

Kendall County Area Democratic Women

June 1, 2009 • Volume 10, Issue 10



From the President

The beautiful Texas Hill Country, Santuario Sisterfarm, and a little rain with cooler temperatures made our 2009 Retreat a very special event. Twenty hard-working members made the drive and brought lots of suggestions and ideas with them. Susanne Rupp, our Program Chair, will have no shortage of speaker ideas.

We started the retreat with a business meeting. Our first volunteer of the day was Josephine Renfroe. She is coordinating with **ALL** Kendall County Democrats to have an appearance in the June 20th Berges Fest Parade. So mark your calendar and stand by for more information. Give Josephine a call so she can keep you informed.

A Nominating Committee, consisting of Gwen Adrian, Gwen King and Cindy Offutt, was announced. When one of these ladies calls and asks you to serve, please give it deep consideration. KCADW is a wonderful group of ladies to lead.

Claire Gluck has been working putting together a summer fundraiser. The date is July 25, at the Hampton Inn and Suites, just off IH-10 in Boerne. The event will be a Wine Tasting, and the guest of honor will be Democratic Gubernatorial candidate Tom Schieffer. The work to put this together should be minimal, so **YOU** are needed to support the fundraiser by attending and bringing friends. The projected cost is \$25.00 per person.

Our July meeting will be a field trip (we will carpool) with lunch out. We will either be visiting the Haven for Hope in San Antonio or the LBJ

Library in Austin. We should have a decision at the June meeting.

Carla Heath brought two new items to the meeting. Kendall County is currently engaged in a fundraiser to build a Women's Shelter. It was suggested that we work with the Republican Women to hold a fundraiser for the shelter. This certainly sounds like an exciting idea to help women in need. She also suggested that we plan another program to talk specifically about planning Advance Medical Directives and designating someone to speak on your behalf medically if you are unable to. These suggestions will be investigated, so watch *The Voice* for more information about them.

All that work took place during our morning business meeting. Then we stopped for a quick lunch and to refresh ourselves. After lunch we broke into three small groups, each with a specific task: (1) Develop a means to honor members, chaired by Carol Carpenter; (2) Develop a tool to gather information about members' skills and abilities, chaired by Bobbie Grover and Stu Adamslund; and (3) How to write editorials, comments to the editor, and resolutions for party conventions, chaired by Judy McMillan. These groups worked hard and then we reconvened and they presented their suggestions. It was suggested by Carol's group that club members propose those they feel are outstanding members each year and

(Continued on Page 5)

June Program

At the June meeting our guest speakers will be Cindy Glick and Carol Bidus, who will tell us about the drive to build the new Kendall County Women's Shelter next to the sheriff's office in Boerne. We'll learn why its services are needed and get an update on the current status of the drive. For more information see the website at www.kendallwomensshelter.com.

KCADW Officers

President	Jean Robitaille
First Vice President	Committee (Gwen King, Cindy Offutt)
Second Vice President	Sarah White
Treasurer	Marcy Branham
Secretary	Judy McMillan
Past President	Gwen King
Board Members	Helen Burstein, Cindy Offutt, Joellen deBerg, Susanne Rupp, Mary Chapel
Publicity Chair	Cindy Offutt
Program Chair	Susanne Rupp
Membership Chair	Gwen King
Voice Managing Editor	Claire Oxley Gluck
Voice Tech Editor	Janice Shoemaker
Proofreaders	Cindy Offutt, Susanne Rupp
Distribution Team	Margaret Sanchez, Jean Robitaille, LaVerne Peterson, Stu Adamslundy

Phone numbers and email addresses available in club directory

Mark Your Calendar:

June 4, 7:00 p.m.: Kendall County Democratic Club meeting at the BISD Administration office on Johns Rd. in Boerne.

June 5: 2:00-4:00: Health Care discussion and brainstorming session, 127 Woodland Blvd, Boerne, in the Ranger Creek subdivision. See more details on p. 4.

June 11, 10:00 a.m.: KCADW meeting at the Holiday Inn in Boerne (see program note above).

