

Beach Cities Democratic Club



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

August, 2008

Next Meeting, Convention Watch

Note New Time & Place!

Mr. Pockets Sports Bar
516 N Sepulveda Blvd
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
Thursday, August 28
6 to 9PM

We will meet upstairs in this friendly restaurant to enjoy the Convention on large-screen TV over snacks or dinner. Obama's acceptance speech will be the evening's feature. Come enjoy this well-deserved celebration with friends.



Fair Volunteers Needed

Once again this year, the 53rd Assembly District Democratic Congress will participate in registering voters at the LA County Fair in Pomona. The LA County Democratic Party annually hosts a booth at the Fair. This year, the booth will be open Wednesdays thru Sundays, September 5-28. Volunteers will register voters and inform the public about Democratic beliefs and values.

This year we have signed up for two days, Wednesday and Thursday, September 24 and 25. We learned last year that the first two shifts are best for us, as traffic in the late afternoon is impossible. We will have two shifts both days, 11AM-3PM and 3PM-7PM.

Please call or email me to volunteer: 310-545-0890, BobbiMB@aol.com.

DAC Finds a Home



Dear Democrats of the 53rd Assembly District & Its Environs:

Well, we did it! We have a new **Democratic Headquarters** in our area. A place to greet friends old and new. A place to work and meet and make phone calls to **Red States** from—**A Place to Call Home**.

On Saturday, August 16, we celebrate our new digs with Food, Fun and Fabulous Democratic Friends.

If you missed the party, you can still help us celebrate our new location, by volunteering or donating to our South Bay efforts to elect Barack Obama and our entire Democratic Slate.

- ♦ To volunteer: call 310-536-0093.
- ♦ Email: DemocraticActionCenter@gmail.com.
- ♦ To make a donation on line: www.democraticactioncenter.com.
- ♦ Mail to: Democratic Action Center, 1673 Cravens, Torrance, CA 90501.

Kudos to Jackie Decker for finding and facilitating our new home.

Bobbi Buescher

From the President



It seems that events keep piling up around us. The message of hope that Senator Obama has

expressed cannot be lost. The nastiness of the campaign is intended to discourage us. I keep in mind the advice of Aung San Suu Kyi to her followers when asked what they could do when everything was so hopeless. She said, "Help someone."

Compared to the problems facing the Burmese people, we have little to fear. Last month in Knoxville, in the face of a well armed gunman, the people in the Church stood up and rushed him.

We are faced with much less lethal a force in the short run. I fear if we do not stand up and meet the hatred of the right wing the consequences could be much worse than a gunman in a church. The saber rattling we hear from some could lead to another armed confrontation.

In the platform proposal of our Club we rejected preemptive war. I fear John McCain is too ready to use force.

We need to stand up, oppose him and work for peace and justice. Let us continue to "help someone."

In the meantime let's have a party on August 28.

Ray Waters

Seeking Fiesta Hermosa Booth Workers

We need volunteers to help work in our BCDC booth at the Labor Day Fiesta Hermosa. Contact Ray Waters or Toni Alario.

July Recap

Assemblyman Ted Lieu



We were honored to have Assemblyman Ted Lieu lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance this month. There were quite a few new visitors due to the fact that the meeting

had been well publicized, and many people were eager to give input to the Democratic Party platform.

Ted talked about three issues that concern him at the State level:

SB840—Single-payer health. The bill currently resides in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Lieu also talked about AB1150, which bans the insurance industry from removing a member after s/he files a claim. It also prohibits bonuses or rewards for terminating a policy when a claim has been filed. It was signed this month.

The environment—Lieu is working on a greenhouse gas reduction bill which would be accomplished by 2020. The bill also encourages green buildings. Current building design produces 40% of all greenhouse gases all the time. AB2030 would reduce emissions from buildings to 1990 levels.

The budget—There is a \$15B deficit. One plan would increase taxes and cut programs in equal amounts to achieve balance. Since we need 2/3 vote to get budgets passed, the question is how do we get the Republicans to cooperate?

Club Business

Marianne Tyler is the Democratic Woman of the Year, and it was approved to pay half of the ticket price for members wishing to attend the FDR dinner on August 3rd.

To fill our vice-president's office, Toni Alario was nominated and elected by acclamation.

