



Douglas County Democratic Women

Summer 2012 Newsletter

President's Message

News Flash!

- **We will participate at the July 19th Gardnerville Thirsty Third Thursday at HQ, come visit us & bring a friend..**
- **DCDCC BBQ coming up July 29th.**

The new term begins with a well-qualified board eager to serve. Each board member has goals for her office, and each has begun the work of achieving them. Goals for our organization have also been established, presented, approved and distributed to the membership. Input from your surveys and from the retreat was the basis for our goals. They are as follows: 1) Help get Democrats elected or re-elected, beginning with President Obama 2) Support Women's Rights in all areas 3) Support Legislation in keeping with our Democratic Credo 4) Increase our organization's membership 5) Become better known in our community. The achievement of our goals will require participation of all of our members. This being an election year, we will all be asked to do a little more in order to defend and support our Democratic Credo, and I am confident we can count on each of you to rise to the occasion. "As you give, so shall you receive."

Thanks to all our members who helped out with the Democrat's booth at the Carson Valley Days. You were appreciated. Thank you in advance for the many who will be helping with the annual DCDCC Bar-B-Q on July 29 at Mormon Station Genoa Park. Your attendance will be support for our Democratic Party, so please plan to attend.

The Nevada Democratic Convention in Las Vegas, June 9 & 10, was most successful. We had a large representation from the Rurals present and a considerable representation from the rurals elected in some capacity for the National Convention. Our congratulations go to our own Douglas County representatives – Cindy Trigg, National Delegate; Jo Etta Brown, Member at Large; and of course, our First Vice Chair of the State Democratic Party, James Brown, who will join the others in Charlotte, NC for the National Convention.



The months ahead will be exciting and challenging, and together we can make a valuable difference. "The greatest accomplishments in life are not achieved by individuals alone, but by proactive people pulling together for a common good." - John Murphy from Pulling Together.

Nancy Stiles, President

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Membership

As you are all aware, May is our membership renewal month. I want to thank all the members who renewed so promptly, we appreciate your support. To those of you who may have been out of town or for whatever reason were not able to send us your renewal, you should have received a reminder

letter with a renewal form and return envelope. If you have not done so by now please take a few minutes to send us your support payment. Our organization needs all the financial help you can spare. This year, as you know, is a presidential election and more than ever our local representatives will need our

help in funding their campaign.

Bring a friend or neighbor with you to our luncheon and they will receive \$5.00 off the cost of their meal and it will give us the opportunity to meet a new democrat or democrat to be.

Lucie Johnson, Membership Chair

Welcome New Members

Corey Anderson
Donna Clontz
Anne Phillips
Debbie Smith

Welcome back Returning Members

Clarietta Brown
Greta Hambsch
Liz Yost

Scholarship

Essays from the two scholarship recipients

SABRINA SWOGER—WHITTELL

The Next Woman President

When in the 2nd grade, I wanted to be President of the United States. I wanted to be able to empower and encourage women nationwide. Is there any way better to help strengthen women than by doing it as our Nation's Leader? Then, I believed anything was possible, determined to follow my dream of living in the White House.

Older now, my career passions may have shifted, but I continue to hold on to my core values. I will pursue my dreams and will always stress women's rights.

How can discrimination against women not be obsolete in today's world? We have yet to see a woman President; women are paid less than men for the same occupation; and a popular stereotype continues to be that woman's place is at home, taking care of the children.

I am disappointed that our country cannot let go of the ideals of the past, and these injustices motivate me to create change. I believe that equal rights for women should be guaranteed in the principles of our country and should be written into our Constitution. Women deserve the same

opportunities as men – discriminatory pressures should not deter women from living their dreams. I intend to become a role model by showing the world that I can make a difference and become someone important; the fact that I am a woman does not matter. I am confident in the growth of our nation as whole, not individual men and women, but one human race.

