

# Beach Cities Democrats



P.O. Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278

April 2019

## NEXT MEETING

**Wednesday, April 24, 7:00PM**  
Hermosa Beach Community Center  
Room 16, Hermosa Beach 90254

Our agenda will include a presentation by Roxie Zilmer on the "Sister District Project" which was started during the 2018 election to help Democrats in Red States raise money for State Legislature candidates in hopes of flipping them Blue. It proved very successful and they are getting ready for elections across the country this year and in 2020.

The annual election of BCD officers will take place at our June meeting. In accordance with our Bylaws, we will appoint a Nominating Committee and its chair, who shall provide a slate of candidates for consideration to the membership. That committee will be ratified by a majority vote of those present at the April meeting.

### Upcoming Events:

*WLA Democratic Club Green Dream Campaign Launch*

—Saturday, April 27, 3-5 PM

939 San Vicente Blvd., Santa Monica  
*LACDP "JFK Awards"*

—Thursday, May 9, 6 PM

CA African American Museum, 600  
State Dr., LA 90027.

The Hermosa Fiesta is Memorial Day weekend, May 25-27 and we need your help at our booth. Come spend a couple of hours and meet lots of people and have lots of fun. We need to counter the Republicans, who have a booth near ours.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Bobbi Buescher  
President,  
Beach Cities  
Democrats*



Fifty years ago in 1969 a massive oil spill in Santa Barbara sparked the creation of the First Earth Day.

As another April 22 approaches we must assess where we are one year away from the Golden Anniversary of that first hopeful "national teach-in on the environment" that led to the creation of the EPA, the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts during the Nixon Administration.

The early years were bipartisan with both Democrats and Republicans committed to caring about the natural world. Unfortunately, as time passed, the big polluters worried about their profits and began to deny the science.

Republicans followed their lead and in 1981 when Reagan was elected, one of his first orders was to remove the solar panels from the roof of the White House that President Jimmy Carter had installed in response to the Arab oil embargo, which had caused a national energy emergency.

Fast forward through the years of hard work, successes and setbacks to today where 196 countries including North Korea have signed the Paris Climate Accord. The United States has withdrawn. We are the only nation on earth not committed to saving our home planet!

However, here in California our Legislature is on the case, passing SB 100 last fall, that commits us, the fifth largest economy in the world, to 100 percent use of zero-carbon electricity by 2045. Then Governor Jerry Brown signed executive order B-55-18, further committing to total economy-

wide carbon neutrality. Zero Net Carbon. An inspirational goal for an existential threat.

We know Climate Change is real. Glaciers are melting, coral reefs are dying, species are becoming extinct, oceans are littered with plastic and trash. We are looking deeper and deeper into the abyss as we have experienced record fires, hurricanes and floods resulting in the loss of life and community.

Bad news aside, we can be grateful this Earth Day for our Democratic majority in Sacramento that is leading the world in reaching for solutions to our warming planet. And thankful to our local City Councils in all the Beach Cities who have worked diligently on environmental issues, especially ridding our coast of the plastic that is so devastating to ocean birds and denizens of our beautiful blue sea.

Happy 49th Earth Day!



*BCD Member Lillian Light honored by the Pacific Unitarian Church for her years of work. As the founder of the Environmental Priorities Network, she was an early champion of the environment and was instrumental in the recent installation of solar panels to the church. Dency, Ray, and her husband Ollie celebrating a wonderful woman and South Bay Treasure.*

*Visit our Website at [beachcitiesdems.org](http://beachcitiesdems.org). Like us On Facebook*

## Earth Day Celebration

As all of you know, for over 20 years Earth Day in the South Bay was celebrated in Manhattan Beach's Polliwog Park, primarily due to the efforts of Kay Gagnon. Kay has been unable to organize that event for years. Now, Assemblyman Muratsuchi wants the South Bay to have an annual event, and for it to be held in Hermosa Beach as he sees that city as a true leader in all things environmental. To that end, he has secured the Multi-Purpose Room and the blacktop and sports field at Hermosa Valley School for Saturday, April 27, from 10:00AM to 2:00PM.

The event will be composed of two parts: Sea Level Rise Expert Panel from 10:00AM – 11:00AM in the MPR, followed by a Resource Fair from 11:00AM to 2:00PM on the blacktop and on the sports field.

## March Recap

*By Andrea Valcourt*

Bobbi called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. She said we have to deal with the ongoing issues related to the Mueller Report.

She congratulated our members, Christian Horvath and Laura Emdee in Redondo and Hildy Stern in Manhattan for winning their city council races.

Bobbi then talked about attending Lillian Light's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday party on Sunday and what a lovely time it was. Lillian has been a tremendous advocate for environmental issues for years. Dency said that because of her, he had his house in the annual Solar Homes Tour, which she had organized.

Also, on Sunday, Bobbi went to the Sister District Project. They try to change state legislatures by fund raising and making calls to flip districts. Bobbi said she would ask them to give us a presentation.

Cara Robin and Moira Zucker talked about the Victory Starts Today Monday meeting in Culver City. It is a collection of like-minded groups working to get Democrats elected and is the political arm

of the WLA Democratic Club.

