

*Kootenai County Democrats, 1124 E. Sherman Ave., Coeur d'Alene ID 83814
208-765-0965 ~ www.kootenaidemocrats.org ~ KootenaiCountyDemocrats@gmail.com*

2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION SUMMARY

The 1st Session of the 60th Idaho Legislature more than lived up to its advance billing. What everyone believed would be a difficult session turned out to be harder and longer than anyone anticipated. It ended after 117 days, one day short of the longest session ever. Why?

First, the economy left the state with a \$450 million reduction in revenues from FY 2008 to FY 2009, and continued declines in FY 2010. That meant tough budget decisions. Second, the arrival of \$1 billion in federal stimulus money in late February meant having to determine how and where to use the money, and then recalculating budgets, a three week slowdown. Third, and most frustrating, was the political infighting between the House leadership, the Governor, and the Senate, particularly over funding for roads. That feud added an additional week or two before reaching a poor compromise.

Into that context, add the effort of Republican leadership to use the financial crisis to push a political agenda against the Idaho Education Association and teachers, and last, a major debate over how to handle reductions in state agency budgets, especially salary cuts, and you have the ingredients for a long and sometimes nasty session.

It is impossible to briefly summarize the struggle over the budget. FY 2009 budgets did undergo a 6% budget cut, with the exception of public schools which were held harmless with the use of reserve funds. For FY 2010 total general fund appropriations were some 15% lower than for FY 2009. Although stimulus funds and some state reserve funds were used to offset much of this reduction, Democrats argued more of our reserve funds could have been used.

Several vicious bills attacking educators were brought forth, but your House Democrats did an admirable job of helping defeat the worst attacks on education.

Transportation funding for FY 2010 will be increased slightly over \$50 million as a result of several measures, but the gas tax increase the governor lobbied for did not happen.

The highlight of the session for me was passage of child care legislation I have worked on for five years. For the first time, most small child care providers will undergo criminal background checks, and licensing will start with those caring for seven or more children rather than the current thirteen. A number of new requirements and additional enforcement authority for the Health and Welfare Department will mean more safety for children in child care settings.

For a complete review, check the legislative website, www.idaho.gov/legislat, clicking on the Sine Die Report.

By GEORGE SAYLER (D)
DISTRICT 4B



Our Kootenai County Pledge Drive Status Stands at 87 %.
For details, please see story on Page Eleven



The parade season is upon us and once again we will be marching proudly for Country, Party, and President. It Won't Be The Same Without YOU!



***We Need Your Presence,
We Need Your Voice.***



Fourth of July Parades:

Non-Participation

Is **NOT**

An Option!!!

Coeur d'Alene, July 4th

American Heroes Parade
Parade Start Time: 11:00 AM
Parade Check-in: 8:00 AM
Meet at the Animal Medical Center,
1902 E Sherman Ave

Hayden, Saturday, July 25

Hayden Days Parade
Parade Start Time: 11:00 AM
Parade Check-in: 10:00 AM
Meet at the Lake City Rental parking lot,
NE corner of Miles Ave & Government Way



Do you want to see Idaho turn **Blue**? Are you convinced that the Democratic Party offers better options for people of every ethnicity, class, and creed? Then it's time to PARTICIPATE! Only by showing our public face in parades, social events, and in the media can we hope to persuade the fence-sitters and ambivalent that it's OK to come out of the political closet.

Folks, we did not participate in the Post Falls parade this year because a paltry (bless their hearts!) twenty people committed to this parade by our deadline—the same parade that included a very strong, Conservative Contingent. We cannot allow this to happen in Coeur d'Alene's Fourth of July parade and Hayden Days Parade!

Call Brian today at the Democratic Headquarters, 765-0965, between 10AM and 2 PM. Pledge to walk, AND THEN DO IT!

—Amy Wilkerson—Parade Committee

P.S.—We would especially like youth to participate.

