DCDW’s members have such interesting backgrounds and life experiences. Together we are guided by our mission statement, motivated by the need to improve things and inspired and encouraged by each other. It’s no wonder the group is regarded so well locally and by other women’s organizations in northern Nevada.

Together we have accomplished much this year. We continued our scholarship tradition to reach $24,000 granted in our 12-year history. Our programs have been outstanding and relevant and the announcements have appeared regularly in the Record Courier. We stay visible in the community through our many community service projects and political partnerships. Our newsletter keeps members and friends informed of our activities and issues important to us. The work is never done and it is important to continue manifesting our mission. With all of us working together we can truly make a difference – locally and nationally.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with the dedicated 2015-16 Executive Board as we lead Douglas County Democratic Women through its many accomplishments.

What a great experience…

Katherine Winans
President DCDW 2015-16

2016-2017 DCDW OFFICERS

Congratulations to the new DCDW Executive Board.

President: Nancy Stiles
Vice President (Programs): JoAnn Carpenter
Secretary: Janet Adams
Treasurer: Betsy Strohl

Committee Chairs:
- Fundraising/Events, Katherine Winans
- Legislation/Issues, Lucie Johnson
- Membership Programs, Melanie Meehan-Crossley
- Public Relations, Corky Anderson
- Scholarship, Sandra Paul

Making a Difference in Our Community
IT’S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

MAY 1ST STARTS OUR 2016-2017 DUES YEAR

TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP USE THE LINK BELOW

https://dcdwomen.files.wordpress.com/2016/03/ap-2016-172.pdf

MEMBERSHIP

We have 68 members for the 2015-2016 year. The interest in the caucus and Democratic Presidential race has brought several new members to our ranks. The membership chair is excited that there are now 8 members who hail from our smallest precinct, Genoa! If you have forgotten your precinct number, look no further than your name tag at the luncheons to learn your precinct number. Members are reminded to keep a DCDW brochure handy with a $5 luncheon discount coupon on the back to make it easy to introduce a friend to DCDW. If "each one brings one" is our motto we can easily double our membership.

Genoa members are: Gim & Joyce Hollister, Mel, Beth, Betsy Strohl, Louise Bell, Vickie Kieffer, and Diana Furness.

Melanie Meehan-Crossley
Membership Chair

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Margie Leslie – artmarg47@aol.com (artist)
Stacy Morgen – morgen.stacy@gmail.com (licensed massage therapist)
Kris Theilen – Peeedee@gmail.com (ret. casino employee)
Dolores Waschau – Dolores.waschau@gmail.com (ret. School district payroll)
Pam Wise – bbbpam@yahoo.com (counselor/coach)

Roster Updates.

Robbie Robbins new email address Grantgirl583369@yahoo.com
SCHOLARSHIPS

The Scholarship Committee, consisting of five, got together in April to review the 20+ applications from the two county high schools. We read essays, examined grades, test results and community service, and ascertained that each believed in our Democratic credo. We then selected two outstanding students to receive the $1000 scholarships. They were presented at award ceremonies. The students were: Katherine Davis from Douglas H.S. and Lauren George from Whittell H.S. Katherine is attending the University of San Diego and plans to major in Communications and later work with the Peace Corp. Lauren is enrolled at the University of Hawaii and expects to major in nursing.

Our scholarships are funded by donations which amounted to approximately $3210 last year as well as nearly $650 which was raised from the sale of baked goods. Trying to decide who was the most deserving and qualified was somewhat difficult. Yet we managed through our discussions. I welcome anyone who would like to help this year. It is an interesting and rewarding experience.

Sandra Paul
Scholarship Chair.

BYLAWS AND POLICIES & PROCEDURES CHANGES

Our Bylaws Committee, Chaired by Joe Etta Brown, has reviewed the DCDW Bylaws and Policies and Procedures and proposed several revisions. Most were minor tweaks some were substantial. Members approved the recommended changes at the March 7 meeting and both revised documents are now available on our website.

Policies & Procedures: https://dcdwomen.files.wordpress.com/2016/03/policies-procedures.pdf

Bylaws: https://dcdwomen.files.wordpress.com/2016/03/bylaws-dcdw.pdf

SECRETARY

The duties of a secretary are pretty specific and since the minutes of meetings go out to all members every month, everyone knows what the duties are. Being secretary of the organization has given me the opportunity to get to know other officers and to learn the inner workings of the organization. I am impressed by our Board and like being part of such a bright, dedicated team. In fact, I have enjoyed my position so much that I am looking forward to serving the DCDW as secretary for another year.

