



Next Meeting

Manhattan Bread and Bagel
1808 N. Sepulveda Boulevard
Manhattan Beach
Wednesday, June 27
7:30 PM

At our June meeting, we will hold the election of new officers and hear a special presentation from the office of Senator Dianne Feinstein by Trevor Daley, Deputy State Director.

Mr. Daley will be sharing information about Senator Feinstein's current work in the Senate, including pending legislation, and important issues, such as the War on Women.

Results of the Nominating Committee

The following is the slate of officers recommended by the Nominating Committee—Dency Nelson, Lori Geittmann, Lisa Power, and Ray Waters:

President - Diane Wallace
Vice President - Mark Drabkin
Secretary - Lisa Power*
Treasurer - Edna Murphy
Membership Chair - Isabel Rodriguez

We will vote on this slate at our June meeting, and nominations will also be accepted from the floor. Thanks to our Nominating Committee for their work.

*Lisa recused herself from discussion of the Secretary's office.

Membership dues are now due for the 2012-2013 membership year. You can use the renewal form on Page 4, find a printable form at our website www.lafn.org/politics/bcdc, or bring your check to the June meeting.

President's Message

Reasons to celebrate . . .

April - Delegates to the Democratic National Convention - Tony Salvaaggio and I (*pictured below*) were elected last year to be Delegates to the state convention and this April we were elected again to be Delegates to the DNC. We were both so grateful to all of our family members and friends who came to Santa Monica to support us!

June - Al was the top vote getter and is already being endorsed by more Democrats and some moderate Republicans. Henry Waxman and Dianne Feinstein - and, of course - President Obama rocked the vote. Additionally, seven Democrats in the 66th AD were elected to the LA County Democratic Central Committee - Lori Geittmann, Ray Waters, Bobbi Beuscher, Don Dear, Tim Goodrich, Kay Jue, and me.

Summer activities - Al Muratsuchi will be very active throughout the summer. Sergio Carrillo, Al's Campaign Manager, is hoping to hear from you. We are going to be reaching out to friends and neighbors to ensure that everyone knows that every vote counts. All Dems on board from now through November.

And finally . . . thank you . . .

In this last newsletter of the 2011-12 club year, I wanted to thank Kevin Sullivan for serving as our President during the first half of the year. He resigned to volunteer for Janice Hahn's campaign. She won! Way to go!

I'd also like to thank the members of our current Board for their leadership this year. Edna Murphy has served as our Treasurer and as usual, she keeps us

afloat financially. We are especially grateful for Edna's amazing skills at filling out the very complicated state and federal reports that we must file. Kathryn Campbell has been our Secretary this year and everyone is grateful for the really interesting meeting notes she has provided.

Beyond the Board, several club members have been really helpful.

Lisa Power has served as the lead on our membership campaign and our membership is growing.

We are also grateful that Moira Zucker writes, edits and publishes our great newsletter and Steve Zucker maintains our membership database.

A special thanks to Mark Drabkin for maintaining our Yahoo group.

We can all be grateful for all of our regular tablers, led by Ray Waters and Dency Nelson.

Our previous Presidents have also been very helpful - Lee Fink, Lori Geittmann, Ray Waters, and Bobbi Buescher.

And thanks to everyone for attending meetings, supporting the club with your membership, voting, and supporting our Democratic candidates - Al Muratsuchi, Henry Waxman, and Dianne Feinstein.

I have been honored to serve our great group of Dems in the Beach Cities Democratic Club as President for the past several months.

Wishing you good health and happy times during the summer,

Diane Wallace



BEACH CITIES GREEN

By Dency Nelson

Lots of environmental news and events have transpired, both positive and negative, since my last edition over 6 months ago. As a great deal of my activism focuses on alternative energy and electric vehicles, I thought that I would report on some recent stories at the national, state and local levels regarding those two synergistic issues.



