



Kendall County Area Democratic Women

December 1, 2011 • Volume 13, Issue 4



From the President

Greetings All!

I trust everyone had a good Thanksgiving! As we look ahead to 2012, it's clear we have many things to be thankful for – to include such things as the Occupy Wall Street movement, which has, if nothing else, at least refocused the conversation on the indefensible power of Wall Street and Big Money in our politics and on the horrendous income inequality that exists in our country. In this regard, it will be interesting to see whether the movement expands to DC next year in an effort to hold our elected officials accountable for some of the mess we're in!

That said, it's impossible to avoid the conclusion that next year's election will be nothing short of a pitched battle – an elemental clash of fundamental philosophies that could all too easily turn ugly. Democrats believe that the social safety net is an essential component of any civilized society – what Paul Krugman has described as “the moral imperative of providing basic security to our fellow citizens and helping those in need.” On the other hand, Republicans believe that the welfare state is immoral because it essentially compels citizens to hand their money over to other people.

Add to this tangle the fact that the U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear argument on the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act – and

will likely issue its opinion in June, just five short months before the general election – and it becomes clear that 2012 could prove to be one of the most momentous years in recent history.

All of which begs the question – what can we do to make a difference?

Within our bright red state and community, our efforts to educate and persuade others about progressive principles can often be very discouraging. Still, I think there are many reasons to believe that we are in fact affecting the way independent-thinking citizens make their political judgments. For example, one of our longtime members recently told us that a group of Cordillera residents has started meeting periodically to discuss progressive politics and provide some good Democratic camaraderie. In addition, our club's membership continues to increase, with quite a few new members joining in the last several months.

As I transition out of my current position with the club, I would like to encourage you all to keep after it! Keep hosting great programs – and keep publicizing them within our community, as this draws in new people who might not otherwise have known we are here! Keep supporting John's efforts to Get-Out-The-Vote! Keep writing columns and letters to the editor that articulate progressive

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- Mail-in form for annual membership renewal
- Good news about Texas redistricting
- Updates on Holiday Party and Planned Parenthood luncheon
- Bobbie's Soapbox proposal

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

Mark Your Calendar:

Dec. 8: KCADW and KCDC Holiday Party at home of Marilyn Harrington and Steve Smith; see page 4.

Dec. 15, 11:00 a.m.: Board meeting, Patrick Heath Public Library conference room.



Jan. 5, 7:00 p.m.: KCDC meeting, Patrick Heath Public Library.

Jan. 12, 10:00 a.m.: KCADW membership meeting, Patrick Heath Public Library, Boerne.

Looking Ahead

Mar. 6: Primary election.

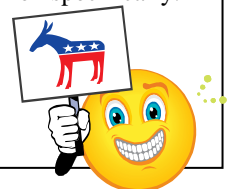
Mar. 23, approximately: Kendall Co. Democratic Convention.

Mar. 27: Planned Parenthood Luncheon with Diane Rehm. Mary Lowery is our member to contact. See article on Page 4.

June 7, 8, & 9: State Democratic Convention, Houston.

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 Report

Welcome to our newest members:

Rebecca Froboese
27337 Ranch Creek
Boerne, TX 78006
210-415-9889
rebecca.froboese@gmail.com

Patricia Deas
8423 Northview Pass
Fair Oaks Ranch, TX 78015
830-368-4251
triciadeas@gmail.com

Annual Membership Renewal

January begins a new year for KCADW. Dues are \$20 and should be paid by each member except those who joined since August 2011. Members for whom the dues are a hardship may request a scholarship (free) membership. Please fill out the form below and send with your checks to:

Luster Culver
22 Waring Welfare Road
Boerne, TX 78006

2011-2012 Dues

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Request scholarship _____

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principles and show how those principles are pro-middle class, pro-working class, indeed pro-American. Keep supporting local charitable efforts that effectively put our name out there in front of the public!

In short, keep up the good work!

I hope everyone will attend January’s meeting. Our new executive board and committee chairs will be installed, but perhaps more importantly, we’ll start work on a tentative schedule of events for 2012! It’s never been more important to stand together as Democrats – and to show that we’re here to stay!

Cheers,
CindyO

Thank You from Hill Country Daily Bread

I want to sincerely thank the women of KCADW for your incredible generosity with regard to Hill Country Daily Bread’s Christmas Gift Program for needy children. Members of KCADW contributed \$625 to this program! This will enable us to purchase movie tickets for the teenagers, as well as gifts for children who have not been sponsored. It’s so nice to be among women who care about the welfare of others. Thank you again for living your values and having such caring, generous hearts!

Kathy Bandujo

Redistricting in Texas: New Hope for Dems and Hispanics

Thanksgiving weekend brought some welcome news for Democrats and Hispanics in Texas: A U.S. Federal Court refused to block its redrawing of the Congressional District map, giving Hispanics a better chance to elect U.S. Representatives. This is, of course, only right because Hispanics account for about 87 percent of the population growth in Texas, which gave Texas four new Congressional seats after the 2010 census.

