



JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Meeting Reminder - Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Please join us Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. for our monthly meeting! [Click here to register for the zoom.](#) Below is our Agenda:

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks from President Darrel Menthe;
2. Approval of Minutes from December 11, 2024 CCDU Meeting;
3. Report from Treasurer Judy Scott;
4. Report from VP of Membership Ron Ostrin;
5. CCDU Executive Board Member Election (Part 2);*
6. Announcements;
7. Items from the Floor;
8. Adjournment.

*CCDU Executive Board Member Election (Part 2)

The current Executive Board has endorsed the following qualifying members for the following positions:

- Endorsements Vice President - Richard Martin
- Membership Vice President - Rafia Cooper
- Community Outreach Vice President - Ross Piro

PLEASE NOTE THAT ONLY QUALIFYING MEMBERS PRESENT AT THIS MONTH'S JANUARY 21, 2025 MEETING AT 7PM ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE ON THE ABOVE BOARD POSITIONS. The additional board positions were voted on last month.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By President Darrel Menthe

4

ANNOUNCEMENTS &
UPCOMING EVENTS

6

HOW TO SAVE
THOUSANDS OF
DOLLARS BUYING AN
ELECTRIC VEHICLE

By Darryl Chernes

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By President Darrel Menthe

As I write this, the fires in the Palisades and Altadena are still burning. As we receive word of friends, teachers, and colleagues who have lost homes or have been evacuated, we are reminded of how connected Angelenos are. Few in this county of ten million are unconnected to those who are suffering. We have also seen our firefighters and other first responders representing the best of us, as well as tens of thousands of regular people evacuating in good order so the first responders can do their amazing work. The outpouring of support from the community has also been stunning in size and speed.

Sadly, we have also seen the darker side of humanity illuminated by the fires. There are efforts to spread misinformation, peddle blame, and politicize the disaster. We have seen many politicians center themselves in their messaging about the disaster, seeking the spotlight for themselves rather than those in need. Also, while we Democrats in Los Angeles have been distracted from those about to take power on January 20, 2025, the new administration has not been silent. Trump messengers have wondered aloud on television and social media why anyone should help Californians who did not vote for him.

In all of this I am reminded of a powerful lesson about our state and country. The republic does not survive because officials in distant places make speeches and promote themselves on social media.

The republic survives because millions of people have the daily courage to do their part. State and local employees will be working overtime for months to handle the logistical and legal ramifications of the displacement: adjusting DMV records, enrolling students in new schools, updating property tax rolls, and a hundred other tasks that keep our society intact. When events seem overwhelming, it is good to remember that we are not tasked with knowing and understanding everything. We need only do our part.

Here in Culver City, we have a new mayor, Dan O'Brien, two re-elected city council members, Albert Vera and Yasmine-Imani McMorrin, and two new school board members for CCUSD, Lindsay Carlson and Andrew Lachman. We also have a new member of City Council, Bubba Fish. All are Democrats, and three of the five elected were endorsed by this Club. On behalf of Culver City Democrats United, let me welcome all of the newly elected and re-elected officials in Culver City, each of whom will be doing their part. We must remember that what unites all of us as Democrats is far more than what divides us.

As we begin 2025, I hope we can bring that sense of mission and service to our lives and our club this year. Thank you for participating.

Darrel Menthe

President
Culver City Democrats United

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2025 MEETINGS & ZOOM INFO

As a reminder, starting this Tuesday, January 21, 2025, Culver City Democrats United will now meet on the third Tuesday of every month. As a result, the newsletter will also be released later in the month, the second Friday of the month.

The meetings for 2025 can be found at the below link. You may pre-register for the remainder of our 2025 meetings at once. If you are unable to register until the day of the meeting, please allow yourself an extra 5 minutes to register beforehand.

Register in advance for the meetings:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMrfuygqD4rE9zPFF3qBBXpP8qnnhQ2Aic3>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

IMPORTANT: Please ensure you change your name to a proper First Name and Last Name. Waiting room guests with names such as 'iPhone 6,' 'Living Room iPad,' 'Tom,' etc. will not be admitted into the meeting.