June 16, 6:00 p.m.: Blue Tuesday at the Dodging Duck on River Road.

June 20: Berges Fest Parade: Marchers meet at the corner of Frederick and North Main Street, near the Fire House not later than 8:30. See article on p. 4 for full details.

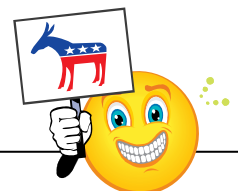
July 25 KCADW Wine-tasting fundraiser, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Democratic Gubernatorial candidate Tom Schieffer is our headline speaker. Tickets will be \$25 per person, and all profits go

to the KCADW Political Action Committee. See article on p. 3 for full details.

September 9: 5:30-7:30 p.m. Annie's List Fundraiser at The Bright Shawl, 819 Augusta St., San Antonio. Annie's List is a statewide political action committee dedicated to recruiting, training, supporting and electing progressive Democratic women to office in Texas. They have helped elect 13 women to the Texas Legislature in just six short years! More info at www.annieslist.com.

October 17: KCADW's Eleanor Roosevelt Dinner. All members are urged to attend and to encourage all Democrats to support this, our most important fundraiser of the year. Your help is also needed to set-up, cook, serve, clean up, and create wonderful items for sale at the silent auction.

This newsletter is intended to reach people interested in the work of the Democratic Party in general and of Kendall County Area Democratic Women specifically. To be removed from this mailing list, please contact the editor at clairegluck@gvtc.com or 210-426-7749.



Membership report

Please make the following changes to your membership directories (the updated information can be found in the mailed or emailed version of the newsletter):

- Margaret Turner's phone number has changed. Delete her email address.
- LaVerne Peterson's email address has changed.

Wine-Tasting Fundraiser on July 25:

Help elect Democrats in Texas and have a delicious time doing it!

Come to the KCADW wine-tasting fundraiser on July 25 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and bring your friends. The setting will be the poolside (and indoors to escape the heat) at the Hampton Inn and Suites in Boerne.

Food and Wine pairings

This lovely evening will feature wines selected by expert Sergio Ayotte of the Boerne WineSeller (on River Road) and food pairings designed by Ayotte and Claire Oxley Gluck. Before opening the WineSeller, Ayotte was a wine consultant to Costco, the nation's largest wine retailer, and also to HEB. He will be on hand to discuss wines with you. Learn more about Sergio at www.BoerneWineSeller.com.



Keynote speaker

Our keynote speaker will be Tom Schieffer, candidate for the Democratic nomination for Governor. Schieffer, a lawyer and former member of the Texas Legislature, has served as Ambassador to Japan and Australia. He is a native of Forth Worth and is the brother of Bob Schieffer, host of *Face the Nation*. See his campaign website at www.tomfortexas.com.

We will also be joined by Bexar County Commissioner Tommy Adkisson and other candidates for the 2010 elections.

Raise funds to support Democrats in 2010

All funds raised at this event will go to the KCADW Political Action Committee to support Democratic candidates, especially women, in the 2010 elections. Since its inception in 2002, our PAC has raised and donated about \$30,000 to help Democrats win in the Hill Country as well as statewide.

This should be a fun, educational and relaxing evening. Bring friends, neighbors and every Democrat you can! We will be sending out an email announcement. Please forward it to all the Democrats, Independents and wine-lovers you know.

Help wanted

You can make an important contribution to this event by helping to slap labels on our mailer, prepare food (very simple recipes), or serve wine. Please contact Claire Oxley Gluck at clairegluck@gvtc.com or call 210-426-7749.

Vote for Robbi Boone for PEC Board of Directors

KCADW member Robbi Boone is running for Pedernales Electric Cooperative District 6 Director and asks all her supporters to spread the word by email, blogs, phone and word of mouth.

Robbi was asked to run for the Pedernales Electric Cooperative Board of Directors as a reform candidate. She holds a BS Degree from Northwestern University and a Masters in School Administration. She is experienced at writing, revising by-laws, and creating policy. She has been on many boards, including one with similar problems to PEC, and was instrumental in rectifying those problems.

