

# Beach Cities Democratic Club



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

January 2009

## Next Meeting

Tuesday, January 27, 7:30PM  
David K. Hayward Center  
2000 Artesia Boulevard  
Redondo Beach

Paul Arney from Jane Harman's office will be our speaker, followed by a presentation from Santa Monica Baykeeper. We will also be hearing from some candidates in the March 4 elections in Redondo and Manhattan Beach.

## Much to Celebrate

BCDC members enjoyed our annual holiday party at Ray and Carol Waters's beautiful Hermosa Beach home. As is our custom, we had a catered turkey-and-trimmings dinner, followed by the White Donkey auction presided over by the incomparable Lee Fink. There was no "elephant in the room," but there was plenty of celebration and happy anticipation of the soon-to-be Obama Administration we all worked so hard for.



Visit our Website at [lafn.org/politics/bcdc](http://lafn.org/politics/bcdc)

## From the President Ray Waters



We celebrate the change in Washington with the inauguration of President Barack Obama. Change is at hand, but there are perilous times ahead.

Finally we have a leader who has the sense to deal with the issues without wearing an ideological straight jacket. It is up to us to keep reminding the President and our Congressional leaders of the need to find reasonable solutions. Even as we see progress in the nation's Capitol, California is dealing

with an unprecedented financial crisis that is going to degrade our schools, institutions and infrastructure.

The state is facing an economic emergency. Democrats have proposed solutions that are being blocked by the 2/3rds rule required for budgets and tax measures. We must find a way to restore majority rule in our state. When are we going to get a measure on the ballot to repeal that unrealistic rule imposed in Proposition 13?

There are local elections at hand. Redondo Beach and Manhattan Beach have elections March 4. We will have recommendations for you.

Your participation in the political process is needed. Keep active and we can continue to say, "Yes, We can."

ate about the treatment of wild horses and horse slaughter; another pushed hard for better street light timing in Denver.

At one point, Lee was asked at short notice to organize and publicize a Seniors panel for Colorado Governor Bill Ritter. With only forty people signed up to attend, he went to work on the phones and plied his personal contacts, hoping for sixty to seventy attendees. By end of day, they had raised one hundred participants.

The campaign's goal was to get every single Denver resident to come out and vote: 110 thousand people turned out.

The high point: Lee was part of a group of nine greeters who personally met candidate Obama at a rally in the Civic Center Plaza.

Lee said that it took more than Barack Obama's charisma to get him elected; it also took his superb skills as an organizer.

Meredith Good worked as a field campaigner in Virginia from June to August. Chartered to build a volunteer structure, she ended up with 4,500 volunteers on the ground on Election Day.

On Labor Day, Meredith opened up an office at the University of Virginia, registering 4,000 students to vote. The school was competing with Virginia Tech, which had not previously allowed students to register on campus. (That's changed.) Her volunteers phoned and went door to door; neighbors talked to neighbors. They targeted unidentified, proven voters until October, then launched a three-week Get Out The Vote drive.

Most of Meredith's volunteers were under 25: "No one else could do it for the hours and the pay," she said.

They reached out to all voters, from faith-based groups in rural communities to urban constituencies. Their goal was to contact each potential voter five times or until they promised to vote. They identified "sporadic" Democrats,

## November Recap

Our program this month featured first-hand accounts from two local Democrats who worked on the Obama campaign.

Starting off, Irving Pacheco from Ted Lieu's office rose to thank the club for our support of Ted during his campaign.

Then we heard from our former president Lee Fink and from Meredith Good, daughter of Marcy Good from the Palos Verdes Democratic Club, both of whom were paid staffers for Barack Obama.

Lee's and Meredith's reports gave a vivid picture of what it's like to be in the center of a lively and successful presidential race.

### Reporting from the Campaign

Lee left his job in a law firm to work on the Colorado campaign for four and a half months. He said that on the day after the election, sometime after midnight, an email arrived from the state director to announce there was to be a conference call the next day. What a pleasant surprise it was to find the conference call presided over by "President-elect Obama."

Lee described the brilliant campaign

tactics that are credited with winning the election. All the battleground states had set up financing and recruiting arms. In return for passes to the Convention, the Obama campaign asked for a set number of volunteer hours. One hundred thousand people called seeking Convention passes.

In Colorado, seven hundred people a day went out knocking on doors. In Lee's district, rural Elbert County, a typical home is on five acres of land; so instead of contacting the standard two hundred houses per day, Lee could usually reach about 45. He said making personal contact with residents made it feel more like a city council race, but local outreach is what got the voters to the polls.

In the beginning, Lee worked on policy issues, held interactive forums on education and health care, and did outreach programs to minorities and seniors. He next took charge of the Seniors constituency, gathering input on social security and related topics. (Although well under forty, Lee said he was one of the oldest campaign workers.) His focus was on state issues rather than national ones. The issues important to Coloradans came as a surprise: one constituency was passion-



*Speakers at our November meeting: Lee Fink and Meredith Good. Both gave firsthand accounts of their work in the Obama campaign.*

people who had voted in past presidential but not local elections.

Meredith's team also conducted poll-watching, keeping track of who voted and looking out for potential legal problems. They rented thirteen vans and rotated them to all student precincts, bearing signs that said "Have You Voted For Obama Today?" They took special care to direct people to the correct polling stations.

Virginia has not voted for a Democratic president in 44 years. Because of

efforts such as Meredith's, the state changed from red to blue.

