



Active Democrat

General Meeting – Wednesday, November 12, 2008

November Election Recap

Election of Club Nominating Committee

Additional Club Constitutional Amendments to be Considered



President's Message:

Obama Wins!

Rejoice and be glad! Obama's victory could not be any more historic. Nor could the end of the Bush era be any

more welcome by a majority of the U.S.

Early in 2008 I had stated that all signs were pointing to a Presidential nomination and election that would have candidates chosen early and be one of the longest, most expensive Presidential races in our history. I was half right. We have experienced one of the longest and certainly the most expensive Presidential race but the selection of candidates was definitely not the foregone conclusion so many of us expected.

Barack Obama has changed the calculus of who's electable to the Presidency of the United States. His rise marks the end of the assumptions and expectations of domestic politics that have dominated since the Vietnam era. The argument has moved beyond the struggle between the flower children and the reactionaries of the status quo. I am as surprised as anyone that this happened now and not another 20 years from now. Nevertheless, it's a happy surprise.

However, we should not make the mistake that so many made with the demise of the Soviet Union and think

that we've reached the "end of history" or the end of the struggle. Our nation is facing some of the biggest challenges it has ever faced. With two wars, a world financial crisis, global warming, energy supply worries and the loss of America's prestige and the besmirching of its reputation, our next President has extraordinary problems to solve. We still have a nation locked in cultural wars, worried about fixing the healthcare system, and unsure of how to provide education, work and housing for all our citizens.

All of these issues, and more, are part of the explanation of how someone like Obama was able to gain support. This confluence of issues convinced the majority of the electorate that change was needed. Yet, these problems are also part of the reason we must all continue to press for the furtherance of Democratic ideals and principles in our government. There will be many pressures for quick fixes and those with self-serving agendas may be able to gain much ground if we do not remain vigilant and committed. We will need to support our President and our leaders at all levels of government to make sure the needs of the many are not waylaid by the power of the well connected.

Take time to savor this victory but come back refreshed to continue the fight. Hallelujah!

Monthly General Membership Meeting:
7:00 PM Wednesday, November 12, 2008
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! We are now accepting payment for dues for 2009. Please use the form on page 4 to supply your renewal information.

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.

November Meeting Sponsor:
Karlo Silbiger

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

Have Fun and Help Our Club!

Join your friends for music and laughs! Our very own Ronnie Jayne will be premiering her One-Woman-Show of song and comedy, "**No, ... I Want Red!**" as a fundraiser for our Club.

When:
8 PM, Wednesday, December 3

Where:
Steinway Hall, (on Level P2)
Fields Pianos
12121 W. Pico Bl.
(1 door w. of Bundy)
Tickets are \$ 25 each.
Please RSVP, by calling Ronnie at
310-836-7557 or Ronniejayn@aol.com

Celebrate the Holidays with Us!

Our Annual Silent Auction will take place at our December 10 Meeting/Holiday gathering. We will have some terrific items to bid on, from some of your favorite shops, restaurants, and services -- so you can complete your holiday "shopping". If you have any new items you wish to donate, please call Ronnie at 310-836-7557.

To the Editor:

Dear Friends, Election Day, at 8 AM I hot-footed it across the street to my local precinct and eagerly cast my ballot. It was a great time of day for me! I missed a long line and got the pleasant surprise of seeing Mark Young, a young man I've known for at least 8 or 9 years, working as a volunteer at the polls. How fitting that a young African-American man who I've known since he was a child, should hand me the ballot that I would use to cast a vote for Barack Obama for President. I am so proud of him! I've voted in many California elections, but I was flustered and nervous as I cast my vote. I checked it several times to make certain that all my dots were inked in the right spots.

Later in the afternoon, we started to watch the results. Through the afternoon and evening, we watched our candidate rack up electoral votes,

and not just by a hair, but with a clear and astounding victory.

Greg and I called our boys out of their room to see the announcement. As a family, we watched political analysts and anchors on all the major networks project that Barack Obama would be the 44th President of the United States. There was much screaming in our house! Screams and shouts of joy and hope and for me not a few tears. I apologize now to our neighbors.

We watched McCain's excellent concession speech and waited impatiently for President elect Obama to give his speech. He did not disappoint. I was once again reminded that I voted for this man for several reasons and not just because he is an African-American like me. I voted for him because like many I was tired of lesser people running our country. I wanted someone intelligent, thoughtful and deliberate. I wanted someone who would bring people together to get the things done that need doing in this country. I wanted someone who would make me proud to be an American. I love that he reached out to those who did not support him saying, "I want to be your President, too." These are the words of a person who will work to bring us all together.

The mere fact of his candidacy has done a lot to bring many people together. Looking out at the crowd in Grant Park in Chicago, we saw our nation fully represented -- Blacks, Whites, Asians, Latinos, and women - everyone together.

We elected Barack Obama -- all of us together. That makes me feel just amazing. I feel more affection for my fellow Americans than I have ever felt before.

