

Next Meeting

Wednesday, April 26
7:00 PM

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



We have been busy attending meetings to learn more about how we can make a difference. There are so many energized groups doing good work RE-SISTING. We will be talking about those and how together we can move forward to help turn red House Districts BLUE in 2018.

Until then, here are some items for your TO DO list:

1. Sign up for "Daily Action" at <https://dailyaction.org/> - make civic engagement easy with a single recommended action every day, connecting you to your legislators.
2. Sign up for "ResistBot" by texting "Resist" to 50409. They'll fax a formatted letter with your message to your federal legislators. You enter the message—they'll deliver it.
3. Join a group and get involved:

"Victory Starts Today." Contact Ellen Bridle at Ellenb@wladems.org

Swing SoCal Left. Contact Wayne Mogilefsky at mogilefsky@gmail.com

Indivisible South Bay LA. Contact Rich Noyola at Noyolarich@gmail.com

Support our local and national newspapers.

Attend Congressman Ted Lieu's Town Hall on Monday, April 24, 7:00PM, at the Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center, 1935 Manhattan Beach Blvd., Redondo Beach 90278. >

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Saturday, April 22 is Earth Day. A day when we should stop to thank Mother Nature for the beauty and bounty of this wondrous planet that we are so blessed to inhabit.



For most of the history of earth, people lived in harmony with nature, learning to feed, shelter and clothe themselves with her gifts of fruit from the trees, fresh air, sparkling water and ample supplies of fish and game. They worshiped the gods of the sun and the wind and respected the natural order.

Then came the Industrial Revolution and the advent of machinery. Factories were churning out goods for the consumption of a new age. Oil, gas and coal were burned to keep the money rolling into the coffers of the corporations and to build the economy that produced the great American middle class. People had better lives and became prosperous but at what cost? We were polluting the air, dumping chemicals into the oceans and lakes, chopping down the forests, killing off entire populations of flora and fauna. Yet no one, government, industry or media paid any attention.

Stirred by inaction, in 1970 Gaylord Nelson, a United States Senator from Wisconsin, helped steer a new course of environmental activism by starting the First Earth Day, after seeing the devastation in 1969 of the massive oil spill in

After you do all these wonderful things... reward yourself and enjoy this beautiful Spring.

See you on the 26th and bring a friend!

Bobbi Buescher

Santa Barbara. Twenty thousand people attended, as he had tapped into the enthusiasm of civic demonstrations that were at their height during the Viet Nam War.

The grassroots activism paid off when President Nixon signed the Clean Air Act and established the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

In 1970 protecting our planet had bipartisan support.

President Jimmy Carter put solar panels on the White House. Reagan took them down and slashed funding for regulators, which started the GOP on its alternative facts agenda denying science and taking huge sums of money from the fossil fuel industry, which originally supported both parties, then switched to largely funding Republican candidates.

Scientists have been telling us for decades that the earth is choking, coral is dying as the seas are rising and the bees are disappearing. 97% of scientists agree the earth is warming. But the fuel funded deniers continue to distort and deny climate change, fearing a primary challenge to their position financed by the oil barons. *(Continued on Page 2)*



Speaker Jonathan Zavaleta with President Bobbi Buescher

(President, continued from page 1)

Last year President Obama led the way to the Paris Climate Agreement, where 195 countries agreed to curb greenhouse gas emissions. This year Trump wants to withdraw from the accord.

It seems unthinkable that the United States would reject science and the health and welfare of the world. It's nothing less than the second coming of the Dark Ages 2017. Fox's faux news has been lying to its audience for years to the point that 53% of them believe global warming is a hoax. Their distortions are meant to confuse their audience. A recent study found that the more often people watched Fox News the less accepting they were of global warming. That really is the height of our post fact politics.

But, I want to thank the people who have been working for almost half a century to preserve our home, Planet Earth. The leaders, the scientists, the activists and our great state. California has been a global leader passing greenhouse gas emissions standards, cap and trade, committing to get half of our electricity from renewable sources by 2030 and cutting emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels. Governor Brown has been a champion both in the 1970s and now by standing up to protect our health

and environment. In this new era he pledges to be even more vigilant.

We all must commit to being vigilant in our rejection of the Trump, Tillerson, Pruitt agenda of unraveling fifty years of environmental progress to line the pockets of the fuel industry few.

We can start by attending an Earth Day Event.

Manhattan Beach will celebrate their 25th Anniversary of Earth Day including our own Environmental Icon named Nelson....Dency Nelson, who celebrated the first Earth Day in college and hasn't stopped working for Mother Nature since. We all know his enthusiasm, dedication and tireless efforts to "green" our world. He will be there with his beloved electric car in Polliwog Park on Saturday, April 22, 11AM—4PM.

