

In This Issue:

- Convention1
- Lee Goodman.....1
- Columnist Gregory Mysko2
- Precinct Training2
- The Draft3
- Angelo Kyle4

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Lee Goodman on the Issues

Democrat Lee Goodman has been driving around the 10th Congressional District for the last nine months meeting with voters in his quest to unseat Republican incumbent Mark Kirk. It is good that his "Made in Illinois" blue Dodge Neon is fuel efficient since gas prices have skyrocketed this year. Goodman says he will bring a sense of fiscal responsibility to congress in a manner similar to his personal choice of vehicle that conserves his own spending.

Goodman says Republicans are in a very difficult position in the areas of the budget and the deficit. "Traditionally, the Republicans painted themselves as the party of fiscal responsibility, which they basically mean is low government spending," he said. "They used this argument with Ronald Reagan. And then people who were paying attention realized Reagan was spending more money than anyone was noticing. During the Clinton years, they kept saying the Democrats were 'tax



Congressional candidate Lee Goodman attends a campaign event with supporters.

Continued on page 3



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Tenth News

August 2004 Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats Newsletter Volume 1, Edition 8

Ellen Beth Gill at Center of Convention

From July 26 - 29, Boston became the center of the universe for Democratic politics and the Tenth Dems' own Ellen Beth Gill was there.

Ellen, a member of the Tenth Dems' executive and steering committees, spent six days attending the Democratic National Convention and left with a lifetime of memories. As an elected delegate from Illinois, hers was one of the 4,255 votes cast for John Kerry during the formal nominating process.

When she wasn't at the Fleet Center, Ellen was participating in the democratic process, criss-crossing Boston attending workshops, conferences and speeches dealing with politics and issues.

"Boston was an inspiring and empowering experience. I learned how to better engage and organize volunteers and how to bring more people into the democratic process," Ellen said. "I attended many women's functions and learned about the role of women in politics from people like Hillary Clinton, Madeleine Albright and Carol Moseley Braun. I also spoke with many Illinois politicians such as (Illinois Attorney General) Lisa Madigan, (Governor) Rod Blagojevich and (Chicago Mayor) Richard Daley. They were all warm, friendly and very personable!"

Ms. Gill, an attorney, is very active in Democratic politics. She was one of the first five John Kerry grassroots volunteers in Illinois and started the first Kerry Meet-Up group in Lake County. She runs two campaign websites — kerryillinois.com, and one for her cousin,

Continued on page 2



Gov. Rod Blagojevich and Ellen Beth Gill at a gathering of Illinois delegates at the Democratic National Convention in Boston.

Misjudging Kirk

By Gregory Mysko, Tenth News Columnist

I read the July 2004 edition of Congressman Mark Kirk's North Shore News from cover to cover. It has changed my life! It made me question what I am doing here with the Tenth Dems and with my life. Call it an "Oprah Moment" if you will. I learned so much . . .

Mark Kirk is The Protector of Lake Michigan shorelines. He will preserve that land for all time and save it from becoming a US Navy target range like Viejas, Puerto Rico. There will also be a nature preserve. Since Kirk lives there, he does not want endangered species coming on his property.

This congressman is also The Protector of Lake Michigan Homeland Security. He likes spending Saturdays flying around the 10th Congressional District shoreline in a Coast Guard helicopter and wearing a really cool jumpsuit similar to one worn by our hero, President Bush, when he declared "Mission Accomplished" in Iraq. In all fairness, the Coast Guard does a wonderful job performing rescues even when a Congressman tags along for a ride.

Kirk is The Champion of the Protection of Incompetence Act or some such Republican legislation pending in Congress. He is upset that Illinois legislators have not enacted legislation that prevents the most negligent doctors from having their pants sued off when they perform botched surgeries. Kirk warns us that all Illinois doctors will soon move to Wisconsin in spite of that being the source of "Cheesehead Sewer Water from Milwaukee."