CARA DUNKELMAN—DOUGLAS

I strongly believe in the philosophy expressed in the Democratic Party Credo. In fact, I was so interested in these principles that I attended the recent Nevada [Douglas County] Democratic Presidential Caucus and was selected as a delegate. For me, it is a thrill and an honor to have the opportunity to participate in this process.

While many of the descriptors of a fair society as given in the Democratic Credo are important to me, there is one that particularly resonates – "A society where a sound education, proper nutri-

tion, quality medical care, affordable housing, safe streets and a healthy environment are possible for every citizen."

I believe that everyone has a right to a sound education. The future of our Country depends on a well-educated work force and a citizenry that has an awareness of social and global issues. This can best be accomplished through a strong educational program, including high school, vocational and college levels.

I also believe that everyone has a right to quality medical care. I

understand that this topic is at the forefront right now. There are some difficult issues associated with this topic, but I believe that everyone needs access to high quality, affordable medical care.

Environmental issues are also extremely important to me. My father has spent his career working for the Environmental Protection Agency and has always stressed the importance of the environment. Environmental protection does not come without cost, but is at the core of the health of our society and planet.

Fundraising

Our major fundraising project will be a DCDW Douglas County Cookbook. We want to include your favorite recipe (and photo if you choose) as well as local chefs, so please send your favorite recipes to me.

Don't forget, if you shop at Raley's to get a cash card from DCDW – it's the same as cash at Raley's but DCDW gets a small percent. Every little bit helps.

The "Diamond" donkey pins are still available for \$20. We're still doing Bunko the last Monday of the month... contact me (267-4182) if you'd like to participate.

Ruthie Strand,
DCDW Fundraising/Events Chair



News from the DCDCC

Dear DCDW Members, DCDCC, Friends and Colleagues

Where were we? Where were we on Election Day? Where were our Democrats? They certainly were not at the polls. The Election of 2012 has been called the Election of our life-time. Where were we?

The NSDP Convention was a huge success! It was exciting to think forward to June 12th and envision the overwhelming success of Shelley Berkley and all the democratic candidates on the ballot. Did you see the returns? There were just over 1300 votes for Shelley Berkley! Where were we? If we are going to re-elect President Obama in November, we have to do better - much better.

There is no doubt in my mind that those of us who are regulars at meetings and events voted and

that some of us made those phone calls, but we will have to ramp up the effort! Thanks to all of you who did pound the payment, make the calls, and put up the signs.

We must start signing up folks for GOTV! Our Campaign Liaison from the Central Committee had to resign, so it is even more important we come together and start now. The virtual phone banking will be available early to make calls for candidates. While I will not be attending our picnic I will still be working all month and beyond on GOTV. We CAN help elect Shelley Berkley! We CAN reduce the winning margin of Republicans in red counties! The rural counties can, and will make a difference if we step up to the plate!

I leave you with Congratulations to Nyla Howell, Churchill County and Jo Etta Brown who were

elected as Member at Large Delegates. Thank you to those who supported me in my election as an Elected Delegate from CD2. I look forward to serving you well. The NVSDP web site has the list of all of the delegates attending the convention in Charlotte, NC.

Please keep up with your emails and correspondences from the DCDW and DCDCC for announcements and requests for help with the campaigns. Our President MUST BE re-elected. I cry for all of us if we fail in this endeavor.

In Unity and Solidarity,

Cindy Olivas Trigg
Chair DCDCC
f4trigg@aol.com



Programs

At our May luncheon, held at Carson Valley Inn, Reproductive Freedom Fighter Alison Gauden, spoke to us about the ongoing Republican crusade to eliminate birth control for women while continuing insurance and television coverage for erectile dysfunction drugs for men. At our June luncheon, Debbie Smith, Assemblywoman and Ways and Means Chair gave us a look at the legislation projection that will affect us all. In July, Theresa Navarro, Vice Chair of the State Democratic party and president of P.L.A.N will present "The Myths of

Immigration". In August, Fred Loken, Associate Dean and Political Science Professor of Truckee Meadows Community College, will give us "The Political Landscape". Erin Bilbray-Kohn, Executive Director & Founder of Emerge Nevada, and re-elected Committeewoman for NV State Democratic Party will join us from Las Vegas to talk about "Women Leaders for a Democratic Future". You won't want to miss any of these outstanding speakers.

