



General Meeting – August 10, 2011

PXP Oil Field Settlement: What Does It Mean? with John Kuechle & Karly Katona



President's Message:

There is a constant running debate in politics over exactly how much controversy is appropriate in

politics. Everyone knows that voters are turned off by negative campaigns, especially those that relate to personal matters, however it has often had a significant impact on voting patterns. Candidates often want to appear like they are above board so they will farm out the job of insulting their opponents to supporters and independent organizations to give their campaign some distance from the negativity.

While I will be the first person to support the idea of staying away from negative campaigning, I want our Club to be on record as endorsing a vigorous discussion and debate of every political issue, even if that bring controversy to our political discourse. We cannot be scared of a good discussion, especially when we know that we are in the right.

Over the past few months,

national politics has been overrun with a legitimate debate over our national debt, level of taxation, and spending. These are important matters since our debt has been ballooning at an unsustainable level for the past 30 years. We are borrowing at such an enormous rate that we will likely never be able to pay off the \$14 trillion that we now owe.

There is no question that the public supports the democratic party's proposal to raise the debt limit so that we do not default on our loans while simultaneously getting rid of business tax loopholes so that everyone pays their fair share and cutting spending on programs that we cannot afford during this recession. A large scale compromise, like the one outlined by the democrats, will finally allow our country to take the necessary steps towards fiscal solvency.

However, the only voices that are coming through on this issue have been Speaker Boehner and the Tea Party Republicans. They have been allowed to set the national agenda and control the media coverage. Like usual, it

(See President, Page 2)

Monthly General Membership Meeting:
7:00 PM Wednesday, August 10, 2011
6:45 PM – Refreshments
Rotunda Room
Veterans Memorial Building
4117 Overland Avenue
Corner of Overland Ave. and Culver Blvd.

What's Inside?

- President's Message**
(continued) - Page 2
- Some Upcoming Events**
- Page 2
- The Oil Field Settlement To Be Discussed at the Club Meeting** - Page 3
- School Board Candidates Forum in September**
- Page 3
- From the Editor: What Got Compromised?** - Page 3
- Di's Corner** - Page 2
- 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) appears that our party is scared of controversy. We are scared to take ownership of this issue and scared of standing up to the extremist views that are both wrong for our country and unpopular. Where are the fireside chats? Where are the “read my lips” type statements of purpose? When are Democrats going to realize that it is only through controversy that we are able to prove to the American people that our ideas are better than theirs?

The time is now at every level of government. While national Democrats need to formulate a message that will resonate with the people, we at the local level have to be willing to address controversial issues in our community. We have a local school board campaign that is beginning to take shape (our Club will host a candidates’ forum and endorsement vote on September 14). Already, some members of our community, including some Democrats, are trying to scare the public into believing that union-backed candidates will not support the best interests of our students. They have no problem bringing up controversial issues, so those of us who know that unions are the backbone of our society need to be equally resolute in spreading the word on how committed Culver City teachers and staff members are to our school system. We can’t let them

win this fight.

Last month, our Club took a leap and brought in two speakers with very different viewpoints to lead a discussion on the causes and effects of the “Arab Spring” pro-democracy movements in the Middle East. It was heated as the speakers and Club members disagreed on the purpose of the movements, the effect on the region, and the negative qualities of those who previously ruled the countries. It is good for our Club to address controversies head on. We will do so again this month as we welcome in some of the leaders, both locally and regionally, to help us understand the recent settlement over the PXP oil fields. Will this agreement lead to a more safe and healthy community or did we cave too quickly? There are many in our community who differ on this issue and so many others, but it is only through an open discussion, even of controversial issues, that we can stay relevant in the political dialog happening in our community and throughout the world.

Some Upcoming Events:

Join us for Happy Hour at the Fiesta

Enjoy Happy Hour with CCDC members on Friday, August 26th, 6pm at Fiesta La Ballona in Veteran's Park. Fiesta Palooza will be in full swing as CCDC

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.

meets in the beer & wine garden for good conversation, networking and fun. An initiative of CCDC President Karlo Silbiger, our Happy Hours are a new feature of the Club, designed to broaden our membership through social connections. We hope to see you there!

Save the Date for Comedy Night

The fundraising committee is organizing a fantastic Comedy Night on Thursday, October 27th at 7pm. This live comedy performance will benefit CCDC, so we may continue to help get Democrats into office on local, state and national levels. The event will take place in the Amvets Hall at 10858 Culver Blvd., refreshments will be served.

