

January Meeting Change

NOTE NEW TIME & LOCATION!

Happy New Year!

On Wednesday, January 24, from 6:30-9:30 PM, Congressman Ted Lieu will be meeting with Indivisible & Friends. The event is designed to bring local activist groups together for an evening of 2018 political reality, with the Congressman sharing his thoughts on current events and legislation followed by audience Q & A.

This coincides with our regular meeting date and time, but we think this opportunity to see Ted and meet other local people is so important that ...

we are CANCELLING our regularly scheduled January 24 Beach Cities Democrats meeting and asking our members to participate in this event.

Location

Toyota Meeting Hall, 3300 Civic Center Drive, Torrance 90503.

There is a \$5 fee at the door.

As you can see, this year is going to keep us busy, with great events to attend and with the hard work and determination it will take to elect Democrats in November.

See you on January 20!

Bobbi

**Our New Year's Party is
January 20
Please RSVP ASAP**

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Big Blue Wave is coming, gaining momentum with the outgoing tide of Republicans jumping off their sinking ship of fools.

We all know that taking back the seven Congressional Districts here in California that Hillary won has been our goal for this year's midterm elections. What we didn't know was that we would have GOP help in securing them with their decisions not to run for reelection.

We need to pick up 24 seats nationally to retake the majority.

The recently announced retirements of Darrell Issa, CD #39 and Ed Royce, CD #49 throw these seats wide open. In the presidential race last year, Clinton won with 52% and 50% to 43% respectively.

While this news is exciting, especially to those stalwart individuals who picketed outside Issa's office week after week... thank you for your service, it does change



the dynamic of the races. Instead of being able to tie a vulnerable incumbent to the White House crazy, this will give Republican candidates the ability to modify their positions and distance themselves from it. No incumbent baggage.

So far 31 Republicans are either retiring, running for another office or resigning and there could be more. There are 23 Republican seats held in districts across the country that Hillary won and of those, eight are leaving.

We know that Democrats are motivated and all the hype now is how it's going to be a tsunami. But lest we forget, that's what we thought in 2016.

We must not get over confident or complacent.

However, punishing the Blue States with their \$1.5 trillion tax giveaway to corporations and zillionaires, passed in December, coupled with all the lies, 2000 so far, hate filled rhetoric and vile racism espoused by the dear leader should help us get our voters to the polls in record numbers IF we do the hard work of

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New Year's Party

Our Annual New Year's Party is on Saturday, January 20. It will be at the beautiful home of Ray and Carolyn Waters in Hermosa Beach, from 5:00-9:00 PM. The dinner with no host bar is \$25 with advanced purchase from Act Blue or \$30 at the door.

This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and we hope everyone will be there to see and hear our fabulous "Rock Star" Congressman Ted Lieu, along with our wonderful State Senator Ben Allen and Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi. Most of our great Beach Cities elected officials will also be joining us to help kick off this

most important election year. Our goal for 2018 is to elect a Democratic House and Senate to the U.S. Congress and to turn red districts Bright Blue and keep our Super Majorities in Sacramento.

Also on January 20, at 9:00 in the morning, it's the Women's March Los Angeles, from Pershing Square to the Civic Center/Grand Park. We realize our party is on the same day as this nationally important event and hope that the inspirational daytime love, hope and camaraderie of the march will have you floating back to the beach for our evening of more of the same togetherness of purpose, friendship and fun.

(President, continued from page 1) walking, talking and registering them to vote in the next 10 months.

As Democrats and patriots it is up to us to help save our democracy as it is painfully clear that the Republicans in Congress are aiding and abetting this clear and present danger to the United States and the world. They have chosen to negate their sworn duty to uphold the constitution for the possibility of furthering their political agenda.

I hope you will join the Women's March and attend our New Year's Party on January 20th and Congressman Ted Lieu's Indivisible & Friends Talk on January 24th. It is now time to act. Let us pledge to do our best to make that Beautiful Big Blue Wave a reality that will start here on the Pacific Coast and sweep across the country on November 6th.