A QUICK GUIDE TO THE NEWSLETTER CONTENTS—

George Saylor's Legislative Summary: Cover Page

Parade Committee "Call to Action": Page Two (above)

The Calendar: Always on Page Three, and continued at the bottom of Page Four

A Very Special 30th Annual Huckleberry Social (above): Page Four

Let's All Go to the Fair: Page Four

Opinions from Keith Milligan and Fred Glienna: Page Five

Opinions from David Larsen and Dean Carrier: Page Six

Timothy Hunt's PPINW Update: Page Seven

Larry's Cartoon: Page Seven

Amylouise Adira Interview: Page Eight

CLC Fallen Worker Memorial: Page Nine

Vice-Chair Invitation to DNC Caucus: Page Nine

2009 "Art Manley Lifetime Achievement Award" Goes to Jeanne Buell: Pages Ten and Eleven

Pledge Drive Status: Page Eleven

UPCOMING DEMOCRATIC EVENTS

Thursday, June 25th, 5:00 PM, Kootenai County Democratic Women Garden Party, garden of Maggie Tallman, 814 N. 2nd Street, Cd'A. Call Sheila (772-5873) or Kathy (667-0648).

Friday, June 26th, NOON. Democratic Club weekly meeting at The Iron Horse. Speaker Charlie Miller of the Centennial Trail Committee.

Friday, July 3rd, NOON. Democratic Club weekly meeting at The Iron Horse. Parade Planning and Fourth of July hoopla.

Saturday July 4th, 11:00 AM, Coeur d'Alene American Heroes Parade (Line-up time and rallying spot To Be Announced) Reminders: Wear a Democratic T-shirt, or request one at 765-0965/ Let us know at the same number if you plan to attend. If you can't march, come watch!

Tuesday, July 7th, 6:30 PM, Democratic Toastmasters, Thai Bamboo, 2010 N. 4th St.. Democrats, progressive thinkers, and newcomers welcome! Call Lori Smith, 818-3143.

Friday, July 10th, NOON. Democratic Club weekly meeting at The Iron Horse. Ron Johnson will present a political DVD of his choice.

Monday, July 13th, Kootenai County Democratic Central Committee IS CANCELLED! August meeting occurs as planned.

Tuesday, July 14th, 7:00AM, Cd'A Chamber of Commerce Meeting, Cd'A Resort. Come and join your Democratic elected officials as they meet and greet the business community! Breakfast is \$13.

Reserve on line at: www.cdachamber.com/Members/Events/UpbeatBreakfast.aspx.

Friday, July 17th, NOON. Democratic Club weekly meeting at The Iron Horse. Idaho Conservation League presentation.

Tuesday, July 21st, 6:30 PM, Democratic Toastmasters, Thai Bamboo, 2010 N. 4th St.. Democrats, progressive thinkers, and newcomers welcome! Call Lori Smith, 818-3143.

Friday, July 24th, NOON. Democratic Club weekly meeting at The Iron Horse. Speaker: Marianne Torres, "The Situation in Palestine."

Saturday July 25th, 11:00 AM, Hayden Days Parade (Line-up time and rallying spot To Be Announced) Reminders: Wear a Democratic T-shirt, or request one at 765-0965/ Let us know at the same number if you plan to attend. If you can't march, come watch!

Monday July 27th, 6:00 PM, Kootenai County Democratic Central Committee EXECUTIVE MEETING, Democratic Headquarters, 1124 E. Sherman Avenue, Cd'A.

Friday, July 31st, NOON. Democratic Club weekly meeting at The Iron Horse. Speaker: Dr. Jim Waller on the genocide in Darfur.

Tuesday, August 4th, 6:30 PM, Democratic Toastmasters, Thai Bamboo, 2010 N. 4th St.. Democrats, progressive thinkers, and newcomers welcome! Call Lori Smith, 818-3143.

Thursday, August 6th, 6:00PM. "WELCOME TO IDAHO" Western Barbecue at the home of Jeanne Buell, 8467 Sunny Slope Road, Worley. A real Western Barbecue in conjunction with the DNC Western Caucus, August 7-9. All local Democrats welcome!

RSVP: Worleyvill@rezmail.com.

Friday, August 7th, NOON. Democratic Club weekly meeting at The Iron Horse, PROGRAM TO BE ANNOUNCED.

Friday, August 7th-10th, DNC Western Caucus Meeting at the Cd'A Tribal Resort and Casino in Worley. The first-ever Western Caucus to be held in Idaho. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Monday, August 10th, 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, August 11th, 7:00AM, Cd'A Chamber of Commerce Meeting, Cd'A Resort. Come and join your Democratic elected officials as they meet and greet the business community! Breakfast is \$13.

Reserve on line at: www.cdachamber.com/Members/Events/UpbeatBreakfast.aspx.

