



IDCCA
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Newsletter

Issue #14

NEWS FROM AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

IN THIS ISSUE



President's Message

By: Doug House, President IDCCA
Chairman, Rock Island County Democratic Party

First Ever IDCCA Annual Party Builder Awards

To Recognize / Honor Kevin Conlon and Clem Balanoff

Party Building is what the IDCCA does and is all about. The first rule of politics is that politics is about inclusion. It is that lesson of inclusion that our leadership team has focused on in its effort to grow our ranks and party. We have reached out to all of the constituencies of the Democratic Party that we have been able to identify – by gender, race, political leaning, social standing, and issues based activism – with the aim of mutual promotion, through sharing links on each other's social media and offering space in our News Letter for special articles by guest writers. Doing this has created strong partnerships and allowed us to grow rapidly. A year ago we spoke with only a few thousand, today we reach an audience of over 12,000 readers.

It is in this vision of inclusion and party building that we announce that this year at our Chicago event we will recognize two individuals for their contributions to our collective Democratic Values with our very first Party Builders Awards. The recipients are of exemplary character and have demonstrated from a very young age up until the presentation of this recognition a strong commitment to inclusion in our Party.

The recipients are Kevin Conlon and Clem Balanoff. As you may be aware, each of these individuals have been working in the political vineyards for more than 30 years and each of them recently played major roles in the campaigns and delegates selection efforts for their respective presidential candidates –

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Precinct Committeeman Recruiting

We are recruiting Democratic Precinct Committeeman statewide to assist with the grassroots effort to build the Democratic Party in Illinois. If you are interested in being a part of this grassroots effort, please email dan@ildcca.org with your name, address, phone, email, county and precinct. Your County Democratic Party Chairman will contact you immediately!

The Illinois Democratic County Chairman's Association is a state wide, grassroots Democratic political organization. It is made up of the elected Democratic County Chairman in all 102 counties in Illinois. The mission of the IDCCA is to help elect Democrats in each county while continuing to grow the Democratic Party in the State of Illinois. Rock Island County Chairman Doug House is the President of the Illinois Democratic County Chairman's Association.

Paid for by the Illinois Democratic County Chairman's Association. A copy of our report is (or will be) available for purchase from the Illinois State Board of Elections, Springfield IL

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Kevin for Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton and Clem for United States Senator Bernie Sanders.

Both did excellent work and demonstrated why Illinois Democrats are so successful. It is my honor to recognize them both at our Annual March 16th Chicago Fundraiser at the Hubbard Inn. I hope that you will be able to join us on this most auspicious occasion.

You can view the full invitation here, and RSVP online here.

Doug House
IDCCA President
Rock Island County Democratic Party
Chairman
@ILDCCA @RiCoDemocrats



Illinois Black Caucus Member's Collectively Expressed Disappointment in Governor Rauner's Lack of Leadership

By Larry Luster

Illinois Black Caucus member's held a press conference to respond to Governor Rauner's State of the State Address.

In what proved to be the highlight of an otherwise redundant State of the State Address day, in a show of unity, members of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus faced the governor's office for a scathing press conference. The Illinois Black Caucus is a collection of black legislators from both the House of Representatives and Senate.

Members voiced disappointment and pointed out the lack of solutions that plagued the governor's speech. There was no clearer message than that of Assistant Majority Leader Kimberly Lightford (D-Maywood), who also chairs the joint Illinois Legislative Black Caucus: "I really feel like the governor avoided our real problems and didn't offer up any solutions."

The caucus has continued to focus on social justice, equitable access to education for students and social service funding for our most vulnerable population. The caucus fights for these causes while advocating for responsible fiscal management on behalf of state government without saddling these

vulnerable populations with an undue financial burden.

Senator Toi Hutchinson (D-Chicago Heights), chairwoman of the Senate Revenue Committee and Senate Black Caucus, spoke about the importance of revenue and how it contributes to a balance budget. "It is a fact that none of the goals that any of us have can happen with an \$11 million in backlog of bills or a \$4.5 million deficit."

Chairwoman of the House Black Caucus, Representative Camille Lilly also offered her take on the Governor's leadership.

"Illinois has gone without a budget for far too long. This is unacceptable and we must work together to ensure that we provide relief to Illinois families that have suffered as a result of this impasse. Passing a budget continues to be a top priority of the Black Caucus.

Representative Chris Welch (D-Hillside) challenged the Governor to consider listening to the people affected by his austerity measures.

"We will continue fighting for a state budget that protects vital services and the middle class. I share thousands of families across the state's frustration about the stalemate going on in Springfield, but I refuse to support an agenda that hurts families. I encourage the governor to come to my district and listen to the concerns of our community to understand that it's time to move Illinois forward."

Larry Luster is the Executive Director of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus Foundation. Follow the foundation @ilbcfoundation



Illinois Women Are Moving Forward

By Brigid Leahy

Women's History Month is a time to highlight the many contributions of women. From Ida B. Wells to Abby Wambach, women have been working to make our country better. As Planned Parenthood celebrates its 100th year, we recognize the countless unnamed women who work every day to provide for their families and to build our society brick by brick.

