



BLUE NOTES

CAUCUS 2016

11 a.m. — Doors open

11:30 a.m. — Caucus Day agenda begins

12 pm. — Registration closes

- Vote for your Presidential choice
- Make recommendations for the Nevada Dems platform
- Nominations to Douglas County Central Committee



NEVADA STATE
Democratic Party

To find where you caucus, go to <http://douglasdems.org/> and click on the link.

First in the West Dinner



Keynote speaker Gen. Wesley Clark (U.S. Army Retired) addresses a sell-out crowd at the First in the West Dinner held in Minden Jan. 30. Story and additional photos on Pages 2 and 3.



**More photos on
the next page**



(ABOVE) — A sell-out crowd was on hand for the First in the West Dinner Jan. 30 at the Carson Valley Inn. The audience heard from Retired Gen. Wesley Clark, a candidate for the Presidential nomination in 2004, served as Supreme Allied Commander Europe, overseeing all NATO forces in Europe. (Story on Page 3)



(LEFT) — Jim Hightower speaks on behalf of Presidential candidate Bernie Sanders.

(RIGHT) — U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill speaks on behalf of Hillary Clinton.



(BOTTOM) — Douglas County Chair Kimi Cole addresses the sell-out crowd at the First in the West dinner

PHOTOS BY PAT STANLEY

'First In The West'

'First in the West'

Dinner huge success

"We're going to win this election," Gen. Wesley Clark told a cheering and sell-out rural Nevada audience on the eve of the Iowa caucuses.

The former NATO Supreme Allied Commander was addressing the First in the West Dinner held Jan. 30 at Minden's Carson Valley Inn. The event was sponsored by Nevada Rural Democrats and hosted by Douglas County Dems.

The 1966 West Point valedictorian and Rhodes scholar said we need a strong military, but "we should only use armed forces as a last, last, last resort."

He outlined five challenges facing America: terrorism, cyber security, financial system development, the threat from China, and climate change.

"It takes a public/private effort" to fix

the economy, he said. "We have to grow this economy."

He also called on America to become energy independent.

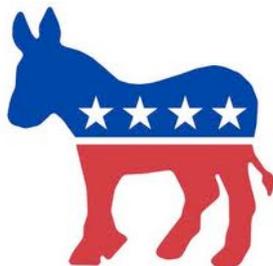
After his keynote address, the retired four-star general autographed copies of his new book: "Don't Wait for The Next War."

The audience heard from several candidates or their surrogates. Sen. Claire McCaskill spoke on behalf of presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton, while Jim Hightower represented Bernie Sanders.

Candidates who spoke included Catherine Cortez Masto (running for U.S. Senate); Congressional District Two candidates Chip Evans and Vance Alm; and CD 4 candidates Lucy Flores, Susie Lee and John Ocegura.

Nevada State Democratic Chair Roberta Lange also spoke.

First in the West photos on Pages 2 and 3



From the Chair ...



On Our Own — Do We Know Our Right From Our Left?

Looking back on childhood, the concept of “being on my own” was probably the furthest thing from my mind. I figured that was something that could only be achieved by folks who had been on the planet long enough to know “everything” so that they could be “on their own.”

Unknown to me at the time, even from a fairly early age, my parents always encouraged independence, to “figure things out,” and to handle situations as they arose. Admittedly those were much simpler times, without the ubiquitous threats we face in the world on such a regular basis these days, but a foundation of independence and survival were instilled in me from a fairly early age.

The temperament developed from that foundation really began to make a difference in my life as I approached adulthood and began to make my way in life and business.

For starters, I ask, how many people had everything totally figured out when they had their first child?

In reality, according to my experience and that of many friends, we did our best to learn what we could and figured out the rest. Adult reality settled in when our first child got sick, running a fever, and I realized the cost of the trip to the doctor was all on me. Take care of the child first and figure out the rest.

How many people knew everything the first day on a new job? Or, did we learn what we could and figure out the rest?

Business reality settled in when I landed my first construction project. There was nobody else to lean on or to blame if it didn't go successfully. Being on my own scared me into a determined drive for

excellence that has served me well throughout my careers.

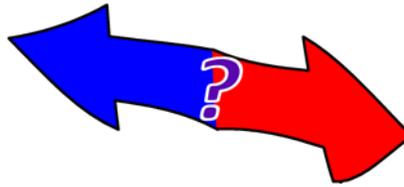
Although initially somewhat daunting, an empowering feeling of independence and freedom stemmed from assuming full responsibility for my family's well-being and the success of my projects

Fast forward to the present day. The kids are on their own and the foundation of a solid established work ethic has allowed the fears of younger days to be replaced by a more measured approach to figuring things out- especially now when it comes to the political realm.

After an alarmingly naive first act of life, politically, I really didn't know much about the different parties, or that there might be such an idealistic divide between those with differing viewpoints. Starting from scratch in the political world after reading the major party platforms, I decided I aligned most specifically with Democratic values and signed up to get involved with the local party.