If you live in an area served by PEC, you should have received a ballot in the mail. If you cannot find your ballot, you can call 866-720-4357 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays or email pechelp@electionservicescorp.com. Ballots must be postmarked by June 12th. Email ballots must be received by 11:59 p.m. June 12th. The remaining voting is at the annual meeting on June 20 at the PEC Training Center from 12:30 until 2:30 p.m.

To learn more, contact Robbi at 830-223-5111 / 210-240-6565 / clranch@gvtc.com

Democrats in the Berges Fest Parade

Show your colors!!!

We Democrats are going to march, drive and ride in Boerne's Berges Fest Parade on Saturday, June 20, to show Kendall County that we are part of this community. We want every Democrat to participate.

Marchers

If you can walk from the Fire Station on N. Main all the way to Main and River Road (not a long hike), please put on your walking shoes, don any combination of red, white & blue clothing, and maybe a sun hat. Be at the Fire House not later than 8:30 a.m. and line up behind the KCADW banner. KCADW will provide red, white and blue umbrellas for sun protection and because they look fabulous.

Drivers

If you own a hybrid car, please consider driving in the parade behind our marchers. We'd like to show that Democrats support clean technology and energy conservation. Also it would be lovely if you would give a ride to Democrats who cannot walk the parade route. Please consider making signs to attach to the sides of your car (with magnets) that extol Democrats' energy or environment policies. If you can drive your hybrid in the parade, please coordinate with Sarah White or Jean Robitaille.



Riders

We won't know how many riders we will be able to accommodate until we have a count of the hybrid cars participating. Please contact Sarah White or Jean Robitaille to see how much space is available—or find a hybrid owner and convince her/him to drive you in the parade!

(Continued from Page 1)

recognize them at the ER Dinner. Bobbie’s group had lots of suggestions to get more members involved in club activities and, most excitingly, suggested a more politically-oriented direction for the club. Bobbie has her homework cut out for her. She will collate all these suggestions and report back to the club. Judy, an outstanding writer for the Progressive View in the local community, led a most interesting group. She provided lots of information about getting started, keeping a focus, and using research as an important tool. It was suggested during the review that she present her information at a general club meeting so more members can start writing.



With all these new ideas and suggestions in our heads, our time at Sisterfarm came to an end. Sister Carol Coston, a long-time member, was a most gracious hostess. She gave us a wonderful tour of the farm, explaining how they live with the earth, hoping to leave a minimal carbon footprint. Several of us wanted to bring friends and spouses back for the tour. Sisterfarm hosts monthly open houses, so visit their website, www/Sisterfarm.org, to see when the next one is. You will find it most rewarding and a wonderful drive.



Before I close for this month, I must include a long list of club members in the news. First, we send our condolences to the Weir Family for the unexpected passing of Sandra Weir. Not so active in local politics



since moving here, Sandra was a very strong Democrat and supported the party platform. John and Vicki, we are thinking of you. It recently came to my attention that Margaret Turner broke her ankle several months ago. Margaret was active early in the club, hosting monthly meetings in her home and supporting John Courage’s run for federal office. Sarah White is working hard to recover from knee replacement. She was so determined she made it to early voting in May. Katherine Long has new vision thanks to successful cataract surgery. Katherine and LaVerne Peterson, who is recovering from a fractured hip, both made it to the retreat. It was so good to see them. Mary Jelly is finally home and busy recovering from her long hospital stay. We hope to see Mary at the June meeting. I hope I did not miss anyone. Just know that your fellow Democrats are here for you if you are in need of assistance. Please, everyone stay well.



Remember to mark your June calendar now for our next meeting, Thursday, June 11th. If nothing else, I can guarantee that you will enjoy the company and conversation. See you there.

YES WE CAN!

Jean



Focus on Healthcare—June 5, 2:00-4:00

Put some cheese and wine with that. Sally Tarasoff invites everyone who is concerned about healthcare reform to a discussion and brainstorming session to plan a National Healthcare Service Day (June 27) project in the area. 127 Woodland Blvd, Boerne, in the Ranger Creek subdivision. Call Sally at 210-745-1459 for more information. Please bring a beverage or snack to share.

