



NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, March 27, 7:00PM
Hermosa Beach Community Center
Room 16, Hermosa Beach 90254

In celebration of National Women's Month, our guest speaker will be our fabulous former Assemblymember Betsy Butler. Betsy is the Executive Director of the California Women's Law Center, which has worked to eliminate the barriers that keep women and girls in poverty.

CWLC advances the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy and education. CWLC addresses issues pertaining to Title IX education and enforcement, domestic violence, sexual assault, equal pay, homelessness, women's health and advocates for the unique needs of women veterans.



Betsy Butler, Executive Director of the California Women's Law Center

FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Bobbi Buescher
President,
Beach Cities
Democrats*



March is National Women's Month. It is a time to reflect on the contributions women have made at home and around the world to help forward women's rights in the hope of more just and equitable societies.

We have two examples of extreme bravery and selflessness in the recent stories of Nasrin Sotoudeh, a writer and human rights lawyer in Iran and Loujain al-Hathloul, a women's rights leader in Saudi Arabia. Both have experienced imprisonment and torture from their misogynistic regimes because of their efforts to help women in their repressive societies. Our hearts are with them.

"Women's rights are human rights." As first established by the United Nations over 70 years ago, women are entitled to live free from violence, slavery and discrimination, to be educated, to own property, to vote and to earn a fair and equal wage.

However, we know that women earn less than men and compensation differs according to age and ethnicity with Hispanic women in the United States earning just over 50

cents on the dollar.

Additionally, low income women's health care has come under attack from Trump and the changes he wants to Title X, the Family Planning Program started in 1970 under President Nixon, that provides birth control and other reproductive services to millions of women. Under his new rule any organization like Planned Parenthood that provides or refers patients for abortions is ineligible for funding. This could jeopardize access to care for the 4 million women served by their program.

These are problems to solve but we are always striving to do better. We have marched, we have resisted and we worked tirelessly for the change which we achieved in our major victory in November; the new "Year of the Woman" when we elected the most

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Local Democrats gathered for our monthly 66th ADDC breakfast at Mimi's Café on February 25. Photo courtesy of Stacey Michaels

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women ever to Congress. This new class brings racial and ethnic diversity and a much needed new point of view to the national dialog. And, our new Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, is a woman on a mission to restore truth, sanity and oversight to an out of control executive.

Looking forward to 2020, we have a record number of well qualified women candidates running for President. This time around it seems quite normal to have women running. Thank you Hillary! I'm excited to see them on the debate stage and I hope they will be treated equally and with respect and not questioned or judged on trivia but on their ideas for helping the people and the future of our country and our planet.

Women Rock!

February Recap

By Andrea Valcourt

Bobbi welcomed everyone. We had some new members: a high schooler from Redondo; a Democrat who grew up here, moved to Nebraska and has returned, all the while being an active Democrat; and another man from the area.

Bobbi discussed the Cohen hearing with the group, saying she thought that the Democrats asked good questions, while the Republicans didn't.

Dency was at the Beach Cities Health District meeting, but may arrive in time to give his report.

Edna Murphy gave the Treasurer's Report:

Federal PAC	\$3,044
State PAC	\$5,177

Jake Ridout, from Al Muratsuchi's office, gave a partial summary of the 20

bills Al has authored so far this year.

(Note: To get details and status of the following bills, type www.leginfo.ca.gov into your browser. Then, search for the bill number.)

AB 39—Increases the funding formula for K – 12 grants and supplemental funding, replacing AB28, which failed last session.

AB 245—Establishes a 17-person aerospace and aviation commission, within the Governor's office of Business and Economic Development, to serve as a single point of contact for these businesses, to promote the health and competitiveness of these industries, to provide policy advice, and to provide funding for the commission.

AB308—Creates definitions for micro-businesses (\$150,000 or less) and decreases the business tax for this category.

AB 342—Protects National Monuments and Parks from gas and oil production and therefore protects California's environment.

AB 345—Creates enforceable laws to protect our waters from adverse species, by regulating how large ships dump their bilge water within the California coastline.

AB 468—Bans and regulates the use of certain pesticides in schools to create a safer, more organic landscape and provides for statement reimbursement of certain related costs.

AB 1268—Requires cities to have a safety plan before allowing Shared Mobility devices (bicycles/scooters) to operate within the city.

AB 895—Current law provides matching grants for early intervention and prevention of mental health issues for grades K – 3. This law expands the definition to include pre-school and pre-K students and changes the funding to grants instead of matching grants. Jake

reported that 57% of students report mental health issues.

AB 495—Clarifies the law that cosmetics with carcinogens are banned and provides enforcement oversight.

AB 1064—Requires firearms dealers to comply with responsible selling practices, have video cameras, and carry liability insurance.

