

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Beach Cities Democrats will be on

Wednesday

June 28, at 7:00 PM, Hermosa Beach Community Center, 710 Pier Ave., Room 4, Hermosa Beach 90254

Our agenda is not fully set as of yet, but we will be conducting the election for our club officers for the coming year. According to our By-Laws: "Every member present at the June meeting who has paid his or her dues at least 30 days prior to the meeting, or at the previous regular meeting, or a renewing member, may vote for officers."

This is a very important election as these officers will lead us into the 2018 election cycle, where we will be working to turn the U.S. House of Representatives...BLUE.

Our fiscal year ends in June and starts in July. As such, dues for the 2017/18 year are due and payable now. You may bring a check to the meeting or pay on line through our web site at www.beachcitiesdems.org.

Dency and Moira Nelson will be hosting a fund raiser for State Senator Ben Allen at their beautiful and sustainable home on June 25, from 4-6 PM. For more information and to RSVP go to ckegeyan80@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing everyone on June 28.

In front of our Fiesta Hermosa booth: Hermosa Beach Mayor Hany Fangary, Connie Sullivan, State Senator Ben Allen, Vice-President Dency Nelson, President Bobbi Buescher, and an unidentified visitor. Photo courtesy of Bobbi Buescher with enhancements by Jim McGreevy.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The hate unleashed on our country by Trump and his alt right collaborators during the primary and general elections and since he has inhabited the White House, has taken a toll on the nerves and psyche of most Americans.

The constant demeaning rhetoric and boorish bluster of the "tweeter in chief" is a disgrace to our nation as he includes our allies in his insults, only leaving the Russians free from his ire.

When he started down his low road campaign of insulting everyone from President Obama to Mexicans, Muslims and Pope Francis, and uplifting David Duke, white supremacists and Breitbart, he opened Pandora's box to the haters in this country. Where they were lurking in the dark reaches of the Internet before, it was suddenly okay to spew their evil and



divisive rhetoric, elevating it into the mainstream.

Throughout the campaign he encouraged his followers by his crass words and deeds. Sadly, the worse he acted the more they liked him. As he said, he could stand on Fifth Avenue and shoot someone and they wouldn't care.

Unfortunately, words do have consequences. It was inevitable that real violence was just one misguided person away from tragedy. It happened as these always things do, at the most unlikely of events, a baseball game.

Thank God, none of the victims was killed but four people including a Congressman were shot and wounded. This is the terrible outcome of over the top trash talk and something that was completely avoidable. For the sake of our country, we all hope this "us versus them" mentality will be dialed down.

To their credit, so far Congressional leaders are calling for calm and saying they will try to be kinder to each other and work together.

(Continued on page 2)



(President, continued from page 1)

I hope the first thing they work toward is gun control, although I have not heard anyone talk about it. This is not the first time one of their colleagues has been the victim of gun violence. Congresswoman Gabby Giffords was shot during a Town Hall meeting in her District in 2011.

With over 85% of the population wanting gun control after numerous attacks at multiple locations over many bloody years, Congress has failed to act. They always fall back on the same old argument about the Second Amendment, but we all know the real reason is their fear of the NRA, loss of their campaign funding and possible challenges from their right.

This time they should do some real soul searching. Stop saying "guns don't kill people, people kill people." If they truly believe that then they should fund better access to mental health programs so that people who need treatment can get it.

Will this shooting be the catalyst for sane action or just the latest in a long string of empty words, hand wringing and business as usual?

As I write this column I am in New York City where the National September 11 Memorial is dedicated to the nearly 3000 people who fell victim to hate from outside our country.

We must stop the hate from within and change the tone of our political speech and it must start at the top.

*Bobbi Buescher, President
Beach Cities Democrats*

May Recap

This report compiled with the help of minutes provided by Acting Secretary Ryley Simcox

President Bobbi Buescher opened the meeting asking if there were any new people present, and three new members introduced themselves. Bobbi also reminded us about the many opportunities to become involved, including Swing SoCal Left.

Vice-President Dency Nelson then reported that there is now a Democratic majority in the Hermosa Beach City Council. There are now more electric



Our May speakers included Redondo Beach City Councilman Christian Horvath (l), and, from Senator Ben Allen's office, Sam Liu, speaking about the Healthy California Act.

charging stations, and the Council has approved purchase of four additional Nissan Leaf automobiles for the fleet. He reminded us that Hermosa Beach has been strong on environmental issues, including the March, 2015, defeat of oil drilling 80-20 with 60% voter turnout in the Keep Hermosa Hermosa campaign.

