



# Blue Notes



*Douglas County Democrats*

The voice of Douglas County, Nevada Democrats

October, 2013 2013

## Photo highlights of our Sept. 25 Central Committee meeting



(Above left) — Nyla Howell talks about participating in the Oct. 26 Nevada Day Parade in Carson City.

(Above right) — Dave Cook, a member of the Nevada State Board of Education, discusses education issues. He'd like to see a state lottery to help fund education.

(Right) — Cindy Trigg stands behind a table filled with holiday gifts. Sales will benefit Douglas Democrats.



☆☆☆ Please share this newsletter with your Democratic friends



# From the Chair ...



We can find solutions only when we are not afraid to ask the questions.

So what questions do we choose to ask? I have a few I think about all the time.

To begin, do we indeed live in a society where we understand and acknowledge our overall interconnectedness? Do Democrats embrace the ideals I believe in?

Whether we live in a glass penthouse or a singlewide mobile, do we acknowledge that we rely on the sweat and tears of those who create the structure by forging the steel, crafting the lumber, stitching the fabric of drapes and furniture? Do we realize how much we rely on those who produce and deliver the food we eat? Do we acknowledge those who work, unseen by most, to continually ensure when that switch on the wall is toggled that the lights come on, or in times of “basic humanness” that a lever can be conveniently pushed and the “stuff” magically disappears?

Perhaps artists have works displayed on our walls. Do we understand that the art from one’s imagination has somehow touched the mind and spirit of another, maybe ours? Is music playing from a group that is hoping to graduate from living out of a bus? Were we maybe just like that group not so many years ago?

Can we understand why, with the obvious existence of great material wealth, we are debating whether we educate our children, rather than how? Do we realize our children’s present is an active, dynamic barometer that directly or indirectly predicts our own?

Shouldn’t we live in a land where ubiquitous opportunity exists in vibrant form and we enthusiastically embrace that opportunity, rather than accepting a bleak future of joblessness, ill health, economic and moral poverty that stamps ugly brands of failure on the souls of ones who could be so much more? Do we recognize, appreciate and respect the

value of maturity and experience, rather than cast others aside as the slightest hint of their needing a little help?

Do we take positive action to avoid allowing significant suffering from temporary ill fortune or advancing age so that we do not relegate ourselves to being a society that inhumanely demonstrates little regard for those who have not “had the breaks” or continued to flourish?

Do I ever run out of questions? Rarely! But I do find it quite rewarding when I ask questions and realize that by asking them, it can prompt positive action and improvement!

Do Democrats embrace the ideals I believe in? Absolutely! Am I proud to be a Democrat in Douglas County? You’d better believe it!

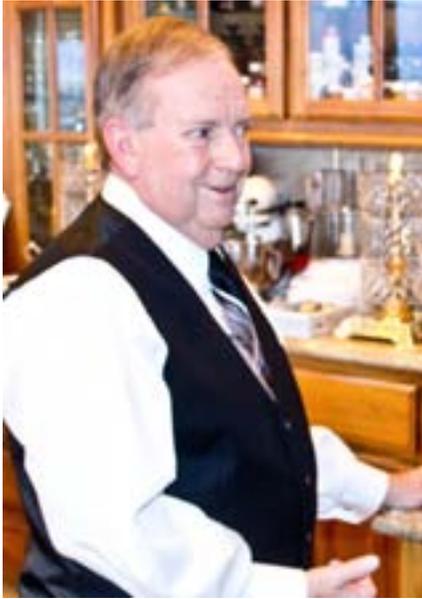
## **Next Central Committee meeting:**

*Thursday, Oct. 24. Social at 6:30 p.m. Business at 7 p.m.*

(Democratic Headquarters, 1513 Hwy 395 S., Suite 1C, Gardnerville)

Speaker: Nate Helton, president, Young Democrats of Nevada (UNR)

# A 'snapshot' of the Progressive Dinner



*(Top left):* Host Joe Yost

*(Top center):* Hostess Liz Yost

*(Top right):* Melanie Meehan-Crossley,  
Kimi Cole, Sarah Adler

*(Center left):* Nancy Stiles and Mike Crossley

*(Bottom left):* Dotty Dennis and Betty Trigg

*(Bottom right):* Theresa Navarro and Brian Dempsey



Member profile:

## Melanie Meehan-Crossley

*Editor's note: Each edition of your "Blue Notes" will contain a profile of one the Democratic leaders in Douglas County.*

Melanie Meehan-Crossley was low-key in the world of politics while serving as a deputy Nevada Attorney General, but today she's an active Douglas County Democrat.

"I was not active with political parties," she said while sipping tea on a windy morning on the porch of a cafe in her present hometown, Genoa. "I was a little sensitive to that in terms of my job."

Today, however, Melanie serves as a member-at-large on the Douglas County Central Committee Executive Committee and is active with Douglas County Democratic Women (DCDW).

Melanie's interest in politics dates back to her college years while a student at the University of California at Berkeley during the tumultuous "Free Speech Movement" of the mid-1960's. Many of her friends were arrested during sit-ins and refused to post bail.

Her husband Michael's job with the Internal Revenue Service then took them to northern Virginia, where her interest in political issues soared. "I was involved with the feminist movement, and that was my steppingstone into politics," she said.

She was one of the founding members of the northern Virginia chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW). She worked hard to pass the Equal Rights Amendment.

"That was a wonderful time for somebody interested in politics because of the marches on Washington against the war (in Vietnam)," she said. Young parents, she recalled, started to pay attention to the political climate when they realized their sons were about to be drafted into an unpopular war.