Janet Adams
Secretary
MESSAGE FROM THE DCDCC

Carry the Baton or Pass It On - The Baton Must Continue Moving

I have very fond memories of fifth grade. The school was nice and the teacher was very popular and good with the students. I received top grades all that year, learned a lot and had a lot of fun. When final grades came out at the end of that year, my report card stated simply, “Congratulations. You have passed fifth grade and will attend sixth grade next year.” And fifth grade was over, just like that.
Subsequent school grades passed with obvious similarity, all the way into college. No step along the way was ever intended to be the final destination, but rather a further step forward in life.

The same process continued when raising a family and in business. The kids grew up and began families of their own. They are now my friends as much as they are my children. Business evolved according to opportunities along the way and has remained dynamic for the duration. I’m still not entirely sure I know what I want to do when I grow up.

One key lesson I’ve learned along the way is that, as long as we’re breathing, we can decide to continue evolving, or not. Some may choose to live in their end game earlier, while others may choose to wait. I have personally never decided that any accomplishment or plateau reached provided a satisfactory answer to the question, “Is this what life is all about?”

After naively (or maybe intentionally) avoiding the political realm for the first five decades of my life, I decided that, rather than complaining about things I didn’t like, it was time to get involved and put ideas into action. Opportunities have presented themselves, not because of any claimable brilliance on my part, but simply because I’ve been willing to go to work to affect change. And I consider working with my Democratic political family an amazing highlight in what has proven to be a very enlightening, even if sometimes challenging, chapter in my life.

In life, I feel compelled to make the most of each chapter, to learn lessons along the way, and fill every single page to the fullest. The fact is, this has been a chapter in my life that I have no urge to see end any time soon. But eventually it will.

What will be next? It’s difficult to say, as my imaginary crystal ball has never proven to be particularly accurate. Could Douglas County ever realistically turn “blue”? Looking at current registration numbers could offer a notable argument against that possibility. And yet, I have heard of a time that Republicans outnumbered Democrats in Douglas County 4 to 1. Currently the number is nudging closer to 2 to 1. And third party registrations continue to rise. Everything we may think we knew yesterday could arguably be different tomorrow.

I look forward to seeing what tomorrow brings, and the next tomorrow…and the next.

A question looms on the horizon, though- when the race has wrung me out and tapped what I have to give, will someone be waiting to take a pass of the baton and carry it forward? I look forward to the day that a fresh face, with enthusiastic energy and an eye on the future, will step up to the plate and say, “Sure- I’ll carry the baton for a lap or two!”

Kimi Cole
Chair, DCDCC
Programs for the 2015-15 DCDW year have been informative, interesting, and in alignment with our DCDW Mission and our Democratic Credo.  We began last May with a presentation by Hawah Ahmad, then President of the Young Democrats of Nevada, regarding the organization’s goals, ideas, and aspirations.  It was interesting to hear a young person’s perspective of our democratic principles.

In June we heard Sarah Tucker-Galetti, the Development Director of Planned Parenthood talk about the 2015 legislative issues that affected Planned Parenthood. As we know, Planned Parenthood has been under attack historically, recently, and will continue to be in the 2017 legislature.

The July program brought back one of our favorite speakers, Fred Lokken of TMCC, a Political Science Professor and acclaimed guest on television and radio news.  Fred gave us an overview of the 2015 Legislative Session, one we won’t soon forget.

Our August program expanded our cultural and historical knowledge of the Indian tribes in Nevada.  Sherry Rupert, Executive Director of Nevada Indian Commission, helped us remember our advocacy for opportunity for all.

For September, we were so pleased to have Vanessa Spinazola, ACLU Legislative & Advocacy Director, bring us up to date on civil liberty issues of importance to Democrats.  Vanessa informed us of legislation that took place in the 2015 legislature, and gave us insight of the need for legislation in the future.

Our October program brought back another of our all-time favorite persons and speakers, Jill Derby, Governance Consultant/Cultural Anthropologist, who helped us understand the Middle East crisis.  Her personal involvement in the Middle East as well as her historical knowledge gave us a valuable insight into the Middle East.

In November, Alicia Reban, Co-executive director of the Public Land Trust, gave us an overview of what was happening with our public lands.  Public lands’ issues will most probably be discussed in our 2017 legislature, and we will want to keep a watchful eye on any legislation regarding this important issue.

We had a holiday get-together in December.  We shared Christmas memories along with the Christmas spirit and a bake sale.

Anne Hansen, WNC Information & Marketing Director, presented an interesting January program on WNC’s opportunities and challenges.  We left with a feeling of pride and surprise at the vast offerings available at WNC, and a clear vision of the cuts made by our state legislation.  We will be watchful of any future legislation regarding higher education.

In preparation of the February Nevada Caucus, we planned a mock caucus with one of the state trainers.  Winter weather swept down preventing our trainer to make the trip from Reno, but our president, along with others, filled in with a preview of the caucus.

With March being Women’s History Month, we had Dana Bennett, PhD, President of Nevada Mining Association and Nevada women’s historian delight us with her presentation of the “History of Women in Mining”.  We continue to work for more equality for women.

