

Kendall County Area Democratic Women

September 1, 2008 • Volume 10, Issue 1



KCADW Voice

From the President

We are doing it! What is “it”? Staying active and involved. The retreat was a huge success. Our brainstorming and volunteering were present in spades. Those of you on email have already seen a request for ER dinner volunteers, and for the slow mail members, read on. Attendees got to know new members Bobbie Grover and Claire Oxley Gluck better. We had a real sense of reward, renewal and RE-learning about each other, and we determined that our January 2009 meeting will be a “Founders Day” program honoring our TEN years as an organization. Are you exhausted yet? Your Board will be busy for months sifting through new ideas and suggestions on how to lead us into our next TEN years. To say the least, we are *RENEWED* as we conclude this election cycle and prepare to move into a new non-election period. Before I forget, I want to mention that we dined on great cookies and even some healthy things for lunch from the six hostesses who treated us for the retreat. Please accept our heartfelt THANKS.

New Business included the election of 08-09 officers that will be installed at the September meeting. The proposed slate was accepted without change. A really **Big Thank You** goes out to all those who volunteered their valuable time and

experience. I regret to announce that Julia Camarigg has had to resign due to health concerns. We wish Julia and her family all the best as she deals with major orthopedic issues over the next year. Julia promises to be an active member and stay INVOLVED. News of a more upbeat nature is that the Voice position was accepted by Claire Oxley Gluck. Thanks to both of these ladies for their time and efforts. The thank-you to Carol Carpenter for her many years as Voice Editor and coordinator can not be fully expressed by me. Carol, with the support of Mr. Carol, better known as John, donated countless hours to developing the quality newsletter that we now enjoy. WELL DONE, Carol, for all your efforts and editorial cartoons. Fortunately, Carol and her imaginative brain will stay involved with the club. You can see the list of our new officers on page 2.

With Julia’s immediate resignation from 1st Vice President, this year’s ER dinner will be managed by a robust committee of ladies led by Gwen King and Cindy Offutt and with lots of support and encouragement from all of us. They have already sent out emails asking for volunteers for specific tasks, and those of you on slow mail, please read on for more information.

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The September Program

Judy Hall, our September speaker, is a long-time supporter of the Obama Campaign. She attended the National Convention in Denver as an at-large delegate. Her current titles include Co-chair of AlamObama, a grass roots organization for San Antonio, and Co-chair Texas Obama Volunteer Leaders, which is a state-wide organization. Judy attended a training camp for Obama supporters in Chicago in 2007 and has been with the Obama campaign for all his local visits.

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 Ruthann Timmer 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

Mark Your Calendar:

September 2 and October 6: Blue Tuesdays—a fun, casual gathering of Kendall area Democrats on the first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Dodging Duck on River Road.

September 4, 7:00 pm: Kendall County Democratic Club meeting at the Boerne ISD Administration Bldg., 123 Johns Road in Boerne. Brian Blumhorst will speak about his experiences at the National Convention as a Clinton delegate, and Judy McMillan will speak about Barack Obama. .

September 5: First day to apply for mail-in ballot.



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.

September 6, 3:00 pm–4:30 pm: *Meet the Democratic candidates!*

Kendall County Democratic Party is hosting nine candidates at the Boerne Middle School North Auditorium on Johns Road.

- ✓ Rick Noriega, U.S. Senate
- ✓ Judge Catherine Stone, re-election as Justice, Fourth court of Appeals
- ✓ Judge Linda Yanez, Texas Supreme Court, Place 8
- ✓ Dan Boone, Texas Legislature, District 73
- ✓ Gwen King, Kendall County Tax Assessor/Collector
- ✓ Judge JR Molina, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 4
- ✓ Judge Jim Jordan, Texas Supreme Court, Chief Justice
- ✓ Judge Sam Houston, Texas Supreme Court, Place 7
- ✓ Mark Thompson, Railroad Commissioner

September 11, 10:00: KCADW meeting at the Holiday Inn in Boerne, 35000 IH 10 West.

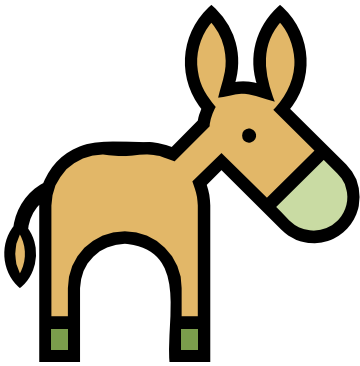
September 26: First Obama-McCain debate.

