



General Meeting – December 8, 2010

Tom Hayden & Annual Silent Auction

Also 2011 Club Budget & Nominating Committee Report



President's Letter:

Holiday Greetings, Culver City Democrats!

I hope you all had a great Thanksgiving – filled with

good food and people you enjoy! Tom and I cooked up a storm, and are now living off left-overs. That's the best part of frenzied cooking activity – lots of left-overs. Of course, some things left over are better than others. Which brings me to ... "The Lame Duck Congressional Session".

The old 111th Congress is back – either trying to pass a list of long-neglected (Left over) Democratic legislation or to merely run down the clock, before the Republican House take-over in January. I'm hoping for the former, but know that the Republican strategy is for the latter. Can we all agree that unemployment compensation needs to be extended? Can we actually get this done without unilaterally throwing in the towel on the Bush tax cuts for millionaires? Can we ratify the START Treaty and get rid of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"? Have I started drinking Egg Nog much

too early this season?!

I'm proud that our Culver City Democratic Club continues to discuss the important issues and help make Democratic change. Our December 8 meeting will feature Tom Hayden, former State Assemblyman and Senator, and long-time always-current anti-war activist. He will be discussing our involvement in Afghanistan and Iraq, and talk about the political landscape for 2012. You must be there for what promises to be a fascinating and lively discussion.

"But wait, ... there's more" (Note to self: Stop watching late-night infomercials!): This same evening our Club will be having our Annual Holiday Party and Silent Auction! We have already collected some great items from some of your favorite restaurants, hair stylists and shops. Bid on some presents for friends or gifts for yourself (You deserve it!). If you have any new item you wish to donate, please call or email me, and I'll be happy to pick it up. Remember, all of the money from our Silent Auction goes toward our endorsement mailings and Club meetings. Our Auction will (See **President**, Page 2)

Monthly General Membership Meeting:

7:00 PM Wednesday, December 8, 2010

6:45 PM – Refreshments

Rotunda Room

Veterans Memorial Building

4117 Overland Avenue

Corner of Overland Ave. and Culver Blvd.

What's Inside?

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Club Notes

December Meeting Sponsors:
Gene & Tonia Agron

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 other 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.

(**President** from Page 1) begin at 6:45 PM, temporarily stop during Tom Hayden's presentation, and continue afterwards with our Party until 9 PM.

Have a Happy & Healthy Holiday Season, and I look forward to seeing all of you on December 8.

Take care,
Ronnie Jayne, President

Club Nominating Committee Preparing List of Candidates for Club Officers

As specified by our Club's constitution the Nominating Committee is preparing a list of candidates to recommend for the officer positions we will be voting on at our January meeting. The committee is comprised of five members, two appointed and three elected. This year's committee is chaired by Bob Manley with Neil Rubenstein, Tom Camarella, Brenda Williams, and Dave Weisman filling out the rest of the committee. I'm sure Bob and his cohorts will do their utmost to find excellent candidates for us to consider at the election in January.

If you are interested in running for one of the Club's officer positions please contact Bob or any of the committee members or any of our current officers.

Of course it is possible to run for a Club office without being recommended by the Nominating Committee. Any member in good

Stay in touch on **Facebook** at www.Facebook.com/group.php?gid=150471021643221

On **Meetup** at www.Meetup.com/CulverCityDemocraticClub/

standing that meets the qualifications of the offices can run for the position at the January meeting.

Support the Club at the Silent Auction

Once again we'll be celebrating the holidays with our Club's silent auction. The Club business will be kept to a very small minimum and the emphasis will be hearing from our guest speaker, Tom Hayden and picking up some nice items at the Silent Auction.

We will have a great variety of items to bid on and I'm sure you're bound to find something you'd like for yourself or perhaps something to give to someone close to you. There are always some great deals on movie tickets, theatre tickets, restaurants, etc.

Take some time out from the busy season and have some fun with us.

Some Facts on Afghanistan

From LeftAndRightNews.Com:
"During October, the US forces suffered 50 casualties in the Afghanistan War. In the first 9 days of November, there have been 19 more casualties – bringing the total amount of casualties in 2010 to 432, according to the casualty database of the Defense Department. This amount of casualties is greater than any other year of the Afghanistan War, which started in October 2001. In fact, the monthly rate of casualties in 2010 is significantly higher than any previous year. From 2001 to 2009, the average number of monthly casualties was 9. Though in 2010, the average number of monthly casualties has risen to 42. These statistics clearly indicate the Afghanistan

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.

War has become more violent in 2010.

Earlier this year, the Defense Department released a statement with 3 reasons explaining why casualties are rising. First, since the influx of 30,000 surge troops in August, the most troops to date are in the country, which increases the likelihood of US casualties. Second, the US forces are "clearing areas that have never been cleared before," particularly in Southern and Eastern Afghanistan, where the Taliban is the strongest. Third, working with Afghanistan's allied forces is difficult, due to problems such as illiteracy, unskilled technicians, and even the lack of a promotion system for soldiers.

