

## Looking Ahead at Candidates for 2010

The kids are back in school, the tourists have left town, and those of us remaining behind are getting our snow throwers tuned-up for another winter in North Idaho. The shorter days and longer nights are also a sign that it is time to think about elections; not just the city elections of 2009 (Vote on November 3rd!), but also the statewide elections of 2010!

The preparation we do now will determine the chances our Democratic candidates have in November 2010, when we will be voting to return a Democratic Congressman to Washington, D.C., and to elect Democrats to the seven statewide elected constitutional offices. Locally, we will be electing two Representatives and one State Senator per Legislative District (Kootenai County has three Legislative Districts: LD3, LD4, & LD5).

Prior to our last statewide general election in 2008, the Kootenai County Democratic Central Committee made a decision to focus our attention on LD4 only, in the belief that it presented the best chance to pick up a seat. A candidate recruitment committee was formed, consisting of Central Committee members, Democratic elected officials and former Democratic legislators. The committee solicited input on potential candidates and compiled a list of seventy-eight names. That list was divided among the committee members, and the potential candidates were contacted. From that list five candidates for offices were recruited, three ran for the Legislature in LD 4 and two ran for the County Commission.

The candidate recruitment effort for the 2010 election was discussed during the KCDCC August meeting, and it was decided that the Kootenai County Democrats should do everything within their power to recruit candidates to run in ALL legislative districts—3, 4, & 5. To that end, the candidate recruitment committee will begin meeting in early October 2009 and begin the process of finding qualified and motivated Democratic candidates to run for the State Legislature. If you are interested in serving on this committee, or you know of someone that the committee should speak to about running for office, please contact me at [thomg57@gmail.com](mailto:thomg57@gmail.com), or 208-660-4761.



By Thom George  
County Chair

**Remember, we can't win if we don't run!**

WE NEED CANDIDATES! THIS COULD BE YOU....→



*TELLES LIKE IT IS:*

A Cartoon  
by  
Larry Telles



## A QUICK GUIDE TO THE NEWSLETTER CONTENTS—

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### FLASH!

The winner of the  
**COLEMAN ROAD TRIP GRILL** at  
 the 2009 North Idaho Fair is  
 strong Democrat and longtime  
 supporter **Beverly Yost**.  
 Congratulations, Beverly!

## UPCOMING DEMOCRATIC EVENTS

**Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup>**, NOON. Democratic Club weekly meeting at The Iron Horse, County Commissioner Todd Tondee and Sheriff Rocky Watson speak about the Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> ballot measure for a ½-cent sales tax increase to raise \$57 million for jail expansion.

**Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>**, 6:30 PM, Democratic Toastmasters, Thai Bamboo, 2010 N. 4<sup>th</sup> St., just south of I-90. Democrats, progressive thinkers, and newcomers welcome! Call Lori Smith, 818-3143.

**Thursday October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M., Kootenai County Democratic Club 35th Anniversary Party at the Iron Horse, 407 E. Sherman, CdA. No door charge! Drink Specials, Appetizers. Guest Speakers “From the Beginning.” All are welcome!**

**Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>**, NOON. Democratic Club weekly meeting at The Iron Horse, City of Coeur d’Alene City Council and Mayor Candidate Forum.

**Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup>**, NOON. Kootenai Democratic Women’s Caucus meets the last Thursday of every month at Michael D’s Eatery. These luncheons are a fun opportunity to network and exchange information and opinions. Please call 667-0648.

**Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>**, NOON. Democratic Club weekly meeting at The Iron Horse, Terry Harris, Executive Director of the Kootenai Environmental Alliance

**Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>**, 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM KCDCC Executive Committee meeting, Democratic Headquarters, 1124 E. Sherman, Central Committee officers, Legislative District Chairs, and State Committee Persons meet to construct agenda for Central Committee Meeting.

**Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>**, 6:30 PM, Democratic Toastmasters, Thai Bamboo, 2010 N. 4<sup>th</sup> St., just south of I-90. Democrats, progressive thinkers, and newcomers welcome! Call Lori Smith, 818-3143.

**Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>**, NOON. Democratic Club weekly meeting at The Iron Horse, Panhandle Health epidemiologist Jeff Lee discusses influenza seasons and flu vaccines.

**Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup>**, 6:00 P.M. Kootenai County Democratic Central Committee, Kootenai County Administration Building, 451 Government Way. This is an open meeting of all precinct chairs, vice chairs, and elected officers on the KCDCC.

**Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>**, “CdA Chamber Upbeat Breakfast,” CdA Resort, 7:00 AM to 8:30 A.M. Come join your Democratic friends as we meet and greet the business community. Breakfast is \$13, and reservations are required.

Web address for reservations: [www.cdachamber.com/Members/Events/UpbeatBreakfast.aspx](http://www.cdachamber.com/Members/Events/UpbeatBreakfast.aspx).

**Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>**, NOON. Democratic Club weekly meeting at The Iron Horse, Mayor Sandi Bloem – “CdA update.”

**Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>**, 6:30 PM, Democratic Toastmasters, Thai Bamboo, 2010 N. 4<sup>th</sup> St., just south of I-90. Democrats, progressive thinkers, and newcomers welcome! Call Lori Smith, 818-3143.

**Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>**, NOON. Democratic Club weekly meeting at The Iron Horse, Hospice of North Idaho Director Paul Weil gives an overview of local hospice services and details about a new inpatient facility being built.

**Thursday, November 26<sup>th</sup>**, NOON. Kootenai Democratic Women’s Caucus meets the last Thursday of every month at Michael D’s Eatery. These luncheons are a fun opportunity to network and exchange information and opinions. Please call 667-0648.

**Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>**, 6:30 PM, Democratic Toastmasters, Thai Bamboo, 2010 N. 4<sup>th</sup> St., just south of I-90. Democrats, progressive thinkers, and newcomers welcome! Call Lori Smith, 818-3143.

**Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**, NOON. Democratic Club weekly meeting at The Iron Horse, PROGRAM TO BE ANNOUNCED.

**Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**, “CdA Chamber Upbeat Breakfast,” CdA Resort, 7:00 AM to 8:30 A.M. Come join your Democratic friends as we meet and greet the business community. Breakfast is \$13, and reservations are required.

Web address for reservations: [www.cdachamber.com/Members/Events/UpbeatBreakfast.aspx](http://www.cdachamber.com/Members/Events/UpbeatBreakfast.aspx).

**Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**, NOON. Democratic Club weekly meeting at The Iron Horse, PROGRAM TO BE ANNOUNCED.

**Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**, Kootenai County Democratic Central Committee, Kootenai County Administration Building, 451 Government Way. This is an open meeting of all precinct chairs, vice chairs, and elected officers on the KCDCC.

«The calendar continues on Page Four...»

●For general inquiries, the Democratic Headquarters telephone number is 765-0965.●

●The weekly Democratic Club luncheons are Fridays at NOON at The Iron Horse Restaurant, 407 E. Sherman in Coeur d’Alene.●

## KOOTENAI DEMOCRATIC CLUB is celebrating!

When: Thursday, October 22 from 5:00PM –7:00PM

Where: **Iron Horse, 407 E. Sherman Ave, Coeur d'Alene**

Contact: **Tamara Poelstra, (208)704-6943**

Club members invite the true blue, the tried and true, and all of you who support and believe in bringing Democrat principles to Kootenai County to join them for this momentous occasion. Don't miss the opportunity to see old friends and make new ones as we celebrate our club and 35 years of fellowship.



**REMEMBERTO VOTE NOVEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>!** Mayor's and Council members' seats are up for election in Coeur d'Alene, Post Falls, Harrison, Hayden, Rathdrum, Spirit Lake, St. Maries, and many other neighboring towns. All elections are being run out of the Kootenai County Elections Office. You can request an absentee ballot if you will be out of town or just prefer to vote by mail. Forms are on the website:

<http://www.co.kootenai.id.us/elections/AbsenteeBallotApplication.pdf>

## UPCOMING DEMOCRATIC EVENTS

«The calendar continues from Page Three...»

**Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**, 6:30 PM, Democratic Toastmasters, Thai Bamboo, 2010 N. 4<sup>th</sup> St., just south of I-90. Democrats, progressive thinkers, and newcomers welcome! Call Lori Smith, 818-3143.

**Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM, Women's Caucus Ornament Exchange at the home of Kathy Beechler, 715 E. Indiana Avenue, CdA. Annual Holiday gathering for Democratic women. All welcome! Bring an ornament to exchange. RSVP 667-0648

**Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**, NOON. Democratic Club weekly meeting at The Iron Horse, PROGRAM TO BE ANNOUNCED.

**Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**, CANCELLED. Democratic Club weekly meeting at The Iron Horse, CANCELLED.

**Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**, CANCELLED. Women's Caucus at Michael D's, CANCELLED.

●For general inquiries, the Democratic Headquarters telephone number is 765-0965.●

●The weekly Democratic Club luncheons are Fridays at NOON at The Iron Horse Restaurant, 407 E. Sherman in Coeur d'Alene.●

## Idaho Democratic leaders will gather in Orofino this fall



IDAHO'S CLEARWATER COUNTRY is gorgeous in the fall. Lucky for Idaho Democrats, it will be the setting of the Idaho Democratic Party's 2009 Autumn State Central Committee Meeting, October 23-25 in Orofino.

The Lodge by the River's Edge, a Best Western property at 615 Main Street in Orofino, will be the meeting site. Call (208) 476-9999 or (800) 538-9797 for reservations. Other local lodgings are also available.



Please plan to arrive in Orofino by 1:00 PM Pacific Time on Friday, October 23. Activities will be completed by noon on Sunday, October 25. In addition to the State Central Committee meeting, there will be training workshops to help you build your local Democratic Party organization and prepare for the upcoming election. Current workshop topics in the works include:

- Developing and implementing a strategic plan
- Strategic use of the voter file
- Bringing back the Obama voters for 2010
- Nurturing investors in the Democratic Party



Perhaps most importantly, this is a time for you to meet your peers, deepen your connections with each other, and share your goals and strategies. For more information, go to the Idaho Democratic Party website, [www.idaho-democrats.org](http://www.idaho-democrats.org).



### *A Loss of one of our own—*

The Idaho Democratic Party is saddened to learn of the death of Chuck Oxley, who served as party Communications Director from July 2005 through August 2008. Oxley died in a one-vehicle crash on U.S. Highway 26 in Eastern Idaho on Saturday afternoon, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009.

Oxley played a key role in directing media for the record-setting 2008 Idaho Democratic presidential caucus, including the Ada County caucuses that drew more than 8,000 voters to Qwest Arena. A former reporter for the Associated Press and editor at the *Idaho Statesman*, he had recently resumed his journalism career as managing editor of the *Blackfoot Morning News*.

R. Keith Roark, chairman of the Idaho Democratic Party, made this statement on learning of Oxley's death: "We lost Chuck Oxley this past Saturday. Chuck was the IDP's first Communications Director and a Democrat to his very core. In my first few months as IDP Chairman, Chuck helped me get up to speed for a tumultuous year that included Barack Obama's speech at Boise State University, our wildly successful caucuses, the Frank Church Banquet, Primary Election, State Party Convention, and the National Convention in Denver. He had a great sense of humor and a great sense of just how important politics is to the quality of our lives.

"Our hearts go out to his precious daughter whom he loved deeply," Roark added. "He lived his life fully and freely, and he stood up for what he believed in—we will miss him."

# 30<sup>th</sup> Huckleberry Social

For some, the highlight of the Huckleberry Social was the spirited line dance by lively Kootenai Democrats to the tune "I'm a Democrat in Idaho," written by Gary Edwards and Mary Jo Kringas. For others, it may have been the concert by talented musician Grant Smith, the fantastic array of homemade desserts, or the as-always entertaining auction prattle of Mike Kennedy.

Whatever the particular appeal, attendees voted the 30<sup>th</sup> Art Manley Huckleberry a success. More than 120 people enjoyed the fun that night.

Financially, we exceeded expectations. Monies taken in for entrance fees and auctions amounted to \$4,200. What remains after deducting expenses will be split equally between the Democratic Club and the Kootenai County Central Committee. In addition, a generous check for \$500 was donated to the Central Committee by the Central Labor Council.

Thanks to all those generous folks who donated items to the silent and live auctions, who baked those wonderful pies, brought huckleberry sauce and ice cream, who volunteered their time, and, of course, who bid on auction items both large and small.

—Amy C. Wilkerson,  
*Huckleberry Social Chairperson*



Musician Grant Smith entertains with his voice and guitar.