The congressman takes great pride along with another of his heroes, Rep. Phil Crane (R-Ill.) in being The Flood Savior of Gurnee. He says he got sailors from Great Lakes to come and fill sandbags during the recent Des Plaines River flood. Those sailors did a great job. But Kirk forgets to mention the thousands of other volunteers, in Gurnee and the other municipalities south, like his opponent Lee Goodman, who also spent many hours fighting the flood and saving their towns. Oh well, he didn't recruit them.

Kirk is proud to introduce H.R. 3925, also known as the Tax Cut for the Wealthy Preservation Act. Among other things, this bill provides for "renewed federal spending discipline." That is a code word for "Slashing social spending programs while continuing to provide special corporate tax breaks and don't you dare try to rollback those tax cuts on the super wealthy!" Yes, Kirk is The Protector of the Budget Deficit, too.

After reading these revelations in a publication paid for and mailed at substantial taxpayer expense, I now have seen the light. I say, let's call off the elections. Lee Goodman should just stay home and learn how to bake cookies.

The opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer.

Getting to the Roots of Politics

By Bruni Hirsch, Tenth Dems Intern

A newly formatted Democratic Precinct Committee person and Grassroots Volunteer Training session sponsored and presented by the Tenth Dems was held at the new Lake County Democratic Headquarters, July 20 in Waukegan, the third in a series.

More than 40 people from Waukegan, Lake Forest, Highland Park, Gurnee, Grayslake and other parts of the area were there.

The training was held to teach both active citizens and precinct committee people how to successfully reach voters.

The evening began with the philosophy of grassroots politicking and why it is so crucial for democracy. The training covered accessing information regarding the voting patterns in one's precinct and using techniques to effectively reach voters such as door-to-door canvassing, phone calls and mailings.

Susie Krasnow, the chair of the Tenth Dems Grassroots Training Committee, was impressed because "many participants asked questions, which showed the high level of interest and enthusiasm in the room."

Along with many Tenth Dems members leading the training, candidates also gave their input. Tenth Congressional District candidate Lee Goodman, Dr. Richard Keller, who is running for Lake County Coroner and Lake County Circuit Court Clerk candidate Margo Nelson, along with experienced precinct workers Del Parra and Mitch Miller, made spirited and informative presentations.

Lauren Beth Gash, chair of the Tenth Dems, was thrilled with the session and turnout. "My son just turned 18 and had to register for the Selective Service. This is the most important election of my lifetime and this time *voting is not enough*," said Gash. "That is why precinct grassroots volunteers are necessary to get information out to the voters."

The Tenth Dems plan two more training sessions this summer. One will be August 7, at the Highland Park Public Library at 494 Laurel Avenue. The other is at 6:30 p.m., August 25, at the Vernon Area Public Library at 300 Olde Half Day Road in Lincolnshire.



Precinct Committeemen and other activists gather in Waukegan for a training session offered by the Illinois Tenth Congressional District Dems.

Ellen *continued from page 1*

David Gill — davidgillforcongress.com — who is running for Congress in Illinois' 12th Congressional District.

"Being in the Illinois delegation on the floor of the convention when Barack Obama spoke was just so cool! He really brought the house down. People from other states kept coming up to us to ask about him. They were really curious and enthused by him. They wanted to know more. I also traded buttons with people from all over the country. The Tenth Dems "Kerry-Edwards-Obama" buttons are now all over the country — and in Guam!" Ellen said.

On John Kerry's speech accepting the nomination for President, Ellen said, "I think he gave a strong speech. It was the same message he had when I followed him through Iowa during the primary — about creating jobs in America, of not rewarding companies for moving jobs overseas, and for strengthening our national security. He has been very consistent, sure and specific about his plans on the environment, health care, job creation, tax policy, national security and Iraq. As Kerry spoke I turned to another delegate who told me, 'We are going to win!' And I agree."

Back in Illinois, Ellen continues to work on promoting various Democrats campaigning for office. "Since Illinois is not a battleground state we have to work for our local candidates to get out the vote for John Kerry." Every campaign is important and every vote is important. Whether it's John Kerry, Barack Obama, Lee Goodman or Dr. Richard Keller, candidate for Lake County Coroner, Ellen spends countless hours committed to seeing that they and all other Democrats win in November. The energy and excitement she soaked in from the Democratic Convention will easily keep her going through election day.