Marching for Science on Saturday, April 22, Pershing Square, 9AM—4PM. 532 S. Olive St., LA 90013.

Then, it's the Peoples Climate March, Saturday, April 29 in Wilmington, from 11:00AM to 4:00PM, from Banning Park to the Tesoro Refinery, 1331 Eubank Avenue, LA 90744,

Thank you Mother Nature. We will be there for you.

*Bobbi Buescher, President
Beach Cities Democrats*

State Account

Beginning Balance	1,350.00
Money In	0
Money Out	0
Ending Balance	1,350.00

Expenses from the Federal account included \$171.00 to our accountant, and \$200 each to Bobbi and Dency for party supplies, although the costs of our party exceeded that amount.

Next we heard from Ted Lieu's Field Representative Joey Apodaca on how to survive in Trump's America. He said that Rep. Lieu was to be on HBO's Real Time with Bill Maher on March 24th. Congressman Lieu is currently serving on these Congressional Committees: House committee on the Judiciary, including Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property and the Internet; Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations; and House Committee on Foreign Affairs, including the Subcommittee on Middle East and North Africa. Apodaca said that cyber security is among the most important issues in our country. As one of only four computer science majors currently serving in Congress, Ted is frequently sought out for his insight on technology and innovation matters including cybersecurity, cloud computing and innovation as well as the sharing economy.

Ted is a former active duty officer in the US Air Force and currently serves as a Colonel in the Reserves. While in the Air Force, he was involved in a major mission to airlift Kurds to safety when Saddam Hussein was preparing to kill them.

Regarding the Trump budget, Rep. Lieu says it is disastrous and dangerous; It puts our troops at risk; cuts Pell Grants for education; and slashes federal affordable housing. The Affordable Care Act could be cut any time; and California could be hit with \$6Billion in new taxes to make up for the loss of federal health care funding. [Ed. Note: *The Trump Administration's efforts to destroy ACA subsequently failed.*]

Another important piece of legislation is the No Money Bail act of 2016, which

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March Recap

This report compiled with notes courtesy of Carolyn Waters

After welcoming the attendees, President Bobbi Buescher asked new visitors to introduce themselves. In attendance was Lee Fink, who recently served in the Obama Administration as White House Liaison to NASA and later in the Department of Agriculture. Lee is a former president of the Beach Cities Democrats. He reported that already, in the first weeks of the new Administration, farm subsidies and other agricultural programs have been slashed.

Officer Reports

President Bobbi said that many groups have been formed to counteract the craziness in the current Administration.

The first meeting of Victory Starts Today was held on the previous Monday. That group's goal is to turn red and purple districts to blue. Without waiting for election season, we can recruit voters now.

Vice-President Dency Nelson reported that we have a surge in new members, with over fifty new people signing up. Our number is 202 and growing.

He presented the Treasurer's report for February, since Treasurer Edna Murphy was away:

Federal Account

Beginning Balance	5,295.00
Money In	50.00
Money Out	571.00
Ending Balance	4,774.00

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the ACLU supports.

More than 2.3 million people are incarcerated in America, of whom 450,000 individuals have never been convicted of a crime and are often detained because they cannot afford to pay bail. America's current money bail system rejects the principle of innocent until proven guilty. Many people decide to plead guilty purely to get out of jail because they cannot afford bail. Throughout the nation, those with money can buy their freedom while poor defendants stay behind bars awaiting trial. Congressman Lieu's "No Money Bail Act" ends the money bail system because America should not be a country where freedom is based on income.

In foreign relations, Rep. Lieu is concerned about the 7 million people in Yemen who are in urgent need of food assistance. It is important to secure a key seaport to deliver assistance; Representative John Conyers stands with Ted. Regarding the Russia connection, Paul Manafort, a campaign manager for Donald Trump, received \$10M a year from a Russian oligarch in helping to destabilize democracy in former Russian satellite countries.

Apodaca said that calls are coming into Lieu's office from all over the country. It is important to talk to Republicans about what Democrats stand for: student loans, health care, the successes of the Obama Administration. It's not enough to just criticize Trump's actions and his budget. We need to get Republicans to call upon representatives in their districts.

We heard next from Andrew de Block, Al Muratsuchi's Field Representative. He reported that \$3M has been allocated for education on Japanese-American internment in a move that was passed with bipartisan support. Assembly Bill (AB) 491 establishes grants to the State Library and passed the Assembly Education Committee on a unanimous vote of 7-0.

