NEW HEADQUARTERS ‘OPEN FOR BUSINESS’

Dr. Patrick File talks about the First Amendment at the inaugural event in our new Democratic Headquarters. Be sure to attend our next Douglas Democrat’s meeting Thursday, January 25 (social at 6:30 p.m. and meeting at 7 p.m.) at the new facility, 1758 Hwy 395 N — Suite K (South end of Ironwood Shopping Center in North Minden).

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Feb. 17

Blue Stars Rising Dinner

The list of prominent Nevada Democrats who will attend the Blue Stars Rising Dinner Feb. 17 is growing. Keynote speakers are Steve Sisolak and Chris Giunchigliani (Chris G), Democratic candidates for Nevada Governor.

Kate Marshall, candidate for Lt. Governor, Nelson Araujo, candidate for Secretary of State, Andrew Martin, candidate for Treasurer, Catherine Byrne, candidate for Controller, and Sen. Aaron Ford, candidate for Attorney General are now on the guest list for what promises to be one of the biggest political events in Northern Nevada in 2018.

In addition to an elegant dinner and a night of “Blue talk,” there’ll be an amazing silent auction. Tickets are $65, or $520 for a table of 8. The event will be held at Carson Valley Inn. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.. Dinner begins at 7 p.m. Get your tickets through our website: douglasdems.org

Holiday Party . . .

Douglas Democrats enjoy dinner and good times at our annual Holiday Party, held at the Carson Valley Inn last month.

Get your Democrat on with promotional items created and marketed by our own Renee Ekleberry- T-shirts, Democratic tote bags, and more. Get fun stuff and support Democrats at the same time! To check out the offerings, CLICK HERE
Profile

Meet Ann Keasling … a rising star

She may be only 17, but Ann Keasling has lofty goals in the world of politics.

“There are so many issues that I’m passionate about, but it all comes back to education,” the Douglas High School senior said during an interview between functions at the new Douglas Dems headquarters. “(Education) is the silver bullet. It changes how we see the world.”

Whether it’s gun control, reproductive rights or tax reform, “education is what makes all the difference,” she said. Improving our schools and giving people access to affordable public education can change the world.”

Her interest in politics was sparked when she attended party caucuses in 2016. “I absolutely fell in love with the Democratic process,” she said.

She said her “primary passion” now is attending Democratic Party functions. “It’s what I love to do,” she said.

Ann has applied to several colleges and universities and is waiting to hear back from them. She plans a double major: political science and statistics.

“There’s so much in the world of government and politics that interests me,” she said. She hopes to work on campaigns this mid-term year.

She noted an upswing in politics amongst young people following last year’s Women’s March. “There was a flurry of activity with young Democrats,” she observed. There’s energy. There’s intrigue. We need to harness that energy.

Ann lives in Gardnerville.
DOUGLAS DEMOCRATS
BLUE STARS RISING DINNER 2018
Saturday, February 17

Chris G
(Glunchiglani)
Steve Sisolak
DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES FOR GOVERNOR

Democratic Candidates for Constitutional Offices also to attend:
Kate Marshall- Lt. Governor  Aaron Ford- Attorney General
Nelson Araujo- Secretary of State  Andrew Martin- Treasurer
Catherine Byrne- Controller

Carson Valley Inn
1627 US-395 N, Minden
Tickets: $65 each; Table of 8- $520
5:30 pm- Doors open -- 7:00 pm- Dinner Service begins

DOUGLAS COUNTY DEMOCRATS
Tickets available at douglasDems.org
For additional info, or to pay by check:
Katherine Winans- jkw@gbis.com or 775.267.0539
Donate and purchase tickets to Dems events at ‘douglasdems.org'

You can now donate to the Douglas Democrats at our Website (douglasdems.org). Just click on the “donate” button, and it will take you to a secure Douglas County Democrats PayPal site.

You then enter the amount that you would like to donate, select whether it’s a recurring monthly donation, annual — whatever suits your abilities — and whether you’re paying with a PayPal account or a debit or credit card.

