



Next Meeting

Manhattan Bread & Bagel
1812 N. Sepulveda Boulevard
Manhattan Beach
Wednesday, July 24, 7:30 PM

President's Message

Democratic Clubs

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the people who encouraged me to run for president of the Beach Cities Democratic Club and to those who helped elect me and our slate. My condition for even considering taking on the responsibilities of the presidency was that I must have a strong team to help me in running the club. This condition was more than met with the following people forming our slate: Dency Nelson as Vice President, Kathryn Campbell as Secretary and Edna Murphy as Treasurer. I look forward to working with them and helping our club succeed.

What does success for our club mean? I believe our club is successful when local Democrats are more engaged in the political process and find our club a valuable resource for staying involved and informed.

This mission has become more difficult over the past few years. National campaigns that offer online participation have drawn off participation at the local level. Why should someone join a local club (whatever that is) when they can get directly involved with the Obama campaign from their own computer or phone? They should join because all politics is local. Online participation is great, but there are limits to the level of that involvement.

The 2008 victory of Barack Obama followed by the 2010 midterm loss of the House is an example of those limits. The

people who came out to vote and/or volunteer for Obama were not brought into their local Democratic organizations, and they were not informed why it was important to turn out to vote in the next election.

There are more factors involved than mentioned above, but local involvement is important. Mainstream media and blogs have begun to do a good job of keeping Democrats informed on national issues; but, at the city level, the county level and even the statewide level, Democrats lack good information. This is where clubs can provide added value. We can inform and organize Democrats at the local level.

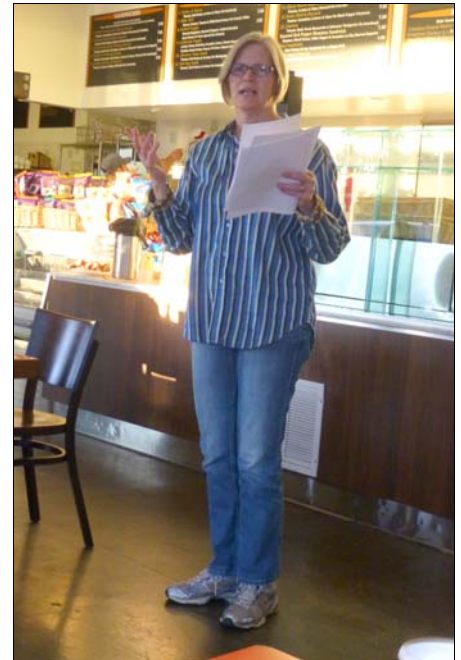
Democratic clubs are the ground floor of the Democratic Party. We should provide ways for local Democrats to get involved and stay informed. This takes a lot of work and outreach, but it can make all the difference. Many of our local elections have been decided by a small number of votes. If we develop strong relationships with our local Democrats, we can turn out winning numbers.

Democratic victories are what it's all about! Please join us to make the Beach Cities a Democratic stronghold.

Tony Hale, President

Former BCDC President Working for Obama

We were recently informed that Lee Fink, formerly our Beach Cities Democratic Club President, has secured the position as Senior Counsel at the Department of Agriculture—food safety, farm subsidies, food stamps, and agriculturally-based renewable energies. Congratulations, Lee!



Liz Forer, Chief Executive Director of the Venice Family Clinic, speaking to the Club about the Affordable Care Act

The Affordable Care Act (ObamaCare) and Covered California

Our featured speaker in June was Liz Forer, who gave us an overview of the 1,000-page law. The Venice Family Clinic she directs advocates specifically for the lower income residents in the West LA area. Much information is available on their website, venicefamilyclinic.org.

She also named the Government website where valuable information can be found about the ACA Marketplace at healthcare.gov/how-does-the-health-care-law-protect-me.

She talked about the California Endowment, which was created to help lower income families become healthier. They are housed in a large facility near the downtown train station. Currently the

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health care exchange has agreements with 13 insurance companies that will be providing insurance coverage options.

People insured through Medicare shouldn't see any change; they should see an improvement in quality, care, medicine, and specialty care. Hospitals will be held accountable for keeping everybody healthier and providing more opportunities for health and wellness. There will be incentives to take better care of patients so they won't be back.

Dental care: the Act says it's supposed to include mental & dental health. But the rollout hasn't been as quick as for physical health care.

Forer said Congressman Waxman has done a phenomenal job. There would be no ACA without Henry Waxman.