«Our *brimming* calendar continues at the bottom of 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 Sherman in Coeur d'Alene.●

MARY JO KRINGAS SAYS—

LET'S ALL GO TO THE FAIR!!!

Even more special... Let's All Volunteer for the Fair! North Idaho's "It's a Big Deal" Fair and Rodeo will run at the Kootenai County Fairgrounds from Wednesday, August 26th to Sunday, August 30th. You could be part of the Big Deal Fair by buying a ticket and walking around, but wouldn't that be completely boring compared to hanging out with your fellow **Kootenai County** Democrats in our own very posh and democratically designed VIP Democrat booth at the Fair? In truth, our booth will still be furnished with the very best that Costco has to offer in **Democrat Blue**... but it is the spirit of camaraderie that counts. We have many opportunities to offer: Democrat Chatting Liaison to the Community, Democrat T-Shirt Model, Democrat Counselor to the Still Righteously Right, Purveyor of Fine Democrat Merchandise, and our newest role at the fair: Democrat Line Dancer! Ok, maybe the line dancing will not take off, but if we had a catchy tune (Fred Glienna and Keith Milligan), who knows? Anyway, as you can see, your contribution in ideas, time and talent will make a big difference as the coordinator for this event is the perpetually "I forgot I was supposed to be in-charge,"



If you wish to be part of this local and folksy event, where we actually show the members of the community what a ton of fun being a Democrat can be, then please call Mary Jo at (208) 699 -1228.

Save the Date!!
Thursday, September 24
The 30th Annual Art Manley Huckleberry Social



Can you believe it has been THIRTY YEARS?

This year we are holding the **Huckleberry Social** on September 24th, a little later than usual, to give us time to recover from the fair. We will again gather at the Lake City Senior Center, 1916 N. Lakewood Drive, from 6:30 PM. to 8:30 PM. Mike Kennedy has graciously accepted the role of auctioneer. The planning committee began meeting mid-June and welcomes more members. If you can volunteer to bake a pie or donate some time to set up or tear down on the day of the social, please call Amy at 683-2169 or e-mail awilkerson@gotsky.com.

UPCOMING DEMOCRATIC EVENTS

«Continued from Page Three »

Tuesday, August 18th, 6:30 PM, Democratic Toastmasters, Thai Bamboo, 2010 N. 4th St.. Democrats, progressive thinkers, and newcomers welcome! Call Lori Smith, 818-3143.

Friday, August 21st, NOON. Democratic Club weekly meeting at The Iron Horse, PROGRAM TO BE ANNOUNCED.

Saturday, April 25th, 6:00 PM, Annual Democracy Dinner at Templins Red Lion in Post Falls. Tickets are \$42. Call the headquarters number (765-0965) for tickets and information.

Wednesday-Sunday, August 26th-30th, North Idaho Fair and Rodeo; see story at top of page.

Friday, August 28th, NOON. Democratic Club weekly meeting at The Iron Horse, PROGRAM TO BE ANNOUNCED

●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 Sherman in Coeur d'Alene.●

—*An Opinion from KEITH MILLIGAN*

Keith Milligan is a singer-songwriter based in Coeur d'Alene.

(This is a continuation of Keith's article, begun in the winter issue.)

Recycling: One of many ways to go green, Part Two

The biggest recycling success story in our waste stream is by far, the aluminum can. It is the most valuable, hence the most recycled. Approximately 60% of aluminum is recycled in the U.S.A. Aluminum is derived from bauxite ore, a very costly mineral to mine and import for manufacturing into our soda and beer cans. Due to these facts, it requires 95% less energy to produce aluminum cans from recycled aluminum than it does from the raw material, bauxite.

Conversely, glass is the least valuable and consequently one of the least recycled materials. Its inert nature makes it ideal, in a state known as cullet (ground up glass), to be used as landfill cover (landfills are required to be covered with fill dirt daily, sometimes more than once daily depending on weather conditions). So technically it is not recycled, but is re-used for a good purpose.

Of course organic waste is best composted, but that simply isn't practical for everyone, but at least that component of the waste stream is biodegradable and isn't a toxic element, though it does produce the greenhouse gas, methane, when degrading.

