

Next Meeting

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

We look forward to seeing you at our June meeting!

Note: Annual membership fees are due! Fees remain \$25 per person or \$40 per family. No one will be turned away due to inability to pay. Please plan to pay at the June meeting or else mail your check to Treasurer Edna Murphy c/o Beach Cities Democrats, PO Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278.

A new slate of officers for 2014/2015 will be elected at this month's meeting. The Nominating Committee has put forth the following proposed candidates, all of whom have agreed that they are willing to serve:

President - Kathryn Campbell
Vice President - Dency Nelson
Secretary - Teresa Bird
Treasurer - Edna Murphy

The floor will be open to additional nominees prior to voting.

In addition, you will have the opportunity to vote on several amendments that have been proposed to our recently approved Bylaws.

President Tony Hale will be traveling and unable to attend our next meeting. If you have proposed items for the **June meeting agenda**, please forward them to VP Dency Nelson at dln52@verizon.net by end of day Tuesday, June 17. Of course, "new business" items may also be proposed at the meeting.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It has been my honor to serve as your club president for the past year. My only regret has been that I was not able to accomplish all that I wanted to get done this year. But, we have a club officer who is now eager serve in the role of president, Kathryn Campbell, and we must take advantage of that opportunity. I ask you to give her all the support I was afforded, and it is my hope that she will not only be successful, but also enjoy her time as our club president.

I was also glad to support her for Democrat of the Year, an award given by our County Democratic Party each year. She and Torrance Democratic Club President Jimmy Gow will be our honorees for our 66th Assembly District. I hope you will all join me in celebrating their recognition of their continued work.

Now, I have used the word club several times here, but as some of you know, we are in the process of changing our club's official name to Beach Cities Democrats. This is something I have suggested; to eliminate the word club from our name to make our group more easily understood.

We are an officially recognized Democratic organization and the word club gets in the way of that understanding. Club suggests we are not an official organization, but perhaps a fan club for the Democrats.

Now, those of us who have been involved with clubs know better, we understand the important roles clubs play, but that is a difficult thing to explain to those first exposed to such groups.

The success of the Beach Cities



Democrats is contingent on the attraction of new members and participants. I say participants because we should not be solely focused on membership. We must help elect Democrats to office, and that requires participation from Democrats in our community.

Many people will be interested in the election, but not our club, (oops, I mean our organization) so we should make our organization a connection point for participating in the election. Through participation, some of these people will come to understand what our group is and want to be a part of it.

This election is no exception to the rule, it will be very important. Al Muratsuchi will face a very challenging election; we do not have Craig Huey to push around anymore, but we do have a Republican who will appear more moderate than did Mr. Huey.

In the Senate race, I believe we should endorse a candidate among the two Democrats. I don't think we should tear ourselves apart over that endorsement, but I do think we should give insight to our local Democrats on this race. I have personally endorsed Sandra Fluke for State Senate, but our club should have an open and fair process for coming to a consensus, if there is consensus we can reach.

On the congressional front, I am so glad we have Ted Lieu in the runoff. I am confident he will be our next congressman, but we can guarantee that by working hard to re-elect Al Muratsuchi and Ted Lieu at the same time.

Our work is cut out for us in this election, and I hope you will join me in looking to the Beach Cities Democrats for information and opportunities for a Democratic victory in the South Bay.

All the best, Tony Hale

Beach Cities Green

Dency Nelson

I'm trying to get a grip, but in the "David & Goliath" battle for the planet's survival against the power of Big Oil's money and influence and Big Labor's ignorance, my slingshot is feeling like a "gnat-slayer" these days.



Let's start with April 29 and the Emergency Meeting of the Carson City Council, where I joined the concerned citizens of that city who were besieged in their own council chamber by throngs of my union brothers and sisters. These blue-shirted IBEW and other trade union workers had been bused in from far and wide by the union bosses who, with promises of "thousands of jobs," had enlisted them to come talk down and intimidate both the citizen-victims of toxic oil drilling and the formerly well-intended council member stewards of the community. Governor "I won't sign anything that blocks oil" Jerry Brown, had already made a 45-minute arm-twisting phone call to Carson Mayor Jim Dear, convincing Dear and ultimately two other council members to back down from their former 5-0 stance favoring the city's oil drilling moratorium. One can speculate that in addition to laboring under the false premise that the planet has time for this fossil fuel to be mined and burned, the reason our Governor refuses to block any of this drilling might be the millions of dollars of support he received for Prop. 30's passage and other special interests of his from Occidental and other gas & oil companies and fossil fuel proponents. (Oxy is the company doing the next big Carson

oil drilling project.)