God bless America...God save America.

Bobbi Buescher, President

November Recap

By Moira Zucker

On this final meeting of 2017, President Bobbi welcomed members and newcomers. She reminded the group that our most important push must be to take back Congress in 2018. There are five seats in Southern California alone, and seven--possibly nine--in the state overall.

She mentioned the president's frequent anti-Muslim tweets along with the many outrageous messages coming from the White House, and said we must do everything in our power to defeat the upcoming tax bill. Call your members of Congress, using the handout we have at every meeting which lists all contact information, in addition to prominent resistance groups. Call, fax, email--do whatever you can to get the message across.

Vice-President Dency Nelson thanked the club for its endorsement of the three Hermosa Beach City Council candidates, all of whom were elected. We now have five progressive Democrats on the Council. Supervisor Janice Hahn attended the swearing-in

ceremony, as did the representatives for our elected officials.

He said the draft EIR for the rebuilding of Hermosa North School was completed, and it proposes to be a net-zero energy building. There is some controversy related to increased traffic as parents drive their kids to school. This is a valid issue, but Hermosa is a small city, and such issues are inevitable.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Edna Murphy is back in action after her recent surgery, and provided the treasurer's report:

Federal Account

Beginning Balance	\$4,713.00
Money In	245.00
Money Out	163.00
Ending Balance	\$4,795.00

State Account

Beginning Balance	\$ 785.00
Money in	0
Money out	0
Ending Balance	\$ 785.00

Edna also noted that the coffee and refreshments are provided out of pocket by Bobbi and Dency, and donations would be greatly appreciated.

Reports from Electeds

Joey Apodaca reported from Ted Lieu's office, saying that the Congressman is committed to opposing a war with North Korea. There are "no good options," and Ted is working with 16 other Congressmen to investigate the cost of a war with North Korea. The Joint Chiefs of Staff have said that the only way to avoid a nuclear threat is a ground invasion, but that invasion could involve the use of chemical and biological weapons.

Ted is hoping to invoke the War Powers Act, which would require the president to get authorization from Congress. His bill, H.R. 669, is entitled "**Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act of 2017.**"

This bill prohibits the President from using the Armed Forces to conduct a first-use nuclear strike unless such strike is conducted pursuant to a congressional declaration of war expressly authorizing such strike.

Concerns that a president could order a preemptive nuclear strike are on the rise in Congress as President Trump continues to trade insults with North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un. For the first time in more than four decades, the president's powers to call up the nation's nuclear arsenal were the subject of a congressional hearing.

"I applaud Senators Corker and Cardin for working together to evaluate presidential authority to use nuclear weapons," reads Ted's website. "Launching a weapon that can kill millions of people instantly in a nuclear first strike is an indisputable act of war. I'll say what I've been saying for some time: Only Congress has the authority to declare war."

Regarding the Russia investigation, Joey said that the president has not signed off on sanctions, and his intentional lies on the subject may constitute obstruction of justice.



BCD Board members pose with Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi: Edna Murphy, Bobbi Buescher, Dency Nelson, and Ryley Simcox

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He mentioned the four American soldiers who were killed in Niger, and that the U.S. still doesn't know the facts. Senator John McCain agrees that this should be investigated.

On the war against ISIS, the Congressman wants to know how many civilians were killed in Operation Inherent Resolve; the number has skyrocketed since Trump took office.

Joey then turned to the upcoming vote on tax reform, which Ted has termed "terrible, despicable, and absurd." California stands to be the biggest loser, with an estimated \$12.1 billion in tax increases which will fall on the middle class and below, and be a huge giveaway to the wealthiest Americans.

As for the Clean Power Plan, Congressman Lieu issued the following statement on Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt's decision to repeal the Clean Power Plan.

