



Next Meeting

Manhattan Bread and Bagel
1808 N. Sepulveda Boulevard
Manhattan Beach
Wednesday, September 28
7:30 PM

Changes for the 2012 election

Kevin Sullivan, President

The June 2012 election is fast approaching and with it comes many re-districting changes for the Beach Cities. Henry Waxman has announced that he will run for re-election as a democratic candidate in the new congressional district which is much of Rep Waxman's old district and will now include the Beach Cities.

Rep. Waxman served three terms in the California Assembly and was elected to Congress in 1974. He has been a leader on health and environmental issues, including universal health insurance, Medicare and Medicaid coverage, tobacco, AIDS, global warming, air and water quality standards, pesticides, nursing home quality standards, women's health research and reproductive rights, the availability and cost of prescription drugs, and the right of communities to know about pollution levels. A long time solid democrat who has always fought for

our democratic principles, although new to the Beach Cities he has served our neighboring communities well in the past. Janice Hahn, our present Congressional Representative, will run in a district which includes her home in San Pedro and runs east from the harbor.

Ted Lieu will remain our State Senator; he is not up for re-election in 2012. Unfortunately we are losing our newly elected Assemblywoman Betsy Butler. Our new Assembly district will not include West Los Angeles and Betsy has announced she will run in a new West Los Angeles district.

Our new assembly district will now go south to the Palos Verdes Peninsula. This new assembly district will have approximately 13% less democrats, although democrats will still have 3% advantage over republicans and will be the number one challenge for democratic activists in the south bay. Al Muratsuchi, a popular Torrance School Board member, is the only announced democratic candidate for the new assembly district at this time.

President Obama will be leading the slate for democrats followed by Senator Diane Feinstein who is up for re-election, Representative Henry Waxman for Congress, and our greatest challenge in the Beach Cities will be to keep a democratic representative in the assembly.

BEACH CITIES GREEN

Dency Nelson

I'll pick up immediately where I left off in the August newsletter, an hour or so into my "sustainable day." If you missed the first two installments of this journey through my day and if this month's column grabs your interest, visit www.lafn.org/politics/bcdc/#Newsletters and click on the July and August editions.

Before leaving the house, I sit at my desk and check the hundreds of email messages I receive daily due to our political and environmental activism. I will have charged my laptop and iphone overnight, off-peak, when the rates are lower and there is less impact on the power grid (our house is on SCE's Time-of-Use rate schedule), so there is no need to have them plugged in now. We do the same with our two fully electric vehicles (charging them overnight, rather than during the day), and we also shift most of our clothes- and dishwashing chores, and anything else that uses electricity, into these off-peak hours, but more on that in a later column.

However, while we are on the subject of electricity use and electronic devices, I will pause to say a word about "phantom," or "vampire," power. These are the terms commonly used to describe the small amounts of electricity that most clocks, timers, chargers, TVs, audio systems, DVD players, computers, etc., draw as long as they are plugged into a socket, even when they aren't being used. The amount of power that these devices individually draw in their "stand-by mode" is small, but you would be surprised how much it can amount to if you have a lot of them plugged in all of the time. Do the best you can to be aware of this power usage and to reduce it

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LACDP Meeting

Jim McGreevy

Here's a photo of most of the 53rd AD delegates at the County Committee meeting. The main topic was that our Treasurer, Kinde Durkee, had stolen most of our funds, including everything we had collected at the Roosevelt Democrats of the Year Dinner. The LACDP took up a collection to keep their office running.

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as best you can. There are power strips that with one click can shut off the power to all of the devices plugged into them, saving all of that otherwise wasted electricity. Of course, it is inconvenient when shutting off these clocks and other devices causes them to lose their settings, so give yourselves a break on this one. We do. Make sure that unused power supplies and chargers are unplugged when not in use (because even when not attached to the device that it is designed to charge, a charger draws power if it is plugged into the socket), but go ahead and leave a few of your most used clocks, timers and electronic devices, if they would otherwise lose their settings, plugged in. As long as you promise to be energy efficient everywhere else!

At my computer, as I go through my email, I try to keep the use of my printer to an absolute minimum. If I really do need a hard copy of something, I use the backside of just about every piece of 8½" x 11" paper that comes through the mail or otherwise enters the house. If there is something that really has to be printed on clean paper,

such as a formal letter or legal document, we use 30% recycled "enviroply" from Office Depot or 100% recycled paper from a source such as www.redriverpaper.com. And, when printing on this clean paper, I use the "duplex printing" function on my printer to use both sides of each sheet. If an occasion calls for a greeting card or holiday card to be sent through the post, we find cards and envelopes made from recycled paper or we print them ourselves using 100% recycled paper from the above-mentioned source. On the subject of paper, any that comes into the house that can't be used in some way is, of course, recycled, but the best thing to do is to eliminate these items completely if possible. We have stopped just about every magazine subscription, restricting deliveries to just a handful of newspapers and magazines that we truly love in their paper form. And we are on a campaign to stop all junk mail and catalog mailings from coming to our door. This is not an easy task, but there is a one-stop resource out there that can help you. Check out www.catalogchoice.org, where you can sign up to stop delivery of all or selected junk mailings, catalogs, etc. And

they will do it for you for a small donation to their non-profit organization!

