



**IDCCA**  
**December**  
**2016**  
**Newsletter**

**Issue #11**

NEWS FROM AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

IN THIS ISSUE



# President's Message

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

- [Presidents Message](#) —Page 1
- [A New Grassroots Movement](#)—Page 2
- [What Candidates Can Do Now](#)—Page 3
- [Bringing More Women to the Table](#) — Page 3

Friends:

I want to take a moment and wish you a Happy Holidays!

We have been through a lot this year, and while the Presidential election did not turn out how we had hoped, we still have so much to be thankful for.

From the wildly successful Chairmen's Brunch in August, to the volunteers, precinct leaders and Chairmen who made sure Illinois went Blue in November, and all the work in between - I am so grateful for all that we have done together this year.

And we are not done yet! Continue to expect great things from the IDCCA in 2017 including more party building at every level as we prepare to take back the Governor's office and elect more members to Congress in 2018!

Expect to see the IDCCA on the frontlines

standing up for working men and women as a premiere challenger of the radical agendas of our Governor and the President Elect.

Have a wonderful Holiday Season!

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



**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](mailto:dan@ildcca.org) with you 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



## A New Grassroots Movement for a Better Tomorrow

By Georgi Logothetis

Like many in this state and across the country, the election of Donald Trump initially left me in shock and disbelief. I was heartbroken, and as reality set in, I became terrified for my country. Now, weeks later, the heartbreak has given way to acceptance and, well, anger.

Nothing has infuriated me more recently than people imploring me to “get over it,” claiming it’s “just politics,” or asking “why do you take it so personally?”

To paraphrase what the ancient Greek statesman Pericles said, just because you don’t take an interest in politics doesn’t mean it won’t take an interest in you.

Politics is personal. Policy is personal.

Obamacare saved my mother’s life so she could see me get married last year. My cousin has served overseas, and his life depends on the whims and temperament of the Commander in Chief. My sister is a teacher in an overcrowded and underfunded Chicago Public School system, so when Donald Trump chooses someone like Betsy DeVos — an unqualified, billionaire Republican donor to be Secretary of Education — yes, it is personal.

In the weeks since the election, tens of thousands of people like me across the state have joined forces to fight for our families and our values over the next four years and beyond. Inspired by the national “pantsuit nation” movement — a Facebook movement which gained over 3.9 followers during the election — our Illinois group is growing by leaps and bounds every day.

Within days of the election, we organized in regions across the state. Now, nearly a month later, we have local chapters in dozens of regions across Illinois, from Chicago to Champaign. Meetups of the group are already standing-room only, with some meetups seeing 200 or 300 people showing up to take action. In six months at our current growth rate, if our movement were a city, it would be one of the largest cities in Illinois.

This is not a flash in a pan. It is not a fleeting burst of anger, and it is not solely a consequence of Trump’s win. What we are seeing at the grassroots level is a true awakening. People of all ages and demographics were jolted awake from their daily grind by the election and have been called to fight — not just against the Trump administration’s harmful policies but for policies that improve their local communities, their state and the country they love.

Importantly, our movement is not about building just another email list or adding to the cacophony of special interest groups. Rather, the core of our movement is citizen empowerment and grassroots lobbying with real results.

It’s why we’re soon releasing a unique set of seminars and interactive workshops on everything from Advocacy 101 (what works and what doesn’t when trying to contact lawmakers), The Art of the Argument (how to persuade others — even some Trump voters!), Policy in 60 Minutes (boot camps on complex policy issues like pensions, health care, and foreign affairs), Yes, You Can Run For Office and more.

It is not enough to bury our heads in the sand for four years and hope society will eventually get better. It is also not enough to rely solely on a small set of leaders hoping they alone can bear the enormous burden of pushing for progress at every level. We must all participate to ensure we have a better tomorrow.

As President Obama, has noted several times, “the most important title in any country is not ‘president’ or ‘prime minister.’ The most important title is ‘citizen.’”

We are going to spend the next four years and beyond proving that maximum true. We hope you join us.

Georgia Logothetis is a Contributing Editor at DailyKos.com and founder of Pantsuit Nation Illinois.



# NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC TRAINING COMMITTEE

## What Can Candidates Do Over the Holidays

By National Democratic Training Committee,  
@TrainDems

The holidays are almost here and nearly every campaign wonders what to do while voters are focused more on family and not politics.

Rather than hibernating for several weeks, campaigns have an excellent opportunity to build relationships and do some good in the community. Here are four suggestions for candidates between now and New Year's.

