



## Kendall County Area Democratic Women

October 1, 2009 • Volume 11, Issue 2



### From the President

As this is my first Note as president of the KCADW, I want to start by thanking you for the confidence you have shown in me. I am excited about the coming year and I look forward to working with each of you so together we can make the KCADW the club we want it to be.

It will be a challenge to meet the high standard set by our outgoing president, Jean Robitaille, but I will do my best. I'd also like to thank all the other outgoing officers and board members for their service to our club: Gwen King and Cindy Offutt, who shared the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President position; Sarah White, who served as our 2<sup>nd</sup> VP; Judy McMillan, who was our Secretary; Marcy Branham, former Treasurer; Janice Shoemaker and I were the VOICE editors; Susanne Rupp served as Program Chair; Helen Burstein, Cindy Offutt, Joellen deBerg and Susanne Rupp, outgoing Board Members. New Officers and Board were elected and installed at our September meeting. For a full list of names, see the box on page 2.

We still have some vacancies, so I hope you will consider volunteering for the position of 1<sup>st</sup> VP, in charge of the ER Dinner and other fundraising; Program and Education committee chairperson; and KCADW PAC assistant. Let me know if you are interested.

### Looking ahead: ER Dinner and Silent Auction

Our biggest project is *just weeks away!* The 11<sup>th</sup> annual Eleanor Roosevelt Dinner will take place on October 17, with a big-name speaker: Bill White, the mayor of the fourth largest city in America (Houston) and candidate for the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Kay Bailey Hutchison. Bill White has a personal link to Boerne and our club. His aunt is KCADW member Helen Shinn.

This dinner is a major fundraiser for the KCADW, as well as a chance to gather a lot of Democrats under one roof and share a nice meal together. To make this dinner a success, we need a lot of volunteers to make their best desserts, cook the menu items, set up and clean up. Most importantly, we need to have a full house. So please buy tickets for yourselves and family and encourage everyone who might be interested to attend.

We will have more than thirty items in our silent auction. Most will be handmade items such as quilts, wreaths, stick horses and donkeys, and we will have some donated art objects. It's not too late to contribute: please see details later in this edition of the *Voice*.

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### October Program

Our speaker will be **Rebeca Martinez**, candidate for Fourth Court of Appeals, place 2, the place that was vacated by Judge Catherine Stone when she became Chief Justice of that court. Rebeca is an attorney in San Antonio who has represented plaintiffs and defendants in both civil and criminal litigation. A San Antonio native, she earned her BA from SMU and her law degree from Boston University.

### KCADW Officers

<b>President</b>	Claire Oxley Gluck
<b>First Vice President</b>	Vacant
<b>Second Vice President</b>	Josephine Renfroe
<b>Treasurer</b>	Gwen King
<b>Secretary</b>	Bobbie Grover
<b>Past President</b>	Jean Robitaille
<b>Board Members</b>	Stu Adamslundy, Judy McMillan, Janice Shoemaker, Susanne Rupp, Mary Chapel
<b>Publicity Chair</b>	Cindy Offutt
<b>Program Chair</b>	Vacant
<b>Membership Chair</b>	Gwen King
<b>Voice Managing Editor</b>	Susanne Rupp
<b>Voice Tech Editor</b>	Janice Shoemaker
<b>Proofreaders</b>	Cindy Offutt, Claire Gluck
<b>Distribution Team</b>	Margaret Sanchez, Jean Robitaille, LaVerne Peterson, Stu Adamslundy

*Phone numbers and email addresses available in club directory*

### Mark Your Calendar:

**October 1, 7:00 p.m.: Kendall County Democratic Club** at the BISD Administration Building on Johns Road. Please come stuff and address envelopes for the annual Kendall County Democratic Party's fundraising letter. Refreshments will be served.

**October 8, 10:00 a.m.: KCADW meeting** at the Holiday Inn Express.

**October 16, 2-5 p.m.:** Set up for the Eleanor Roosevelt Dinner at the Boerne Convention and Community Center at 820 Adler Road.

