

Douglas County Democratic Women

Fall Fall 2011 Newsletter

President's Message

IT IS EASY TO SIT AND TAKE NOTICE.

WHAT IS DIFFICULT IS GETTING UP AND TAKING ACTION.

DANNY KAYE

Hello to all

Hope you are having a great summer. It's hard to believe it's almost fall. It has been a good year for DCDW and thanks to Lucie's hard work we've had some great fundraisers.

Vice President Nancy Stiles and the program committee have been bringing us interesting and entertaining programs. Jeanne Larson is working hard on getting new members and reinstating our past members. That task is getting harder and harder but she keeps trying, thank you Jeanne.

The Executive Board this year has been doing great

work. Thank you, you make my job a lot easier.

Our monthly Bunco group makes for a nice afternoon. If interested in joining us please contact Renee Thayer (renee.thayer64@charter.net).

Our best to Cindy Trigg for a successful outcome of her October 5 knee surgery and our condolences to Nancy Epstein for the recent loss of her father.

Please Stay Well and Happy.

Ruthie Strand



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Leadership Class

Honoring the second graduating class of DCDW's *Personal & Organization Development* course at the October 3 luncheon. Successfully completing the course are DCDW members Jeanne Larson and Rene Thayer. Claud Butler, NV Rural Dems Chair and Claudia Conlon, Lyon County Central Committee Chair earn special recognition for driving an hour every session to complete the course and graduate.



Left to Right: Jeanne Larson, Claudia Conlon, Claud Butler

Legislation/Issues/Policy

Looking up 2011 bills that became law.

Our state legislature meets every odd numbered year. Bills that pass become law take effect by default on October 1 unless they are appropriation bills. Appropriation bills take effect July 1, the beginning of the fiscal year, by default. A bill can specify a different effective date and there are variations on that too. For example, the hands-free mobile phone law has an effective date of October 1 (yikes!) but the bill specifies officers cannot issue a ticket for violation of the law until January 1, 2012 (phew!). On October 1 the officer can pull you over and advise you you are breaking the law by holding the cell phone in conversation while driving but you won't get a ticket until January 1. You will get dirty looks from other drivers. If there is no effective date specified in the bill, the default date applies.

How to look up 2011 bills that became law in the 2011 session. Just enter "Nevada 2011 legislature" in your search engine then click on 2011 legislative session. You will see a list all related to legislation. Click on "Bill Information." Then under specific action reports, click on "**bills signed by the Governor.**" You can even click on "**bills vetoed by the Governor**"

and see a long list of what passed both houses only to be stopped by Governor Sandoval. The list of bills that became law can be listed numerically or by Nevada Revised Chapter. If you know the Assembly Bill (AB) or Senate Bill (SB) number numerical listing is a breeze. But you don't need to know that number. Change the listing by a click to listing by chapter number. This will tend to put bills on the same subject near each other. All of the bills on the lists have a short description. Click on the bill number (i.e. AB261 or SB 282) if the description looks promising and up comes the legislative history of the bill. You can go to the bottom of the legislative history to find the **effective date**. The bill history page may look a little daunting but it doesn't need to be. You aren't tracking a bill in process now. For the text you want to see the bill **as enrolled**. That means it was passed by both houses and signed by the Governor and is law. Click on "**as enrolled**" and there is the statute as amended by the bill in VERY LARGE TYPE. You won't need your glasses!

At the beginning is a synopsis of the bill's various sections. Scroll down and the amendments to the law will be in blue. Language

that is removed from the law by the bill is in [brackets red and lined out].

Here are a few highlights to look up:

- AB 277 provides for a special license plate honoring FEMALE veterans.
- AB 93 is effective June 19, 2011, expires July 1, 2015. It authorizes a pilot diversion program to provide treatment for alcohol or drug abuse or mental illness to certain probation violators.
- AB 321 expands the law regarding use of deadly force in self defense (justified homicide). You can use it anywhere you have a right to be. And presumably with your permitted concealed semi-automatic weapon.
- AB 257 amends Nevada's Open Meeting Law regarding public comment. At a minimum, the public body can provide for one public comment opportunity at the beginning of the meeting and another one at adjournment OR a period for public comment after each agenda item but before the body takes action. This one became effective July 1, 2011.

- SB 223 regarding cruelty to animals. Makes certain conduct a felony and reporting of the conduct confidential in certain cir-



cumstances. Lots in this bill.

SB 11 interim study concerning new methods of funding public schools.

