

Beach Cities Democratic Club



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

January, 2007

Next Meeting

Tuesday, January 23, 7:30PM
David K. Hayward Center
2000 Artesia Boulevard
Redondo Beach

IRAQ



This month's program will feature Jeff Duclos speaking about his trip to Iraq last fall. He went there with actor Chuck Norris and the USO. Pictured above is Jeff (l) with Mr. Norris (center).

Jeff will present a slide show and a short video about what's going on in-country.

We will also be considering endorsements in the Redondo and Manhattan Beach elections.

Renew

This issue of the newsletter is being sent in printed form to all members, even those who normally receive it electronically via the club website.

If the mailing label on your newsletter has "05" on the first line, your dues have been in arrears since July, 2006.

Please send in your dues for the 2006-2007 membership year with the membership form on page 4 to stay current. BCDC will not mail any subsequent issues to lapsed members.

Holiday Celebration

BCDC members gathered for our yearly holiday festivities at the beautiful Redondo Beach home of Dale and Don Petrulis. In surroundings brightly decked out by Diane Strack, we enjoyed our traditional turkey dinner followed by a cake celebrating our election victory in November.

At the White Donkey auction, Lee Fink served as the lively auctioneer and raked in generous bids from the

attendees.

Several members announced their plans to run for office:

- ♦ Dale Petrulis and Arlene Staich for Redondo Beach School Board;
- ♦ Jeff DuClos for Redondo Beach City Council;
- ♦ Bob Bohner for Manhattan Beach City Council.
- ♦ Dilip Adarkar is considering a run for El Camino Board of Directors.



From the President

The Road Out of Iraq



The night before I wrote this column, the President spoke to the nation about the War in Iraq. It was a surreal event—a terribly unpopular President urging the American people to not only support continuing to fight a war which they had clearly and overwhelmingly voted against, but to actually escalate the fighting, rather than bringing the troops home. The 2006 Congressional election resulted in the largest national election victory (and only clear electoral mandate) since Bill Clinton won re-election by a landslide in 1996. Yet Bush has managed to completely ignore the will of the voters.

The Democratic Congress must oppose these efforts. The Democrats in Congress are universally opposed to this, and 70% of the American people are firmly with them. They need to be clear and unambiguous. At the same time, we will have to be patient with our leaders in Congress. While too many of them were too timid in opposing this ill-fated misadventure in the run-up to war in 2002 and 2003, even as the new majority party in Congress, Democrats will be limited in our ability to stop the President. Congress can pass legislation requiring the President to redeploy the troops, but even if it were to withstand the constitutional muster of separation of powers, it would surely be vetoed, and our

majority in both houses is still too thin to override a veto on that measure. Similarly, legislation could be passed denying funding for the Bush/McCain Escalation, but it would likely be subject to a veto and not overridden. Additionally, while a number of Republicans are starting to come around, others in the Senate are threatening to filibuster our efforts.

While it is clear that Bush will not listen to the American public, we must continue to build our case that the Bush/McCain Escalation is what Republican Chuck Hagel has called “the most dangerous foreign policy blunder carried out since Vietnam.” We will have to build and keep public opinion strong enough that Republicans realize that continuing to support this folly will end their political careers, and banish their party to a permanent minority. This will take time, effort, and patience on our part. We must expect our members of Congress to be aggressive—to hold oversight hearings, to speak out forcefully for their beliefs, and to put forward legislation that can pass which reigns in the administration, and do the best that they can to end this senseless war. We must help them: by supporting them when they are strong, prodding them when they are not, but also by understanding that Congress cannot end the war on its own. Our success in 2006 has only gotten us halfway—and despite the best efforts of our leaders in Congress, it may not be until we elect a Democratic Commander-in-Chief that we can finally get American troops out of Iraq.

And if that’s what it takes—let’s elect a Democratic President in 2008!

Lee Fink

November Recap

Sweet Victory

Democrats this month celebrated our great victories in the November election, sending our own Senator Debra Bowen to the California Secretary of State’s office, taking back the majority in the US Senate, and making Nancy Pelosi the first woman Speaker of the House of Representatives in American history.

With the election behind us, we took some time to put this election in light from an academic perspective. PJ Gagejena, an adjunct political science professor at El Camino College and a local Democratic activist, shared some of the ideas and numbers that he has presented to his class. The most striking thing about the election was the overwhelming way in which the Democrats won throughout all the demographic groups. Democrats increased their share of the women vote by 7%, the Asian vote by 9%, and the Latino vote by 30% nationwide. Even more impressively, Democrats won a majority of the male vote, increasing their vote share by 7%.

The 2006 Election was another big success for women in America. In addition to Speaker Pelosi, there is now a record high 16 women in the Senate. PJ discussed some of the causes. The Abramoff and Foley scandals played a big part. And the war was critical, and led to Rumsfeld’s resignation the next day.