At the same time, even after years of tremendous progress, we know that many women continue to face challenges. We struggle to earn pay equal to our male

counterparts. Many of us do not have access to adequate child care or paid sick time to care for ourselves, children, and family members. The list goes on and on.

As if life weren't challenging enough, now women are facing unprecedented attacks on health care. The Republican leadership in Congress has fast tracked the repeal of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). They intend to roll back the ACA guarantee of coverage for essential health care, including maternity and basic preventive care like birth control. In addition, the legislation would defund Planned Parenthood cutting off access to crucial preventive health care for millions of patients. In Illinois, over 60,000 patients could lose access to annual exams, cancer screenings, affordable contraception, STD, and HIV testing.

Republicans call their plan the American Health Care Act, but it should be called the Take Health Care Away from America Act.

It is no wonder that millions of women around the world marched in January demanding to be heard. These marches ranged from groups in the millions to just a handful of people – all of them came together to support women and take action. The marches helped to propel new activists to organize and stand up for health care, civil rights, fair pay, and equal treatment under the law. Women are signing up to run for office and create change in their communities.

Planned Parenthood is proud to be part of all of these movements, as a leader, an ally, and a partner. Here in Illinois, we have joined with 35 organizations to say that we are not moving back; women in Illinois are moving forward! Planned Parenthood of Illinois is a proud partner in the Illinois Women Moving Forward (IWMF) coalition. IWMF is dedicated to removing current barriers women are facing and enacting proactive policies in order to enable women to achieve their full potential.

IWMF supports SB 981, a bill that would amend the Illinois Equal Pay Act to address systemic discrimination by prohibiting the use of previous salary history in determining salary levels for future employment. We are promoting HB 2771, which would allow for employees to earn sick time so that they can

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take time for their families without worrying that they will lose their job. And, we are backing legislation to ensure that abortion will remain safe and legal in Illinois no matter what happens in the U.S. Supreme Court.

We have joined together to ensure that Illinois is a place where women are safe, secure, and successful. Join us at illinoiswomen.org and come to an Advocacy Day in Springfield on Wednesday, April 5th. The full coalition will be at the Capitol to tell state legislators that the issues important to women must be addressed and that Illinois must move forward.

Birgird Leahy is the Director of Public Policy for Planned Parenthood Illinois Action



On the Minimum Wage

By John Willard, Chairman
KCDCC

So, I felt compelled to write something about the crime of the stagnant minimum wage and decided that some research would be prudent rather than just ranting. That effort led me to some interesting revelations on just how we, as a society, decided that workers should not be 'entitled' to a wage that lets them eat well enough to be healthy, productive contributors to society at large. It is interesting that most of the 'opinion' and 'advice' articles I found were written by people who were not now, nor had they ever been, poor. I attributed that to poor people's lack of internet access; or maybe their funds did not allow them to buy paper, pencils and stamps; or maybe their work schedules did not provide ample time for quiet reflection on the sun-drenched sands of some secluded Caribbean Island where the pressures of the world subside and profound enlightenment is achieved. In any case, what I was hoping to find did not pop up on a quick internet search.

What did show up on my search for how to live on a minimum wage? Hmmm . . . well, there was some good advice on why poor people should not invest all their extra money in the stock market. It seems that unless you are a skilled trader with inside information you may be at a disadvantage, in addition to having no money to invest. Another 'advisor' offered suggestions on where best to relocate to stretch your dollars, perhaps Texas or

Louisiana might be appropriate because a New York City penthouse is likely beyond reach. He noted that 'low rent enclaves' continue to exist where minimum wage workers can make the most of their meager incomes. Efficiency apartments and house sharing also made his list of how to 'survive' on minimum wage. And, of course, living with relatives is always an option. To my surprise, he did stop short of the obvious VW microbus . . . perhaps the classic status of the microbus has put it beyond reach along with the New York City penthouse. Funny that I could find no advice on how to buy a home on minimum wage. Is it just not possible?

Well then, I guess we can conclude that minimum wage workers should find a job near a 'low rent enclave' in a warm climate and never invest in the stock market. Or we, as a society, can admit that the minimum wage is insufficient and do something about it. What should we, do you ask? First, have some empathy for your fellow citizens. Stop belittling those who are doing the best they can. Support better education so people will be better prepared to be contributing members of the workforce and to skillfully negotiate for better wages. But, most importantly, let the people who set the minimum wage know that you will organize the voters to oppose them for re-election if the minimum wage is not raised to a living wage . . . and then actually do it!



Why I am Marching: I Took My Daughters to Washington DC....

By Monica W. Tracey

The sun began to rise on this January morning as we quietly walked past the police and lined barricades heading toward the staging area. Nodding and saying good morning I wondered if I made the right choice bringing my two daughters to Washington D.C. As I reflected on those who asked me "how I could take my daughters to protest," something I had never before done in my life, I said to myself "How could I not."

