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847.266.VOTE (8683)

Or write to:  
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*The opinions expressed are those of the writers, and not necessarily endorsed by Tenth Dems*

# Vote Early ... (But Just Vote Once)

by Sharon Narrod

For the first time in Illinois history, voters will have the opportunity to cast their ballots early — starting 22 days before Election Day. Although the primary election is set for March 21, early voting began on February 27 and runs through March 16.

Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich signed early voting legislation into law last August. The new law was primarily aimed at increasing voter turnout while shortening lines on Election Day and reducing pressure on polling-place workers, thereby lowering the risk of mistakes and irregularities.

Differences between early voting and absentee voting are significant. With traditional absentee voting, voters must provide justification as to why they cannot cast a ballot on Election Day. On the other hand, no reason is required to vote early. While there is the option of voting absentee either in person or by mail, all early voting must be done in person. Those casting absentee ballots also may change their vote up until the close of polls on Election Day. Once cast, the ballot of an early voter cannot be changed.

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*Candidate for Lake County Clerk, Sharon Narrod*



[www.tenthdems.org](http://www.tenthdems.org)

# Tenth News

MARCH 2006 Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats Newsletter Volume 3, Edition 3

## March 21...Your Deadline To Vote

by John Hmurovic

Now that we have early voting in Illinois, election day is no longer “the day to vote.” It is “the last day to vote.” Voter turnout will probably still be in the 20-to-40 percent range that is typical for Primary elections, despite the fact that we have a number of hard-fought battles on both the Democratic and Republican ballots.



*State Senator Terry Link addresses Democrats at West Deerfield Township Candidate Forum on February 26. Over 150 residents took the opportunity to meet the candidates who will appear on the March ballot.*

State Central Committeeman that are being contested this year. All of these candidates are expected at the remaining forums. Plus, you will also get to meet other Democrats who will be on the ballot in November. In some cases, a few of the statewide candidates in contested races for Governor and State Treasurer may also make an appearance. Only days remain before the “last day to vote,” so be sure you have the information you need to make your vote an educated one.

In the 10th District, Dan Seals and Zane Smith are wrapping up the first Democratic Congressional primary in this area for as long as most people can remember. If you are still undecided on who to vote for, you will have at least four more good chances to see and hear both of them. Working with local township Democratic organizations, Tenth Dems has been sponsoring a series of candidate forums leading up to the primary. They are free, and open to all Democrats.

The ones that remain are listed at right.

All of these forums include more than the two Congressional candidates speaking and answering questions. There are also Democratic races for Sheriff, several County Board seats, and 10th District Democratic

**Shields Township**  
Lake Bluff, Lake Forest, North Chicago  
Thursday, March 2, 7 pm  
Flanagan's Restaurant  
3201 N. Buckley  
Near corner of US 41 & Route 137

**Vernon Township**  
Buffalo Grove, Vernon Hills, Lincolnshire  
Sunday, March 5, 2 pm  
Township Community Center  
2900 N. Main Street  
Buffalo Grove

**Libertyville Township**  
Libertyville, Mettawa, Green Oaks  
Wednesday, March 8, 7 pm  
Township Meeting Hall  
359 Merrill Court  
Libertyville

**Waukegan Township**  
Waukegan, North Chicago, Park City  
Thursday, March 9, 7 pm  
San Luis Restaurant  
50 S. Green Bay Road  
Waukegan

# Kirk Shows a Consistent Disregard for Veterans

by George Rosenblit

I recently attended a presentation by Congressman Mark Kirk at the North Shore Senior Center, in which he described his efforts to consolidate the Great Lakes Naval Station hospital and the VA medical center facilities under one roof, including state-of-the-art equipment. In view of this, I do not understand why he has consistently opposed providing federal support for veterans' health and welfare. Bricks and mortar are OK, but real people are not OK? Veterans deserve that support because they have earned it in the service of our country!

I enlisted in the Navy in WWII, and I have an understanding of the needs of my comrades, then and now. Kirk should know about and care about the current needs of veterans better than I, since he is an active commander in the Naval Reserve.

Why am I not surprised at Mr. Kirk's disregard for veterans' welfare? He's done it before.

He helped write a budget enforcement bill as part of Tom DeLay's group to put a cap on benefits for federal annuitants and veterans. He also voted against exempting National Guard and Reserve personnel from new bankruptcy laws when debt is attributable to loss of wages while serving (S 256).