Tamara Poelstra thanks Amy Wilkerson, left, for her hard work for the social.



Janet Callen, Karen Sines, and Carole Tabakman await the next slices, as they recover from working the check-in desk.... [Photos by Thom George]



This new plaque rests proudly on a bench next to St. Thomas Cemetery in Coeur d'Alene. It reads "Plaque sponsored by Kootenai County Democrats Built by All American Iron." The plaque was made possible by a generous Democrat who wishes to remain anonymous.

**Kootenai County  
2009 Pledge Drive  
Status**



If you have an outstanding amount on your 2009 pledge, we're counting on you to send that in. But could you also consider continuing your current yearly pledge in 2010? By filling out the form and mailing it to our Treasurer, you can give us a head start on preparing for Election Year 2010!

**The 2010 Pledge Season is Here!**

If you were one of the 168 Kootenai County Democratic Central Committee pledge drive members this year, pat yourself on the back! With your help, we were able to secure promises for 87% of the \$20,000 goal we had set for our operating expenses. (See graph) That money helped us to:

- » Maintain an open *Democratic Headquarters* including a very skilled half-time *Democratic Coordinator*, Brian Wright, to direct our activities.
- » Provide a *Community Forum* to educate voters about health care reform.
- » Maintain our own *website* ([www.kootenaidemocrats.org](http://www.kootenaidemocrats.org)) with a calendar of events and a good deal of other pertinent information.
- » Publish a quarterly *newsletter* to keep you up to date and informed about what the Democratic Party in both our county and state are doing.
- » Host a celebratory *Democracy Dinner* that featured a leading human rights teacher and advocate.
- » Sponsor a *North Idaho Fair Booth* August 26-30 to meet and inform voters.
- » Throw a great *Inauguration Party*.

**Democratic LAKE Pledge**

I want to support Democratic Local Action for Kootenai Elections  
Here's my PLEDGE to help continue to grow our local Democratic Party

**I will donate \$\_\_\_\_\_ for 2010.**

I will pay:  annually  quarterly  monthly  on or beginning in (month) \_\_\_\_\_

in the following manner:  check  ActBlue

(<https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/entity/20513>)

I would also like to volunteer! \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Kootenai County Democratic Central Committee

P. O. Box 1297 (Located at 1124 E. Sherman) Coeur d'Alene ID 83816

(208) 765-0965 email: [kootenaicountydemocrats@gmail.com](mailto:kootenaicountydemocrats@gmail.com) web: [www.kootenaidemocrats.org](http://www.kootenaidemocrats.org)



### CDA TV features our Health Care Forum

CDA TV Channel 19 is now showing last month's health care forum, *Taking the Pulse of Health Care in Our Community*, as part of its 24 program rotation. In case you missed it, the forum featured local health care professionals and a small business woman presenting a first-hand view of the health care crisis in our community. Sponsored by your very own KOOTENAI COUNTY DEMOCRATS, the forum attracted more than 120 attendees and received a very favorable response. If you missed it, please take the opportunity to view it. You can find the next broadcast by going to [www.cdaid.org](http://www.cdaid.org) and clicking CDA TV Channel 19.

### Data Collected from 402 Drawing Registration Forms during the 2009 North Idaho Fair

	Democrat	Independent	Other	Republican	Undeclared	Totals	Totals
Which voting block do you most strongly identify with?	250	54	24	51	23	402	100%
	62%	13%	6%	13%	6%		100%
Are You Registered to Vote At This Address?							
Don't Know	5	2	2	0	1	10	2%
No	27	6	8	7	6	54	13%
Yes	213	44	14	44	16	331	82%
No Answer	5	2	0	0	0	7	2%
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
What type of health insurance do you have?							
Public	36	6	3	5	0	50	12%
Private	124	32	8	33	15	212	53%
Both Public and Private	46	9	5	5	3	68	17%
Uninsured	44	7	8	8	5	72	18%
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Nine Surveys excluded because those surveyed are under voting age.  
Two Surveys excluded because the pertinent questions were incomplete.