Lee Goodman, *continued from page 1*

and spend' but the deficit kept going down and the economy was improving. The Democrats were the party that was much more fiscally in tune with what the people wanted."

During the last few years, the Bush administration again started talking about fiscal responsibility, Goodman said. "Even the leaders in the Republican party are upset with the kinds of problems Bush created with the stock market not in good shape. Employment has not been improving the way they keep indicating it is going to improve. The problem the Republicans are having right now is that they can't just keep putting out the same message because people are seeing through it."

Goodman says Mark Kirk is playing along with this right-wing Republican strategy. "My opponent, Mark Kirk said, on the floor of Congress that we have to cut back on social benefits to any number of groups because if we don't, then senior citizens are not going to get their Social Security. He tried to create that split between different voting blocks. There is no consistency in what the Republicans are doing and I don't think people are going to buy it anymore."

Another area of concern with many voters is the Iraq war. Goodman was an opponent of the Iraq war from the beginning. He founded the Northbrook Peace Committee in 2002 and was instrumental in organizing protest activities prior to Bush's invasion of Iraq. He also worked with other peace groups in the north suburban area. From his



Lee Goodman takes some time from his busy campaign schedule to meet with enthusiastic volunteers.

talks with voters, Goodman finds a significantly larger number of people unhappy with the war today.

"With the depth of the mistakes we made in Iraq," Goodman says, "I'm sure the scholars will spend a generation studying all the things we did wrong over there. But essentially we disrupted their government and entire civil society and all we replaced it with is chaos. We haven't even begun to rebuild infrastructure. That country was in serious trouble even before we invaded. We made the lives of the average

person there much more difficult in many ways. We have an obligation to rebuild given the damage we caused. So when we look at the \$200 billion we spent, most of that money went to destroy things."

Goodman does not believe the US can pull its troops out of Iraq immediately. Planning for an eventual withdrawal must start now.

"We now recognize that we have to stop this occupation. It simply cannot work." He calls Iraq a tragic boondoggle. "It is not just the money that has been lost, but more important, it is sad that so many lives have been lost and so many Iraqis are still in danger."

Although recent news reports have the Bush administration setting its target sites on Iran as the next country to invade, Goodman does not believe the US has the capability at this time to undertake a new military misadventure. "Our ability to respond to any emergency anywhere in the world right now is severely limited, which is one more reason why we must look into getting out of Iraq." He is an opponent of any measure that would bring back the draft.

Will We Have a Draft?

By Amelia Kegan, Tenth Dems Guest Columnist

In my mind, the draft has always meant Vietnam—a different era with protest filled campuses. Today, with troops overextended in Afghanistan, Iraq, and around the globe, the re-election of the President could mean a renewal of the draft, transforming a different era into a present day reality.

If congress authorized the President to start calling up my generation to serve in the armed forces, would women be included? Today's notions of female ability are not limited by the same stereotypes they were thirty years ago. However, society's progress does not necessarily mirror the military environment. The military has a reputation for macho culture, sexist attitudes, and frequent harassment.

If congress authorized the President to renew the draft, would there be student deferments? The draft should not acknowledge high economic status. It is meant to be an institution that treats everyone the same. The military already contains and targets a higher proportion of lower income people. The military will help pay for college for enlisted

people. I have friends who are able to attend college because of ROTC. When I look at the students in ROTC at my school, they are there because of the economic incentives. I know of few people with the economic ability not to participate in ROTC who still choose to do so.

The lack of troops in the military is not an indication of my generation's lack of national service. More young people are volunteering in their communities, and programs like Teach for America are highly competitive. This is an indication of where we believe we can make the most difference.

I believe in serving my country. I believe in it so strongly that I hope to dedicate my life to public service. However, I do not support a draft. It is the administration's responsibility to convince the American public that this is a war worth fighting, worth American lives. The government should use education and honesty rather than force to increase military enrollment—something this administration has failed to do. Maybe if it had, we would not even be involved in Iraq.

