

Beach Cities Democratic Club



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

February, 2012

Next Meeting

Manhattan Bread and Bagel
1808 N. Sepulveda Boulevard
Manhattan Beach

Wednesday, February 22
7:30 PM

Our featured speaker will be
Henry Vandermeir, President of the
California Democratic Council

New President

Kevin Sullivan has resigned as President, in order to volunteer for the campaign to elect Janice Hahn for Congress. As you may know, with redistricting, Janice will be running in a new district. Thank you to Kevin for leading our club since July! We wish him all the best.

As the Vice-President, Diane Wallace will now serve as the Acting President until our next elections in the Spring of 2012.

A Busy Beginning For the 2012 Election Year

We began the year at an event with Representative Henry Waxman. Mr. Waxman's current district was adjusted in the redistricting process and is now the 33rd Congressional District which includes the Beach Cities and PV. Nearly 150 Dems from the Beach Cities, El Segundo, Torrance and PV welcomed Mr. Waxman to the South Bay. He shared some insights from his years of service in Washington and then answered questions.

On Saturday, January 21, the area delegates and club representatives attended a pre-endorsement caucus and endorsed Al Muratsuchi. Al is our endorsed candidate for our new Assembly District – 66th AD.

Following that event, in the early evening, nearly 75 Democrats from our new Assembly District—including Beach Cities, Palos Verdes, Torrance, and Gardena—celebrated the Kick-Off for the

political season in 2012. Local elected officials joined us and shared insights about their cities, including Pat Furey, Torrance City Council, Bill Brand, Redondo City Council, Jeff Duclos, Hermosa City Council, and Ray Waters, Hermosa School Board.

I am just finishing writing this at the California Democratic Convention in San Diego. Governor Brown and Attorney General Kamala Harris inspired the delegates during the general sessions. Senator Dianne Feinstein and Senator Al Franken addressed the lunch and dinner sessions.

Most importantly, endorsements at the convention included a California Democratic Party endorsement for Betsy Butler. Congratulations to Betsy!

The Organization and Development Committee has assigned our application to establish a 66th ADDC for review and consideration.

As we gather momentum in this 2012 political season, building to the Primary in June and the general election in November, all of us will be needed to work together to elect Democrats, especially Al Muratsuchi for the 66th AD and Henry Waxman for 33rd Congressional District.

Watch for up-coming events to meet Al Muratsuchi and Henry Waxman – and our Democratic candidates for local elections. We also hope you will join us at our next Beach Cities meeting.

We are very grateful that our featured speaker will be Henry Vandermeir, President, California Democratic Council. In 1952, California Democrats, including Alan Cranston, established the CDC. The goal was win back political control of the state from Republicans. Today the CDC supports new and existing Democratic Clubs throughout the State of California.

Diane Wallace, Acting President



Democratic Club Presidents with Representative Henry Waxman at the January 9 event

Visit our Website at lafn.org/politics/bcdc

November Meeting Recap

Following is an edited version of the minutes from our November 16 meeting courtesy of Kathy Campbell

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance \$1,550 (Federal), \$373 (State)

Deposits & Transfers: \$140 (Federal) from renewals and donations

Expenditures & Transfers: \$600 (Federal), \$100 for LACDP charter + \$500 donation to Al Muratsuchi's campaign for new 66th AD

Ending Balance \$1,090 (Federal), \$373 (State)

Motion made, seconded and approved to accept Treasurer's report from last month.

Lisa Pinto, Legislative Director for Congressman Henry Waxman, was our November speaker. Waxman is currently the Representative for the 30th Congress-

sional District and ranking member of the House Energy & Commerce Committee. He is expected to be the representative to the new 33rd after redistricting in the next election. Lisa has worked for Waxman for 15 years.

This is Lisa's first official visit to the future 33rd Congressional District. She oversees constituent services. They help Veterans, people with Social Security and IRS issues, and loan modification problems among other things. Lisa stated that Waxman is concerned that banks are not being more responsive and is looking into that. Waxman has the following facilities in his district: Santa Monica Airport, West LA Veterans Administration Center, Federal Bldg, and the Santa Suzanna Field Lab.

Waxman is the most senior Democrat on the House Energy & Commerce Committee, and was formerly Chair of the House Oversight & Reform Committee.