Zoom Waiting Room is opened at 6:45 pm on meeting nights, Waiting room is accepted into the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Here are the updated meeting dates for 2025:

- January 21
- February 18
- March 18
- April 15
- May 20
- June 17
- July 15
- August 19
- September 16
- October 21
- November 18
- December 16

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT ELECTIONS (ADEMS)

The California Democratic Party has annual conventions. Delegates are elected to those conventions from assembly districts every other year. Assembly District Elections (ADEMS delegates) will be elected this February from each Assembly District to be delegates to the California State Democratic Conventions in 2025 and 2026. Each Assembly District (AD) elects 14 delegates -- 7 “self-identified female” and 7 “other than self-identified female” -- to represent the Assembly District where they live. Culver City is entirely within Assembly District 55.

In order to vote, however, you must specially register online for the ADEMS election and request that a ballot be sent to you. <https://ademelections.com/register/mail> The process will involve confirming an email via a “one time password.” They do not make this easy.

Deadline to register to vote: January 24, 2025. Electronic voting information sent: January 31, 2025. Voting deadline: February 23, 2025.

Why do ADEMS matter? The short answer is that this is the way we can help select the statewide candidates for office, such as Governor in 2026. The longer answer is that in order for the California Democratic party become more responsive to all of us, we all need to become active in party systems beyond Culver City.

CCDU will compile a slate of candidates with common goals and values. Voting for ADEMS usually follows slate recommendations. More information about candidates we support is coming soon. **Register to vote now** so you can vote in this election to champion a group of people who will carry out the direction of Culver City Democrats United.

In the meantime, please register and request a ballot at:
<https://ademelections.com/register/mail>

How to Save Thousands of Dollars Buying an Electric Vehicle

By Darryl Cherness

Buying a New Electric Vehicle (EV)

Under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), signed by President Biden, you may be eligible for a credit of up to \$7,500 for the purchase of a new EV. Not all new electric vehicles are eligible for this credit. In order to be eligible, the vehicle must be assembled in North America (Canada, the United States, and Mexico). In addition, there are other requirements including the source of the battery components and minerals, the cost of the vehicle, and your income level. Prior to purchasing an EV, be sure to consult with your tax preparer.

Buying a Used EV

In addition to getting a credit for a new EV, you may also get a credit for a used EV. In order to qualify for a used EV, the vehicle must be at least 2 years old, must cost \$25,000 or less, be purchased from a dealer, and must be purchased for personal use, not resale. You can get a credit for up to 30% of the value of the vehicle, up to a maximum of \$4,000. As is the case for the new EV, I strongly urge you to consult with your tax preparer prior to buying a used EV.

How to Take Advantage of the Credit

There are two ways to take advantage of the credit: (1) you can take the credit at the time of sale; (2) you can claim the credit on your tax return the following year. Please note that not all dealers will allow you to take a point of sale credit. Before you purchase your vehicle, call several dealers to find out which one accepts point of sale credits. Let me tell you, there is no feeling better than watching the dealer take off \$4,000 from your purchase price while you're sitting there at the dealership!

Don't Wait to Make the Purchase!

Unfortunately, Donald Trump has made it clear that he does not like EVs and wants to do away with EV tax credits. If you're going to buy an EV, do it now, don't wait! I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but I want to remind you that the co-president takes office on January 20th (no, I'm not referring to Elon Musk).

SCE Rebate

In addition to the credits I previously mentioned, you may also be able to get a \$1,000 rebate from Southern California Edison (SCE) if you live in an Edison jurisdiction. The \$1,000 applies to persons who purchase a used EV. It's absolutely thrilling to get a \$1,000 check in the mail from Edison!

Final Words

There's a lot of misinformation about EVs being disseminated by bad actors. They will tell you that all EVs are expensive. Not so! I bought a three year old car (a 2021 Chevrolet Bolt), with less than 37,000 miles, for under \$13,000! For additional information, please see my YouTube video at "EV Information by Darryl." Finally, before you buy your EV, make sure you have a charging station where you live.