

Next Meeting

Manhattan Bread & Bagel
1812 N. Sepulveda Boulevard
Manhattan Beach
Wednesday, March 26
7:30 PM

Come hear reports from the Convention and from our elected officials and candidates.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Tony Hale

California Democratic State Convention



Our state party convention was the 7th, 8th and 9th of March.

Many of our club members are delegates to the party, but for those who did not attend; I will give a short report here.

The state convention is a yearly business meeting for our state party and is part of how the party creates its rules, defines its core beliefs and makes its endorsements. For business that can't be done during the yearly convention, there are two to three Executive Board meetings a year.

This year's convention was a platform convention; that means that we pass the platform for our party and do not consider resolutions at that convention. California's Democratic platform is important because it is used as a template for our nation platform.

Two notable additions to this year's platform were the support for universal pre-school for 4 year old children and support for the legalization of marijuana. Not that those two go together.

State wide candidates were endorsed for re-election except in the two contested

races for State Controller and Secretary of State. Here are those endorsements:

Governor Edmund G. "Jerry" Brown
Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom
Attorney General Kamala D. Harris
Treasurer John Chiang
Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones
Supt. of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson
Board of Equalization
District 1 Chris R. Parker
District 2 Fiona Ma
District 3 Jerome E. Ho

For our local races we endorsed Al Muratsuchi for State Assembly District 66 and Ted Lieu for Congressional District 33.

No one was able to win the endorsement for Senate District 26. Betsy Butler came within a few votes of winning the required 60 percent needed to get the endorsement. The remaining votes were split largely between Ben Allen, Santa Monica School Board member, and no-endorsement.

Two propositions that will appear on June ballot were endorsed at the convention: Prop. 41, Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Bond Act of 2014 and Prop. 42, Public Records. Open Meetings. State Reimbursement to Local Agencies. Prop. 42 Requires local government compliance with laws providing for public access to local government body meetings and records of government officials. Eliminates reimbursement for costs of compliance. A yes vote on prop. 42 would result in the state not being required to pay local governments for costs to follow state laws that give the public access to local government information. This new law will cement in the Constitution the public's right to know what the government is doing and how it is doing it. Local agencies shouldn't be allowed to deny a request for public infor-

mation or slam a meeting door shut based on cost.

One moment of controversy at the convention was a protest of Governor Jerry Brown's speech before the convention on Saturday's general session. Some 100 delegates shouted and held up signs in opposition to Hydraulic Fracturing (or Fracking), a method of oil and gas extraction that has a higher carbon footprint than other conventional methods of oil and gas drilling.

Jerry Brown has said that Fracking could play a role in our efforts to gain oil independence and increase revenue for our state.

"You can be sure that everything that needs to be done to fight climate change that we can accomplish, we'll do it," Brown responded back to the protesters. "And I ask all of you, every one of you in this room, to join in a crusade to protect our climate, to find other ways of mobility, and to make sure this California dream is alive and well both now and for generations to come."

Obviously frustrated with single issue protest, Brown ended his speech with "Thanks a lot, and keep protesting, but add a bunch of more stuff."



BCD members, including Moira Nelson, demonstrating against Fracking at the Convention

FEBRUARY RECAP

Beach Cities Democrats

Minutes courtesy of Kathryn Campbell

Officer Reports

President's Report

Tony discussed the fact that many Dems we know are now running against each other for the same office. He reminded us not to get divided, because in the end we have to all come together.

VP Report

Dency Nelson brought a copy of the draft Environmental Impact Report for Hermosa Drilling, which was about 3 inches thick. Dency also mentioned that Ted Lieu was given the top rating for 2013 by the California Environmental Justice Alliance, in part because of his vote against AB327, "Electrical Rate Reform," which purported to support solar power, but was in Dency's opinion really a break for energy companies at the expense of rate payers. That was a difficult vote in which Sen. Lieu listened to input from South Bay environmental activists, including Dency.

[Secretary's note: the EIR 60 day comment period will end April 14, 2014, according to the Minutes of the City Council's 2/25 board meeting.]

Secretary's Report

Kathryn Campbell submitted minutes from the January meeting, which were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Edna Murphy reported the following activity through 1/31/14:

Federal account: starting balance of \$1,851 + 662 in revenues - 100 for

expenses during the month, for an ending balance of \$2,413.

State account: starting balance of \$48 + 55 - \$15 (bank fees) = ending balance of \$88.

Members contributed \$600 for the John Chiang event, despite only committing to \$400. Ray Waters made a motion to also donate \$100 from the club, seconded by Teresa Bird. Motion passed unanimously. Treasurer's Report was approved.

Report from Sen Lieu's office
Veronica Zendejas from Sen. Lieu's office provided a report. Friday was the deadline to introduce new bills. Some of Sen. Lieu's bills include:

SB 1388, "Human Trafficking," to protect children from sexual exploitation & slavery;

SB 115, "Geological hazards," to prevent construction on seismic fissures
SB1432, "Arts Council Grants," to restore funding to the CA Arts Council
SB828, "Privacy," to ban mass spying on citizens by the Federal Government.