Carol and Ray Waters at our January holiday party

He has been writing letters advising the Super Committees on the budget deficit. A letter was sent regarding preserving safety nets and social programs such as Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. He suggested a focus on innovations such as auctioning spectrums, clean energy policies, health savings and cutting fraud and abuse. He also mentioned correcting Medicare prescription drug coverage, and closing the "doughnut hole," as well as speeding generics to reduce drug costs. He is not optimistic about the Super Committee meeting their deadline of 11/23. They seem to be operating under a veil of secrecy, with little substance until recently.

Waxman is delighted with the new district lines. He has never represented the beach cities before. Anne Faas asked about extending unemployment benefits further. Lisa said that Waxman is supportive of that idea.

Lori Geitmann asked about a recent County Committee presentation on use of the VA building for commercial interests vs. Veteran housing. She says that they characterized Waxman and Feinstein as not supporting housing. Lisa says that Waxman got the President to sign legislation prohibiting the sale of the property or further commercialization, and that Feinstein did as well. Waxman asked the VA to review the leases and terminate those that are inappropriate, such as Enterprise Vehicle Rentals. He also met with others and got \$20MM dedicated to housing Veterans. Lisa says that she is sorry to hear that his position was misstated.

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Monroe's Ruminations

Monroe Weinstock
I attended the meeting in January with up-coming Congressman Henry Waxman and it appears that we've got this GREAT GOOD GUY to help Democrats, President Obama, the Occupiers, and the South Bay area get going strong for 2012.



To the business at hand: THE ECONOMY. The USA has moved from manufacturing to services. Productivity has rapidly expanded globally & moved much physical labor off-shore, probably never to return. If we lower wages to meet third world competition, we cut our own throats & weaken our already suffering economy.

For some years we have known that the banks are not the "good guys." The banks cynically gambled & brought our economy to the lip-edge of disaster. Bush/Obama administrations handed over enormous amounts of dollars for recovery, unconditionally. The

assumption was that the banks would mend their ways. The banks rapidly reverted to protecting their turf, slipped back to their former tactics, no changes in attitude or methods.

This is no time to think in terms of Democrat/Republican; Liberal/Conservative; Right/Left. We must face reality directly & grab our best opportunities. For a long time the USA has under-invested in infrastructure (roads, bridges, dams, etc.); technology; education. Our private sector has proven that business can & does take care of business. It proves that the government must act quickly...to create NEW industries to meet NEW challenges, expand bio-tech & internet industries; support extensive basic research; FIX our financial system!!!

Finally, considering the forthcoming elections, it is interesting to view the quality of the Republican candidates. The names are of no importance, but when you think of human progress, the group put me in a mind to question the theory of evolution!!



Senator Ted Lieu speaking at our January holiday party

(Recap, continued from page 2)

Tony Hale raised concern about changes to Medicare Advantage in the new year, asking whether that is part of "Obamacare"? Lisa said to call her office to speak with a specialist in that legislation for accurate information on this.

Diane Wallace asked about a Senate initiative proposed by T Boone Pickens regarding natural gas. Asked for insights on the natural gas and fracking discussion, Lisa suggested following up with Greg Dobson, the policy analyst on that issue.

Dency Nelson mentioned that he met Waxman last week and told him about Al Muratsuchi's race for the new 66th Assembly District, and said that Waxman pledged to help us in that fight.

Communications

One member asked for signatures on a petition to repeal the death penalty, which was circulated. The Party has received our charter request and list of voting members. Clark Lee from LACDP wrote to notify us that the 2012 pre-endorsement conference was to be held 1/21 – 22. Also, he thanked us for our work on last week's local elections. We elected progressives at every level in LA County.

Membership Committee Report

Kevin Sullivan reported that the membership party was a success. He thanked membership committee leaders Diane Wallace, Lisa Power and Lori Geittmann for putting it together. Ted Lieu attended and a lot of new faces were there. Diane

mentioned that they invited a lot of local Democratic elected officials, who did not come, and are not club members. Diane plans to follow up with them.

Al Muratsuchi's race for 66th AD

Craig Huey (R) is now in the race. He apparently suggested that Nathan Mintz drop out, which he has not done. This could be good for Democrats if Republicans split their votes. In an open primary, more Republicans will turn out for the primary, which could hurt Democrats if there's only one Republican candidate for the AD.

Diane said they are planning events in PV and the Beach Cities Goal is to raise \$100k for Al by 12/31. His campaign wants to set up separate Act Blue links for each region.