One important aspect of recycling that is overlooked is recycling at your place of employment, your church,

temple or synagogue, and other buildings in which business or social functions are held. While it may be more convenient to recycle at home with the curbside bins for collection, it isn't terribly inconvenient to begin a recycling program at work or any other gathering place. A few boxes and a dedicated volunteer or two is really all that is required, along with cooperation from your colleagues. We must be diligent stewards, regardless of the space we occupy at any given time.

In the final analysis, recycling is a simple act that says "I care." I care about global warming, I care about my grandson being able to swim or fish in a nearby lake or river, I care about HIS grandson's home that he will inherit from me. Perhaps we could learn from the Native American philosophy of basing all of our decisions on how they will affect the next 7 generations. When we place a plastic water bottle or aluminum soda can in the recycling bin, it is a non-verbal recognition that we live on a planet with finite resources and a growing population placing greater demands on those resources. A seemingly small and insignificant act actually says much about who you are so often. Such is the case with the simple act of recycling.

—*A Dissident Democrat Opinion from FRED GLIENNA*

I admire President Barack Obama greatly, and I believe he has the potential for being one of our greatest and most effective Chief Executives.

But liberals must stop giving him a free pass, leave off with the ongoing and perpetual love feast, and start pressuring him to live up to his campaign rhetoric. Politicians act only when we demand. He is being hounded and pounded by the right, and, like any other politician, he will react to those who are the loudest and most persistent. It is high time we began to demand from him those changes he promised.

Health care reform is stalled (single payer, the option preferred by almost two-thirds of Americans, is not even on the table), we still have military commissions, the torture photos aren't being released, there is no interest cap on credit cards, the inquiries into the crimes of the previous administration appear to be on hold, and we've squandered a major chance to reform the banking industry. Meanwhile, the bailout of the auto industry still can be turned into a revamping of public transportation, helping both our job picture and our infrastructure.

I am delighted at the heart, class, character and intelligence of our Democratic President, but, to paraphrase comedian Bill Maher, let's hope for some audacity.

—An Opinion from DAVID LARSEN

NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO DRAG OUR FEET!!!

We had some bright spots in the 2008 elections: President, Congressman, 4th Dist Representative, County Clerk, school board members, some key special levies, etc. We have more to do to capitalize on our successes and certainly more to do to ensure future successes.

Our visibility at local parades lets citizens see the Democrats as not only alive and well, but that we are also a noisy, enthusiastic bunch! The “Blue Wave” of marchers carrying our blue balloons is an impressive sight for parade watchers. The Fourth of July parade in Coeur d’Alene is the next opportunity to show our colors. Help us show the citizens we are involved and want them to join us in our efforts to put citizens’ real life concerns ahead of “special interests.”

Where are all our Caucus Attendees with their enthusiasm? Where are all the Democrats who worked on campaigns? Where are all the citizens who vote Democrat but don’t seem to be active in our events? Unfortunately, being a Democrat the Tuesday after the 1st Monday in November in odd numbered years does not get us the desired election results. We need to be Democrats all year every year.

Certainly we don’t expect nor ask for all of you to suddenly become rabid Democrats, but we want you to help make our party more effective.

So to the subject of this message: NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO DRAG OUR FEET!!! NOW IS THE TIME TO SHOW OUR COLORS AND OUR PRIDE AS DEMOCRATS!! Please contact Brian (765-0965) and tell him you will be joining our “Blue Wave” at the Fourth of July Parade in Coeur d’Alene. Be a part of the enthusiastic band of “Blue Wavers!” Brian has the details about where and when to meet, how to get a Blue T-Shirt, and learn other ways to be an active participant.

I look forward to marching with you, and I can assure you, I WILL NOT BE DRAGGING MY FEET, BUT WILL BE MARCHING PROUDLY DOWN SHERMAN AVENUE ALONG WITH MY “BLUE WAVE” DEMOCRATS!!!

—An Opinion from DEAN CARRIER

Maybe it’s my age and thus having been around during WWII, the Korean War, the Viet Nam War, the Iraq War, and a whole bunch of lesser conflicts, so I vividly recall the public and political outrage regarding acts of torture by our opponents. There are still plenty of us still living who have read about the Bataan Death March, the Nuremburg Trials, and the physical and mental abuse in North Korean prisoner of war camps. Have these been stricken from the history texts?

