

Next Meeting

Manhattan Bread & Bagel
1812 N. Sepulveda Boulevard
Manhattan Beach
Wednesday, January 22
7:30 PM

Another important date, join us at
the Beach Cities Democrats'
Annual Party!

Help us ring in the new political
year with delicious food and great
company.

Saturday, January 18, 2014
Time: 5 – 8 PM

Location: Ray & Carolyn Waters
home @ 615 24th Place (not Street!),
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254

This is a pot luck event with a
suggested \$10 (or more!) donation to
support Beach Cities Democrats
initiatives. In the spirit of Martin Luther
King Jr., a portion of the evening's
proceeds will also be donated to a
local homeless organization.

We look forward to seeing you next
Saturday -- bring a friend!

RSVP and select a dish to bring
before Thursday, January 16, using
this handy online form:

[BCD Annual Party Sign Up Form](#)

If you have any questions,
email Beach Cities Dems Secretary
Kathryn Campbell
at kathrync@hotmail.com.

Pot Luck Sign up Form - <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/ccc?key=0AgyITpXfy10ydDN5Q1ppcWVjMFJaMkVfekJRX2dWSGc&usp=sharing>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's Time to Up Our Game

By Tony Hale

The coming political year will be one of our most challenging. The results of this next election could affect us for the next 12 years. If we fail to re-elect Al Muratsuchi, his Republican opponent could sit in that seat for six two year terms. The next Assembly race will be more difficult in some ways. Republicans are enforcing more party discipline; this means Muratsuchi will lose some Republican cross-over endorsements he had before. Convinced they will not be able to win the Governorship, the Republicans are focused on reversing the Democratic majority in the legislature.

Muratsuchi will not be running against a certified loony this time. Craig Huey made our job much easier, but now we will undoubtedly face a more credible Republican candidate.

But all is not lost!

Muratsuchi is an incumbent this time, and with that comes validation of his qualifications with the voters.

Muratsuchi is a more experienced candidate now, and he can speak about what he has achieved in office.

Things have improved with a Democratic majority, we have balanced budgets and have done what could not be done at the federal level—make government work.

To win we will have to roll up our sleeves and campaign. We have everything to fight for; our local area leadership, a state wide Democratic majority, and we need to deliver a workable congress for President Obama.

Please look to our club for volunteer opportunities and activist training over the coming months. This must become a larger part of what our club does.

Please also find friends and neighbors who would like to become more involved in politics. Invite them to our activist trainings and encourage them to get involved.

We can't do this by just talking to each other, we must reach out and build a more powerful and dynamic organization. We are the Beach Cities Democrats and we are the ground floor entrance to politics in our area. Let's open the doors wide and show what is possible when good people work together.

In Memoriam

Jim Buescher, the husband of Bobbi Buescher, a past president of Beach Cities Democrats, died after a very short illness at UCLA Hospital on January 1. We all send our condolences to Bobbi. Many of us attended the Celebration of Life for Jim at American Martyr's on January 6. A scholarship fund has been set up to assist children fulfill their higher education desires and dreams. In lieu of flowers, please feel free to send donations to the following fund:

Foundation for SAAC
c/o James F. Buescher Legacy
Scholarship Fund
1200 Paseo Camarillo #100
Camarillo, CA 93010

NOVEMBER RECAP

Beach Cities Democrats

Minutes courtesy of Kathryn Campbell

Officer Reports

President's Report

Tony, who is our eBoard rep, explained that there will be an executive board meeting for the state party on the weekend. There will be a motion for a rule change proposed by Regional Director Agi Kessler as to whether elected officials can appoint delegates from outside their district. They can currently appoint two people who live outside their own district, which can be used to influence endorsements or work on behalf of caucuses in another district.

Tony believes that we should change the rules to reduce outside influences and encourage local self determination. Sergio Carrillo (our Regional Director) said that he feels that this is a legitimate organizing technique. He is not yet decided as to how to vote, but says he's leaning towards voting for the change Tony supports based on the opinion of the delegates that he's heard from. Discussion ensued. There was also discussion of "paper clubs" and their potential for abuse of the endorsement process.

Vice President's Report

Dency Nelson provided an update on the Hermosa Beach races. He mentioned that both of our candidates for School Board won. Nanette Barragan won for City Council. The remaining positions keep changing as absentee and provisional ballots have been counted. Dency and former BCD President Lee Fink want a recount, which would cost \$5k - \$16k.

Nanette thanked us for our endorse-

ment and support. Her swearing in will be on Tuesday.

Dency also mentioned that Libertarian Steve Collett, who had been a guest at our last meeting, passed away unexpectedly in October.

Secretary's Report

Kathryn Campbell submitted minutes from the October meeting, which were approved. She also mentioned that she's trying to organize a program on mental healthcare and the Affordable Care Act next year, and asked for help in identifying speakers and co-sponsors.

Treasurer's Report

Edna Murphy reported the following activity:

Federal account: starting balance of \$1,851. There were no new memberships or expenses during the month, for an ending balance of \$1851.

