



Active Democrat

General Meeting – July 8, 2009

City Manager Mark Scott: The State of Culver City



President's Letter:

It was just Memorial Day, and now the 4th of July is fast approaching. It makes me think about how our

nation began, our American ideals and what we need to do to achieve them. Above the sex scandals' brouhaha, if you listen very carefully you can hear serious discussions about health care, clean energy, the economy and war and peace.

Please --- don't be overly distracted by the "fluff", as fun as it might be! For the first time in a long time, we have the chance for real health care reform! But it's not going to happen by itself. If you want the "public option" and single payer, you need to speak up. That means calling and writing your Senators Barbara Boxer at 202-224-3553, Dianne Feinstein at 202-224-3841, and Congressional Representative Diane Watson at 202-225-7084.

If you want clean energy (and I don't mean "clean coal" or nuclear power), speak up! The same goes for economic stimulus and the

wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. We elected an overwhelmingly Democratic Senate and House. Now we have to convince them to vote like Democrats!

Our State Budget is in crisis. The Speaker of the CA Assembly – our very own Karen Bass, needs our help in building a voter consensus in California. We need to make others understand that we cannot balance a budget on the backs of the people who need help the most. Our solution cannot be to decimate the schools and social services. If you want to aid Speaker Bass, please call her office at 323-937-4747.

On a happier note, ... at our July 8 meeting we will be welcoming Culver City's new City Manager, Mark Scott. We'll get to know him, and learn about his ideas and vision of the role of a City Manager in Culver City. ... and he'll learn our priorities, as well.

Finally, don't forget to join us at our Annual 4th of July picnic at Lindberg Park! Have a Happy & Safe Holiday!

Ronnie Jayne

Monthly General Membership Meeting:

**7:00 PM Wednesday,
July 8, 2009**

6:45 PM – Refreshments
Rotunda Room

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

What's Inside?

2: **City Manager Mark Scott to Speak**

2: **Debunking Canadian Health Care Myths**

3: **Special Membership Offer**

2: **Di's Corner**

Club Notes

Renew your membership!
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: Show your support for ending the war in Afghanistan every Friday 5:30 – 6:30 PM across from the Culver Hotel.

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

City Manager Mark Scott to Speak



Mark Scott, Culver City's new city manager will be speaking at our July

meeting. Mark will be speaking about the current state of the City. As is customary, after Mark's prepared comments members of the audience will be invited to ask questions of Mark so come prepared with your questions to get Mark's perspectives on your issues.

For those of you who may not have been aware, Mark has just returned to Southern California after serving as city manager of Spartanburg, S.C. However, Mark is no stranger to California having grown up in Fresno and received degrees from Cal State Fresno and Stanford University Graduate School of Business. Prior to his stint in Spartanburg Mark worked as the director of environmental services and nearly 14 years as city manager of Beverly Hills.

Here is the description from Culver City's web site on the role of City Manger and the City Manger's office:

The City Manager provides leadership, guidance and support to the City organization in the

efficient and effective management of human, financial and material resources; and to implement policies, annual goals and objectives as established by the City Council.

Department Activities

The City Manager's Office is responsible for preparation of the City's Operating and Capital Improvements Budgets, grants administration, personnel matters and Council agenda preparation. It also works closely with the City Council in identifying policy and program issues and addressing community concerns. The Department staff also serves as liaisons to various regional organizations and coordinates multi-jurisdictional projects.

Debunking Canadian Health Care Myths

by Rhonda Hackett (excerpted from the Denver Post)

As a Canadian living in the United States for the past 17 years, I am frequently asked by Americans and Canadians alike to declare one health care system as the better one. Often I'll avoid answering, regardless of the questioner's nationality. To choose one or the other system usually translates into a heated discussion of each one's merits, pitfalls, and an intense recitation of commonly cited statistical comparisons of the two systems. Because if the only way we compared the two systems was with statistics,

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.

there is a clear victor. It is becoming increasingly more difficult to dispute the fact that Canada spends less money on health care to get better outcomes.

Yet, the debate rages on. Indeed, it has reached a fever pitch since President Barack Obama took office, with Americans either dreading or hoping for the dawn of a single-payer health care system. Opponents of such a system cite Canada as the best example of what not to do, while proponents laud that very same Canadian system as the answer to all of America's health care problems. Frankly, both sides often get things wrong when trotting out Canada to further their respective arguments. As America comes to grips with the reality that changes are desperately needed within its health care infrastructure, it might prove useful to first debunk some myths about the Canadian system.

Myth: Taxes in Canada are extremely high, mostly because of national health care.

In actuality, taxes are nearly equal on both sides of the border. Overall, Canada's taxes are slightly higher than those in the U.S. However, Canadians are afforded many benefits for their tax dollars, even beyond health care (e.g., tax credits, family allowance, cheaper higher education), so the end result is a wash. At the end of the day, the average after-tax income of Canadian workers is equal to about 82 percent of their gross pay. In the U.S., that average is 81.9 percent. (see **Health Care**, page 3)

Di's Corner: By Diane Rosenberg

On Saturday June 27, 2009 a new members luncheon was held at the Camarella's house. A good time was had by all that attended. Sorry that we missed you.