Another cool feature of the Nevada legislative page is called "Share your opinions with your legislature" You can view everyone's comment (not their names which goes only to the legislators) the comment could simply be "for" or "against. Check out comments on your favorites.

I urge all of you to take some time and click away. Get familiar with this tool so that you will be an old hand at tracking bills you care about and for heaven's sake all of us should make liberal use of the "share your opinion" feature next time. No computer? The library has one for you and they will help you.

Melanie Meehan-Crossley , Chair

"Nevada 2011 legislature" aka 76th Session

<http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/76th2011/>



Letter to the Editor Task Force

Letter to the Editor Task Force. DCDW and DCDCC have formed a joint task force to fill our three newspapers with letters to the editor. And what a force it is! Five letters printed in the first month! Even if you have reasons for not signing **your name**, there are ways you can join the force. No confidence in your writing skills? Unsure how to develop your topic or can't think of a topic? Need an edit? Come to our monthly meeting. The task force can help. The more on the task force, the more we can fill the page in spite of the papers' monthly per-person limit. Contact Melanie Meehan-Crossley (782-4677).

Programs

DCDW Programs this year have been graced with an impressive slate of speakers who have informed us, entertained us, and inspired us. The September program was no exception. Guy Rocha, former Nevada state archivist, left us wanting more as he provided historical information about our own Douglas County and about Nevada's earliest women doctors and lawyers.

Early in his talk, we were reminded that Douglas County has been the most consistently Republican county in Nevada history; yet, in spite of that, Douglas County ironically was named by Nevada legislators who

were members of the Union Party (essentially Republicans) for one of the great Democrats of his era, Stephen Arnold Douglas.

Guy, known as a "myth buster", revealed that Carson Valley's Eliza Cook, M.D., is erroneously credited with being Nevada's first female physician, when in fact, as many as twelve women practiced medicine in Nevada before Eliza Cook. However, as Rocha pointed out, "In the end, Dr. Eliza Cook did what the female doctors before her did not do. She lived and died in Nevada, expiring at the age of

ninety-one at her house near Mottsville. Unlike her counterparts in the 19th – century Nevada, she has not been forgotten."

Another myth exposed by Rocha was the presumption that the history of women practicing law in the silver State essentially started after World War II, when actually twenty-four women were admitted to practice law in Nevada prior to 1941. His elaboration included Laura May Tilden, daughter of Virginia City attorney Marcellus C. Tilden, who was the first to pass the bar exam on July 23, 1893 at the age of 22.

Among the startling facts given by Rocha, the three receiving the most gasps from the audience were these three:

Women were granted the right to vote and hold office in 1914.

The first woman to serve as a district judge was Miriam Shearing in 1983, 90 years later.

The first woman to serve as Nevada's Supreme Court Justice was Miriam Shearing in 1993, 100 years later.

Enhanced with humor, our speaker exposed myths,

(Continued on page 4)



The Douglas County Backpack Buddies Consortium is now serving 10 schools including: Gardnerville, C. C. Mealey, Minden, Jacks Valley, Scarselli and Zephyr Cove Elementary Schools, Carson Valley and Pau Wa Lu Middle Schools, Douglas High School, and Aspire Alternative School. Approximately 350 children are provided with a back-

pack of food each weekend to see them through the weekend and help them to be ready for school on Monday.

Your support is needed in the following ways:

- Volunteering: 2nd Monday of each month 10-12, Democratic Headquarters to pack bags, larger commitments are also

needed.

- Financial Donations.
- Food Donations: canned tuna, soup, chili, vegetables, fruit, snacks.
- Hygiene Products: individual soaps, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, toothpaste - save your travel extras for us.

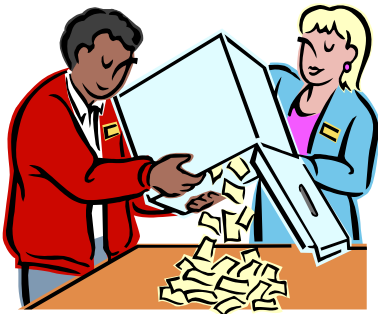
We would appreciate receiving plastic grocery bags (we need about 3,000 each month!) and rubber bands like those used for newspapers.

Thanks for your support. Glad we can count on the Democratic Women!