Other members of the House have proposed amendments to various House Bills on behalf of veterans (HR 1268 for veterans' health care and job training, HR 1815 for covering National Guard Reserves with the Tricare military healthcare system, the same as for those on active duty, and HR 2528 for mental health care and prosthetics). This financial help was to be for National Guard veterans who really need it to cope with the after effects of war. Mark Kirk has voted against this type of help every time. His attitude and actions in this matter are incomprehensible and unacceptable.

It appears that Kirk has his own agenda, and it does not include representing the real needs of the people in his district. He is a "foot soldier" in the Republican House carrying out the order of Dennis Hastert, who appears to take his orders from President Bush. In a recent nationally televised speech on the economy, Bush cautioned Kirk to obey Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert. In his introduction he acknowledged Kirk's presence, and added, "Just do what the speaker tells you to do." We don't need any more proof than that!

Where is the separation of powers guaranteed by our Constitution? Congress is supposed to provide a cherished check and balance on the executive branch of the government (the White House and its departments). How can it do that when the Bush-Cheney team arrogantly exerts control over congressional activities, and the Republican majority party in the House lets them get away with it? This type of collusion must be stopped. We must take back our seat in the House to do our part.

We need a true representative who is totally transparent in his actions, who conducts well-publicized Town Hall Meetings open to the public that can accommodate hundreds of our citizens at least once every month, who listens to our questions and grievances, who explains his voting record, who responds morally when he votes in Congress and who returns to Washington to champion our causes.

We need a caring and compassionate representative who works for us rather than pursuing a personal agenda. We need to replace Kirk with a Democrat who understands our objectives and the needs of all the people in our District!

## How Do Veterans Groups Rate Kirk?

Congressman Kirk gets failing marks from the major veterans groups that monitor and rate congressional performance. The percentages below indicate how often the group feels that Mark Kirk voted to help veterans. These are the most recent ratings available from each group.

<b>AMVETS</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>Vietnam Veterans of America</b>	<b>38%</b>
<b>Retired Enlisted Association</b>	<b>33%</b>
<b>Disabled American Veterans</b>	<b>0%</b>

# “The Disastrous Rise of Misplaced Power”

-President Eisenhower, describing the military-industrial complex, 1961

by Lee Goodman

*Why We Fight*, now playing at just a few area movie theaters, does a far better job of explaining our invasion and occupation of Iraq than any Michael Moore film, any *Nightline* episode, any Bill Moyers' commentary, or anything else I have seen. It succeeds because instead of focusing exclusively on Iraq, it looks broadly at militarism as a fundamental of U.S. policy and at militarization of our economy and government.

This superb documentary, winner of the Grand Jury Prize at the 2005 Sundance Festival, explores developments in the U.S. in the years since President Eisenhower's famous cautionary farewell message about the military-industrial complex. It weaves archival footage and contemporary interviews into a convincing argument that Iraq is just the latest arena in which our military is exercising its prerogative to dominate the world through force. The depressing implication is that we

can expect many more Iraq-style actions in the future, because the mechanism that led to our invasion of Iraq has developed such overwhelming influence in Washington, D.C.

The film is persuasive because it is so tightly focused. No mention is made of torturing prisoners, depleted uranium, or myriad



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# Why Not Victory? —And How To Get There

by Kevan D. Morgan

In 1962, Republican Senator and then future Republican Presidential nominee Barry Goldwater wrote the book, *Why Not Victory?* That tome focused not on domestic politics but on the Cold War, and its author posited that the opposite of victory is defeat. With today's hindsight, I'm not sure I agree with Goldwater's conclusion, but I do know that I am tired of Democratic defeat nationally and even more so here in the 10th Congressional District of Illinois. Located in the Land of Lincoln, and therefore the most authentically Blue state, why do we elect Mark Kirk?

Kirk isn't a terrible fellow. But like all Republicans, Kirk aligns with the American oligarchy made up of giant oil companies, banks, securities firms, and defense contractors. It's not that we should oppose giant companies per se. It takes a huge organization and equipment made by large, cooperating companies to pump the oil out of the ground in Kazakhstan, ship it to Tulsa for refinement and pour it into a car in the form of gasoline, nor is it a simple task to assemble the money and expertise to build an X-35 Joint Strike Fighter. Nevertheless, if absolute power corrupts absolutely, we have to be ever more wary as our big companies wield their power through agents like President Bush and Representative Kirk.

