

Next Meeting

Manhattan Bread & Bagel
1812 N. Sepulveda Boulevard
Manhattan Beach
Wednesday, April 23
7:30 PM

We will be discussing our bylaws, which will have been distributed to members prior to the meeting.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Tony Hale

At our last meeting we made endorsements for our local Assembly and Senate races and we also endorsed in Torrance city races.



A few people protested the process we used to do the above endorsements, so I would like to explain the process we followed.

The executive board was concerned that since the 26th senate district endorsement could trigger a stacking effort on the part of 6 campaigns, we were careful to follow our bylaws and not invite extra attention to our meeting.

Stacking here means an attempt to add members to a club to influence the endorsement of a club. Since our club has not had a lot of experience with stacking, our bylaws did not have provisions to protect against such efforts. Such protections would require voting members to have joined before the last meeting in order to vote in an endorsement. What's wrong with stacking? The only thing wrong with stacking is that it can misrepresent the will of the regular club members. The new members are unlikely to stay involved in the club or ever return to the club after said endorsement meeting.

Our bylaws allow members to join up until just before the start of the meeting and vote in an endorsement. This left our club

open to stacking, so as a safeguard, we followed our bylaws and our normal past practices and did not give extra or special notice of our meeting. Our bylaws do not give a required date for notice of an agenda for a meeting other than before the meeting. We looked at the history of our agenda notices and found that the Monday before the meeting was the norm for our past notices.

Since 3 candidates in the Senate race are members of our club and they were able to have friends join our club on our website before the meeting, there was ample opportunity for supporters interested in the race to join our club before our meeting.

Even without extra promotion of our meeting, there was a very healthy turnout of long-term club members to this meeting.

Our club has had a very casual attitude toward endorsements in the past, often times making endorsements when candidates came by our meetings, and almost always without requiring that all candidates in a particular race be present at the time of endorsements.

Since two people challenged the process at the meeting, I asked that consideration of the endorsement be put to a vote. The vote was overwhelmingly in favor of considering the endorsement, with only two or three people voting against. When it came to the actual endorsement vote, that was overwhelming also, with over 90% of those attending voting for Betsy Butler.

As I looked at the people who attended our meeting that night, I saw a handful of new members, and a large group of long-time members that have been active in our club for many years. I truly feel the will of our club was well represented that night and the bylaws and traditions of our club were followed.

That withstanding, our board inherited bylaws that do not address stacking issues or spell out adequate notification requirements. These matters and others need to be amended and that is why we have given notice of proposed amendments of our bylaws at our next meeting. Please join us in this effort to make our club an even better organization.



We had a very full house at our March meeting, and many speakers. Photo courtesy of Jim McGreevy.

BEACH CITIES GREEN

Dency Nelson

As will always be the case, at least until a revolution occurs in overall planetary environmental consciousness, there are both good news and bad news stories from the past couple of months regarding fossil fuel harvesting and our addiction to oil.



Let's start with the good news.

On Friday, February 28, following outstanding science-based appeals from Los Angeles City Council members Mike Bonin and Paul Koretz, the Los Angeles City Council voted (10 "ayes" and 5 abstentions) to call a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") within the City of Los Angeles until the health and safety risks of this practice can be determined. This is basically the same legislation that the California State Legislature was unable to pass for the entire state last year, and makes Los Angeles the first city in California to call for this moratorium. Then on Tuesday, March 18, the City of Carson's City Council voted unanimously for an emergency 45-day moratorium on new oil and gas drilling, with or without fracking, a moratorium that could last up to two years, until health and safety questions can be satisfactorily answered. "There are too many questions, too many unknowns," said Councilman Al Robles, who proposed the moratorium. "I refuse to gamble with the health and well-being of the residents." And, even though the California State Democratic Party leaders last year participated in the movement to block any fracking moratorium measures — with that direct order coming from Governor Brown, who

made it crystal clear that he would not sign any legislation calling for a moratorium or ban on fracking — a plank calling once again for such a moratorium sailed through onto the State Democratic Party's Platform at this year's Democratic State Party Convention held in Los Angeles March 7 through 9.

On the top of the list of bad news stories is the international crisis involving Russia and the Ukraine. That story has many unfortunate elements, not the least of which is the threat to the natural gas supply to Europe from the east, encouraging overblown suggestions that the United States could now become the major supplier of LNG (Liquid Natural Gas) for Europe (because of our "vast available supplies of gas and oil due to the new, modern fracking methods") and as a result, "the new Middle East of gas and oil wealth" — all of this without any regard to the consequences for the health of the planet.

