

Next Meeting

Note New Location!

Wednesday, August 28, 7:30 PM

Our August meeting will be held at Michael Keegan's home, 704 Seventh Street, Hermosa Beach. Parking is available off 6th Street in the Learned Lumber parking lot. Then look for the balloons in the northwest corner of the lot, as that is the back gate of Michaels's house.

The program will feature Democratic candidates for the upcoming Hermosa Beach City Council election on November 5. We are also hoping to hear from a Democratic school board candidate, and a presentation on the Rule of Law.

President's Message

The Do Nothings

Please repeat after me: "this Republican controlled congress has been the least productive congress since the Second World War."

This statement is true (only 14 laws have been past in the 113th congress) and it points blame at the responsible party—The Tea Party.

Now that congressional representatives are on recess, this is a good time to make the above point to your friends and contacts. Congress's approval rating is dismal, at or below 14%. We should try and shift that disapproval where it belongs, to those extreme conservative Republicans. Extreme conservatives have taken control of the Republican Party and refuse to let either side find agreement on any issue of importance.

What triggered this impasse? Beyond President Obama being elected and the extreme conservatives having a radical anti-government ideology, in this con-

gress, it was the vote on disaster relief for hurricane Sandy.

Extreme conservatives were incensed by their fellow Republicans voting with Democrats to pass the bill. They demanded that Speaker Boehner never again allow a bill on the floor of congress without the conservative wing's support. Boehner has obeyed that commandment fearful of losing his speaker's position.

What is it that the extreme conservatives want? Most of all, they want to kill Obama Care. They want consumers to pay more for health care and they want insurance companies to cover fewer people and provide less care. Republicans have voted 40 times to repeal Obama Care, but there is more.

The extreme conservatives want to repeal laws that protect America's health and safety, they want to repeal environmental protections and they want to take away the safety nets that have kept seniors and children from falling into severe poverty. Boehner has learned how to mouth the message of the Tea party, "We

ought to be judged on how many laws we repealed."

Fortunately, they have not been able to repeal very many laws. But, give them another term and they may. The larger problem is continued failure of government. We are not moving forward on the important issues of our day, and lost time and opportunity can add up to disaster.

On the horizon are dark clouds. When the congress returns in September, they will have just nine legislative days to find agreement on how to fund the next fiscal year. There are no signs of progress for that agreement and we are almost certain to go to the brink of a government shutdown with the conservative Republicans demanding draconian cuts in Social Security, Medicare and Obama Care.

The President needs all our support to circumnavigate an obstructionist congress and we need to continue to get the message out on who is responsible for government failure.

Stay vigilant and vocal, and let's continue to fight for our Democratic values.

Tony Hale, President, Beach City Democrats



Our new Board (l to r): Dency Nelson, Vice-President; Tony Hale, President; Kathryn Campbell, Secretary; and Edna Murphy, Treasurer.

Beach Cities Green

By Dency Nelson

In my past two or three columns, I have noted the lack of awareness on the part of our California Democratic Leadership, and Governor Brown, regarding the real dangers that hydraulic fracturing, the procedure more commonly known as "fracking," poses for the health and safety of California and its people. I have also suggested in these columns that we have the "cure for cancer" in this case, and still we continue to ignore it. The "cure" that I refer to is the vast amount of energy, along with energy-related jobs, available to us from safe, clean, renewable methods such as solar, wind, tidal and hydro. Let me this month accentuate the positive, while alluding only briefly to my criticism of the "Frackocrats."



In a column that appeared in the Sunday, August 11, edition of *The Sacramento Bee*, my friend and "Plugin America" (www.pluginamerica.org) colleague Chris Paine wrote, "...the debate has fallen into the false choice between the economy and the environment. This is not the real choice at hand. Expanding the development of clean energy in California can drive sustained economic growth while also protecting the state's vital agricultural and environmental resources." Even more to the point, and pointing to a completely different economic engine for California, is the fact that right here in the South Bay we are poised to be the leaders in developing certain new technologies and companies that will provide thousands of jobs and take us into this new green-energy economy. I was reminded of that fact, and I reminded our Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi of it, when I attended his recent public hearing on the aerospace industry of the South Bay. As third-party analysts and representatives of Northrop-Grumann

and Boeing spoke of the loss of manufacturing jobs in California over the past decade, and of how even the still-thriving aerospace industry was not left unaffected by reduced military contracts and other impediments to the growth of those companies, I couldn't help but recall the drumbeat of former Congresswoman Jane Harman during her 20 years representing this district. While she always supported aerospace for its jobs and for what it provided for national defense, it was also never lost on her that the infrastructure and personnel, the engineers and the research and development involved in aerospace were the same components that would be needed in order to explore, develop and manufacture the tools for taking us into the new green-energy economy. The photovoltaic solar panels that are on my Hermosa Beach roof and other roofs up and down the state of California, combining to provide over 2,000 megawatts of electricity to power our homes, businesses and the growing number of electric vehicles, were developed and improved by the aerospace industry.

