



Active Democrat

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General Meeting – April 13, 2011

City & School District Budget Forum

With Desmond Burns, David Mielke, and Kathy Paspalis



President's Message:

Minimum wage, child labor laws, and the weekend are all at least partially the result of union pressure on

corporate America. Imagine the life of a worker in this country had our employment laws been crafted completely without worker input. Most people have come to acknowledge that our society as a whole is better off when all people are given the opportunity to have their voices represented in the decision-making process. However, there is still a disconnect between political democracy and the economic democracy that comes from worker empowerment and collective bargaining.

I have sat back over the past months watching with amazement as the Governor and Republican-controlled legislature in Wisconsin and numerous other states attempted to strip away not only the compensation and pensions contractually-guaranteed to union workers, but also their very right to have a meaningful voice in the workplace

decisions which they will have to accept. Governor Walker and Republicans nation-wide have been justifying that disgraceful attacks on the working class as an economic necessity. However, even when the unions conceded some of their benefits and pensions, the state insisted on continuing to go after their collective bargaining rights.

We all know what this is about. The poor economy may be the excuse used, but in reality Republicans are fed up with having politically-active unions lead the way in organizing their members and the working class to support political candidates who advocate for their issues, namely Democrats. Here locally, unions were early and strong supporters of Karen Bass and Mark Ridley-Thomas, helping to raise money and support early on during their respective campaigns. Culver City teachers and staff unions strongly endorsed me during my school board campaign in hopes of having a board member who understood and advocated for the needs of those in the classroom working with our kids.

Fellow Democrats: this is an (See **President**, Page 2)

Monthly General Membership Meeting:
7:00 PM Wednesday, April 13, 2011
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!
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) attack against the Democratic Party, our progressive values, and the economic strength of all workers. It is maybe the scariest movement that I have seen during my lifetime and we must not allow them to succeed. Nationally, this means standing up for union and collective bargaining rights wherever they are threatened. Statewide, this means supporting our Governor as he tries desperately to find alternative ways to fix our financial mess without it impacting public employees. And here in Culver City, it means holding conversations with our political representatives and their union counterparts to find creative ways of solving their respective budget shortfalls.

I am glad that our club can be at the forefront of this conversation at our upcoming meeting when representatives from the City Council and School Board will be on hand along with the Presidents of the Culver City Employees' Association and the Culver City Federation of Teachers. How has the state budget impacted our local government institutions? What steps can be taken together to strengthen our city and school budgets? And how can our elected officials and unions work together to protect both the community services and the rights of those who work in our community to

provide those services to us. This is a necessary conversation to have in light of all that is happening in Wisconsin and throughout the country. I hope that you will join us. In the words of Martin Luther King, "we must learn to live together as brothers or we are going to perish together as fools."

From the Editor: Nuclear Power - Unsafe At Any Price by Greg Valtierra

Within the last few years the United States has seen a resurgence in efforts to expand the use of nuclear power. Even some well respected environmental groups have stated that developing more nuclear power plants in the U.S. may be part of a midterm strategy to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and help in our efforts to combat global climate change. The clamor to open up the regulations and push for more and speedier development of new nuclear plants has been coming the loudest from those friendly to corporate interests on Capital Hill and the numerous lobbyists being paid to promote "business" interests.

On it's face it may seem that nuclear power could indeed be a viable part of a strategy to reduce global warming. However, some

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.

key facts have been ignored in the debate.

Despite the initial boast early in the nuclear power industry of producing power that would be "too cheap to meter" it turns out that nuclear plants are one of the most expensive ways to produce electricity. The industry now can only survive because of huge government subsidies on every phase of the nuclear plant cycle. Further, those high costs don't even take into account the costs of dealing with the enviromental impact of the mining of nuclear material or the long term storage of nuclear waste.

Now, that the unfolding tragedy in Japan has reminded us once again of the other unfunded liabilities of nuclear power, namely dealing with the aftermath of catastrophic failures at nuclear plants, it becomes clear that nuclear power costs more than it can ever deliver. Bringing even one new nuclear power plant would cost multiple billions of dollars and that is with the new "streamlined" safety regulations that have been pushed through in recent years. From my perspective the money that could be spent developing more nuclear power would be better used developing the renewable, clean energy sources we already have available.

Di's Corner: By Diane Rosenberg

We received a letter from a new member who came as a guest at our last general meeting. His name is Sam Israel he is 85 years young.