Given that in America there are so many more of the rest of us than of the oligarchs, and that the progressive agenda is so obviously better for America than the narrowing and harrowing "conservative" agenda bent on grinding down the poor, breaking the middle class, and even subjecting the very rich to the rule of the super-rich, it is at first puzzling that the other side is on a strong winning streak. Yet, a more critical analysis would reveal that we Democrats lose because we've embraced losing positions and tactics. It's time that we adopted Goldwater's question as our own. It's no coincidence that our party's most recent big winner was influenced by his wife, Hillary, who is also perhaps our party's next big winner, and who began politics as a "Goldwater Girl."

But let's start in our own district. How can we begin to chase down victory?

## 1. Deliver the goods to the people without regard to which party is in charge.

Republicans are wrong in contending that we don't need government for anything, but we sure don't need it for everything. We Democrats can take it upon ourselves to do something for people even before we get elected. This will have two salutary effects: it will help people who need it, and it will develop voter loyalty toward the volunteer Democrats who delivered that help. It's not that hard to accomplish. From Waukegan to Libertyville to Arlington Heights, Democrats should set up storefronts where people — that is, voters — can go for help with their everyday concerns. We can use these

storefronts to supply job counseling to the unemployed, teach the computer-illiterate basic computer skills, show people how to set up a monthly budget, educate the elderly about rip-off schemes that tend to target them, and even provide "how to" advice to small businesses. Do it.



## 2. Teach the art of critical political thinking.

We also should sponsor real debates on the issues of the day between community members and without involving spinning politicians. Teaching people to think will help our side, because we have the better side of the argument. Frequently Democrats present politics the way math teachers present algebra — theoretically. As with math, the subject of societal change needs theorists at the top of the idea chain, while community debates will help the rest of us to understand how to apply the theories. Together with the storefront offerings, these discussions will demonstrate that Democrats are of, not above, the people.

## 3. Expand the reach beyond preaching to the choir.

Why do we send this newsletter mainly to each other? So that we can get "news of the club?" Some of our more wealthy members could be funding the newsletter mailing to all Tenth District households. If we want a separate members-only newsletter for elections, fine. But it's more important to enlighten our neighbors about how the progressive agenda developed, why it will benefit them, and in which tangible ways the Tenth Dems serve everyone in the District.

## 4. Stop telling Americans how stupid they are.

I seem to remember that during the 1992 campaign some Democrat asked the elder President Bush, "How can you expect to win as President of the American people when you run against the American people?" There was a lot of wisdom contained in that thought, but Democrats did not hang onto it. Today, it is the Democrats who are perceived to disdain everyday Americans, and with some reason. We need to stop complaining that Americans prove they are dumb by supporting Republicans and instead give them reasons to support us.

A currently popular business axiom says that if you keep doing what you've been doing, you'll keep getting what you've been getting. If we Democrats do not want to keep getting defeated on Election Day, we've got to make changes. Let's go for victory this time around.



# Democratic Victory

# How To Beat Rove's Playbook or The Clear Message on National Security: Democrats Will Do Better!

by Mark Paul

It's time to update the Clinton campaign's war room slogan to, "It's national security, stupid." We cannot hope to retake the national government unless voters are assured we are just as tough – and more effective – at protecting Americans and fighting violent Islamic fundamentalism.

Otherwise, we are following Karl Rove's playbook for losers. He is so confident we'll fall into his national security trap he even laid out the strategy in front of TV cameras.

There's a good chance that one of the key battles in establishing Democrats' credibility on national security will be fought in the 10th Congressional District. Mark Kirk, after all, occasionally dons the uniform of a commander in the Naval Reserve when he serves in some vague intelligence capacity, while neither of our candidates has served in the military. Make no mistake, the Swift Boaters are coming.

Back in a time when Democrats were ascendant – there are a dwindling few of us still alive who remember the days when we controlled the White House, both houses of Congress, the courts, and the regulatory agencies – John Kennedy raised serious questions about national security against Richard Nixon, the man who used the "Red Menace" to rise in only six years from an obscure House seat to eight years as Vice President alongside the liberator of Europe.

At that time, the ACLU was recognized as the place for marginal political actors to go when they needed the courts to protect their rights. Let's be clear: The ACLU is an absolutely indispensable institution. This Jew wrote a check to the ACLU when it represented some neo-Nazi lowlifes who wanted a parade permit in Skokie.

