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10th

Tenth Dems Attend State Convention

Tenth Dems member Susan Malter was a delegate at the recent Democratic Convention. She never got interviewed by TV crews, didn't get a new sign to wave every time a different speaker came to the podium, didn't get flooded in a sea of balloons, and never even saw John Kerry or John Edwards. Oh...we should have mentioned that she was at the Illinois Democratic Convention, not the Democratic National Convention.

You may have missed the news stories about last month's convention in Springfield, because there really weren't many...actually, there may not have been any. The candidates were selected in the March primary and there's not much drama in adopting a state party platform, so the news media didn't pay much attention.

But for newcomers to the political process like Susan, a resident of Lincolnshire, it was a chance to meet some of the state's leading politicians. Gov. Rod Blagojevich, Sen. Dick Durbin and Attorney General Lisa

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Tenth Dems Chair Lauren Beth Gash (second from left) meets with (from left) René Hernandez, state Senate President Emil Jones (D-Chicago) and Tenth Dems Steering Committee member Del Para.



www.tenthdems.org

Tenth News

September 2004 Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats Newsletter Volume 1, Edition 9

You + Tenth Dems = Making a Difference

There are many ways to help the candidates you support in an election year. One way to help is by supporting the organizations that support the candidates. Tenth Dems is one of those organizations. If you go to www.tenthdems.org you can support our work by becoming a member.

Why should you become a member of Tenth Dems?

The main reason is that we do the work that you may not have the time to do. We are providing candidates with volunteers, helping precinct organizations get out the vote and offering support to all the Democrats running within the boundaries of the Tenth Congressional District of Illinois. Our volunteers are working every day to achieve the goals you want: to elect a government that better represents your idea of what government should be.

There's another reason. We are going to be here after November 2. While some candidates will become officeholders and some will step back from politics after their defeats, Tenth Dems will get right to work on the next election. We will continue to help build the Democratic Party within the 10th District, working with existing county and township organizations to help with their efforts to become stronger and more effective.

Membership gives you an opportunity to say that you support our efforts. It gives you a chance to say that an organization which brings new people into the political process is a good thing. It's a way to say that you believe in the power of grassroots democracy, rather than a government controlled by the wealthy buddies of the man in power. It lets us know that we should continue our work. We need that. We need your support to make it happen.



Tenth Dems Treasurer Margie Rissman (third from left) works with precinct committeemen and other grassroots volunteers at the Tenth Dems' fifth precinct training session last month in Lincolnshire. Precinct training is just one of the things the organization does to assist candidates and precinct workers.

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View from Abroad

By Steven Narrod

Editor's Note. Steven Narrod, the husband of Tenth Dems Executive Committee member Sharon Narrod, has been living and working in Sofia, Bulgaria, for an extended time. He gives us a first-hand view of what others in the world think of our President.

As an American who has lived abroad for the past two and a half years in Bulgaria, I have had the opportunity to witness the impact of the actions of President George W. Bush. I have heard the thoughtful comments of many others from various parts of the world including other Americans. Based on what I have seen and heard, there can be only one logical conclusion: Bush must go!

In the time I have been abroad, I have watched the purchasing power of the dollar plummet by 30 percent. From what I have read, the declining value of the dollar has not boosted exports. It has had an undesired effect on my purchasing power.

We have gone from a country whose fiscal position of no debt was envied, to a country nation that has accumulated more debt faster than any other country. Bulgaria's growing GDP and diminishing debt is beginning to make me envious of its fiscal management.

We continue to challenge our alliances, friendships and relationships with countries everywhere to the breaking point. Our holier than thou attitude isn't playing well. Friends from Britain, Ireland, Scotland, Austria, The Netherlands, Bulgaria, Romania and Israel wonder what is happening in the US. Where once they were understanding and even forgiving of us, now they are dumfounded and perhaps a little frightened.

I watch the senior leadership that at first blush brought needed experience to the inexperienced President demonstrate that they brought deep-seated personal and political agendas as well. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld borders on being a war monger; Vice President Dick Cheney manifests everything perceived as negative about American business and its relationship with government; Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge has mastered the art of depriving Americans of their freedoms; and the perpetual silence of Secretary of State Colin Powell is so disappointing. This may be the most illustrious group of sycophants ever assembled.

This President has played the terrorism card too many times, for too many purposes. Yes, terrorism is real. Yes it must be fought, but I am feeling, based on how the Bush administration is leveraging it to fit its agenda, that the terrorists are winning. We spend billions in Iraq and elsewhere and nothing seems to improve. We lose freedom of movement. We lose privacy of personal information. What we cannot lose is this election.

