

Beach Cities Democrats

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

July 2019

NEXT MEETING

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

At our July meeting we will be hearing from our friends in labor from LAANE (Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy) with the Our People Our Port Campaign. They're working with port truck drivers and warehouse workers at the Ports of LA and Long Beach to support their struggle for better working and environmental conditions at the ports.

We are also hoping to confirm someone working with the census. We are optimistic they will be able to join us as well.

Upcoming Events

*Sunday, July 21, 11:00AM—1:00PM
Grassroots Democrats HQ fund raiser,
William Turner Gallery at Bergamot
Station
2525 Michigan Avenue E-1, Santa
Monica, CA 90404. With Representa-
tives Ted Lieu, Katie Hill, and Harley
Rouda and CA-50 Candidate Ammar
Campa-Najjar

*Sunday, July 28, 10AM
66th ADDC Breakfast
Mimi's Café, 25343 Crenshaw Blvd,
Torrance, CA 90505

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Michael Deto
President,
Beach Cities
Democrats



I want to first thank you for your support and trust in me to help guide the Beach Cities Democrats for the next year. I cannot wait to get to know each one of you and your families better as we continue to fight for equality in our cities, county, state and country. I will strive for inclusion and open communication. I will also rely on you to be my eyes and ears for various events and fundraisers that further our causes.

I have been a resident of Hermosa Beach for 9 years. I live near Valley Park with my wonderful wife, young daughter and Labrador retriever. My wife works full-time as a Physician Assistant in an urgent care and is an amazing mom. I am inspired by continuing to watch my wife teach our daughter what it means to be a feminist. We are constantly walking around town or visiting the parks and library, so if you see us, please stop and say hello.

I have been a professional firefighter in the City of Riverside for 8 years, serving as a Director on my union board for 6 of those years. I currently serve as a member of California Professional Firefighter's Membership Activation Committee, creating solutions to help span generation gaps in labor participation. I also serve on Los Angeles County Young Democrats executive board as a Labor Representative and just completed my service on the Hermosa Beach Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee.

I have several goals that I would love to accomplish over the next year. I would love to start a monthly or quarterly volunteer opportunity that would benefit non-profits that align with the values of the Democratic Party. We need to build our membership by reaching out to other community organizations that are closely related to our values. I look forward to addressing our local high school Democratic clubs to help spur further participation in our events. And finally, I look towards you, our members, for new ideas to continue the longstanding success of Beach Cities Democrats.

I want to thank you again and I look forward to working with you over the next year!



Incoming and outgoing Board members: Kathryn Campbell-Immediate Past President, Mark Drabkin-Webmaster, Mike Deto, President, Bobbi Buescher-Outgoing President, Andrea Valcourt-Secretary, Tony Hale-Vice President, Edna Murphy-Treasurer, Dency Nelson-outgoing Vice-President, Moira Zucker-Newsletter editor

Visit our Website at beachcitiesdems.org. Like us On Facebook

June Recap

By Andrea Valcourt

Bobbi opened the meeting by not only greeting everyone, but thanking everyone for their support. She said that she enjoyed being president for the past three years and that we accomplished so much together. I want this to be a great and happy night. We have an election tonight and it will be good to have some new people on the board. Thanks to everyone for the past three years.

Bobbi asked for new members or visitors and there was a lady from the Miracle Mile.

Connie Sullivan asked that we change the agenda order, so that the announcements could be made when all the members were present. It was agreed.

Connie said that a Democratic Debate Watch Party would be held at Schooner's Bar and Grill at the corner of Inglewood and 190th on Wednesday and Thursday nights. We'll have a big area with TVs. We just need to buy one drink each, not necessarily alcoholic. Then, on Sunday, it's the monthly 66th ADDC breakfast meeting at Mimi's. Please let Connie know if you're interested in going to the breakfast.

Hildy Stern, Manhattan Beach City Council member, said that Lights for Liberty was mounting a National Vigil protesting the planned immigrant deportation raids to send families back to their country of origin, even if the children were born here. There will be a planning meeting Thursday. We may do local efforts and/or go to Tijuana by bus. We're joining with South Bay Cares and Indivisible.

Someone mentioned that there may be a detention center in Santa Ana. Hildy said she would look into that. There is an Immigration Court next to Pershing Square. See our Facebook page for more details.

What the president is doing to migrant children is horrible and while the House is taking action, the Senate so far has been quiet. This is reminiscent of the 30s. We have to stand up and make our voices heard. We can all write at least four letters to support action for the children.

