

Beach Cities Democratic Club



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

October, 2010

Next Meeting

New time and place!
Election Run-up

This month we invite everyone to come to the **Democratic Action Center** to help get our candidates elected. We'll phone bank (bring your mobile phone) starting at 5:00 PM, and hand out other important tasks too. We can use you!

Then we'll follow with announcements and a wrap-up from Tony Hale at 8:00 about what we still need to do in the upcoming days.

Bring snack food and we'll supply the pizza.

Democratic Action Center
1311 Sartori Avenue
Torrance, CA 90501

Starts at 5:00 PM, with announcements and recap at 8:00

DAC BIG PUSH DRAWS A CROWD

Democrats from the South Bay and beyond gathered at the DAC headquarters in Torrance on Saturday, September 25 to hear Jane Harman, Betsy Butler, Ted Lieu, and Ken Arnold,

and pledge our support. The event drew a big crowd and many people signed up to help.

Left, former Hermosa Beach Mayor Michael DeVirgilio and friends; Betsy Butler, running for 53rd Assembly; Jane Harman; and our own MC Tony Hale.



For full details on the ballot Propositions, go to democraticactioncenter.org.



THE DAC NEEDS YOU

Our local Democratic headquarters is playing an important role in this year's election, but we need to keep the doors open and fully fund our daily operations. You can help us win a complete Democratic victory in November. Please consider making a donation to the Democratic Action Center today. Your donation can help in the following ways:

- ♦ **\$25** keeps the lights on or the water running for one month
- ♦ **\$50** pays for 1,000 black and white flyers
- ♦ **\$70** pays for one Laser Jet toner cartridge
- ♦ **\$130** pays for our phone and Internet for one month
- ♦ **\$450** fills our color Laser Jet printer with all its cartridges (5,000 piece capacity)
- ♦ **\$750** pays the rent for one month
- ♦ **\$1,200** covers all our basic expenses for one month

Any amount you can donate will be greatly appreciated. You can donate online at DemocraticActionCenter.org, or mail checks to:
Democratic Action Center
1673 Cravens Ave.
Torrance, CA 90501

Visit our Website at lafn.org/politics/bcdc

BEACH CITIES GREEN

By Dency Nelson

After writing this column this morning, I'll be heading to Wilmington for a press conference and rally in front of the Valero and Tesoro oil refineries to scream loud and clear, "No on Prop. 23!" I'm sure that by now, anyone reading this column understands that a "No" vote on 23 and a "Yes" vote for all of our Democrats on the November 2nd ballot are imperative steps in our ongoing efforts to protect this planet.

Passage of Prop. 23 would suspend the provisions of AB 32, our state's clean energy and clean air law, which is why out-of-state oil companies are campaigning to support this sham of an initiative. Couple that with the election of climate-change-denying Republicans, and we



have a scenario that could push us back into the dark ages of pollution and waste, in the process squelching all the new and exciting job opportunities that the "green economy" has created in our state.

So, my fellow Democrats, I know you'll be voting in support of the planet as you mail your absentee ballot or go to the polls on November 2. But what are you doing today and every day to vote for the planet? There are things that I hope all of you are doing now, day by day, both large and small, that can have as big an impact on the environment as your political support.

Think about your day and what you do. Are you still buying water and other beverages in plastic bottles? Don't. It's as simple as that. Buy beverages that come in glass or aluminum cans, and make sure you recycle those. There really isn't a market for the billions of plastic bottles being produced today, most of which wind up with a lot of other discarded plastic in giant, continent-sized masses

floating in the Pacific for eternity, endangering the planet's marine life. Better still, rather than buying your beverages in glass, aluminum, or even paper, the best thing you can do is drink all of your portable beverages, both hot and cold, from refillable, reusable bottles and mugs. Please, just do it! It's not that hard. Carry the containers with you and let Starbucks and Jamba Juice refill them for you.

How about those electric appliances and the lights in your house? Are they the most efficient you could buy? Do they really have to be kept on when you aren't there or aren't using them? You'll be surprised at how much energy and money you'll save by just flipping the switch off and leaving it off. Several years ago, I exchanged all of my incandescent light bulbs to compact fluorescents or LEDs. That reduced my electric bill by over 100 kilowatt hours a month! What about your vehicles? Do you really have to get in your car for every trip? Walking or biking is healthier for you, and you'll save money and cut down on energy use and emissions. Try the bus or other mass transit if it's feasible for you. If you have to use your car, do the simple things that will improve its fuel efficiency and to make sure that it is running clean and will last for as long as possible. Keep the tires properly inflated and the engine maintained, and then when you are ready for a new car, consider a plug-in electric or at least an ultra-fuel-efficient and ultra-low-emissions hybrid.

What I'm saying is, don't leave these decisions to the politicians and our legislators alone. Live the life. It really isn't that hard. It's actually a lot of fun and will save you a ton of money as all of the little steps you take to live sustainably add up. Like the "ripple of hope" effect that Bobby Kennedy spoke of in terms of social justice, each action you take creates a ripple that sets off another action, and soon the problem is solved. That's what we can do, day by day, to vote for the planet.