A South Texas Democrat in King George's County

By Janice Shoemaker (with apologies to Mark Twain)

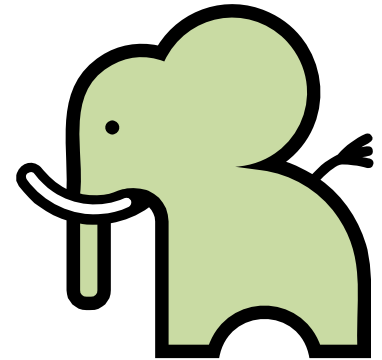
I can recall the exact moment back in the fall of 1998 when I first became aware that my husband and I were moving into a county overwhelmingly dominated by Republicans. We were staying at the Best Western while we worked on clearing cedar from our lot, one day to be our home. Finishing off the day with a well-earned pint of Haagen-Dazs, I settled down with the *Boerne Star* we had picked up at HEB and flipped through the local news. I scanned the precinct totals from the recent local and statewide elections, and what I saw nearly made me drop my chocolate chip cookie dough.

“Look at this!” I yelled. “Our votes are never going to count again!” Local races didn’t even have Democratic candidates, and in the statewide races, Democrats’ totals were worse than pathetic. This was a shocker to us, coming from Galveston County, where people said “working class” without making a face as if smelling a bag of dog poop. It was certainly an eye opener to realize how thoroughly “our kind” had been purged from political control in Boerne, but it wasn’t until we moved here in 2000 that we truly came to appreciate the challenges faced by non-repentant liberal Democrats in this conservative land.



To be sure, we all have our stories to tell, but my husband actually got a death threat once. . . well, sort of. It was at the local barber shop about five years ago, where the crotchety old barber cutting his hair was ranting about “the Democrats,” although I can’t imagine what he could have been blaming us for since we had no power at all at that time. Mike endured the barrage without comment; after all, he was unarmed and the barber had scissors, waving them around menacingly. Finally, as he was finishing up and shaking out the cape, he announced, “What we need to do is just kill all the

Democrats.” Mike pulled out his wallet, paid for the haircut (no tip), and told him that he wouldn’t have to worry about this Democrat any more because he’d never be back.



The frightening thing about this kind of behavior is that so many people feel entitled to talk that way around others whose political leanings they can’t know, but they assume to be just like their own. While we’re certainly seeing major Democratic gains in the past few years, especially in this election year, we’re still a distinct minority, and we must still fight the ingrained attitude that Republicans are the status quo and that Democrats, if allowed to exist at all, should remain invisible and silent.

We face a challenge in making our voices heard and gaining the respect of our neighbors who often consider our political opinions to be ignorant and low-brow, or possibly even threatening. These are otherwise intelligent people, good friends and neighbors, and we’re unlikely to change their attitudes, so how do we at least get along with them congenially without bowing to their bigotry?

I believe the best defense is a good offense, so I take every reasonable opportunity to let people know my positions and party affiliation. A MoveOn sticker on the car is one hint, and campaign signs in the yard are an obvious indication, but that only helps if someone sees my car or my house. Now that I have a donkey pin, I wear that out and about when I think about it, and I’m not above making a casual reference to participating in the Democratic caucus, or going to see Hillary at St. Mary’s, or needing to work on the newsletter for KCADW—anything that establishes my position. You see, this is code for “I’m a Democrat, and if you are, too, then it’s safe to speak openly with me about it.” I’ve discovered several other “stealth Democrats” this way. My very favorite moment was a few months ago, when I had been intending to start coming to KCADW meetings but hadn’t yet done so. During a rare quiet moment at our neighborhood weekly Scrabble group, a fairly new neighbor (obviously not from around here) suddenly spoke out, asking, “Has anyone been to the Democratic Women’s Club?” I was delighted to say, “Not yet, but another friend

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and I have been talking about it, so let's all go next week." And we all did. This type of announcement also serves to warn the diehard Republicans that they should be cautious what they say around us. They may not agree with us, but they can refrain from bad-mouthing us, our candidates, and our ideas, at least in our presence.

We still have a long way to go in convincing the Boerne establishment that we're here. Even my dentist (a fine dentist) was recently guilty of making offensive remarks to my friend, comparing a root canal to having Hillary as president. She politely told him that she didn't think that would be so bad, which took him by surprise, to say the least. Then a few weeks ago, during a brief encounter I had with a casual acquaintance, this man inexplicably made a derogatory remark about Democrats. When I quickly professed to being a Democrat, he continued to rail, telling me he'd pray for me.

Yes, we still have a long way to go.