Legal arguments, however, tend to be lengthy and technical, crafted in precisely analytic language, and often relying on intricate interpretations of complex statutes. Political arguments are pithy and metaphorical and don't require any more knowledge of the law than the average voter can recall from a high school civics class from 30 years ago.

When we talk to voters as if they are legal scholars, it's no wonder that Republicans outscore Democrats in polls measuring which party speaks more directly to voters' concerns, and partially explains why Republicans get away with tax cuts that benefit the wealthiest 5-percent.



*Despite their efforts of George Bush and Mark Kirk to paint themselves as warriors in defense of America, "The bumbling irresponsibility on national security of this administration and Congress is breathtaking."*

The New York Times every day has a number of ads for conspicuous consumption items, such as Cartier jewelry and designer clothes – and the ACLU's full-page ads (at \$154,000 apiece) calling for the president's impeachment over the NSA surveillance program were pure status symbols. If the ads were a demonstration of fund-raising power, they were written in the language of powerless protest. That rhetorical style was effective in the hands of the deeply eloquent Martin Luther King, who had little choice anyway because his movement's key point was disenfranchisement. But when it comes from the ACLU's well-trained lawyers, it makes liberals sound like toy poodles yapping at a rottweiler from behind the safety of a chain link fence.

And the ads made it clear that the ACLU has no political sense whatever. Who can seriously imagine an impeachment trial when the president's party holds majorities in both houses of Congress? How could a Senate that confirmed Roberts and Alito convict Bush and Cheney?

*Continued on page 8*

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# Media Machinations

## There's Nothing Left

by Ron Weiner

Here on the left side of the political fence we continue to wander in wonderment whenever we hear about the "liberal media."

To us, it's all the more mystifying because, however hard we look, we haven't seen too many examples of this shadowy chimera the Republican-controlled media has invented. Aside from a few hope-stirring Op-Ed pieces in the NY Times or the Washington Post, both once bastions of courageous objectivity but for too long now mere flaccid examples of compliant and corporate journalism, there is, as we are all too aware, no liberal press.

But wait a minute – is America finally waking up? Are the compounded disasters of Iraq, Katrina, and scandal brought about by governmental megalomania finally getting space on the first few pages of our newspapers? Is this finally getting through to a hitherto complacent public previously more interested in working-out, hanging-out, eating-out, drinking-out and making-out, than in paying attention to the outrageous actions of our scurrilous present government?

Well, lately there does indeed seem to be, beading up from the bottom of a slowly but steadily-heating pot of journalistic tepidity, a wisp or two of the tiny bubbles that presage a long-awaited full boil, bringing a hopeful quickening to the Progressive blood that has been flowing through me for the past 30 years or so and which had its beginnings with a transfusion first pumped in there by a man who is arguably the most innovative and popular media personality of the past quarter-century.

Phil Donahue came to Chicago in 1974. WGN-TV (and later, WBBM-TV) was to provide studio, crew and, incidentally, a new director from its existing staff – which happened to be me.

Phil and the producing staff he built thrived on presenting controversial and informative material. Yes, we did the happening-now-in-your-life stuff about fashion, cooking, celebrities, medical advances and sex aids, but our programs always had a style more journalistic than chatty; no election or international development or social controversy could arise in our society without our quickly presenting an investigation-oriented, fact-seeking interview featuring a Dole or a Carter, an airline or a drug company president, a DeBakey or a Watson, a Steinem or an Abzug, a Klan Dragon or an American Nazi (or both of them together).

We led the industry in the promotion of racial, religious and sexual tolerance, with the ERA and gay rights our special areas of interest. We led the industry in controversy; we led the industry in the promotion of freedom of speech.

And we never had any editor, station manager, programmer, or corporate officer tell us what we could or could not do.

As a nationally syndicated program, the three networks had no power to disapprove of our shows; we were, however, subject to the decisions made at the individual stations that carried us, but rarely was any program rejected, and then only by a station where an executive was strongly opposed to airing it due to matters of personal taste. Ratings made money for their stations, and we had ratings aplenty.



*Phil Donahue (l) and Ron Weiner in the 1970's when they "thrived on presenting controversial and informative material."*

And, while some shows originated by networks were aired or withheld subject to executive approval, corporate editing or banning of programs, as far as I was aware at that time, simply did not occur on any national level for a half-century.