Treasurer Edna Murphy presented the Treasurer's report:

Federal Account	
Beginning Balance	\$4,922.00
Money In	0
Money Out	283.00
Ending Balance	\$4,639.00

State Account	
Beginning Balance	\$1,335.00
Money In	0
Money Out	0
Ending Balance	\$1,335.00

Reports From Elected Officials

Redondo Beach City Councilman Christian Horvath then spoke about Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). This legislation, authorized in California under AB 117 and SB 790, allows local governments including counties and cities to purchase electricity in the wholesale power market and sell it to their residents and businesses at competitive rates, and is an alternative to purchasing it from Southern California Edison. SCE would continue to deliver electricity and maintain infrastructure.

CCA provides additional benefits: It can lower rates and offer clean energy

alternatives; create quality jobs; and meet or exceed Climate Action Plan goals.

A Joint Powers Authority allows for multiple cities to participate, and shields member cities from liability and debts taken on by CCA. For more information or to attend Task Force meetings, contact cca@isd.lacounty.gov or <http://green.lacounty.gov>.

The Council is also looking at Municipal Broadband, to provide local control now that Net Neutrality is going away.

Horvath also said a new Councilman has recently been elected, Nils Nehrenheim, whose term was to begin June 6.

From the Convention

Several people including Lee, Tony, Bobbi, and Dency, reported on the State Convention in Sacramento. The top contestants for State Democratic Party Chair were Eric Bauman and Kimberly Ellis, and Bauman won by a very narrow margin of 62 votes. Kimberly Ellis comes from the wing of the Party affiliated with Bernie Sanders, some of whom have never accepted Hillary Clinton's victory in the primary, and who believe the party is not progressive enough. Lee described Eric Bauman (paraphrasing) as an "overbearing, abrasive, difficult person who is the best organizer in the country." Bauman has spoken at our meetings and received our endorsement.

Tony explained how the vote works. Delegates are registered and signed in; ballots are designated for them which must be signed for, then placed in the

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

ballot box with a signature. There are no secret ballots, just as with the US Congress. At the Convention, ballots are automatically counted twice, and Ellis's team were allowed to view and compare signatures to verify their accuracy.

The key difference between Bauman and Ellis, according to Bobbi and Tony, is money in politics. In local elections, the sad reality is that it is nearly impossible to get enough "small donations" to fund a campaign.

Featured Speaker

Our featured speaker was Sam Liu from Senator Ben Allen's office. He spoke about **SB 562**, the Healthy California Act. Liu described an incident when he traveled to Taiwan with Senator Allen and Al Muratsuchi. He became ill, and then received immediate, excellent medical care, free of charge. Taiwan has single-payer health care. No one, he said, should be uninsured, and contrary to myth, single-payer centralizes only who is paying, not who delivers the care.

Legislation is pending in California; it has already passed through the Assembly and is currently stalled in Appropriations. There is only a slim chance that Governor Brown will sign the bill, as it has strong opposition from the health insurance industry. The goal is to eliminate profit; we already fund 75% of public health care through MediCal and MediCare.

BCD members moved to endorse SB 562.

Liu also mentioned other legislation Senator Allen is working on:

SB 79 - Electric Vehicle Incentives. This bill incentivizes the purchase of zero emission vehicles, particularly in disadvantaged communities, by eliminating the sales tax on used plug-in electric vehicles for buyers trading in older used cars. Currently in Appropriations.

SB 651 - Petition Disclose Act. This bill would require that petitions circulated by a paid circulator include a disclosure of the persons from whom the committee

received the five largest cumulative contributions of \$10,000 or more in support of the measure, along with the name of their employer if two or more of these contributors have the same employer. Currently in Assembly Rules Committee.

SB 705 - The Ocean Pollution Reduction Act. This bill prohibits food providers from dispensing food in a disposable container that is not recyclable or compostable (e.g., polystyrene) in the local municipality. In Senate Appropriations.

Announcements

The BCD Slate Committee, consisting of Moira Zucker, Tony Hale, and Ryley Simcox, presented their nominations for BCD officers for the coming Fiscal Year: President, Bobbi Buescher; Vice-President, Dency Nelson; Treasurer, Edna Murphy; and Secretary, Ryley Simcox. The members voted unanimously to accept the nominations.

Bobbi then called for additional volunteers to staff the BCD booth at the upcoming Fiesta Hermosa. We will be handing out cards that list the activist groups (Swing SoCal Left, Indivisible, Victory Starts Today); and contact information for our local and federal Democratic officials, along with the LA and State Democratic Party.

Bobbi reminded us that the LA County Committee meetings are open to the public; visit lacd.org for more information. It was announced that the monthly 66th ADDC breakfast would be held at Rudy's in Torrance on the fourth Sunday of the month, as usual.

In closing, it was suggested that we visit the new Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument (VJAMM) which sits on the northwest corner of Venice and Lincoln Boulevards. The 9' 6" tall solid black granite obelisk marks the spot where some 1,000 persons of Japanese ancestry from Venice, Santa Monica, and Malibu lined up in April, 1942, with only the possessions they could carry. Buses transported them directly to internment camps at Manzanar.

For More Information Visit:

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 916-442-5707

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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