The Iraq War, not the draft, enables me to relate to the Vietnam era. Criticism and skepticism surrounding the real need of the invasion of Iraq are like that of the Vietnam War. Fear of communism is akin to the fear of terrorism. The administration's color system does nothing to actually assist in defending our communities from an attack but only serves to perpetuate fear. The recent 9/11 Commission and Senate Intelligence reports remind me of the Pentagon Papers—the American public was not told the truth when it came to going to war, spending billions of American tax dollars, and putting our troops in harm's way.

No doubt, the prospect of the draft scares me, but a greater fear of mine is the re-election of a president who is not honest with the American people and who appears proud to risk American lives for an unnecessary war.

Amelia Kegan is a Winnetka resident and senior at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, where she is student council president. The opinions expressed are her own.



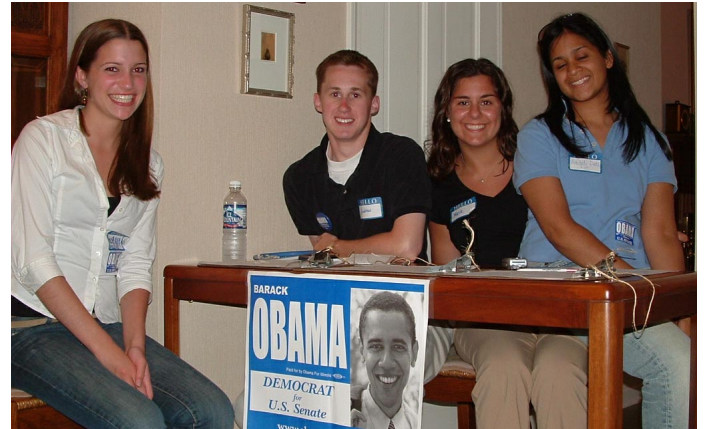
Angelo Kyle Addresses Convention

One of the Tenth District's very own, Lake County Board Member Angelo Kyle, spoke to the Democratic National Convention, July 28. He spoke as the President of the National Association of Counties (NACo). Kyle rose through the leadership of NACo, and became President in July. The group speaks for the 3,000 county governments in America. Kyle has represented the Waukegan area on the Lake County Board for more than ten years.

The speech focused on the mutual reliance of America's local and national governments. The rousing conclusion declared that if we want to uphold our country's strength, "Then we must have strong leadership from county governments throughout the nation; and we must have strong leadership at the national level from proven great leaders like John Kerry and John Edwards."

Young Tenth Dems Getting in the Picture

In America, you're never too young to learn the importance of the political process. Madelaine Murray, 7, and Connor Murray, 10, are learning this at an early age. When Tenth Dems was contacted by the Kerry campaign in Boston to ask some young Illinois citizens to make signs for the Democratic National Convention, Madelaine and Connor gladly volunteered, and had a good time doing it. Their signs, backing John Kerry, were shipped to Boston and became part of the backdrop during a Kids for Kerry speech on the convention's opening night. Their work represented the 10th District well. They received letters of thanks from John Kerry.



Young people are realizing that there is much at stake in this year's election. So, it came as no surprise that a number were in attendance at the dozens of house parties held in late June across Illinois in support of Barack Obama's candidacy for the U.S. Senate. One of those was hosted by Tenth Dems Executive Committee member Chuck Knight of Lake Forest. His son, Andy (2nd from left) helped make the party a success, along with Claire Allen (far left), and Marie Buck (second from right).

Join Us August 14th for Garrison Keillor

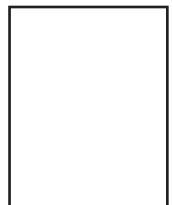
"A Prairie Home Companion," hosted by popular radio show entertainer (and Democratic activist) Garrison Keillor will broadcast live from Ravinia Festival Park in Highland Park on August 14. Tenth Dems will be there, and we hope you can join us.

The Tenth Dems party will be just to the north of the stage. Our group should be easily identifiable by our red, white and blue balloons.

Be sure to bring your own chair and ticket, which you can purchase for \$10 at www.Ravinia.org. The show begins at 4:45 p.m.



Tenth Congressional District Democrats
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