



## Next Meeting

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

This month's program will feature West Basin Water District Board Member Don Dear and others, who will talk about the current drought in California. We will also discuss carpooling for the March Democratic Convention.

feel like we are not all on the same team.

But, as with any team or family, there are times when some of our members fail to meet expectations, or we change the lineup or positions on our team, or we just have personality conflicts. During times like these, there are very difficult and painful decisions to be made. But, when it comes to politics, at game time, we all need to come together.

We must not allow change or failure to break up the team. This game is too important for us to give up. The values we are fighting for, the issues that are important to us, matter not just to you and

me, but to the next generation and to the success of our society as a whole.

As we move through the process of shaping a new political team in our area, we must keep our eyes on how we can win the game. With the new, open-primary system, the game is even more complicated and more dangerous. The goal line has been moved forward and there is less time to sort out differences. We need to bring our team together and get on the field. We can all play a part in moving this process forward together.

Go Team!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Tony Hale

### Team Sport

I see politics as a tug of war. On one side are the paid professionals of the Republican/Corporate Party, and, on the other side, ordinary people like you and me.

As we watch the other side pull us toward the mud pit, we can see that there are lots of people, who should be on our team, standing on the sidelines. If they all joined in, we would win. But, if you ask them to start pulling, they say things like, "If you Democrats would pull harder and win, I would help," or "I don't like the way some of you are pulling, so I won't help," or "I think we should have a different rope."

Too often, registered Democrats talk about the Democratic Party in the third person, and do not see themselves as a part of it. This allows them to disconnect themselves from the party and from any responsibility for the political outcome.

During shakeups like the one our South Bay political scene has been going through lately, it's easy to feel disconnected. When our leaders fail to act as we want them to, or when we find our friends on different sides, it's easy to



### Our ~~November Meeting~~ January Meeting

At the ~~January~~ meeting, a vote was taken to give a portion of the proceeds from our annual party to a local homeless organization. Nancy Wilcox, who spoke on the subject of homelessness at our previous meeting, recommended the 1736 Family Crisis Center, which offers shelter for domestic violence, youth runaways, and homeless vets in the beach cities area.

A motion was made that we give 20% of the proceeds (\$120) to the 1736 Family Crisis Center, which was seconded and passed unanimously.

Photo Courtesy of Jim McGreevy

## JANUARY RECAP

Minutes courtesy of Kathryn Campbell

### Officer Reports

#### Secretary's Report

Minutes from the November meeting were approved. Kathryn also mentioned that she would like to organize a program on mental healthcare and the Affordable Care Act and asked for help in identifying speakers and co-sponsors.

#### Treasurer's Report

Edna Murphy reported the following activity through 12/31/13: 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 \$13 + 50 - \$15 (bank fees) = ending balance of \$48.

### Annual Party Update

The annual party last weekend was well attended and brought in \$602. Many thanks to Ray and Carolyn Waters for hosting us!

### Requested Financial Disbursements

BCD has been asked to co-host an upcoming fundraising event for John Chiang for \$400. He lives in the South Bay and has spoken to the BCD in the past. While the members attending were enthusiastic about supporting John, there was some discussion about the size of the donation given the other campaigns coming up and our relatively low bank balance.

Tony explained that it was his understanding that co-hosts either have to get 4 people to attend or donate \$400. Marianne Tyler moved that the club contribute \$100 and that three other members commit to attending at \$100 each. The extra ticket purchased by the club's



Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi spoke at our annual January holiday party at the home of Ray and Carol Waters. In addition to the festivities, we heard from a number of our electeds and candidates, and managed to raise funds in the process.

\$100 donation will be given to whomever brings in the most members prior to the event on 2/23. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously. Also committing to buy tickets were Teresa Bird, Kathryn Campbell, Ray Waters, and Lisa Power. They will buy individual tickets and ask that the BCD be credited for their donations.