Jeanne Larson, Vice President.

Backpack Buddies

Back Pack Buddies has a new home! We are now located at the Minden Creamery Building at 1617 Water Street, Suite I. We will be packing there on the second Monday of the month starting in September from 10 to noon.

We can always use plastic grocery bags, hygiene items, tuna, mac-n-cheese are always good.

Thank you Douglas Democrats for the use of your office space. We are thrilled we've outgrown your space.

Lin Larson, Program Director
Douglas County Backpack Buddies Consortium



Start collecting items now!

We will have a collection drive for Backpack Buddies at our August luncheon, to celebrate their new loca-

Legislation/Issues/Policy

“What is very exciting for me is Public Citizen’s campaign for a Constitutional Amendment to overturn the Citizens United decision. It’s called Democracy Is for People.”

PUBLIC CITIZEN AND DEMOCRACY IS FOR PEOPLE CAMPAIGN

Public Citizen, Founded by Ralph Nader and Dr. Sidney Wolf in 1971, has been championing the people’s interest before Congress, the executive branch and the courts for four decades.

www.citizen.org. They take on the big issues: health, FDA, Food Safety, Wall Street Reform, energy, global trade, Congress and more. If you go to their website you will be hooked!! The website is free but if you become a \$20 member, you will receive their amazing hardcopy newspaper, Public Citizen News (with a liberal’s Crossword!). Public Citizen was instrumental in passage of the Frank-Dodd bill creating the Consumer Protection Bureau. Since 2006 they pushed for passage of the Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge (STOCK) Act which bans insider trading by members of Congress and their staff. It passed in March. But that is a fraction of what Public Citizen has accomplished.

From the easy-to-navigate homepage, take a look at Public Citizen’s Action Center (click Get involved, then Action center). There are 22 different subjects Public Citizen is focused on right now. Click on what concerns you, learn more and what you can do about it. You can sign up for e-alerts targeted to your interests and you can sign their very important on-line petition for a Constitutional amendment to overturn *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*- which opened the floodgates to unlimited Corporate spending to influence elections. Remember, Democracy is not a spectator sport.

What is very exciting for me is Public Citizen’s campaign for a Constitutional Amendment to overturn the *Citizens United* decision. It’s called *Democracy Is for People*. Public Citizen, as well as Move On and Sen. Bernie Sanders, (I-Vt.) have on-line petitions for such a Constitutional Amendment. A proposed Consti-

tutional amendment must pass out of both houses of Congress by 2/3 vote and be ratified by 3/4th of the states. It is not easy but the growing momentum is amazing. Through the campaign and other organizations partnered in this initiative, 25 states so far have introduced resolutions calling for a constitutional amendment to overturn *Citizens United*. New Mexico defeated it in 2011 and passed it in 2012 due to constituent groundswell. It can happen here too.

The *Democracy Is For People* campaign has already taken the next step: gathering support for the amendment from city and towns by having resolutions passed by the local jurisdictions. More than 5,500 people in more than 1,000 towns in all 50 states have joined the effort to push for local resolutions since the second anniversary of the *Citizens United* decision in January. From March through May more than 200 cities and towns have passed those resolutions! (Check out the interactive map on the website below). And that’s not all! Public Citizen and its partner organizations (Move To Amend, Common Cause, People For the American Way, Communication Workers of America are just a few) worked with lawmakers to organize a recent congressional summit on Capitol Hill in support of a constitutional amendment. Key players were Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) Tom Udall (D-N.M), Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) U.S. Reps. Ted Deutch (D-Fla) Donna Edwards (D-Md) And Keith Ellison (D-Minn.), and Jim McGovern (D-Mass), all of whom have either sponsored or co-sponsored a version of the constitutional amendment. Eight more lawmakers attended the summit with Local and state officials and advocacy groups. The range of initiatives at the state and local levels were showcased that are generating support including public Citizen’s *Democracy is For People* campaign. Many Occupy’s have taken up the cause, including Occupy Reno and Occupy Carson City. For more information visit

www.DemocracyIsForPeople.org.

