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

September, 2013

Next Meeting

Manhattan Bread & Bagel 1812 N. Sepulveda Boulevard Manhattan Beach Wednesday, September 25 7:30 PM

More details about the program will be emailed to you soon.

President's Message

Applauding Obama's Policy with Syria I have always been a far left progressive. I got my start in political activism through the peace movement and I am still committed to ending war, for I believe it is the practice of war, along with the degradation of our environment that most threatens the future of civilization.

Unfortunately, no matter how high I hold my ideals, our world remains torn apart by war, and even our reasonable leaders are sometimes compromised in response to such conflict.

With that in mind, I believe President Obama is due our applause for his handling of the Syrian crisis.

The President has been right to seek a forceful response to use of chemical weapons in Syria. The horrific effects of chemical weapons injures and kills both combatants and civilians without discrimination. These weapons have been seen as so exceedingly inhumane, leading nations have sought to eliminate their use, even during times of war, since 1925.

While President Obama has maintained a strong commitment to punish those responsible for the use of chemical weapons, he has also shown tremendous restraint in the use of military action.

He has also exercised our constitu-

tional process, in asking Congress to approve such action; no president since Roosevelt has honestly asked for such approval. Obama's request from Congress sets an important precedent for correcting the use war powers.

The Constitution clearly states that only Congress has the power to declare war. I believe when every congressman and senator must put their fingerprint on an act of war, we will get into fewer wars, and if we do get into a war, we will have much clearer objectives. We need only look to the Vietnam and Iraq wars to see the consequences of presidential prerogative.

Altogether, President Obama's diplomatic stance, along with Secretary of State Kerry's creative thinking has shaped a truly peaceful alternative to military action in Syria. Let's hope we see the verifiable surrender of chemical weapons in Syria, for if this is successful, we will have saved lives, reduced the danger of chemical weapons, and saved millions of dollars.

Tony Hale

Top: Tim Goodrich (this year's FDR Honoree) addressing our August meeting. Below: Attendees at the well-attended August meeting, held at a Hermosa Beach home.

Annual FDR Awards Dinner

Kathryn Campbell announced that this year's Franklin D. Roosevelt Dinner fund raiser for LACDP will be held Sunday, October 20 (rather than in August as it has been in the past).

The honorees from the 66th AD are Connie Sullivan & Tim Goodrich. Note that if you plan to attend and wish to sit with other local AD members, you should let Kathryn know at kathrync@hotmail. com so she can facilitate seating.

Further details may be found at www. lacdp.org/2013-franklin-and-eleanor-roosevelt-dinner/.





2 Beach Cities Democrats

Beach Cities Green

By Dency Nelson It's been an interesting, busy week, the last week of the 2013 California State Legislative Year. At the beginning of the week, I was motivated to challenge both of



our State representatives, Sen. Ted Lieu and Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi, to refuse to "settle for the possible" and instead to "strive for the better" with two bills associated with energy and the environment. That motivation came from a sense I had that our legislators were being manipulated by the oil & gas industry re: SB 4 (Pavley) and by the big utilities, specifically Southern California Edison, re: AB 327 (Perea).

SB 4 is what was left for us Californians after the many bills calling for a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing were killed earlier in the session. Bills, I will remind you, that Assemblyman Muratsuchi stayed with to the bitter end, despite the pressure from the Democratic leadership to let them die, and despite the expectation that they would in any case be "dead on arrival" should any of them make it to Governor Brown's desk. The Governor and the Democratic leadership, with the influence of Big Labor, are convinced that we need to harvest natural gas from the Monterey Shale under the Central Valley, both for use as a "transition fuel" and as a presumed source of jobs. (That being said, let me also say right now, apropos of our disappointment in this legislative session over the failure of these bills, that it is up to us to do a better job of educating our governor and leadership about the fact that we don't have time for "transition fuels," as the concentration of CO2 in our atmosphere is already well past the livable level, and educating them as well that there are plenty of potential jobs in the renewable fuels sector.) The last straw for me was when the oil & gas Industry got greedy in the final hours of the debate and took advantage of the split in the

environmental community's position on SB 4 -- a weak regulating bill at best, and far from anything like a moratorium or ban -- and started to load it with further restrictions, even to the regulatory provisions of the bill. These restrictions would even have prevented application of some of the state's CEQA's provisions in its "regulation" of this dangerous "fracking" procedure. It was "wag the dog," with the Industry convincing our legislators that this bill represented "the best that they could get" in this legislative year.

AB 327, a bill that changes some of the tiered rate structure of how Southern California Edison and other electricity providers charge for that energy, has at its heart some provisions that will have a devastating effect on residential rooftop photovoltaic solar electricity production, the fastest growing industry in California and vital for achieving our goals of carbon neutrality. With this bill, as with SB 4, amendments applied throughout the summer hearings, some good and some bad, suggested to me and others in the environmental community that our legislators were being pushed around by Big Business and were settling for scraps tossed back to them, once again convinced that the resulting bill was "the best that we can get."