**Holiday Cards** - Now is a perfect time to send a holiday card to every supporter, volunteer and donor in your database. Holiday cards are a little work, but worth the effort. They help maintain your list and keep relationships warm with those who support your campaign. Don't just do an email, send a letter. Write personal notes on the cards to special volunteers and important supporters.

**Volunteer Charity Events** - If you've just run for office, many times the volunteers and people who were working on your campaign 24/7 leading up to Election Day may be experiencing a bit of withdrawal. Get them together again to volunteer, not for the campaign, but at a local soup kitchen, homeless shelter or other charity in your community.

**Raising Money** - Again, not for your campaign, but use your list to support a good cause. Ask your donors to give to an organization you believe in and is working in your district. Most organizations will work with you to setup a webpage or some donor portal to make it as easy as possible.

**Thank You Calls** - When is the last time you called your VIP volunteers, political allies and donors without an ask? Use the

time between now and New Years to make a call without an ask, just to say Happy Holidays. Too often campaigns only communicate when they need something. This is a chance to let these people know they are appreciated and grow a relationship with them. It will pay big dividends next year when you are calling to make an ask.

For candidates with primaries in early 2017, you can combine the above with asks for support and contributions. You don't have time to spare. For incumbents, local parties and others, use the next few weeks to make new friends and catch up with old ones.



## Bringing More Women to the Table

By Anne Szkatulski  
@RodhamConsult

In the immediate aftermath of the recent election, I didn't know how to process what had happened. I was devastated for our country, for our friends and neighbors, and for our future. But what upset me the most was the thought that women all over the country might have seen a highly qualified, capable, and confident woman lose to an absurdly unqualified man and think, "I could never run for office."

I knew exactly what I had to do: create a system to ensure that no Democratic woman in Illinois who wants to run for office walks away from the opportunity.

There are some wonderful programs that exist in Illinois to cultivate future Democratic leaders. I am a proud graduate of the Illinois Women's Institute for Leadership (IWIL), a program that for many years has been "successfully preparing and propelling women to take on elected and appointed positions to advance Democratic ideals." IWIL is

without a doubt the best resource in Illinois for a Democratic woman who knows she wants to run for office.

But many women need encouragement to even get to that point. There are so many Democratic women across Illinois who want to get more involved in their communities, who want to take on leadership roles, who want to run for office -- and who would truly excel in those positions -- but they don't know where to start. Enter Rodham Consulting.

Rodham Consulting (www.rodhamconsulting.com) is a pro bono political consulting firm offering one free hour of initial guidance to any Democratic woman in Illinois who is considering running for office, or who just wants to understand how to get more involved in Democratic politics. We have a team of over 30 women with expertise in political strategy serving as advisors, and in the four weeks since we launched, we have signed up almost 100 clients.

Rodham Consulting is meant to be the first call a woman makes when she thinks to herself, "I might want to run for office, but don't know how to get started." So far our clients have included artists, accountants, new moms, retired lawyers, and everyone in between, from all over Illinois. Many of these women are ready to step up to the plate, and we work with them to plan out and ultimately take those first few steps.

We constantly hear "I'm not qualified," "I don't know anything about politics," and "I don't have anything to offer." But as I tell any woman who suggests she isn't qualified to run for office -- that didn't stop Donald Trump, and it shouldn't stop you. Everyone has knowledge and expertise to share, and a potential candidate just has to find the best outlet for her strengths. And when women run for political office, they are just as likely as men to be elected.

Rodham Consulting has three ways to engage -- as a Client, someone who is considering running for office and wants advice on how to get started; as a

*(Continued on page 4)*

Want to stay up to date on Democratic fund-raisers, events and meetings throughout the state? Check out [www.ildcca.org/events](http://www.ildcca.org/events)

*(Continued from page 3)*

Connector, someone who is willing to help Rodham Consulting by utilizing your networks to plug our clients into their communities; or as a Supporter, someone who supports our mission and wants to stay in touch with us.

We believe that if you're not at the table, you're on the menu. And at Rodham Consulting, we're doing our best to ensure that more Democratic women have seats at the table.

---

If this applies to you or someone you know, check out our website, [www.rodhamconsulting.com](http://www.rodhamconsulting.com), share it with a friend, and give us a like on social media. Stay updated by joining our email list as a Supporter or drop us a line at [rodhamconsulting@gmail.com](mailto:rodhamconsulting@gmail.com). By growing our network, we can reach every Democratic woman from Granite City to Waukegan, from Moline to Carbondale, from Cairo to Chicago.

Happy  
Holidays