Ray Waters reported that the County Committee is considering increasing the Club chartering fee to \$100 from \$30. Also announced was that the 53rd AD would hold its biannual caucus on January 13, 2007 to elect delegates to the state convention.

Tony Hale reported from the Democratic Action Center. He mentioned the success of students who participated in the election from Mira Costa, Redondo Union, and San Pedro High Schools. Students at Mira Costa

There can be no doubt that the Constitution gives Congress the authority to decide whether to fund military action. And Congress can demand a justification from the President for such action before it appropriates the funds to carry it out.

January 9, 2007, New York Times blog

Senator Edward Kennedy: [‘George Bush’s Vietnam’](#)

and Redondo will be forming Democratic clubs, which we should support and foster. Overall, the DAC made more than 8000 calls, identified 1000 Democrats who were called on election day to get out to vote. Tony also reported from the Palos Verdes Democratic Club that he was re-elected President and Barbara Farren was re-elected Vice President.

Lee Fink

Environmental Update

Lillian Light reports that our beach cities are taking local action against global warming. Last November, Hermosa Beach Mayor Sam Edgerton signed on to a resolution endorsing the climate protection agreement—equivalent to the Kyoto Protocol—that the Beach Reporter described as follows: “The city will make energy efficiency a priority by ‘building code improvements,’ using ‘energy-efficient lighting’ in city facilities, increasing recycling rates, purchasing ‘Energy Star’ equipment and appliances, and promoting and adopting ‘green policies.’”

The Manhattan Beach City Council placed the issue on their January 16 agenda and members of several environmental groups were expected to attend the meeting.

Our federal government is taking action too: Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA) has introduced the Safe Climate Act (H.R. 5642) to limit US global warming emissions, and Senator Jim Jeffords (I-VT) has proposed the Global Warming Pollution Reduction Act (S. 3698) to cut emissions by 2% each year between 2010 and 2020.

Mrs. Light encourages people to contact their elected officials and ask them to cosponsor S. 3698 and H.R. 5642. You can send an email from the online UCS Action Center at www.ucsaction.org or call the Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121 and ask to be connected to your legislators’ offices.

Central Committee Members Elected

On Saturday, January 13, Democrats from the 53rd Assembly District met to select delegates for the California Democratic Party’s State Convention. The former AD committees have been replaced by the new 53rd Assembly District Democratic Congress as the organization to coordinate Democratic activities throughout the AD.

Held at the Joslyn Center in Manhattan Beach, the meeting was led by Mustapha Sesay with help from Jim Aldinger and Vi Mullins.

Participants elected 12 people (six women and six men) to be members of

the State Central Committee. These people will represent their Assembly Districts for both the 2007 and 2008 State Conventions.

Here are the new delegates:

Women

Edna Murphy, Mary Jack, Diane Strack, Marta Evry, Shirlee Browne, Stacy Toda.

Men

Tony Hale, Jim Aldinger, Lee Fink, Kelly Willis, Jim Kennedy, Marc Saltzburg.

Following the vote, members elected Jim Aldinger to serve as our representative on the Executive Board.

The 2007 Convention will be held in San Diego April 27-29.



Clockwise from upper left: Lee Fink, Jim Aldinger, Tony Hale, Dency Nelson and Vi Mullins, Bobbi Buescher and Peggy Carter. Lee, Jim, and Tony were elected on Saturday; Bobbi already serves on the committee.

POSTED FRIDAY, JAN. 5, 2007, ON SLATE
"Make no mistake about it, I understand how tough it is, sir. I talk to families who die?"—George W. Bush, speaking with reporters on facing the challenges of war, Washington, D.C., Dec. 7, 2006

President
Lee Fink—310-370-3020
Vice-President
Ray Waters—310-374-4744
Treasurer
Edna Murphy—310-545-6292
Secretary
Ani Hagazian—310-798-7903
Newsletter
Moira Zucker—310-546-7562
Database
Steve Zucker—310-546-7562
Mailing
Tammy Minion—310-406-8057
Web Manager
James McGreevy—310-320-1638

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

Beach Cities
Democratic Club



Beach Cities Democratic Club Membership Form



PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

I (we) understand that only registered Democrats, or those intending to register, may join the club.

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (Home) _____ (Other) _____

Email _____

Distribution of the club newsletter via e-mail saves money. Check this box if you would like to receive yours by e-mail.

I volunteer to:

Telephone Help with Mailing Hospitality Write for Newsletter

Register Voters Programs Legislative Membership Other _____

Annual dues are \$25.00 per person or \$40.00 for two at the same address.

Please make check payable to Beach Cities Democratic Club and mail to P.O. Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278.