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General Meeting – Wednesday, September 9, 2015
CCUSD School Board Candidates Forum
and Endorsement Vote

President's Message:



So Jeb Bush thinks Americans just aren't working hard enough. In a recent newspaper interview, the GOP presidential candidate, former Florida governor, and silver-spoon

holder, criticized President Obama's proposal to expand overtime protection to 5 million American workers, saying that "People are going to have to work longer hours and, through their productivity, gain more income for their families." Seriously, Jeb?

To the contrary, Americans work plenty. According to the Organization (OECD), Americans worked an average of 1,789 hours last year, higher than the OECD average of all countries surveyed. And still, our wages have been stagnant for the past 40 years even though our productivity has actually increased. Speaking of wages, Donald Trump, noted trust fund recipient and current (for the time-being) GOP front-runner, believes that the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 is just fine at that level and "not a bad thing for this country." So says a guy who has never had to, and likely never will have to, survive on \$7.25.

And then, there's Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin, who gets handsomely rewarded with campaign cash as

chief lackey to the billionaire Koch Brothers, all the while bashing unions as "special interests" and comparing them to ISIS. I could probably go on - there are more than a dozen Republicans vying for the White House at this point - but it would take more room than I have in our newsletter to outline all the ways the modern GOP disrespects the value of most people who have to work for a living (and downright disparages people who can't find jobs).

The sad thing is that these people even have an audience for their retrograde attitudes toward the working class. A lot of that audience includes members of the working class. Some are even in unions. America's schizophrenic relationship with laborers and the idea of whose work is valued goes a long way toward explaining why our nation's workers are so ill-treated compared with the rest of the developed world.

America was built on the exploited labor of African people. Then, came the exploited labor of the poor - black and white - and of immigrants. Post-New Deal and post-World War II, the value of workers rose and they gained new rights that resulted in the middle class boom that lasted until the 1980s. Today, we are in a new era of exploitation: of unpaid internships that look a lot like full-time jobs; of uncompensated overtime; of [See **President**, Page 2]

Monthly General Membership Meeting:
7:00 PM Wednesday, September 9, 2015
 6:45 PM – Refreshments
 Rotunda Room
 Veterans Memorial Building
 4117 Overland Avenue
 Corner of Overland Ave. and Culver Blvd.

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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 and ask to get the newsletter by email! Save a tree and save our club the postage!

September Meeting Sponsors:
 Diane and Herb Rosenberg, and Darryl Cherness in honor of their birthdays.

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]
 contract workers and temps; of outright wage theft. We're a society where workers are expected to be on-call during what little vacation time they get, and a society where many don't get vacation at all. We stand out as the only country in the industrialized world that doesn't mandate paid vacation or maternity leave. At the same time, Americans identify themselves through their work; the first question one is always asked at a social gathering is not "What are your favorite hobbies," but "What do you do?" And the idea of "working hard" as much as one can to achieve success, is seen as a badge of honor - no matter the consequences to one's health and family life. The idea of working in our country is valued, but the act of laboring - outside that of the corporate executive - isn't so much valued. So every September, we mark Labor Day with barbecues and shopping and beach-going, while the original reason for the holiday - a celebration of the achievements of the labor movement - lies mostly forgotten.

News From the Legislation Chair by Nyabingi Kuti

On July 28 the Board Of Supervisors approved \$130 million to divert people from incarceration in LA county. The approved motion tried to sneak in a jail expansion provision. This was a violation of the Brown Act so both jail diversion and expansion will be taken up at the September 1 BOS meeting. Community groups are requesting that a significant portion of diversion funding be allocated for reducing the homicide crisis in what the LA Times refers to as "death alley" in South LA.

The jail expansion provision includes funding for the Mira Loma women's jail in Lancaster and a \$2 billion proposal for replacing the medieval dungeon called Men's Central Jail. Community groups are calling for a downsized MCJ and a significant increase in community based mental health and substance abuse treatment, in addition to an increase in housing and job opportunities.

The BOS jail diversion is a good thing and more community involvement at the decision making level will make it better

To the Editor: Culver City Needs a Minimum Wage

by Darryl Cherness

Anyone who has been following the news knows that there is a nationwide movement to raise the minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour.

Presidential candidate, Bernie Sanders, introduced a bill in Congress to raise the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$15.00 per hour. The City of Seattle passed a phased in \$15.00 minimum wage ordinance, effective April 2015. In New York, a specially convened state wage board called for a hike in the minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour for fast food workers. Governor Andrew Cuomo is likely to approve this measure.

In California, San Francisco, Oakland, and Berkeley have approved minimum wage ordinances that will ultimately be phased in to \$15.00 per hour. More recently, the Los Angeles City Council passed and Mayor Garcetti signed an ordinance that phases the city minimum wage

to \$15.00 per hour, effective 2020. Finally, both the University of California and the County of Los Angeles have adopted \$15.00 per hour minimum wage regulations.

