



Active Democrat

General Meeting – June 11

Member Workshop on Issues



President's Message:

Not Satisfied Yet

In many ways, most of us in Culver City, and by extension

California and the United States, are very lucky. We live in one of the most technologically advanced, wealthiest and most free societies in the history of the earth. We have much to be thankful for and much we take for granted. It would be easy to sit back and feel everything is going well and we don't need to do much to keep the good times rolling.

However, it's also easy to see that below the surface there are many disturbing trends and issues that threaten the well being of ourselves, our city, our society and the world. Anyone who's at all aware can rattle them off easily: Global Warming, Iraq, denial of Habeas Corpus, the mortgage crisis, public school funding, healthcare, wage stagnation, budget shortfalls, and on and on. Some will impact us

generally and some more specifically here in Culver City. All of them could be a source of what Martin Luther King, Jr. called "Divine Dissatisfaction". For if we are to tackle these issues we must first be dissatisfied with the status quo. The prick of our consciences can goad us into action.

At our June meeting you will have your chance to participate in determining which issues our club should be addressing and what actions we should take. As a local democratic club we've had speakers, forums, registration drives, volunteered for campaigns, and other activities. However, we have limited resources and must pick where we expend our efforts. Come and share your concerns and ideas. What keeps dissatisfaction from turning to sour grapes is action. I look forward to hearing from you at our meeting but feel free to send me your ideas by email at President@CCDemClub.Org.

Monthly General Membership Meeting:

7:30 PM Wednesday, June 11, 2008

7:00 PM – Refreshments
Rotunda Room

Veterans Memorial Building
4117 Overland Avenue
Corner of Overland Ave. and
Culver Blvd.

What's Inside?

- 2: **Vote by Mail for Endorsements?**
- 2: **New Email List Servers**
- 2: **Di's Corner**
- 3: **Meeting Start Time Will Change**
- 3: **Changing Our Club Constitution**

Club Notes

Renew your membership!
2008 dues must be paid to get a ballot at our General Meeting.

Electronic Newsletter:
Submit your email address to Info@CCDemClub.org and ask to get the newsletter by email! Or submit your request to be part of our new email list servers. See the article on page 2 for more details. 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.

June Meeting Sponsor:
Ruth & David Weisman

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

Vote-by-Mail for Endorsements in Our Club?

By Greg Valtierra

At our May meeting a motion by Alan Corlin was passed by the members directing the Executive Board of the Club to look into the feasibility of conducting our endorsement votes in the club with mail-in ballots. The board started the discussion of this issue at the board meeting on May 24.

A primary motivation for moving to mail-in ballots is to increase the participation of all our members in the decisions for endorsement in our Club. Additionally, it is hoped that the mail-in ballots could generate more interest in our endorsements and perhaps add additional legitimacy to the endorsement decisions of the club.

Obviously, a change of this sort will be a departure from past practice in the Club and there may be some obstacles that would need to be overcome to be able to implement mail-in procedures.

As President, I have appointed a sub-committee to look at the benefits, obstacles, and costs of implementing mail-in ballots. The sub-committee will be making its recommendation to the board which will in turn make a recommendation to the general membership at a future general meeting, possibly in July or August.

At our upcoming meeting this month one of the discussion topics in our workshop will be the interest in and feasibility of adopting vote-by-mail. I encourage all of you to attend and provide your input on this issue. If you can't attend the meeting you can still provide your input by

sending me an email at President@CCDemClub.Org or give me a call at (310) 204-1338.

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.

New Email Lists Servers

By Greg Valtierra

In our ongoing efforts to modernize and streamline our Club's operations two new email lists have been created for our club. One list will be used for the delivery of the Club newsletter in electronic form. Its email address will be CDC_Newsletter@yahoo.com. No other messages or correspondence will be sent out through this list service.

The second list will be used to alert our members of upcoming events, opportunities for volunteering, actions, protests, etc. that our club will be participating in or that the board feels are of interest to our members. The email address for this list will be CCDC_Alerts@yahoo.com

Since these groups will take advantage of the standard Yahoo Groups capabilities, members will be able to choose whether they continue to receive messages from the list and how often they receive the messages. It will also be possible to view the messages online so that you could choose not to receive messages but could still see what's going on. Please keep an eye out for messages from these two lists.

Di's Corner: By Diane Rosenberg

On Tuesday April 29, 2008 in Council Chambers the three new Councilmembers, Christopher Armenta, Andrew Weissman and Micheal O'Leary, were sworn in.

