



General Meeting – July 14, 2010

The State of Culver City

Mayor Armenta & Councilmember Cooper



President's Letter:

Well, I thought there would be a slight break from pre-election grand-standing for at least a

FEW months. I would have settled for a few weeks! But no, ... the Republican candidates and incumbents just had to cozy up to the small-government corporatists and show how incredibly out of touch they are with average Americans.

Surely after all the damage British Petroleum has done to the Gulf Coast states, we can all agree that BP needs to be held accountable! For awhile the Shrink-Government-Until-It's-Invisible- Republicans even scolded President Obama for lack of Federal action concerning the capping and clean-up. Wow – So when the President got a \$ 20 billion guarantee from BP to pay claims for the damage they caused, I thought, “Well that’s a step in the right direction. That should shut up some of those Republican detractors!” How stupid was I?!

Representative Joe Barton (R-TX) got on the House floor and APOLOGIZED to BP for President Obama’s “Shake-Down”. Apologized?! And Joe Barton was not alone. Yes, he was asked to apologize for apologizing, ... But really, ... he was only saying what other Republicans were thinking and saying behind closed doors (and some doors that were left slightly ajar).

And now another prominent Republican, Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) attempted to add a little amendment to the proposed extension of unemployment benefits bill – to institute mandatory drug and alcohol testing for individuals applying for unemployment benefits. Senator Hatch’s rationale was that this amendment would guarantee that taxpayer money wasn’t being wasted on drugs and alcohol, that it would identify people who might have abuse problems, it could potentially save the government money, ... and blah, blah, blah. I’m SO glad the Republicans’ mantra is to prevent the intrusion of big government into our lives! Of course there’s no mention of the fact that unemployment payments (See **President**, Page 2)

Monthly General Membership Meeting:
7:00 PM Wednesday, July 14, 2010
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) originally came from the workers when they were employed and the businesses that employed them. And there's no mention that Senator Hatch is a long-time friend of "Big Pharma" which would stand to make a pretty penny from all the drug-testing kits and labs.

In the end, of course, despite a Democratic attempt to compromise on the bill (Why do we even bother?!), EVERY Republican Senator in essence voted not to extend needed unemployment benefits to average Americans desperate from the economic downturn. The Republicans are out of touch with the needs and problems of the American people!

Please remember these examples as we get closer to November, and need volunteers to help reelect Barbara Boxer to the Senate, and all of our other worthy Democratic candidates into office.

Stay active! Sincerely,
Ronnie Jayne, President

A Letter from Representative Diane Watson

Dear Culver City Democratic Club:

Please extend to all involved, my sincere gratitude and appreciation for the honor you have bestowed upon me at your event on February 20, 2010. It has been a pleasure and very fulfilling to serve you.

As I transition from elective office, I will always cherish my association with you. Just know when you have the need, my staff and I, or my replacement, will be here for you.

Again, thank you and all the best.

In full gratitude,

Diane E. Watson
Member of Congress

Our Annual Independence Day Picnic

Join us Sunday, July 4 for our Annual Culver City Democratic

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.

Club Picnic and Barbecue. This is a great chance to share food, laughs and opinions with your fellow Culver City Democratic friends! Our Club will supply the venue, charcoal, watermelon and soft drinks. Please feel free to bring something to grill and something to share. We'll have a few games ready -- including Bocce and the ever-popular bingo. We look forward to seeing you!

Sunday, July 4, from 11 AM - 3 PM, Lindberg Park -- 5041 Rhoda Way, Culver City 90230

Any questions: Please call Ronnie Jayne (310) 836-7557

Di's Corner: By Diane Rosenberg

On Saturday June 12, 2010 the club held its annual "New Member's Luncheon" which was hosted by Ronnie Jayne and Tom Camarella at their house. All who attended enjoyed the event.

The club offers condolences to Amy & Darryl Cherness along with her surviving brother Rick Mervis and his family on the untimely passing of their brother Mike.

On a personal note, my husband Herb has been suffering from deteriorating discs in his low back. Our orthopedic doctor & surgeon suggested if the pain in his low back and down his left leg still bothers him he should have surgery to correct his two discs. Herb has been without pain for close to two months. The doctor canceled surgery for June 23 because there is a good chance it would have a negative effect on Herb's life.