In addition to these, Al has introduced four bills on refineries, including a ban on MHF, but they didn't pass. There are only two refineries that use MHF in California and both are in our area—Torrance and Wilmington. Al is going to work with the AQMD to see if they have the authority and if they are willing to ban MHF. Tony Hale said he would ask the AQMD to come and talk with us.

A man asked Jake to check into whether or not there is a bill requiring diaper changing stations in men's restrooms. Another person said that not all women's restrooms have them.

Bobbi said that we normally have more electeds, but they're probably busy with the Manhattan and Redondo elections on March 5th.

Bobbi then asked for nominations for the 66ADDC Representative, which is a liaison to the Assembly District Democratic Committee. Edna made the only nomination, Tony Hale, which he accepted and won the voice vote.

Tony talked about the history of the Committee, whose mission is to do no harm and be a liaison between the clubs. There is a monthly breakfast meeting in Torrance. The 66th ADDC representatives have traditionally taken upon themselves the responsibility to make arrangements for our dinner on the Saturday night of the State Party Convention each year. The next convention is in San Francisco and moves around the state, so no one

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group always has to travel. The last meeting was in San Diego.

Bobbi then said we need to appoint an Associate Member to the LA County Democratic Party (LACDP). The LACDP meets monthly on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 PM and coordinates with the LA County clubs. We haven't had an associate for a few years. The clubs can now appoint someone. They cannot vote, but can attend the meetings and learn about LACDP. About 180 people attend and talk about club endorsements and may also endorse. Electeds come and talk. It can be very interesting.

Tony said that LACDP is the largest County Democratic party in the US, except for the California State Party. Anyone can attend the meetings.

Bobbi said that anyone interested in the appointment should talk to her. The yearly fee is about \$40.

Maira Nelson mentioned the 66th ADDC Breakfast meeting. (*See photo on page 1.*) Irene Guimera attended and said it was a congenial group, which talked about politics, while having a good breakfast. One question at the breakfast was: Who is your favorite presidential candidate today, and everyone named a different person. It's nice to meet people from different South Bay clubs.

Doug Bender from Indivisible South Bay said they would meet Saturday and Al Muratsuchi will attend. He said "We've looked at the politicians' voting guides and Al is marked low on Courage Votes, votes that are not easy to make. We'll push him on that. We usually meet on the first Saturday of the month, but April – June, we will meet on the second Saturday."

Bobbi said that at the January 27 ADEM Caucus Election, Doug and Tony were elected Delegates to the

State Party, along with 5 other men and 7 women. They will represent us at the State Party convention. Bobbi thought it was great to see such a good mix of people who were elected.

Bobbi also mentioned that a Planned Parenthood Advocacy group is forming and read from the literature she received. She asked anyone who is interested to contact her. The group is forming because Trump policy is working to remove Federal Planned Parenthood funding.

Bobbi reminded everyone that the Manhattan and Redondo Beach elections are Tuesday and everyone who is a citizen should vote. Wayne Powell said that the Manhattan election is getting nasty, with inaccurate full-page ads about not running if you lost an election or were termed out, and mailers with false information about Wayne Powell and Mark Burton.

There was a discussion about the effectiveness of the robo calls and it was decided to still make them for Wayne and Hildy.

Wayne said some of the important Manhattan issues are short-term rentals, homelessness, changing building heights along Sepulveda from 30 to 40 feet to get more hotel business and therefore more TOT tax, and looking at going to LA County Fire.

Dency then arrived and briefly talked about the Beach Cities Health District meeting he had just attended as a member of the Healthy Living Campus Community Working Group for the reimagining of the BCHD campus. The new project is putting a light on all the services it provides and all the new proposed services. Go to their website, bchd.org, for more information. Representatives will be attending city council meetings and Hany Fangary's



Above: Doug Bender from Indivisible South Bay; Tony Hale Discussing the LA County Democratic Party meetings

March Community First meeting to share information about the project and get input.

Dency also said that the Hermosa City Council and School Board reached an agreement on the North School EIR and the related forecasted traffic issues. The project will be able to move forward, while the two entities work on traffic solutions.

Bobbi reminded everyone that the club's officer positions are up for election in June and to please consider running, since some folks are ready to step down.

Also, save some time to work the Democratic Booth at the Hermosa Fiesta. It's a lot of fun, you meet a lot of people, and we have to be represented, since there is always a well-represented Republican booth.

Joe Lopez, a VP of the Palos Verdes Democrats, said that Rusty Hicks will speak at the March 17 meeting. They are inviting other candidates to their other meetings. Cal State Long Beach is recruiting for LA County Sheriffs.

Carol Waters said there is the Redondo Music Festival May 3 – 5.

Bobbi adjourned the meeting.





**Beach Cities
Democrats**

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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