



Kendall County Area Democratic Women

September 1, 2011 • Volume 13, Issue 1



From the President

Greetings All!

I hope everyone is staying cool and safe during these dog-days of summer. How anyone in these parts can doubt the science on climate change is beyond me, but the latest polls show that a significant number of Americans don't "believe" in climate change and/or don't "believe" that humans are changing the planet's climate. Go figure!

I bring this up because I think it confirms (as if we needed more confirmation) that there are significant numbers of Americans out there who have crossed over to the dark side of utter irrationality. It's very disconcerting and very discouraging, but irrationality appears to have taken hold in very large numbers and on very important issues, to include:

- How can we hope to provide a quality education to Texas's children when class sizes can range up to 40?
- How can we hope to put the country on a sustainable path when our elected officials put their oath to Grover Norquist ahead of their oath to the Constitution?
- How can we hope to maintain our essential social safety net when so many people apparently want to privatize and voucherize Medicare, Social Security, and Medicaid?

This trend towards irrationality makes it almost impossible to figure out how to persuade normal, reasonable, non-dogmatic people (i.e., most Americans) that the Democratic Party and its policies are their best hope. If silly things like FACTS and RATIONAL ANALYSIS don't matter, how on earth can we hope to build a society that is able to overcome the very many, very major, very systemic problems that we currently face?

I'm afraid I don't know the answer. I just know that dealing with the extreme irrationality that has engulfed America is the biggest trial we face in the 2012 election.

So what, you might ask, does that mean for ourselves and our club and for Kendall County Democrats? I recently had the opportunity to discuss this and other issues with the Bexar County Democratic Chairwoman, Choco Meza. As many of you know, she is a member of the DNC and was recently nominated by President Obama to the Commission on Presidential Scholars. Chairwoman Meza has also been actively involved in the Democratic Party's effort to push back against the Republican messaging machine.

Interestingly, Chairwoman Meza echoed what our own John Weir told us at our retreat in May. When we hear a lie, we must answer with the truth. When we hear such things as, "My vote doesn't

(Continued on Page 3)

IN THIS ISSUE:

- **Countdown to the ERD!** The speaker is set, the invitations are on their way, the decorations are almost ready, and the silent auction is taking shape. Read all about our exciting plans for this year's Eleanor Roosevelt Dinner—Page 3.

Have you made your reservation yet?

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KCADW Website: <http://kcadw.com>

Mark Your Calendar:

Sept. 1, 7:00 p.m.: KCDC meeting, Patrick Heath Public Library, Boerne

September 4: LABOR DAY national holiday.



Sept. 8, 10:00 a.m.: KCADW Membership meeting, Boerne's Patrick Heath Public Library, 451 North Main Street.

Sept. 22, 10:00 a.m.: Board meeting—location to be announced.

Sept. 30, 6:00 p.m.: Eleanor Roosevelt Dinner, Fair Oaks Ranch Country Club. See stories on Pages 3 and 4.

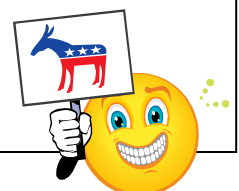
Are you receiving the *Voice* in the mail?

Since you signed up, have you gotten connected to the Internet so that you could receive it online? If so, consider switching over to the electronic version. You will save the club the cost of printing and mailing and save some trees, too. Call Susanne Rupp, 210-698-0559.

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

s-rupp@satx.rr.com or
210-698-0559.



Membership

Welcome to new member: Emily Hartigan, Boerne
emilyhartigan1@gmail.com

(Continued from Page 1)

matter,” we must point out just how close oh-so-many elections have been. When we hear or read unwarranted attacks on progressive principles, we must point out just how Democratic policies have improved the lives of ordinary Americans. When we hear the never-ending, always-negative anti-Obama pronouncements of Republican and Tea Party spinmeisters, we must always spotlight just how much good he and his administration have actually done during his first term of office.