I must also mention that until President Elect Obama earned the nomination I never really believed that the sky was the limit for my boys. The racial ceiling is gone! The American Dream has been restored for all people. Gregory and Michael really can do anything. The possibilities are endless. I didn't realize how little I believed it until I

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.

could see what Obama had accomplished. His success revealed my doubt and my cynicism. I can't tell you what it feels like to have it taken away. It was like an invisible ball and chain on my leg holding me back and coloring my attitude and limiting my hopes for myself and my family. I've been freed from this doubt and I can feel myself see, feel, and live more freely than I ever have before. I am liberated.

Tuesday, November 4, 2008 was more than historical.... it was transformational.

Finally, I want to thank my husband Greg Valtierra and all the members of the Culver City Democratic club for their hard work. Thank you for working hard to make a difference. Thank you for everything that you've done. You can take a piece of this transformation. President Obama correctly pointed out that it was the people that made this possible and people like you who actually did things deserve our thanks.

So thank you to all of our friends who worked for change, who did fundraisers, who sat at a registration table, who walked the neighborhoods, who encouraged their friends to vote for change, put a bumper sticker on their car or put a yard sign in their front yard, who donated money, who emailed friends and who participated in this election in some way shape or form, who voted! We can totally own this election as our victory, and as our opportunity for transformation.

Yes we can and WE DID!!!!

Peace and Love,
Josette Valtierra

Call for Club Officer Nominations

As directed by our club constitution we will be electing the Club officers for 2009 at our January meeting which will take place on Wednesday, January 14, 2009.

Toward that end we will be selecting the Club's Nominating Committee at our November meeting. As specified in our constitution the committee will have five members with two appointed by the President and three elected from the floor.

At the December meeting the Nominating Committee will present the slate they recommend to the club. A member does not need to have been recommended by the committee to run for a Club office since a member can be nominated from the floor at the January meeting.

If you are interested in serving on the nominating committee, or are interested in running for a club office, please let our President, Greg Valtierra, know by calling (310) 204-1338 or emailing him at President@CCDemClub.Org

Club Constitutional Amendments Approved at October's General Meeting

Several amendments to the club constitution were reviewed and adopted at our Club's General Meeting on October 15. Here is a summary of what was amended.

- Article IX, Section 3 was

amended to allow the waiver of membership dues, by written request to our Membership Secretary in cases of financial hardship. This was required by the LA County Democratic Party as part of the conditions for renewing our charter. It passed unanimously.

- Article XII, Section 1 was amended to reduce the quorum for conducting business at a General Meeting from 25 members to 20 members. The motion passed unanimously.
- Article XI, Section 3 was amended to allow the waiving of a secret ballot for the election of club officers by unanimous consent only in the case of uncontested offices. Also, secret ballots will no longer be required for endorsing ballot measures and propositions, though the requirement remains for elective office endorsements. These changes passed unanimously.
- Article VI, Section 6 was amended to state that the Club's membership roster would only be provided to the Executive Board. The roster could be provided to others only on the approval of the Executive Board. This documents the unwritten policy that the club has had for many years regarding the roster but now makes it part of the constitution. This amendment passed with one vote in opposition.
- Article XI, Section 4 was amended to raise the majority required to endorse ballot measures and propositions from a simple majority of 50% +1 to a super-majority of 60%+1. This will now match the requirement for endorsement that the club has

had for candidate endorsements for decades. This amendment passed with opposition but did have the 2/3 majority specified in our constitution.

Other Club Constitutional amendments on the agenda were continued to November's meeting due to the late hour.

Absentee Voting for Club Candidate Endorsements Rejected

The members considered the question of whether to allow absentee voting or vote-by-mail for the Club's endorsement of candidates for elective offices. The findings of the Ad Hoc Committee on Absentee Voting and the recommendations of the Executive Board were reviewed and discussed at length by the members.

A number of members spoke on their opposition or support of implementing procedures to allow absentee voting. Finally, a motion to close debate was passed unanimously and the majority voted not to adopt absentee voting for candidate endorsements.

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

Renew Your Club Membership for 2009!

Our membership chair, Diane Rosenberg, will gladly accept your renewal for next year. You can use the form on Page 4 to update any of your contact information and select the level of membership. Dues are due by January 1, 2009.

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

Renew your membership!

Now collecting dues for 2009. Dues for 2009 are due by January 1, 2009. 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.

Upcoming Events

► **Saturday, November 22**

Monthly Board Meeting:

9:00 AM at the Rosenberg's home. All members welcome. Call Ronnie at (310) 836-7557 or email FirstVP@CCDemClub.Org

► **Wednesday, December 3**

"No, ...I want RED!" – A one woman show by Ronnie Jayne, with Surprise

Guests. 8 PM at Steinway Hall, Fields Pianos, 12121 W. Pico Blvd. (at Bundy) All profits will be donated to Culver City Democratic Club. Cover charge is \$25/person. Call Ronnie at (310) 836-7557 or email FirstVP@CCDemClub.Org

► **Wednesday, December 10**

Monthly General Meeting: Holiday Party and FUNdraiser, including our annual Silent Auction

7:00 PM at the Rotunda Room, Veterans Memorial Building. Public is welcome. Call Greg at (310)204 1338 or email President@CCDemClub.Org

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

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Wednesday, November 12, 2008 - Meeting Program:

**November Election Recap
Election of Club Nominating
Committee**

Additional Club Constitutional Amendments to be
Considered

**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 2009 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.