

Next Meeting

NOTE NEW DATE!

Wednesday

November 29, 7:00 PM, Hermosa Beach Community Center, 710 Pier Ave., Room 16, Hermosa Beach 90254

We usually meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month, but due to the Thanksgiving Day Holiday, we have moved our meeting to the fifth Wednesday, November 29.

Our agenda for the meeting is still in flux but we have many issues to discuss including the date of our Annual Party in January. **This will be the last meeting in 2017, as we do not meet in December.** We look forward to seeing everyone on November 29.



The following evening, Thursday, November 30, from 6:00PM to 8:00PM, you are cordially invited to celebrate the holiday season with Senator Ben Allen at his Holiday Meet & Greet and Toy Drive, at Pacific Theatres at the Grove, 189 The Grove Drive, Los Angeles 90036. To RSVP or for more information, please email Olina.Wibroe@sen.ca.gov or call 310-318-6994.

For more information about Beach Cities Democrats and upcoming events, please visit our website at beachcitiesdems.org.

Happy Thanksgiving to You and Your Families. Safe travels and enjoy your day and your dinner. God Bless America. *Bobbi*

Editor's note: This is the final issue of the newsletter for 2017. Thanks to all who have contributed throughout the year.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thanksgiving Day 2017 is quickly approaching with Christmas and the New Year close behind. Another year is almost over.

And what an unsettling, disturbing, topsy turvy year this has been. It started out with the Inauguration of a supremely unprepared, unqualified, unstable and uncouth reality show personality becoming the 45th President of the United States.

Followed the very next day by the Woman's March, the largest protest in U.S. history with hundreds of events across the country and around the world in opposition to his behavior and his policies and to support human rights, women's rights, the environment, immigration reform, healthcare, racial and sexual equality, and to show that we the people will not be silenced.

It was gut wrenching to watch as other unprepared and unqualified people were appointed to power over every agency in the country in order to disrupt, deregulate and destroy the normal workings of our government. Executive orders were enacted to dismantle the Obama legacy and the idea of America as we know it, through both Democratic and Republican administrations.

The early months of the year were difficult with nothing positive to cling to except the rise of the Resistance. People were finally shaken to their core and ready to organize to defy and defeat the egregious effects of the alt right "dismantle government" agenda.

That organizing paid off when we were able to stop the repeal of the Affordable Care Act and save millions of Ameri-



cans from losing their healthcare.

Our self inflicted political horrors have been interrupted only by the natural disasters that have occurred this year. The hurricanes, floods and fires, rooted in our abuse of the environment, have caused death and destruction, yet we pulled out of the Paris Climate Accords. Further, mass shootings continue almost daily as the carnage continues to raise without any action on gun control from Congress, only silence.

This year has taken a toll on the collective American nervous system, where every day there is some new outrage, lie, crazy tweet or taunting rhetoric. There are new revelations daily on the interference in our election by Putin and the Russians, the WikiLeaks theft of Democratic emails and the failure of Facebook and Twitter to recognize, own up to what was happening and stop it, aided by a president who believes Putin's denials and not our intelligence agencies.

(Continued on page 2)



Our honorees Carolyn Waters and Kanji Sahara at the annual Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt dinner on October 29

(Continued from page 1)

Things have begun to shift these last few weeks however, with the Weinstein sexual abuse revelations that have led to a groundswell of “enough is enough.” Finally, the women are being believed. Even in the halls of Congress and Sacramento, staff members have been abused. And we’re yet to see what tricky plan the Republicans will come up with to deal with their notorious teenage molester candidate Roy Moore, to prevent a Democratic victory in Ruby Red Alabama.

No less disgusting is the Tax Reform bill that gives massive cuts to billionaires and corporations at the expense of the middle class and Blue States.

America, we are on the wrong path, but there is a fork in the road ahead and we can change our course.

My hope this Thanksgiving is in the results of the November 7th elections.

Besides the great news from Hermosa Beach that all three Democratic candidates were elected to the City Council, we had successes across the country with many Democratic women replacing Republican men in State Houses. Cities elected their first black mayors, first women mayors and the first Sikh mayor. Latinas, Asian American, LGBTQ and Transgender candidates were also elected for the first time to School Boards, City Councils and State Houses.

These victories are lighting the way back to the country we know and love. To the open, inclusive and always striving to form a more perfect union, America.