And then there was the recent failure of State Senator Holly Mitchell's SB 1132, a bill that was co-sponsored by our own Sen. Ted Lieu and whose mandate was agreed upon by rank-and-file Democrats and inserted into the Party's platform at this year's State Party Convention. That bill was yet another attempt to place a moratorium on fracking in our state until the health and safety impacts of that procedure can be determined. Even if the bill had been passed on the floors of our Democrat-dominated legislature, it was sure to suffer defeat under the veto pen of Governor "we have time to make money and doom the planet" Brown. But the bill went down to defeat on the Senate floor, failing on a 16-16 vote after 8 Democrats abstained. It should not escape our notice that (1) the Senators who opposed the bill had received 14 times as much in campaign contributions from the oil industry — on average, \$25,227 — as those who supported the measure, who on average received \$1,772 during the 4 years ending 12/30/2012, and that (2) the Democrats who abstained from voting had received, on average, 4.5 times as much campaign cash from the industry as Democrats who supported the bill.

In addition, in the same week that SB 1132 was killed, the full Assembly passed AB 2145. This bill, authored by former SCE executive and current Democratic 62nd AD Assemblyman Steven Bradford, sailed on from the Assembly floor with a 55-15 "Aye" vote. AB 2145 is a bill supported only by the for-profit utility companies and their lobbying hacks, and if passed by the Senate and signed by the Governor, it will virtually kill any further opportunities for CCAs (Community Choice Aggregations) in this state. CCAs are about the best idea ever created to give communities the choice of buying their own renewable

energy on the open market and offering their customers 100% renewable energy if they want it. CCAs have also blown away the restrictions the investor-owned utilities place on solar and pay rooftop solar power generators a retail price for the extra energy they produce. And CCAs will generate tens of thousands of good 21st-century clean-energy local jobs! Marin and Sonoma Counties have already launched their programs, and cities all across the state are getting ready to do the same. But once again, there was the intervention of Big Labor—lobbyists for the IBEW, financed by the union bosses—and their cozy relationship with the utility companies. The half-truths and in some cases outright lies they fed to unsuspecting legislators helped advance this deadly AB 2145 to the Senate. What my IBEW brothers and sisters should be doing is working to organize the 21st-century, clean, alternative-energy jobs instead of propping up the short-lived, dirty fossil fuel jobs of the past century promoted by the dollars funneled from Big Utilities and Big Oil.

So, what can we do right now, as Democrats here in the South Bay? We can look carefully at how our local representatives vote on these issues, and also look closely at where they are getting the money for their election campaigns. That especially applies to this election cycle, as we have opportunities to elect or re-elect our Assemblyman, our State Senator, and our Congressman. Ask these candidates the hard questions about where they stand, and perhaps even more importantly, about where the money is coming from for their campaigns.



May Recap

Minutes Courtesy of Kathryn Campbell

Officer Reports

President's Report

Tony called for every member to help get out the vote in the upcoming primary election, which is expected to have a very low turnout. He especially called for support for our endorsed candidates, Betsy Butler and Ted Lieu.

VP Report

Dency thanked Diane Wallace, Ray Waters and others for help organizing and staffing the 66th ADDC table during the Fiesta Hermosa. Dency said he would be tabling 12 – 4 PM at the Hermosa Beach Farmer's Market and needed help.

Dency mentioned that Al's bill AB2188 on streamlining solar permitting moved out of the Assembly to State Senate. Also mentioned AB2711 – guaranteeing a low cost loan to Hermosa Beach in the event that they face a penalty for disallowing oil drilling. Al had to lower the amount requested to get it through the Appropriations Committee. Dency also mentioned that the eBoard signed a Heal the Bay letter in support of the bill.

It was suggested that we start thinking about a new meeting place – quieter, more centrally located. The problem is that community centers don't allow partisan political groups, and libraries frequently charge. We met in the past at the Hayward Center on Artesia. Will look into libraries again, ideally someplace free!

Secretary's Report

Kathryn offered to follow up on finding a new meeting location for the club, asked members to contact her at kathrync@hotmail.com if they have any suggestions.

Diane Wallace suggested considering the new Manhattan Beach county library as a possibility. Ray mentioned that Rochelle Schneider had suggested looking into the Mysterious Galaxy Book Store on Artesia.

Motion made to approve last month's minutes, seconded and unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report

Tony congratulated Edna on her birthday yesterday.

Edna Murphy reported the following activity through 4/30/14:

Federal account: starting balance of \$2,908 + \$72 in new membership and renewal revenues - \$125 for LACDP club charter, for an ending balance of \$2,855.

State account: starting balance of \$103 + \$24 in Act Blue revenues - \$15 in bank fees = ending balance of \$112.

