



Active Democrat

General Meeting – March 11, 2009

The Financial Crisis – Impact on Culver City Perspectives from Local, State and Federal Leaders



President's Message: by Ronnie Jayne

Hello Democrats!

Firstly, ...
Our Installation Luncheon was a success. Our appreciation

goes to our 2008 Board members and (in advance) our newly installed 2009 Board.

Councilmember Chris Armenta was a terrific emcee, and Ruth & David Weisman happily received the "Trudy Cherness Active Democrat of the Year" Award.

A special thanks goes to Karen Bass, Speaker of the CA Assembly and recipient of our first "Elected Leader of the Year" award.

Speaker Bass graciously took the time to personally accept the award, and spoke eloquently of the challenges facing California and the legislative process. She had just come off a marathon Assembly session, successfully hammering out the State budget compromise. With Karen Bass in the leadership position, we couldn't have asked for a better person to protect our interests, given the difficult circumstances and roadblocks raised by the Republicans.

Now, no one needs to tell you that we're facing an economic crisis. After 8 years of disastrous Republican policies, the Democrats are taking the responsibility of cleaning up the mess. At our March 11 meeting we will be looking at the financial crisis from national, state and Culver City vantage points – with representatives from many levels of government. Our City is facing budget shortfalls for City services and in our schools, and need creative solutions to minimize the deleterious effects. We look forward to seeing and hearing you at the meeting.

As I've said previously, we have a great opportunity to create a more Progressive agenda for the Democratic Party and our country. In April, the many members of our Club who are delegates to the State Democratic convention (some by election, some by appointment) will be meeting in Sacramento to push for the change we've needed for so long. We always welcome your ideas.

(see "President" page 2)

Monthly General Membership Meeting:
7:00 PM Wednesday, March 11, 2009
6:45 PM – Refreshments
Rotunda Room
Veterans Memorial Building
4117 Overland Avenue
Corner of Overland Ave. and Culver Blvd.

What's Inside?

- 2: **No Consensus on Endorsement for Senate District 26**
- 3: **Financial Crisis – Topic of Our Next Meeting**
- 3: **From the Editor: State Budget Madness**
- 2: **Di's Corner**

Club Notes

Renew your membership! We are now accepting payment for dues for 2009. 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: Protest the Iraq war 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.

(President – continued)

Finally, with 2 elections this month, the voter turnout for both elections will be small. That means that each vote is like GOLD! By the time you receive this, the March 3 election for Community College Board will be history. Don't forget to vote in the March 24 election to replace the seat vacated by Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas for our 26th District State Senator. Your vote is more important than ever!

No Consensus on Endorsement for the Special Election for Senate District 26

At our General Meeting on February 11 the Club hosted a candidate forum for the Special Election for State Senate District 26. The candidates in attendance were Robert Cole, Mike Davis, Saundra Davis, Jon Friedman, Curren Price. The remaining Democratic candidate Mervin Evans did not attend.

All the candidates were given time for an opening statement. After the opening statements our President, Ronnie Jayne asked the candidates questions which had been submitted in writing during the meeting by the members. Once the question and answer session was completed each candidate was allowed a closing statement.

The Club then heard comments on the vote for endorsement from many members. After the comments the first ballot was closed and had the following results:

Total valid ballots cast = 66.
Saundra Davis (30), Jonathan Friedman (16), Curren Price (11), Robert Cole (4), Mike Davis (4), Mervin Evans (0), No endorsement (0).

No one met the 60% requirement of 40 votes for endorsement.

Since the first ballot did not result in an endorsement a second ballot

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.

was immediately conducted, as allowed per our Club constitution, with the following results:

Total valid ballots cast = 65.
Saundra Davis (35), Jonathan Friedman (12), Curren Price (10), Mike Davis (4), Robert Cole (2), Mervin Evans (0), No endorsement (2)

No one met the 60% requirement of 39 votes for endorsement.

Our Club's constitution specifies that no more than two ballots can be conducted for an endorsement so no further ballots were taken and the Club has no endorsement for the State Senate Special election. The board urges each of you to take a careful look at the qualifications, experience and positions of each candidate and vote on Tuesday, March 24.