Melanie was born in Pittsburgh, PA, and grew up in Southern California. She moved to Carson City in



Melanie Meehan-Crossley

1981 and then went back to Malibu for a short time before returning to the Silver State a year and a half later. She and Mike moved to Douglas County in 1992.

Before earning a law degree at age 40, she studied arts and English, obtained a teaching credential from San Francisco State College, and taught at the secondary grade level for several years.

After passing the bar exam, she became a law clerk for the Nevada Supreme Court. Later, she worked as the first full-time legal counsel for the Nevada Insurance Division, where she stayed for four years.

Then it was on the Nevada Attorney General's office. She served under three AGs.

After about 19 years with the state, Melanie retired in the fall of 2003 and became active in local politics.

She worked on the Kerry presidential bid at about the time DCDW formed.

Today Melanie works tirelessly for both DCDCC

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**'PROFILE' (continued from Page 2)**

and DCDW. Although she has staffed telephone banks many times, "I much prefer door-to-door canvassing," she said.

She's at the forefront of planning such events as the annual Progressive Dinner, the Keep Nevada Blue dinner, Champagne and Dessert Garden Party for DCDW, pledge drives, the letters to the editor joint task force, and Democratic participation in the Carson Valley Days Parade. She serves as legislative chair for the DCDW.

Melanie believes work at the local level is crucial. "That's the proving grounds," she said. "It's the steppingstone to higher office. What the state legislature does or doesn't do really affects your life on a daily basis — more than anything that happens in Washington."

Being a Democrat is a big part of her life. "The values of the Democratic Party are the values that most people hold ... they just don't understand that those really are not the values of the other party."

"The Republican Party used to support things that helped working people. We don't see that now," she noted.

Her goal is to have more Democrats in elected positions.

"I think the most exciting day for me was when Douglas Democrats opened headquarters in this county," she said. "We can all be proud of that effort."

Of the spirit of local Democrats: "We should never let that falter."

## Highlight Moments\*

### Douglas County Democratic Central Committee Meeting- September 26, 2013 DCDCC Headquarters – Gardnerville, NV

- DCDCC Progressive Dinner was proclaimed a huge success. Attendees raved about the incredible meal and elegant atmosphere presented by gracious hosts Liz & Joe Yost.
- At recent State Central Committee meeting, Douglas County was announced as one of only four Nevada counties with no vacancies in their State Central Committee membership positions. Yay, Douglas County!
- With ongoing interest in attracting younger Democrats, it was announced that Nate Helton, President of Young Democrats of Nevada, UNR Campus, will speak to DCDCC on October 24. Mr. Helton will be discussing issues that young adults are currently facing and offer suggestions on how to attract the attention of younger groups.
- Churchill County and State Rural Caucus Chair Nyla Howell informed DCDCC of details and progress regarding Democrats' participation in the Nevada Day Parade in Carson City on October 26. All DCDCC members are encouraged to join us and walk or ride with Democrats in the parade!
- Acknowledging there will be important elections around the US in November, with Democrats attempting to keep and pick up important seats, we will be celebrating with our "Non-Election Election Night" Hawaiian Rib Cook-off. Enter your favorite rib recipe, bring a side dish, or just join us for good food, fun and friends!
- Dave Cook, Candidate for Assembly District 40 in Carson City, introduced himself and spoke briefly to the group, encouraging Democrats to step up to the plate for 2014 elections.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Cindy Trigg reminded us, "Republicans want to make it harder for you to vote. They're happy if you don't vote." Let's not make them happy!

***"It's OK to be a Democrat in Douglas County!"***

- Fully approved minutes will be available at our next Central Committee meeting.

# Your 2013 DCDCC Officers ...

Chair of DCDCC: Kim Cole  
First Vice Chair: Paul Belt  
Second Vice Chair (Campaign Liaison): Cindy Trigg  
Secretary: Katherine Winans (minutes, correspondence, agendas, blast-outs, etc)  
Treasurer: Eric Griffin  
Member-at-large: Melanie Meehan-Crossley  
Member-at-large: Gim Hollister

## Chairs of Standing Committees:

Administration Committee: Nancy Downey (data base maintenance, etc.).  
Publicity/ Public Relations: Pat Stanley  
Fundraising/Finance: Pending  
Membership: Pending  
Candidate Recruitment: Pending  
Political Action/ Programs: Pending

## YOUR BLUE CALENDAR



October 7 — Monday

DCDW Meeting at CVI

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Info: [jkw@gbis.com](mailto:jkw@gbis.com) or 267-0539

October 13 — Sunday

Activist Summit for Nevada  
Democrats

Info: [kimimcole@gmail.com](mailto:kimimcole@gmail.com)

October 24 - Thursday

DC Democratic Central Committee  
Meeting Headquarters - 1513 Hwy 395  
Gardnerville

6:30 p.m. Social - 7 p.m. Call to Order

[kimimcole@gmail.com](mailto:kimimcole@gmail.com)

October 26 — Saturday

Nevada Day Parade - Carson City

November 5 - Tuesday

“Nonelection, Election Day”

Hawaiian Rib Cook-off at DCDCC  
Headquarters

November 16 — Saturday

Nevada State Democratic Party  
Central Committee meeting,  
Pahrump, NV

November 21 — Thursday

DC Democratic Central Committee  
Headquarters, 1513 Hwy 395,  
Gardnerville

(Guest speaker is Nevada State  
Treasurer Kate Marshall, a  
candidate for Secretary of State)

6:30 p.m. Social

7 p.m. Call to Order

December 5 — Thursday

DCDW/DCDCC Christmas Party  
at CVI

6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Info: [jkw@gbis.com](mailto:jkw@gbis.com) or 267-0539

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Name

Street

City, State, Zip code