Sam was so impressed the way Karlo handled the meeting and he believes our club is extremely progressive and member friendly. Sam would love to be accepted as part of the Democratic Membership here in Culver City. We as Democrats open up our arms and welcome him to our club.

Create Millions of American Jobs: Make Imports Subsidize Exports

by Clifford W. Lazar
Cliff.W.Lazar@gmail.com

In July, 2010, the US trade imbalance of imports exceeded exports by \$42.8 billion a month. At \$4,200 as an average monthly wage, the trade imbalance costs 10 million jobs lost in July. At 14% income tax rate, we lost over \$5 billion in federal tax revenue in July and \$60 billion, 12 times that, in 2009.

If the lost wage earners had spent 50% of their wages on consumption, with a 7% sales tax, states lost nearly \$18 billion in sales taxes in 2009. Goodbye to schools, police and road repairs. Because of our trade deficit, America's land, buildings and companies are bought up by foreigners with cheap dollars.

We can bring back millions of jobs, save the middle-class and keep our assets American, by adopting the policy that Imports Subsidize Exports (ISE). Unlike a tariff, our trading partners will do fine if every country adopts the ISE policy.

There is No Other Solution:

Washington didn't solve the trade imbalance 30 years ago and won't solve it now. Unless we adopt ISE - imports subsidize exports.

How Export Coupons Work: ISE requires that importers buy an electronic coupon for every dollar's worth of goods they import. Exporters will be awarded 1.2 coupons for every dollar's worth of goods they export. Thus, American farmers and manufacturers would get export coupons that they could sell to importers. The export coupon awards would begin six months before the import coupon requirement, to avoid shortages. All the coupons will be electronically traded on an exchange like COUPEX.

With ISE, Wal-Mart Would

Promote American Jobs Again: If an American importer, like Wal-Mart wants to import \$1 million dollars worth of gym socks from China, Wal-Mart has two choices. It can buy the electronic coupons on COUPEX or it can call its supplier and strongly suggest that they buy American thread, food or textile machines and pass the export coupon awards to Wal-Mart. Wal-Mart, which has purchasing offices all over the world, suddenly would be promoting US exports. The same would be true of American oil companies.

ISE is Self-Balancing: If exports exceed imports, the coupons' price would be cheap or zero. Only if exports are exceeded by imports, do the coupons really subsidize exports. Exports coupons drop in

price if exports are close to imports automatically. Tariffs don't self-adjust.

ISE Doesn't Conflict WTO: We and our trading partners should implement the ISE policy within WTO, before American manufacturing and middle class are destroyed.

Imports Subsidizing Exports is the Cheapest Jobs Stimulus Program Possible: The cost to government for ISE is nearly zero, just the cost of the COUPEX and measuring the imports and exports – which we already do.

The cost of an average stimulus program job is in the hundreds of thousands. And with most consumption going to imports the Keynesian multiplier doesn't work anymore. With ISE, the multiplier will work again. Finally, if you have a superior alternative, describe it. I have not heard of a solution to the trade imbalance. Have you? The trade imbalance equals 10 million families ruined.

2011 Club Officers and Committee

Chairs:

President: Karlo Silbiger
President@CCDemClub.Org
First Vice President: Bill Wynn
FirstVP@CCDemClub.Org
Second VP: Meghan Sahli-Wells
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.

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

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April 13, 2011 - Meeting Program:

**City & School District
Budget Forum**

**With Desmond Burns, David Mielke, and
Kathy Paspalis**

Upcoming Events

► **Wednesday, April 13**
**Monthly General Meeting:
City and School District
Budget Forum**

7:00 PM at the Rotunda Room,
Veterans Memorial Building.
Public is welcome. Call Karlo at
(310) 202-7255 or email
President@CCDemClub.Org

► **Thursday, April 14**
**Democratic Club Happy
Hour**

5:30 PM at location TBD. Public
is welcome. Call Karlo at (310)
202-7255 or email
President@CCDemClub.Org

► **Wednesday, April 27**
Monthly Board Meeting:
6:00 PM at the Camarella/Jayne's
home. All members welcome.
Call Bill at (310) 253-9046 or
email FirstVP@CCDemClub.Org

► **Wednesday, May 11**
Monthly General Meeting:
7:00 PM at the Rotunda Room,
Veterans Memorial Building.
Public is welcome. Call Karlo at
(310) 202-7255 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

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.