"The liberty of a democracy is not safe if the people tolerate the growth of private power to a point where it comes stronger than their democratic state itself. That, in its essence, is fascism - ownership of government by an individual, by a group,"

"The test of our progress is not whether we add to the abundance of those who have much. It is whether we provide enough to those who have little."

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Give Elections Back to the People

By Sylvia Moore

Is America still a democracy? Yes, but this experiment in self-governance is on life-support. For eight years, we watched our civil liberties deteriorate, our infrastructure collapse, our environment polluted, and our wealth stolen by greedy financiers. Financial ruin has angered and frustrated many citizens. In 2008, we elected a new Democratic President, elated by the possibility that the change we so desperately needed would finally come to pass.

Nearly two years later, unemployment and underemployment remain stubbornly high - the effects of the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression. The military has begun withdrawing from Iraq, only to have increased its presence in Afghanistan - a conflict we can't afford to wage. Despite having brought us from the brink of financial collapse, signing into law sweeping healthcare legislation, and ushering in a massive stimulus plan that saved thousands of jobs, President Obama is getting hit with criticism from the left and right. They complain he's just not doing enough.

A lot of progressives have threatened to abandon Obama and the Democratic Party because they didn't push for single-payer healthcare, or they didn't do enough to rein in the banks, or because they are continuing the wars in the Middle East, or because they haven't done enough to push for gay and lesbian rights, or because the administration still supports oil drilling, or...or...or...

But what is the alternative? Running to a third party? Our winner-take-all electoral system makes it impossible for third parties to be viable. Staying home the next election? That only ensures Republicans get back into office and finish off the country for good. No, the answer is to recognize that the system is broken, get involved in movement politics to

change the system, help elect more progressive Democrats, participate in the Democratic Party and help it adhere to liberal values.

Recognize that Obama and the Democrats are working up against a determined, obstructionist and destructive opposition, the likes of which is perhaps unprecedented. Corporate power and corporate cash is the main reason why an aggressively progressive agenda can't get through Congress - no matter how hard we push Obama. Too many legislators are being bought by Big Business in the form of campaign cash, and that corporate influence burrows its way into legislation.

It's become too expensive for the average person to run for higher office, and so our Congress is turning into a millionaires club. Wealthy former executives like Carly Fiorina and Meg Whitman are literally trying to buy their way into office. The Supreme Court's ruling this year in Citizen's United vs. Federal Election Commission enshrined into law the misguided assertion that corporations are "persons" with the right to engage in and influence the political process. Now, corporations can spend billions of dollars to defeat a candidate or block progressive legislation.

Suddenly, the electoral playing field got even more tilted in favor of those with money. Too many Americans feel their vote simply doesn't count. We must turn this around. In the meantime, we can continue to push for public financing of campaigns. But, in the long run, we must overturn the Supreme Court by demanding a constitutional convention and amend the Constitution to strip corporations of the right to "personhood" and the right to influence the people's elections. We must end the canard that "money equals speech."

No one person or organization should be able to spend unlimited amounts of money to buy their way into public office. It's called public office for a reason. This effort will take a long

time and a lot of work, writing letters and calling our local, state and federal representatives to support an amendment. The Culver City Democratic Club and clubs across California and the country should pass resolutions in support of an amendment. We should work to get the state Democratic Party officially on board. An effort to abolish corporate personhood is already underway on the Web called Move To Amend, <http://movetoamend.org>.

Wallowing in despair because we aren't getting everything we want when we want is not an option. Turning against President Obama and the Democratic Party because you believe they aren't doing enough isn't fair and it isn't wise. Obama has only had 18 months in office. It took 40 years for the Republicans to dismantle much of the New Deal and get the public to buy into their ideology. It may take progressives another 40 years to undo the damage.

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 membership!

Now collecting dues for 2010.
Dues for 2010 are due by
January 1, 2010. 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 14, 2010 - Meeting Program:

**The State of Culver City
Mayor Armenta
&
Councilmember Cooper**

Upcoming Events

► **Sunday, July 4**

**Annual Independence Day
Picnic/Barbeque**

11 AM – 3 PM Lindberg Park.
Bring what you want to grill and
something to share. See Page 2
for more details. Call Ronnie at
(310) 836-7557 or email
President@CCDemClub.Org

► **Wednesday, July 14**

**Monthly General Meeting:
State of Culver City**

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 24**

Monthly Board Meeting

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

► **Wednesday, August 11**

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
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 2010 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.