If you missed these you’ve doubtlessly read more recent news items regarding Slobodan Milosevic’s Albanian torture camps; of Saddam Hussein’s regime that systematically executed, tortured, imprisoned, raped, terrorized, and repressed the Iraqi people; or of Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir’s recent indictment by the International Criminal Court for war crimes in Darfur. How many motion picture themes have horrified us with aspects of human torture? How many times during this past presidential election did we hear of the atrocities that John McCain endured at the hands of his North Viet Nam captors?

And yet we’ve allowed Dick Cheney, Newt Gingrich, Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity, and their conservative cronies to move the argument from “Does the United States torture prisoners?” to “Does torture produce the desired results?”

As an American I am appalled that we are even having this discussion. I am further appalled that many of our elected officials are participating in them. In my grandfather’s America, my father’s America, my America, my son’s America and my grandson’s America, the United States does not torture...PERIOD. Let’s keep it that way.

—An Update from *TIMOTHY HUNT*PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF THE INLAND NORTHWEST (PPINW)
NORTHERN IDAHO FIELD ORGANIZER

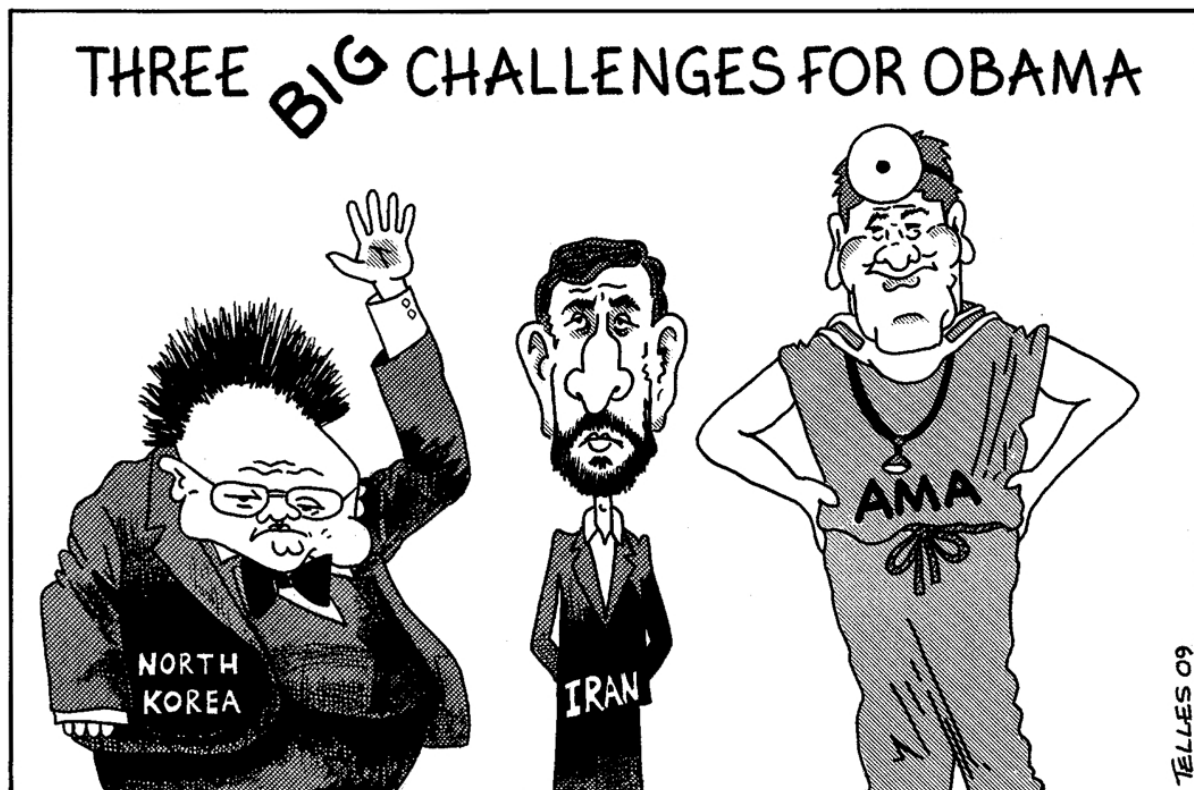
This has been quite a year for PPINW, in both the nine northern counties of Idaho and the eight counties surrounding Spokane. First, PPINW is well into merger talks with Planned Parenthood of Central Washington and has been under a management contract with PPCW since last fall; the CEO of PPCW, Anna Franks, is the acting CEO of PPINW and met some of our supporters at a May get together in Coeur d'Alene.