Notes for this article Courtesy of Peggy Carter

Platform Issues

For the remainder of our meeting, the assembled members broke up into five Platform groups, each with a different focus. Here is an abridged summary of the conclusions. A full version will be available at our website.

Restoration of the Constitution

We reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the rule of law. We commit to holding to account any public servant or official who breaks the law; acts corruptly; administers justice with partisan prejudice or favor to special interests; violates the public trust; puts political expediency ahead of addressing and righting violations of law, the Constitution or public trust; or commits a high crime or misdemeanor.

We deplore that private companies, through Congress' recent revision of FISA, have been granted immunity from private lawsuit to provide to the government information on non-public conversations of American citizens they have monitored and collected.

We demand an end to the use of torture as that act is defined by the United Nations Convention Against Torture.

Environment and Energy

We pledge America's collective will, effort, and resources to meet Al Gore's challenge and transform how America generates and consumes energy so that, within 10 years, 100% of America's electricity needs are fulfilled through truly carbon-free renewable energy sources.

Economy, Markets, and Jobs

We support achievement of a sound, robust, environmentally-friendly economy through:

Readoption and enforcement of sensible financial market regulations and practices;

Reduction of the federal deficit, expansion of credit to underserved markets through adoption of practical consumer credit reform and reestablishment of sound credit mechanisms;

Prohibition of usurious interest rates, full disclosure of credit terms; encouragement of consumer saving;

Update of America's energy and transportation infrastructure;

Promotion of job growth and productivity by adopting higher performance technologies and producing goods consumers value more highly;

Regulation of market concentration to ensure no barriers to market entry or innovation exist.

Health Care

Every American must have quality, affordable healthcare. We believe America should adopt a universal, comprehensive and affordable national health care plan. We believe that no American should be denied healthcare due to pre-existing conditions, family history/genetics, and no policy rescinded due to unintended omissions or misrepresentations.

National and International Security

We call for America's public officials to diligently honor and adhere to international law, to aggressively pursue statesmanship and diplomacy, to parsimoniously resort to use of armed conflict, and to restore America's reputation as a lawful democratic power.

We encourage America's leaders to elevate the international policy discussion by increased focus on comprehensive and collaborative solutions that lead toward lasting, sustainable peace; and decreased focus on objects of fear.

We repudiate the waging of preventive wars; we covenant to skeptically and judiciously evaluate any recommendation that America wage a preemptive war.

(Continued on page 4)

Monroe's Ruminations Monroe Weinstock



I've come to a very personal conclusion....that these are no longer the times that try men's souls...these are actually the times that turn men's stomachs! One of my longtime heroes, George Carlin, died recently. I found him to have an extraordinary sense of humor. His attitude towards mankind & life in general was irreverently angry but eminently honest. He invariably called a spade a dirty shovel!

Also, I just finished reading a book by David Cay Johnston titled FREE LUNCH. If you read it, it will make

you squirm with irritation, annoyance & lots of anger. We've inherited a Democracy for ourselves & allowed it to be converted into a "Plutocracy!" We've allowed ourselves to become unthinking, domesticated peons, with a government that is being operated by self-seeking, money-grubbing, unethical thieves.

Lobbyists now control the levers of power in Washington, DC, as well as our state capitols. Laws have been enacted that favor ONLY those who are well-connected & wealthy. Our Justice Department is highly politicized & corrupted. Our economy is on the verge of financial collapse. Our votes are barely effective, with the usual choices between very bad or not-quite-so bad! George Carlin was correct in

saying that the real owners of our country are those who own the land, the money, the politicians, & especially the mass media. David Johnston proves that big business has managed to turn all the levers of government into a gigantic slush fund...doing it through lobbyists & illegal maneuverings.

It is not just the crisis created by the inept distorted conniving illegal actions of the current administration. It is a system that has been festering & growing by those who are compulsively allowing profits to blind us all to the risk of losing our ability to keep this fragile Democracy alive.

With Barack Obama to replace the demonstrably mindless George Dubya Bush....we have a shot at it!!!

From the Campaign Trail

By Lee Fink

For the twenty years I have been involved, California campaigns have been media driven. At the grass-roots, we know the importance of personal, door-to-door contact. But even when our local legislative campaigns organize strong volunteer operations, the focus is often on paid media. Statewide campaigns spend all of their time raising money and going on TV, with the grass-roots operation left to the volunteers to organize on their own, with a Labor GOTV effort in the last month.