Tracy Abbott Cook said she wanted to give a shout out for AB 1505 and 1507, tightening laws regarding Charter Schools. Al Muratsuchi abstained from the vote and Ben Allen said it was complicated. If you want to write post cards in support of these bills, see me, I have some with me. The Charter School industry has spent millions against these bills.

Dency thanked everyone for their support and said he will stay involved, even though he would not be an officer. He echoed Bobbi, saying that we need some new blood and new energy in the club. We need to break down the barriers between this club and other organizations.

In November, Hermosa will have two council seats up for election. We hope we will have two good Democratic candidates. It is the last Hermosa Beach 5-year term to get its elections in sync with state election laws. Justin Massey is running for re-election, but not Jeff Duclos. At our August meeting, we can endorse candidates because the Hermosa filing period ends August 14. The endorsements will be in time for the Fiesta Hermosa and we can have election materials at our booth.

Go to the Hermosa Beach website to see Mayor Stacey Armato's State of the City address. It was probably the best we've had and she made it very inclusive by inviting major stake holders to speak as well. She really raised the bar.

Treasurer's Report

Edna Murphy gave the Treasurer's Report:

Federal PAC	\$2,405
State PAC	\$5,246

Melissa Ramoso, District Director and Andrew DeBlock for Al Muratsuchi

Melissa said they were there to thank Bobbi and Dency for all their support and help.

Then she noted some events. Saturday is Child Road Safety Day. Redondo Union High will host an event to check car seats and will have a bike safety course. The state budget will be signed by June 30.

Andrew said he also wanted to thank Bobbi for welcoming him when he was

Andrew DeBlock and Melissa Ramoso from Al Muratsuchi's office



new. Dency is always a leader and is a power house. Thanks for all your behind the scenes work.

Then, Andrew talked about two bills. For more information input www.leginfo.ca.gov into your browser.

AB 39—Education Financing. This increases the base grants for schools. It is in the Senate and moving very quickly, with bi-partisan support. The Governor is our possible road block. I'll be coming back, when it is appropriate, to ask you to write letters to the governor.

AB 345—Oil and gas operations: location restrictions. This bill, introduced by Al, would require oil and gas operations to be at least 2,500 feet from residences, schools, hospitals and other facilities. This is a two-year bill and big oil is really against it. I will be back to request support letters.

Stacey Michaels told Melissa and Andrew that she is representing the South Bay at the Teachers' Convention and to let her know if there's something they want brought to the convention.

It was mentioned that owners of mobile home parks are overriding laws with towing company contracts that allow the companies to tow any car at any time. Melissa said she would look into it.

Dency mentioned that Al is on the fence for ACA 1, which is a California constitutional amendment that would change the 66% voter approval rule to 55% for passing propositions that would allow cities, counties, and state entities to incur indebtedness bonds. He feels that if the voters are willing to tax themselves, then Al should be ok with it. Melissa said that they are getting a lot of calls on this

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amendment and will let Al know about Dency's concern.

Hildy Stern, Manhattan Beach City Council

Hildy said that the Manhattan Beach council is very carefully watching the bills regarding density and city codes. They are also looking at how to address homelessness in our city.

She said we have received an LA County Fire proposal and we will have another meeting to discuss it. Andrea Valcourt said that she was on the Citizen's Advisory committee and that all the members wanted to keep Hermosa's fire department until they heard what was offered. It was the same at the various organization meetings she attended. A lot of good came from moving to LA Fire. Response times improved and it was good for the fire fighters. Their opportunities for upward mobility improved because LA County has a greater breadth and depth of jobs than small cities. Hildy asked if Andrea would come and talk to the council and Andrea said yes. Dency agreed with Andrea, since he was also on the committee, and also offered his input.

Saturday the Manhattan Beach library will host the celebration for the LA County Library. It won the *Gale and Library Journal* award for Best Library of the Year. She said it was a great honor for the County and Manhattan Beach.

Tony Hale for the Slate Committee

According to our by-laws, the Slate Committee selected candidates for next year's officers and introduced the candidates. Also, according to those by-laws, he asked if anyone else wanted to run for an office. No other names were offered. The vote was unanimous for the following people, who ran unopposed:

President—Mike Detoy
Vice President—Tony Hale
Treasurer—Edna Murphy
Secretary—Andrea Valcourt

Tony then said that Dale Petruilis, our Hospitality Chair, needs some helpers with bringing coffee and snacks to our meetings. Any expenses will be reim-

bursed by Edna.

Dency, as our Membership Chair, has been monitoring our mail box and sending out our meeting notifications. He also mails our newsletter to anyone who does not have email. He will continue doing that for a while.

