

# Kendall County Area Democratic Women

October 1, 2008 • Volume 10, Issue 2



## From the President

This is a hard newsletter for me to start; I am experiencing lots of stress about the campaigns and Election Day. Hopefully November 4<sup>th</sup> will be a BLUE day for our country and the world. My cheer and encouragement is not to keep working but to **THANK YOU!** for all the hard work you have done this election season. By staying active and involved, we have had a real impact locally, state and country-wide. No matter what the results will be, KCADW can stand proud that we have accomplished lots and continue the 10 years of tradition started by Gwen King and the other founding members. Our October meeting concluded this election cycle by hearing from one dynamic and energetic woman candidate. Frances Carnot, running for State District 122, is going to be a great elected official. As a woman, she talks about all the issues important to our club and women in general. We look forward to having Frances speak to us again as State House Representative for Bexar County.

Besides marking your January 2009 calendar for Inauguration Day, please reserve January 8, 2009 for a special club meeting. Instead of our usual meeting, we will meet at El Rio for a luncheon and 10-year anniversary special. Watch your newsletter for more details. We need a

minimum of 20 reservations, so bring a guest or spouse and of course plan to come yourself. The program will be a discussion of our history.

The Kendall County Campaign Headquarters has been most successful this year with lots of visitors, yard sign and button requests, and donations to help with expenses. A BIG thanks to all those who staffed the headquarters and ESPECIALLY to the Glucks for making all those trips to San Antonio picking up Obama items. I don't know if you saw or wear a Turn Texas Blue T-shirt, but we certainly are making a dent in the surrounding hill country. More and more residents are speaking up about being democrats, or at least saying they are not voting straight party ticket. Every little bit helps to educate and challenge the public. Way to GO!

This is the start of our club year, so membership renewals are due. If you have not already renewed, please mail your \$20.00 to Gwen King at KCADW, PO Box 2132, Boerne, TX, 78006. Membership dues help to pay our monthly expenses and generally build our treasury from which we support candidates running for local and state offices.

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## The November Program

Dr. Tucker Gibson, Professor of Political Science and Urban Studies at Trinity University in San Antonio, will analyze the election results for us. Gibson's latest book is *Government and Politics in the Lone Star State: Theory and Practice*, published in 2007. His areas of expertise are census and demographic applications to policy research and elections. He has been a consultant on reapportionment to Texas cities, counties and school districts, as well as to political campaigns.

### KCADW Officers

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

*Phone numbers and email addresses available in club directory*

### Mark Your Calendar:

**November 4: 7 a.m.- 7 p.m. Election Day!** If you are in line by 7:00 p.m., you will be able to vote. Turn-out in early voting was very high, and it is expected to be high on Election Day, too. Plan to be in line for a while. If a voter is unable to walk to the polling place or stand in line, she is entitled to curbside voting. Election workers will bring the ballot to the voter's car and wait for her to vote.

**November 5: 11 a.m.** Help clean up and close down the Kendall County Democratic Headquarters at 617 S. Main in Boerne.

**November 5: 6 p.m.** Blue Tuesday moves to Wednesday (for this month) at the Dodging Duck on River Road in Boerne. Join your fellow Kendall County Area Democrats to celebrate our work together during this election season.

**November 6: 7 p.m.** Kendall County Democratic Club (KCDC) will meet to continue its discussion of the economy and the election: Boerne ISD Admin. Bldg., 123 Johns Road, Boerne.

**November 13: 10 a.m.** KCADW meeting at the Holiday Inn, 35000 IH-10 West, Boerne. Dr. Tucker Gibson, Political Scientist from Trinity University, will analyze the election.

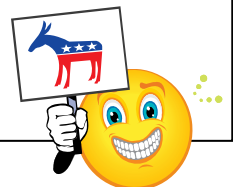
**December 4:** KCDC Holiday Party. Admission is a plate of finger food to share.

**December 5: After dark:** Cheer for the Kendall County Democratic Party float in Boerne's Holiday Parade of Lights on Main Street.

**December 11: 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.** KCADW Holiday Party at Jean Robitaille's home.

**January 8, 2009: 11:30 a.m.** KCADW Founders' Day Luncheon at El Rio's Restaurant in Boerne. We will celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Club and honor our six founders. Please plan to attend this special event. Details will follow in the December *Voice*.