The Republican-controlled Texas Legislature had drawn its own gerrymandered map, which would have minimized chances for Hispanics, as well as leaving long-standing Austin Representative Lloyd Doggett without a safe district. Minority groups had filed a lawsuit challenging the Legislature's map, and the court's map was a response to that lawsuit. Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott then tried to block implementation of the new map, but late Friday, the Court refused, leaving its map in effect at least until (and unless) it is rejected by the U.S. Supreme Court.

This doesn't mean that Texas will turn blue anytime soon, but it certainly gives Texas Democrats a better shot at making some gains in Congress. Doggett and Joaquin Castro (who had planned to run for Congress, but would have had to challenge Doggett under the Republicans' plan) will now be able to run in separate districts.

The court also redrew maps for Texas Senate and House districts, which observers believe will give Democrats a chance to increase representation in the State Legislature.

For complete information on the new districts and how they will affect our area Representatives, you can check out websites of the San Antonio Express-News and the local television stations.

This is my last issue as Managing Editor of the Voice. It has been my privilege to serve the last two years. I couldn't have done it without the technical help of Janice Shoemaker Your new editor will be Cindy Offutt, who will handle both the editorial and the technical.

Susanne Rupp, Managing Editor

Diane Rehm to Speak at PP Luncheon

Planned Parenthood's annual San Antonio luncheon will feature NPR's Diane Rehm this year, so mark your calendar for March 27, 2012. KCADW will sponsor two tables for the event.

Mary Lowery, who is making arrangements for the club, reported recently that there was only one space left at our two tables, plus the one that is being donated in a drawing in January.

If you have not talked to or emailed Mary since November 17, please confirm with her by either email or telephone. If you have paid, say whether it was by check or credit card. If you have not paid, she really needs to talk to you. She will arrange car pools much closer to the time of the luncheon. She needs your commitment in November and payment in December in order to trigger matching funds which will be donated to Planned Parenthood's programs.





Holiday Party Come one, Come All!



Once again, our KCADW and KCDC members will be celebrating the holidays together. Marilyn Harrington and her husband Steve Smith are opening their home to fellow Democrats to celebrate the season. Please bring finger food to share and your choice of beverage. Please RSVP to Marilyn at marilynh@gvtc.com. Directions and the gate code will be sent to those who RSVP to attend. Hope to see you all there!

Let's Get Carmen on the Ballot!

Carmen Samaniego, a former KCADW member and active Kendall County Democrat, is looking for our help. She has recently returned to the area after moving to Washington, D.C. in 2009, then serving a year in Pakistan as a foreign service officer. She has resigned from her position with the government in order to run for Justice of the Fourth Court of Appeals, Place 7. She and four other candidates are trying to take back the Fourth Court in 2012, and she needs our help in getting signatures before December 15 to be placed on the ballot.

Carmen will not be in town for the Holiday Party, but if you will bring your voter registration card, we'll have the petition there for you to sign and be one of the 750 signatures she needs.

Hold Them Accountable: How Our Representatives Voted in Washington

In the Senate

Motion to Proceed; Net Neutrality disapproval

Vote **Rejected** (46-52, 2 Not Voting). The Senate rejected a move to prohibit the Federal Communications Commission's "net neutrality" rule from taking effect on November 20. The rule will prohibit broadband service providers from blocking content or applications.

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison voted **YES**

Sen. John Cornyn voted **YES**

In the House of Representatives

National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act of 2011

Vote **Passed** (272-154, 7 Not Voting). This House bill would allow citizens with a valid permit to carry a concealed handgun across state lines. The bill's future in the Senate is unclear.

Rep. Francisco Canseco voted **YES**

Rep. Lamar Smith voted **YES**

Proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States

Vote **Failed** (261-165, 8 Not Voting). The House fell 23 votes short of the two-thirds majority needed to pass this balanced-budget constitutional amendment. Under the terms of the August debt limit law, both chambers are required to consider a balanced-budget amendment by the end of 2011. The Senate is expected to consider the proposal in December.

Rep. Francisco Canseco voted **YES**

Rep. Lamar Smith voted **YES**



My Turn on the Soapbox

A thank you and a suggestion

My soapbox is not something I'm upset about, but rather a suggestion for 2012.

First, let me thank the wonderful members who have furnished food and drink for our membership meetings. We all love the wonderful food and appreciate the work you have contributed to the rest of us this year and in years past. But let's think about how much work that actually entails. It usually takes three people and they have to prepare the food, buy plates, napkins, forks, spoons, cups, glasses and get it all to the site. They have to get there about 45 minutes before the meeting starts in order to get the tables set up, prepare the coffee, and get everything on the table. When the meeting is over it takes another thirty minutes or more to pack everything up and get it to their cars.

It's all appreciated, but what if we only have coffee, water, and cookies or muffins? Then we would just need a napkin for finger food and a cup and spoon for coffee, and it would only take two people and one trip to the car before and after the meeting. If we're hungry, we can all go to lunch. If you agree, or don't, let your board members know. As for me, I'm for making life easier for you dedicated Democrats.

Bobbie Grover

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