On the local front, the number one bad news story is the propaganda coming from E&B, the company that has its eye on the oil they hope to harvest via directional drilling into the Torrance Oil Field under the Santa Monica Bay from the tiny Hermosa Beach City Yard. For the first time since this oil drilling proposal was announced, the misguided efforts of this company are bringing forward misinformed citizens who claim that this is a "once in a lifetime windfall" that could be worth millions for what they believe is a "cash strapped" city, and who say that those calling for a "No" vote on the oil drilling issue are nothing but "Chicken Littles" and "job destroyers." Wrong on all counts! The facts are in the Draft Environmental Report, the Health Impact Report and the Cost-Benefit Analysis, which reveal that this proposed drilling project is "Not safe, not healthy and a bad deal!" for the citizens of Hermosa Beach, and for anyone in the South Bay who

enjoys the relatively clean air, quiet streets, and unpolluted waters of our region. We need to keep the carbon in the ground and to instead turn our efforts and money toward developing and incentivizing alternative, sustainable, clean and safe forms of energy.

To end this column on a positive and hopeful note, once again our own Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi has introduced legislation that will help support our efforts to move to alternative, renewable forms of energy. AB 2188 (Muratsuchi) is a bill that would require all cities and counties in California to adopt an expedited permitting and inspection process for small-scale rooftop solar PV and solar thermal systems by September 2015. Under the bill, local jurisdictions would be required to post standardized permitting guidelines online, accept electronic submissions, review permits within 24 hours, schedule inspections within 48 hours, and overall reduce costs and make solar accessible to more people. Please thank Assemblyman Muratsuchi for this legislation and help him by supporting it as it moves through committees, the full legislature and on to the Governor.



Joe Galliani, Organizer of South Bay Action 350, spoke about his fulltime pro bono work to educate about Climate Change.



MARCH RECAP**Beach Cities Democrats**

Minutes courtesy of Kathryn Campbell

President's Report

At the Democratic State Convention in Los Angeles March 7 – 9, three thousand Democrats from across the state came together. The California Democratic Party endorsed Jerry Brown for Governor, Gavin Newsom for Lt. Governor, Kamala Harris for Attorney General, John Chiang for Treasurer, Dave Jones for Insurance Commissioner and Tom Torlakson for Superintendent of Public Instruction. No endorsements were made for Secretary of State or Controller. New elements to the platform included a call for a moratorium on fracking, and in support of universal preschool and legalization of marijuana. The unfortunate news about Leland Yee's arrest by the FBI was mentioned.

[Secretary's note: other endorsements and news from the convention may be found at www.cadem.org]

VP Report

Dency Nelson thanked Debra Bowen and Bill Lockyer for their service and voiced support for John Chiang's candidacy for Treasurer.

Also there have been two strong precinct walks recently in opposition to drilling in Hermosa Beach.

In fracking (hydraulic fracturing) news, the LA City Council voted for a moratorium on fracking, led by Mike Bonin and Paul Koretz. The City of Carson recently called for 45 day moratorium. And a rally organized by Californians Against Fracking brought 4,000 "fractivists" to Sacramento on March 15 to oppose fracking and push for more information about where fracking is currently happening.

This Saturday, Jeff Duclos, an Alternate for Coastal Commission, attended Climate Reality Leadership Corp training in Johannesburg, South Africa. Training is provided by the Climate Reality Project (climateralityproject.org), headed by Al Gore. Jeff is putting together an educational presentation to share with others based on his training.

Secretary's Report

Kathryn Campbell submitted minutes from

the February meeting, which were approved. She also thanked Isabel Rodriguez, former BCD Membership Chair, who recently resigned due to family commitments. Kathryn asked for volunteers to step up and help fill Isabel's shoes.

Treasurer's Report

Edna Murphy reported the following: Federal account: starting balance of \$2,413 + \$75 in new member revenues - \$50 for membership in United Democrats of South Bay, for an ending balance of \$2,438. State account: starting balance of \$88 - \$15 (bank fees) = ending balance of \$63. Motion passed unanimously to accept Treasurer's Report.

Program: Supporting Ted Lieu 's SB1272 "Overturn Citizen's United Act"

Michele Sutter, co-founder of MOVI ("Money Out Voters In"), explained Ted Lieu's Senate Bill 1272 (still in Legislative Council), which seeks to put a Voter Instruction on the California statewide ballot for November 2014 calling for a Constitutional Amendment to overturn the Citizens United Supreme Court decision.

MOVI has been working in LA for three years, and seeks a 28th Amendment to overturn Citizen's United. National 28th Amendment Roadshow will be on Saturday, April 26, at the UCLA School of Law and they expect Mayor Garcetti to attend.

[Secretary's note: more information may be found here about the event: http://28amend-movi.nationbuilder.com/los_angeles/]

Ms. Sutter called for a motion to endorse provisionally the "spirit" of the act as language isn't finalized yet. Teresa Bird made such a motion, seconded and passed.

Considerations of Local Endorsements

A motion was made to endorse Al Muratsuchi (not in attendance) for Congress, seconded and passed.