Bobbi Buescher's husband, Jim Buescher, passed away recently. There is a scholarship fund in his honor. Teresa Bird made a motion to donate \$100 to that scholarship fund, which was seconded and passed unanimously. Gifts may be made payable to SAAC c/o James F. Buescher Legacy Scholarship Fund, 1200 Paseo Camarillo #100, Camarillo, CA 93010.

### United Democrats of South Bay

At the November meeting, the BCD voted to join the United Democrats of South Bay. Membership involves a \$50 annual membership fee, which we have committed to but have not paid yet. Subsequently, Diane Wallace expressed to the board via email her concerns about BCD joining this organization as it doesn't overlap with our region's electeds. Tony stated that they supported Al Muratsuchi and Jenny Oropeza in the past. Their main mission is to support communication between the clubs. No further discussion or action was taken.

### Membership Drive

Tony emphasized his desire to build the BCD and to identify the next generation of leaders. There is a Democratic

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club at Mira Costa High School, and Tony reminded us that all local high school Dem club members are automatically members of our club. Kathryn suggested getting a youth co-chair for the membership committee to work with Isabel and help integrate those members. Tony suggested possibly offering an internship for school credit.

#### Volunteer Training & Opportunities

As we get closer to November elections, Tony offered to do activist training sessions, promoted through local newspapers. There was also some discussion of identifying and reaching out to local high schools and junior high schools to recruit students interested in going through campaign training. Anyone with relationships with those schools should contact Tony.

#### Discussion of Future Program Topics

The members brainstormed potential future program topics. Those mentioned included:

- Reproductive rights
- Propositions, including legalized marijuana
- Sheriff's race
- Mental healthcare under ACA
- Recyclables reimbursement legislation
- Water conservation
- Hermosa Oil Drilling (the EIR should be out by our next meeting!)

#### 66th Assembly District Democratic Council Report

Lisa Power gave a report on the recent meeting of the 66th ADDC on January 9, 2014. Al Muratsuchi spoke at the meeting. Secretary Diane Wallace will circulate minutes to members.

Save the date! The next meeting of the 66th ADDC is planned for Thursday, April 24, 2014. The ADDC is also planning our traditional dinner at the Convention on Saturday March 8. Lisa and Diane would like to subsidize the cost to make it more affordable for all to attend while staying close to the Convention Center. Suggestions are welcomed.

Lisa also discussed efforts to increase  
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## Beach Cities Green

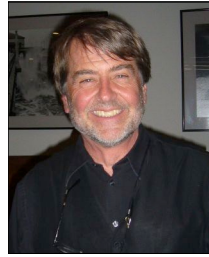
By Dency Nelson

It will come as no surprise to anyone who knows me at all well that I have been an environmentalist all of my adult life, pretty much starting when I was 18 (if not before) and Senior Class President at my high school in the San Francisco Bay Area, around the time of the very first Earth Day, April 22, 1970.

As Senior Class President, I arranged for our entire school to devote that day to "teach-ins" about Ecology. That was the direction for the day from Wisconsin Democratic Senator Gaylord Nelson and my Republican Congressman Pete McCloskey, the two co-sponsors of the Earth Day legislation.

What did it mean to be an "environmentalist" back then, if indeed the term was even used at that time? No one, at least not in the general public, was talking about "climate change" or "global warming" in 1970. It was mostly about conservation and the Buckminster Fuller concept of "Spaceship Earth" – the idea that Earth was a spaceship, a satellite hurtling around the Sun, with limited and rapidly diminishing resources being consumed by an exponentially growing population. In addition, The Population Bomb, authored by our local Stanford University Professor Paul Ehrlich, was making ZPG (zero population growth) the clarion call.

