

Beach Cities Democrats



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

June, 2016

Next Meeting

Wednesday, June 22

7:00 PM

Hermosa Beach Community Center
710 Pier Avenue, Room #4
Hermosa Beach

Our June meeting will be extra special, I look forward to seeing you there! For one thing, we will be voting on our officers for the upcoming year. The Nominating Committee has put together a fantastic slate for your consideration:

Bobbi Buescher, President

Dency Nelson, Vice President*

Thomas Kelleher, Secretary*

Edna Murphy, Treasurer*

* denotes incumbent.

Additional nominations may be made prior to the vote at June's meeting, including from the floor. Please refer questions regarding the Nominating Committee's process to Chair Ray Waters (raywaters35@gmail.com).

We will also hear from special guest [Eric Bauman](#), current Vice Chair of the [California Democratic Party](#) (CDP). Eric will provide a brief analysis of the California primary results and his view of the challenges in California and here in the 66th AD for the November general election. In addition, we will be voting on whether to endorse Eric in his race to become the next Chair of the CDP. Please help us ensure a great turnout for this super activist and party leader!

Best regards,
Kathryn Campbell, President
(for two more weeks!)
Beach Cities Democrats

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Empowerment vs. Alienation



This month's column began as a simple "thank you" to all of you Beach Cities Democrats for your support and encouragement throughout my presidency for the last two years. That led me to reflect on how far I've come in my political engagement over the last decade. And then, as I thought about my personal journey, I realized that it reflects an important opportunity and challenge in our current political landscape. So hang on, my last monthly column as your president is a bit of a wild ride!

My very first job out of college was as a researcher for a "grassroots lobbying firm" on behalf of Democrats but also corporate legislative issues. I was excited to get it. My mom had been very politically active in my youth, and I had been working on campaigns since I was about 8. That first job taught me a lot that I didn't know about the political process -- and a lot that I wished I didn't know! I worked on campaigns where there were literally grocery bags of "walking around money," undocumented contributions that we made to the African American churches in Washington DC in order to get the pastors to espouse our position on ballot initiatives to their congregations. Our largest clients were major corporations, including Philip Morris and Anheuser-Busch.

(PRESIDENT continued on page 2)



Our booth at the Fiesta Hermosa was very active this Presidential election year!

Visit our Website at beachcitiesdems.org

(PRESIDENT continued from page 1)

After three years of that, moving to traditional advertising actually seemed morally superior to remaining in politics!

For the next two decades I confined my political engagement to reading up on the candidates and issues, making occasional campaign contributions, and always voting. It wasn't until the 2008 election that I was so utterly disgusted with eight years of ruinous Bush policies that I decided I had to do more for my country's sake. I decided to travel back to Virginia to help Obama get out the vote in a poor, redneck area called Northern Neck where my grandmother still lived. As I drove in that weekend I was greeted by a huge "McCain Country" sign at the city limits. It turned out that I was one of only three volunteers for the Obama campaign in that region, and that someone was sending robocalls to the local Democrats giving them a false message that their polling place had changed (to a nonexistent location). For four days I trudged along two lane rural highways and Section 8 apartment complexes, telling every Democrat where their true polling place was, and reminding them to bring multiple forms of ID to overcome likely challenges at the voting booth.

I didn't think that there was any chance that we would win that district. I just hoped to protect those voters and to narrow the popular vote statewide. Imagine my enormous surprise when we learned, after the election, that we had won that district -- by 26 votes!! I was over the moon!! I knew without a doubt that I had actually made a difference, and suddenly I owned a little piece of Obama's historic victory in Virginia that night.

Since then my enthusiasm for political involvement has continued to grow. I have met wonderful, inspirational electeds, people like Ted Lieu, Al Muratsuchi, Betsy Butler and John Chiang. I've seen a shift in our local

school boards and city councils here in the South Bay -- they've become more responsive, transparent, and progressive. I have no doubt anymore that a single person can make a difference in getting better leadership and policies in place. Sadly, this year has brought home to me how many of my fellow Americans doubt just that.

One positive aspect of this unbelievable, crazy presidential election year has been the large number of disenchanting, disengaged non voters who are suddenly registering and getting involved in politics for the first time in a long time. We hear both Trump and Sanders supporters who feel the political establishment is made up of corporate sellouts who don't care about their constituents, but only money and power. They've lost trust in the system. They feel angry and marginalized. I don't agree with Trump supporters on many policy specifics, but I do understand their frustration, their feeling of being taken for granted, overlooked and left behind.