A motion was made to consider endorsements for State Senate. Both Amy Howorth, Mayor of Manhattan Beach, and Betsy Butler, former Assemblywoman, are club members and were in attendance. Each spoke briefly about their credentials for the office.

[Secretary's note: more information on each of these candidates may be found at howorthforsenate.com and betsybutler.com.]

Lisa Power asked if we could have a candidate's forum to hear from all of the candidates before voting. Tony said there had been two such forums in the South Bay in just the prior week, one in Palos Verdes and one in Torrance. Glenda McCarthy moved that we endorse tonight. The motion was seconded and passed overwhelmingly.

Tony asked if anyone wished to vote for Democratic candidates Ben Allen, Sandra Fluke, Barbi Appelquist, Patric Verrone or Vito Imbasciani. No members moved to consider a vote for any of those candidates. Tony followed by asking if anyone wished to vote for No Endorsement, Amy Howorth, or Betsy Butler. Betsy Butler won overwhelmingly.

Jimmy Gow mentioned that Torrance club has endorsed several candidates for local office, including Pat Furey for Mayor; four candidates for City Council, including Tim Goodrich, Kurt Weideman, Norm "Opa" Segel and Dr. Khan; and Rebecca Poirier for City Clerk (none of whom were in attendance). Jimmy moved that we endorse them all; seconded and passed.

Scott Mayers, owner of the Lantern House in Venice, made a motion to endorse Jeffrey Prang (not in attendance) who is running for Assessor. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

A motion was also made to endorse Sheila Kuehl (not in attendance) for LA County Supervisor, seconded and passed.

The club also heard from the following judicial candidates who attended this evening's meeting:

Steven Klaif for Superior Court Judge Seat #113 (stevenklaifforjudge2014.com) and Debra Losnick for Superior Court Judge Seat #54 (DebraLosnickforJudge.com).

Tony reiterated that a motion was passed at our last meeting to create a panel discussion to showcase the judicial candidates, whom most of us are unfamiliar with. West LA is planning a forum the first Saturday of May. One option may be to see if we can piggyback and try to have a South Bay location hosted by the 66th the same day.

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Beach Cities Democrats

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
Newsletter
Mitra Zucker—310-546-7562
moiraz@alum1.reed.edu
Membership
Open
Database and Mailing
Mark Drabkin — 213-787-5267
Web Manager
James McGreevy—310-320-1638

Reports from Local Electeds

Hany Fangari, Hermosa Beach City Council
Thanked BCD for endorsing him in the November election. Discussed the Keep Hermosa movement's progress. Expect a vote to stop oil drilling this November. Three different reports have been posted to the city council website. Deadline for public input is 4/14. The most significant issue facing Hermosa Beach today.

Amy Howorth, Manhattan Beach Mayor

She is considering a motion against the Hermosa Beach drilling project, since Manhattan Beach would also be affected by any spills or pollution issues. Also revisiting "the mall discussion" in April or May.

Maggie Bove-LaMonica, School Board Hermosa Beach

Trying to get input on facility survey for Hermosa Beach.

Don Dear, West Basic Water Board Rep

Met with customers to discuss a 9/10 of 1% rate increase to retail customers. Also mentioned that they are giving away free water rain barrels for your water spouts.

Asked to get meeting notices via email or snail mail. Tony thanked him again for speaking at our last meeting.

Notice of Proposed Bylaw Changes

Tony announced that we will be sending out official notice of our proposed bylaw changes two weeks prior to our April meeting and asked that everyone review them and come prepared to discuss.

Lisa Power announced that the next meeting of the 66th ADDC will be on April 24th at the Sizzler in Torrance.

Announcements

- Varo Assorian mentioned a planned coffee for Pat Furey on 5/3, from 9 – 11AM. See Torrance Dem Club for further details.
- Scott Mayers announced a 5/2 event for Betty Yee for Controller at The Lantern House.
- Lillian Light announced that The Environmental Priorities Network is sponsoring its ninth annual Solar Homes Tour in San Pedro, Torrance, and the Beach Cities on Saturday, May 17, 2014 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM (go to http://www.ocice.org/9th_annual_solar_homes_tour for details).

- Adam Galia announced a Stonewall Young Democrats event on Sat, 5/17 at Scott Houston's home.
- Temple Menorah in Redondo Beach will host prize-winning journalist Jeff Gottlieb on Tuesday, April 8, at 7:15 OM. The topic is "Ethics in Government."
- Joe Galliani, Organizer of South Bay Action 350, announced that he works fulltime pro bono to educate about Climate Change. He thanked Amy for her support. Two Manhattan Beach events will be held this Saturday: the Manhattan Beach 2020 Forum promoting climate change awareness and rooftop solar, and a group celebration of Earth Hour on the Manhattan Beach pier.
- West LA Dem Club will be hosting a forum on candidates for County Supervisor and State Senate on Saturday April 5 at the Venice United Methodist Church.