This dynamic was what led me to challenge our two local leaders to do better by us, and what followed over the next couple of days was an open and healthy exchange between our local environmental community and these lawmakers and their staffs. In a demonstration of his great respect for our input, Sen. Lieu further examined AB

327, listened to the last of the floor debates, and wound up casting a "No" vote on the flawed piece of legislation, which eventually passed the Senate in a lopsided vote of 33 to 5. Later in the week, Sen. Lieu also took a courageous minority stand against wealthy developers and the Democratic leadership in favor of the health and safety of California and Californians when he opposed SB 743 (Pro Tem Steinberg) that would have allowed a CEQA exemption for an arena for the Sacramento Kings basketball team. And although both Sen. Lieu and Assemblyman Muratsuchi ultimately voted for the flawed and weak SB 4 as it passed successfully out of both houses, Assemblyman Muratsuchi sent me a personal text during the debate, from the floor of the Assembly, saying that "my input was in his thoughts" and that he remained committed to fight for a moratorium on fracking in the next legislative session.

I learned something this week. I learned that when we elect representatives who possess knowledge, integrity, and courage, they will listen to their constituents and reconsider their positions when knowledgeable persuasive input is provided. We failed to win some important battles this week. But something perhaps even more valuable was won for the future: the realization that our current representatives will hear us when we raise our voices to express opposing views, and that by so doing we can make a difference. As Eric Guerra, Assemblyman Muratsuchi's Chief of Staff, expressed to me in so many words, without the challenging voices, the democratic process fails. So, with that in mind, we live to fight again next session!

Hermosa Fiesta

Our table at the Fiesta was almost always filled with volunteers and visitors. Thank you to everyone who was able to show up and show our colors. I also want to thank all those who wanted to be there and couldn't get away due to other obligations.

I think all those helping out had a good time. This year we only had the Republicans with us in the Free Speech area. We kinda missed the Birchers, Libertarians and Open Carry Proponents. Tony Hale supplied us with his Barack Obama cutout which always draws attention.

Ray Waters



Edna Murphy and Kathryn Campbell staff the BCD booth at Fiesta Hermosa, featuring our new motto "Keep Hermosa Hermosa."

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66th AD Endorsements

On Sept. 10 the Los Angeles County Democratic Party confirmed the local 66th AD Delegation recommendations for endorsement of the following local candidates:

El Camino College District 5 (south Redondo and southwest Torrance) Torrrance City Councilman Cliff Numark Hermosa Beach City Council Councilman Jeff Duclos, Nanette Barragan, and H. F. Fangary Hermosa School Board Margaret Rose Bove-Lamonica Torrance School Board Trustee Mark Steffen and Trustee Martha Deutsch

They may now report that they are the endorsed Democratic Party candidates and we are all urged not just to vote for them but to volunteer to help their candidacy. The election is on November 5.

The local delegation had met and interviewed the candidates on Sept. 3. Lori Geittmann, Chair 66th Assembly Delegation Los Angeles County Democratic Party

August Recap

The following is an edited version of the minutes courtesy of Kathryn Campbell This was a special meeting in Hermosa Beach to focus on local elections.

Tony introduced the Beach Cities Democrats and explained our role in local and state politics. "We are the front door to the party."

Officers were also introduced. Sergio Carrillo, elected Regional Director for the 16th District, expressed pleasure at the strong turnout and stated that the LA County party is closely watching the upcoming elections in Hermosa Beach and the drilling issue.

An attendee asked for a moment of silence for John Parsons. Although a Republican, she said he was a good civil servant.

Treasurer's Report

Federal Account Beginning Balance = \$1,357. We received \$341, primarily from new members. There was no spending for the month. Ending balance was

\$1.698

State Account Beginning balance = \$38. We received \$50 from two new members, and were charged \$15 in bank fees. Ending balance was \$73.

Old Business

Bylaws

There was a brief update on the Bylaws update process from Tony Hale. In order to facilitate the thorough review of subsequent, more detailed changes to our bylaws, the BCD board asked for approval of an amendment to allow for email distribution of proposed bylaws changes. This was sent, as currently required, via mail at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

Dency Nelson moved that we allow bylaw amendments to be distributed by email. Those preferring mail can still receive information that way. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution Against Allowing Oil Drilling in Hermosa Beach

Dency and Tony worked on a resolution on behalf of Beach Cities Democrats suggesting that we draft a resolution against the oil drilling project. The resolution was previewed at a recent meeting of the Torrance Democratic Club and the LA County Dem Party. In both cases it passed. The resolution was read and a motion made, passed with one abstention

Reports by Local Elected Officials

Ray Waters reported on the Hermosa Beach school board. There will be two openings on the Board, including his seat. Overcrowding is an issue, they need to address expansion.