### Data Collected from 531 Surveys Collected during the 2009 North Idaho Fair, August 26-30

Question	Percentage		
1a	11%	Support	Everyone getting health insurance through private health insurance plans.
1b	13%	Support	Everyone getting health insurance through a public health insurance plan.
1c	69%	Support	Giving everyone a choice between private health insurance and a public health insurance plan.
1d	7%	Are	Undecided
<b>100%</b>			
2a	16%	Believe	A public health insurance option will have an unfair advantage over private health insurance plans.
2b	74%	Believe	A public health insurance option will increase competition and reduce costs.
2c	10%	Are	Undecided
<b>100%</b>			
3a	12%	Believe	There should be less public oversight of private health insurance companies.
3b	73%	Believe	There should be more public oversight of private health insurance companies.
3c	14%	Are	Undecided
<b>100%</b>			
4a	72%	Believe	Government should guarantee access to quality, affordable health care.
4b	19%	Believe	Government should leave access to quality, affordable health care to the free market.
4c	9%	Are	Undecided
<b>100%</b>			

### Explanation of discrepancy in numbers between the Registrations and the Survey

Fair attendees were asked to fill out a short health care survey to qualify to enter a drawing for a free BBQ. Because many people were hesitant to attach their names to something that would be shared with Congressmen, our volunteers separated the surveys from the drawing registrations since they also had contact information on them. Many people only filled in contact information and did not fill in the other blanks on the registrations. Thus we ended up with 531 surveys, but information about voter registration, party identification and health care insurance from only 402 of those who completed a survey.

## Democrats Say “Healthcare for All” at North Idaho County Fair

Thanks to the 39 volunteers who greeted visitors, assembled the tents, decorated the booth and provided at least two hundred other heroic acts of support and volunteerism, the presence of the Democrats at the North Idaho Fair was a resounding success.

Our booth was attended by an average of 278 visitors every day. We greeted over 1,500 members of the community as they filled out 531 surveys that qualified them to enter the drawing for the Coleman Grill. (See Survey results on Page Eight) Funds raised from selling Democrat merchandise totaled \$271.00.

Comments from visitors who came to the booth included, “I cannot believe that the United States is the only industrialized nation in the world without public healthcare,” and “I am so glad you (the Democrats) are here. I had cancer three years ago and I lost my home because of my bills.”

Once again, our booth was located directly across from the best ice cream served in the fair grounds. The weather was perfect and the music was good. Thanks to Jax Clay and Thom George, we had entertainment in the booth as visitors and booth volunteers were able to watch the Michael Moore movie, “Sicko,” an informative documentary that compares healthcare in the United States to that in other countries.

Thank also to the Democratic Club for providing 300 pinwheels as a giveaway for young booth visitors, to Justin and Maj Stormo Gibson for funding the fair tickets for volunteers, and to the significant number of private donors who contributed to the cost of the Coleman Grill.

—Mary Jo Kringas, Fair Chairperson

## *The Final Word:*

Hope, Faith, and Persistence

—Brian Wright, Democratic Coordinator



Just one year ago, thousands upon thousands of committed citizens stepped forward in state after state, county by county, in cities and towns across America to create a coalition based on the hope for a better future, the faith in a leader to take us there, and a persistence of will to overcome the apparent obstacles which might prevent it from happening. The degree to which we all believed that this was historic was evidenced by the overwhelming joy exhibited when our man was elected and inaugurated; yes we can, yes we can.

One year later, the euphoria has waned and a distinctive pessimism has descended upon the country. It would be easy to blame the sinking economy, the intractable health care reform debate, or the never ending wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, but I think the answer is much closer to home. I believe that individually, we who believed in progressive change and the man we elected, have given up hope, are losing faith, and are waning in our persistence to effect change.

Of course it doesn't help that we are bombarded by the constant negative drone of the dissenters among us who see any progress as a threat to their own self interests. But I think it goes farther than that. It wasn't that we were expecting too much, but that we were expecting it to come easily.

Yet if we take a look at our history, we can find an abundance of evidence showing that transformative change, like the end of slavery, or equal rights does not come quickly or without many false starts and setbacks. Consequently, we shouldn't expect things as big as a global recession, health care reform, or the successful resolution of two intractable wars, to happen smoothly or overnight.

Therefore, I suggest that we renew our optimism and continue striving to make things better by remaining committed and staying focused on the better future that exists beyond the horizon; YES WE CAN, YES WE CAN, YES WE CAN.