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## General Meeting – Wednesday February 11, 2015

# State of the Club: Interactive Discussion & Election of 1st VP and Corresponding Secretary

### President's Message:



President Obama's State of the Union address last month was the moment many Democrats were waiting for: a full-throated endorsement of

liberal, Democratic ideas. The President showed where our country has made great strides in strengthening the economy, shrinking the deficit, boosting scientific research, and ending the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. But he also showed where we still have room for improvement. And of course, everyone was buzzing about Mr. Obama's off-the-cuff jab at a group of heckling lawmakers: "I have no more campaigns to run...I know, because I won both of them."

Following the rout from the 2014 midterm Congressional elections, Mr. Obama could have lurched to the right in order to pander to the smaller, more conservative electorate that showed up in November. Instead, he doubled down on progressive values with a new list of priorities he wants to work with the Congress to deliver on: free community college, tax credits for child care, paid sick

leave, a free and open Internet, tax fairness, fighting climate change. With bold moves such as protecting immigrant children from deportation and taking the first step toward normalizing relations with Cuba, Mr. Obama is demonstrating that he will be no "lame duck."

Still, though the President proclaimed that the "state of the union is strong," it may not feel that way to many Americans. Since the beginning of Mr. Obama's administration, the United States has regained the amount of jobs lost in the Great Recession. According to the White House, 11.2 million jobs have been created in the past five years. Yet, there are still millions more people looking for work, and for the majority of those who are working, wages remain stagnant. The Affordable Care Act has significantly reduced the number of uninsured Americans nationwide, and has halved the number of uninsured in California. But, experts say, 30 million Americans will remain uninsured, even after the ACA is fully implemented. And finally, as the recent protests against police brutality and the aftermath of [See **President**, Page 2]

Monthly General Membership Meeting:

**7:00 PM Wednesday,  
February 11, 2015**

6:45 PM – Refreshments

Rotunda Room

Veterans Memorial Building

4117 Overland Avenue

Corner of Overland Ave. and  
Culver Blvd.

### What's Inside?

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### Club Notes

**Renew your membership!**  
Please use the form on page 4 or  
to renew online click  
"Join/Renew" on our web site.

**Electronic Newsletter:**  
Submit your email address to  
[Info@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com](mailto:Info@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com)  
and ask to get the newsletter  
by email! Save a tree and save  
our club the postage!

**Comments expressed in the Newsletter are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily represent the position of the Culver City Democratic Club.**

[**President** from Page 1] the high-profile murders of two NYPD officers showed, America's racial chasm still runs wide and deep.

As with any society, America remains an experiment, in constant need of update and repair. And, what is the state of the Culver City Democratic Club? That is what we will discuss at our February general meeting, as well as your thoughts about President Obama's address. Let's share ideas on what we can do to improve the Club. What topics would you like to see featured at future meetings? Should the Club

take a more active role in grassroots activism? What ideas do you have to boost membership and/or fundraising? Are there any particular activities you'd like to see the Club do that hasn't been done before or recently? Should the Club do some things differently? Come with your suggestions, and we'll take notes. In addition, we will be voting on the positions of CCDC First Vice President and Correspondence Secretary for the 2015 Executive Board. The new Board will be installed at our annual luncheon on Feb. 22, which will also feature our special guest speaker, grassroots activist and women's

### Seeking Submissions

We would like your articles and letters to the editor. Let your voice be heard! Submissions will be published as space allows. Submissions may be edited for length.

The Club's Executive Board reserves the right to determine suitability of submissions for inclusion in the newsletter.

rights champion, Sandra Fluke. We will be presenting Ms. Fluke with the Democratic Activist of the Year Award, and former CCDC President Bill Wynn with the Trudy Cherness Democrat of the Year Award. We hope to see you there!

### Di's Corner: By Diane Rosenberg

At the January 14 General Meeting the Club held a Candidates Forum for the West Los Angeles Community College Board of Trustees. After the forum the membership endorsed Andra Hoffman for Seat #1, Sydney Kamlager for Seat #3, Scott Svonkin for Seat #5, and Mike Fong for Seat #7.