On May 24 of this year, a very important vote took place at the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). Thanks to an overwhelming response of over 60,000 Californians showing support

for net metering in this state, in a 5-0 vote, the CPUC voted to give more Californians access to net metering credit for solar power. Net metering makes sure that solar customers get fair credit on their utility bills for the valuable clean power they put on the grid for others to use. "This important solar policy has already delivered tremendous benefits to California: supported 25,000 solar jobs, driven \$10 billion in private investment in the state's clean energy industry, given thousands of homeowners, schools, water districts, industrial users and cities control over their electricity bills, and installed [the equivalent of] 2 natural gas plants worth of valuable peak solar power generation that our utilities won't have to build and you won't have to fund." All this according to Annie Carmichael of the Vote Solar Initiative www.votesolar.org. This vote, and the thousands of letters

and emails urging the CPUC for support for its affirmative outcome, came after recent lobbying by the state's various utilities that could very well have reduced, if not completely eliminated, fair compensation for those of us already participating in rooftop grid-tied, net-metered photovoltaic solar electricity generation. As detrimental as that would have been, a vote supporting the utilities' position would have greatly curtailed increased private and public investment in this valuable contribution toward this state's goal of reaching sustainable energy production. In addition to the figures mentioned above, it is estimated that through increased solar production incentivized by net-energy-metering "public agencies [in California] will save a total of \$2.5 billion in electricity costs over the coming 30 years, and that schools alone will save \$1.5 billion, free-

(Continued on page 3)

Monroe's Ruminations

Monroe Weinstock

I must begin with a quote from Bill Moyers... "The sound of shattering glass you've been hearing is the iconic portrait of Jamie Dimon splintering as it hits the floor of J.P. Morgan-Chase." President Obama's favorite banker faces losses of about \$2 BILLION and the possibility of going as high as \$5 BILLION. Trading was done in exotic financial instruments while lobbying Congress to ease up banking regulations.

J.P. Morgan-Chase is in fact too big to fail. It represents about 20% or one fifth of the entire USA Economy. This means



that they are also too big to jail!!! Jamie Dimon admitted that the bank created "self-inflicted mistakes, errors, sloppiness, & used bad judgment." He further said that this "should never have happened."

This is a case of the canary in the coal mine... sending a warning that something is fundamentally wrong with the way banks manage & control their risks... which include OUR MONEY. The banks' hedging strategy was nothing but another gamble. The situation proves that we need to bolster Dodd-Frank & tighten regulations. Bring back Glass-Steagall or its twin to constrain opaque risky bank bets.

In the USA today the top five banks control 52% of the financial industry's assets. Statistically, the top six largest banks control 62% of the nation's gross

national product. This tells us that they are not only too big to fail but also too big to save!!!

Reducing the size & complexity of these huge banks & restructuring them is a far less drastic solution than quasi-nationalization (like 2008-9). Paul Volcker got it right when he proposed prohibiting banks from making risky trades on their own accounts. His rule was designed to restore some protection embodied in the New-Deal era Glass-Steagall Act. This act was repealed in 1999 which emboldened conflicts of interest, and ended in the market crash of 2008.

For me, the decision couldn't be simpler or clearer...break up the six biggest banks NOW!



((Green, continued from page 2))

ing up resources to retain teachers and dampen budget cuts that many districts are facing." (This too according to the people at the Vote Solar Initiative.) At the local, personal level here in the South Bay, the result of this vote says that you, too, can more freely consider installing solar on your roof to become a part of the solution and be compensated for your investment in that solution. It also lends support to those of us opposing the AES power plant in Redondo Beach and oil drilling in Hermosa Beach. The more ways we can replace those dirty and unsustainable energy sources with energy made from our rooftops, the less we will have need for them.