Moving on to the subject of the inks used in printing, there are many sources for earth-friendly, recycled ink tanks and cartridges. I've been using www.castleink.com, and I recycle those ink tanks through organizations such as www.planetgreenrecycle.com that actually pay a few cents per cartridge or tank for those that they can refill. The recycled tanks are competitive in price and quality with the original, brand-new products, and if they are ordered in large quantities, the carbon footprint of the shipping is minimized. Likewise, when you are ready to return those tanks and cartridges for recycling, you should also send them back in large quantities, once or twice a year, to minimize the mailing costs and carbon impact. This is an easy habit to get into, and very satisfying and sustainable!

More next month, but if you have any questions or comments in the meantime, feel free to email them to me at DLN52@verizon.net.

Monroe's Ruminations

Monroe Weinstock

Enough is enough!!!!
For three years we've had a Democratic President. Obama is the



leader of the free world! Now to quote Rodney Dangerfield..."He don't get NO respect." From my point of view, it seems that neither side, Democrat or Republican, has any or little respect for the other.

Our President hoped to speak to a joint meeting of Congress about his plans to try to solve the unemployment crisis, get the economy moving and perhaps to brighten

the future for us all. Thanks to the unprecedented snub by Republican House Speaker Boehner (which is actually BONER) the president was forced to postpone his speech because there will be a California Republican presidential debate for 2012.

In his half hour speech, President Obama spelled out some of the issues that need addressing "RIGHT NOW." Obama asked to extend unemployment insurance benefits. Obama asked for funding for infrastructure spending (roads, bridges, airports, etc.). Obama asked to have tax loop-holes closed.

The current congressional gridlock has three names ... McConnell, Boehner,

Cantor!!! The gridlock is NOT an act of GOD. It would seem to me that if I had my druthers as president, I'd go even further in expanding my plans! I'd apply a stronger dose of medicine than any conservative could possibly swallow. I'd ignite a fire politically that would spin the stomachs & rotate the minds of the opponents that insist that Obama be a one term president!!! Then let the bad guys squirm & slither and show who is actually the fly in the ointment of recovery.

It is worth quoting attorney John Welch and ask the three gridlockers the same question he asked of red-baiting demagogue Senator Joe McCarthy, "Have you left no sense of decency?"



August Recap

Following is an edited version of the minutes of our August meeting courtesy of Kathy Campbell.

Teresa Bird read the following motion: "I move that the Treasurer of the BCDC provide a written report to be disseminated at the monthly meeting in September, all deposits/contributions, expenditures/withdrawals as well as the state and federal reports included, to the President of the BCDC and the executive board, as well as the membership. ..."

Teresa stated that she has never seen a written Treasurer's report and therefore would like to formally request one. The motion was seconded. Edna Murphy stated that all BCDC financial information is publicly available online. Discussion ensued. Teresa mentioned, by way of example, that she would like to know for certain that a donation had been made to the Jenny Oropeza Memorial Scholarship fund as passed by the club in a prior meeting. ...Kevin Sullivan (President) stated that he received 2010 year-end financial reports and would forward them to the board later tonight. The amended motion was seconded and carried.

Next, Deliana Speights from UFCW 1442 spoke on the grocery store labor negotiations with the California grocery chains. Their contract expired in March. They started negotiating in February and have had limited success. Deliana stated that Albertsons, Ralphs and Vons are in the top 100 grocery companies in sales, making \$5B a year, and are very profitable. The union members are asking to keep what they have, not asking for more. Companies are trying to shift 50% of medical costs to union members. Three members of the local spoke about the impact of the proposed cost shift.

Deliana asked BCDC members to support the "adopt a store" program in which clubs are asked to adopt a nearby store, presenting letters written as individuals or groups to them. Sen. Ted Lieu adopted 2 stores, LAX Dem club adopted 5 stores. "The only thing these stores fear is you

not shopping there!"

Tony Hale made a motion to adopt at least one store and follow up with action. Seconded and approved. Kevin suggested Albertsons at Torrance and Anza. Members who wish to support this drive may contact Deliana at deliana@ufcw1442.org.

L.A. County and Hermosa Fair booths

Kathryn Campbell announced that we have committed to staff the LA County Fair on Wednesday, 9/14, and asked for volunteers. Edna Murphy asked for volunteers to help staff the Fiesta Hermosa over Labor Day weekend.