We have an opportunity via the Beach Cities Democrats to bring a sense of

empowerment to our fellow citizens of Southern California. We can bring our family, friends and neighbors with us to table, to meet their electeds in person, to get out and canvass for what they believe in. I am hoping and praying that many of the Sanders supporters who are feeling very bitter right now will find a way to turn his historic run into momentum on the issues that matter to them most. Let's do everything that we can to help our progressive brothers and sisters understand the real possibility of that, and to show them how to do it.

THANK YOU, Beach Cities Democrats, for all that you have given me! I've enjoyed my opportunity to be of service enormously. I'm proud of our growth and our outreach efforts. And I greatly look forward to my upcoming "Past President" role on the eBoard, which I view as being kind of like grandparenting -- all the fun and none of the responsibilities (wink!)

Yours always,
Kathryn Campbell
President (for a few more days),
Beach Cities Democrats

MAY RECAP

Courtesy of Secretary Thomas Kelleher

President Kathryn Campbell welcomed everyone. She mentioned how excited she was about the Nominating Committee's proposed slate for next year's officers: Bobbi Buescher (for President), Dency Nelson (VP), Edna Murphy (Treasurer) and Thomas Kelleher (Secretary). The election of new officers will take place at our June meeting.

Officer Reports

Vice President Dency Nelson talked about the June 7th election primary. He mentioned the importance of [Al Muratsuchi](#)'s election and Measure S specifically. A higher voter turnout, he believes, will ensure that democratic values are better represented.

Treasurer Edna Murphy presented the Treasurer's Report.

Minutes from April's meeting, taken by **Thomas Kelleher**, were approved unanimously.

Reports from Local Electeds

Joey Apodaca, field representative for [Ted Lieu](#), came up to speak about Lieu's activity in Congress. Rep. Lieu introduced a new cybersecurity bill that would prevent digital back doors for spying. On the topic of modified hydrofluoric acid, Lieu wrote a list of concerns he had for the study which was being done on the topic. Joey also mentioned the level of intransigence has not abated in Congress. He used the example of a recent bill that would have prevented LGBT discrimination, which actually passed on votes, but Speaker

(MAY RECAP continued on page 3)



Our guest speakers at the May BCD meeting: Alexandra Weyman, Eli Quinoñes, Jesus Jimenez, Maria Jimenez, and Willie Sanchez, from the UNITE HERE Local 11 union, who spoke on efforts to unionize hotels and increase benefits to hotel and restaurant workers in Southern California.

(MAY RECAP continued from page 2)

Paul Ryan prevented from passing by refusing to bang his gavel until after persuading several Republicans to change their votes.

Update on [Al Muratsuchi](#) Campaign

Marc Sussman, from Muratsuchi's campaign, talked about mailers that were going out through a PAC on behalf of David Hadley. He encouraged Beach Cities Democrats to come to Muratsuchi's office to phone bank.

Special Presentation by [UNITE HERE! Local 11](#) on the impact of unions on hotel workers here in SoCal.

Alexandra Weyman, from the union UNITE HERE Local 11, talked about the value of collective bargaining for hotel workers. She discussed union hotels in the area, the only one of which is in the Beach Cities is the Manhattan Beach Marriott. William Sanchez shared his story about working with and without the benefits of being in a union. He used to work as a cook at the Sheraton Gateway – which did not have union benefits, but in 2005 there was a drive to unionize a number of hotels on Century Blvd including the Sheraton. The

benefits and rights gained from being in a union include paid breaks, leave, job security, affordable health care, and most importantly respect. People can go to [fairhotel.org](#) to see which hotels are and are not unionized. We also heard from another worker who had been employed at the Crowne Plaza on Century Boulevard for 30 years. He was recently fired on trumped up and completely unsubstantiated charges, in all likelihood because he was helping to organize the workers there. The Crowne Plaza in Redondo Beach is managed by the same company and HR department. You may wish to reconsider patronizing them!

New Business and Announcements

President Kathryn Campbell discussed a **robocall** to local Democrats which would advise them on what candidates to vote for on June 7th. A *motion was made and passed* unanimously to support the reminder call, which would only cost about \$150.

A *motion was made and passed* to adjourn.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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