Culver City Democratic Club

Active Democrat

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# General Meeting — Wednesday, October 11, 2017 The Club will hear from a speaker about the immigration issue

# President's Message by Amy Cherness: Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

In the last few months, President Trump has made it clear that he doesn't want to help immigrants and their families. The children of immigrants who came to America and wanted a better life for their children are getting a raw deal. Most of the people who came to America came to get a better life for their families, we are a nation of immigrants.

Most Americans say they want immigrants to get help, they do not believe in having a wall near Mexico. There are some people who want immigrants to leave because they think they are taking their jobs away from them, that may be their opinion but there is no truth in this. The Dreamers are an interesting group of people, from all countries, nationalities, ethnicities, religions. They are a bright group, who have a lot of opinions about the way our country could be run better—I tend to agree with them.

This country needs to get behind these young people and help them—not hurt them. I would like our club to get more involved in this cause—we need to be an inclusive club for all people.

Let's get involved in helping the DACA cause and getting more

groups involved too.

Culver City is now a sanctuary city and this will help many immigrant families feel safe and get the help they need. Our October meeting will be on this issue, and our speaker will address your questions and issues. We hope to see all of you there, bring your families, friends, and neighbors.

### 2017 Club Officers

### and Committee Chairs:

**President:** Amy Cherness acherness1@gmail.com

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Monthly General Membership Meeting: **7:00 PM Wednesday, October 11, 2017** 6:45 PM — Refreshments Rotunda Room Veterans Memorial Building 4117 Overland Avenue Corner of Overland Ave. and Culver Blvd.

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### <u>Club Notes</u>

**Renew your membership!** Please use the form on page 4 or to renew online click "Join/Renew" on our website.

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

## **Resolution Calling For A Moratorium On New Oil Drilling and Production Licenses**

Whereas oil production poses an immediate and persistent threat to the global environment, and climate change is real with fossil fuels the main source of greenhouse gases. Further investments in infrastructure to produce fossil fuels runs contrary to CDP platform to "oppose new fossil fuel infrastructure projects;"

Whereas health problems associated with oil production sites including but not limited to clusters of cancers and asthma, The continued permitting of a growing number of oil drilling and production activities directly affects and will continue to harm, Californians who live, go to school, and play nearby usually affecting disproportionally communities of Latinos and/or African Americans. These toxic health outcomes affect productivity and increase healthcare costs for all Californians.

Whereas the Department of Conservation's Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources is responsible for regulating oil extraction in California and DOGGR concedes in its 2017 Renewal Plan it has been "a dramatically understaffed organization" and has taken "short cuts," "established work around solutions" or "simply not complete[d] the requirements." "The Division is currently in the process of updating, and where necessary, revising regulatory standards related to the production of oil and gas in the State of California." DOGGR further admits it has "enforced some regulations inconsistently and, in some cases, incorrectly." DOGGR has only begun "a thorough assessment of its performance and capacity," And until this Renewal Plan is final, DOGGR will continue to be inadequately staffed and working with archaic regulations.

THEREFORE Be It Resolved the California Democratic Party to protect the health, welfare, economic interests, environmental quality, and human and civil rights of all Californians calls for a ban on pending and new oil production notices, permits, and approvals until an updated regulatory scheme is in place, fully funded, and fully staffed with rigorous quality controls and verification.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED This resolution is to be forwarded to the governor, state officers, and all members of the assembly and senate, and Department of Conservation.

Comments expressed in the newsletter are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily represent the position of the Culver City Democratic Club

# CCDC Passes Resolution on Oil Drilling

With Culver City City Council facing the prospect of new oil drills in Culver City, Club member Craig Scott looked into the status of State regulations. What he found was disturbing. The agency tasked with regulating oil drilling is in the process of reviewing its old regulations, old technology, confronting its lack of staff to adequately inspect and monitor oil production and is in need of comprehensive changes. These facts are the agency's own conclusions. In response, the Culver City Democratic Club approved a resolution (see box to left) calling for a moratorium on new oil permits and licenses. The resolution will be submitted to the California Democratic Party's Executive Board meeting in November. We will work to have the CDP endorse this moratorium until these issues are addressed.

#### **Di's Corner:** By Diane Rosenberg

The Fiesta La Ballona Weekend August 25, 26 & 27, 2017. We would like to thank all who manned our booth for that Saturday & Sunday. The club congratulates you for a job well done.

**Update on Diane's Recovery Progress:** I am healing very well. X-rays were taken last Friday, Sep. 6. Our surgeon was very pleased about how everything looked. Seeing him again on Oct. 13 after x-rays are taken. At that time he will remove the cast and pins and put me in a splint.

Thanks, Diane

**OPINION** 

# My Two Cents...by Craig Scott

At our September meeting Liz Conn from Rise joined us at the Culver City Democratic Club. She shared her organization's goals of free college tuition. The Club engaged in a discussion of how a series of Republican governors moved California from a tuition free state to a state with onerous tuition rates. These tuition rates and associated student debt now discourage young people from pursuing academic goals because of cost and not wanting to live life in debt.

Some have called student loan debt the 21st Century version of sharecropping where people pay and pay interest on loans and never have a chance to fully repay their loans—forever working for banks. In a just published report "Student Debt and The Class of 2016" by The Institute for College Access & Success, 53% of California students graduate with debt averaging over \$22,000. These student loans cannot be discharged in bankruptcy as former generations could. Students cannot escape these debts. For new graduates beginning a career the loans are burdens hindering career choices and new business ventures. New graduates are entering a job market with fewer prospects of well-paying jobs than earlier graduates and at the same time an incessant debt eating into their earnings.

Rise at CARise.org is one organization working to build "a coalition of students and allies to restore the promise of free college tuition in California." CARise hopes that by working together California can eliminate college tuition, protect students from debt, and invest in public colleges and universities. These goals are not impossible if one remembers that states like New York, Oregon, Rhode Island and Tennessee are moving forward with plans for free college tuition.

Another organization, Evolve-CA http://www.evolve-ca.org/, seeks to make changes to Prop 13 in order to change education funding. Their website lists resolutions passed by school boards and city councils asking for reforms. It'd be great to see Culver City's City Council added to this list.

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#### (TUITION from page 3)

Currently awaiting Governor Jerry Brown's signature is AB 19, California College Promise. The bill, if signed, would establish the California College Promise which would distribute funding, if the legislature appropriates the money, to community colleges for first-time students for one academic year. This bill, while inadequate, is a step in the right direction. But the governor needs to sign AB 19. All people who would like to see progress on student debt should be able to support AB 19 by calling (916) 445-2841 or emailing the governor. Democracy is not a spectator sport. Get involved. Join the Culver City Democratic Club, ask friends, neighbors and coworkers to join the club, join one or more of these advocacy organizations, call the governor and ask him to sign AB 19 and ask city council to pass resolutions condemning student debt and call for reforms to Proposition 13. Most of these actions take little time. Student debt slows down college graduates and is a drag on our economy. We need to eliminate student debt by moving back to tuition free colleges and universities. California used to have free tuition. We can do it.

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