He also said that Al's Assembly Bill 1645 is crucial because it would ban the use of Modified Hydrofluoric Acid at the

Torrance Refinery by 2020. Other pending legislation emphasizes Air Quality and Environmental Safety.

Redondo Beach City Councilman Christian Horvath spoke next. He talked about the North Redondo renovation including the South Bay Galleria. Regarding the waterfront, there was as yet no new information on Measure C, which passed in the recent election.

He talked about Community Choice Aggregation, which allows local governments including counties and cities to purchase electricity in the wholesale market and sell it to residents and businesses at competitive rates. This would be an alternative to electricity purchased by Southern California Edison.

Next, Horvath discussed Municipal Broadband. The South Bay Council of Governments (SBCG) is completing a study on how to deliver broadband to communities; it is viewed as the next major utility, and customers should not have to rely on the available sources, Frontier and Spectrum. The city of Santa Monica has already implemented Municipal Broadband.

He said that the State of California has insufficient funds to fix our roads, which affects us and the cars we drive. He suggested we write letters to our Representatives urging support.

Horvath thanked those who showed up for the Torrance Refinery Action Alliance (TFAA), to demonstrate for eliminating the use hydrofluoric acid. He also said that John Gran, who was endorsed by BCD, is now sitting on the Redondo Beach City Council.

Our featured speaker, Jonathan Zavaleta, spoke about California Clean Money, the California DISCLOSE Act, AB 14. Jonathan is an organizer in the 15-year campaign to take unaccountable money out of California politics. It arose from the disastrous Citizens United legislation, which limits disclosure. AB14 would require any advertising campaign to display the top three funders of \$50,000 or more. The disclosure would need to appear clearly in any television ad; it also applies to billboards, print mail-



Andrew DeBlock speaks with members after the meeting

ers, and newspapers. A similar bill was passed in 2010, but vetoed by Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Jonathan circulated a petition in support of AB14, and President Bobbi asked of the membership if there was a motion to endorse the bill. The motion was made and passed unanimously. In addition, we

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IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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Democrats
Beach Cities

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moved unanimously to contribute \$100 to the campaign.

Bobbi then reported on the recent meeting of Victory Starts Today. There are seven Congressional Districts to focus on converting to Blue; five are in our area. Two key districts are 25, in the Valley, and 49, Darrel Issa's seat. VST is also mobilizing to travel to other states, including Virginia. Ellen Bridle, who spoke at last month's meeting, is already in contact with people in that state to join forces. Democrats need to retake 23 seats to turn the House Democratic. We discussed what would be the best focus for BCD; and it was decided that District 49, Darrel Issa's seat, was a good target, since the coastal area has much in common with us.

A useful website is Swingleft.org, which provides weekly notices of things you can do in your area, according to the zip code of the Congressperson you are targeting. Darrel Issa's zip code is 90249, and Dana Rohrabacher's is 92656.

Tony Hale reported from County Committee, and said that the Committee is opposed to these bills: HR400, the Stop Dangerous Sanctuary Cities Act; HR610, Educational Vouchers and no school lunches; and HR998, Searching for and Cutting Regulations that are Unnecessarily Burdensome (SCRUB). The Committee supports AB20, Public Employee Retirement Systems: Divestment from the Dakota Access Pipeline; and AB84, Presidential Primary Elections, to move the date of the CA primary election to a date earlier in the year. The latter vote was postponed.

Announcements

Saturday, April 22, from 11:00AM to 4:00PM, in Manhattan Beach's Polliwog Park, is the "25th Anniversary of Manhattan Beach's Earth Day Celebration and Concert." Dency will be there along with many others with their plug-in electric vehicles on the grass at the "Plug In America" booth. It will be a full day with a full park featuring environmentally friendly food, activities, and ideas, as well as music and

Environmental Hero Awards.

BCD officer elections are coming soon. Bobbi asked the members to consider joining the Slate Committee to nominate officers for the 2017 - 2018 fiscal year. We would like to name 3 to 5 people at our April meeting. Elections will be held at the May meeting, and new terms begin in June.

Fiesta Hermosa is coming up on May 29, Memorial Day weekend. Ray Waters has submitted our request for booth space in the Free Speech area. We are hoping many members will join in and staff the booth. It's always fun to be with our Democratic friends and share information about our club, as well as signing up new Democratic voters.



We received a message from BCD member and former President Diane Wallace, our endorsed candidate for the Manhattan Beach City Council. Although Diane did not win, she wrote: "On my behalf, please thank the Club for their support. Really Grateful!"