Volunteers Needed at Club Booth at Fiesta

As we do every year the Club will have a booth at the Fiesta La Ballona. Volunteers are still needed for two-hour shifts from 10 AM - 6 PM on Saturday (8/27) and 10 AM - 4 PM on Sunday (8/28). 10 more volunteers are needed.

If available to help please call Ronnie Jayne at (310) 836-7557 or email her at RonnieJayne@aol.com.

Di’s Corner: By Diane Rosenberg

Herb Rosenberg has undergone back surgery and is currently recovering and starting rehabilitation. Contact Diane Rosenberg for more information.

We all wish him a very good outcome and a speedy recovery.

The Oil Field Settlement To Be Discussed at the Club Meeting

Our upcoming General Meeting will be tackling the topic of the recent settlement with PXP by LA County and several other organizations. The settlement resolved four separate lawsuits over the drilling operations of Plains Exploration and Production Company (PXP) in the Baldwin Hills Oil Field.

The settlement adds additional protections beyond what is specified in the CSD but doesn't modify the CSD itself. According to the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC), which was one of the parties involved in the settlement, the agreement discusses items like the number of new or redrilled wells allowed, perimeter drilling, well closures, fracking, well plugs, air quality, noise, and many other topics.

We will have two speakers to help us make sense of what the settlement means and how it will affect all of us who live in such close proximity to one of the largest operating oil fields in an urban environment in the country.

From the office of County Supervisor, Mark Ridley Thomas we will have Karly Katona. Supervisor Thomas spearheaded

the motion at the county to consider enhancements to the Baldwin Hills Community Standards District (CSD) ordinance back in 2009.

John Kuechle is an attorney and Culver City resident who has been serving as Co-Chair of the Los Angeles County Citizens Advisory Panel on the Baldwin Hills Oil Field. Mr. Kuechle also works on the Culver City Planning Commission and with the Culver Crest Homeowners Association.

School Board Candidates Forum in September

Make sure to save the evening of Wednesday, September 14 for our Democratic Candidates Forum for the upcoming School Board elections. As always each of the Democratic candidates will have time to speak and then the audience will be able to engage in a Q & A with the candidates. After the speakers and Q & A sessions are completed the Club members will be voting on the Club's endorsements for the offices. Don't forget to pay your dues if you plan on voting!

From the Editor: What Got Compromised?

The media have been calling the vote by the Congress and the Senate to raise the U. S.

government's debt ceiling to \$2.4 trillion dollars a compromise. However, the "compromise" is not where they claim. When the raising of the debt ceiling was first discussed months ago the compromise was to be that the Democrats would allow some cuts in government programs while the Republicans would allow some closing of loop holes and other measures to increase tax revenue. The idea was that with this compromise all sides could agree on raising the debt ceiling and avoid the default on the government's debt.

However, the deal that was finally passed included only the cuts to spending without the increase in revenues. Even though corporate tax rates are the lowest in 40 years it seems there's no limit to how low the Tea Party Republicans will go. So in the end what really got compromised was the idea that the legislative branch can be a place of reasonable debate and consideration of the best interests of all our citizens. It's not a compromise I'd be proud of.

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

Upcoming Events

► Wednesday, August 10

Monthly General Meeting: PXP Oil Field Settlement

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

► Sunday, August 23

Monthly Board Meeting:

9:00 AM at the Camarella/Jayne's
home. All members welcome.
Call Bill at (310) 253-9046 or
email FirstVP@CCDemClub.Org

► Friday, August 26

Happy Hour at the Fiesta:

6:00 PM at the Beer and Wine
Garden at the Fiesta La Ballona.
All members and public are
welcome. Call Bill at (310) 253-
9046 or email
FirstVP@CCDemClub.Org

► Sat. & Sun., August 27-28

Club Booth at Fiesta La

Ballona: Help us register voters
and get the Club out in the
community. We need volunteers
to staff the booth. If available
please call Ronnie at (310) 836-
7557 or email
RonnieJayn@aol.com

► Wednesday, Sept. 14

Monthly General Meeting: School Board Candidate Forum & Endorsement

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, October 27

Comedy Night:

7:00 PM at the AmVets Hall. All
members and public are welcome.
Call Bill at (310) 253-9046 or
email FirstVP@CCDemClub.Org

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

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August 10, 2011 - Meeting Program:

PXP Oil Field Settlement: What Does It Mean? With John Kuechle & Karly Katona

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.