Hand-in-hand with this solar news comes the exciting news regarding electric vehicles. After over 10 years of activism on my part, along with my colleagues in Plug In America, www.pluginamerica.org, the fruits of our efforts are beginning to be seen. Now that thousands of electric vehicles are appearing on our roads as major manufacturers are building and selling these vehicles to eager customers, we are already reducing by millions the gallons of gasoline burned, and the toxins and CO2 released into the atmosphere, from our daily driving for work, for school and for play. According to Chevrolet, on a constantly refreshing real-time ticker, www.chevrolet.com/volt-electric-car/, over 47 million miles have been driven and 2.5 million gallons of gasoline have been saved by Chevy Volt owners alone. I know that I could find some real mind-blowing figures for you if I were to research miles driven and gallons saved by all of the Nissan Leaf owners, as well as owners of the thousands of other fully electric vehicles showing up on our highways in ever increasing numbers. Over 90% of the charging of these vehicles occurs at night, in the owners' garages, when electricity demand is low and rates are cheap, so no further demand is made on those drivers' wallets or on our electricity grid. And coupled with increased rooftop solar electricity production, it's a

win, win, win!

And, to again bring the story home to us here in the South Bay, with the knowledge that occasional "top-off" charging will be required by these EV drivers during the day as they come to our Beach cities for commerce and for play, our cities are responding by installing electric vehicle charging stations on our public streets and community centers. The City of Torrance already has an extensive network of charging stations scattered throughout the community, and due to the encouragement of Torrance City Councilman and friend of the environment, Cliff Numark, that city is currently surveying EV drivers to determine the best locations for future installations. And, right here in Hermosa Beach, due to the efforts of Hermosa Beach City Councilman Pete Tucker and others, Mayor Jeff Duclos on May 7 announced the availability of 4 electric vehicle charging stations in downtown Hermosa Beach; 2 in the 300 block of Pier Avenue and 2 at City Hall. We also look for the City of Manhattan Beach to be following suit in the coming months.

May Recap

Notes courtesy of Kathryn Campbell
 Treasurer's report: Beginning balance: \$919 (Federal), \$8 (State)
Deposits and Transfers: \$189 (Federal) from membership renewals, \$25 (State)
Expenditures and Transfers: \$39 bank charges and newsletter expenses (Federal), \$15 (State)
Ending balance: \$1,069 (Federal), \$18 (State)

Edna is looking into another accounting office that may be less expensive.

Our special presentation was by Dinah Stevens, Public Affairs Officer for Senator Dianne Feinstein. She works for the political advocacy arm of Planned Parenthood, with 19 health centers in LA County that served 130,000 people last year. 76 percent of their clients had lost their jobs or health insurance in the past year. She said 20 percent of all American women will use Planned Parenthood services in their lifetime.



Ray Waters and Dency Nelson charging their Nissan Leafs at the newly installed Hermosa Beach electric vehicle charging stations.

Stevens said that positive outcomes from health reform include:

- No more gender-based ratings
- No more pre-existing conditions
- No co-pays for preventive care

Campaign/Officer Reports

Veronica Zendejas reported from Senator Ted Lieu's office. She said SB1172 which bans sexual orientation change therapy is getting a lot of attention on the Senate floor, as is SB 956 "Buy Here Pay Here" bill and SB 1055, which would prohibit landlords from forcing tenants to pay rent online.

Bobbi Buescher reported from Assemblywoman Betsy Butler's office that Betsy and Ted were both chosen Legislators of the Year by the Veterans.

Dency Nelson asked about action by the utilities to reduce the amount of net metering allowed, which would put a damper on the solar industry.

Rochelle Schneider reported on the District Attorney's Forum in which she served on the panel that asked questions.

Danette Myers is endorsed by the California Democrats, a total of 27 clubs so far.

Ray Waters announced County Committee has nominated Scott Houston and Isabel Rodriguez for Democrats of the Year.

Sergio Carrillo made a plea for more volunteers for walking and calling to support Al Muratsuchi.

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*Beach Cities
Democratic Club*



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*Beach Cities Democratic Club
Membership Form*

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I (we) understand that only registered Democrats, or those intending to register, may join the club.

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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:

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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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