We thank Ronnie Jayne and Tom Camarella for hosting it.

[Health Care from page2]

Myth: Canada's health care system is a cumbersome bureaucracy.

The U.S. has the most bureaucratic health care system in the world. More than 31 percent of every dollar spent on health care in the U.S. goes to paperwork, overhead, CEO salaries, profits, etc. The provincial single-payer system in Canada operates with just a 1 percent overhead. Think about it. It is not necessary to spend a huge amount of money to decide who gets care and who doesn't when everybody is covered.

Myth: The Canadian system is significantly more expensive than that of the U.S.

Ten percent of Canada's GDP is spent on health care for 100 percent of the population. The U.S. spends 17 percent of its GDP but 15 percent of its population has no coverage whatsoever and millions of others have inadequate coverage. In essence, the U.S. system is considerably more expensive than Canada's. Part of the reason for this is uninsured and underinsured people in the U.S. still get sick and eventually seek care. People who cannot afford care wait until advanced stages of an illness to see a doctor and then do so through emergency rooms, which cost considerably more than primary care services.

What the American taxpayer may not realize is that such care costs about \$45 billion per year, and someone has to pay it. This is why insurance

premiums increase every year for insured patients while co-pays and deductibles also rise rapidly.

Myth: Canada's government decides who gets health care and when they get it.

While HMOs and other private medical insurers in the U.S. do indeed make such decisions, the only people in Canada to do so are physicians. In Canada, the government has absolutely no say in who gets care or how they get it. Medical decisions are left entirely up to doctors, as they should be. There are no requirements for pre-authorization whatsoever. If your family doctor says you need an MRI, you get one. In the U.S., if an insurance administrator says you are not getting an MRI, you don't get one no matter what your doctor thinks - unless, of course, you have the money to cover the cost.

Myth: There are long waits for care, which compromise access to care.

There are no waits for urgent or primary care in Canada. There are reasonable waits for most specialists' care, and much longer waits for elective surgery. Yes, there are those instances where a patient can wait up to a month for radiation therapy for breast cancer or prostate cancer, for example. However, the wait has nothing to do with money per se, but everything to do with the lack of radiation therapists. Despite such waits, however, it is noteworthy that Canada boasts lower incident and mortality rates than the U.S. for all

cancers combined, according to the U.S. Cancer Statistics Working Group and the Canadian Cancer Society. Moreover, fewer Canadians (11.3 percent) than Americans (14.4 percent) admit unmet health care needs.

Rhonda Hackett of Castle Rock, Colorado is a clinical psychologist.
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Special Membership Offer!

Once again this year the Executive Board has voted to offer new members a special rate to join this year. New members joining from now to the end of the year can join for just half the usual membership fee and pay just \$15 for 2009 if they are willing to pay for 2010 membership as well. Thus they can get the remainder of this year plus all of next year for \$45 instead of paying \$60.

Also, for the first time the Board has voted to extend this offer to renewing members as well so if you haven't renewed your membership for this year you can get the same deal as new members if you pay for next year as well.

Take advantage and get some savings this year and get ahead on your to do list for next year!

Renew Your Club Membership for 2009!

Our membership chair, Diane Rosenberg, will gladly accept your renewal for this year. **As an extra incentive if you pay for 2010 you can get this year at half off and pay a total of just \$45 instead of \$60.**

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

2009 Club Officers and Committee

Chairs:

President: Ronnie Jayne
President@CCDemClub.Org
First Vice President: Karlo Silbiger
FirstVP@CCDemClub.Org
Second VP: Roger Maxwell
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)

Renew your membership!

Now collecting dues for 2009. Dues for 2009 were 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.

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

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July 8, 2009 - Meeting Program:

City Manager Mark Scott: The State of Culver City

Upcoming Events

► **Saturday, July 4**

Annual Independence Day Picnic:

11:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Lindberg Park. All members and guests welcome. Call Karlo at (310) 839-9793 or email FirstVP@CCDemClub.Org

► **Wednesday, July 8, 2009**

**Monthly General Meeting:
City Manager Mark Scott**

7:00 PM at the Rotunda Room, Veterans Memorial Building. Public is welcome. Call Ronnie at (310) 836-7557 or email President@CCDemClub.Org

► **Saturday, July 18**

Monthly Board Meeting:

9:00 AM at Tom Camarella and Ronnie Jayne's home. All members welcome. Call Karlo at (310) 839-9793 or email FirstVP@CCDemClub.Org

► **Saturday & Sunday,**

August 29 & 30

Fiesta La Ballona Booth:

Help us get the word out about Culver City Democratic Club and register voters. Volunteers needed for two hour shifts. All members welcome. Call Ronnie at (310) 836-7557 or email President@CCDemClub.Org

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: Remainder of 2009 plus 2010 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

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.