June Recap

Minutes, and information for the above writeup, courtesy of Lisa Power

Treasurer's Report

Federal Account: Starting Balance: \$1,137 as of 5/1/2013.

Edna Murphy reported that \$391 was received in May (\$330 Renewals + \$61 SWAG). There were ZERO Expenditures. Ending Balance is \$1,528 as of 5/31/2013.

State Account: Starting Balance \$18.

Edna reported that \$50 from Renewals was credited to the State Account in April. \$15 deducted for Bank Charges. Current Balance: \$53.

Issues and Legislation for Consideration

Support for AB 66, Al Muratsuchi

Melissa Uribe reported on Assembly Member Muratsuchi's legislation, in

particular AB 66: Utility Outage Reporting. See the web site for details of the bill which will impact the entire state, not just our area, at <http://asmdc.org/members/a66/>

A motion was passed to support AB 66.

The Patch has a new blogging group. Al will post blogs; Melissa will post press releases. Log on to Patch and sign up: <http://hermosabeach.patch.com/blogs/office-of-assemblyman-al-muratsuchi>.

Update on the 3 bills that the Beach Cities Democratic Club opposed last month: They called Diane and asked her to put it into a formal resolution. Motion to support passed unanimously.

66th ADDC – Lisa Power

Lisa reminded the members that the general membership meeting of the 66th ADDC will be held on June 27th at Zamperini Field. Several meeting announcements have been sent out.

Lisa said that information has been reported monthly, as reflected in the minutes each month. She provided an overview of the purpose of the ADDC (to elect Democrats to all offices) and what the newly-elected e-Board had done to date. Regarding the concern that the eBoard had made decisions about the DAC closure without consultation of other ADDC members, Lisa assured members that the DAC is a separate organization and the issue would be covered at the meeting the following night.

Reports From LACDP

LACDP approved endorsement of 3 legislative bills: AB 214, AB 80, AB 978. Resolutions approved at LACDP:

- Providing Shelter and Services for Veterans
- Unbiased Districting
- Gerrymandering in Violation of Civil Rights

If you're interested in running for any of the local offices, you must file between July 15th and August 9th. School Board (Hermosa): extended to August 14th.

Election of New BCDC Officers

Nominating Committee recommendations for the BCDC Slate:

Tony Hale - President

Dency Nelson - VP

Kathryn Campbell - Secretary

Edna Murphy – Treasurer

The slate was approved and elected unanimously. Congratulations to our new Executive Board!



Top: Melissa Uribe from Al Muratsuchi's office; Below: Nanette Barragan, candidate for Hermosa Beach City Council



HB Council Candidate

Nanette Barragan, who is running for Hermosa Beach City Council, introduced herself to the Club:

The daughter of immigrant parents, Nanette is a South Bay native. She paid her way through UCLA with money earned working for a charity foundation that funded worthy nonprofits focused on the environment and education. Nanette was chosen for a White House internship, then returned to Washington D.C. to work on health policy and researched the issue of racial health disparities.

She has worked with a domestic violence clinic to provide resources and counseling for women and children impacted by abuse. She earned an externship with Justice Carlos Moreno. As a law student at USC's Gould School of Law, she obtained an internship with the US Attorney's Office where she successfully prosecuted federal misdemeanor crimes and assisted in the organized crime and terrorism section. Last October, Nanette spent five weeks volunteering in Florida with the OFA voter protection legal team to ensure every eligible voter was given the opportunity to vote in the presidential election.

A South Bay native and Hermosa Beach homeowner, Nanette is dedicated to ensuring that the City of Hermosa Beach moves forward as one of the Southland's strongest communities with first-rate city services.

As a member of the City Council, Nanette will:

- Use her experience working with environmental organizations like Heal the Bay and the Natural Resources Defense Council to preserve Hermosa Beach's high environmental standards, and will make sure we continue to protect our coast's most precious resources: our water, our air, and our beaches;
- Use her business experience to work with businesses, community leaders, and the Hermosa Beach Chamber of Commerce to attract and retain outstanding retail and service businesses.