In recent weeks, the murder of Dr. George Tiller in Kansas has been dominating the news. Dr. Tiller, though not a medical provider for Planned Parenthood, was a symbol of courage and fortitude to us. We grieve with his family, friends, and colleagues.

What a year in the Idaho legislature! PPINW worked closely with its legislative partners—the ACLU of Idaho, the Idaho Women's Network, Planned Parenthood of the Great North West, the Idaho Interfaith Alliance, United Vision for Idaho, the National Association of Social Workers, and others—to narrowly defeat (32-31) a bill that would have created “early fetal death certificates” issued by the Department of Health and Welfare, which wanted nothing to do with this thinly disguised attempt to push back the age of “personhood” to conception. Health and Welfare testified against certificates for unverifiable events. Special thanks to Representative George Saylor who cast the deciding vote.

A second bill that caught the attention of PPINW was Pharmacy Refusal. It would have permitted a pharmacist to refuse to fill legal prescriptions when any drug violated a pharmacist's moral, ethical, or religious beliefs. While such prescriptions could have been for anything under the sun, the legislation was clearly aimed at emergency contraception and other birth control drugs taken only by women. In its first iteration, Pharmacy Refusal would have included just about any employee who might handle a drug or transaction related thereunto--cashiers, delivery people, non-pharmacist managers, and so forth. The bill passed the House easily but died in the Senate Health and Welfare Committee. There was widespread opposition for lots of reasons, but we expect to face this bill again next session. Thanks to the Panhandle Coalition for its support.

We are seeing increased demand in Idaho for our medically and scientifically accurate education programs. For information, call 1-800-788-9128 and ask for Cindy Fine, PPINW educator for northern Idaho.



An Interview with Precinct 63 Vice-Chair *Amylouise Adira*

Born: July 26, 1973 Reno NV

Grew Up: split between Inland Northwest (Colville WA) and northern California (Grass Valley)

Schooling: San Francisco Art Institute, 1995

Moved to Kootenai County: 2002

Occupation: Mother, Fine Arts Photographer,

Consultant with Cookie Lee jewelry & Mary Kay Cosmetics

Family: Husband Mark, 3-year-old son, Lucas, parents and Grandma living here in North ID



Why did you decide to get involved by becoming a member of the Central Committee?

I was inspired by my candidate for president, the now-President Barack Obama. He taught how change happens from the ground up and where we live. So, I looked at how I could add my voice and energy locally.

What has been your past activity with the Democratic Party?

None. Before President Obama, I identified most with Green values as I am considerably more left than Democrats who have, in my lifetime anyway, not stood for anything other than opposing the Republicans. President Obama was the first to claim the Democratic party and have actual original ideas, principles and a back bone to stand behind them. Remember the “gas tax” bit during the summer? He showed principle and how great he was while all of the other candidates were just pandering. They proved Nader’s 2000 point of there is no difference between the two, but Obama stood apart.

What have you done as precinct chair?

I have had the opportunity to host home parties bringing people together and finding our common causes, and I got to knock on the doors of my neighbors, other than for Halloween.

In your opinion, what does it take to elect Democrats in Kootenai County?

I feel that for a Democrat to get elected they need to be an actual Democrat (not a Conserva-Dem) and to the left of the main stream which is so currently skewed to the right. It is very hard to get excited for, volunteer on behalf of and put yourself out there for another “republican-lite”. I worked very hard for President Obama (for example, driving to Montana to knock on doors and hosting 43 events locally) because he was really speaking to all of us whose voices had been ignored by the right and the “right-lites” for so long. The caucus showed how hungry people are here for a genuine left voice, not just a watered down right message.

What has the fall election meant to you? Or how has it affected you?

By President Barack Obama’s campaign being so inclusive, it has meant that this is my country, too, and that I matter here. He showed me that there is an “us” and that “We are one nation, we are one people” and I had never felt that way before about America or my place in it.

What is your advice to Democrats who have not been involved (or Democrats who would like to get more involved)?

I find it difficult to get involved on the local level. Maybe it is because I am new here, or because our process is modeled on the old top-down way of working, or because those who have weathered the local Republican storms have formed such tight bonds, but to me it all feels a bit clique-y. So, what I have been doing is seeing what is needed nationally by our president, and as he calls for action, I answer. Sometimes it is a matter of writing a letter to the editor of a local paper, calling our state legislators, or attending/hosting another house event. I just keep plugging away to do my little part to help the president help all of us. I have also befriended Nicole LeFavour on Facebook to see what is going on in Boise to help change the local politics, because I feel that is what President Obama needs us to do and what he meant by “If one voice can change a room, it can change a house, and one house can change a street....etc.”