Looking for an easy, secure way to donate in support of the Douglas Dems? This is it!

Have you purchased your tickets to the “Blue Stars Rising” dinner Feb. 17? If not, you can do that online also. At douglasdems.org scroll down to the article headlined “Douglas Democrats are ready for victories in 2018!.” It has a button to access reservations.

Your comments here

Have something on your mind you’d like to share with fellow Dems? Send it to napapat7373@gmail.com and we’ll put it in your next edition. Positive comments, constructive input, and articles offering issue-based research are especially welcome.
Guest commentary

Why we matter in 2018

By Ed Andrews

How many times have you heard something like this: “Sure, I’m horrified by what the ‘other party’ is doing, but what can I do? Douglas County is tiny, and it’s been solidly red forever. My vote won’t matter.”

I recently posed this challenge to Jon Ralston, the veteran political reporter who now leads the Nevada Independent. Here’s the short version of his answer: 12,000 votes, mostly from rural districts.

That was the razor-thin margin in 2012 for Dean Heller, Nevada’s quivering sellout of a U.S. Senator who has managed to be unpopular with almost everybody.

As Ralston noted, Heller became the first person ever to win a U.S. Senate seat in Nevada while also losing Clark County, which is home of two-thirds of the state’s voters. He won because he eked out just enough votes in seemingly unimportant rural districts.

The point is clear: rural voters — even rural Democratic voters — matter. They matter a whole lot. People who think they are powerless and can’t make a difference are selling themselves short. That’s especially true right now, as we approach the crucial 2018 mid-term elections.

The quivering Heller is running for re-election, and he is by far the Senate’s most vulnerable Republican. This is the man who was against TrumpCare until he voted for it, ignoring the pleas of Nevada’s Republican governor. This is a man who provided a crucial vote for the most unpopular tax bill in history, a massive tax cut for the very rich that will add one trillion dollars to the national debt. This is a man who represents a state that has legalized marijuana, and is looking to reap big tax revenue from it, but who barely peeped when the Trump Justice Department opened the way for prosecuting people here.

Now think back to 2012. If just 6,000 rural voters had gone the other way, or if a modestly higher percentage of registered Democrats had voted, the U.S. Senate would have been a very different place. As we saw through the defeat of TrumpCare, one vote in the Senate can change everything. This isn’t just about the Senate, of course. We have two very strong Democrat contenders for governor in Chris Giunchigliani (“Chris G”) and Steve Sisolak. Democrats are also working to expand their majorities in the state legislature, and Patricia Ackerman is running a fierce campaign in our own district for the Nevada Assembly.

But there’s the challenge: success will only be possible if more of us become actively engaged. Mid-term elections are infamous for low voter turnouts, and low turnouts are bad for anyone who wants to change things for the better.

It’s not good enough to grumble in private. We need volunteers of all types. Success means reaching out to people early. It means listening to voters about their issues. It means making sure that our friends and neighbors understand just how much impact they can have.

If your experience has been anything like mine, you have met enormous numbers of people who (often for the first time ever) want to become active in some way. Some have very limited time to help. Many worry that they don’t have the right skills, or don’t feel comfortable talking with strangers about politics.

That’s fine. The good news is that there’s room for everybody. Even if you don’t think you’re doing much, the simple fact that you are engaged has an impact.

The more people talk to each other, the more they are likely to vote — and prompt their friends to vote. And as more people become active, even in very small ways, it’s inevitable that they will spark others to be active as well.

That process doesn’t start a month or two before the elections. It starts now. We can’t let this moment slip away.
From the Chair ...  

Cod Liver Oil and 7 Up

Growing up, my parents insisted cod liver oil was good for me and made me take it. I hated it! However, a little bit of 7-Up made it go down a whole lot better, so I negotiated with my parents: if I take the cod liver oil, I get to drink 7-Up afterwards. We had a deal.

A lot of what we do in the political campaign realm may seem a lot like taking cod liver oil. But being involved is a much more effective approach to affect change than sitting on the sidelines wishing things would get better or complaining when they don’t.