Monroe's Ruminations

Monroe Weinstock

The late Supreme Court Justice Louis D. Brandeis got it "absolutely" right when he suggested that the most important RIGHT protected by the Constitution is "the right to be left alone."

The Justice Dept. has a project called "Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative" which is to report suspicious activity, analyze patterns of actions, and pre-determine potential abuse and-or-crime. New regulations are being prepared for the government agencies to more easily wire-tap into internet messaging (Facebook, Twitter, etc.).

Not too long ago, the CIA released a record of over 30 years of egregious intelligence abuses, which included illegal efforts to spy on U.S. citizens. The CIA bugged reporter's offices; planned illegal assassination attempts; monitored incom-



ing international mail & phone calls; spied on anti-war, black power, and political party groups (Dem & Rep).

Interestingly too, the USA has a terrorism watch list...that now is well past ONE MILLION names. A number this high is far too high to possibly be effective. It is a system that is unfair, out-of-control, wastes resources and at best treats the rights of the innocent with relative unimportance.

Let me also poke a pointy finger in the eye of our ex-President George Dubyah (along with his V.P. Dickey Cheney) who built an unprecedented surveillance operation, including warrantless wire-tappings. This is the man who believed that the President has "unlimited wartime powers" because we are at war with Al Qaeda.

So I tell ya now that freedom ain't cheap & it don't come easily! Big Brother from Orwell's novel 1984 is constantly lurking in high & low places. We best keep a tight lid on what limited freedoms we still enjoy!!!!

September Recap

Our September meeting was devoted to the ballot propositions, going over the more controversial ones and comparing our position to those of the state and local Parties.

One of the thorniest issues is Prop 19, which would allow for the regulation and taxation of marijuana. The State Party has taken a neutral position to avoid political fallout, but it's feared younger voters may be put off by anything short of a full endorsement.

Reasons for and against the measure are compelling. Proponents of Proposition 19 argue that it would help with California's budget shortfall and redirect law enforcement resources to more dangerous crime, while opponents claim that its gaps and flaws will have serious unintended consequences on public safety, workplaces, and federal funding. Lori Geittmann had printed out the RAND report which states that Prop 19 could lead to a spike in consumption and an increase in automobile-related fatalities.

Prop 20 on Redistricting would place California Democrats at a disadvantage, and both the State and local Parties oppose it.

The Parties also oppose Proposition 22 in spite of its support by the SEIU. Prop 22 would keep the state from raiding city coffers to balance the budget in Sacramento. Hundreds of cities across California are supporting the measure, claiming it would result in cuts to police, fire and libraries.

Marc Mitchell from SEIU was at the meeting and explained the union's position. They believe the measure would protect local funds for public safety, emer-

gency response, and other local government services from state interference, meaning local taxpayer dollars would go toward cities, counties, and redevelopment agencies that count on the revenues. Local transportation funds would also be protected by this measure.

Opponents of Proposition 22, including the California Teachers Association, say that it will give money to redevelopment agencies at the expense of the state budget and the core services that are supported by the state budget, such as public education.

In discussing the County Superior Court Judge candidates, Mitchell said that the California Federation of Labor unanimously endorsed Mark Ameli's candidacy for Office 28. BCDC had earlier heard from his opponent, Randy Hammock, and voted to give Hammock our endorsement.

Club News

Edna Murphy reported that we have over \$2,500 in our checking account. In addition, we raised over \$4,600 at Ray and Carol Waters's fund raiser for Betsy Butler, with an additional \$250 coming in after the event. The club moved to add \$150 from our treasury to the \$250, making a total donation of \$5,000 for Betsy's campaign.

Ray also reported from the Hermosa Beach School Board that the California Legislature has released funds to various districts for the rehiring of laid-off teachers. He had not learned the amount, but some of the funds will aid Hermosa schools.

Tony Hale reported that the new, larger DAC office in downtown Torrance is up and running at full speed on all the campaigns, calling permanent absentee

voters in our district, walking neighborhoods, talking to voters and leaving door hangers. Campaign buttons, signs, and other items are available at the Center and Tony is spreading the word: come volunteer your time, your money, and (instead of or in addition), contribute food to feed the crowds of high-energy high-school students Tony has mobilized to volunteer in the office.

On the issue of combining BCDC with the Torrance Democratic Club, Tony reported that there is interest on both sides. Rick Wagner, Torrance's current President, is moving out of the area but there are other officers and active members in the Torrance Club who want to remain in a chartered club. We will hear further details at our next meeting.

Ray announced that we do have a booth at the Manhattan beach Hometown Fair, and passed around a signup sheet.

Dency Nelson announced a number of environmental activities including a coastal cleanup sponsored by Heal the Bay; and an alternative car expo that will feature the Nissan Leaf and Chevy Volt. He said that Robert Fortunato, a Hermosa Beach resident who has remodeled his home to be carbon neutral, has held events to showcase the features of his home.

Dency announced a 10-10-10 Sustainability Summit to be held on October 10, a landmark day for environmental activism around the world. The City of Manhattan Beach would be hosting an all-day Summit and Eco-Fair. Following the Summit would be a "work party" designed to teach planting drought tolerant plants. The event was expected to be a good opportunity to educate people about No on Prop 23.



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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 _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Employer _____ Occupation _____

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