—**Worker Memorial Plans Progressing**—

Our friends at the Northern Idaho Central Labor Council (CLC) are continuing their efforts to erect a memorial in Riverstone Park for all fallen workers in Idaho. Most recently an architect has been approved who is working on preliminary sketches. Once everything is in order officially, they will begin raising funds. More details about this project will follow in a future publication. Current officers of the CLC include Brad Cederblom, President; Dale Broadsword, Vice-President; and Shirley McFadden, Secretary.

A First for Idaho Democrats: DNC Meeting in Idaho!

~An invitation from the Idaho Democratic Party Vice Chair~

*The Democratic National Committee will be holding its Western Caucus Meeting August 7th, 8th, and 9th at the Coeur d'Alene Tribal Resort and Casino. **This will be the first DNC meeting held in Idaho.** Democrats are welcome to attend all meetings and seminars. We are arranging for some very informative seminars and great speakers.*

I will be hosting a BBQ at my house the evening of August 6th; everyone is welcome to attend. There will be more information about this in the coming weeks.

Also, we are in search of "Idaho bling" – items to welcome all caucus members to Idaho. If you or anyone you know is interested in donating items, please call me at (208) 686-1963 or e-mail me at worleyvill@rezmail.com.

Thank you and hope to see you soon

*– Jeanne Buell, Vice Chair
– Idaho Democratic Party*

—Jeanne Buell Awarded “Art Manley Lifetime Achievement” Award—

In some ways, Jeanne Buell is like thousands of other Idaho Democrats who become involved in the party after realizing that government just isn't working for us as well as it could. But in many other ways, Jeanne has gone above and beyond in her dedication to the party, so much so that the Kootenai County Democrats have given her their Art Manley Lifetime Achievement Award.

The honor— named for the longtime Idaho state senator and conservationist —was presented to Jeanne by County Chairman Thom George at the Democracy Dinner at Post Falls on April 25. Jeanne became interested in politics when her daughter and a friend, as teen-agers, were harassed while walking across the Spokane River bridge to Q'emlin Park in Post Falls. Jeanne made some calls to local and state authorities and learned that no one was taking responsibility for people behaving badly on the bridge. Next, she contacted D.F. Oliveria of the *Spokesman-Review*. He wrote a story and within two weeks, Frank Henderson (then a Kootenai County Commissioner, now a Republican state legislator) called Jeanne to tell her the commissioners were drafting an ordinance to prohibit loitering on the bridge. After that, people started calling her and asking her to be involved in other local issues, “and I started wondering, ‘what else is out there?’”

Jeanne moved from Post Falls to Worley in 1992 and became a precinct captain there in the mid-1990s. She later served as treasurer of the Kootenai County Democrats and as chair of the Idaho Democratic Women's Caucus. In 2005, she answered Richard Stallings's call to be vice chair of the Idaho Democratic Party, and she is now in her third term in that role. Most recently, Jeanne became Western vice chair of the Association of State Democratic Chairs, a position she gained at a meeting in Washington, D.C., the day after Barack Obama's inauguration in January, bringing new national exposure to Idaho.

Idaho Democrats have made good gains in recent years, picking up a half-dozen seats in the state legislature in 2006, losing only one of those two years later (in a presidential election year) and electing Walt Minnick, our first Democrat to Congress in 15 years, last fall. Asked how we can continue progressing, Jeanne says, “It's like (past state party Chairman) Richard Stallings says: We just need to keep moving the ball

down the field.” Jeanne notes that in 2006, in addition to the six seats picked up, Democrats lost many legislative races by narrow margins for seats where we can compete again in 2010. (Idaho Democratic candidates almost always fare better in non-presidential election years.) “I think we've got the recipe,” she says. “We just need to keep working on it and improving it.”