**October 17, 6:00 p.m.: 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. *See article on p. 4.*

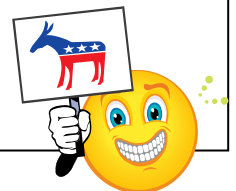
**October 20, 11:00 a.m.: KCADW Board meeting** at Claire Oxley Gluck's home.

**October 20, 6:00 p.m.: Blue Tuesday,** a casual social dinner shared with local Democrats at the Dodging Duck on River Road.

**November 12, 10:00 a.m.: KCADW meeting** at the Holiday Inn Express. Boerne Police Sgt. Robert Rico will tell us about the Restorative Justice program that he heads up.

**Mid December: Our annual holiday party.** Gwen and Bill King are hosting this pot-luck party. This will be instead of a meeting in December. Stay tuned for details.

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 [srupp@hughes.net](mailto:srupp@hughes.net) or 210-698-0559.



## Annual Membership Renewal

Our new club year has begun, and in order for us to function well, it's important that we all pay our dues to Gwen King, Membership Chair. Dues are \$20 and should be paid by each member except those who joined since May 2008.

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

### 2009-2010 Dues

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Request scholarship \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Looking back: an Active September**

**September 5:** At the instigation of our own Josephine Renfroe, the Kendall County Area Democrats participated in **Boerne's Labor Day Parade** (see photos). Our float was WAY better than the Republican one, and we even received some cheers from the crowd. Thanks to the hard work of Stephan Rogers, Richard Caldwell, Bill and Gwen King, Judy McMillan, John Weir, Michael Gluck and me, we put the float together and Richard hauled it in the parade. Jean Robitaille, Carol Carpenter, Mary Lowery, Susanne Rupp, Sally Tarasoff and grandchildren, the Klaunig family and I rode and/or marched in the parade.

**September 9:** Michael and I attended a **fundraiser for Annie's List** in San Antonio. We met Leticia Van De Putte, Carla Vela, the AL leadership and several candidates endorsed by Annie's List. Our January program will be a presentation from AL's deputy political director.

**September 14:** Eight KCADW members attended a **lecture by Cecile Richards President of the national Planned Parenthood Foundation** and founder of the Texas Freedom Network, which hosted the event.

**September 22:** Many area Democrats, including KCADW members, participated in MoveOn.org's "**Sick of It**" Rally in support of health care reform. The event took place in front of the San Antonio Blue Cross/Blue Shield office to call attention to the role of Insurance companies, including BC/BS in lobbying against health care reform and funding advertising campaigns that spread irrational fear of reform.

**September 26:** At least ten KCADW members helped to kick off the **Capital Campaign of the Kendall County Women's Shelter** by attending the gala fundraiser at the Don Strange Ranch. Members are also participating in the "Safe Pillow" project. For more information contact KCADW members Carla Heath or Jean Robitaille.

**Club members are also speaking out in our local newspapers: Janice Shoemaker, Jean Robitaille, Carol Carpenter, Katherine Long, Judy McMillan and I** all had columns and/or letters published in the *Boerne Star* and the *Hill Country Weekly*. Other area Democrats, including Kathy Bandujo and Richard Caldwell, have also been in print recently. Let's keep up the good work!

*Claire*

## The Annual Eleanor Roosevelt Dinner—Our Really Big Show

### See anything you like?

The E. R. Dinner is almost here and our silent auction will have some fabulous handmade items, including pottery, quilts, jewelry, and toy stick-horses. We want to make this auction a moneymaker for KCADW, so if you have a special talent for crafts or can put together a basket of goodies, please contact Bobbie Grover ([jbgrover1@hotmail.com](mailto:jbgrover1@hotmail.com) or 830-981-5710) or Josephine Renfroe (830-249-3118) and we will arrange to pick up your donation.



### Mayor Bill White to be speaker

We are honored to have Houston Mayor Bill White as our speaker at this year's dinner. He is a leading candidate to replace Kay Bailey Hutchison as U.S. Senator from Texas and has a lengthy list of qualifications:

- Elected twice as Mayor of Houston with margins of 86% and 91%
- Received the FBI Director's Community Leadership Award
- Received Profiles in Courage Award for response to the Hurricane Katrina disaster
- Educated in San Antonio, Harvard and University of Texas Law School
- Bill White fights for the people he represents and brings people together to get things done.