Examples:

The first time I was asked to participate in a phone bank, my initial response was, ew! In fact, it actually sounded less appealing than the cod liver oil I choked down as a kid. I didn’t even know what I might use to wash it down, but figured if I was really going to get involved in political activism, I’d better put my money in with my wish list and get to work.

The first few calls were hang-ups — I thought, this doesn’t look so good — but then I had a conversation with someone who thanked me profusely for calling. They stated how much better it made them feel to know Democrats are actively engaged in the community, thanked me for talking to them about candidates and issues, and assured me they would vote. Enough such calls followed, that I began to realize there was plenty of 7-Up available that I could continue taking the activity (making the calls). And it made me feel better!

My first canvassing outing stirred slightly less apprehension, but I still felt a twinge of anxiety when stepping into the unknown. A couple houses simply closed the doors in my face. Then I talked to supportive folks who expressed their appreciation for the work that was being done to promote and support Democratic candidates.

One of my all-time favorites was an address that indicated the resident was 94 years old. As I approached the door, I noticed a sticker on the kitchen window that said, “I only vote for Democrats.” I rang the bell and watched as the elderly gentleman moved deliberately toward the door with his walker. I’ll never forget his words when he opened the door: “I saw you reading my sticker and you don’t look stupid, so I assume you must be a Democrat. I’m glad you’re here!” We had a wonderful conversation, I received an interesting history lesson about the neighborhood (near where I grew up) and he assured me he had already sent in his absentee ballot. I’m not sure which of our smiles was brighter as I walked toward the next house.

Even in a world that seems to be constantly trying to force cod liver oil down our throats, if we keep our eyes open and our spirits upbeat, there usually seems to be adequate 7-Up to help it all go down!

And I firmly believe that doing the work to elect good Democratic candidates WILL be good for us!
Talk about your head spinning!! Every day presents a new challenge! In fact, by the time this newsletter reaches you, what is happening in Washington today will already be old news, and will be replaced by more to surprise, alarm, and disarm us! And talk about suspense?! Jeppers! We certainly have had our share of that!

Thank goodness, I’m a Democrat! Not that we don’t have our share of mishaps. It does appear, however, that we are sticking to our democratic values… I think. At least those of us in Douglas County are sticking to and standing up for our democratic values.

We have several upcoming opportunities to share and speak our democratic values. Let’s start with showing up at the Women’s March in Reno on January 20. Last year’s march brought out as many as 10,000 people. There are some who think it could be 20,000 this year, and why not? We rally to keep our rights, and so many of those are now in jeopardy. This will be a time to bring cultures and subcultures together for a united voice. The first announcement of the Women’s March is at the end of this newsletter.

The planning for the Women’s March will be organized into eight committees as of to date: 1) Community outreach 2) Data entry 3) Rally Marshalls (peace keepers) 4) Hydration & medic 5) Rally coordinators – directing and chants 6) Logistical Procurement (program) 7) Communication (press releases/web/flyers/social media) 8) Apparel (T-shirts).

If you are looking for a more up close and personal experience, volunteer to be on one of the committees. To do so, email any of the names given on the flyer at the end of this newsletter.

The Women’s March is non-partisan which means we cannot as a partisan group sponsor or be identified as sponsoring the march; however, we can and will be participants. Start working on your signs.

Another opportunity to again voice our democratic values will be at our Douglas Co. Democratic Caucus/Convention, February 24. This is the time we engage in the democratic process and vote on the platform we want to suggest to the Nevada State Democratic Party. More description on the caucus/convention will be given at the DCDCC (Douglas Co. Democrats’ Central Committee) meeting January 25, and again at the DCDW Luncheon, February 5. Watch for announcements. You can start thinking about what you want to submit for a Platform Resolution Proposal now. Platform Resolution Proposal Forms will be available at the January 25 DCDCC meeting and at our DCDW February 5th membership meeting. You will be asked to write your proposed platform plank and the reason for the plank, be it resolved. All proposed platform planks will be given to a platform committee who will review them for repeats and editing purposes.

