



NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, July 22, 7:00 PM

Our guest speaker will be Jeffrey Prang, the Los Angeles County Assessor.

Jeffrey Prang has championed forward-thinking policies in his political career and as County Assessor, he is part of the team working to keep our community safe and prosperous. Learn how Democratic leadership in this office keeps L. A. County at the forefront of progressive change.

Join Zoom Meeting:
bit.ly/BeachCitiesDemocrats

Join by phone
(669) 900-9128

Here are some ways you can help Democrats in 2020

Two local groups that serve our area:
<https://sisterdistrict.com>
<https://www.fieldteam6.org>

Help send text messages to voters in important races:
<https://www.openprogress.com>

Get a bird's eye view of what is going on near you at SoCalBlue
<https://socalblue.org>



JFK Profiles in Courage Award

Ceremony will take place on Saturday, July 25, at 7:30 PM
It is a virtual event; tickets can be found on the LACDP website.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jessica
Accamando
President,
Beach Cities
Democrats



I'm sitting here at my desk, after engaging with a misinformed Facebook user for the 1246th time on (insert any topic), wondering when this all began and how I got here. Are you?

I thought I would start my first official newsletter article with something profound or deeply reflective of my gratitude. But I can't. The words won't come out of my furiously typing fingers. I'm angry, sad, and frustrated—on a daily basis—since 2016. And I'm not even talking about COVID.

Have you ever been so defeated that you gave up? I have. Hanging chads in 2000 sent me in a downward spiral for almost a decade. I was in college at the time, in Washington, D.C., and eagerly studying political communications when Gore lost. I was angry, sad, and frustrated. And I gave up engaging.

I didn't stop paying attention to voting, but I did stop suggesting to people who to vote for and why. I stopped informing my right-leaning mother why she was wrong when she would repeat Bush-isms. I stopped wearing my blue pride on my sleeve.

The election of 45 was my karma (I dare not say his name). At least that's how I felt. I had been so disengaged that it was all my fault. I jinxed us! I donated to Hillary's campaign, but that's all I did and I was embarrassed about it. I had deep,

gut-wrenching regret.

But 2016 was a turning point for me. I was angry, sad, and frustrated—again. Turns out, the same emotions plagued me whether I engaged or not. But I realized I didn't have to feel regret and defeat. I didn't need to make a splash, but I did need to make waves.

I started small by learning about my beautiful community and its stakeholders, leaders, and nonprofits. I enrolled in Leadership Hermosa Beach and started talking to my neighbors. I've been getting more and more involved now and I'm honored to be your new President.

I'm still angry, sad, and frustrated—on a daily basis. But I'm also motivated, equipped, and in good company, with you. Instead of defeated, I feel implored to do more, to speak up, and to be of value to the cause. I urge you to do the same!

My hope for our charter is to grow, engage, and impact. I know most of you have been longtime members and I hope to live up to your expectations and learn from each of you. I hope you'll tell me when I'm doing well—and more importantly, when I'm wrong. I'm green and eager and mad—a combination I hope suits what the Beach Cities Democrats need in 2020. I look forward to hearing your thoughts and to implementing any improvements we need to make a wave together.

Time to ignite our emotions, put on our Biden buttons, and get to work.

June Recap

President Mike Detoy led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed all who were in the meeting. Tony Hale asked for a motion to approve the minutes, which were distributed with the June newsletter, and the vote to approve was unanimous.

Connie Sullivan mentioned the upcoming LA County JFK Awards and said that Comedian Kathy Griffin will be among the recipients. Others include Senator Kamala Harris, activist Dolores Huerta, and SEIU 2015 President April Verrett. The ceremony will be virtual, and tickets can be found on the LACDP website.

Mike then introduced our featured speaker, Mark Gonzalez, Chair of the Los Angeles County Democratic Party, a position he has held since October 2017. LACDP is the largest local Democratic Party in the country and one of the most influential, serving over 2.9 million registered Democrats. He spoke about his background—he started out in 2006 as a student intern, and worked on the campaign of Phil Angelides. He has been a member of the County Central Committee since 2005, and his primary focus has been on health care and giving back to the community. Mark said that 90% of the candidates we endorse have won. LACDP is working closely with the Biden campaign to craft a consistent message, and kits will be sent to our BCD president. There will be a new digital GOTV launching soon.

Mark said that California will be sending mail-in ballots to all registered voters. These can be mailed in or dropped off at polling centers throughout the county. He apologized for leaving the meeting early, but Elizabeth Hennes took over. She is the project coordinator with the LA County Democratic Party. She said her primary focus will be on training women and people of color to run for office.