Bill Brand, Redondo Beach City Councilman, reported that he was in Sacramento yesterday to meet with the Energy Commission and oppose the rebuilding of the AES power plant in Redondo. Bill asked us to go to the energy commission website and tell them we oppose the construction of a new power plant in Redondo. He mentioned a study also showed that some power lines can be removed if the plant is removed. We have enough energy even without Alamitos, we're not in the place where they need

the power. But AES is trying to rebuild all three of their gas fired power plants. Now is the time to weigh in against this expansion which will pollute the South Bay. [Secretary's note: I believe that the comment from for the California Energy Commission may be completed here: http://www.energy.ca.gov/commission/comments_form.php]

One citizen mentioned that this issue affects Hermosa Beach due to the air pollution. Bill suggested that air particulates would increase 5 – 15 times. He stated that 4 – 6 thousand people die in the South Coast Air Basin related to air pollution. The Redondo Beach City Council voted unanimously to oppose a new power plant.

Bill also mentioned that Redondo Beach used to drill for oil, and it apparently caused our breakwater & the AES plant to settle four feet as a result. He suggested that Hermosa look out for those problems.

Hermosa Beach Campaigns Hermosa Beach School Board Candidate for HB School Board Margaret (Maggie) Bove-LaMonica described her background in Peace Corps and teaching. She taught at Verbum Dei Catholic School, 90% in poverty, many African American & Hispanic students. "Schools aren't institutions, schools are families." Maggie is now an administrator at Loyola Marymount acting as a bridge to local school districts and communities. She will work for clear communication with the community, including non parents, to create a safe & productive learning environments. HB needs more space, we're in an enrollment crisis, not dealing with the growth we're experiencing. We're in the top 10% of the state in terms of API. A motion made to endorse Maggie passed unanimously. Hermosa Beach City Council (three open seats, 3 Democrats are running) Nanette Barragan: Her parents were immigrants from Mexico. Born & raised in South Bay. Put herself through school at UCLA. Worked in Clinton White House on racial health disparities and civil rights

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James McGreevy—310-320-1638 ләбеиеру дәлд Mark Drabkin—213-787-5267 Patabase and Mailing ubə.bəən.inmuls@alumi Moira Zucker-310-546-7562 **J**ƏJJƏJSMƏN Isabel Rodriguez—310 372-4716 Membership Edna Murphy—310-545-6292 J LG92NLGL Kathryn Campbell—310-316-4375 Secretary Dency Nelson—310-374-4543 Vice-President Tony Hale—310-465-6188 President

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> > Beach Cities Democrats



issues. Then ran a private charitable organization focused on environment & education. Devoted to environmental issues. Got a law degree from USC, interned for CA Supreme Court, then US Attorney's office. She is against oil drilling in HB and concerned about health & environmental impacts. She says it's the biggest issue affecting HB residents today. She would vote no on oil drilling.

Jeff Duclos: Current City Councilman in HB and has lived in the city for 34 years. Mentioned his tenure as mayor, his work on 3 year contract agreement with city employees, hiring of first new city manager in 18 years, which he feels has had significant impact. Environmental support via comprehensive smoking ban and polystyrene ban, and in January he became an alternate for the South Coast Coastal Commission. In two weeks, he'll be empanelled as a Commissioner.

Asked if he would oppose the RB power plant, Jeff thinks that the new HB city council is more likely to pass such a resolution if these three Dems are elected.

Another guest asked about how the \$18MM oil drilling breach of contract settlement will be paid for. He feels that HB is a smart community that will make the right decision in the end. He does not yet have enough information to say what his vote will be on oil drilling at this time, but right now he would not be comfortable voting for it. It's up to voters.

Discussion ensued about how downtown HB should be developed, if higher rise buildings should be part of that. Whether HB wants to remain a small town character, which Jeff believes it should. Dency asked if the "Dialogue Hermosa" project would have happened without the oil drilling issue. Jeff thinks it's an outcome of the strategic plan, which Jeff has always advocated.

Hany Fangary. Born in Egypt, came to CA for college and law school. Moved to HB seven years ago. Ran for City Council 2 years ago, came up only 200 votes short. Environmental lawyer. He is concerned about oil drilling, helped start the "Keep Hermosa Hermosa!" movement. Aimed at stopping the oil

drilling. Hany is also concerned about safety, especially downtown, and has spoken to the HB City Council about the need for cameras downtown to help the police. Also, wants businesses to guide people to cabs and keep noise down and area safe. Also has asked the HB City Council to pass a resolution against the AES power plant. Stated that he would vote no on oil drilling.

Motion made to endorse all three candidates passed unanimously.

Torrance City Council

Tim Goodrich is running for Torrance City Council. He's an Iraq vet and a cofounder of Iraq Vets Against the War, a fulltime union organizer, and our 66th AD Democrat of the Year for 2103. Has been endorsed by BDC in the past. Against oil drilling in HB, the power plant in RB. Ran for Torrance City Council before and lost, he's starting earlier this time! His campaign kickoff event will be held on 10/23/13 and the election will be in June. Four open positions, 14 candidates, only a couple of viable Dem candidates. Motion to endorse, passed unanimously.