Teresa Bird said that \$4k was raised at the Torrance club's fundraiser. She also mentioned that the Daily Breeze had an article about the race that day. She urged a strong focus on this race. Kevin Sullivan announced that Speaker John Perez endorsed Al this week and urged us all to contribute now to prove to the party that he can win.

Lori asked if someone is willing to host a fundraiser in their home. Dency asked if we could make the joint holiday party into a fundraiser. Diane suggested that we announce a non-event fundraiser, send out a massive mailer, just ask for donations for now, with events to follow. Kevin and Lori spoke in support of that idea. Kevin suggested forming an exploratory committee. Volunteers included Kevin, Lori and Diane. Lori asked for assistance in creating a mailing list. Kathryn Campbell offered to help set up a Google Doc for members to add their non-member friends' addresses to.

Dency said that Al is running well, attending every important event, every council meeting, and just wanted to acknowledge what a great job he's doing so far in meeting and listening to people.

New Year Party Planning

Diane Wallace said there will be a membership party in January 2012. Waxman will be around for the first few days

in January and Diane is trying to work with his staff to set up a time when we can meet him. Kevin invited Lisa and his other staff to attend our party.

Report from Elected Officials

Ray Waters reported on the Hermosa Beach School Board. They have selected a new Superintendent and will announce that at their next meeting.

Diane noted that the majority of local school boards seem to be dominated by Republican men. She encouraged us to help Democrats to run for more local offices (school boards and city councils) in our district. Redondo Beach will have a Mayoral race in 2013.

Dency gave results of the Hermosa Beach election, and noted the death of John Workman days after losing his bid for re-election.

Report from Other Democratic Clubs

County Committee

Tony Hale spoke regarding some upcoming eBoard issues prior to the meeting this weekend. Asked for input regarding chartering of the Progressive Caucus, he said their charter was pulled at the last meeting by the head of the African American caucus because they sought an alternative candidate to Barack Obama. Party rules say that the caucus can only support candidates endorsed by the party. Asked for a vote, the vast majority supported the action against re-chartering the Progressives.

Changes under consideration to the Democratic convention: To save money, a proposal has been made to cut the convention to two days and either make caucuses pay for their own rooms or meet outside the convention. Tony does not support that and feels that we need that time to do our work, and it would reduce the voice of the delegates. Kathryn Campbell spoke against the idea as well, as did Marianne Tyler. Tony stated that caucuses might be asked to contribute more. There was some support for that idea.

Marc Saltzberg said that the party exists to hear from us and to elect our

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**Beach Cities
Democratic Club**

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*66th AD Candidate Al Muratsuchi
addressing our January event*

(Recap, continued from page 3)

reps, and caucuses are integral to that. People are concerned about the impact of making the caucuses pay their own way. Lori stated that some caucuses are ridiculous, and called out the Irish American caucus as an example. Some have poor leadership. She suggested that the party support those leaders in becoming more effective, but also thinks that with the new fees and fundraising going

on, they have the money to fund the caucuses. Marc asked if the party was short on money. Tony says we're far ahead of Republicans in state fundraising.

Marc suggested choosing hotels in off seasons (rather than Anaheim in peak summer months) to save money. He said that the party is now supporting caucus chairs more to help them become more effective. Tony called for a vote on the BCDC's opinion, and the majority voted in favor of keeping conventions at three days.

New 66th AD Club Formation Committee

Diane Wallace announced that the exploratory group has developed bylaws and will present their request for charter at this weekend's eBoard meeting.

Also the Education caucus group that she formed was encouraged to submit as a statewide chartered organization rather than as a caucus. They plan to re-submit in that format and hope to be accepted.

West LA Democratic Club

Tuesday 11/29 meeting will be at St. Peters in Mar Vista, feature Robert Greenwald and the Koch brothers film.

Torrance

They held a successful fundraiser event on 11/12 for Al Muratsuchi.

Other Announcements

Ray Waters reported that Violet Mullins has colon cancer and is not well, and would appreciate hearing from old friends. Dency and Teresa spoke about all the work that Vi has done on voter registration, fundraising and other grassroots outreach efforts over the years.

An Occupy Wells Fargo event takes place at Torrance & Hawthorne, 3 – 5 PM every Wednesday. Join in, if even just for an hour!

Diane and Lori urged members to walk precincts as a form of outreach to gain new members and asked for MOE lists to support those efforts.