Tony mentioned that we have several members on the County Committee. Our club is chartered and provides a good way to get involved in Party politics.

Doug Bender of Indivisible South Bay said there was to be a fund raiser for



Mark Gonzalez, Chair of the LA County Democratic Party

Field Team 6. Mike Detoy mentioned that in his capacity as a firefighter, he and his colleagues have been volunteering to deliver groceries and provide other services for those in need.

Mike then turned the meeting over to Tony to handle the election of officers. We had formed a nominating committee, but nominations are always welcome from the floor. Tony said that as a member of the Executive Board, he needed somebody else to lead the process. Dency Nelson volunteered, and opened the floor to nominations. Tony nominated Jessica Accamando for President, Moira Zucker seconded it, and it passed unanimously.

The slate was: Tony Hale as Vice-president, Andrea Valcourt as Secretary, and Edna Murphy as Treasurer. They were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Edna Murphy gave the Treasurer's Report:

Federal PAC	\$1,765
State PAC	\$5,344

The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously.

Mike, speaking as a Hermosa Beach City Councilman, said that the last Council meeting lasted until midnight. There are a growing number of COVID cases, as people are not observing proper safety protocols. He is an Emergency Medical Technician, and as such, is often on the front lines. He then said that Hermosa Beach has adopted a balanced budget. Mike asked for other reports.

Tony Hale said that the LA County Party is reorganizing and electing officers, and Mark Gonzalez is up for reelection.

Lori Geittmann mentioned that former BCD President Lee Fink is running for city council in Tustin, and is accepting donations. She said that we turned Orange County blue by getting local officials elected.

Mike said that Jessica will have good ideas for future meetings, and he is confident that we will be in good hands under her leadership.

With that, he adjourned the meeting.

Comparing Biden to Roosevelt

Recently on MSNBC, I heard Anand Giridharadas criticize the Democrats by grumbling about how Biden was not like Franklin D. Roosevelt, and how Biden and the Democrats were not reaching out to the most progressive interests. This is how our side sabotages our own efforts. Anand can't get excited about defeating Trump because the presumptive nominee is not perfect.

Now, I am a lifelong progressive on every issue, but I know that progressive policies cannot succeed without political success. We must win in order to change. Let me remind Anand that Roosevelt was not the Roosevelt we remember today when he first ran for office. Roosevelt was highly cautious. Hoover was very unpopular, but Roosevelt did not want to risk making a gaff that would take the nation's attention away from the inadequacies of Hoover and the troubles of the nation. Roosevelt did not offer very many details on what he would do in office, but mostly promised that "happy days are here again."

The Biden campaign will do much more, and the promise of progressive change is great. But, first we must win in a nation that elected Donald Trump. We cannot win by hoping people who voted for Trump will have a complete conversion. We cannot win the undecideds by asking them to become immersed in public policy. These are people who are undecided because they have not been paying attention, they will need an entry level argument for why they should vote for Biden.

So, to my fellow progressives, I'm asking you to look beyond the campaign slogans. Look at the core values of the Democratic Party, a party that believes in expanding the franchise of equality, that cares about the environment, that is dedicated to providing affordable health care for all, that is devoted to social justice and that is committed to raising all

working people. I ask you not to focus on failures of the past, but look to the Democratic Party of the future. You and I can help win this election, and the proportion of the vote we deliver will determine our influence on the Democratic Party and the nation. We have one chance to win this election, but if we fail, we are not guaranteed to see the start of some progressive resolution. We are much more likely to see our side fractured and out of power. Let's fight for what each of us believes in, but let's fight together.

Vice-President Tony Hale

From Congressman Ted Lieu



The COVID-19 pandemic has reminded us about the importance of ensuring state and local governments have adequate resources to address the needs of their communities. In order to get an accurate count in the 2020 Census, every resident of our community must respond to the census. Please remember to complete your census form, either online, by phone or by mail to do your part in helping our community receive its fair share of federal resources to benefit schools, roads, hospitals, emergency preparedness plans and more.

Have you witnessed fraud, waste, or abuse of coronavirus pandemic relief funds? Congress has approved over \$3 trillion in federal spending to combat the pandemic and I am committed to ensuring your tax dollars are being spent properly. I encourage you to visit coronavirus.house.gov/contact/tip-line or call 202-225-4400 today to report waste, fraud, or abuse of COVID-19 funds.