Bottom line: No matter how bad it gets—and it’s definitely going to get bad—we must persevere.

Cheers,
CindyO

FINALLY ALMOST HERE—THE 13TH ANNUAL ERD

WHAT: ERD
WHEN: FRIDAY, SEPT. 30,
6:00 P.M.
WHERE: FAIR OAKS RANCH
COUNTRY CLUB

After months of planning and hard work, we’re almost ready to launch our once-a-year celebration, the Eleanor Roosevelt Dinner. It promises to be an evening of fun, fellowship, and inspiration.

Co-Chairs for this year’s event are Bobbie Grover and Janice Shoemaker. Committee members working on all aspects of the planning are Luster Culver, Beth Wirth, Kathleen de Leon, Susanne Rupp, Gloria Davila, and Margaret Sanchez.

For the second consecutive year, we will be holding the dinner at the Fair Oaks Ranch Country Club. You won’t want to miss this opportunity to spend time with some of the nicest people in Kendall County and the surrounding areas, while hearing from one of Texas’s most steadfast champions of public education, Texas Representative Donna Howard. And be sure to tell your friends about it, too. We welcome the chance to meet new people and spread the word about our club.



Our silent auction will include a number of unique items, from beautiful artwork and gifts to useful services. If you have something you’d like to contribute to the silent auction, please contact Janice or Bobbie or one of the other committee members right away.

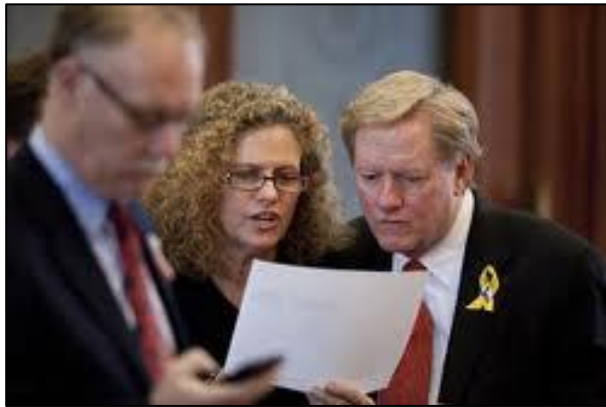


Representative Donna Howard Our Speaker at Eleanor Roosevelt Dinner

Our ERD speaker, Donna Howard, is a woman of many accomplishments in several fields. She has been a critical care nurse and then was the first hospital-based Patient Education Coordinator in Austin. She has also served as President of the Texas Nurses Association (District 5) and as a Health Education instructor at UT. Her website states, “A recognized expert on public education, Howard was elected to the Eanes ISD board in West Austin where she served from 1996 to 1999 and was certified as a Master School Trustee by the Texas Association of School Boards. She co-founded the parent organization Advocates for Eanes Schools and helped form the Texas Education Crisis Coalition, a



grassroots group of parents, business owners and community leaders working together to tackle the public school finance issue.” Currently she is Representative to the Texas Legislature from District 48.



During this year’s special legislative session, she added language to an amendment to SB 2 by Rep. Jessica Farrar to appropriate any new money that comes to the “Rainy Day Fund” to school districts to help cover the cost of enrollment growth in 2012 and 2013. Unfortunately the amendment did not make it into the final budget bill. Despite this small setback, her record shows Rep. Howard is a woman for whom there are great expectations. We eagerly anticipate her talk on September 30th.



My Turn on the Soapbox

By Janice Shoemaker

Like most people, I have a middle name, but its main use when I was a child was for my mother to call me out when I was in trouble. “Janice **ELAINE!**” she would yell. And so I did to my daughters: “Cindy **LEE!**” or (to the daughter with no actual middle name) “Le**ANNE!**” The stress on the last part is important.