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Our new Program Chair Susanne Rupp has lots of newly-focused speaker ideas/options in mind as she fills a non-election year with exciting programs to keep you coming back for more. If you know of or have interest in a special subject, please contact Susanne with your thoughts and ideas. Thank you to Nancy Sultenfuss for coordinating all the interesting candidates we had this year. Our '09 Retreat is already in the works and will be moved to May to avoid the heat. It will again be on a Saturday to accommodate a longer day and working members. Sarah White and the Rupp family have teamed up to be our parade coordinators. So dust off your parade paraphernalia and prepare to represent DEMOCRATS locally in the coming year.

We have several members to report on. Ferne Rooker is currently residing at Heritage Place in Boerne. Ferne has recently had some health issues that required she seek more assistance with daily living activities. Ferne reports that she is feeling strong and ready for calls and company. Winnie Orton, a resident of Heritage Place, has moved from Boerne to Austin to be closer to family. Winnie enjoyed the company of Lou Janes while a resident of Heritage Place and we will miss her. Margaret Turner has also had some health issues recently that are limiting her activity. Margaret promises to stay as involved as her health will allow. We wish these ladies and anyone we don't know about a speedy return to good life.

As I conclude this issue, I want to personally thank all you dear and important friends for the cards and notes Bill, the Headleys and I have received from all of you on the occasion of my mother's death. As many of you noted, she was a special lady to our family and will be missed by us. Thank You from my HEART.

Jean

Membership Report

Directory Changes

Ferne Rooker

Winnie Orton

Margaret Turner

Claire Oxley Gluck

<p>So that we may keep the Directory up to date, contact the Membership Chair and the editor with changes to your information.</p>

A note from *The Voice's* new managing editor: Claire Oxley Gluck

As Jean noted in her report, I've taken over as managing editor from Carol Carpenter, and am delighted to have this opportunity. Carol has done such an excellent job that I am daunted at the prospect of maintaining her high standards. However, after my first conversation with Janice Shoemaker, our technical editor, I felt certain that together we would be able to produce a quality product. I welcome your comments and suggestions; please send them to clairegluck@gvtc.com.

By way of brief introduction, I was born and reared in Texas, where I earned my BA in Political Science and Economics from Trinity University in San Antonio and my Masters of Public Affairs at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at UT Austin. I worked for two not-for-profit organizations in Austin that worked with the Texas Legislature, then I joined the Foreign Service. I spent 20 years as an American diplomat in the Middle East, Africa, Europe and Washington, DC. I retired in September of 2007 and moved to Boerne with my husband, Michael.

My involvement in politics began on March 4, when Michael and I attended our precinct caucus. We were amazed to discover there were so many other Democrats in our precinct. I'd expected to huddle with just a few others. Michael and I became Obama delegates to the Kendall County convention. I was elected to be an Obama delegate to the Texas Democratic Convention, and was chosen to represent our Senate District on the Platform Committee. Now I am busy with the Blue Tuesday group, have joined KCADW, and am honored to have become the editor of *The Voice*. I will be working hard to get Democrats elected this year and looking forward to collaborating with you in that challenge. YES WE CAN!

Bush Quote of the Month

"We cannot let terrorists and rogue nations hold this nation hostile or hold our allies hostile."

—Des Moines, Iowa, August 21, 2000

Recommended Reading

Speaking of quotes, here are some amusing quotes from a book entitled *The Nastiest Things Ever said About Republicans*, edited by Martin Higgins. Not all are expressly about Republicans, but they seem to fit.

"They keep talking about writing a constitution for Iraq. Why don't we just give them ours? It was written by a lot of really smart guys, it's worked for over two hundred years, and we're not using it anymore."

--George Carlin

"At this point, why don't we just hand Halliburton the keys to the U.S. Treasury and tell them to turn out the lights when they are done?"

—Senator Frank Lautenberg

"I have been thinking that I would make a proposition to my Republican friends...that if they will stop telling lies about the Democrats, we will stop telling the truth about them."

—Senator Adlai Stevenson

"When I see flags sprouting on official lapels, I think of the time in China when I saw Mao's 'Little Red Book' on every official's desk, omnipresent and unread."

—Bill Moyers



10 Things Every Woman Should Know About John McCain



1. John McCain **opposes equal pay legislation**, saying it wouldn't do "anything to help the rights of women."
2. John McCain **opposes requiring health care plans to cover prescription birth control**.
3. John McCain **opposes** comprehensive medically accurate **sex education**.
4. John McCain **opposes common sense funding to prevent unintended and teen pregnancies**.
5. John McCain **opposes funding for public education** about emergency contraception.
6. John McCain **opposes** restoring family planning **services for low-income women**.
7. John McCain **opposes Roe v. Wade** and says it should be overturned.
8. John McCain **wants to nominate** Supreme Court justices who are "clones" of **conservative Justices** Alito and Roberts.
9. When asked whether contraceptives help stop the spread of HIV, **John McCain said he was "stumped."**
10. In his 25 years in Washington, D.C., John McCain has **voted against women's reproductive rights and privacy 125 times**.