"The EPA is supposed to protect the environment, but Administrator Pruitt is undermining the Agency's mission by putting the interests of his friends in the fossil fuel industry before those of the American public. The Trump Administration can pretend that coal can be a viable industry again but their hollow words are just a distraction from efforts to actually assist coal miners searching for work. The coal industry is declining not because of the Clean Power Plan, but as a result of market forces."

Next we heard from Redondo Beach City Councilman John Gran. The city is hoping to purchase the site of the AES Power Plant, with the idea of preserving parkland and restoring wetlands on the open space component. The rest would be built up by a private developer, which could entail a hotel, restaurants, shops or other mixed-use development. The plan may or may not include housing.

Gran spoke about Community Choice Aggregation. This was authorized in California under AB 117 and SB 790, and allows local governments including counties and cities to purchase electricity in



Joey Apodada from Ted Lieu's office (l), and Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi (r).



the wholesale power market and sell it to their consumers at competitive rates, as an alternative to that purchased by Southern California Edison. SCE would continue to deliver electricity, maintain infrastructure, and bill consumers.

Regarding the Galleria update, it is now in the EIR process. It's hoped that the expanded Green Line will build a stop next to the Target store next to that property.

As for the Artesia corridor, the city is hoping the site of the former Haagen grocery store may become a grocery outlet, which would greatly improve the look of the boulevard. The Artesia overhaul project is seeking input from residents as it goes forward.

He discussed a proposed bike sharing program, which could make a positive environmental difference, but could also put local bicycle shop owners out of business. Dency commented that there are pros and cons to this proposal, the bicycle shops being long-established businesses in the small city of Hermosa Beach.

Melissa Ramoso, Al Muratsuchi's District Director, spoke next. She opened by thanking our club for our endorsement. She spoke about the important California

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Disclose Act, of which Al is a co-author. It requires the names of large donors to be disclosed in political advertising.

The Torrance Refinery has been a big issue since the dangerous explosion last year. Residents in the area want to ban the use of Modified Hydrofluoric Acid (MHF). This modified version of the otherwise banned chemical is still very dangerous and is stored in tanks near where the 2015 explosion occurred. Even a minor release of MHF could have drastic effects on the surrounding community, including severe injury and death.

Three bills have already been signed, which would:

- 1 - Install air quality monitors in surrounding neighborhoods;
- 2 - Require refineries to pay for and install community alert systems; and
- 3 - Set up an inter-agency task force on refinery safety, to coordinate safety efforts.

She said that the president is trying to restore offshore oil drilling, an issue that the Assembly is taking seriously. The

other big issue is single payer health care, SB 562, "Healthy California." Al thinks this would be better handled at the national level.

Towards the end of the meeting, Al came in to greet the club—having just left an earlier meeting—and thank us for all our support. He reiterated the need to work together to defeat his opponent.

A club member brought up the question of rent control, in the wake of the Ellis Act, a California state law that allows landlords to evict residential tenants in order to "go out of the rental business," in spite of desires by local governments to compel them to continue providing housing. The shortage of affordable housing in California is a serious problem. Al thinks there is not an incentive to build more homes, especially in the beach cities communities, because of density. There are pros and cons to this issue, and a lively discussion followed.

As a reminder, Al's election is coming up again next year. Dency reminded us that when people vote, Democrats win,

and Al's loss in the 2014 election was due to low voter turnout. We need to launch a serious campaign, especially since his opponent next year is Frank Scotto, a Trump Republican. This district has a 10% Democratic advantage--so it's all the more important to get out the vote.

Tony Hale reported good news from the Executive Board meeting of the California Party held in Millbrae on the 17th, 18th and 19th of November. There was a renewed sense of unity in the party and a clear example of new leadership. The conflict over the race for the chair's position seems to have passed, and the process for that election was one of the most transparent and accountable procedures our party has ever exercised to guarantee the validity of an election. At that meeting, there was a focus on Asian Pacific Islander issues since Millbrae has one of the most densely populated concentrations of that group.

*Compiled with the help of minutes from
Ryley Simcox*