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General Meeting – Wednesday, November 11, 2015
Panel Discussion of Minimum Wage
with Meghan Sahli-Wells and Kevin McKeown

President's Message:



Democracy in California just took a huge leap forward. In October, Gov. Jerry Brown signed our state's new "Motor Voter

Program" a law that could put millions of unregistered Californians onto the voter rolls. Co-authored by Democratic Assemblymembers Lorena Gonzalez, Luis Alejo and Kevin McCarty, and championed by Secretary of State Alex Padilla, the "California Motor Voter Program" requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to electronically enroll residents with a driver's license or state identification card once they have been identified as eligible to vote. Eligible Californians have the choice to opt out of being registered during a specific period of time. California joins Oregon as the second state in the nation to adopt a "motor voter" program.

Unlike Oregon's law, however, California's "motor voter" program is not a true automatic voter registration system, since residents still must confirm to the DMV eligibility and they have the

option to opt out. And neither state's program is true universal automatic voter registration, where the government registers every citizen at birth and the right to vote is activated at 18 (no having to interact with a specific agency) - something other advanced democracies already do. Still, with "motor voter" and our already-in-place online registration system, California is streamlining the way we vote by minimizing the need for filling out a paper form and saving money (and trees!) at the same time.

Gov. Brown also recently signed into law bills expanding same-day registration to the days leading up to Election Day, requiring most municipalities to align their local elections to coincide with state and federal elections in even-numbered years, and allowing legal permanent residents who are 16 and 17 years of age to serve as poll workers. All of these reforms aim to increase voter turnout, thereby strengthening democracy in California. And the more people participate in the political process, the more equitably resources are shared and all our rights are better protected.
 [See **President**, Page 2]

Monthly General Membership Meeting:
7:00 PM Wednesday, November 11, 2015
 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 or to renew online click "Join/Renew" on our web site.

Electronic Newsletter:
 Submit your email address to Info@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com and ask to get the newsletter by email! Save a tree and save our club the postage!

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]
 Unfortunately, in other states dominated by Republican legislatures, voting rights are being quickly rolled back through restrictive voter identification laws, cut backs to early voting, and curtailing voter registration efforts. This is anti-democratic behavior. But then, that's the point: to keep disfavored groups (the poor, people of color) from accessing the benefits of citizenship. Decades ago, California was a right-wing state — birthplace of the anti-tax movement, aggressive, "tough on crime" measures, and anti-immigrant sentiment. But demographic changes have rendered those attitudes far less popular. We're undoing the damage done by the reactionaries in the past. With millions more Californians soon to be added to the voter rolls, the changes could be even more dramatic.

Nominating Committee and Officer Elections

For those of you who've been members for more than a year (and that's many of you) you probably already know that the end of the year for our Club means nominations for officers and elections of the officers for the next year. As prescribed in our Club's constitution a nominating committee is formed at our November meeting. The committee will consist of five

current Club members with the chair and one member appointed by the President and the other three members elected at our November meeting.

Sylvia, our President, will be announcing her appointments to the committee at the November meeting and we will be electing the three other members of the committee at that same meeting.

Once the nominating committee is formed the committee's one and only task is to find and nominate members who are qualified and willing to serve as our Club's officers for 2016. If you have a desire to work with fellow Democrats and want to see our Club continue to be successful you should consider taking on a role as an officer for the Club and seek a nomination from the committee. However, keep in mind that a member does not have to be nominated by the committee to run for an officer position and can run from the floor at the January General Meeting.

If you are interested in serving on the nominating committee as either an appointed or elected member, or would like to run for a Club officer position for 2016, please contact Sylvia at (323) 384-3457 or email President@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

Di's Corner: By Diane Rosenberg

On Sunday October 18, 2015 Culver City woke up to the sad news of the passing of Syd Kronenthal known to numerous people of Culver City as "Uncle Syd". We have no idea what political party he was affiliated with but Syd was a true Democrat in his actions and his heart and he will surely be missed by all of Culver City. On Wednesday October 21 he was interred at Hillside Cemetery.

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.

A Note About the Minimum Wage

According to a report from the Congressional Research Service issued in January, 2014 the Federal minimum wage in the United States peaked in 1968 at \$1.60 which adjusted to 2013 dollars equals \$10.69. That is nearly 150% of the minimum wage in 2013. Despite other issues at that time many would agree that the late 60's and early 70's were a time of great prosperity in the U.S. Doesn't it make sense that a higher minimum wage was a major factor in that prosperity?