Hani Fangary announced that he will be running for City Council in Hermosa Beach in November. He does not support new power plant proposal. He asked for an endorsement from BCDC.

Diane Wallace (Vice President) then provided a membership committee update. She stated that it is the club's goal to increase membership by 50% by December. The membership committee wants to reach out to area Democrats and inform them about the club. They are working on a printed brochure and would like to develop an online version as well. Diane circulated draft materials for input. She also asked that we each invite 3 – 5 people to a party at Lisa Powers' house which will be scheduled around Ted Lieu's availability, probably a Thursday or Sunday evening.

Diane asked how potential members will be screened to ensure that they are registered Democrats, per the club's bylaws. Larry Fox volunteered to check on any potential members submitted.

Diane also asked Tony Hale to provide a list of Democrats in our area, and he agreed to do so. Tony mentioned that the county committee has established a precedent of allowing affiliate members who are DTS, Green party or other sympathetic non-Democrats to attend as non-voting members. BCDC would have to alter our bylaws to allow for that. The Bylaw committee will consider that proposal.

Diane also suggested that we look for

ways to spur membership renewal on July 1 on a regular basis. She also suggested looking for a larger meeting place in anticipation of getting more members.

Diane asked if members would consider reducing dues for seniors and youth (and)... suggested that we add that information to the membership form.

Deliana Speights offered to sponsor UFCW member Chelsea as an outreach for youth and for union. Motion made, seconded and passed to accept membership report.

President Sullivan asked if members wish to review the BCDC bylaws in light of certain items being out of date such as dues, etc. Lee Fink, Diane Wallace and Edna Murphy volunteered to be on the bylaws review committee. Motion made, seconded and passed.

Dency Nelson led a discussion of the fact that several of our incumbent representatives will no longer represent us after redistricting takes effect. Our current Congresswoman, Janice Hahn (33rd CD), and new 66th Assemblyperson (now represented by Betsy Butler in the current 53rd) may well change. However, it looks like statewide we may pick up as many as 6 Democratic seats. The new State Senate district will be the 26th, which will still include Sen. Ted Lieu. New 66th will be much more competitive for Democrats. Betsy Butler will probably run in one of the more northern districts rather than in the new 66th.

Tony Hale said that many prior Democrats in the district are effectively voting Republican but have not changed their registration, and therefore the published 3% Democratic registration advantage for the new 66th AD may not actually exist. A discussion ensued regarding whether the tea party message would play as strongly in 2012 as it did in 2010.

Reporting on E-Board and the Western States Democratic Convention, Tony Hale (eBoard rep) ...stated that he plans to put out a written report, and noted that Diane Wallace also attended and has already provided a written report.

Tony mentioned that a rule change

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**Beach Cities
 Democratic Club**



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was proposed at the E-Board meeting that if a Democrat did not make it into the runoff, the local party reps could choose to endorse a DTS candidate. Tony did not support the proposed rule change as it dilutes the Democratic brand and confuses voters. It was not passed. Another change would have made it more difficult for delegates at the state convention to challenge an endorsed candidate: The proposal was to change the threshold to 600, and to put this before a committee rather than before the membership body. Tony said that members should be able to vote on endorsements and to keep the process open. That proposed amendment also failed.

Varo Asorian attended the eBoard meeting as an officer of the Business & Professional caucus. He reported that that caucus will focus more on building a coalition with businesses throughout the state to change the perception that Democrats are bad for business.

Diane Wallace provided an overview of her experience attending the Western

States Democratic convention. Diane offered to provide a fuller report on the E-Board and Western States Convention at the next meeting.

Clubs & Announcements

The Torrance Democratic Club announced a commemorative Patriot Day Picnic to be held Sunday, Sept. 11th, from 2:00pm to 5:00pm at De Portola Park. A motion was passed to endorse and contribute \$20.

Tony Hale reported on behalf of PV Club. At their last meeting they hosted a presentation on the Innocence Project. They meet on the 3rd Sunday of the month at the mail library on Silver Spur. Tony stated that there are two Democrats (Jim Knight & Eric Alegria) running for Palos Verdes City Council in November whom we should support.

Democratic Action Center

Tony Hale stated that the DAC needs money to stay open between now and the 2012 campaign. DAC has been in operation since 2006. Members can donate at democraticactioncenter.org.



A 9/11 Picnic

Diane Wallace

South Bay Dems, including members of Beach Cities, gathered on Sunday, 9/11, to honor the victims and their families and friends. Everyone enjoyed great food and good conversation. Betsy Butler, Ted Lieu, and Janice Hahn visited with everyone.

And we had a great surprise—Al Muratsuchi, School Board member in Torrance USD, announced his intention to run for the Assembly to represent the 66th AD.