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](mailto:clairegluck@gvtc.com) or 210-426-7749.



## Membership Report

If you have a new phone number, address or e-mail address, please let Gwen King know about it. As Membership Chairman she is responsible for keeping our directory up to date. You can reach Gwen at: 830-755-4434; 210-862-4438 or [gwenjking@aol.com](mailto:gwenjking@aol.com).

September began a new fiscal year for KCADWC. If you have not yet renewed your membership, please do so soon. Dues of \$20 should be paid by each member except those who joined since May 2008. You may use the form below. Send your checks to:

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

### 2008-09 Dues

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

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00 Yearly Membership Dues      \_\_\_\_\_ Scholarship

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Have you visited the KCADW website? If not, now is your chance...it is [www.kcadw.com](http://www.kcadw.com). Janice Shoemaker has worked hard to develop the site and make it user friendly plus informative. Please let Janice know by electronic mail or land line if you know of something to be posted for sharing. Visit the site frequently to stay current in local and club happenings. This is your site—only by all of us owning the site will it be fully utilized and valuable.

Another ER dinner has come and gone by the time you read this issue. That is not to say it's an easy process. We all had to work together to make it a success, and we want to THANK Cindy, Gwen and Carol for taking leadership roles in making it happen this year.

Are you wondering about the 2009 Parade Season? Sarah White is our Parade Vice President and will get us into three of the Kendall County parades. Is anyone interested in attending the MLK

march in January as a group? If so, we need a coordinator. This would be a short-term position and involve finding out the date of the March, starting point and coordinating car pooling. We have done this before and it is very worthwhile. The March ends at a park with speeches and food booths. If you're interested please call me at 981-4971 and I will be glad to help you.

Fall is here and Halloween will start the social season. KCADW will host its annual Holiday Party at the Robitailles' on December 11<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 6pm (or whenever the last party goes leave). Spouses & friends are most welcomed to join us as we begin the holidays. Guests are requested to bring a finger food to share and of course don't forget your holiday spirit.

As always stay involved and don't forget to visit the website...[www.kcadw.com](http://www.kcadw.com).

*Jean*



### 2008 Eleanor Roosevelt Dinner

Many thanks to each and every one of you who helped with and attended the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Eleanor Roosevelt Dinner on October 18<sup>th</sup>. In addition to savoring a delicious meal (especially the many wonderful desserts!), we also enjoyed the great opportunity to visit with so many good Democratic friends (and even a few Republican friends). Although the turnout was not as high as we'd hoped, those of us who did attend had a terrific time and found Justice Stone's presentation of immense interest.

Special thanks to the ERD Committee—Carol Carpenter, Gwen King, Katherine Long, Mary Lowery, Cindy Offutt, Josephine Renfroe, and Margaret Sanchez—all of whom volunteered in August to work on the dinner and then ran with it! In addition, a number of members made anonymous donations of cash to help defray the cost of some of the items needed for the dinner and raffle. Special thanks to those members as well—you know who you are.

Everyone made invaluable contributions toward the planning and organizing of our most important fundraiser of this very important election year. JOB WELL DONE. and again, many thanks to everyone who helped make this year's ER Dinner a success.



Our 2008 ER speaker, Justice Catherine Stone

**ERD Lost and Found:** A pie server—to claim it, contact Jean Robitaille.



Front: Dorothy Trotter, Stu Adamslundy, Robert \_\_\_?\_\_\_ and Linda \_\_\_?\_\_\_; Back: Natalie\_\_\_?\_\_\_ and Nancy Sultenfeuss.



Jean Robitaille and Daniel Boone



**THE MESSAGE**  
**of Missed Opportunities, Party Perfidy and**  
**Time Running Out**  
*The Messengers:*  
*Carol Carpenter and Gwen King*

Dear Democrats,

Claire, a friend of ours, has approached the “great divide” between the O people and the H people with a thoughtful, well-written essay on why she supports Obama. In appreciation of her effort, a couple of us offer the following explanation to add to or to complete the dialogue on this extraordinary election. Leonard Pitts, an op-ed columnist whose essays appear in the SA Express-News, wrote a similar piece—not quite as comprehensive as Claire’s as he stuck to the issue of Sarah Palin and “Hillary’s women.” In his article, he said, “And here, let me admit that I’m not quite sure why Hillary’s female supporters are so disgruntled to begin with. Yes, there is disappointment, even bitterness, in seeing a candidate you believed in defeated. But that is politics.” Claire writes, “Those of us who have been inspired by Obama find it is hard to understand why others are not.” These statements are two sides of the same coin.