Our April program will center on the topic of Human Trafficking.  Brett Kandt, Chief Deputy Attorney General at the Office of the Nevada Attorney General, will enlighten us on the prevalence of human trafficking in Nevada.  His office has requested legislation in the past to help this situation, and future legislation is a possibility.

The final program of the 2015-16 year on May 2 will inform us of the Health Care in Nevada presented by Susan Pintar, Nevada State Health Officer.  Susan has been working in health care all her adult life, and we are fortunate to have her as the state health officer.  We will hear how Nevada’s health care compares to health care in other states and learned about work yet to be done to improve health care legislation.

Nancy Stiles,
Programs Chair
NOTES FROM THE COALITION FOR WOMEN’S EQUITY

Filing for state offices too place March 7-18. When the coalition has a list of candidates, a cover letter and questionnaire will be sent to all the candidates through Monkey Survey to be completed by April 15. Survey Monkey will give us a spread sheet with results. Those results will be compiled into a Voter Guide that will be distributed to all organizations in the coalition as well as other activist groups across the state, identifying the candidate’s positions on legislative issue that are important to the respective organizations. Future plans will include personal contact with the legislators.

RETREAT

They are still smiling after a full day of discussions that led to a productive outpouring of collaboration, visionary thinking, and consensus building. Ideas flowed freely and eventually were all tied together in a bundle of things to do and outcomes desired. We enjoyed being together, enjoyed a delicious lunch, and enjoyed exchanging ideas and opinions in meaningful conversations. In the end, we felt a sense of accomplishment and a sense of pride in our "already great" organization. We left with a clear sense of direction and a list of things to do. We look forward to sharing details and results with all of you at our next membership meeting.

PHOTOS FROM THE COUNTY CONVENTION ON JUNE 2ND
FUNDRAISING

Watch for more information on the activities designed to provide socializing with members and friends other than at our luncheon meetings as well as add some additional funds to our treasury.

Katherine, 2016-17 Fundraising Chair

- Dessert Demonstration (with chocolate) with a professional dessert chef (Peggy’s husband) at their home.
- Tour of Bently Ranch
- Tour of the Margaret Russell Clothing and Textile Museum and Research Center – Carson City
- Christmas Bake Sale

Bingo at DCDCC Headquarters

1513 US Highway 395 N., Suite 1C, Gardnerville

Join us for an afternoon of bingo fun, win prizes and get to know your Douglas County fellow democrats in a relaxed atmosphere. Bring your neighbors or friends.

Saturday May 21st

1:30pm—4:00pm

$5.00/card

Information Lucie 775-783-4073

Pet Photo Fundraiser

Douglas Dem’s photographer Pat Stanley has offered to donate his time, talent and supplies to take professional grade photos of your pet...In costume if you’d like. Think Easter, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day.

You and Pat will make the arrangements for time and place just give him a call or send him an email-- napapat7373@charter.net or 775.790.0440. The cost is only $20 per photo session. All money goes to DCDW. This would make a great Easter, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day card.

Jan Walls has taken advantage of the offer and says the experience was awesome! Here’s the proof.
Check out our website at http://www.dcdwomen.net. The site is kept current about our group’s activities, our monthly luncheon place and speaker, and tons of links to both state and national political websites. We also have a Gallery of photos and all past newsletters can be printed or read online. You will also find contact information of this organization’s chairs.

Please give my regards to everyone in Douglas. I am in a rehab center after falling into a coma in mid-February. My pain pump for my back overloaded I guess. It was a close thing, was unconscious for 10 days. Been at rehab since the February 28 and don’t know how long I will be here. I am very weak, especially to walk. I’ll miss the retreat and all the rest, please say hello to everyone.

Donna Curtis

CALENDAR

April 04 – DCDW Luncheon – CVI 11:30a – 1:30p – Elections
April 06 – DCDW Executive Board – 9:00 to 10:30a - HQ
April 22 – Earth Day
April 28 – Douglas Dems meeting, 7:00p - HQ
May 02 – DCDW Luncheon – CVI 11:30a – 1:30p – Elections
May 08 – Mothers Day
May 14 – NSDP Central Committee Meeting – Las Vegas
May 18 – DCDW Executive Board – 9:00 to 10:30a - HQ
May 26 – Douglas Dems meeting, 7:00p – HQ
May 31 – Memorial Day
June 06 – DCDW Luncheon – CVI 11:30a – 1:30p
June 14 – Primary Elections
June 15 – Executive Board – 9:00 to 10:30a – HQ
June 23 – Douglas Dems meeting, 7:00p – HQ
July 04 – Independence Day
July 11 – DCDW Luncheon – CVI 11:30a – 1:30p
July 30 – Douglas Dems Annual BBQ – Mormon Station