On Sunday May 4, 2008 at "The Proud Bird Restaurant" the 47th A.D. Democratic Club had its first Installation Luncheon. Installing the new officers was Eric Bauman, Chair Los Angeles County Democratic Party. The Keynote Speaker was Karen Bass, California Assembly Speaker. Other attendees included State Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas, Fabian Wesson representing Los Angeles Councilmember Herb Wesson, and other distinguished guests. There was a special tribute to Club member Robert "Bob" Manley for his 25yrs. of service to the Democratic Party.

On May 7 there was a labeling party for our mass mailing. We would like to thank those who volunteered: Eric Fine, Sally Gardner, Barbara Honig, Phyllis Kossoff, Karlo Silbiger, Hilda Silvers, Laura Stuart and Greg Valtierra. We would also like to thank Howard Welinsky for again supplying the address labels for the mailing.

On May 13 up in Sacramento Karen Bass was sworn in as the newest California State Assembly Speaker. We congratulate her.

Meeting Start Time Will Change by Greg Valtierra

At the recent board meeting on May 24 the board has decided to move the start times for the Club's general meetings to start a half-an-hour earlier. Starting with July's meeting we will have the Call To Order at 7:00 PM. Refreshments will available at 6:50 PM. Our main program or speaker will still begin as before at 8:00 PM. Previously our General Meetings have begun at 7:30 PM with refreshments available at 7:00 PM.

After some discussion the board agreed to try this new start time to enable the body of members to complete more of the Club's business before the main topic of the evening. The board hopes that this change will avoid the problem of having members leave the meeting before all the club business is taken care of and depriving the Club of the quorum necessary to conduct business. Another hoped for benefit will be an earlier adjournment of the meeting to allow everyone a chance to get home at a slightly more reasonable hour.

Changing Our Club Constitution by Greg Valtierra

In order to keep up with changing circumstances every so often our club has made modifications to our constitution. The Club's constitution currently restricts the club to modifying the constitution no more than once a year and requires a 2/3 vote of the members present at the meeting.

There are a number of items that have been suggested at recent Executive Board meetings as amendments to the Club's constitution. The first item is one

of necessity. According to the rules of the LA County Democratic Party, which is the chartering organization for our club, our constitution must provide for a waiver of our membership dues for financial hardship. Currently, we list the option of asking for a waiver of dues on the membership form in the newsletter but we don't have specific language for this in the constitution. This language will need to be added.

Two other related items have been suggested regarding our endorsement votes. The constitution requires a second ballot for endorsement if there are still open seats in an election which do not have endorsements after the first ballot. One suggestion has been to use Instant Runoff Voting procedures to allow this second ballot to be conducted simultaneously with the first. This would shorten the time needed to conduct a vote endorsement and would need only one ballot sheet to conduct the two ballots. A second suggestion is to remove the requirement for a second ballot and base our endorsements solely on a single ballot. Both of these suggestions could affect the feasibility of conducting a vote-by-mail endorsement process and if the club chooses to implement such a process it is likely that one of these two options would need to be implemented to make vote-by-mail possible.

Another amendment that has been discussed pertains to the number of members required for a quorum. The constitution requires a minimum of 25 members and 3 board members present at a general or special meeting to form a quorum allowing the club to conduct business. A few years ago this

number was lower. Within the last year or two we've had a few instances where we fell short by one or two members for the quorum requirement and we had to stop conducting Club business. The change of meeting time discussed earlier in this newsletter is intended to avoid problems with the lack of a quorum so this item is not likely to be considered at this time.

I will be appointing a sub-committee to provide language for amendments to the constitution to be considered at our August meeting. If you have other items you'd like to have considered for amendments to the Club's constitution please submit them to me in writing or by email at President@CCDemClub.Org.

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

“We are called upon to help the discouraged beggars in life's marketplace. But one day we must come to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

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.

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

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Upcoming Events

► **Wednesday, June 11**

Monthly General Meeting:

7:30 PM at the Rotunda Room, Veterans Memorial Building. Public is welcome. Call Greg at (310)204 1338 or email President@CCDemClub.Org

► **Saturday, June 28**

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

► **Friday, July 4**

Annual Independence Day Picnic:

12:00 Noon at Lindberg Park. Bring what you want to grill. The club will provide drinks and watermelon. All members and guests welcome. Call Greg at (310)204 1338 or email President@CCDemClub.Org

► **Wednesday, July 9**

Monthly General Meeting:

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

June 11 - Meeting Program:

Member Workshop on Issues

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, 2008.