So what would happen if a campaign focused on a field operation instead?

That has been the most striking thing for me to witness since arriving here in Colorado. The entire campaign effort is geared toward making the field operation work—political staff works to provide surrogates to office openings, policy staff creates events to recruit new volunteers, and communications staff generates talking points for the organizers. But mostly, the field

operation is built by organizers who started in May—before the primaries were settled—meeting one-on-one with individual volunteers. Meeting one-on-one with volunteers may at first seem a hopeless endeavor when trying to win a state where 2.5 million people will vote in November (much less 120 million nationwide). The theory is simple: recruit a cadre of volunteers who will be leaders in each of Colorado's 65 state house districts (each district has a population just slightly larger than Redondo Beach), who can recruit, train, and lead people once the crush of volunteers arrives.

But will it work? Over the weekend of August 9-10, we found out.

After announcing that preferred seating to Barack Obama's convention speech would be available to volunteers who completed two volunteer shifts, we witnessed a crush of volunteers. Literally thousands of people poured into the ten field offices throughout the state to knock on doors, register voters, and make phone calls. In just one week in August—nearly three months before election day—the campaign had spoken to

more people than the 99,523 whose votes we lost Colorado by in 2004, and thousands of more messages were left on answering machines and literature was dropped at homes of people who were not home.

Obviously, with the National Convention being held in Denver, and it being thrown open to the largest crowd in history, we have a bit of a leg up in Colorado. But the fundamental principle holds true. The field operation that is being built here—and in swing states all over the county—is going to be the key to winning this election more than the negative and stupid advertising being thrown at us by the other side.



Precinct Operations Training

Help us gear up the new Democratic Action Center. We kick off our precinct training on Saturday, August 23, 10:00 AM. We'll hand out precinct sheets and assignments and you can get started right away to help Take Back the White House!

President
Ray Waters—310-374-4744
Vice-President
Tom Alario—310-728-5890
Treasurer
Edna Murphy—310-545-6292
Secretary
Peggy Carter—310-372-5442
Membership
(open)
Newsletter
Moira Zuckner—310-546-7562
Moiraz@alummi.reed.edu
Database and mailing
Steve Zuckner—310-546-7562
Web Manager
James McGreevy—310-320-1638

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

*Beach Cities
Democratic Club*



(Platform, continued from page 2)

Public Education

We affirm our commitment to a strong public education system that prepares future generations for the 21st century. We insist that No Child Left Behind be transformed from legislation which compels teachers to constrict teaching toward passage of standardized English and Math tests to a policy which encourages teachers to prepare students to be well-rounded, critical-thinking adults able to compete with an increasingly educated world population....

We support authorization of that additional funding necessary to outfit students with the materials and equipment needed for learning, encourage and reward teacher excellence, promote teacher continuing education, and ready America's youth to compete in a global marketplace.

Media

The heart of a vital, progressive democracy is an informed citizenry.

We support a free, unfettered and diverse press, encouraging the growth of new media such as the Internet, while discouraging the trend toward media ownership consolidation that has led to concentration of message control, drastic reduction in new sources of information, and stifled competition in the "marketplace" of ideas.

Politics and campaign Finance

We must progress towards a way of conducting politics and campaigns which is less commercialized, exclusive, corrupt, and incompetent.

We support and call for implementation of clean money legislation at the local, state and federal levels. We encourage candidates to pledge to be fully accountable to the electorate for their campaign conduct as well as their service in public office, and will hold all public officers to account.

From the Torrance Democratic Club ...

A TASTE OF CHANGE



Come to our fund raiser for a rare opportunity to try exclusive wines imported from around the world!

Wines from Italy, South Africa, Australia, and Napa Valley will be introduced by world-renowned sommelier Jeremy Wilkinson. Each wine is expertly paired with delectable tapas by Carlos De Alba of Elegant Catering. Includes commemorative tasting glass.

Sunday, September 14th

Garden party 4-7PM

2800 Skypark Drive, Torrance

(South End Racquet Club)

\$50 per person

Contact Jill Gilligan: 310 529 4098