That still holds true today. We are a spaceship. Our water and our fuels are in limited supply, and the burning of the remaining fossil fuels creates carbon gases that threaten our atmospheric shield. "Houston, we have a problem!" We are no different from the threatened Apollo 13. Our Spaceship Earth is on the verge of running out of life-sustaining resources, and we have become aware of the fact that as we power our vehicles and factories and businesses and homes by burning fossil fuels, we are not only depleting those fuels, we are also raising the amount of CO2 in our atmosphere to



levels that threaten life as we know it.

You have heard all of this before, from me and from others. You have heard that we are at a crisis point, and that we have to reduce our carbon emissions and keep fossil fuels in the ground. You have heard about rooftop solar and electric cars as ways to mitigate the problem. But what you maybe haven't heard enough about are the economic opportunities to be had from choosing these climate-change mitigating solutions. I could talk about what that could mean for a community, or a county, or a state or a nation, and I probably will in a future column. But for right now, let me just tease you with the following.

I am about to retire from a 40-year career behind the scenes in television. Over those years, thanks to good union jobs that provided me with a great income, great healthcare, and a great pension, I was able to build a sustainable house, and as time passed, to invest in that house with rooftop solar to make electricity free from the sun and to heat my water. That free electricity led me to purchase electric cars, in which I have commuted to work and met almost all of my transportation needs for 12 years and over 150,000 miles. So, as I wrap up that 40 years of hard work that built my sustainable and near-zero-emission house, that helped raise my daughter and provide for her, my wife and myself, and having written the last mortgage check for that house last month, I enter retirement with not only no more mortgage payments but also almost zero gas and electric bills and minimal trash and water bills, and absolutely no gasoline and oil expenses for those electric cars. I pretty much don't have any monthly bills to eat up my retirement pension. Food, wine, travel, political and charitable contributions and the satisfaction of leaving a minimal carbon footprint on the planet are what a sustainable lifestyle has provided for me. Sound too good to be true? Believe it! It's true, and it can be for you, too. Now if only somebody could help me lower my cable TV, phone and Internet bills and I'd have no monthly bills whatsoever. To be continued...



## Beach Cities Democrats

P.O. Box 2192  
Redondo Beach, CA 90278

President  
Tony Hale — 310-465-6188  
Vice-President  
Dency Nelson — 310-374-4543  
Secretary  
Kathryn Campbell — 310-316-4375  
Treasurer  
Edna Murphy—310-545-6292  
Newsletter  
Moira Zucker—310-546-7562  
moiraz@alumni.reed.edu  
Membership  
Isabel Rodriguez — 310-372-4716  
Database and Mailing  
Mark Drabkin — 213-787-5267  
Web Manager  
James McGreevy—310-320-1638

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permanent absentee voter registrations in our district. The Palos Verdes Club is piloting mailers to low propensity voters (those who voted less than three times in last two years) with self addressed stamped envelopes. They will share results on how effective that is with other clubs who may wish to consider a similar campaign.

### Los Angeles County Committee

The LA County Committee endorsed Bonnie Lowenthal for Mayor of Long Beach over Robert Garcia. They also addressed a proposed rule change regarding appointments for delegates by forming a working committee to further study the issue. Tony is on that committee and will keep us apprised on their progress.

### Old & New Business, Announcements

The cleanup of club bylaws is largely complete. Kathryn Campbell made a motion to circulate proper notice two weeks prior to next meeting so we can discuss, which was seconded and approved.

Kathryn also mentioned that the pre-endorsement conferences for Al Muratsuchi and Ted Lieu are both at 2PM on Sunday February 9 in two widely separate locations (Lakewood & Van Nuys). Those eligible to vote will have to vote in at least one conference by mail. Further information on doing so may be found on the [cadem.org](http://cadem.org) website.



### Pre-Endorsement Conference

Several BCD members attended the Pre-Endorsement Conference in Van Nuys on February 9, which was the venue for Ted Lieu's and Betsy Butler's campaigns. Top left, Betsy addressing the meeting; right, Senator Ted Lieu and Dency Nelson; below: President Tony Hale and club members mingling at the event.