It is reported that there are seven million American ex-patriots (ex-pats, as we are called). Seven million can make a difference. Anyone having seen the last election knows that. We must vote based on what we have seen. We must get others to vote with us as well. Our votes must have one goal, and that is to rid ourselves of this President so that we can all begin to move in the right direction again.

Making a Difference: One Door Knock at a Time

Editor's Note—Tenth Dems Executive member Ellen Beth Gill is one of many members of the organization to travel to Wisconsin, a battleground state, on behalf of Presidential candidate John Kerry. Efforts like the one related below as well as numerous others like them will make the difference one vote at a time.



Canvassing in Racine, Wisconsin, I knocked on the door of a young woman. She opened the red wooden door of her small house and looked puzzled to see me.

Me: Hi, my name is Ellen and I am volunteering for Wisconsin Victory '04. May I talk with you for a minute or two?

Woman: I guess.

Me: I have 3 questions.

Woman: OK

Me: If you had to vote today in the Presidential Election, who would you vote for John Kerry, Bush or Nader?

Woman: I don't know.

Me: OK, if you had to vote in the senatorial race would you vote for Russ Feingold or his Republican opponent who has not been chosen yet?

Woman: I don't know. (Embarrassed)

Me: OK. Is there an issue that you are interested in?

Woman: (even more embarrassed) I guess I don't keep up with this stuff. I really don't think I should vote because I don't know the issues. I just don't know.

Me: (ready to say goodbye)

Me: Hey, do you have internet access?

Woman: Yes

Me: There are a lot of internet sites you can look at. Do you think you'd want to do that?

Woman: I could do that.

Me: Here is some literature about Kerry and Feingold. There are the websites.

Woman: OK. I can look at those.

Me: Can I talk to you about why I'm out here? Why I am supporting Kerry.

Woman: OK

Me: Did you know that women make on

average \$.77 on the dollar?

Woman: Not exactly, but I know what you mean. My friends and I...at work...we are not getting what the guys are getting. I know that.

Me: Well, that goes on forever for women because their salary determines other benefits and their social security when they want to retire.

Woman: I know that.

Me: And the Bush Administration has stopped enforcement of the pay equity laws.

Woman: I didn't know that.

Me: And there are other things too, health care, unemployment, woman owned businesses, child care...all the cuts are affecting women and children the most.

Woman: I know. I have friends who have problems with day care...and they have to work.

Me: So you do know...you can see what's happening. It affects you and your friends.

Woman: I know.

Me: So you should vote.

Woman: I know.

Me: And you can find out more on the web. The sites are right on the lit...here.

Woman: OK, I'll look.

Me: Thanks for talking to me.

Woman: Thanks.

The whole conversation took less than five minutes. The conversation was very pleasant. She really wanted to talk to someone about the election, but had no one to discuss it with and had no confidence to start a discussion about it with her friends. The woman may or may not look at the websites; she may or may not vote, but for a few minutes she saw how issues were all around her and that she knows something about them. She saw that she is worthy of her vote and knows in her heart that she should vote.

Note—a recent CNN Poll showed Kerry leading Bush by three points among registered voters in Wisconsin and trailing Bush by three points among likely voters. If people like Ellen and others who went to Wisconsin can each turn a few of those voters from registered to likely, it may literally make the difference in who becomes our next President.

Local Democrats Travel North



With a close Presidential race this political year, Wisconsin is becoming a travel destination of choice for many Illinois Democrats. While Illinois is seemingly locked up for the Democrats in the Presidential race, the same is not true in Wisconsin.

Sen. John Kerry is battling for every vote he can get in his tight race that remains a virtual tie there. So Democrats from the 10th and 8th districts are driving up north every weekend to help out.



Mickey Gargan (far right) meets with other canvassers going door to door in Racine, Wisconsin, on a recent weekend to aid the Kerry/Edwards effort in that battleground state.

Mickey Gargan of Lindenhurst has been canvassing recently in Milwaukee and Racine. She worked with local Democrats to help bring undecided voters to the Democratic side.

The canvassers also identify new Democratic supporters. "We were very well received by most people," she said. "There were some Bush supporters, but most people were willing to listen."

She felt her efforts "definitely" made a difference. "We made people think about the issues," she said. Some got interested. Many will read the papers more or look on websites and get informed."

Gargan will be making the trips up north every weekend until the election and hopes to recruit more people to join her.

Doug Gerleman of Northbrook is a longtime environmental activist who is working with the Sierra Club in Wisconsin on the weekends. He is one of more than 15 Chicago area residents, including Tenth Dems members, who joined the Sierra Club's efforts last weekend.