Di's Corner: By Diane Rosenberg

On Saturday February 21 the annual installation luncheon for the 2009 Executive Board was held at the Radisson Hotel.

Christopher Armenta was the emcee. We thank California Assembly Speaker Karen Bass for installing the new board.

The new board members are Pres. Ronnie Jayne, First V.P. Karlo Silbiger, Second V.P. Roger Maxwell, Treasurer Eric Fine, Recording Sec. Sally Gardner, Corresponding Sec. "Mollie" Lee Welinsky, Membership Chair Diane Rosenberg, Pres. Emeritus Greg Valtierra.

The recipients for the Trudy Cherness Active Democrat Award went to Ruth and David Weisman.

Speaker Karen Bass was given a special honor by being awarded The Elected Leader of the Year Award.

A Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Hal Cherness.

"In this world it is possible to achieve great material wealth, to live an opulent life. But a life built upon those things alone leaves a shallow legacy. In the end, we will be judged by other standards."

- Cesar Chavez

The Financial Crisis: The topic of our next General Meeting

It's clear to everyone that Culver City will be feeling the effects of the global financial crisis. We will be exploring this issue with the help of elected leaders from all levels of government at our next General Meeting. Culver City Mayor, Scott Malsin, Culver City Unified School District Board President, Jessica Beagles-Roos, and representatives from Assembly Speaker Karen Bass's office and Congress member Diane Watson's office will be speaking.

Each speaker will be presenting her or his perspective on how the financial crisis will impact Culver City. Members are invited to come prepared with questions for our speakers. It should be a lively and informative evening. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

From the Editor: State Budget Madness

By Greg Valtierra

Our elected state leaders have just completed passing a budget for the state of California after a long and drawn out series of negotiations between the Democrats and Republicans in the State Senate. As I'm sure you know, because of Proposition 13

our state is one of only three in the United States that requires more than a simple majority of our State Assembly and Senate to raise taxes. We have a state government in which 1/3 of our elected representatives can hold the rest of the state hostage until their demands are met.

In this case Democratic leaders were forced to make several major concessions and accept drastic cuts in funding for programs aimed at the most vulnerable members of our society, the children, the disabled, the sick and the elderly. Despite the huge deficits that are expected over the next two years in the state budget, Republicans continued to push for tax cuts and further reductions in state services.

Our state is already near or at the bottom of funding for public education per capita. Our public health system continues to experience emergency room closures and diminished services. The state continues to underfund maintenance of our transportation, water, and energy infrastructure. In other words in just about every area our state and local governments don't have enough money to go around and the Republicans at the state level want to squeeze spending even more.

It's past time that we begin to work on changing this insane system. Despite what Republican

leaders may say, our state is not a high tax state. With a state economy that would rank well within the top ten economies of the world if counted separately from the United States there is plenty of room to fund the services and programs we need. Closing loopholes on corporate taxes, asking mining, oil, timber and others benefiting from our states natural resources to pay a fair share, and asking the highest earners in our state to share more of the burden would provide the income we are currently missing.

However, until we change the 2/3 rule to raise taxes we have very little chance in making any progress on providing the revenue a modern state budget requires. We must press our Democratic leaders to make changing the 2/3 requirement a priority. If we want our state to continue to be a leader in prosperity and innovation we can't afford to let the Republican ideologues continue a tyranny of the minority. Enough is enough!

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)
Newsletter@CCDemClub.Org

Renew Your Club Membership for 2009!

Our membership chair, Diane Rosenberg, will gladly accept your renewal for this year. You can use the form on Page 4 to update any of your contact information and select the level of membership. Dues were due by January 1, 2009.

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

Renew your membership!

Now collecting dues for 2009. Dues for 2009 are 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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March 11, 2009 - Meeting Program:

The Financial Crisis – Impact on Culver City: Perspectives from Local, State and Federal Leaders

Upcoming Events

► **Wednesday, March 11**
**Monthly General Meeting:
The Financial Crisis**

See page 3 for more details.
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, March 21**
Monthly Board Meeting:

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

► **Tuesday, March 24**
**Special Election for State
Senate District 26:**

Don’t forget to vote.

► **Wednesday, April 15**
**Monthly General Meeting:
NOTE: Date changed
because of Passover!**

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 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 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.