Lin Larson,
Chair DCBBC

Douglas County Backpack Buddies

News from the DCDCC



“Thank all of you for the help on Kate Marshall's Campaign. Obviously we have a lot of work to do with GOTV before the 2012 elections”

The Central Committee is approaching a busy time and we will need and appreciate help from DCDW. Early in 2012 we will be conducting Caucuses for the 2012 presidential election and the annual Keep Nevada Blue Dinner. We'll need your support with President Obama's re-election, Shelley Berkeley's Senate campaign as well as the House seat after re-districting. Anyone wanting to take a lead role in the caucuses, please contact me at f4trigg@aol.com

Thank all of you for the help on Kate Marshall's Campaign. Obviously we have a lot of work to do with GOTV before the 2012 elections.

Most of you received the email about participating in writing letters to the editor. That is one of the most efficient ways of getting our voice out. I hope you will consider joining this group. See Melanie's letter in this newsletter.

There is no question that the RNC will be taking full advantage of the Supreme Court decision Citizens United to pour money into the elections with no accountability. We will have to make sure that we have boots on the ground even if it is only neighbor to neighbor. We have what's right on our side. Do your research, speak your mind, go over the Democratic Credo and remind yourselves why you are a Democrat.

While we might not agree with all our President has done or not done I believe he is still a man of the people. If we want to continue to have a Democratic President past 2012 we have to unite around the President and our Party, the alternative is unacceptable. We are the large tent, we have many issues concerning many people. We need to make sure we help each other achieve those goals.

I look forward to seeing many of you soon.

Sincerely,
Cindy Olivas Trigg
Chair DCDCC

Programs (cont' d)

(Continued from page 3)

revealed ironies, and provided us with surprise elements that restructured our common beliefs. We are most grateful to Guy Rocha, a much sought-after outstanding speaker, for

providing an excellent September program.

Our future programs will be equally intriguing with more excellent speakers. Don't miss Jill Derby's talk in October, "Women and the Arab Spring", or No-

vember's program with Sarah Adler to find out what is happening with Nevada's Rural Development.

Nancy Stiles,
Vice President/Program Chair



Membership

Being politically active in Douglas County is not easy for Democrats, however, DCDW is determined to continue delivering on it's mission to be an active forum supporting candidates and issues promoting security, equality, justice and opportunity for all citizens...not just a few.

DCDW needs a large and active membership to continue delivering an alternate message—one of hope and change. If you have renewed your 2011-2012 membership—thank you. If you've not yet renewed your membership for 2011-12, please do so. If you're a very-past member, please consider rejoining and if you've never been a member, we'd love to have you join us.

If you can't make luncheon meetings, that's okay, we have other events throughout the year where you can chat and work with like-minded women and men (see the Events article in this newsletter) in friendship and mission.

Joining DCDW and telling your friends about us are simple steps to ensure Democratic principles survive and thrive in Douglas County.

Our membership application is available on our website (www.dcdwomen.net) or by contacting me at jmlarson@peoplepc.com or 266-4489.

If you have suggestions for increasing our membership and/or visibility in the community or if you can donate one hour a month to helping the organization deliver it's message, please let us know.

Jeanne Larson,
DCDW Membership Chair



“DCDW needs a large and active membership to continue delivering an alternate message - one of hope and change.”

Christmas Shopping Spree



Fundraising/Events

Christmas Shopping Spree

Join us at our November 7th luncheon where we will have a plethora of wonderful items for you to bid on.

This will be a fun shopping spree where you can choose that special gift or an unusual holiday decoration for your house or Christmas tree. If you have items you would like to donate for this occasion feel free to call me at 775-783-4073 or email me at luciejohnson@yahoo.com

we can then arrange for pick-up or delivery. Please do not bring items on the day of the event as a silent auction requires advance planning. A heartfelt thank you to all of you who are donating their treasures.

The committee is also planning the following future events:

- A trip to the Marion Russell Textile Museum in Carson City sometime after the Holidays.
- An historic tour of the

Carson Valley Foothill Road followed by a luncheon in mid spring.

If you have any ideas and wishes please contact me and we can discuss how we could make it happen.

We are seeking new Bunco players, if you want to play with us call Renee Thayer at 775-265-6364. We meet at 1:30 pm on the last Wednesday of the month at Headquarters.

Least but not last, we are seeking someone who is

interested in planning events and serving as chair, if interested contact me at 775-783-4073 or president Ruthie at 775-267-4182.

Thank you to all the members who contribute through our monthly luncheon raffle.

Lucie Johnson,
Interim Chair

Scholarship

The scholarship coordinator at Douglas and Whittell high schools have been notified that we intend to provide \$1,000 scholarship opportunities to each again this year.

The Membership has approved the amended Policy and Procedure change as recommended by the task force.