Bobbi then said that we got off to a late start because of parking issues, but it was great that folks got to talk with one another. Maybe, we need to continue letting you have some time before the meeting to talk because many people leave as soon as the meeting ends.

We have a new member from Redondo Beach and Hildy Stern brought her husband. Welcome.

Dency said that Anita Avrick, who termed out, got a nice sendoff at the Redondo School Board meeting for all her efforts over the years, including a nod from Al Muratsuchi. There wasn't a school board election because only two ran for the two open seats.

Dency asked Christian Horvath, when he speaks, to talk about Redondo's part in the infiltration project to clean water flowing down 190<sup>th</sup>/Herondo to the ocean, especially first rain runoff. The project was to be built under the green belt just off Herondo, but the residents raised concerns about a project only feet from their homes. At the 3/26 Hermosa meeting, the council dissolved the Memo of Understanding with Manhattan, Redondo, Torrance and the LA County Flood Control District. An alternate location to the green belt and South Park is being sought. The cities stand to lose a \$3.1 million dollar grant and suffer state fines for non-compliance with clean water regulations.

### Treasurer's report

Edna Murphy gave the Treasurer's report:

Federal PAC	\$2,879
State PAC	\$5,172

## Reports from Elected Officials

### Lauren Pizer Mains for Ben Allen

Ben travels around the state a lot and one of his focuses is the arts. He works to keep kids engaged in the arts. He is the chairman of the Joint Committee of the Arts and was appointed to the California Film Commission.

Julia Jackson, of Kendall Jackson Wines, has created the non-profit, Grounded, which focuses on climate change issues. Grounded held a summit

the weekend of March 20/21, which included scientists, experts and celebrities to work on solutions and spread the word. Lauren and Ben

attended. Iceland's previous president spoke about what Iceland did to reduce its carbon emissions, hoping the world will do the same. He said that the world wants the US to step up and be a leader, no matter from where that leadership comes.

Ben is also the chair of the Environmental Quality Committee. Here are some of his bills. (Note: For more information, input [leginfo.legislature.ca.gov](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov) into your browser and then the bill number.) All five of the following bills are in committee.

SB 43—Authorizes studying the feasibility of and implementation of replacing the California Sales Tax with a Carbon Neutral Tax, which taxes goods based on the carbon intensity of a product. He wants to see consumers get some benefits from taxes.

SB 45—Authorizes a 2020 Bond measure for wildfire, drought and flood protection. If passed by the voters, it would finance disaster recovery for agricultural land, forests and urban areas, and mitigate natural disasters.

SB 54—Regulates the use and recycling of single use plastic packaging, which does not biodegrade, but breaks apart, releasing greenhouse gases. The bill also sets specific goals and time lines. This is an important law because recycling is not working and other countries are no longer buying our plastics.

AB 39—Increases the local control school funding formula, which Al co-sponsored. Ben is also sponsoring this bill.

SB 248—Increases the Renter's Credit

*(Continued on page 3)*



*Lauren Pizer Mains*

(Continued from page 2)

based on inflation factors.

SB212—Allows all cities to use Rank Choice Voting, now only allowed for Charter Cities. It is how Hermosa elects its commissioners. Ben has a writeup on it, with an example. Lauren brought a fact sheet and example for this bill.

A person asked about the Clean Power Alliance, of which Manhattan and Redondo are a part. Dency and others replied that there are 31 cities in the County alliance. Power users can select a mix of green power sources or remain with Edison, each with various rates. Edison will continue to deliver the electricity and bill for it. Marin and Sonoma were the first two counties to take advantage of the State's CCA law.

#### Andrew deBlock for Al Muratsuchi

All three of the following bills are in committee:

AB 39—Increases the local control school funding formula for K-12. Local schools and LA County endorsed the bill. Please support it with letters and ask your PTAs to support it.

AB 895—Changes funding from matching grants to grants that will fund early intervention for student mental illness, starting with pre-school. Al feels strongly about this and has marched for suicide prevention.

AB 1064—Requires gun businesses to be brick and mortar locations, with proper security. It would make it more difficult to purchase a gun.

Last weekend, Al sponsored a pet adoption event. Let us know about events that you want Al to sponsor and/or attend.

April 6 is a Natural Disaster Town Hall, which will be attended by Al, Edison, Cal Earthquake Authority, LA County Fire, and others. See Al's website for details.

On April 27, Al will sponsor an Earth Day event in Hermosa Beach. We are starting on a small scale, but will have speakers such as Max Riley from Mira Costa and a Sea Level Rise panel. Speakers for that will be Al and Surfrider. We also have set aside parking. The panel starts at 10 AM and after speaking,

Al will go to the Surfer's Hall of Fame Induction at 11 AM. Hopefully, Earth Day will again become a yearly event.

#### Christian Horvath, Redondo City Council member

There is a lot of work to be done, but I want to focus on the following right now.

I'm working with SBCCOG (the South Bay Cities Council of Governments) to connect all 17 cities with gigabit broadband. Currently, each city has two broadband providers and that is expensive. It would be good for the cities and maybe the residents could also use it.

