of Al and Ted 's efforts in this area and that she would find out if a bill has been proposed by Assembly member Muratsuchi.

There were no representatives from the offices of Henry Waxman, Ted Lieu or Al Muratsuchi at the meeting. Reports from LACDP and Other Clubs

Democrats of the year: These are people who have done an outstanding job in support of Democratic values and on behalf of Democratic candidates: Tim Goodrich (Torrance) and Connie Sullivan (PV). Lillian announced that Environmental Priorities Network will show the "Do the Math" 350.org documentary on Wednesday, June 5th at the PV Unitarian Church. All are invited.

Community Events – Memorial Day Weekend

Thanks to everyone for tabling! *Fiesta Hermosa* – We were on Pier Ave. *5/25-27:* Tabling, Voter Registration, Literature Distribution. It is due to the efforts of the Beach City Dem Club and the 66th ADDC that Democrats have a presence and we are able to get out the vote. Suggestion: Have a list of accomplishments that Dems are responsible for. We'll be back at Fiesta Hermosa in September for Labor Day. All members are invited to table! It 's fun!

BCDC Nominating Committee Report Following the BCDC By-Laws, Diane asked Dency Nelson to be the nominating committee chair. Dency asked incumbent officers if they were

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interested in continuing to serve. Edna Murphy expressed an interest to continue as Treasurer. Diane Wallace, Mark Drabkin and Lisa Power have all decided to step down. Bobbi Buescher, Moira Zucker and Lori Geittmann were on the nominating committee. A Slate is being considered. More names can be considered and will be published in the Newsletter June 15th. Nominations or volunteers for positions should be submitted to Dency Nelson.

Nominating Committee recommendations for the BCDC Slate: Tony Hale - President Dency Nelson - VP Kathryn Campbell - Secretary Edna Murphy - Treasurer

Email Dency Nelson (DLN52@verizon. net) with any additional nominations. Additional names can be submitted throughout the month and also the night of the election, which will take place during our meeting on Wednesday, June 26th.

Executive Board

Two of our members have positions on the executive board of the California Democratic Party. Tony Hale is the elected representative of the 66th Assembly District while Lori Geittmann on June 11 won a seat as one of the representatives from the Los Angeles County Democratic Party. Both Lori and Tony have been reappointed to the CDP Credentials Committee. Mike Chernus of San Pedro in the neighboring 70th Assembly District also serves on Credentials.

Eric Bradley of Long Beach, who previously was our regional director, is a cochair of the Finance Committee.

Connie Sullivan, president of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Club, is on the Voters Service Committee as is Pat Sanders of Inglewood, who is secretary of our LACPD region.

Lori Geittmann

Beach Cities Green

By Dency Nelson This month's column has both good news and bad news. As the bad news refers to the hydraulic fracturing moratorium bills passing through the California



legislature, the subject of last month's column, I'll start with the bad news.

As I reported last month, our own Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi supported the bills that had more teeth, those bills calling for a moratorium on the process of hydraulic fracturing until it can be determined that this procedure can be conducted without endangering the public health and safety and the natural resources of the state. Unfortunately, other legislators, including several Assembly Democrats, did not follow suit. The bills went through various committees on their way to the full Assembly. Some made it to the floor severely weakened, while others did not make it at all. Assemblyman Muratsuchi joined 23 other Democrats on May 30 voting "Aye" for AB 1323 (Mitchell), the most aggressive bill to survive the committee process.

Even after the Assembly's Appropriations Committee had delivered the bill to the full Assembly with significantly weakened language, the bill went down to defeat in a 37-to-24 vote, with 18 members not voting. The only bill to survive a vote of the full Assembly was AB 7 (Wieckowski), a very weak bill that the fossil fuel industry helped negotiate. SB 665 (Jackson) did pass out of the full Senate. Its language defines fracking wastewater as a hazardous substance, and its passage with this language can be considered a small victory. What is clear is that more pressure has to be applied on our State lawmakers and the Governor, reminding them that, although fracking will boost jobs in the short term (and jobs is what the Democratic opposition to

these moratorium bills is really all about), hydraulic fracturing will leave a legacy of polluted land, water and air, and the health problems these conditions will produce. We need to further remind our legislators that there will be plenty of jobs, both short and long-term, as we transition to a clean energy economy.

Now the good news. After a 16-month battle over whether the twin reactors at the San Onofre power plant could be safely restarted, Southern California Edison announced on Friday, June 7, that the facility would be permanently shut down. This is a huge victory for the people of California and the planet! "The people of California now have the opportunity to move away from the failed promise of dirty and dangerous nuclear power and replace it with the safe and clean energy provided by the Sun and the wind," said Eric Pica, President of "Friends of the Earth U.S. In an additional, wonderfully ironic and coincidental announcement. also made on Friday, June 7, solar power generation on California's grid set a new, all-time-high output of 2,071 megawatts, recorded just after noon on that day. This announcement came from the California ISO, the state agency that balances customer demand on regulated power utilities with power generation from commercial vendors. "This new record is remarkable considering the amount has more than doubled since last September," said Steve Berberich, the agency's president. What is particularly wonderful about this benchmark is that it is enough energy to power more than 1.5 million homes across California, and nearly equals the 2,250 megawatts of nuclear power generation, powering those same 1.5 million homes, that was lost in January 2012 when the San Onofre plant was shut down because of radiation leakage. With these announcements, what Eric Pica of "Friends of the Earth" said is dramatically affirmed. California, the nation and the world can meet their energy needs without the dangers of a nuclear disaster or the pollution and climate-changing results of mining and burning fossil fuels. It's (Continued on page 4)

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> Beach Cities Democratic Club



(Green, continued from page 3) about time that we catch up with the vast majority of the developed nations of Western Europe and get on the road to abandoning nuclear and fossil-fuel power generation in favor of reaping the hundreds of thousands of terawatt hours of power generated by the sustainable, renewable, safe sources of Sun, wind, tidal, hydro and geothermal. We can do this! Yes we can!!



A closer look at our Fiesta Hermosa table. We decided the American Flag doesn't belong to the Republicans, so our booth was cheerfully festooned with the best of them.

5 Big Ideas for Democrats, Part 2 By Lee Fink

5. Making Higher Education Affordable California's higher education institutions are one of the state's great resources. But during the Great Recession, tuition at the UC and CSU schools doubled over a 5-year period. Studies have shown that even high performing students from moderate and low-income backgrounds are bypassing college at astounding rates.

This is due in part to the skyrocketing costs of higher education. And yet higher education can change the lives of these young people—plus their families and communities. Last year, the Middle Class Scholarship Bill—which would create a scholarship worth 2/3rds of UC and CSU tuition for students with family incomes under \$150,000 died in the state senate because Republicans blocked a measure which would have funded the program by closing a corporate tax loophole. But Proposition 39, approved by the voters last fall, has now closed that loophole.

The Assembly leadership is planning on making another run to fund Middle Class Scholarships with these new revenues. The Legislature should pass this measure before kids go back to school this August.

None of these measures solve all of the problems that these issues raise. Indeed, there are other even more aggressive measures that could be taken (for instance, California could adopt a single payer health care measure). But all of these measures have the virtue of making major advances on five critical areas; the groundwork has been laid for all of them making achievement possible this year; these measures could become leaders for other states and eventually Congress to adopt as California's progressive leadership demonstrates their success; they would all boost California's economic recovery; and they can all be adopted without raising a dime in taxes.

These are 5 ideas that our 55 Assembly members (and 29 state Senators) should make top priority.