You can check it out: 1. Washington Post 4/7/08; 2. Roll Call Vote, 3/11/03; 3. Roll Call Vote, 7/25/06; 4. Roll Call Vote, 3/17/05; 5. Roll Call Vote, 3/17/05; 5. Roll Call Vote, 3/17/05; 6. Roll Call Vote, 3/17/05; 7. Roll Call Vote, 3/12/03; Associated Press, 2/18/07; 8. The Swamp blog, *Baltimore Sun*, 1/28/08; 9. The Caucus blog, *New York Times*, 3/16/07; 10. www.meettherealmccain.com.

Hillary Clinton's Campaign Debt

At the KCADW retreat, members who had supported Senator Clinton in the primaries asked for a progress report on her campaign debt retirement.

How much is owed? According to campaign reports filed with the FEC on July 20, which includes campaign figures from 6/1/2008 through 6/30/2008, Clinton has \$26.7 million cash on hand; however, \$23 million is designated for the general election. The campaign debt totals \$25.2 million, including almost \$13.2 million that Clinton loaned herself. Including these loans, the campaign has approximately \$21.5 million in debt to retire. The campaign's debts and obligations total \$12 million. This includes \$5.3 million for Mark Penn's firm.

Is there a deadline? Clinton has until the convention to raise money to retire her presidential campaign debt; after that the debt can be transferred to her Senate campaign, where funds can be raised to retire the debt, or with FEC approval, she can renegotiate payment with some of her vendors. Campaign finance experts disagree about whether Clinton can use general election funds to retire her campaign debt, according to the *New York Times*.

How to Contribute: Clinton supporters who wish to contribute to retiring her debt may do so online: <http://www.hillaryclinton.com>. Here's the fine print that applies to all federal political contributions: Your contribution is not tax-deductible for federal income tax purposes. An individual may contribute a maximum of \$2,300 per election to any one candidate. Corporations and individuals are strictly prohibited from reimbursing another person for making a contribution to Friends of Hillary. To comply with federal law, we must use best efforts to obtain, maintain, and submit the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer of an individual whose contributions exceed \$200 in an election cycle.

Recommended Democratic Websites

The following websites provide enormous amounts of information, volunteer opportunities and, of course, a quick and easy way to donate to their campaigns.

Candidates' websites:

Barack Obama for President: <http://my.barackobama.com>; www.alamobama08.com;

<http://my.barackobama.com/page/content/fighththesmearhome>;

<http://my.barackobama.com/page/content/resourceflyers>

Rick Noriega for U.S. Senate: <http://www.ricknoriega.com>

Daniel Boone for Texas Legislature: <http://www.boonefortexas.com>

Jim Jordan for Chief Justice of TX Supreme Ct: <http://judgejimjordan.com>

Linda Yanez for TX Supreme Court: <http://www.lindayanez.com>

Sam Houston for TX Supreme Court: <http://www.samhoustonforjustice.com>

Mark Thompson for RR Comm: <http://www.markfortexas.com/>



Official Party websites:

Texas Democratic Party: <http://www.txdemocrats.org>

Bexar County Democrats: <http://www.bexardemocrats.org>

Unofficial sources of information and gossip about Texas Democrats:

<http://hillcountrydemocrats.com>

<http://annieslist.com/>

<http://www.thedemocraticstrategist.org>

<http://www.burntorangereport.com>

<http://www.thetexasblue.com>

<http://kendallian.blogspot.com>



Eleanor Roosevelt Dinner

Boerne Convention Center

October 18, 2008

Wine at 6:00 p.m. – Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Plans are well underway for our 10th Annual Eleanor Roosevelt Dinner. Justice Catherine M. Stone, Justice on the 4th Court of Appeals for Texas (and candidate for Chief Justice of that court) is our featured speaker. Her presentation should be of great interest to everyone!

We will be asking for volunteers to help address invitations (first week in October), transport supplies from our storage unit to the convention center on October 17, set up for the dinner on October 17, and clear tables and repack after the dinner. We also need volunteers to make potato casseroles (we have copies of the recipe) and 12 to 14 desserts of your choice – homemade please.

If you can help with any of these tasks, please call or email:

- Gwen at gwenjking@aol.com, 830-755-4434, or 210-862-4438
- Cindy Offutt at fcoffutt@yahoo.com or 210-698-5009

We will be signing up volunteers at KCADW's meeting on September 11. We will also inform you as plans move forward on whether there will be a silent auction and/or any changes.

Put the ER Dinner on your calendar now and invite your friends!

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