What does all this mean for Culver City workers? Next year, the state minimum wage goes up to \$10.00 per hour. That means that in 2015, a worker who works at a restaurant, coffee shop, or store in Culver City will be making \$10.00 an hour, while workers in Los Angeles doing comparable work will be making \$15.00 per hour. Is it fair that a worker doing comparable work should earn significantly less in hourly wages based on the jurisdiction in which he/she works?

To me, this is a question of simple "economic justice." Moreover, a \$15.00 minimum wage in Culver City has the potential to move potentially hundreds of people out of poverty and into a higher economic standard of living. When workers make more money, they have more money to spend. More spending for goods and services means more revenue for business and, in turn, stimulates additional hiring.

If you agree with me that Culver [See **Minimum Wage**, Page 3]

2015 Club Officers and Committee Chairs:

President: Sylvia Moore
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 CorrespondanceSec@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

Membership Secretary:
 Diane Rosenberg
 Membership@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

Newsletter: Greg Valtierra
 Newsletter@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

Di's Corner: By Diane Rosenberg

The Club extends condolences to Ari Noonan on the passing of his wife Diane who passed away on Friday August 14, 2015 from ALS.

The Club thanks the Bylaws Committee and especially to Darryl Cherness for updating the Club's bylaws.

[**Minimum Wage** from Page 2]
 City should establish a \$15.00 an hour minimum wage, I ask that you take action now! Email or call the members of the City Council in support of the minimum wage. Write to our local newspapers and let the editor know how you feel. Share your point of view with your friends, neighbors, and relatives. Write a post on Facebook.

Working together, we can bring economic justice to Culver City workers and ensure that they enjoy a decent standard of living to which all workers are entitled.

CCUSD Board Candidates Statements

Here are the statements submitted to the newsletter by the candidates:

Anne Burke:

No Statement was received from Anne Burke.

Kelley Kent:

VOTE DR. KELLY KENT: A Proven Passion for Education

KELLY is a Proven Professional Educator

After earning a neuroscience doctorate from USC, Dr. Kent co-founded adaptED Consultants with the mission to improve community-wide understanding of how the brain learns. Kelly works

with large school districts and educational institutions, providing brain-based teacher professional development, parent education and student enrichment. Kelly is a Professor of psychology at Antioch University and neuroscience at Moorpark College.

KELLY is a Proven Parent Leader

Dr. Kent is an active volunteer at Linwood Howe Elementary. Kelly has participated in many projects including walkathons, beautification efforts and art enrichment. Kelly was instrumental in founding and implementing a before-school Spanish language instruction program, administered and taught entirely by volunteers. The program was so successful, that the school site, Booster Club and PTA elected to fund curriculum purchase and teacher training and pay to support the program's expansion.

KELLY is a Proven Community Leader

Kelly serves as a Culver City Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commissioner. She has heard the concerns of constituents and responded to them effectively on issues such as community gardening, playground inclusiveness and camaraderie in youth sports.

VOTE DR. KELLY KENT FOR
 CULVER CITY SCHOOL BOARD

Scott MacVarish:

As a life-long Democrat and former Delegate to the Democratic Party State Convention, I ask for your support. For 15 years, my professional life has been dedicated to improving schools. As staff attorney for the California Teachers Association and later Executive Director of many local chapters, I found that what's good for students is good for teachers-- and vice-versa. In private practice, I've defended dozens of teachers & students harmed by fly-by-night charter schools. I've also been an advocate fighting against our government's practice of separating immigrant parents and children, for which I have received honors and coverage from the Ecuadorian Consulate, the New Republic, Univision etc.

My goal is to make our schools the best in L.A. County by providing students with:

- high school Career Path Academies for science, technology, trades, & leadership in public service.
- teachers who have the resources & professional development necessary to inspire all students
- improved campus safety
- daily parent updates to encourage partnership in their child's success
- modern learning environments with well-planned use of bond funds.

My daughter enters Culver City Middle School next year so I have a deep personal commitment to improving our schools.

Support Scott McVarish
 ForGreatSchools.org.

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

Dues are due by January 1, 2015

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

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

Wednesday, September 9, 2015 - Meeting Program:

**CCUSD School Board
Candidates Forum
and Endorsement Vote**

Upcoming Events

► **Wednesday, September 9**
Monthly General Meeting:
CCUSD School Board
Candidates Forum

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

► **Saturday, September 26**
Monthly Board Meeting:

10:00 AM at the Rosenberg's
home. All members welcome.
Call Khin Khin at (310) 945-6087
or email
FirstVP@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

► **Wednesday, October 14**
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

► **Wednesday, November 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

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

**Special Rate for New and Lapsed members: Remainder of 2015
plus 2016 membership \$45**

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.

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.