The CDC issued a health advisory warning against using any hand sanitizer manufactured by "Eskbiochem SA de CV" due to the presence of a toxic alcohol which can cause blindness or death when absorbed through the skin or swallowed. In addition, the FDA added five hand sanitizers to the list of products testing positive for toxic chemicals. Do not use:

1. Grupo Insoma's Hand Sanitizer Gel Unscented, 70% alcohol
2. Transliquid Technologies' Mystic Shield Protection Hand Sanitizer
3. Soluciones Cosmeticas' Bersih Hand Sanitizer Gel Fragrance Free
4. Soluciones Cosmeticas Antiseptic Alcohol 70% Topical Solution Hand Sanitizer
5. Tropicocosmetics' Britz Hand Sanitizer Ethyl Alcohol 70%



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Health Plan Information

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Covered California opened a special enrollment period to help those who are uninsured enroll in quality affordable health care plans. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 open enrollment period, more than 155,000 Californians have signed up for health care coverage. Any person who is uninsured and eligible can enroll in a health care plan that works for them by going to CoveredCa.com.

*Please note:
Attached are the minutes of the June meeting as recorded by our Secretary and which will be formally adopted at our next virtual meeting. If you have any corrections or changes, please address these in an email to info@BeachCitiesDems.org or bring them up at our next meeting.*

Democratic Club Minutes
June 24, 2020
Secretary, Andrea Valcourt

While we waited for Mike Detoy, President, to join, Tony Hale, Vice President, asked for a motion to approve the minutes and they were approved unanimously.

Mike joined the meeting and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Then, he welcomed everyone and asked if there were any visitors. Kate Littleton said her family was an air force family new to the area. He asked for any announcements.

Connie Sullivan said that the California Democratic Party is coordinating phone banking with the various campaigns and asked if it was on our website. It will be checked. She added she was sure the upcoming LA County JFK Awards were on the website. It is one of two fundraisers they have. Kathy Griffin is getting the award.

Upon his arrival, Mike introduced Mark Gonzales, Los Angeles Democratic Party Chair, who thank the club for inviting him and the officers for serving. He reported that the party expanded the membership in LA County and that 90% of candidates backed by the Party win.

Mark explained that there will be a four day virtual meeting starting July 14 to select delegates for the convention. Our next general meeting is August 11 and this information is on our website.

The JFK Virtual Awards will be July 25, with several celebrities. The Profiles in Courage award goes to Kathy Griffin and Kamal Harris, the Miguel Contreras Leadership Award goes to Delores Huerta, and the Partnership Award goes to April Verrett. I hope you will buy tickets. You can go to the LACDP website for more information.

California will be sending Mail-in Ballots to every registered voter. Be sure to register, if you are not, and to mail them, once they are filled out. It is a great advantage to be able to vote and not risk your health. You can bring them to drop off boxes throughout the County or to polling centers, where you can also vote in person, if you don't want to use the Mail-in Ballot.

LACDP is working with the Biden campaign to develop information kits, so we are all on the same page and have the same message. I will send kits to your president, when they are available. Tony added there is a link to donate as well. Mark continued saying that your donations pay for robo calls, with which Tony helps, mailers, bill boards, digital ads for Kristy Smith, administration staff, infrastructure and candidate endorsements. We are the largest central committee in the country.

Tony asked what is your background and what issues are important to you?

Mark said that he started as a student intern, when he attended college and loved the process. It was suggested that I try the Central Party and I fell in love with that too. Healthcare is very important to me. I never had insurance until 2009, so I went to clinics. It is important to keep healthcare in the forefront.

Lori Geittmann stated that when she was involved with the CDP we tried to get money for women to train and run for office. Mark replied that he totally agreed 100%. He apologized, saying he had to attend another meeting. Elizabeth Hennes will take over.

Elizabeth said that she just started with LACPD and after the election, she will focus on training women and people of color to run for office.

Dency Nelson noted that you don't have to be a member to attend a meeting. Check the website for meeting details. It's old fashion politics—400 people in a room or on zoom.

Mike asked if Elizabeth had suggestions for how younger people could get involved. She said that LACDP has five offices in the county, which are on our website, as well as how to get involved. There is virtual door knocking and headquarters will steer people to events local to them.

Tony mentioned that we have several members that are on the County Committee. This club is chartered and is the ground floor to join the party and politics. Dency stated that he never volunteered to join the committee, but is Tony's alternate. It's a good way to get started and be involved without having to run for office.

Tony said that we were originally called clubs, but we thought that name had a poor connotation, so we changed our names to better reflect our serious work.

Mike asked how Elizabeth how she got involved and she replied that she came from a non-profit with LAUSD. I was involved with the party at Berkeley. I'm very happy to be a coordinator between chartered clubs and the Central Party. She too thanked us for having her, saying she had another meeting to attend.