And the most exciting new player sitting on that panel along with Northrop-Grumann and Boeing was the Hawthorne-based SpaceX. This company, guided by the vision of its remarkable founder and CEO, Elon Musk, has been successfully building and launching its rockets and spacecraft, resupplying the International Space Station over the past couple of years -- SpaceX, a company based here in the South Bay, providing jobs and innovation to carry us into the next economy. And Elon Musk, the brilliant mastermind who, in addition to his SpaceX successes using fossil fuel-based rocket technology, fully understands the synergy of new energies, new vehicles, and new bold technologies, and our need to turn to sustainable, renewable propulsion and power, as his Tesla Motor Cars and Solar City companies attest. He's not stopping there. Next up is the solar-powered, magnetic-drive tube vehicle, the Hyperloop (<http://www.teslamotors.com/blog/hyperloop>), promis-

ing travel time between Los Angeles and San Francisco of about 30 minutes! Not science fiction, but science possibility based on science fact! Just like the science fact of climate change and how we fix it! The cure for this particular "cancer," and it's right here in the South Bay.

July Recap

The following minutes, edited for space, courtesy of Kathryn Campbell

Tony Hale opened the meeting and introduced the new officers: Tony Hale (President), Dency Nelson (VP), Kathryn Campbell (Secretary), and Edna Murphy (Treasurer).

Treasurer's Report

Federal account starting balance = 1,532
5 new member's dues = \$125
Less \$300 spending on DAC, our last contribution. \$1,357 ending balance.
State account starting balance = \$53,
less \$15 for bank fees, now \$38.

Oil Drilling in Hermosa Beach

Special Report by Dency Nelson

Tonight is the scoping meeting to discuss what should be included in the oil drilling Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Most of our Hermosa Beach members are probably there tonight. The story has been Front page of the *LA Times* this week, as well as in *The Beach Reporter*.

In 1932 Hermosa Beach banned all oil drilling in the city. It's a small, densely populated city. In the 1980s, during a period of financial duress, a ballot measure narrowly passed to allow limited drilling. Sometime thereafter a contract was signed with Macpherson Oil. In the 90s, other residents put up a ballot measure to outlaw drilling again. That meant that Hermosa Beach was in breach of contract with Macpherson. The resulting court battle lasted 17 years and was very costly. In April 2010, Dency among others testified in front of Pedro Nava and the California State Assembly Natural Resources Committee at a hearing about oil companies trying to strong arm small cities through litigation. [Secretary's note: for a more detailed history on drilling in Hermosa

(Continued on page 3)

(Recap, Continued from page 2)



Jessica Borek from Rodriguez Strategies spoke about the Excellence in Mental Health Act

Beach see <http://www.nobpinhb.com/p/history.html>].

We are not dependent on oil drilling for money. We've heard that our attorneys did mock trials and felt that Hermosa Beach would lose, and in any event we knew the plaintiff would appeal. The damages asked for, \$700 million, would have bankrupted Hermosa Beach. So there was a closed door settlement with Macpherson and a new company, E&B. E&B bought the original contract for \$30MM, ended the lawsuit, and called for a new vote in Hermosa Beach on drilling. If the vote is no, Hermosa Beach will be liable for \$17.5MM. If we vote yes, we'd not have to pay and there are promises of more money.

Initial drilling from the city yard (on Valley Drive just south of City Hall) will require a derrick, after that it will be removed. They will drill up to 35 wells, which will run under our streets and businesses, going a mile into the bay to get to the oil. Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi has given us a lot of time on this and taken aggressive positions on oil drilling in the past and we're hoping for his support.

E&B won't be breaking up shale like traditional fracking, but high pressure water (and perhaps some chemicals) will be pumped under our streets to extract this oil from the bay. Dency says it's an "Indecent Proposal" that will change the relationship of Hermosa Beach residents with their town forever. E&B doesn't have big resources if there's a problem and

hasn't really done this type of project before. And we don't need this carbon in our atmosphere when we're trying to combat climate change! California should be leading the way in limiting carbon emissions.

E&B is taking out full page ads already. Yesterday Pat Morrison guest hosted for Larry Mantle and covered this issue, and calls were overwhelmingly against oil drilling.

The earliest this will be on the ballot is probably November 2014. First will be the EIR, health & safety reviews, etc. We're hoping that the early reports will be so bad that it won't even make it to the ballot. But we can't count on that.

How can surrounding cities support Hermosa Beach? We should get involved, we could all be affected in the event of a spill or environmental disaster. The Palos Verdes Sierra Club has endorsed our No position, and there will be more. Lori mentioned that Redondo Beach tried oil drilling and didn't make any money at all.

How to close the \$17.5MM budget gap without allowing drilling? Dency says that we have other ways to do it, perhaps through bonds. Leverage our green credentials, make a carbon neutral pledge that may attract green businesses.

The only good thing about this situation is that we've awakened a sleeping tiger. In the past we've had trouble recruiting Democratic candidates for local office. Now we have a lot of motivated candidates, most who embrace our "No on Oil" position. It's in our interest to defeat those on the council who don't have the best interests on our citizens in mind.