Gerleman's canvassing in Wisconsin is focused on educating voters on the environmental records and positions of Kerry and Bush. One major local controversy is mercury pollution from antiquated coal fired electrical power plants that spoil the air and ground water.

"We try to raise the awareness of people of the problems with the power plants. We provide voters with a fact sheet and let them decide which candidate would be more helpful in solving the problems." Gerleman said.

Tenth Dems Executive member Steve Sadin of Highland Park has taken up temporary residence in Milwaukee while working as a conservation organizer for the Sierra Club's voter education project that is occupying Gerleman's weekends.

Express Yourself – Wear A Button

The biggest summer fashion trend along the North Shore looks like it's going to continue into autumn, or at least through November 2. Political buttons are showing up on shirts, blouses, suits, dresses, t-shirts, and every other garment that covers the upper part of the body--not to mention on backpacks, purses and computer tote bags.

The best local source for political buttons is Tenth Dems. With nine different buttons for sale, the messages range from subtle sentiment, to issue awareness, to in-your-face confrontation. There are pro-candidate and anti-incumbent options.

All are selling briskly but the current hot items are the oversize Tenth Dem buttons sporting Kerry and Obama images, or Kerry, Obama and Lee Goodman. Fifty of these buttons went to Boston with Tenth District Delegate and Tenth Dems Executive Committee member Ellen Beth Gill. They were very popular items for trade.

As a result of this national exposure, political item collectors from around the country are ordering these buttons, as are people from around the state who want to show their support for the top of the ticket. These are limited edition buttons and when they are gone, they're gone.

All buttons are being sold at all Tenth Dems events, as well as other political and some community gatherings. Happily, many people buy them by the handful, so that they have extras to swap and trade, or simply to give to friends or like-minded new acquaintances. So if you see someone wearing a button that appeals, ask about it. They may be able and willing to offer you an extra.

Or, if you want your own supply, choose from these and more designs. Get in touch with Dottie Palombo at ddpbuttons@aol.com. Really large quantities can be delivered within the 10th District. Out of district orders will be mailed first class (minimum order \$15 plus shipping and handling).



State Convention *continued from page 1*

Madigan, were among those who spoke to the crowd. Getting to hear U.S. Senate candidate Barack Obama speak, just a few days after his keynote address at the National Convention, was enough by itself to make the trip to Springfield worthwhile.

Susan is a valuable member of the Tenth Dems Steering Committee, and helps coordinate the use of our volunteers. She was one of several Tenth Dems members who represented the Tenth Congressional District as a delegate. Tenth Dems Chair and Tenth Congressional District State Central Committeewoman Lauren Beth Gash of Highland Park led the local delegation. Del Parra, another Tenth Dems Steering Committee member from Libertyville, was also a delegate.

Critics say that conventions are nothing more than giant political rallies. Some say they should be abolished because they serve no purpose. Susan disagrees.

"It really felt great to be in a room full of members of the Democratic Party," she said. "I came away inspired, not by the speeches, but by the energy and determination of the people in attendance." Maybe that's the purpose of the convention. When Susan came back to the Tenth District, she recommitted to working with volunteers, organizing training for deputy voter registrars, and coordinating candidate coffees — all aimed at helping Democrats win in November.

Membership *continued from page 1*

Here's what's involved.

Membership is as low as \$35 (\$10 for a student), but we have membership levels up to \$100, \$250, \$500, and \$1000. To sign up, go to www.tenthdems.org and look for the word "Membership" on the left side of our homepage. Everything you need to sign up is there. Or, give us a call at 847-266-VOTE (8683) for details.

You can also donate directly to an individual candidate through the Tenth Dems by visiting our Website and clicking on the link to that particular candidate's Website. Go to www.tenthdems.org and click on the link to a particular candidate's website or call us at 847-266-VOTE (8683) and we'll tell you how to get in touch with that campaign.

Together, we can make a difference in the 10th!

Goodman Holds Health Care Symposium



Tenth District congressional candidate Lee Goodman meets with Tenth Dems chair Lauren Beth Gash before Goodman's recent health care symposium in Highland Park. Goodman gathered people from throughout the area for this event.

HELP WANTED: If you have a way with words, we'd like to have a word with you. We're looking for writers who can express their political opinions in a short, interesting way. Work on behalf of local Democratic candidates. No pay, but a great way to be heard.

Like working with people? Want to make a difference this election year? We need people who will help us organize volunteers, and make sure they get to where they're needed.

**To Volunteer Call
847.266.VOTE (8683)**