Mark Drabkin is our Webmaster, who takes care of updating our website and emailing our newsletter. He will continue in that capacity.

The Treasurer updates the club's roster with each member's information and tracks their dues. We do not publish the roster or any personal information. This protects everyone.

If you have questions or need information, please go to the website (info@BCDems.org) and send us a message. The appropriate person will reply.

Bobbi said that we were going to give \$100 to the Clean Money Campaign, but we need to vote on it. It passed with a unanimous vote.

Tony said the Trump Administration is trying to add a citizenship question to the 2020 Census, but many feel that it will keep migrant families from responding and skew the numbers toward the Republicans. The question was removed in the 50s because better data was available from other sources. There are three court cases about the question.

Mark Drabkin said that a link to the Mueller Report is now on the website.

Tamara Levinson, from Grassroots Democrats HQ

Bobbi introduced Tamara, saying that she and Lynn Bommer held weekly phone banks for ten months in 2018 with Tamara doing the training. She was always available and always kind.

Tamara thanked Bobbi for inviting her to speak.

She said that she has worked 60 elections and has learned that if you start early, you can make a difference. We are defending what we have because we are only contacting the districts that we won. We have to win again in 2020 as well as win other offices such as Duncan Hunter's, seats in Arizona, and five possi-



Tamara Levinson from the Grassroots Democrats HQ

ble seats in Virginia. We have to also look at the state legislatures; we win from the grassroots up. We need the legislatures to fight against the gerrymandering that has taken place and that is promised to take place again, unless we win enough Democratic seats.

Grassroots Democrats HQ runs a remote system. We want to open a headquarters center in November, but funding and support is needed. The clubs and grassroots groups that join us will bring a lot of people together. A West LA location has not yet been selected because it is too soon to spend the money. We hope to have several locations. Our headquarters can be used by grassroots organizations if they are working on our mission.

I'd like your club to become an affiliate. The club would have a link on our website and people would be able to find you and work with you.

On July 21, there will be a fundraiser for four candidates at the Bergamot Station, from 11:00 – 1:00.

People are focused on flipping seats, but what about the President? We won't do anything until after the primaries and we have the selected Democratic candidate for each office that we will support. However, we don't fundraise for the candidates, we fundraise for the field work. We are chartered with LACDP, which means we can raise more money for the field work. We will support our seven California candidates, with the campaigns supplying us with data.

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Currently, we are post carding for California and Arizona. We will also train folks on whatever software the campaigns use for phone banking.

We are affiliated with the West LA club and we had a fair amount of overlap contacting people. The callers got that feedback, but it is difficult not to have multiple calls because California Election Law prevents us from coordinating with other groups.

Tamara thanked the club again for inviting her and said that she was handing out flyers with information about Grassroots Democrats HQ and its social media contacts.

Tony said that we could announce all phone banking dates at a public meeting and that would solve the coordination issue.

Bobbi asked if we wanted to be an affiliate and people said yes. A vote was held and it passed unanimously.

Lynn Bommer said that there will be voter registration happening with Field Team 6, if you want to participate. She

explained that they want to register 6,000 people, so we are working with the colleges and at the courts. We can carpool and we go four days a week, but there will be some weekends for folks who work. We'll also go to Bakersfield and out of state.

We like to get high school students involved in phone banking and we work with their civics teachers to give students extra credit for phone banking or other work they do.

Bobbi asked that we get involved this time. We had such good results last time when we worked together.

Joe Guimera talked about the State Party Convention, which he attended as Dency's proxy. It was quite an opportunity to be with so many like-minded people. Each candidate got 5 – 7 minutes to speak. I knew some of the candidates, but hearing them speak changed my opinions. The vote for President was interesting and intense. A nice surprise was that Stacey Michaels got married there.

Irene Guimera, who also attended, said that it was great to hear from our

electeds and what a great group of people. Willie Brown was there and he is one of my favorites.

Tony noted that Nancy Pelosi was received with great affection. When she talked about impeachment, there was a murmuring. It was not divisive as the media portrayed it. The Party has become incredibly progressive. There were 950 people representing LA County.

LA County Committee Report

Tony said we elected the Executive Board (EBoard). If you are on the EBoard, you will get on the state board. LA County passed a resolution to support banning the dangerous MHFA chemicals which are used at the Torrance and Wilmington refineries. The resolution will be sent to the State Party. It is important to vote more local people onto the AQMD board because they understand this issue.

Correction: It was mentioned during the meeting that the California Primary was in June, 2020. However, California changed its date to March 3, so its primary would be on Super Tuesday.