For more information go to www.stophermosabeachoil.com

Report on Executive Board meeting of the California Democratic Party

Tony Hale reported on the recent eBoard meeting of the CDP. This is one of four meetings a year to conduct the business of the California Democratic Party, such as endorsing candidates, fine tuning rules, etc. There are 300 people on the eBoard, vs ~3000 delegates to the convention. They met last weekend in

Costa Mesa. A number of resolutions were considered and most were passed.

Resolutions are statements in principle, but that in and of itself doesn't accomplish legislation. There is lots of organized opposition to eliminating fracking, for example, although most Dems would like to see it stopped. We have to do a more effective job of getting our position out there. Go to CADem.org and add your input. [Secretary's note: you may read the text of all resolutions considered at http://www.cadem.org/admin/miscdocs/files/Resolutions_July2013.pdf]

One issue affecting the Dem clubs is the endorsement process. In the 1960s, Democratic governors decided who the nominee was going to be. Since 1968 we've had more primaries & caucuses and become more democratic in our party process. No longer are all Delegates appointed by elected officials. The CDC and their grassroots organizing has helped us get more ordinary Dems into power. In the last few years clubs have been able to send delegates to pre-endorsement caucuses. But in special elections, elected officials have worked with certain caucuses to move around their appointed delegates to influence nominations. Tony feels that locals should have more say regarding local endorsements. Last weekend, the many proposals included looking more closely at large clubs, capping or reducing the number of delegates over a certain point, especially those who experience sudden membership growth. The Rules committee has to put something in front of the body for an up or down vote by November.

Lori Geittmann reported on an effort to get the party to construct a list of all party affiliations of electeds in local government, including non-partisan offices. This would help the party recruit more candidates for these positions in places where Democrats are not well represented.

Finally, it was mentioned that the Environmental Caucus sought approval to establish local Green Party clubs, but that the Rules committee turned them down.

(Continued on page 4)



*P.O. Box 2192
Redondo Beach, CA 90278*
President
Tony Hale—310-465-6188
Vice-President
Dency Nelson—310-374-4543
Secretary
Kathryn Campbell—310-316-4375
Treasurer
Edna Murphy—310-545-6292
Membership
Isabel Rodriguez—310 372-4716
Newsletter
Moira Zucker—310-546-7562
moiraz@alumni.reed.edu
Database and Mailing
Mark Drabkin—213-787-5267
Web Manager
James McGreevy—310-320-1638

Beach Cities Democrats

Report by Lisa Power on 66th ADDC Meeting on 6/27/13

They elected Diane Wallace as Secretary and Al Shadbourne as Treasurer. They are working on a strategic plan and formation of a membership committee to reach beyond beach cities. Next general meeting will probably be in September. Their mission is to motivate, educate and engage voters. A small change was made to the by-laws.

Excellence in Mental Health Act (HR1263)

Jessica Borek with Rodriguez Strategies asked us to support Doris Matsui's Excellence in Mental Health Act (HR1263). It would provide \$1.4 B in Medicaid funding for creation of a demonstration program. Rep. Waxman is the latest co-sponsor. A motion was passed to have our secretary send a letter to Rep. Waxman thanking him for his support and asking him to move it forward. [Secretary's note: the letter was sent on 7/30/13 on behalf of the Beach Cities Dems. You may learn more about the proposed bill at www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/113/hr1263].

Upcoming Fairs - planning and

recruitment of volunteers

Fiesta Hermosa: 8/31 – 9/2
Manhattan Beach Hometown Fair: 10/5 & 6
LA County Fair: 8/30 – 9/29. Kathryn Campbell agreed to coordinate adopting a day, possibly in conjunction with the West LA Dem Club.

Ray Waters has the required form and will register us and pay for insurance. We need volunteers for outreach and voter registration. Let Tony Hale know which days and times you are available.

Old Business

Tony Hale provided an overview of MOE, a data system provided by the LA County Dem party. It provides voter information to assist with outreach. We have to sign a contract saying we'll only use it for club outreach or to support endorsed Dem candidates. Only one official person will be provided with the "keys to the system." A motion was passed to utilize the system.

Bylaws update. We need to make an initial change to allow for email notification prior to submitting additional detailed suggested changes. Tony Hale will send out just this one change, which requires two weeks' notice, for a vote at our next meeting.

New Business

Tony introduced the idea of dropping the word "club" from our name, to change to simply "Beach Cities Democrats." The word "club" can be misleading and an impediment to recruitment. It doesn't sound like we do real, serious political work. Lori suggested just trying out the name in our promotional materials for a while before we have a vote on it. A motion was passed to start casually making the change, then make a final decision when we recharter in January.

Standing Committees. It was reported that Isabel Rodriguez is considering whether to continue as membership chair (Isabel was attending the Stop Hermosa Beach Drilling meeting and so was not present in person). Jim McGreevy agreed to continue maintaining our website, and Moira Zucker agreed to continue doing our newsletter (at this announcement there was a spontaneous ovation to mark our appreciation).

Moment of silence for Les Berg, a founding member of BCDC, who recently passed away. A motion was made to send flowers from the club. Seconded and passed unanimously.