Mike asked for any other announcements and Connie said the PV Dems meeting is Sunday at 2:30 and that the topic is homelessness, with several speakers. Dency added it was on our website.

Dency added that Ted Lieu is having a meeting at 4:00 Saturday and Maxine Waters is talking about race and these will be on our website. Doug Bender added that Field Team 6 is having a fundraiser at 1:00. He will put the link in the Zoom chat box.

Mike said that Covid-19 is still here and it is real. We have South Bay volunteers available to run errands, bring food, etc. Hermosa One also has useful information.

Mike said he would turn the meeting over to Tony and the election committee. Tony stated that we have people volunteering for our executive offices and there is a process to have a nominating committee, which looks for candidates as well. We will now entertain nominations, but I need someone to lead the process, who is not on the Executive Board.

Dency said he would and opened the floor for nominations. Tony nominated Jessica Accamando for President, Moira Zucker seconded it, and it passed unanimously.

Moira said she wanted to thank Jessica because it not easy to be president and there's no pay, but it can be fun.

The slate presented Tony for Vice President. Dency made a motion to nominate him, Edna Murphy seconded it, and it passed unanimously.

The slate presented Andrea Valcourt for Secretary. Dency made a motion to nominate her, Edna seconded it, and it passed unanimously.

The slate presented Edna for Treasurer. Dency made a motion to nominate her, Jessica seconded it, and it passed unanimously.

Lori made a unanimous proclamation to elect all the officers, Dency seconded it, and it passed unanimously.

Moiria thanked everyone for running and serving for the next year. Dency then thanked Mike for serving as our president, while he is serving as a Hermosa City Councilmember and as a firefighter. Mike helped get Hermosa to honor Pride Month and the Pride flag is flying over city hall.

Mike said that Tony, Al Muratsuchi, Carrie Jacob are delegates for Joe Biden at the convention. It looks like it will be a smaller convention in Minneapolis.

There are no electeds tonight to give reports.

Mike thanked Tony for setting up our virtual meetings, so we can stay apart during the Covide-19 pandemic.

Mike asked Edna to give the Treasurer's Report. Tony made a motion to accept them, Jessica seconded it, and it passed unanimously.

Mike asked that the minutes be accepted and they passed unanimously.

Mike said he wanted to speak as an Hermosa Beach Councilmember. The City held a meeting last night, with a good presentation by the Beach Cities Health District on Covid-19. Hopefully, we can go back to good habits. Unfortunately, we see younger people ignoring the rules to wear a mask and social distance. It will force the governor to re-instate the shut-down rules. Connie interjected that it's mostly in Red districts. Dency added that it's also the protests. (Editor's note: we can be sure where people are mostly not following guidelines nor what effect the protests had.)

Dency continued that it is unfortunate that BuzzFeed got pictures of Mira Costa students on the beach without masks. It is a shame for Manhattan Beach. I'm not saying we opened too fast, but some have stopped following the rules.

Mike resumed speaking as a council member, stating that Connecting Hermosa is a virtual call tomorrow, the 25th at 9:30. See the Hermosa website for details. A balanced budget was adopted two weeks ago, with a razor thin margin.

Then, Mike asked for other reports.

Tony reported that the County Party is going through a re-organization. Every four years we elect officers. There will be an orientation meeting, followed by a swearing in meeting. It will take a couple of months to back to full speed.

Dency said Ted Lieu is having a fundraiser for the Blue Momentum Pac. It is a great place to spend your money, since the Pac supports many grass roots races. It can get better rates for TV ads for the various supported candidates than they can get individually.

Lori said another good place to donate is for Lee Fink. We turned Orange County blue by getting local officials elected. Dency added that Lori is right. We need to support local officials as well as president. Tony agreed, saying that we need a good bench, from which higher offices can be filled.

Mike said I know that Jessica will have some good ideas for future meetings. The plan is to have Janice Hahn, Al Muratsuchi speak to us as well as some police officers, who will give us their perspectives on issues.

Dency reminded everyone that dues are due: \$25 for single membership and \$40 for a household. You can pay on line or send a check to our post office box.

Tony Salvaggio stated that Torie Osborn is organizing a Joe Biden fundraiser on July 4th with guest speakers Senators Kamala Harris and Elizabeth Warrant, Representative Karen Bass. It will be amazing. Dency said it is on our website, which is constantly adding events.

Mike said that our newsletter has Democratic organizations' information as well as our website address and important events. I want to thank everyone for your support and know you will be in good hands with Jessica as your president. I'm eager to see where she takes us. With that, Mike adjourned the meeting.

Jessica offered to stay on and take questions.