“The feeling is out there that Idaho is ripe,” adds Jeanne, pointing to recent Democratic successes in Montana, Colorado, and elsewhere in the West. Idaho Democrats can make further gains by energizing voters who currently feel disenfranchised, including Native Americans and Latinos. The party is reaching out to people of faith including members of the Church of Latter-Day Saints, many of whom don't see their family values reflected by the likes of Rush Limbaugh and Sean Hannity. It also is important to remember that Democrats can win, all over Idaho. “I'm 56, and I can remember when it was unusual to see a Republican (returning to the legislature in Boise) at the airport on a Sunday afternoon,” Jeanne says.

Of course, winning elections will take hard work and adequate resources. Jeanne recalls how she was once asked whether it is better to contribute to your local Democratic party, the state party, or to candidates. “I said ‘break it up in three,’” she recalls. County parties need resources to rent office space and possibly hire part-time staff, but “if we don't have a strong state party, it's hard to recruit candidates. People just don't think of that.” Whether it's an election year or not, the state party continually does all kind of work



(Article Continues on Following Page)

—Buell Awarded—

(Article Continues from Preceding Page)

— maintaining the voter data base, coordinating a field presence, communicating with the media and grass-roots activists, messaging research and more —that paves the way for candidates' success on the statewide and local level.

At one point, Jeanne thought she possibly had the “bug” to run for the state legislature, but she says that serving as a substitute for District 2 Representative Mary Lou Shepherd at the tail end of the 118-day 2003 session cured her. “I thought, what a waste of time and the taxpayers' money,” she recalls, as, similar to this year, the session's end game proceeded in fits and starts, as bills were held hostage and power struggles prevailed. Jeanne says she may still consider running for county commissioner someday, but for now, she believes that building the Idaho Democratic Party is the most effective use of her talents and time.

Politics is a big part of Jeanne Buell's life, but it's not her only love. She enjoys working outside and spending time with her family; she recently took her

grandson Jimmy to Disneyland, where she rode the Matterhorn and Space Mountain. (The rest of her family includes son Jacob, daughter Sandy, granddaughter Laci and husband Robert, who recently celebrated his 78th birthday in assisted living in Coeur d'Alene.) Everyone knows that Jeanne also is the proud “parent” of two beautiful Bernese Mountain dogs, Betsy and Buck.

Jeanne was surprised by her Lifetime Achievement Award and notes that, as she stood before the Democracy Dinner crowd, she looked out at many other people who are equally deserving of the honor. “To me, in the Democratic Party, we are a family,” she says.

She also thanked everyone who attended the 2009 Democracy Dinner and Speaker Reception. With your help, we raised \$2,407 for the Kootenai County Democrats.

Congratulations to Jeanne Buell, and thanks for all your dedication and work on behalf of our party!

We kicked off the KCDCC 2009 Pledge Drive January 10, 2009 with a letter composed by KCDCC Chair Thom George. The letter outlined the many activities and initiatives planned for FY 2009 along with a pitch for proactive participation in the drive. The letter and subsequent calling campaign targeted 601 households that contributed to past pledge drives or purchased Democrat promotional material from us. While 601 contacts is a small target given the potential Democratic support in Kootenai County, this list appeared the best hope for generating donations, given our limited resources. However, what we found is that of the 601 potential pledges available, it was difficult to reach many of these constituents. In fact, most of our contacts required multiple calls before reaching them. Despite this obstacle, the pledge campaign was reasonably successful achieving 87% of the projected target goal of \$20,000.

This success was due in large part to our volunteer callers: Jax Clay (Pledge Drive Committee Chair), Phil Clements, Bette Inseth, Evan Koch, David and Roberta Larsen, Bev Moss, Paula Neils, Tamara Poelstra, Justin Stormogipson, and me (Brian Wright).

We learned that the pledge letter alone was insufficient to drive support. In fact, we only received a 1% of our pledges from the letter (17 pledges). On the other hand, of those reached by phone, 41% agreed to a pledge (149 pledges).

With future drives, we intend to rely more on our website, newsletters, and e-mail communications to launch the pledge drive prior to the calling campaign. We will also try to identify individuals likely to be gone during the campaign season, and develop alternate strategies to reach them. But mostly, we will continue to do our best to educate you (our constituents) about what we do at the KCDCC, its importance, and why we need your financial support.

Thank You.

—Brian Wright – Office Coordinator

Kootenai County 2009 Pledge Drive Status



If you can make a new pledge or additional contribution, please go to the contribute page of our website www.kootenaidemocrats.org or send your contribution to KCDCC at P.O. Box 1297, Cd'A ID 83816