Lastly, President Obama has said an impending December review of the conditions in Afghanistan will determine whether the US will begin the withdrawal of troops next July."

From the CIA World Factbook: Afghanistan at www.CIA.Gov:
"Ahmad Shah DURRANI unified the Pashtun tribes and founded Afghanistan in 1747. The country served as a buffer between the British and Russian Empires until it won independence from notional British control in 1919. A brief experiment in democracy ended in a 1973 coup and a 1978 Communist counter-coup. The Soviet Union invaded in 1979 to (See Facts, Page 3)

(Facts from Page 2)
support the tottering Afghan Communist regime, touching off a long and destructive war. The USSR withdrew in 1989 under relentless pressure by internationally supported anti-Communist mujahedin rebels. A series of subsequent civil wars saw Kabul finally fall in 1996 to the Taliban, a hardline Pakistani-sponsored movement that emerged in 1994 to end the country's civil war and anarchy.

Following the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C., a U.S., Allied, and anti-Taliban Northern Alliance military action toppled the Taliban for sheltering Osama BIN LADIN. The UN-sponsored Bonn Conference in 2001 established a process for political reconstruction that included the adoption of a new constitution, a presidential election in 2004, and National Assembly elections in 2005.

In December 2004, Hamid KARZAI became the first democratically elected president of Afghanistan and the National Assembly was inaugurated the following December. Karzai was re-elected in November 2009 for a second term. Despite gains toward building a stable central government, a resurgent Taliban and continuing provincial instability - particularly in the south and the east - remain serious challenges for the Afghan Government."

From RebelReports.Com (Dec 2009):

"A hearing in Sen. Claire McCaskill's Contract Oversight

subcommittee on contracting in Afghanistan has highlighted some important statistics that provide a window into the extent to which the Obama administration has picked up the Bush-era war privatization baton and sprinted with it. Overall, contractors now comprise a whopping 69% of the Department of Defense's total workforce, "the highest ratio of contractors to military personnel in US history." That's not in one war zone—that's the Pentagon in its entirety.

In Afghanistan, the Obama administration blows the Bush administration out of the privatized water. According to a memo released by McCaskill's staff, "From June 2009 to September 2009, there was a 40% increase in Defense Department contractors in Afghanistan. During the same period, the number of armed private security contractors working for the Defense Department in Afghanistan doubled, increasing from approximately 5,000 to more than 10,000."

At present, there are 104,000 Department of Defense contractors in Afghanistan. According to a report this week from the Congressional Research Service, as a result of the coming surge of 30,000 troops in Afghanistan, there may be up to 56,000 additional contractors deployed. But here is another group of contractors that often goes unmentioned: 3,600 State Department contractors and 14,000 USAID contractors. That means that the current total US force in Afghanistan is approximately 189,000 personnel

(68,000 US troops and 121,000 contractors). And remember, that's right now. And that, according to McCaskill, is a conservative estimate. A year from now, we will likely see more than 220,000 US-funded personnel on the ground in Afghanistan.

The US has spent more than \$23 billion on contracts in Afghanistan since 2002. By next year, the number of contractors will have doubled since 2008 when taxpayers funded over \$8 billion in Afghanistan-related contracts.

Despite the massive number of contracts and contractors in Afghanistan, oversight is utterly lacking. "The increase in Afghanistan contracts has not seen a corresponding increase in contract management and oversight," according to McCaskill's briefing paper. "In May 2009, DCMA [Defense Contract Management Agency] Director Charlie Williams told the Commission on Wartime Contracting that as many as 362 positions for Contracting Officer's Representatives (CORs) in Afghanistan were currently vacant."

2010 Club Officers and Committee

Chairs:

President: Ronnie Jayne
President@CCDemClub.Org
First Vice President: Karlo Silbiger
FirstVP@CCDemClub.Org
Second VP: Bill Wynn
SecondVP@CCDemClub.Org
Treasurer: Eric Fine
Treasurer@CCDemClub.Org
Recording Secretary: Sylvia Moore
Corresponding Secretary: Lee Welinsky
Membership Secretary: Diane Rosenberg
Web Editor: Brian Pogue
Webmaster@CCDemClub.Org
Newsletter: Greg Valtierra

Renew Your Club Membership for 2011!

Our membership chair, Diane Rosenberg, will gladly accept your renewal for the coming 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, 2011.

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

Renew your membership!

Now collecting dues for 2011.
Dues for 2011 are due by
January 1, 2011. 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

► **Wednesday, December 8**
Monthly General Meeting:
Tom Hayden & Annual
Silent Auction

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, December 18**
Monthly Board Meeting:

9:00 AM at the Camarella/Jayne
home. All members welcome.
Call Karlo at (310) 202-7255 or
email FirstVP@CCDemClub.Org

► **Wednesday, January 12**
Monthly General Meeting:
Club Officer Elections

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

► **Wednesday, February 9**
Monthly General Meeting

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

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

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December 8, 2010 - Meeting Program:
Tom Hayden &
Annual Silent Auction
Also 2011 Club Budget & Nominating
Committee Report

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 2011 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.