### Reservations and menu information

If you haven't made your reservations yet, contact Gwen at 830-755-4434 or [gwenjking@aol.com](mailto:gwenjking@aol.com). Below is the menu for the evening:

6:00 p.m.—Wine and Cheese Table		7:00 p.m.—Dinner
<b>Salad Choices:</b>	Spinach salad with blue cheese, dried cranberries, and thin slices of red onion	
	Ceasar salad—Romaine topped with Caesar dressing, croutons and Parmesan cheese	
<b>Main Courses:</b>	Dijon Honey Chicken (seared chicken breast baked in orange juice, Dijon mustard and honey) with rice and vegetable pilaf	
	Pork Medallions topped with caramelized onion sauce; served with roasted spiced sweet potato wedges	
<b>Rolls</b>		
<b>A variety of luscious desserts</b>		
<b>Coffee, tea, or water</b>		

This letter was written by our own Carol Carpenter and appeared in the *Boerne Star* in two installments.

### Fact-Checking Eldon Kramer’s “Facts”

Fact-checking the honorable Eldon Kramer’s “FACTS,” presented to the Star’s readers in his letter of August 25, revealed the following:

**FACT No. 1**, Concerning Comparative Effectiveness Research, gives us Sen. Daschle’s words but not his meaning. The misleading implications are straight from a fact-twisted op-ed article in the Bloomberg News written by Betsy McCaughey and twisted some more by Limbaugh. These two want to derail comparisons of real-life effectiveness of different treatments for the same illness. Drug companies and

medical device makers are concerned the use of their more expensive products may be discouraged if the comparisons provide doctors and the public money-saving treatments to better healthcare. Not reported by Eldon, Betsy or Rush is that Betsy is currently on the board of directors of Cantil Medical, a device company and was formally on the board of Genta, a biotechnology company. Her conflict of interest is evident



**FACT No. 2:** Eldon takes exception to the HHS Secretary’s statement that our health delivery system is under-delivering quality care and our health results are those of a developing country. It’s his opinion that we have the best healthcare in the world because 74% of voters (not 74% of Americans) say our care is good or excellent.

Clearly, these voters are not among the estimated 46-54 million Americans who are without health insurance. If nothing is done, this number is expected to reach 66 million by 2019. Because our system under-delivers, there are 50 other countries in the world whose citizens have a life expectancy greater than ours. Eldon omitted Sebelius’ statement, “... we cannot sustain our current delivery system that is #1 in cost and #19 in medically preventable deaths. 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the US economy is involved in healthcare; reform is an economic issue as well as a health issue.”

**FACT No. 3** is a most despicable twisting of the facts. Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel is made to sound like the Nazi’s Dr. Death, Josef Mengele. Once again, it is Betsy McCaughey who is the source and she has taken the doctor’s statements out of context in order to deliberately alter their meaning. Dr. Emanuel is a leading opponent of euthanasia and a proponent of a guaranteed healthcare access plan for all. In the first quote, Dr.

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Emanuel was writing about how to make ethical choices when forced to choose which patients get organ transplants or vaccines when supplies are limited. In another article, he was writing about a philosophical trend—not the position he endorses! He has expressed dismay that his life’s work for the elderly has been turned completely upside down.

In **FACT No. 4** Eldon misrepresents the purpose of End-of Life counseling and directives called either living wills or, durable powers of attorney. Medicare’s payments for end-of-life treatment escalate sharply when care-givers or the family do not know their loved one’s preference for treatment. Counseling and directives are meant to save money by giving “granny” only the treatment she authorized when she was able to do so.

#### **A history of this part of the healthcare plan:**

**1992—Law signed by President Bush** requiring hospitals and nursing homes to help patients with advanced directives or living wills if requested.

**2003—Medicare Prescription Drug Act** (passed by 204 GOP Rep. and 42 GOP Senators) signed by President Bush includes, “...counseling with respect to end-of-life issues and care options and advising the beneficiary regarding advanced care planning.” Sponsor: Speaker Hastert.

