



Active Democrat

General Meeting – Wednesday, October 15
 City Council Members Chris Armenta & Andy Weissman
 Also Club Constitutional Amendments



President's Message:

All Hands on Deck!

As I write this, financial markets worldwide have slumped and a worldwide recession is feared by many. It would be very easy to fill this space pointing out all the ways that the policies of successive Republican administrations, starting with Reagan, have brought us to such a state. I could also add how the very core of current Republican ideology on the operation of government and "free markets" has encouraged such failed implementations. However, I trust that you, as Democrats don't need further reiteration of the theories of Galbraith versus Friedman.

What we need is action! We need to take action to make sure that Barack Obama is elected President of the United States. We must ensure that we have Democratic majorities in the Senate and the House, and that here in California the candidates and initiatives we support win and those we oppose will lose.

Toward that end we've already been working locally for several weeks but we now need to increase our efforts. We've been registering voters and promoting our candidates at Pavilions on Saturdays and now we will begin tabling there on Sundays as well. We need your help to staff those tables. We will be organizing

phone banking for Obama, for Mark Ridley-Thomas, and the ballot measures, in coordination with the Obama, California Democratic Party (CDP) and Mark Ridley-Thomas (MRT) campaigns. We will need you to volunteer. We will also be coordinating with the CDP and MRT campaigns for precinct walking this month. Finally, in the days just before the election we will be helping with Get-Out-The-Vote efforts for the campaigns. We'll need you to be involved.

At our General Meeting this month we will have plenty of important work to do for our club as we consider amendments to our constitution. Equally important we will be hearing from Christopher Armenta and Andrew Weissman on what's been happening on the City Council and their observations as new council members. We need your participation at the meeting.

Many of you have already worked at our tables and worked in getting our endorsement mailing out but there are many who have not yet responded. Now is the time to back us up and make sure we can all say we've done our best when the dust settles on November 4. If you'd like to volunteer for any of our activities please let me know by emailing me at President@CCDemClub.Org or call me at (310) 204-1338.

Monthly General Membership Meeting:

**7:00 PM Wednesday,
October 15, 2008**

MOVED! from 2nd Wed.!

6:45 PM – Refreshments

Rotunda Room

Veterans Memorial Building

4117 Overland Avenue

Corner of Overland Ave. and
Culver Blvd.

What's Inside?

- 2: **Addressing the Current Economic Mess**
- 3: **Club Constitutional Amendments**
- 3: **Report from Club Absentee Voting Subcommittee**
- 3: **Contact the Campaigns**
- 2: **Di's Corner**

Club Notes

Volunteer for Tabling:

The club will be tabling to register voters. Various dates and times are available. See "**Upcoming Events**" on page 4 for more details.

Electronic Newsletter:

Submit your email address to Info@CCDemClub.org and ask to get the newsletter by email! Save a tree and save our club the postage!

Join the Culver City Peace Vigil:

Protest the Iraq war every Friday 5:30 – 6:30 PM across from the Culver Hotel.

October Meeting Sponsor:

Greg & Josette Valtierra

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

Addressing the Current Economic Mess

by Darryl Cherness (The following information was modified from "Info for Labor Union Members" <http://www.informationforunionmembers.com>).

By now, anyone who hasn't lived in a cave over the last several months, knows that the economy is in terrible shape. Major banks and financial institutions have declared bankruptcy or have been taken over by other financial institutions (i.e. Merrill Lynch by Bank of America). Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae have been taken over by the federal government. Unemployment is at a 5 year high. Property values have declined, and foreclosures are at the highest level since the great depression.

In response to the current economic crisis, congress considered and rejected a \$700 billion bailout of the very financial institutions that are responsible for the "subprime lending" fiasco. Many working people struggling to pay their

mortgages and send their kids to college have expressed resentment that congress would be willing to bailout millionaire bankers while no one is helping them with their own economic problems.

What is the economic solution that addresses the needs of working people?

There are many things that need to be done. As a society, we need to end the predatory lending practices that led to the economic meltdown in which we now find ourselves.

Risks associated with certain types of mortgages must be clearly disclosed. Congress should draft legislation requiring that high risk loans be restructured to make them more affordable for working families. In addition, the taxpayer should have an ownership interest in the companies whose bad debts are ultimately purchased in any future bailout plan, should these financial institutions become profitable in the years ahead.

In addition to dealing with the housing crisis, we need to get the economy moving again by

2008 Club Officers and Committee

Chairs:

President: Greg Valtierra
President@CCDemClub.Org
First Vice President: Ronnie Jayne
FirstVP@CCDemClub.Org
Second VP: Laura Stuart
SecondVP@CCDemClub.Org
Treasurer: Eric Fine
Treasurer@CCDemClub.Org
Recording Secretary: Sally Gardner
Corresponding Secretary: Lee Welinsky
Membership Secretary: Diane Rosenberg
Web Editor: Brian Pogue
Webmaster@CCDemClub.Org
Newsletter: Greg Valtierra (Interim)
Publicity: Karlo Silbiger

investing in clean energy such as wind, solar, and geothermal energy. We need to invest in research and development regarding a new generation of cleaner, more fuel efficient vehicles, as well as investing in new kinds of fuels i.e. ethanol, biodiesel, fuel cells etc. We also need to start investing in our own decaying infrastructure (i.e. roads, bridges, water treatment plants, sewers etc.). By adopting this approach, America can create new jobs and breathe new life into our economy.