How could I reconcile staying home when my 2 daughters live in a country where they, working full time, earn 20% less than the men working alongside of them while they perform the exact same jobs? How could I as a woman look these two beautiful young women in the

eyes and be silent as they watched a misogynist leader take over the country we live in displaying his contempt, objectification and belittling of women? How could I not model the requirement to stand alongside women and men who are more vulnerable than I due to the color of their skin or the God they pray to? How could I pretend that the civil rights of my daughters were not threatened?

But this day was much bigger than them. This was a day for us to stand, to walk, and to advocate for the rights of all of us in this county. It was a day for human rights. This was a day to display what the "United States" is. We are a county of immigrants; my daughters proud that I am first generation. We are a country who not only lives with the belief we can do better but through our actions show that we can do better, in our attempts at bring healthcare to all, to protect the precious land we live on, to preserve the collective workforce who keeps this country going, to defend the words and actions our forefathers painstakingly documented securing the freedom of all religions and the rights of all who live here.

It has been estimated that this was the largest single-day demonstration in U.S. history to send a message to the new administration on their first day in office that women's rights are human rights. There were at least 500,000 people marching in Washington D.C. on that Saturday. As we stood close to the stage listening to the speakers, some of them women who have given their lives to fighting for human rights, we stood tall. We stood next to the man who brought his 13-year-old daughter, driving 7 hours from Virginia. "She made me bring her," he exclaimed proudly. We walked with the family of 5, the father pushing the stroller carrying two of their three children, while the mother held the hand of their young daughter as she held a sign that said "peace". We marched alongside a family with three generations of women, grandmother, mother and daughters who shared the hope and strength of each other while they guided the walker the grandmother needed to stand and march.

At the end of the day, after we stood for 7 hours waiting, after we listened to impassioned pleas to not have this be just one day but have this be the first day; after we marched, after we talked with countless others, we walked back to our hotel 3 miles from that initial staging area. And yet, everywhere we turned, even 3 miles away,

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there were more people who also decided they could not stay home.

We arrived back at our hotel, and as we entered the lobby, the male hotel management staff stood handing each marcher a glass of champagne. I graciously took the glass and thanked one of the managers and he said to me "this is our way of showing our support." My daughters and I celebrated, our trip, our day, our march, but more importantly our decision to express what the United States is for all. As I looked at them that night I knew this was not a day, this was our first day. No longer would we be on the sidelines.

Since November 8th, 2016, many have said to me "He is not my president." I took my daughters to Washington DC January 21st 2017 to participate in the Women's March to say: "You are my president, you are my daughters' president, and you serve us, that is what you chose to do." Because of that choice, we will stand tall, we will not stay home, we will not pretend, and we will not close our eyes; we will use our voice, our strength and our vote.

Reclaiming the Values of the Democratic Party



KEYNOTE SPEAKER CONGRESSMAN KEITH ELLISON



Keith Ellison currently represents the 5th Congressional District of Minnesota. A tireless advocate, Keith has served as the co-chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, and a Chief Deputy Whip. He was a member of the DCCC leadership board and served on the DNC Platform Drafting Committee.

In Congress he sits on the House Financial Services Committee, where he is often seen fighting Republican attempts to deregulate Wall Street. With effective field campaigning, he has brought his urban and suburban district to one of the highest rates of voter turnout in the nation. He has raised millions of dollars for the DCCC, his own state party, and countless other state and local parties and candidates. He is excited about building a Democratic Party that is focused on empowering voters and boosting grassroots movements.

© 2017 Fund for the Democratic Party of DuPage County.

Southern Illinois Democratic Women invite you to

STATE FAIR TRIVIA NIGHT

March 25th

Doors open 5:30 p.m., game begins 6:00 p.m.

\$160/team of 8 or \$20 for individuals

Food! Fun! Prizes! Auctions!

Operator's Hall, IUOE Local 318, 3310 Water Tower Rd, Marion IL

For more information or to RSVP:
Brandi Bradley (618) 924-1334 bnbradley2012@gmail.com
Lee Franklin 618-719-6942 leesparks@aol.com

Make checks payable to:
58th Senate Chairman Association

A copy of our report filed with the State Board of Elections is (or will be) available on the Board's official website, www.elections.il.gov or for purchase from the State Board of Elections, Springfield, Illinois.

Printed in House.

SAVE THE DATE

FREE CAMPAIGN TRAINING

May 20 - 22

Sponsored and Hosted by:

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC TRAINING COMMITTEE



Where: **CROWNE PLAZA SPRINGFIELD**
3000 S Dirksen Pkwy, Springfield, IL 62703

What: Free campaign training open to any 2018 Democratic candidates for county office. The NDTC Bootcamp is designed to help local candidates learn to create a comprehensive winning campaign plan.

Questions?: Email Dan Kovats (dankovats@gmail.com) or Kelly Dietrich (kelly@traindemocrats.org)