In order to address the ‘reasons why,’ we need to look at a couple of matters important to the Hillary women and either misunderstood or not considered by these two supporters of Obama. Not having understood or having overlooked them has caused Pitts and Claire to make some incorrect assumptions.

First of all, this is not politics as usual, as Pitts assumes. In past primary elections, we have had a choice between male candidates. If one’s candidate lost out, it was not too much of a stretch to switch allegiance from one man to another, especially if both embraced the Democratic Platform. However, in this election, the candidates did not equally support the Democratic principles. In addition, the Obama advocates are not taking into account that women, particularly women of

our generation, have been working for more than half a century to become full-fledged citizens of this country. (JFK’s political campaign was the first in which Carol had the privilege to work). As long as the “Glass Ceiling” remains in place, albeit with Hillary’s cracks, the highest political office is closed to women and full equality is unrealized. This is unacceptable to us. When given the choices and the promise presented by this election, no JFK-lite is likely to excite us to the point where we abandon our goals for women.

The second matter concerns the message on my bumper sticker. It reads, “Texas Democratic Women—The ♥ Of The Party.” Expand this idea to include all the women from all the states who have been the core supporters of the Democratic Party for more than 30 years. Not only have

women worked in every capacity for the Party, they have carried the Party by voting in larger numbers than have men.

For years, Emily’s List, created in 1987 to support and empower women in the Democratic Party, has been the second largest political action committee in the country (only the National Rifle Association is

larger). Gwen has been a member almost from the start; Carol is a more recent member. Emily’s List supports women candidates all across the nation and trains them to run effective campaigns. Yet, none of this support, money and effort seems to have mattered to the Party, its officials, and offices-holders when the first truly qualified Democratic woman ran for president. The DNC and Speaker Pelosi went so far as to urge Hillary to end her campaign when some of her numbers fell a little below Obama’s. However, they never nagged him to quit during the months of the campaign when she was leading.

Lest we forget, there were seventy-two years between the Seneca Falls Convention, birthplace of the Suffragist Movement, and 1920, the year women finally got the franchise. Since then, another eighty-eight years have passed without a viable woman candidate for president, until now. This is why those of us who have worked for the

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Party and supported the women's movement, or who simply understand its ramifications, found Hillary so exciting. We trusted in her vast experience, and she gave us hope that women would achieve parity in our lifetime. Hillary had paid her dues and she was in the right place at the right moment. We not only had a woman candidate, (an emotional response) but she was the best of the Democratic candidates based on her policies (a rational response). This was our time. For years, women have been there for the Party, but the Party was not there this year for Hillary and her supporters.

There you have it—dedication to a goal that an uneven playing field has once again thwarted, and bitter disappointment with the political party we have so enthusiastically supported. The election choices now available to Hillary's Women are unattractive; their decisions will be made with difficulty and should not be second-guessed by those who did not understand what was to be won or lost in the primary election.

Claire's appeal to the Hillary Women is written to contrast the differences between Obama and McCain. This leads us to assume, correctly or incorrectly, that she believes we are unaware of the differences and therefore are unable to focus on what is at stake. However, most of us are very well informed on the issues. In addition, on every issue the essay addresses, our response is that Hillary's plans would have been better than Obama's when compared to McCain's. Yes, Hillary and some of her former advisers are actively supporting Obama. However, let us be clear about this. It is not because they think him the better Democratic candidate. It is political expediency on their part and a hope of influencing Obama to make better choices on the issues. Indeed, he has already adopted part of her economic plan to help homeowners facing foreclosures.

In conclusion, only one woman, Charlotte Woodward, out of the 200 attending the Seneca Falls Convention lived to cast her vote in 1920 at the age of 91. As with the older Suffragettes, many of us realize time is running out; we may not live to see a woman president. For now, there are no viable Democratic women contenders on the horizon. We know there have been no African-American nominees either. But, 42\* men have been president. Obama is young; his lack of experience is a valid concern. He would have done well to bide his time for just a few years longer. The "Real Change" Obama speaks of would have been to elect Hillary Clinton our first woman president.