At the same meeting the Club also conducted the election for the Club officers for 2015. Elected by acclamation were Sylvia Moore - President., Amy Cherness - 2nd V.P., Patricia Levinson - Recording Secretary., Eric Fine - Treasurer, and Diane Rosenberg - Membership Secretary. The election for the offices of 1st V.P. and Corresponding Secretary will be held at our General Meeting in February.

I thank Ronnie Jayne for helping me at the meeting with the registration and ballots.

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On January 23 the West Basin Municipal Water District held their Director Installation Ceremony at the Ed Little Water Facility in El Segundo. Scott Houston, Director and Board Secretary, Division 4 was sworn in by Congresswoman Janice Hahn, CA 44th Congressional. Harold C. Williams, Director and Board Treasurer, Division 1 was sworn in by Senator Isadore Hall, CA 35th Senate. Gloria D. Gray, Director and Board President, was sworn in by the Mayor of Inglewood James T. Butts.

Numerous dignitaries attended from various cities including: Congresswoman Diane E. Watson, Culver City Mayor Meghan Sahli-Wells, Culver City Councilmember Jim Clarke, and Culver City School Board member Nancy Goldberg. Additionally Amy and Darryl Cherness, Sylvia Moore, and Herb and I attended.

"True individual freedom cannot exist without economic security and independence. People who are hungry and out of a job are the stuff of which dictatorships are made."

- Franklin D. Roosevelt

### 2015 Club Officers and Committee Chairs:

**President:** Sylvia Moore  
President@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

**First VP:** TBD  
FirstVP@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

**Second VP:** Amy Cherness  
SecondVP@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

**Treasurer:** Eric Fine  
Treasurer@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

**Recording Secretary:**  
Patricia Levinson  
Secretary@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

**Corresponding Secretary:**  
TBD  
CorrespondanceSec@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

**Membership Secretary:**  
Diane Rosenberg  
Membership@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

**Newsletter:** Greg Valtierra  
Newsletter@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

## Statements from Candidates for First Vice-President

As voted on by the members at the January General Meeting, the election for the First Vice-President for the Club will be held at February's meeting. Also, the vote for Corresponding Secretary will be conducted immediately after the vote for First VP. For both offices beyond the already nominated candidates a call for nominations from the floor will be made before the vote for each office. All candidates will be given the opportunity to speak before the body prior to the vote. Here are the statements from the candidates for First VP.

### Khin Khin Gyi:

As a board member of Citizens Coalition for a Safe Community and as a neurologist, I have worked tirelessly to inform the residents of Culver City and LA County about the adverse health effects of chemicals produced in the course of oil extraction. As a member of the Angeles chapter of the Sierra Club, I have worked to defend our right to clean air, water and land use over the right of corporations seeking profits at the expense of our health.

Having served as president emeritus of the Culver Crest Neighborhood Association for two years has taught me the skills of engaging and empowering a community to stand up for its rights, whether it be facing parking issues with West LA College or Freeport McMoran Oil & Gas Co. at the monthly CAP (Community Advisory Panel) meetings.

Currently, I am working with PSR-

LA (Physicians for Social Responsibility) to create a 1500 foot buffer zone between sensitive receptors (schools, nursing homes, residences and churches) and already approved urban oil wells. This would be a push back from the current 500 feet buffer zone that presently exists in Los Angeles. I would be honored to receive your vote for the position of first vice president and will be bringing a collaborative coalition to work to achieve our common vision and shared mission.

### Stephen Murray:

Our Club is here to improve peoples lives. We are united by our values and vision of a just and equal society. Holding this vision creates the freedoms that we all enjoy.

Our Club should help move community discourse to this vision every month, not just during the elections. We need to explore and reinforce the freedoms that can give us affordable education and livable wages, gender and marriage equality, and the ability to enjoy our health and safety free from fear and corporate influences.

Our Club needs to take hold of our local offices. We should be proactively vetting and encouraging the next leaders that will stand up for our community in the 2016 and 2018 City Council, in our School Board, and in our Assembly.