Finally, we need to reject the Bush/McCain laissez-faire, deregulatory economics that states business can do whatever it wants without government regulation. We have seen how well this approach works in the case of the real estate lending industry.

With the right policies and the election of Barack Obama as president, I am confident that America can overcome its current economic difficulties and launch a new era of economic growth.

Di's Corner: By Diane Rosenberg

During our 9/10 general meeting Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas, a candidate for County Supervisor, made a surprise visit. He came to thank the club for endorsing him.

The club congratulates our Assembly Speaker Karen Bass who on Saturday Sept. 27, 2008 received one of this year's Phoenix Awards from the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc. at its 38th Annual Legislative Conference awards dinner in Washington, D.C.

Speaker Bass was presented the Barbara Jordan Award which honors women who have excelled in providing extraordinary contributions as public servants.

We are saddened by the loss of another former club member Joe Levy. He passed away on Friday 10/03/08. He leaves behind his wife Betty and two sons Ira and Zachary. The club sends their condolences to Betty who is still a member and the family.

Club Constitutional Amendments

As has been announced at several meetings and in previous newsletters there are several amendments to the Club's constitution that have been submitted for consideration. We will be discussing and voting on them at the October meeting. Here is a summary of what has been submitted:

- Submitted by the Board: Amendment to Article IX Section 3 to have language describing our policy for waiving of dues for financial hardship.
- Submitted by Diane Rosenberg: Limit on publication of member roster to Executive Board only.
- Submitted by Eric Fine: Change definition of quorum to use members eligible to vote instead of members in good standing.
- Submitted by Karlo Silbiger: Change the threshold for endorsement of ballot measures from simple majority to 60% just like endorsement of candidates.
- Submitted by Karlo Silbiger: Changes in the structure of club officers and standing committees to focus efforts on political issues.

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.

- Submitted by Greg Valtierra: Modify Article XI Section 3 to make secret balloting required only for candidate endorsements.

The Executive Board has reviewed these and has recommendations to adopt some and not others of the submitted amendments. In addition, for the items the Board is recommending, the Board has developed suggested language to adopt. These recommendations and language will be available at the October meeting and will be posted on the Club's web site before the meeting. If you'd like a copy of the recommendations sent to you by email please send a request to the President at President@CCDemClub.Org.

Report from Club Absentee Voting Subcommittee

The findings of the Subcommittee on Absentee Voting Procedures for the Club which met on August 9, 2008, were presented at the September General Meeting. The committee discussed each of the elements required to implement absentee voting or vote-by-mail for candidate endorsements within the Club. The committee voted on suggested procedures to implement such a program. The full report was made available at the September meeting and will be posted on the Club's website.

The Executive Board reviewed the findings of the subcommittee at the Board Meeting on August 30 and created a consolidated set of recommendations on procedures to implement absentee voting if the membership votes to allow absentee voting for candidate endorsements.

However, the Board was split on whether to recommend allowing absentee voting and 7 members voted against allowing absentee

Contact the Campaigns

Mark Ridley-Thomas for County Board of Supervisors

Campaign Headquarters
2092 W. Jefferson Blvd.
L.A., CA 90018
Tel: (323) 733-2002
Fax: (323) 733-2128
Web: www.ridley-thomas.com

Barack Obama for President

Local Headquarters
3619 Motor Avenue
310-836-2009
National Office
Phone: 866.675.2008
Web: www.barackobama.com

California Democratic Party

Campaign Office
1801 Avenue of the Stars
Suite #829
(310) 407-0980

Culver City for Obama

Our club's group to manage our efforts for the Obama campaign here in Culver City. Sign up at <http://my.barackobama.com/page/group/CulverCityForObama896>

voting, 2 voted for allowing absentee voting and 1 member abstained.

The full language of the recommended procedures will be presented at the October General Meeting. Both the full report of the subcommittee and recommended procedures from the Board will also be posted on the Club's website before the meeting.. If you'd like an electronic copy of either or both documents sent to you by email please send a request to the President at President@CCDemClub.Org.

Renew your membership!

2008 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.

Upcoming Events

► **Weekends October 11, 12, 18 & 19, Saturdays and Sundays**

Voter Registration/Tabling:

11:00 AM – 5:00 PM – Pavilions at Sepulveda & Sawtelle.

Volunteers needed to work 2 hour shifts. Call Greg at (310) 204-1338 or email

President@CCDemClub.Org

► **Wednesday, October 15**
Monthly General Meeting:

Moved from second

Wednesday for Yom Kippur

7:00 PM at the Rotunda Room, Veterans Memorial Building.

Public is welcome. Call Greg at (310) 204-1338 or email

President@CCDemClub.Org

► **Saturday, October 25**
Monthly Board Meeting:

9:00 AM at the Tom and Ronnie's home. All members welcome.

Call Ronnie at (310) 836-7557 or email FirstVP@CCDemClub.Org

► **During October**

Phone banking for Obama and Mark Ridley-Thomas:

Dates and times to be determined.

Call Greg at (310) 204-1338 or email President@CCDemClub.Org if you'd like to help.

► **November 1,2,3,4**

GOTV Activites:

Times and locations to be determined. Watch for further info on our website and email lists or call Greg at (310) 204-1338 or email President@CCDemClub.Org if you'd like to help.

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

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October 15, 2008 - Meeting Program:

**City Council Members Chris Armenta & Andy Weissman
Also Club Constitutional Amendments**

**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

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

Please renew for 2008 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.