I began paying more attention to words, such as “conservatives” and “liberals.” For a long while, I even thought I was conservative, for no more than the fact that I didn't dress flamboyantly. One day I tempted fate and looked up the definitions of the two words.

First, I looked up the word “conservative,” my understanding of which is a desire to keep things the way they are, or even to return to how things were. But I ask, does anybody get in their car and wish to themselves, “Oh, if I could only go back to the horse and buggy!”? Do people ponder, “Oh, I just wish we could go back to simpler times!”, while thinking about when

Kimi (Continued from Page 4)

infant mortality was high and life spans were much shorter, due to dangerous diseases and lack of medical understanding to cure them? And do people who have had children really think the world would be much better without so many kids? Or maybe just not the children of others?

When I was born in the mid-1950s, the U.S. population was approximately 163 million. Today the U.S. population is approximately double at just over 321 million. That sounds to me like there were a whole lot of folks getting on about the business of making sure things would never be the same again. The way many folks live their lives screams so loudly that it has long since drowned out their words.

“Conservative”= ain’t me.

Then I looked up “liberal”: Not opposed to new ideas or ways of behaving that are not traditional or widely accepted; believing that government should be active in supporting social and political change; relating to or supporting political liberalism. It was only a short while before I discovered I’d somewhat innocently donned a label of being a liberal and that there were those who didn’t like Democrats in my area. And I figured out if anybody would label and judge me without even getting to know me, so be it, not my problem. That took care of that.

“Liberal”= what I am!

Yes, many circumstances arise in life where, at least for a while, we may feel like we’re “on our own.” As a bit of counter perspective, in our United States system of government, we are truly only “on our own” when we fail to participate, to let our voices be heard, and to actively participate in the process.

**GET OUT TO CAUCUS
GET OUT TO VOTE
GET ON WITH LIFE
IT’S UP TO YOU!**



Leaning a bit to the left

My road to citizenship

By Pat Stanley



I was very fortunate to go on a Caribbean cruise earlier this month. While touring the U.S. Virgin Islands, our guide said he had to give up his right to vote in Presidential or Congressional elections to live in the area, which is a territory of the United States. He had formerly lived in the continental United States. “It was worth it,” he said.

That got me thinking: would I relinquish any of my citizenship privileges to live in “Paradise.”

The answer came without hesitation: No way. It would never be “worth it.”

My rights as an American citizen may mean more to me than most others reading this column. That’s because I was not always a citizen of this Land of the Free.

I was born a Canadian citizen and adopted by loving, caring Americans. It was while I was serving in the U.S. Army I learned of a clerical error that meant I was not yet a citizen. I’ll never forget the day my commanding officer called me in. The FBI was doing a background check so that I could get a secret clearance needed to work at the Army headquarters in Saigon, Vietnam. They discovered the error. Imagine the shock when I was told I was an illegal alien and needed a “green card,” which I

obtained a few days later.

Because I was serving in uniform, my application for citizenship was rushed through the many layers of bureaucracy, but not before somebody else was given the vacancy I was supposed to fill in Vietnam. My naturalization papers were dated by a single day prior to the filing of my background check so that the Army got “its money’s worth” by then giving me a top-secret clearance because the FBI probe qualified me for it.

I then waited for a new assignment and got lucky. Really lucky. I was sent to the Joint Command headquarters (known as CINCPAC, which is militarize for Commander In Chief Pacific), in Hawaii for the next two years.

Ever since gaining citizenship I have been compelled to NEVER miss an election or, now that I’m a Nevadan, a caucus. It means the world to me.

I cringe when I see people take their freedoms for granted. Sure, my path to citizenship was easy, but I had to take a special oath that impacted the rest of my life. Although current law may mean I’m a dual citizen, at the time I had to “relinquish all foreign allegiances.”

I’m proud to be a Nevadan. I’m proud to be a Democrat. And I’m proud to be an American citizen.

Your 2015 DCDCC Officers ...

Chair of DCDCC:	Kimi Cole (KimiMCole@gmail.com)
First Vice Chair:	Brian Dempsey
Second Vice Chair:	Susan Minor
Secretary:	Melanie Meehan-Crossley
Treasurer:	Jan Walls
Member-at-large:	Peggy Wozniak
Member-at-large:	Eric Griffin

Chairs of Standing Committees:

Administration	Katherine Winans
Programs/Policy:	Kimi Cole
Membership:	Katherine Winans
Candidate Recruitment:	Nancy Epstein
Publicity/Public Relations:	Pat Stanley
Fundraising/Finance:	(Your name here)

Timely Ticklers



Saturday, Feb. 20
Democratic Caucuses
Doors open 11 a.m.

Thursday, Feb. 25
Monthly Central Committee Meeting
6:30 p.m. Social — 7 p.m. meeting
Dem HQ: 1513 Hwy 395 N., Gardnerville

Saturday, Mar. 12
State Central Committee meeting
Reno (video)

Saturday, Apr. 2
Douglas County Convention

May 13 - 15
Nevada State Democratic Party Convention
Las Vegas