Beach Cities Green

By Dency Nelson

"Don't it always seem to go that you don't know what you got 'til it's gone?" - Joni Mitchell

I've been thinking a lot this past week about this line from Joni Mitchell's song "Big Yellow Taxi." It resonates with my reporting last month of our California Assembly's failure to understand the real danger that hydraulic fracturing (fracking) poses for the health and safety of our state and its people. What pains me most about that failure is that it was our Democratic leadership, Assembly Speaker Perez and others, who successfully ordered or encouraged 17 Assembly Democrats to "vote with the Republicans" or "don't vote at all" and defeated the best, most effective of the fracking moratorium bills, AB 1323 (Mitchell). (I will quickly add that our own Assemblyman, Al Muratsuchi, did not join with these clueless, spineless Democrats, but voted for AB 1323.) And what do we have instead? AB 7 (Wieckowski). A worthless, gutless bill negotiated with the participation of the oil and gas industry. And why? Our Democratic leaders have drunk the kool-aid of the oil and gas industry and the short-sighted vision of our brothers and sisters of Labor who are intoxicated with the promise of short-term jobs. Jobs that will have them digging into our precious California earth, pumping it full of toxins, contaminating our water and inviting devastating earthquakes, to harvest the last of the fossil fuels, the carbon-based fuels that when burned to power our vehicles and generate our electricity will add to the dangerously increasing CO₂ levels in our atmosphere, dooming our planet to an early death.

Extreme words? Not in my book, and not in the book of over 95% of the world's scientists, not to mention the 72% of Californians who support a moratorium on fracking. It would be different if we didn't



have a safe, affordable, renewable alternative. We do. And most of the developed nations of the world have recognized that and are turning to those sources of energy and rejecting dirty fossil fuels and dangerous nuclear power. You've heard it from me before, and you'll keep hearing it from me and others who are willing to step up and speak the truth. We have available to us hundreds of thousands of terawatt hours of electricity that can be generated by the sun, the wind, tidal energy, hydropower, and geothermal energy. "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." These statements are not figments of my imagination or wishful thinking on my part, they come from the pages of the September 2009 *National Geographic Magazine* article, "Plugging into the Sun." The article goes on to say that "energy equal to 6,000 times the world's electricity use consistently shines on Earth. Even with current technology, we could harvest enough to supply dozens of times our demand for electricity." And what are we doing instead of putting all of our investment into building the infrastructure to harness and deliver this clean, safe, renewable energy, and creating the jobs to complete those projects? We are behaving like the Luddites that I guess we are, serving the masters of the status quo and sending our dollars into the coffers of the rapists of the planet instead of rewarding those heroes who have the solutions, the cure for the cancer that is the mining, drilling and burning of fossil fuels.

We have to demand better. We have to demand better from our California Democrats. We have to demand better from our nation's Democrats and President Obama, support his efforts to invest in these safe alternatives, and have his back if he indeed rejects the Keystone XL Pipeline. Right here at home, in our own South Bay backyard, we have to encourage the City of Redondo Beach in its efforts to prevent the rebuilding of the

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**Beach Cities
Democratic Club**



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AES power plant, and we must support the "Keep Hermosa Hermosa" battle cry of the Stop Hermosa Beach Oil group www.stophermosabeachoil.com as the issue of slant drilling for the oil in Santa Monica Bay is about to be placed in front of voters. It's up to us, the grassroots movers and shakers that Beach Cities Democrats prove ourselves to be, over and over again, as we defy the odds and elect good, strong Democrats over the greedy powermongers of some factions in our own party as well as over those in the opposing party. Stand strong, Beach Cities Democrats! Demand better from our elected officials and educate them to support the means we have at hand to save our communities, our state, our nation and the planet! "Don't it always seem to go, that we don't know what we've got 'til it's gone!"

A Thought on the Death Penalty

By Lee Fink

If you lived in Southern California in the mid-1980's, you probably were scared by the Night Stalker, the serial killer who broke into homes in the LA area (mostly) to rape and murder his victims. While most murder victims die at the hands of someone they know, so the Night Stalker's 16-month killing spree peaking in the summer of 1985 created more fear than the Son of Sam, until he was finally caught by a group of citizens in East LA. And so when the news broke earlier this month that the man who committed those heinous crimes, Richard Ramirez, had died in prison, I felt relieved.

Intellectually and morally, opposing the death penalty makes sense. But there are some criminals so vile, whose crimes not only affect the victims, but the entire community, that it is tempting to see the death penalty as appropriate. When that temptation rises, just think of Richard Ramirez. He was convicted in 1989, and spent the last 24 years on Death Row in

San Quentin, while various appeals and hopes for clemency were pursued, all to make sure that he died of natural causes rather than lethal injection. That he died in prison is fitting—that it was by God's hands rather than the state's matters very little, and the millions of dollars spent litigating that could have been better spent.