



NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, May 22, 7:00PM

Hermosa Beach Community Center
Room 16, Hermosa Beach 90254

Our agenda includes a report from our Officer Nominating Committee for the Slate of Officers they recommend for the 2019/20 term. The election will be held at the June meeting.

This is also the last meeting before Fiesta Hermosa over Memorial Day Weekend, May 25-27, where we will have our BCD Booth. It is very important that we have a presence there to connect with our supporters, talk to them about their concerns and get them involved in helping us in the coming battle to win the Presidency, take back the Senate and retain control of the House. We ask you to commit to volunteering for a two hour shift during the three day Holiday Weekend. It is interesting, enlightening, lots of fun and incredibly important that we are there.

Upcoming Events:

*Thursday, May 16, 7-9:30 PM,
Changes to Future Voting in LA County
(Community Meeting) Torrance Cultural
Arts Center, 3330 Civic Center Dr.,
Torrance 90503.

*Memorial Day Weekend, May 25-27.
BCD Booth at the Fair. Volunteers
Needed!

*May 31-June 2, CA State Convention,
Moscone Center, San Francisco. The
first of two to be held this year where
delegates from across the state will
elect a new CA Party Chair.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Bobbi Buescher
President,
Beach Cities
Democrats*



In 2016 an improbable number of Republicans lined up to be the nominee of the GOP. Unbelievably after months of bullying taunts, racist rhetoric, porn star payoffs and crazy, moronic crowds, they ended up with an orange hued carnival barker and reality TV character, who is now, God help us, sitting in the White House.

We, the collective citizens of the United States and the entire world have now endured two years of over 10 thousand lies, constant inane tweets, stupid policies, kissing up to murderous dictators, dissing our allies, appointing heinous grifters and sycophants to head important agencies, caging kids, creating a fake emergency at the border, imposing tariffs that cost taxpayers more money for everyday items and the all around trashing of our reputation and standing in the world.

Because we are burdened with the Electoral College, where the minority wields unfair power, the majority has had to live under the thumb of Republican rule as Bush II and Trump both lost the popular vote of the people and we have had to pay a steep

price on both accounts.

And now, here we are in this unprecedented, lawless, up-is-down world where our president is untethered to truth or reality, only caring about saving his own carcass from Congressional subpoenas.

Enter the 2020 Democratic candidates, all 22 of them so far, including women, African Americans, a Latino, and a gay man, diversity Maximus! There is something for everyone with eight Senators, six Congress members, two Governors, two Mayors, one Vice-President, one Secretary of Housing, one author/lecturer and one entrepreneur.

All your choices make you change your mind. There is plenty of time to look and listen to these candidates and hear their ideas for the future, but unfortunately the media is not focused on all of them. They have already anointed some and ignored others. Joe Biden is by far the favorite with polls showing him well ahead in this early stage, before the first debates when others will have a chance to shine. But really, how do you stand out amongst so many?

Time will tell. As of now the only thing the majority of voters is focused on is choosing someone who can beat the bloviating bully and return us to the land of sanity. Stay tuned.

Leaders from many Democratic clubs throughout LA gathered at a residence in Santa Monica to celebrate the "Green Dream Campaign Launch" on April 27. The event was sponsored by the West LA Democratic Club and hosted by Cara Robin



California AG Becerra Receives Award



California Attorney General Xavier Becerra was awarded the "Profile in Courage" Award at the Annual LACDP JFK Awards on May 9, at the African American Museum.

Serving as Attorney General since 2017, Becerra has taken the Trump Administration to court 49 times, including to defend the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. He's led the fight against the discriminatory Muslim travel ban, the EPA's illegal delay of air quality standards, and the ill-conceived wasteful plan to build a wall along the California border.

In total, Becerra has won 30 cases against the Trump Administration so far. These victories include an injunction to protect nearly 800,000 undocumented in the DACA program nationwide, blocking the administration from denying millions of women access to birth control, and stopping the White House from gutting energy efficiency standards that help prevent climate change.

The first in his family to attend a four-year college, Becerra graduated from Stanford University in 1980 and received his juris doctorate from his Alma Mater in 1984. Following law school, he worked for a legal services agency representing the mentally ill. In 1987, he was appointed as a California Deputy Attorney General. And in 1990, he was elected to the California State Assembly.