**2007—Medicare End-of-Life Care Planning Act** sponsored by Senator Isakson (R) of Georgia requires counseling on advanced directives and end-of-life issues during a new Medicare patient’s initial visit to a doctor. Overwhelmingly passed in Congress, signed by President Bush.

**2008—April, Governor Sarah Palin** announced Alaska’s “Healthcare Decision Day.” Its objective: “to raise public awareness of the need to plan ahead for healthcare decisions related to end-of-life care.”

**2009—Section 1233 of HB 3200** mirrors the 2007 Act with the exception that Medicare will pay the doctor for the counseling service.

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### **Club Members Hear Cecile Richards of Planned Parenthood**

Eight members of KCADW attended Cecile Richards’ talk in San Antonio, September 14. Ms. Richards, who is the daughter of the late Gov. Ann Richards, was sponsored by the Texas Freedom Network, the group she founded. She is now president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America. She spoke out strongly against the lack of adequate sex education in Texas schools. Holding up a health textbook, she quoted from the section covering how to prevent sexually transmitted diseases. “Here’s a list: Respect yourself. Choose friends who are a positive influence. Go out as a group. Get plenty of rest.” She said, “There’s absolutely nothing in here about using a condom or anything else that would prevent an STD.” Speaking of the predominance of abstinence-only programs in Texas, she said, “I refuse to call that education. It’s a political program, and we’re only now beginning to see what it has brought us.”

Kathy Miller, president of Texas Freedom Network, said a study on the state of sex education in Texas schools that her group issued this year found that more than 95 % of Texas schools teach nothing but abstinence-only programs. “At the same time, for six years in a row, Texas led the nation in multiple births to teens,” she said. Richards said Planned Parenthood is reaching out to teenagers to give them the sort of information their schools and perhaps parents aren’t providing—through such things as collaborations with MTV and the U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to encourage kids to get tested for STD’s and using other forms of technology such as a 24-hour chat line.



## Hold Them Accountable: How Our Representatives Voted in Washington

### In the U.S. Senate

#### *Travel Promotion Act of 2009*

Vote **Passed** (79-19, 1 not voting) This Senate bill would promote travel in the United States and includes a provision to create a nonprofit corporation intended to encourage tourism from abroad.

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison voted **NO**

Sen. John Cornyn voted **NO**

#### *Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010*

Vote **Passed** (73-25, 1 not voting) The Senate approved this \$122 billion bill funding transportation and housing programs for the next fiscal year.

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison voted **YES**

Sen. John Cornyn voted **NO**

### In the U.S. House of Representatives

#### *Raising a question of the privileges of the House*

Vote **passed** (240-179, 5 Present, 10 not voting). The House rebuked Rep. Joe Wilson for shouting "You lie" during President Obama's healthcare address to a joint session of Congress.

Rep. Lamar Smith voted **NO**

Rep. Ciro Rodriguez voted **YES**

#### *Advanced Vehicle Technology Act*

Vote **passed** (312-114, 7 not voting). The House passed this bill that would permit the Energy Department to spend \$200 million per year more than it currently spends on programs for the research, development, demonstration and commercial application of new vehicle technologies.

Rep. Lamar Smith voted **NO**

Rep. Ciro Rodriguez voted **YES**

#### *Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009*

Vote **passed** (253-171, 10 not voting). This House bill would terminate the Federal Family Education Loan Program and replace it with the Education Department's Direct Lending program, as well as increase funding of Pell Grants and increase the annual grant maximum to \$5500 in 2010.

Rep. Lamar Smith voted **NO**

Rep. Ciro Rodriguez voted **YES**

"...it is hateful to be young, bright, ambitious and poor. The added insult is to be aware of one's poverty."

*Maya Angelou*

"...there is probably 23, 24% of the uninsured that is already eligible for an existing government program [...] Beyond that, I know that there are programs, there are charitable organizations, there are hospitals here who do provide charity care if there's an instance of indigency and the individual is not eligible for existing programs that there can be some cooperative effort. No one in this country, given who we are, should be sitting without an option to be addressed."

*U.S. Rep. Eric Cantor (R-VA), responding to the dilemma of a young woman who lost her health insurance and will die without surgery*

## Dems in Action . . . Again!



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