But when the FCC rules restricting the number of broadcast outlets owned by a particular corporate entity were relaxed starting in the 80s, networks and media groups expanded; nonbroadcast-based corporations bought control of television stations and groups, bought, sold, traded, and merged with or otherwise devoured each other — and the media conglomerates were born, with unfettered corporate growth and the "bottom-line" becoming the be all and end all of station journalistic policy:

General Electric, appliance maker and military contractor, bought NBC and then merged it with Universal; Disney took over ABC; Sumner Redstone's Viacom grabbed CBS (once the proud home of Murrow and Cronkite); Time, Inc. and Warner Brothers hyphenated; Ted Turner developed the super-station and CNN; the Tribune Company, owner of a half-dozen big-city newspapers expanded its television properties to over 30; and newspaper mogul Rupert Murdoch took control of 20th Century Fox, acquired over three dozen stations, big and small, and bound them into Fox Television.

With all of that one can easily recognize why those media powerhouses would want to aid and abet a neo- and ultra-conservative Republican administration. With all of that, the "liberal press" that Republicans still pretend to fear has simply ceased to exist.

As for my friend Phil Donahue, he retired from the talk-show biz in 1996, but came back at the urging of MSNBC in 2002. The story of why that didn't last — despite being their top-rated program — is a perfect example of what happened to the so-called "liberal media."

*(To be continued in next months issue of TenthNews)*

# Your Guide To Candidate Information On The Web

Still undecided on who to vote for on March 21? To be a responsible citizen, you need to vote. But to be a good voter and to make an intelligent and informed decision, you need information. Thanks to the Internet, finding that information is easier than ever. Here are the websites of candidates on this year's Democratic Primary ballot. All of those listed are running in contested races within the boundaries of the 10th Congressional district. If no web address follows their name, that's because they don't have a website. There are also a number of candidates with no opposition in the Primary. For a complete list with links to over 30 Democratic candidate websites, go to the links page on [www.tenthdems.org](http://www.tenthdems.org).

*Extra credit: name all the candidates pictured below in the correct order and win a T-shirt\* (not all candidates are pictured)*



## U.S. Congress District 10

Dan Seals –  
[www.dansealsforcongress.com](http://www.dansealsforcongress.com)  
Zane Smith –  
[www.zanesmithforcongress.com](http://www.zanesmithforcongress.com)



## Governor

Rod Blagojevich –  
[www.rodforillinois.com](http://www.rodforillinois.com)  
Edwin Eisendrath –  
<http://eisendrath2006.com>



## State Treasurer

Alexander Giannoulis –  
[www.alexiforillinois.com](http://www.alexiforillinois.com)  
Paul Mangieri –  
[www.mangieri.com](http://www.mangieri.com)



## State Senate District 33

Dan Kotowski –  
[www.kotowski4senate.com](http://www.kotowski4senate.com)  
Jim Morici – [www.jimmorici.com](http://www.jimmorici.com)



## State Representative District 53

Michael MacDonald –  
[www.mikefor53rd.com](http://www.mikefor53rd.com)  
Rob Sherman –  
[www.robsherman.com](http://www.robsherman.com)

## Cook County Board President

Forrest Claypool –  
[www.forrestclaypool.com](http://www.forrestclaypool.com)  
John Stroger

## Cook County Sheriff

Sylvester Baker –  
[www.bakerforsheriff.com](http://www.bakerforsheriff.com)  
Tom Dart –  
[www.dartforsheriff.com](http://www.dartforsheriff.com)  
Richard Remus –  
<http://richardremusforsheriff.com>

## Water Reclamation District Commissioner (elect 3)

James C. Harris –  
[www.friendsforJim.com](http://www.friendsforJim.com)  
Terrence O'Brien –  
[www.terrencejobrienmwr.com](http://www.terrencejobrienmwr.com)  
Barrett Pedersen –  
[www.cleanwater4all.com](http://www.cleanwater4all.com)  
Lewis W. Powell – [www.l-e-w.com](http://www.l-e-w.com)  
Debra Shore –  
[www.debrashore.org](http://www.debrashore.org)  
Boguslaw Stefanski –  
[www.electbogie.com](http://www.electbogie.com)  
Frank Avila  
Patricia Horton  
Dean Maragos

## Lake County Sheriff

Mark Curran –  
[www.curranforsheriff.com](http://www.curranforsheriff.com)  
Larry Oliver –  
[www.oliver4sheriff.com](http://www.oliver4sheriff.com)