Becerra was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1992, representing California's 34th congressional district from 1993 to 2003, and California's 31st congressional district from 2003 to 2013. During his tenure in the House, he served as Chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus from 1997 to 1999, vice chairman of the House Democratic Caucus from 2009 to 2013, and as a member of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction.



Cara Robin and Kevin DeLeón at the Green Dream Campaign Launch



Cody Bridges

April Recap

By Andrea Valcourt

Bobbi opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. She said that things are crazier than ever after the Mueller Report's release, no less. There was agreement from the members.

Bobbi asked visitors to raise their hands: two ladies came from Redondo and a man returning to Redondo after living in Tennessee, while working for the Obama administration. As always, Bobbi said she was happy to see everyone.

Then, she said she wanted to talk about Trump not allowing people to testify at the Congressional committees. She thinks that Speaker Pelosi is doing a good job working to get all the full report and she also thinks that Trump has become totally lawless. In addition, McConnell isn't helping get the report, but working on his goal to get a lot of conservative judges appointed.

Tony and Dency added that we did flip the Congress and we need to keep working to flip more seats in the Congress and the Senate. We need to encourage our legislators to investigate and then move to impeach Trump. Calling our electeds will help.

Bobbi and Dency then turned to the upcoming weekend with Earth Day in the South Bay and Biden declaring he'll run for president. Also, in November, Hermosa will elect two council members. Anyone wanting to run must pull papers by August. We're proud that right now all

our Hermosa council members are Democrats.

Treasurer's Report by Edna Murphy

State PAC	\$5,196
Federal PAC	\$2,818

Dency said our dues are used for our club expenses and for robo calls, and campaign donations to support our endorsed candidates. Keeping the money separated into State and Federal funds is required by the By-laws, which we follow strictly and we're grateful for Edna's great work.

Cody Bridges for Al Muratsuchi

Al is sponsoring the Sea Level Town Hall and the Earth Day Fair on Saturday. He's also helping with Spyder's Surf Fest. There will be free surf wax. See Al's website for details. All five Hermosa council members drive electric vehicles and their cars will be at the fair, plus an electric motorcycle.

There are no new bills because we are in recess.

Al is co-sponsoring, with the League of Women Voters, the Thursday forum on funding for public schools and school districts at Mira Costa.

Bobbi, Tony, and Ray talked about the club's officers' election in June. Per the By-laws, we need to select a slate committee to nominate our officers. An email will go out to members and names will be put forward in May, with voting in June. The slate committee members are Tony Hale as chair, Moira Zucker, Dale Petrusis, and Joe Guimera. Dency and
(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Bobbi will not seek re-election, but Edna will.

We encourage you to get involved as a candidate or in some other smaller way. The club only works when more people are involved. It could be a small thing like bringing coffee or snacks, for which you would be reimbursed. The clubs have made the Democratic Party valid and vital. The clubs were started by Alan Cranston.

The CDC (California Democratic Council) membership is now a statewide organization and a caucus in the Party. The Black Caucus may not be part of the Democratic Party because they didn't meet the rules to validate it. Lori said that the CDC lost its purpose to turn the state blue once it had achieved that purpose. Dency said that the LA Democratic Party is 2nd only to the California Democratic Party in size and these are the largest Democratic organizations in the nation. Tony added that as the Party became more democratic, the CDC lost its relevance.

Bobbi asked for a motion to approve the Slate Committee members. Ray made the motion and Lori gave the 2nd. It passed with a voice vote. Dency noted that even though he will not be an officer, he will still be involved and will continue to mail the newsletter to the 12 members who don't have email. Bobbi also mentioned that she too would be available.

Featured Speaker

Roxie Zilmer and Gary Boston spoke on behalf of the Sister District Action Network.

Their mission is to turn red districts to blue. Roxie said she was new to the Democratic scene and got involved after the 2016 election results. She slowly looked into Dem clubs, Indivisible and others, but finally chose Sister District because of its work. I'm not good at public speaking, she said, so I'm turning this over to Gary. However, Roxie interjected from time to time.

Gary said that he and Roxie are District Captains. He came to California

just before the election and, like Roxie, was not happy with the results.

Sister District was started by a San Francisco group of women. They have taken the data driven approach to turn districts/states blue. They are in the South Bay Group and there is one in WLA. They meet once a month in PV. They do not work on Primaries; only the general elections.