#### **Club Business**

Bobbi Buescher spoke next with an update on the 53<sup>rd</sup> AD Committee. She said they have elections every two years and are getting ready to elect State Convention delegates on January 11 at the Joslyn Center in Manhattan Beach. Elected delegates will be eligible to become E-board representatives.

Lori Geittmann, reporting from County Committee, said that Eric Bauman announced the number of Democratic voters and registrations have gone up in the red areas of the county, which translates into more delegates and more E-board members. The County Fair registration drive was a big success and garnered \$1 million to spend on campaign literature.

Tony Hale, reporting from E-Board, said that it meets three times a year to discuss policies and resolutions of the Party. Their latest meeting took place  
*(Continued on page 4)*

#### **Election Results**

Congratulations to our new 53<sup>rd</sup> AD Delegates, elected on January 11:

##### **Women**

Mary Jack  
Marta Evry  
Edna Murphy  
Kim Drobny  
Gulnaz "Rosie" Haq  
Martha Marion

##### **Men**

Cliff Numark  
Lee Fink  
Tony Hale (E-Board Representative)  
Jim Kennedy  
Mitch Ward  
Scott Houston

##### **53<sup>rd</sup> ADDC Officers**

Chair - James Lau  
Vice-Chair - Rochelle Schneider  
Secretary - Teresa Bird  
Treasurer/Controller - Kathryn Campbell  
Member at Large - Marc Saltzberg

#### **Monroe's Ruminations Monroe Weinstock**

Last year (2008) was a bummer and an economic disaster. We are in the midst of a recession bordering on depression. The infamous duo, Dubya & Cheney, are relegated to the dung-heap of history, but leave us financially destitute; with an endless War on Terror; with minimal civil rights protection; in the midst of another Middle Eastern conflagration; as well as world condemnation. Obviously, JOB ONE for Obama is the economy. And JOB TWO is universal health care for ALL.

Many experts & I are convinced that we must have universal health care, and must have it NOW. The Declaration of Independence talks of



our right to life, liberty & the pursuit of Happiness. If we are entitled to life, then we deserve the best medical treatment possible...as right, not just privilege.

A universal plan must include patient choice of a primary physician. Patients must prove residency or citizenship. Benefits must be comprehensive & cover everything needed. The federal dollars spent today must continue to go directly into the plan. An elected Health Commissioner should manage the organization. Computerized rules & reports must consolidate costs to reduce overhead & eliminate duplication. Bulk purchases of medication would reduce costs substantially, which Medicare does not allow today. Emphasis on preventive practices would be fostered before conditions become dangerous.

Today, 7 million Californians lack insurance. 5 million of them are

employed. Plans today limit coverage & are confusing. We spend over \$6,000 per person per year for coverage. The undocumented represent only 3% of the overall costs. A total of 46 million citizens are uninsured & cannot go to the nearest emergency room for help. We spend \$15 BILLION per year to cover the uninsured.

Our Veterans Administration has a well managed, price controlled system which could be used as a basis for a plan for everyone. We must find a way to separate the profit need from the human medical needs. Under any system, malpractice would still present the same dangers & costs as today. Political involvement must be kept to a minimum. And a program could be started, leaving room for revisions ongoing for adjustments & corrections...if we live long enough!

James McGreevy—310-320-1638  
*Web Manager*  
 Steve Zucker—310-546-7562  
*Database and mailing*  
 Morazz@alumni.rccd.edu  
 Mora Zucker—310-546-7562  
*Newsletter*  
 (open)  
*Membership*  
 Peggy Carter—310-372-5442  
*Secretary*  
 Edna Murphy—310-545-6292  
*Treasurer*  
 Toni Alario—310-728-5890  
*Vice-President*  
 Ray Waters—310-374-4744  
*President*

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



*(Campaign, continued from page 3)*  
 in Anaheim and they discussed protection of farms from genetically engineered crops; the International Criminal Court; and a call to the incoming Administration to support Democratic values on trade reform, the bailout, and abolition of the death penalty. There is a call for elected officials to help seniors affected by the economic downturn and the need to protect retirement income.

It was announced that the State Party chairmanship will be open with the coming retirement of Art Torres; Eric Bauman, John Burton, and Alex Rooker will be among the candidates. (As of press time, both Rooker and Bauman have backed out of the race, with Bauman opting to continue as vice-chair.)

Tony said that the Democratic Action Committee has kept its Torrance office open and active. During the campaign, they housed volunteers for Obama and local Democrats, made thousands of out of state phone calls, and mobilized over 1,000 volunteers in

the two offices on Cravens and Sartori. Three hundred high schoolers were brought into the political process, and even some junior high students. Currently, work is underway on the March elections.

Club business included a vote to endorse the Declaration of Principles Regarding Prisoner Treatment, which would outlaw torture; and a pledge to oppose slant drilling in wilderness areas of the western United States.

### County Committee Endorsements

The Los Angeles County Democratic Committee has made the following endorsements:

Redondo Beach School Board: Todd Lowenstein and Drew Gamet  
 Redondo Beach City Council: Diane Cagle  
 Redondo Beach City Attorney: Tory Erickson

## Announcements

### Watch for new meeting location

Our January meeting will be the last one held at the Hayward Center. As of press time, we were still working on a new location. We hope to get space at the Hermosa Beach Community Center, but no confirmation yet.

We are also considering changing our regular meetings from Tuesday to Thursday nights. Watch your newsletter and email for an update.

### Town Hall Meeting

Jenny Oropeza and Debra Bowen will be holding a Town Hall Meeting on legislative issues:

January 29, 6:00 to 7:30PM  
 7114 West Manchester at the Westchester-Loyola Library  
 Mary Lou Crockett room.