Hold Them Accountable: How Our Representatives Voted in Washington

In the U.S. Senate

Cloture Motion; Nomination of David Hayes as Deputy Secretary of the Interior

Vote **Rejected** (57-39, 3 Not Voting). The Senate failed to get the sixty votes required to bring the nomination of David Hayes to a full vote, making him the first Obama appointee whose nomination has been stopped on the Senate floor. The nomination will likely be brought up again later in the year.

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison and Sen. John Cornyn both voted NO

In the U.S. House of Representatives

21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act

Vote **Passed** (275-155, 3 Not Voting). The House passed this bill that intends to modernize, renovate, and repair public school facilities.

Rep. Lamar Smith voted NO

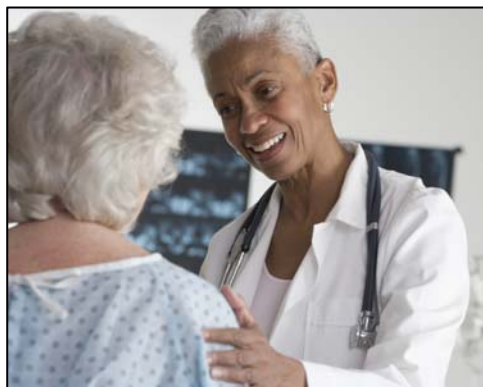
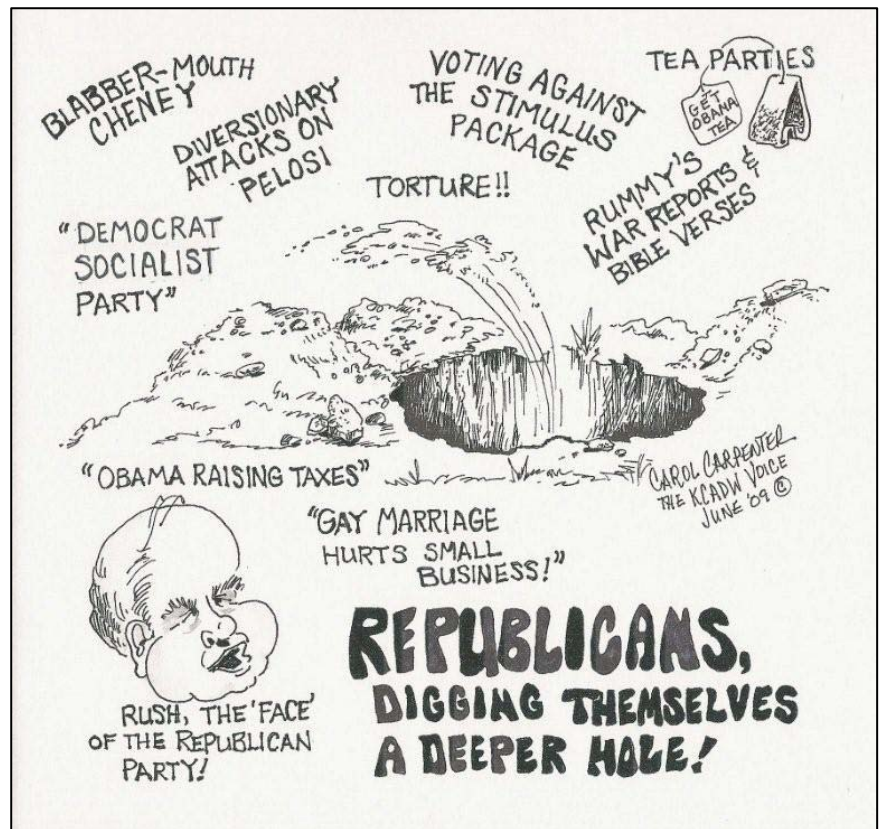
Rep. Ciro Rodriguez voted YES

Supplemental Appropriations, FY 2009

Vote **Passed** (368-60, 5 Not Voting) The House approved this bill to provide funding for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, security improvements in Pakistan and the national pandemic flu response.