Sometimes lately I wish I could stand in the place of President Obama’s mother and yell, “Barrack **HUSSEIN!**” or simply “Bar**RACK!**” The implication is clear: I love you, but you’re in trouble, and if you don’t get back on the right track, you’re gonna be sorry. Listen to your conscience—your moral center—and do what you know is right instead of trying to be popular with that crowd of bullies.

Are you ready to take *YOUR* turn on the soapbox?

Let your *VOICE* be heard!

Send us your gripe, your comment, your position—whatever you’d like to get off your chest. Your soapbox is waiting.

The Eleanor Roosevelt Dinner – A Brief History

When our founders and early members first organized KCADW, one of their goals was to bring together Democrats – especially Democratic women – in order to support and grow the Democratic Party in Kendall County. To this end, these pioneering women decided to host an annual dinner.

When Alice Braly suggested that we honor Eleanor Roosevelt each fall, KCADW members were very enthusiastic about the idea. Though it has changed over the years, our Eleanor Roosevelt Dinners (“ERDs” for short) have always been a group enterprise and most members have at one time or another actively participated in the ERD effort. In the beginning, members bought and cooked the food, provided the place-settings, and did the clean-up themselves. Later on, we bought our own china, glassware, flatware, serving pieces, and table linens to use at our ERDs. Most recently, we have contracted with the Fair Oaks Ranch Country Club to cater the meal.



An important part of every ERD has always been the outstanding guest speakers we’ve invited, to include such notable Texans as Trinity professor (and icon) Dr. Coleen Grissom, feminist (and liberal icon) Liz Carpenter, Ambassador Bob Krueger, San Antonio columnist Jan Jarboe Russell, author Lou DuBose, and former Houston mayor and 2010 gubernatorial candidate Bill White, to name but a few. Last year we welcomed Alice O’Grady, who performed as Eleanor Roosevelt.



This year’s ERD speaker will be Texas State Representative Donna Howard (D-Austin), who will speak on “Education and the Future of Texas.” With her years of experience in both public health and public education, Representative Howard has expertise and leadership skills that have placed her at the center of the growing effort to champion mainstream values in the Texas legislature.

Our 2011 ERD should be a very enjoyable event, and we hope to see many of you there!

(Source: *Spunk, Strawberry Scones, and Parades* by Gwen King and Carol Carpenter)

Hold Them Accountable: How Our Representatives Voted in Washington

Note: The House and Senate are in recess until September 6.

In the U.S. Senate

Confirmation of Robert S. Mueller III to be Director of the FBI

Vote Confirmed (100-0). The Senate agreed to extend the term of Federal Bureau of Investigation director Robert S. Mueller III through September 4, 2013. The FBI director is limited to one 10-year term and Mueller’s term began in August 2001. The president signed legislation earlier in the week to allow Mueller to serve an additional two years.

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison voted **YES**

Sen. John Cornyn voted **YES**

In Both Houses

Budget Control Act of 2011

Vote Passed (269-161, 3 Not Voting). The House passed this bill that raises the debt limit, caps discretionary spending for ten years, establishes a bipartisan committee to identify additional spending cuts, and requires a vote on a balanced budget amendment to the constitution. The Senate gave final approval to the bill the next day, clearing it for the president, who signed it into law.

Rep. Francisco Canseco voted **YES**

Rep. Lamar Smith voted **YES**

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison voted **YES**

Sen. John Cornyn voted **YES**

The KCADW Nominating Committee Meets Soon

The nominating committee of Gwen Adrian, Luster Culver, Dora Esquivel, and Bobbie Grover will be meeting soon to come up with a slate of board and committee members for our year 2012. The board consists of 5 officers, the immediate Past President, and three additional members. Standing committees are Publicity/Outreach, Programs/Education, Membership, and Newsletter.

If you, or someone you know, would like to be considered for any of these positions, please contact one of the above committee members. Board and Committee Elections will be held at the November membership meeting and will be installed in January 2012.

Kendall County Area Democratic Women
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