The following amendment to current Policies and Procedures Scholarship section presented by the Special Task Force was approved by the membership at the September 12 meeting:

All scholarship applications must be submitted on forms provided by DCDW, including an indication of agreement with the philosophy as outlined in the Democratic Party Credo along with a 250-word essay addressing a specified prompt. Any applicant who fails to provide all the required qualifiers will NOT be considered. If there are no applicants meeting the full requirements, the scholarship(s) will be rolled over to the next year.

Prompt: *Select and defend one or more of the descriptors of a fair society as given in the Democratic Party*

Credo in a 250 word essay.

The essay will be evaluated on content and writing structure with content receiving the greater value.

Writing Structure Rubric:

*Main Idea/Focus
Support and Elaboration
Coherence
Organization
Conventions
Voice*

Jan Walls, Chair

2010 Scholarships Thank You Letters



Dear members of the Douglas County Democratic Women,

I would like to sincerely thank you for selecting me as the recipient of this prodigious scholarship. It was truly an honor to receive this award as well as be able to attend your monthly luncheon June 6. The food and company were quite enjoyable and I think my mom and I both can attest to the feeling we got that we could easily fit right in with you all! Thank you so much for your generous contribution to my college education. I plan to study Biochemistry at the University of Nevada, Reno and then continue on to the University's Medical School. I'm aware of how costly this will be and so I greatly appreciate your assistance with these expenses.

Natalie Freitas

Dear Members,

My name is Lauren Andrew and I was one of the proud recipients of the 2010 Douglas County Democratic Women Scholarship. I can't thank you enough for this scholarship. The funds were a great help in reducing my tuition costs. I am quickly approaching my sophomore year at the University of Nevada, Reno and I cannot wait to see the new and exciting adventures the new school year will deliver! My major is community health science and I was fascinated by the classes I was able to take in this field. The more classes I take in this field the more intrigued I become. During my first semester I earned straight A's, getting a 4.0 GPA. During spring semester, I earned all A's and one A-.

Living on campus in the dorms was a great experience because I felt that I was able to get fully immersed in the college life. I was a member of the living learning community, Women in Science and Engineering (WISE), which is a program where women who have majors in the science and engineering departments live together on the same floor of the dorm. This program allowed me to meet many other driven women with similar interests and goals.

I also became very involved with a club on campus called Intervarsity Christian Fellowship. This was an amazing group of people, and I met some of my closest friends there.

After getting my bachelor's degree I am hoping to go to physical therapy school and I feel that majoring in community health science will allow me to fully prepare for a career in physical therapy. This summer I am interning with a local physical therapist so that I can get a good feel of what this career entails. So far I have loved the physical therapy setting and I am looking forward to the continued pursuit of this degree! Again, I send my deepest thanks for your help in my pursuit.

Lauren Andrews



**P.O. Box 939
Minden, NV 89423**

Please join us for lunch and learn for more ways to be involved as a Democrat. DCDW meets regularly usually on the first Monday of the month. Guests are welcome. Members for whom cost is a deterrent, please contact our President Ruth Strand, (775) 267-4182 rruthie@charter.net.

Other Programs & Fundraising events are also planned during the year, check your email and our web-site at <http://dcdwomen.net> for timely announcements.

Executive Board meetings are open to all DCDW members. Please contact our president for place and time.

DCDW's Mission is: To promote security, equality, justice and opportunity for all. To be an effective action forum supporting those candidates and issues the DCDW have voted to endorse. To provide "grass roots" input into the political process by identifying and promoting local, regional, state and national political issues and positions that have been endorsed by the DCDW membership.

Our Website address is:

<http://dcdwomen.net>

Calendar

October 17 – DCDW Executive Board – 10:00a –Headquarters
October 27 – DCDCC Central Committee Meeting – 6:30p – Headquarters
November 07 – DCDW Luncheon & **Christmas Shopping Spree**– 11:30a – CVI
November 11 – Veterans Day
November 17 – DCDCC Central Committee Meeting – 6:30p – Headquarters
November 21 – DCDW Executive Board – 10:00a –Headquarters
November 24 - Thanksgiving
December 08 – Joint DCDW/DCDCC Holiday Gathering – CVI

Roster Changes

Dotty Dennis email address: huskyx@gmail.com;
Jane Foraker-Thompson email address:
forakerthompson.jane@charter.net
Carol Lark's email address:
clark9578@gmail.com Phone: 775.636.0050

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Newsletter Publisher: Lucie Johnson