The City's Democrats are fractured between the Chamber, UPCC, our teachers union and our progressive activists. We need to engage with each of these elements. We need to be

out in the community bringing people in by championing our higher Democratic ideals.

I have a vision towards unifying the clubs in West LA. I want us to try to share events during the month and share our best practices. Elected officials don't care about clubs until elections. I want to help increase our influence to become the greater resource our community needs.

We are called a Democratic Club but I think we're here to help make our community better.

## Club Officer Installation and Awards Luncheon

At 11:30 AM on Sunday, February 22, the Club will host the 2015 Club Officer Installation and Awards Luncheon. The luncheon will be held at the Courtyard by Marriott in Culver City. We will be honoring Sandra Fluke as Activist of the Year and Bill Wynn will be awarded the Trudy Cherness Democrat of the Year. Mayor Meghan Sahli-Wells will be installing our officers.

Pre-purchased tickets will cost \$40 (parking is included) and it will be \$45 at the door. For further information call Amy Cherness at (310) 839-0953.

We are also seeking sponsors and ads for the luncheon program. All proceeds will go toward the Club's political fund to support our endorsements throughout the year. For further information call Ronnie Jayne at (310) 836-7557.

### **Renew Your Club Membership for 2015!**

Our membership chair, Diane Rosenberg, will gladly accept your renewal. You can use the form on Page 4 to update any of your contact information and select the level of membership OR click "Join/Renew" on our web site [CulverCityDemocraticClub.com](http://CulverCityDemocraticClub.com)

Dues are due by January 1, 2015

For questions please call Membership Secretary  
Diane Rosenberg at (310) 398-5328

"It's time to put middle-class, paycheck-earning Americans first, not last. Let's work with President Obama to build on our nation's economic growth and get back to rewarding all hard-working Americans."

— Rep. Xavier Becerra, D-Calif., chairman of the House Democratic Caucus.

**Renew your membership!**

Now collecting dues for 2015.

Dues for 2015 are due by January 1, 2015. Current dues must be paid by renewing members before a vote to get a ballot at the general meeting. New and lapsed members must have paid dues at least 25 days in advance to vote at a meeting.

Culver City Democratic Club  
P.O. Box 4254  
Culver City, CA 90231-4254

**February 11, 2015 - Meeting Program:**

**State of the Club: Interactive Discussion & Election of 1st VP and Corresponding Secretary**

**Upcoming Events**

► **Wednesday, February 11**  
**Monthly General Meeting: State of the Club**

7:00 PM at the Rotunda Room, Veterans Memorial Building. Public is welcome. Call Sylvia at (323) 384-3457 or email [President@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com](mailto:President@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com)

► **Monday, February 16**  
**Monthly Board Meeting:**

7:00 PM at the Camarella/Jayne's home. All members welcome. Call Sylvia at (323) 384-3457 or email [President@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com](mailto:President@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com)

► **Sunday, February 22**  
**Awards and Installation Luncheon:**

11:30 AM Courtyard by Marriott Culver City, 6333 Bristol Parkway. Further details on Page 3. All are welcome. For luncheon call Amy at (310) 839-0953. For sponsorship and ads call Ronnie at (310) 836-7557.

► **Wednesday, March 11**  
**Monthly General Meeting:**

7:00 PM at the Rotunda Room, Veterans Memorial Building. Public is welcome. Call Sylvia at (323) 384-3457 or email [President@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com](mailto:President@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com)

**Culver City Democratic Club  
Application/Renewal Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I declare that all the individuals listed for membership are registered Democrats.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues: Dues may be waived for financial hardship

- Member \$30
- Student \$20
- Supporting Member \$75
- Sustaining Member \$125

Additional Contribution: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to:

**Culver City Democratic Club**

P.O. Box 4254, Culver City, CA 90231-4254

**OR** Click "Join/Renew" on our web site [CulverCityDemocraticClub.com](http://CulverCityDemocraticClub.com).

For questions please call Membership Secretary Diane Rosenberg at (310) 398-5328

**Please renew for 2015 if you haven't already done so.**

The dues period runs concurrent to the calendar year.

Renewals are due by January 1, of each year.