

THE KENDALLIAN

The Monthly Newsletter of the Democratic Club of Kendall County

My Take, For What It's Worth, On Obama's 1st Year **Jack Morgan**

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 1

New Year's Day.
Resolve to volunteer and to devote some time to helping Democratic candidates this year. Prove that Democrats are just as dedicated and are just as willing to work for what they believe in as Republicans.

January 7

The Kendall County Democratic Club meeting, 7:00 PM, BISSD Board Room on John's Road. Program includes the Installation of new officers and talks by two of the Democratic candidates running for the State Board of Education. For the sake of the young people of Texas we have to reduce the control the *right wing* has on the SBOE-- this is an election we have to win. Call Mary Lowery at 830 537-5271 for information.

January 14

The Kendall County Area Democratic Woman's Club meeting. 10:00 AM at the Holiday Inn in Boerne. Program will include a presentation by Annie's List. Call Claire Gluck at 210 426-7749 for information.

January 18

Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday. Banks and Post Office will be closed this day.

January 19

Blue Tuesday get together for Democrats at the Dodging Duck Pub. 6:00 PM. Anything you want to talk about.

I suspect we all remember what we were doing when they came on TV and announced that Barack Obama was the new President. Natalie and I were at a private home in Fair Oaks Ranch with a couple of dozen Obama supporters, and one obnoxious McCain supporter. Fortunately, he'd tired of being the one sour person and had left long before the race was called.

Like me, you considered his election a C-change. I won't list all the "firsts"; you've heard them ad nauseum. But you surely expected MASSIVE change in the nation's capitol. So...what have you gotten?

Wall Street Reform: I'm quite disappointed thus far. I'm of the view that Americans are at the mercy of those who pull the purse strings, know where the bodies are buried, and know how to be sure that they won't have to sell their home by the sea regardless of how much we all suffer from their greed and vanity. After the tough words, Obama's not executed meaningful reform, and his appointing and standing by Geithner and Summers to key positions doesn't inspire hope in that direction. Make me wrong, Mr. President. Please do.

The Wars: I'm not convinced that these particular wars are winnable in the fashion that wars in the past were. So the idea of a surge in Afghanistan is unsettling at the least to me. That being said, Obama's had the nerve to say **yes, damnit, timetables** and **we want out as soon as we can be**. I'm hoping that my daughter, who as an adult doesn't even know what it's like for her country **not** to be at war, will know peace dividends before she sees grey hair.

Health Care Reform: At first breath I'm inclined to anger over the demise of single payer and the public option. But to be circumspect—and I think we all have to zoom out and get a VERY wide view here—the people who stand to milk blood out of the American turnip have been doing so successfully for decades. They're the most powerful people in the country, the most connected and with the deepest pockets of anyone. We, the people paying for it all, have the least time, the least wherewithal, the fewest connections...to call to account the powers that be, and to make meaningful reform happen.

That leaves it to our legislators, and our President, to do so because it's the right thing to do for those who elected them. Obama's hung his entire Presidency on Health Care Reform (HCR), and it's taken him doing that, calling in all his favors and using the bully pulpit to get as far as he's gotten. And where he stands with HCR is further than some of the big boys of American History have gotten. Let's not forget that. And let's not forget to cross our fingers, say our prayers and keep the pressure on for what will come out of conference committee.

That Other Stuff: He gives press conferences, he speaks in complete sentences, he behaves honorably, he has a great family. In these regards, I couldn't be a lot happier.

I was, as were most, hoping to give Mr. Obama an A after a year. I'm giving him a B-. And I'm also remembering, as should we all, that had it not been Barack Obama trying to figure our way out of what we'd gotten ourselves into, it would have been John McCain and Sarah Palin. Do I really need to say anything more than that?

Thanks for reading, and I hope you have a happy and healthy new year.

Club and Other News

A Message From Our New President, Richard Caldwell:

We Can Win In Twenty Ten. Happy New Year! I hope that you have had a very enjoyable holiday season with your family and friends; after all what could be better than that.

This past year we have seen a lot of success in the Democratic Party, but our work has only just begun. Beginning in January, the Kendall County Democrat Club will induct new officers at their January 7th meeting at 7pm at the Boerne Independent School Board Administration building; we hope to see you there. The new officers will be Richard Caldwell-President, Brian Maldonado-Vice President, Mary Lowery-Treasure, and Betty Devon- Secretary.

Our goals this year will be to build our membership and communicate our ideas throughout the county. We will build our membership by aggressively seeking new members and providing meaningful and thoughtful programs. We will begin contacting people who have voted in our Democratic primaries and asking them to become members and sustaining members. We will continue to have monthly meetings in Boerne, but we will seek venues throughout the county to hold meetings there to reach people who for whatever reason cannot come into Boerne for a meeting.

Our aim is to present programs at our meetings that you will find interesting and informative. Beginning with our first meeting, we will have a debate between Democratic candidates who are running for the State School Board. So far we have four people who have filed to run. We have two of these candidates who have committed to this debate. If you care about education and if you have kept up with the direction the State School Board is heading, you should be concerned about whom we send to sit on the State School Board. The function of the State School Board is education; not ideology.

Brian Maldonado who will be our new Vice President will be responsible for our programs. For our February meeting, he is putting together a panel to discuss the homeless issue. We have not finalized all our plans, but we have representatives of the Bexar County Homeless Coalition, the Boerne Chief of Police, and a representative with the Boerne Independent School District who deals with homeless kids, a prominent business person, and a homeless person who will sit on this panel. There will be an announcement in the local newspapers prior to our meeting.

Before closing, I wish to thank our outgoing Officers, Brian Blumhorst and Sarah White for their dedication and hard work this past year. Our club cannot remain viable without people like you who are willing to give up their time for the Democratic cause.

I am looking forward to a very exciting year! We have a lot of work ahead of us. I cannot do this alone nor will I do this alone. It will take the help of a lot of people like **you** who are concerned and can contribute in some form or fashion; so we will be calling on **you** from time to time. If I try to do this alone, Mary Ann will divorce me and I can't afford that!

Let's have some fun and make things happen. ***WE Can Win in Twenty Ten***

**KCDC
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