Rep. Lamar Smith voted YES

Rep. Ciro Rodriguez voted YES



Battle over Healthcare Reform Heats Up

Most of us are deeply troubled by the fact that at least 47 million Americans lack any health insurance and that every day more Americans join the ranks of the uninsured because they are losing their jobs. Even retirees with pensions and healthcare through former employers are losing their coverage as their former employers go bankrupt. Imagine what will happen if General Motors goes bankrupt: its current employees plus half a million retirees could lose their health coverage, depending on how a bankruptcy court manages that issue. Despite the fact that one in six Americans has no health insurance and many others have only catastrophic insurance, we as a nation spend 16% of our GDP every year on healthcare—far more than any other nation.

Most Americans agree that we need universal healthcare coverage and we need it now. Millions of us are making our voices heard through campaigns organized by Health Justice, Obama's "Organizing for America," MoveOn.org, and others. We have a Democrat in the White House and Democrats in control of the Senate and the House. So what is holding us back?

Swift Boaters Strike Again

Sadly, the vested interests such as the insurance companies, pharmaceutical industry, and the for-profit hospital corporations have already spent \$134 MILLION lobbying in the FIRST QUARTER of 2009! They are also launching the same old scare-tactic advertisements that we saw in the 1990s, when the Clintons tried to pass healthcare reform. For example, the "Conservatives for Patients' Rights" is spending millions on attack ads by Creative Response Concepts—the very same PR firm that made the despicable "Swift Boat Veterans for Truth" ads that defamed John Kerry's service record. Also, Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina has launched attack ads.

Don't let the Health Profiteers Win

We must not buy their lies or let them scare us. Americans made that mistake in the 1990s. We have to show that we won't be fooled again. A government-run program WILL NOT affect patients' or doctors' choices. Think about Medicare: patients choose their doctors—if they can find one who will take Medicare patients. The patient and doctor decide what treatment is appropriate and Medicare pays. It's not perfect because many doctors refuse to take Medicare patients, but doctors would be less likely to do that if everyone had the same coverage.

A government-run program would be cheaper because we would be cutting out the very expensive middlemen—the insurance companies. The proof is that insurance companies are desperately afraid to compete against a government-run program. One of the most innovative compromises is to create a government-run health insurance option that would compete in the market place against private insurance.

There is some good news: Senator Ted Kennedy just co-sponsored a "sense of the Senate" resolution that says, "Resolved, that the Senate recognizes that any efforts to reform our Nation's healthcare system should include as an option the establishment of a federally-backed insurance pool to create options for American consumers." Resolutions are not law, but they can send an important message.

The frustrating fact is that the reason many Democrats passed the resolution was to pressure Democratic committee chairmen who have not supported a government-run health insurance option (see names in the last paragraph). Polls show that 60% of Americans would favor a universal single-payer healthcare system similar to those enjoyed by citizens of all other industrialized nations. Many others would like to have the option to buy a government-backed insurance plan in the marketplace.

Make noise

We who want change have to make noise—and a lot of it. Call, fax, email, write the key members of Congress; write letters to the editor; speak out when you hear people quoting the attack ads and conservative pundits.

Call these Senators

You can make a difference by calling these Democratic Senate committee chairmen who are hindering these reforms and telling them that you support a government-backed healthcare system:

Max Baucus (D-Montana), chairman of the Senate Finance Committee: 202-225-2651

Henry Waxman, chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee: 202-225-3976

George Miller, chairman of Education and Labor: 202-225-2095

Charles Rangel, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee: 202-225-4365

Silent Auction Reminder

Start your artistic or crafty projects for the Silent Auction that will be part of the
Eleanor Roosevelt Dinner
on October 17, 2009.

Invite your friends to come and enjoy the dinner, the company, and the shopping!
See April's Voice for a complete list of committee chairs.
We need you to volunteer your time and energy.

The auction is an important part of this annual fundraising dinner.
Please contact Bobbie Grover to donate items.

Kendall County Area Democratic Women
P. O. Box 2132
Boerne, TX 78006