## Lake County Board District 2

Diane Hewitt  
Brandon Rohrdanz

## Lake County Board District 8

Bill Durkin  
Robert Sabonjian

## Lake County Board District 12

Angelo Kyle  
Michael Rodriguez

## Lake County Board District 22

Arnie Silberman  
Carol Spielman –  
[www.carolspielmanforboard.com](http://www.carolspielmanforboard.com)

## 10th District Democratic State Central Committeeman

Bill Crowley  
Alan Prochaska

## Elk Grove Township Democratic Committeeman

Joan Brennan  
Kent Kirkwood

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*\*Submit your answers and contact info to  
[Newsletter@tenthdems.org](mailto:Newsletter@tenthdems.org) and we will draw  
the winning name from correct responses.*

# Things To Do, Places To Be!

Go to the "Events" link at [www.tenthdems.org](http://www.tenthdems.org) for more details on these events (possible cost, RSVP, etc.) and information on other events.

The political calendar is filling up as the March 21 primary nears. Be certain to check [www.tenthdems.org](http://www.tenthdems.org) for any additions or changes to this list of events.

## **Pharmacist Refusal in Illinois: The Current Debate**

Thursday March 2, 8:00 am  
Gardner Carton & Douglas LLP  
191 North Wacker Drive  
Chicago

## **Liberal Judaism: Reclaiming America from the Religious Right**

Thursday March 2, 6:00 pm  
Northwestern University  
Harris Building 107  
Evanston

## **Shields Township Democratic Candidate Forum**

Thursday March 2, 7:00 pm  
Flanagan's Restaurant  
3201 N. Buckley Road  
US 41 & Route 137

## **Nuclear Proliferation & Iran**

Saturday March 4, 1:30 pm  
Alice Millar Chapel - Northwestern University  
Corner of Sheridan & Chicago  
Evanston

## **Grassroots Training**

Sunday March 5, 1:00 pm  
Fremont Public Library  
1170 N. Midlothian  
Mundelein

## **Vernon Township Democratic Candidate Forum**

Sunday March 5, 2:00 pm  
Township Community Center  
2900 N. Main Street  
Buffalo Grove

## **Speaking Out For Women in the Religion-State Debate**

Monday March 6, 9:00 am  
Westin Hotel  
Michigan Avenue

## Let's Have Coffee

by Carol Jones

Imagine if you could have a cup of coffee with the president of the United States! Well, maybe not the current one, but some future president, or a congressman, or another elected official who is actually interested in meeting you and your friends and neighbors. Well, don't laugh, because you can.

The first coffee I ever attended was for Barack Obama. Nobody could pronounce his name at that time, and few had any inkling that he would be delivering the keynote address at the Democratic National Convention another year later. But I had coffee with him and a few interested people. I was pretty sure he was the guy to support after that, and, well, I guess it all worked out. Who knows, I might be telling my grandkids I once had coffee with their president. It could happen.

That's what is so great about our country. We really can have a say, a hand in electing, or a cup of coffee with those wanting to dedicate themselves to our public service. Of course this works both ways. The candidate gets to hear your views and your friends' and neighbors', but he/she also gets to make his/her case and ask for your vote, your help and your support. If he or she dazzles you enough, you just might be working on their campaign.



*Congressional Candidate Dan Seals at a neighborhood coffee.*

So how hard is this? It's really easy. Contact the candidate you would like to invite and ask if you can schedule a coffee. Of course some candidates are swimming in coffee but if they haven't been in your area, they just might want to stop by. Send out invitations to your email list, advertise on our website ([www.tenthdems.org](http://www.tenthdems.org)), or send paper invitations out to everyone on your holiday card list. Make some coffee, tea, juice and cookies, and open your door. Just inviting people builds awareness, even if they don't all show up.

It's a great opportunity to meet your neighbors, and to talk about the issues in your own living room. When friends complain about our government, you can ask what they have done to change things. Tell them you had a coffee! You may be overcome with pride at being an important part of the political process in this country. You will be one of those all-important grass roots you hear about, and you will discover that government for the people and by the people is alive and well. All it takes is a coffee.

## Randi Rhodes' Change for Change in New Orleans

by Mike Daniels

As a regular listener of Air America Radio and our local affiliate WCPT (Chicago's Progressive Talk), in my opinion, of the many programs and special offers Air America has put together, *Change for Change* is the best.