*\*Cleveland was counted as #22 & #24 for split terms.*

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### ***Response from Claire:***

Since I was named as one of the people to whom this article was meant as a reply, I'd just like to thank Gwen and Carol for their thoughtful and candid article. I had not meant to imply, in my article on Obama, that any member of the KCADW was uninformed about issues. In fact, my goal had been just the opposite—to write a substantive issue-oriented piece. I meant to fill a void that I felt had been left by speakers from AlamObama at our September meeting. They attempted to rally enthusiasm for Obama among Hillary supporters on a more emotional level rather than a rational one. I felt that the Hillary supporters were owed a more substantive answer to the question, "Why should we support Obama?" I was not trying to rehash the primaries. I was hoping to convince Hillary supporters to look ahead to the general election and vote for Obama/Biden instead of McCain/Palin.

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### **Quote of the Month:**

"Opening up the health insurance market to more vigorous nationwide competition, as we have done over the last decade in banking, would provide more choices of innovative products less burdened by the worst excesses of state-based regulation."

*--John McCain, in a much-quoted article published under his name*

## What Now? Post-Election Action

“Nations have no permanent friends or allies, only permanent interests,” said Lord Palmerston. Voters might say, “we have no permanent candidates, only permanent issues.” After November 4, whether our candidates have won or lost, we will still have issues that are of enormous concern for us. Most of us will welcome a respite after the campaign season, but there is also important work to be done. Here are just a few ideas:

### Demand Health Care Reform

We voters are deeply troubled by the ever-rising health care costs and the 46 million Americans who lack any health insurance. No matter who is elected to the White House, the Senate and the House will be essential for the public to demand urgent action on health care. For those of us wanting to become more involved in this issue, we can contact Divided We Fail ([www.DividedWeFail.org](http://www.DividedWeFail.org) or call Rafael Ayuso, AARP Texas, 512-419-8299) and Health Care for All Texas ([www.healthcareforalltexas.org](http://www.healthcareforalltexas.org), P.O. Box 421704, Houston, Texas). HCFAT advocates a single-payer universal health coverage plan for all Texans.



### Community Service: Increasingly Important

Many KCADW members are active in programs that serve our community, such as mentoring public school students, volunteering in health clinics, working with food banks, volunteering at the Cibolo Nature Center, the Library and much more. These often invisible actions are the glue that binds a community together, and women are usually the main providers of that glue.

### Demand Action on Alternate Energy

One may well despise the T. Boone Pickens that was raiding corporations in the wild 1980s or financing the Swift boaters in 2004, but he is onto something with energy. It is well worth studying his plan that calls for an all-out push to convert trucks to natural gas and push for investment in the infrastructure necessary to get the electricity generated by wind to the grids where it is needed. Of course, he will profit from this since he is erecting wind turbines throughout West Texas. That doesn't mean he's wrong about what we need to do. Visit his website at: [www.pickensplan.com](http://www.pickensplan.com). For a purer source of information and activism, visit the Sierra Club's energy project.

### Science in Schools and Religious Freedom

For those of us who are troubled by efforts to weaken the instruction of mainstream science in our public schools and the influence of the religious right-wing in all aspects of public life, there is the Texas Freedom Network, [www.tfn.org](http://www.tfn.org) or 512-322-0545. TFN advances a mainstream agenda of religious freedom and individual liberties to counter the religious right. Founded in 1995, the Texas Freedom Network is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization of more than 28,000 religious and community leaders.

### **Not Too Late to Visit the Democratic Party HQ in Boerne**

**If you haven't stopped in to visit the local Democratic Party Headquarters, you still have a few days to do so before the election. Thanks to financial support from the KCADW, the Kendall County Democrats Club, and individual donors, the County Democratic Party opened a successful headquarters for election season. Democrats and independents, and maybe even some Republicans, have been dropping by to chat and to pick up candidates' literature, yard signs, T-shirts, bumper stickers, and buttons. Donations to cover costs are encouraged.**

**The HQ is at 716 South Main St. in Boerne, just north of the Catholic Church, on the same side of the street. You will see the Democratic signs in front. It's open 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, until after Election Day.**

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