Doug said that we, Democrats, are a majority, but we don't have a majority in government. The Republicans did a good job gerrymandering districts to their advantage. We focus on state legislators because most laws start with them and get adopted by the federal government. The states incubate laws, which can become federal law. Legislators draw the Voting District. State races are incredibly cheap and our money goes much further in Pennsylvania than in Orange County.

The Sister District headquarters staff determines with whom to work and gives the names to the districts. We volunteer on office type work such as post cards and let the local residents make calls and knock on doors. They know the issues and their neighbors. We, in California, don't necessarily know the issues nor do we necessarily sound like we live there.

We get donations and that helps the candidate. 96% of our districts outperformed in the last Democratic race. Our goal is to flip red districts to blue. We are trying to get candidates to run in the red states of Louisiana and Mississippi. It is critical that we flip the three states with elections in 2019 before redistricting. We had a big win in Virginia in 2018 and the House and Senate are a big goal for 2019 to get the redistricting.

We also work on non-election work such as voter registration via post cards targeting voters in low Democratic turnout areas, non-registered voters, or low propensity voters. Post cards do increase registration.

We have a book club and read such books as Give Us the Ballot and Dark Money.

There is a court case on reapportion-



Roxie Zilmer and Gary Boston speaking about the Sister District Action Network

ment, which makes what we're doing even more important if it doesn't come down properly.

There was a discussion about adding the citizenship question to the census. One person, who is a census worker, said that all questions must be answered. If a question is not answered, another person goes to the address until all questions have an answer. Connie Sullivan suggested we have a civil disobedience movement in which no one answers any of the questions. The reply came back that you must answer all the questions.

Tony Hale said that the Republicans have used their full toolbox, including racism, and they've disenfranchised voters. Republicans will go into full fear mode and Democrats need to go into full protection mode over the citizenship question.

It was asked, do you help build volunteers in other states? Headquarters builds relationships with local organizations. We helped create districts in Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi. We've also helped get people to run. It is determined by the data research done by headquarters.

We also coordinate with other states to write post cards. When we have 1,000,

(Continued on page 4)



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(Continued from page 3)

they are mailed to a counterpart in that state. The local contact mails the post cards. We take our cue from the local contacts and do what they need: fund raise, make calls, write post cards.

For more information, input www.sisterdistrict.com into your browser.

Reports

Bobbi then asked for folks to sign up to help with the Free Speech Booth at Fiesta Hermosa over Memorial Day weekend. She passed around a sign-up sheet, which had two-hour slots. You can also sign up on our website.

County Committee Report

Tony Hale said that every county has a Democratic party. They meet monthly. We attempted to endorse LA County School Board candidates, but we couldn't get the required 60%. It is a democratic process and very transparent. We also endorse measures.

Connie Sullivan announced the 66th ADDC Breakfast on Sunday. They meet monthly and get 10 – 15 people and have

good food and conversation. It's at Eat at Rudy's and meets the last Sunday of the month. You can check our website.

Connie also announced that there is a May 16 Community Meeting at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center to learn about the new voting equipment. The new voting machines have a touch screen. Once you are finished, you print out your paper ballot and turn that in for counting. If you make a mistake, you can ask for another ballot just like now.

Voting locations will also change. There will be voting centers, so you can vote near home, work or school because each location will have the complete roster for each county. Another change is that there will be same day registration at the DMV. However, you can still request an absentee ballot.

250 centers will be open 10 days before Election Day, plus Election Day. On the Saturday before Election Day, another 750 locations will be opened through Election Day.

You can check LAvote.net for more information and the potential sites.

Connie's last announcement was that the PV Dems were meeting this Saturday at the PV library.

Bobbi said there were a lot of Earth Day events and the Green Dream event on Saturday. On May 9, it's the JFK awards dinner at the African American Museum. There is also a DEA Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, which will be held at most police stations. You can bring all your unneeded drugs, including liquids. The Hermosa and Manhattan police departments have permanent drop boxes but they don't take all drugs. Read the signs on them.

Andrea Valcourt said that Redondo Union High is presenting a film called *The S Word*, which deals with teen suicide, on May 2 at 6 PM. This is a serious problem for all teen populations and there will be a discussion afterwards with some of the people in the documentary. This screening is supported by the Redondo PTA and the Beach Cities Health District. Please let folks know about this important event.

Bobbi then adjourned the meeting.