The FAQ’s will explain the plethora of responses to the disastrous Supreme Court decision and the minor differences among the Congressional bills and the several petitions seeking its demise.

In the meantime, we must urge Congress to pass the disclosure bill which would require that corporations that run political ads identify themselves as the source of the money. Corporations don’t want to do that, they want to continue to influence elections in secret now that they can buy this country wholesale.

Many thanks to Public Citizen News and the websites above for my information. I’ve done my job, now I want you to do yours. Go to the website; sign the petition and tell your friends. Sign up for e-alerts on the subjects of most concern to you and take action on line when the time comes. We don’t sit in the stands and we don’t stay in the dug-out. We get in the game. Its way more fun!

Melanie Meham-Crossley,
Legislative Chair

PETITION SEEKS NEW REVENUE SOURCE

The Education Initiative petition to impose a 2% margin tax on business was filed June 6 by the NV State Education Association with the support of the Nevada AFL-CIO. If you were at the Keep Nevada Blue dinner you heard Danny Thompson, Secretary of the Nevada AFL-CIO, speak about the critical need for revenue in this state. Though the tax is not exclusively dedicated to education, increasing the revenue pie will benefit education. It is estimated that the tax would raise \$800 million a year in revenue. There is an exemption for businesses earning one million or less. It is modeled on the Texas margin tax and relies on AB 582 of the 2011 legislative session. The mining industry would pay the same as other business. Gaming would pay the margin tax on non-gaming revenue such as hotel operations. If 72,352 signatures are collected by November 13, the petition will go to the 2012 Legislature. If the legislature does not approve the proposal, it will go to the voters in 2014.

NEVADA STANDS WITH MONTANA

Did you see in Jon Ralston's column in May saying Nevada joined with other states in the stand taken by Montana? They did so in a letter to the United States Supreme Court urging the Court to reverse its ruling in the *Citizens United* case? While it isn't likely the Court would do so (same chance as a snowball in...) it signals that our Governor would support a Constitutional amendment to achieve that end. If the Supreme Court does not reverse itself (and it has no plans right now to do so), our only hope is the power of the people to achieve a Constitutional amendment. All the more reason Democrats must hold the majority in the Nevada Senate and win the Assembly to ratify such an amendment when the time comes.

Alliance For Retired Americans, Nevada chapter. Strong focus on protecting Medicare and Social Security www.nevadaretiredamerican.org. Click to the page that lets you know the draconian impact on Medicare of the Paul Ryan budget passed by House Republicans April 2011. This is what we get if Republicans take control in November! You can click to the impact specific to Congressional District 2. Print it out and send to your friends in CD2 . You can go to the National Alliance of Retired Americans national website, look up local chapter for your out-of-state friends to find the info for them and spread the word.

WISCONSIN ELECTION FRAUD

There are well documented instances of election fraud in the recall election of Gov. Scott Walker. Not the kind the Republicans imagine is happening but the kind that they do all the time. Robo-calls were made telling the voter that if he had signed the recall petition that constituted his vote on the matter and he should not go to the polls as he has already voted. Another robo-call was done, their usual one, calling on election-day and telling the voter to be sure and vote tomorrow which is Election Day! With eight times more money to spend, the Walker forces didn't have to choose between those robo-calls. The Koch Brothers have \$50 Billion. The only power the people have is a fully engaged citizenry. Fully Engaged!

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

Paycheck Fairness Act fails to pass in the Senate. Thank you to all who telephoned the Senate urging its passage. Senator Dean Heller voted against it. Senator Harry Reid also voted nay but methinks it was **to preserve the possibility of bringing the bill back for reconsideration**. Only someone who has voted on the prevailing side is eligible to call for reconsideration of the same bill. I doubt that is the reason Heller voted no. Under current law, there is nothing preventing an employer from firing an employee who reveals how much he or she is paid. Or how much another employee is paid. The Paycheck Fairness Act would give that protection. Lilly Ledbetter did not know for years that she was paid less than male managers at her company (25% less!) until someone slipped her an anonymous note.