Motion carried unanimously to approve the Treasurer's report.

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee is made up of Ray Waters (Chair), and Teresa Bird, Anne Faas and Dency Nelson.

Please see Page 1 for a list of the proposed slate of officers.

Motion carried unanimously to accept the Nominating Committee's report.

Endorsed Candidates

Sam from Ted Lieu's campaign mentioned that office hours have been extended through the weekend for precinct walking and calling. Wendy Gruel is putting out negative ads against Ted. It's looking like Elon Carr will consolidate the Republican vote and come in #1; the fight will probably be for the #2 position.

Al Muratsuchi will need more help in the General, since he doesn't have primary competition.

Discussion of Bylaws Amendments

[Secretary's Note: Several amendments have been proposed since our recent vote to approve our new Bylaws. Each item was discussed by the membership as described below. Those that achieved some level of consensus were inserted into new draft Bylaws in red text for membership review by the Secretary. These proposed changes will have been distributed two weeks prior to the next membership meeting, at which time a vote will take place on whether or not to approve the proposed amendments.]

- Lisa Power asked, via an email sent prior to the meeting, why Article 1 Section 4 states that we "shall undertake to obtain" a charter. Tony explained that that language always exists, as you have to be re-chartered every year. Decision made



Dency Nelson and Carol Moeller at the Fiesta booth. Photo courtesy of Diane Wallace.

to add "each year" to current language.

- Lisa suggested extending the length of time between joining and voting from 30 days to 45.
- Tony expressed concern about new members possibly going three meetings before being able to participate by voting.
- Diane raised a separate issue about whether the club would allow the sale of group memberships that one person controls.
- No agreement was reached on extending the period during which a new member cannot vote, so no amendment was included.
- Further discussion regarding how to ensure that lapsed members who renew are not prevented from voting. Suggested amendment entered for member review.
- Lisa suggested that "paid political operatives" not be allowed to be officers.
- Edna said that many club officers would then be ineligible. Suggested that they should just recuse themselves when a conflict poses itself.
- Marianne Tyler suggested that would logically then extend to electeds, such as herself, to County Committee.
- Tony explained that he is a political consultant. He said Eric Bauman and many

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Beach Cities Democrats

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members of county committee would be ineligible if that rule were in effect. He felt that the only conflict is when a club is being used by a campaign. He suggested that if an officer is working on a campaign that the club considers endorsement for, they should disclose their relationship. He extolled the role of local clubs in democratizing the Democratic party in CA.

- The group noted that paid political consultants in our club include Tony Hale, Larry Fox, and Marc Saltzberg.
- She says her opinion has nothing to do with these individual members. Her concern is that endorsements may be unfairly presented by officers with conflicts. She wants our party to be at the top of an ethical scale, in contrast to our three Democratic Senators currently under a cloud.
- Kathryn Campbell countered that having savvy political leaders as officers enriches the club and makes us more effective as grassroots political operatives.
- Tony suggested that someone agreed upon as a neutral party could run the endorsement process.
- New suggested language added to By-laws for member review to address con-

cern about how endorsement should be handled under these circumstances.

- Diane suggested specifying which organization's version of the Roberts Rules of Order we are referencing. No specific version was suggested or agreed upon, and therefore no amendment made. Discussion ensued regarding what constitutes a "Standing Committee." Agreement reached that those in effect today, which are therefore part of the Board, are Membership, Web Manager, Newsletter, and Database & Mailing. Since the Nominating Committee is a short term committee, it was not included.

Lisa suggested that the bylaws include a reference to the fact that a representative is elected every two years (in even years) to the board of the 66th ADDC. A more general amendment addressing appointments to other organizations was added for review.

Emergency endorsements are sometimes requested of the eBoard between meetings. An amendment was suggested for membership review.

A member noted the fact that new members can't vote for 30 days should be added to our membership form and to the Act Blue

page to ensure that new prospects are informed.

Old Business, New Business

Ray mentioned that we had not endorsed statewide officers, and suggested that in the future we might consider that. Kathryn agreed, and suggested that in the future we should circulate a slate, as several other local Democratic clubs do.

66th Assembly District Democratic Council Report

Lisa Power provided a report on the spring meeting, which was well attended. The upcoming ballot propositions were discussed, and the PV Club described their pilot project on encouraging new movers to register as PAVs. The ADDC is building a new website. Lisa will provide the URL when it is available.

The next meeting will be held Thursday, July 17th at the Torrance Sizzler, 6:30 for dinner and 7PM for meeting.

Announcements

Tony said he has set up a new Facebook page for the Beach Cities Dems, <https://www.facebook.com/BeachCitiesDemocrats>. Please visit and "Like" the new page!