We must continue to work towards these ideals and win the seven Congressional seats here in California, held by Republicans, that Hillary won. When we come back in January 2018 our complete focus and attention will be to make that happen and to turn the United States Congress Blue.

As I count my blessings this Thanksgiving, I’m deeply grateful to our BCD Executive Board for all their hard work, giving of their time and talents with dedication to the club and to our Democratic Ideals. I am so thankful for your help and friendship. And, to our members old and new, thank you for actively participating in the ongoing progress of our Nation.

Happy Thanksgiving. God Bless America.

*Bobbi Buescher, President
Beach Cities Democrats*

October Recap

By Moira Zucker

President Bobbi Buescher opened the meeting by greeting all newcomers and thanking those who participated in our booth at the Manhattan Beach Hometown Fair. In our current political climate, it is especially crucial to reach out to Democrats and draw people into the club. Since the election in 2016, we have seen from 60 to 80 new members sign up.

Vice-President Dency Nelson stressed the importance of the Nov. 7 Hermosa Beach election, in which our three endorsed City Council candidates are running: Stacey Armato, Hany Fangary (both incumbents), and Mary Campbell. He and other city residents have been phone-banking, walking the neighborhoods, and handing out lawn signs.

Dency spoke about the next year’s mid-term election, in which Democrats must take back 24 Congressional seats to flip the House from red to blue. He urges people to sign up to be a Permanent Absentee Voter. In addition to the convenience of filling out your ballot at home, voters can go to LAVOTE.net where they can see which ballots have been received and recorded.

He reported that the Photovoltaic cells now atop the Hermosa Community Center, where our club meets, have already provided a return on investment. The roofing now generates electricity which goes back to the grid, and the Center has a negative electricity bill.

Dency reported that our treasurer, Edna Murphy, was unable to attend the meeting; however, Edna subsequently forwarded her report:

Treasurer’s Report

Federal Account

Beginning Balance	\$4,873.00
Money In	138.00
Money Out	298.50
Ending Balance	\$4,713.00

State Account

Beginning Balance	\$1,209.00
Money In	0
Money Out	424.50
Ending Balance	\$785.00



Ben Allen Representative Olina Wibroe-Benson

Reports From Electeds

Senator Ben Allen's Representative, Olina Wibroe-Benson, spoke about recent bills that have been signed:

SB 50 - Public Lands Protection Act

This bill is part of a package of measures aimed at safeguarding California’s environment from federal rollbacks. The bill gives the State Lands Commission first right of refusal to purchase the property if the federal government chooses to sell or lease federally owned public lands.

SB 150 - Building Sustainable Communities

Ensures California’s landmark Sustainable Communities law (SB 375) is helping the state meet its greenhouse gas reduction goals by requiring transportation planning agencies and the Air Resources Board to report on progress toward achieving vehicle-miles-travelled reduction targets.

SB 249 - Off-highway Motor Vehicle Reauthorization

California’s Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Program is set to sunset at the end of 2017. This bill updates the restoration program to better ensure that the natural and cultural resources of our parklands are protected.

SB 235 - Judicial Ballot Designation Reform

Requires candidates for judicial office to use a ballot title that provides an accurate, unembellished description of their occupation.

(Continued on page 3)

(Recap, continued from page 2)

SB 541 - Stormwater Guidelines for Schools

Directs the State Water Resources Control Board and the Division of the State Architect to develop best practices for stormwater capture at school sites.

Olina said the attempt to ban Styro-foam containers at the State level had failed to pass.

Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi's Representative, Cody Bridges, reported that all twelve bills that were sent to the Governor's desk were signed into law. Al is holding Community Coffees with police officers in several cities and hopes we will join them over the holidays.

Redondo Beach City Councilman Todd Loewenstein spoke next, reporting that the Council had successfully reduced the number of new units to be built at the intersection of Pacific Coast Highway and Palos Verdes Boulevard from 150 to 115. He said there is a temporary moratorium on cannabis dispensaries in the city.

He reported that the site of the AES power plant, in operation since 1906, will be up for sale. The plant is required to cease operation by 2020.

He also spoke about SB 649, which would expand the placement of wireless equipment in California; and SB 35, which would require California cities that lack adequate housing to streamline their permitting process. Affordable housing is a contentious issue in the South Bay, particularly if residents would lose control over issues of overcrowding and traffic.