“Paycheck Fairness Act fails to pass in the Senate. Thank you to all who telephoned the Senate urging its passage. Senator Dean Heller voted against it.”

P.O. Box 939
Minden, NV 89423

Website

Please join us for Lunch and learn more ways to be involved as a Democrat. DCDW meets regularly usually on the first Monday of the month. Guests are welcome. Members for whom cost is a deterrent, please contact our President Nancy Stiles 775-783-0562 nanstiles@netzero.net

Other Programs & Fund-raising events are also planned during the year, check our website at <http://dcdwomen.net> for timely announcements.

<http://www.dcdwomen.net>

Use your website for the following:

- ◆ Who is speaking at and where is our next luncheon?
- ◆ The names, email, and phone numbers of the officers and chair.
- ◆ Website links to Democratic & Issues/Legislation organizations.
- ◆ Access to previous newsletters.
- ◆ Gallery of our past events.
- ◆ Under the “Joins US” tab you can download a membership application form.

Calendar

July 2 – DCDW Luncheon – 11:30a – **CVI**
July 4 – *Independence Day*
July 12 – DCDW Executive Board – 10:00a at Headquarters
July 19 – Town of Gardnerville, Thirsty Third Thursday at Headquarters
July 26 – DCD Central Committee Meeting – 6:30p at Headquarters
July 29 – DCDCC Annual BBQ – 3p to 6p at Mormon Station State Park- Genoa
August 6 – DCDW Luncheon – 11:30a – **Sharkey’s**
August 9 – DCDW Executive Board – 10:00a at Headquarters
August 23 – DCD Central Committee Meeting – 6:30p at Headquarters
September 3 – *Labor Day*
September 10 – DCDW Luncheon – 11:30a - **CVI**



2012-2013 Officer/Chair Contact

President – Nancy Stiles – 783.0562 - nanstiles@netzero.net
Vice President – Jeanne Larson – 266.4489 – jmlarson@peoplepc.com
Secretary – Louise Bell – 782.3203 – call for email address
Treasurer – Renee Thayer – 265.6364 – renee.thayer64@charter.net

Events/Fundraising – Ruthie Strand – 267.4182 – rruthie@charter.net
Legislation/Policy – Melanie Meehan-Crossley
Membership – Lucie Johnson – 783.4073 – luciejohnson@yahoo.com
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Scholarship – Carol Lark – 636.0050 – clark9578@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor – Katherine Winans
Webmaster – Lucie Johnson

GREAT WEBSITES FROM THE LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

Nation of Change www.nationofchange.org Easy to read and navigate. From the homepage can click to articles by topic. Economy, Political, Environment, Education, Human Rights and much more. Color photos with every article and large type.

Affordable Health Care Act www.healthcare.gov Fabulous site! Everything you should know (so you can tell your friends and relatives) about Obama care. It also compares providers by state, guides to help getting insurance, small employer tax credits for healthcare, and much, much more. A gold mine for your letter to the editor—just pick two benefits of the Act important to you and tell the world. (250 words or less).

Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) homepage. www.sanders.senate.gov/ Bernie also has an online petition to urge both houses of Congress to pass amendment to overturn *Citizens United* decision. It must pass out of Congress to get to the states for ratification

Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada www.planevada.org. (Note one “n”)

Coalition of statewide organizations. Focuses on several issues vital to Nevada’s future.

Lobbies the state legislature. They have several in- depth, researched reports on the website. Get to know this site especially as we approach legislative 2013 session. [Leading on Mining Tax issues.](#)

Nevada Women’s Lobby www.nevadawomenslobby.org statewide non-partisan coalition of organizations and individuals advocating for issues affecting women and children.