Transportation and traffic are big issues and there's not an easy fix. One solution is to get people out of their cars.

The Infiltration project was agreed to by Torrance, Redondo, Manhattan, Hermosa and the LA County Flood Control District. These cities are in a water district that needs to clean up the water coming down the large 190<sup>th</sup>/Herondo pipe to the ocean. The project was agreed to in 2014 and is a really big deal. Hermosa has an infiltration project in Pier Plaza and no one knows about it. Each city has a piece of the project, with Hermosa having the lead.

Redondo joined the Clean Power Alliance under the CCA law. Now electricity users can choose Edison or the Alliance and within the Alliance there are three choices. This should encourage Edison to increase their green sources. Any extra money collected by the Alliance will go back to the customers.

I think that Ranked Voting will take a lot of the negativity out of campaigns.

Hildy Stern, Manhattan City Council member-elect, stood up to thank us for our support. She said she will bring our values to the Manhattan Beach Council.

#### Featured Speaker

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

Bobbi introduced Betsy and spoke about her hard work as a champion in the pursuit of justice for women and girls, striving to eliminate the barriers that keep them in poverty. Betsy has worked to ban fracking in California, to create Title 9 leg-

islation, which provides equality for access to education and sports in schools, to allow safe places for breast-feeding in public places, and to protect against sexual assault on campuses.

There are 1,000 people turning 65 every day. These people need economic security and the Center wants to find funding for in-home help.

Juvenile offenders have dropped in recent years and youth facilities are being closed. There is a bill to allow juveniles to remain in a youth detention center until they are 25. Currently, they are being sent to an adult facility, which does not help them. In addition, pepper spray has been banned in LA County detention facilities.

Getting women equal pay for equal work is important. Betsy provided a chart showing how far into 2018 a woman must work to match what a white man, on average, made in 2017. Asian women have the shortest time, until March, making \$.87 on the dollar. California is the fastest-moving state to equalize pay. The law now allows workers to talk about their pay with co-worker/s and you can't be asked how much you made at your last job. Sales Force has made the effort to make pay equal.

The Center takes class action suits.

(Continued on page 4)



Andrew deBlock from Al's office; Betsy Butler





*Beach Cities  
Democrats*  
P.O. Box 2192  
Redondo Beach, CA 90278  
*President*  
Bobbi Buescher—310-545-7890  
*Vice-President*  
Dency Nelson — 310-374-4543  
*Treasurer*  
Edna Murphy—310-545-6292  
*Newsletter*  
Maira Zucker—310-546-7562  
moiraz@alumni.reed.edu  
*Webmaster*  
Mark Drabkin — 213-787-5267  
*Immediate Past President*  
Kathryn Campbell—310-738-6845

*(Continued from page 3)*

One result is rape now has no statute of limitations and another is doing away with Nondisclosure Agreements in rape cases. The lowest penalty is currently 3 years.

The new California budget is due in May. The governor's agenda includes a master plan for aging and Alzheimer's funding.

Betsy said the center is located in El Segundo. We don't encourage walk-ins, but we do work with some law firms that take pro bono cases. There are a lot of immigration issues. One third of our funding comes from the state bar because we train lawyers, another third from corporations and individuals, and the last from grants.

Did you know that there is no age limit for getting married? A juvenile only needs a judge and an adult to approve of the marriage. A nine-year old girl can be married to an older man. Anyone under 18 has no rights, unless they get themselves emancipated early, so they cannot object to the marriage. Many states do not have an age limit; in Texas it's 18, in New York

it's 16 and in Florida it's 9.

Bobbi thanked Betsy for her talk and then announced that we have to prepare for our June officers' election. Therefore, in April we will appoint people to a Slate Committee and vote on the appointees by voice vote. In May, the committee will submit the slate and anyone can also appoint themselves or another at that meeting. Then, in June we vote for the officers.

### **County Committee and Other Democratic Organizations**

#### **Ray Waters from the LA County Committee**

Last meeting, we endorsed Rusty Hicks, President of the Labor Federation. He's quite powerful and is running against several others.

#### **Tony Hale—LACC/66ADDC report**

There were accusations that we bused people in to vote, but the voting is done by paper ballots. We followed the by-laws and Rusty Hicks won by 70%.

We passed resolutions to support plant-based meals for students, to pass a carbon extraction fee and pass the fees back to the people, to oppose the over-

throw of the Venezuelan government by military interference, to support workers at LA ports because an EIR was not done on the technology, to support the California Green New Deal and the social justice aspects of climate change. The resolutions will be put on the website, laccdp.org, and given to other social media and the press.

The 66<sup>th</sup> ADDC breakfast is at Mimi's. RSVP at the website.

#### **Cara Robin from WLA Democrats**

We will have the Lt. Governor at our next meeting. We want to address climate reality, the Green Dream, getting away from plastics. Ben Allen is a speaker on April 27. We'd like to get all Democratic clubs involved.

*Congressman Ted Lieu celebrating his 50th birthday with his wife Betty at the Santa Monica home of Lisa Ling and Dr. Paul Song*