A link to the 2016 Nevada State Democratic Platform is given here for those

(Continued on next page)
This crotchety old silver-haired guy got inspired recently—by a 17-year-old young woman.

My few minutes interviewing Ann Keasling as this edition’s featured Democrat were time well spent. She reminded me of a quote by Rachel Jackson: “Our youth are not failing the system; the system is failing our youth.”

Jackson, wife of Andrew Jackson, went on to say: “Ironically, the very youth who are being treated the worst are the young people who are going to lead us out of this nightmare.”

The nightmare that comes to my mind today is a world on the brink of nuclear holocaust, with two men arguing over who has the bigger and better nuclear bomb launching button on his desk.

Talking with Ann took me back to my youth, and my initial interest in politics. There were many incidents that guided my thinking: Being elected to my college student council and living through the assassination of President Kennedy, only to be followed by the murders of Bobby Kennedy and Martin Luther King.

I was inspired by Kennedy. He spoke of the dream of man walking on the moon. Unfortunately he was cut down shortly before that famous, “one step for mankind.” King spoke of dreams, too. In fact that was the key phrase in what is now known as his “I Have a Dream” speech.

I was inspired as a teenager who visited Washington D.C., where, thanks to an uncle who was high on the national political scene, I was able to meet such luminaries as writer Scotty Reston and Kennedy’s press secretary Pierre Salinger.

I was young and impressionable, just like so many of our young people today. And that’s a good thing. We should be proud off our young folks. Let’s not fail them,

**DCDW President** *(Continued from previous page)*

who would like to see our 2016 Nevada State Platform.

The democratic process will be taking place in March for DCDW, for that is the month we vote on our slate of officers for the new term – May, 2018 to May, 2019. Our present treasurer and secretary, Betsy Strohl and Janet Adams, have agreed to run for their respective offices again. We have a vice president, Janice Noble, to step in as president as Nancy will have completed two terms. However, true to the democratic process, any other DCDW member may run for any of these three offices. If you choose to do so, you need to declare your intent by March 1. The individual chairs for our committees are appointed by the president, with the officer’s approval. Most of our present chairs have agreed to stay in their respective positions. Officers will be installed at the May membership meeting.

DCDW is a strong force for good. We may question at times if we make a difference. We do. Working together for the common good expands our voice, expands our consciousness, and expands the universal consciousness. “Together we are stronger.”
Your DCDCC Officers …

**Officers**
DCDCC Chair: KimiMCole@gmail.com
First Vice Chair: Joan Neuffer
Second Vice Chair: Susan Minor
Secretary: Melanie Meehan-Crossley
Treasurer: Jan Walls
Member-at-large: John Novak
Member-at-large: Pat Stanley

**Chairs of Standing Committees**
Administration: Katherine Winans
Programs/Policy: Kimi Cole
Membership: Katherine Winans
Candidate Recruitment: Open
Publicity/Public Relations: Pat Stanley
Fundraising/Finance: Paul Belt

Timely Ticklers

**Every Saturday (9 a.m. — 11 a.m.)**
Chip Evans Show
“The Buzz” KBZZ 1270 am/96.1 fm

**January 20 — Saturday**
2nd Annual Women’s March
Downtown Reno (starts at 11:30 a.m.)

**January 25 — Thursday**
Central Committee
New Dem HQ 1758 Hwy 395 N (Suite K)
(South end of Ironwood Shopping Center)

**February 1 — Thursday**
Carson City Democrats Capitol Blue Dinner

**February 5 — Monday 11:30 a.m.**
DCDW Luncheon with William McCurdy II
Carson Valley Inn

**February 17 — Saturday**
Blue Stars Rising Dinner
Carson Valley Inn (doors open at 5:30 p.m.)

**February 24 — Saturday**
County Caucuses — County Convention

**March 5 — Monday 11:30 a.m.**
DCDW Luncheon
Carson Valley Inn