2015 Club Officers and Committee Chairs:

President: Sylvia Moore
President@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

First VP: Khin Khin Gyi
FirstVP@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

Second VP: Amy Cherness
SecondVP@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

Treasurer: Eric Fine
Treasurer@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

Recording Secretary:
 Patricia Levinson
Secretary@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

Corresponding Secretary:
 Stephen Murray
CorrespondanceSec@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

Membership Secretary:
 Diane Rosenberg
Membership@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

Newsletter: Greg Valtierra
Newsletter@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

Panelists Discuss Minimum Wage at General Meeting

At our General Meeting on Wednesday, November 11 the Club will host a panel discussion on the topic of the minimum wage. Our two panelists will be Culver City Councilmember Meghan Sahli-Wells and the Honorable Kevin McKeown, Mayor of the City of Santa Monica.

Here's some additional information on our panelists:

Meghan Sahli-Wells:

As Culver City's immediate past Mayor, Meghan Sahli-Wells is entering her fourth year as a member of the City Council in Culver City. She has championed initiatives to improve the lives of children in her community, and has led efforts to address water conservation, active transportation, affordable housing, homeless services, and comprehensive oil drilling regulations.

Sahli-Wells has a passion for analyzing complex issues and encouraging community engagement, with the ultimate goal of finding solutions that promote a resilient and sustainable city. In addition to her City Council duties, she is on the national board of Local

Progress, a network of hundreds of local elected officials from around the country who are committed to a strong economy, equal justice, livable cities and effective government. Regionally, she serves on the board of the Exposition Line Construction Authority, currently overseeing the construction of Expo Phase 2 from Culver City to Santa Monica; and on the Energy and Environment Committee for the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), the nation's largest metropolitan planning association.

Prior to being elected to the City Council of Culver City in 2012, Sahli-Wells spearheaded a number of community initiatives and has multiple community leadership roles. Notably, she co-founded the Culver City Bicycle Coalition, one of the first local chapters of the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition, and Transition Culver City, part of the international Transition Network.

Kevin McKeown:

Mayor Kevin McKeown started out in municipal government with his very first job as a high school intern for the City of New Haven, CT. He then left local government for 35 years to pursue successful careers in radio, advertising, and computer technology before returning to city hall with his

1998 election to the Santa Monica City Council.

Now in his fifth term, McKeown was for over a decade the City Council's liaison to the Planning Commission. As mayor, he recently led the Council to unanimous adoption of a new citywide zoning ordinance, building on a visionary and sustainable Land Use and Circulation Element.

Demonstrating that the path to the mayor's office does not have to be linear, McKeown was a physics major at Yale University when his interest in electronics led him to the campus radio station. The late 1960s combination of music and politics inspired him to become one of the first FM rock air personalities, eventually managing radio stations in San Diego and Los Angeles.

McKeown later became an advertising creative director and voice-over artist before returning to his love of technology as computer consultant for the Santa Monica public schools, a position he still holds today.

On the City Council and as mayor, McKeown focuses on affordable housing, social justice, and environmental sustainability. He devotes much time and energy responding to residents, and his leadership in helping people become more involved in local government is longstanding. McKeown came to the Council after chairing a neighborhood group, serving on the Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights steering committee, and sharing his professional expertise as a founder of the city's Public Electronic Network and member of the Santa Monica Telecommunications Working Group.

Renew Your Club Membership for 2016!

Our membership chair, Diane Rosenberg, will gladly accept your renewal. You can use the form on Page 4 to update any of your contact information and select the level of membership OR click "Join/Renew" on our web site CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

Dues are due by January 1, 2016

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

Renew your membership!

Now collecting dues for 2016.
Dues for 2016 are due by
January 1, 2016. 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

Wednesday, November 11, 2015 - Meeting Program:
**Panel Discussion of Minimum
Wage**
**with Meghan Sahli-Wells
and Kevin McKeown**

Upcoming Events

► **Wednesday, November 11**
Monthly General Meeting:
**Panel Discussion of
Minimum Wage**
7:00 PM at the Rotunda Room,
Veterans Memorial Building.
Public is welcome. Call Sylvia at
(323) 384-3457 or email
President@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

► **Sunday, November 22**
Monthly Board Meeting:
1:00 PM at the Rosenberg's home.
All members welcome. Call Khin
Khin at (310) 945-6087 or email
FirstVP@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

► **Wednesday, December 9**
Monthly General Meeting:
**Holiday Party &
Nominating Committee
Announcements**
7:00 PM at the Rotunda Room,
Veterans Memorial Building.
Public is welcome. Call Sylvia at
(323) 384-3457 or email
President@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

► **Wednesday, January 13**
Monthly General Meeting:
Club Officer Elections
7:00 PM at the Rotunda Room,
Veterans Memorial Building.
Public is welcome. Call Sylvia at
(323) 384-3457 or email
President@CulverCityDemocraticClub.com

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

OR Click "Join/Renew" on our web site CulverCityDemocraticClub.com.

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

Please renew for 2016 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.