Measure C, long a controversial issue, was passed by a narrow margin, but has led to a lawsuit by the CenterCal developer. Authored by slow-growth group Rescue Our Waterfront, Measure C significantly downsizes allowable development along the city's waterfront. The measure is now under review by the Coastal Commission.

Councilman John Gran spoke next, and talked about the proposed upgrade of the South Bay Galleria, which is now in the EIR process. He discussed possible

funding for a skate park, which many residents would like to see. Also, there is a task to upgrade the Artesia corridor to improve the appearance of store fronts through a matching fund.

He said Beach Cities Health District is hosting a support group for families dealing with dementia. The Alzheimer's Association's Memory Club at BCHD is designed to allow families to talk with others about the experience of early-stage dementia.

Pre-Endorsement Conference

BCD is allowed to elect three women and three men to be delegates to the CADEM Pre-endorsement Conference. We chose Stephanie Solomon, Ryley Simcox, and Andrea Valcourt; and Jeff Hirsch, John Gran, and Bob Monzingo. These delegates were approved unanimously.

Program

Our program featured a discussion on the fate of the Ballona Wetlands in Playa del Rey. There is a proposed restoration project by the Department of Fish and Wildlife that would re-design the land at a cost of \$100 to \$200 Million. Opposing the project were former BCD President Kathryn Campbell and Chair of the Sierra Club Airport Marina Group Janette Vosburg. Supporting it was Craig Cadwallader of the Surfrider Foundation.

Kathryn and Janette presented a slide show illustrating what the Wetlands look like now, and described what the restoration would do. They said there are over 600 acres of fresh water wetlands, acquired by the State of California in 2003/2004; the reserve is public land dedicated for protection of ecologically sensitive species.

They provided a detailed account of the current condition of the wetlands: The flora and fauna found at the reserve include endangered and imperiled species, some of which are year-round species while others migrate. Currently, water comes into the wetlands from storm drains and goes directly to the ocean. The project, they said, would remove

(Continued on page 4)



Former BCD President Lee Fink spoke about his eight years serving in the Obama Administration at Manhattan Bread & Bagel on Nov. 8. Pictured: Ray Waters, Lee, Andrea Valcourt.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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(Recap, Continued from page 3)
earthen levees and destroy the thriving ecosystem.

In January of 2014, the LACDP passed a resolution on preserving the Ballona Wetlands Reserve in its current state. The resolution calls for community-engaged restoration using only hand tools or small equipment, and for the reintroduction of additional native flora and fauna.

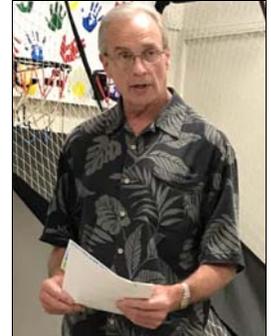
Supporting the restoration, Craig Cadwallader said that when the Wetlands were created, developers dumped tons of sludge onto the acreage, compromising its natural ecosystem. Formerly a 2,000-acre expanse of marshes, mud flats, salt pans, and sand dunes that stretched from Playa del Rey to Venice and inland to Baldwin Hills, it has been reduced to its current size, and has been degraded and compromised by the surrounding buildup. Along with a number of environmental groups, the Surfrider foundation believes the restoration would provide greater protection from floods and storms, improved wildlife habitat, cleaner water and air, and

increased opportunities for exploring open space.

Craig handed out a flyer listing the nine Wetland Restoration Principles, which include such things as achieving outcomes that preserve the historical ecology of the wetlands before development; and ensuring that any short-term disruptive activities safeguard sensitive areas and native plants and wildlife. He recommends reading the various materials and studying the alternatives before a decision is made to proceed. More information is at wetlandsrestoration.org.

Both sides agreed that the initial review period was much too short to be properly analyzed. Craig announced that the Public Comment Period has been extended until 5PM PST, February 5, 2018.

Kathryn and Janette introduced a further resolution which would lengthen the review period for the EIR from sixty days



Above: (l) Janette Vosburg and Kathryn Campbell present a map of the Ballona Wetlands; (r) Craig Cadwallader discusses Wetlands Restoration Principles

to 180, and both sides are hoping that at least three more public comment meetings be held in that time. The club voted to support this further resolution.

Adjournment

Bobbi adjourned the meeting by reminding members of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt dinner honoring Democrats of the Year Carolyn Waters and Kanji Sahara, set for October 29.

Compiled with the help of minutes from Ryley Simcox