State account: starting balance of \$43 - \$15 (bank fees) = ending balance of \$28.

Special Program on Homelessness in South Bay

Nancy Endo Wilcox, Co-Chair, from South Bay Coalition for the Homeless (Wilcox_Nancy@sbcglobal.net; www.sbhomeless.org), and Kevin Ramos from SHARE (Self-Help And Recovery Exchange, www.shareselfhelp.org), were our speakers.

SBC is made up of a wide variety of providers, neighborhood councils and faith based organizations. In LA County, there were 53,798 homeless at the end of January 2013. More than 10% of them, 5811, were in the South Bay. The



Sergio Carrillo with Nanette Barragan, Hermosa Beach's new City Council-woman

homeless include many sub-populations, including victims of domestic violence, veterans, substance abusers, the mentally ill or those with physical disabilities. We have about 1564 shelter beds available at any given time. They're moving towards a "housing first" approach, which has been shown to be more effective. Nancy provided a number of census reports for local beach cities that she can share upon request. For example, there are at least 70 homeless people in Redondo Beach, but there are no shelter or housing options in the area. About 47% of the homeless in the area are housed in their vehicles.

SBC's monthly meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesdays of the month from 10 - 12, and their next meeting will focus on health providers.

SHARE is located in Culver City and downtown LA. They contract with the Dept. of Mental Health and also get grants from United Way and the LA Chamber of Commerce. They offer self

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help support groups for a variety of issues, including PTSD and various addictions. They strive for rapid recovery across all of a person's needs. They have an emergency recovery retreat, and also a jobs program. They operate a public/private partnership that they call "collaborative housing," using existing resources. They do not require a credit check or deposit, are able to place people rapidly, and there is no long waiting list as there is for Section 8. (<http://articles.latimes.com/2012/sep/22/local/la-me-share-homeless-20120923>). There are over 200 homes available in LA County, each offering shared housing. They try to target rent of no more than \$500/month per person, since most are on fixed incomes, often Social Security. Many have mental illnesses. Many of the homes foster real growth, and relatively minor problems have generally been experienced due to the assistance of the case managers.

There have also been strides due to the "Coordinated Entry System" in coordinating resources across agencies to assist more people more efficiently. A program that started in Skid Row has now gone country wide.

As an individual, you can call 211 to help someone find resources.

Tony asked our club to make a long term commitment to this issue. He asked if we would be willing to include a fundraising aspect to our January holiday party to help support this cause. They could also use volunteers for many efforts, like the homeless census or "navigators" to help people accomplish basic goals like getting their driver's license. Motion made and passed to research how to best support this cause.

AD Committee Report

Diane Wallace reported on the 66th AD picnic last month. It brought in some new people. She also noted our 66th AD election victories in Torrance (school board, city council and El Camino Community College), Hermosa Beach and Manhattan Beach.



Our November speakers: (L), Nancy Endo Wilcox, Co-Chair for the South Bay Coalition for the Homeless; and (R), Kevin Ramos from SHARE, (Self-Help and Recovery Exchange)

Kathryn Campbell mentioned that this year's Convention will be held March 7-9, 2014, in Los Angeles. Diane stated that the 66th is planning for our AD dinner. On Friday night, Region 16 will also have a welcome reception.

Old Business, New Business, Announcements

Bylaws update. Dency circulated redlines for members to review. We will revisit making these updates in January.

Endorsements. Lori Geittmann stated that there will be a County Committee meeting in January regarding the endorsements process.

United Democrats of the South Bay. This PAC coalition coordinates efforts of three ADs. They would want two reps from our club to join, plus an annual \$50 registration fee. Motion made to join, seconded, and passed.

Pre-Endorsement Conference. Will be held Feb 8 or 9. We need to send a roster of our members and send members who are not already Delegates. Tony is coordinating.

2014 Planning. Sergio mentioned that he is gearing up already, looking for regional coordinators, field coordinators, and other paid positions. He hopes to have people in place by end of January 2014. Also he encouraged us to look at MOE and other tools to make us more targeted and effective. A candidate training workshop

will take place in June to teach us how to target, how to fundraise, and where to spend our money.

Support John Chiang

We are fortunate to have a statewide officer who lives in our Assembly District. State Controller John Chiang, who lives in Torrance, will be on the June ballot as a candidate for state treasurer. He is termed out as Controller.

To help John in his campaign our club, as well as other clubs in the area, are sponsoring a fund raiser for John. Unfortunately we do not have campaign finance reform and running statewide is an expensive proposition.

John has been very responsive to our club and has been our speaker more than once. He has helped out members with problems.

The event will be on Sunday, Feb. 23, at the home of Melanie and Richard Lundquist in Palos Verdes Estates. More information will be available soon.

Lori Geittmann



Beach Cities Democrats

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**Beach Cities Democrats
Membership Form**

Please Print

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 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 Legislature 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 Democrats and mail to P.O. Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278