Sen. Lieu recently held a seniors event at the Joslyn Center to increase awareness of scams targeting seniors. They are planning another one in May in Venice.

Ted also won the pre-endorsement vote for Congressional District 33 by more than the required 70% threshold! Dency made a motion that the Beach Cities Democrats endorse him. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

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BCD Members and friends made their voices heard on opposition to hydraulic fracking. L to R: Connie Sullivan, Dency Nelson, and Betsy Butler. Photos courtesy of Rochelle Schneider.



Program: Water Water Everywhere

Our Guest speaker was club member Don Dear, Board Member of West Basin Water District (<http://www.westbasin.org/>).

First idea: more conservation! The single biggest thing you can do is to plant a drought tolerant yard. The WBWD offers gardening classes on those.

Don passed out maps of the CA water supply system & the WBWD.

2013 was the driest year on record in 113 years. Oct – Jan this year was the driest on record, and there could be another record for 2014. Allocation we receive from the California aqueduct is currently 0! Our reservoirs are dropping rapidly, many are below 50% of capacity. Precipitation for the last 24 months is 25% or less of usual rainfall.

The MWD made investments over the last 20 years that are helping us avoid rationing this year and next. On Jan 17, the Governor requested we reduce usage by 20%. We have done well with conservation, and as a result our usage has stayed the same over the last 20 years despite population growth. One example is the use of sewage water treated by Hyperion for commercial purposes for

non-potable water.

The Redondo Beach ocean desalination demonstration facility shows we have the scientific understanding to implement desalination, but it's very expensive compared to today's costs for water, and usually has to be built adjacent to a power plant. (<http://www.westbasin.org/water-reliability-2020/ocean-water-desalination/overview>). On the other hand, the Central Valley farms are experimenting successfully with solar desalination of brackish water, which is a lot less salty than sea water, so a lot easier.

There was further discussion of various upcoming water bills, as well as the dangers to the water supply associated with fracking.

Campaigns

There are 165 judges up for election in LA County this year, with 14 open judicial positions. Five judicial candidates appeared at the meeting to present their credentials. They included:

- Marc A. Gibbons, Defense Attorney, for Superior Court Judge Seat 138. (www.marcgibbonsforjudge.com) Note: when asked to confirm that all judges asking for endorsement were registered Democrats, Marc stated that he is an independent (NPP).
- Helen Kim, Deputy District Attorney, for Superior Court Judge. (www.helenkimforjudge.com).
- Amy Carter, Deputy District Attorney, for LA County Superior Court Judge. (www.amycarterforjudge.com)
- Songhai Armstead, City Attorney, for LA County Superior Court Judge Seat 97. (www.armsteadforjudge.com).
- Andrew Stein, Defense attorney, for LA County Superior Court Judge Seat 87. (www.steinforjudge.com).

Not in attendance, but represented were:

- Shannon Knight, for LA County Superior Court Judge Seat 54. (Shannonknightforjudge.com)
- Debra Losnick, also running for LA County Superior Court Judge Seat 54. (<http://www.debralosnickforjudge.com/>).

Tony noted that filing has not yet closed for these positions, although the Declaration of Intent were due. LA County also hasn't yet done endorsements. So, rather than endorse at this meeting, Tony suggested that we have another event in the future specifically around judicial nominees so we can meet more candidates and the candidates can meet more Dems. Ray Waters made a motion that we not endorse tonight, which was seconded and passed.

Old Business, New Business, Announcements

- Stop Hermosa Beach Oil Door-to-Door walk scheduled for 3/1, 9:30 a.m. at South Park.
- Food & Water Watch organized Climate Change Walk, 8:30 AM at Wilmington Waterfront Park, Port of LA. Dency made a motion to endorse their upcoming marches, which was seconded and unanimously passed.
- Longtime member and former BCD President Lori Geittmann is in Torrance Memorial; she recently lost her leg to diabetes. She is expected to be in rehabilitation 2 – 5 weeks. Kathryn Campbell made a motion to send flowers on behalf of the club, but several members noted that she's been overwhelmed with flowers! Don Dear offered to bring her a book as a gift from the club. Watch the BCD Yahoo Group for updates on Lori's condition and whereabouts once she is moved to a physical rehab facility. *[Secretary's note: Lori is now at Driftwood Healthcare Center at 4109 Emerald St, Torrance, CA 90503. She welcomes visitors].*

66th Assembly District Democratic Council Report

The next meeting of the 66th ADDC will be on April 24th in Torrance. The club is also planning a May showing of Reich's documenatry "Inequality for All."

State Party Convention & Logistics

The annual California Democratic Party convention will be in Los Angeles this year March 7 – 9, 2014. Transportation and logistics were discussed.



BCD Members and friends at the Convention dinner



Beach Cities Democrats

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**Beach Cities Democrats
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 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 Legislature Membership Other

Annual dues are \$25.00 per person or \$40.00 for two at the same address.
Please make checks payable to Beach Cities Democrats and mail to P.O. Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278