Randi Rhodes, afternoon drive host, has teamed up with Habitat for Humanity to build homes in New Orleans. She is asking us to save loose change until June, or to just make a donation into the Change for Change fund.



Randi noticed that nobody is paying attention to the people in New Orleans anymore. She realized that there are still so many people who need homes. Please save your pocket change, or just make a donation. You can go to [www.therandirhodesshow.com/live/changeforchange](http://www.therandirhodesshow.com/live/changeforchange) to learn how to send in your money.

Randi's show can be heard from 2-6 p.m. Central Standard Time on XM Radio channel 167 and streaming on [AirAmericaRadio.com](http://AirAmericaRadio.com), and from 5-9 p.m. Central time on WCPT-AM 850 during daylight and WCKY-AM 1530 after dark.



other issues that often get wound into the debate about the war. Instead, it views the Iraq war in a historical context that transcends partisan diatribe and cut-and-run sloganeering. It makes the debate of whether we should stay the course or bring the troops home seem almost insignificant, as it explores the larger and more essential question of why we have troops in the first place and what having them does — not to our enemies, but to us.

This movie may not be in theaters long, so see it while you can.

If you care to see the text of President/General Eisenhower's speech, go to <http://coursesa.matrix.msu.edu/~hst306/documents/indust.html> to read salient points from a Republican president who understood war.

**National Security**, continued from page 4

The case against warrantless wiretaps happily can be made on national security grounds alone. "Probable cause" is not just a legal term; it is a critical guide to applying scarce resources such as the very limited number of translators fluent in Middle Eastern languages who can also pass a security check. Before 9/11 at least two hijackers' phones were legally wiretapped, yet the transcripts were still in a translator's in-box when the planes crashed into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

There's no law prohibiting a government agent from attending a public meeting of Quakers organizing an anti-war protest...but what a waste of resources. Besides the agent's time at the meeting, someone was monitoring the group to learn in advance about the meeting, then a supervisor had to read a brief recommending that an agent attend the meeting, fill out the paperwork, and finally read the agent's report before it was filed in oblivion.

The bumbling irresponsibility on national security of this administration and Congress is breathtaking.

When Bush and Kirk took office, the world's oil supply was as secure as it ever has been, and the U.S. had enormous international credibility, intact armed forces, and a budget surplus. Even Republicans agreed FEMA was a model agency. More than a month before 9/11, Bush received a CIA daily briefing upgrading a warning that Bin Laden intended to attack the U.S., then went off to play a round of golf in Texas. Bush was told a major American city was about to be submerged but stayed in Texas, interrupting his vacation only to attend a political fundraiser in California. One of Kirk's Appropriations committee colleagues was convicted on bribery charges, yet Kirk is more interested in taking the obvious measure to deny a federal pension than investigating the defense contracts that were the object of those bribes. Troops in harm's way still lack the most effective vehicle and body armor while hundreds of millions of dollars earmarked for reconstruction have disappeared down the rat hole of corruption and ineptitude.

There are daily reminders that the world is a dangerous place. Hardly any issue usually regarded as domestic now lacks a security component: energy, the deficit, even education and health care. Voters will not elect a candidate who does not convincingly address their concerns about national security. Nor should they.

**Early Voting**, continued from page 1

On the actual date of the March 21 primary, voting will take place at the usual polling places. For those who vote on that date, polling places will remain unchanged unless notification is given. However, those voting early must go either to their municipal township office or city hall during the regularly scheduled business hours.

Be aware that some early voting sites may have weekend hours. Early voting sites in both Lake and Cook counties have already been selected. To find your early voting location and the hours of operation, call your local Township Clerk's office or visit the following websites: for Cook County, [www.voterinfonet.com](http://www.voterinfonet.com), and for Lake County, [www.co.lake.il.us/cntyckl](http://www.co.lake.il.us/cntyckl). Each designated early voting site will have voting machines and election judges to certify the voter's authenticity.

Early voting will end March 16, five days before Election Day. At that point, voters will still have the opportunity to vote by absentee ballot, but will need to provide justification as to why they were unable to cast a ballot on Election Day. Some early voting sites will be open the weekend before Election Day to accommodate absentee ballot voters. Absentee ballots cast during the three days before the election must be done in person. Absentee Ballots by mail will be accepted during the early voting period (February 27 through March 16). It is best to check with your township office, city hall or clerk's office for times and places where absentee ballots will be accepted in person.

Eighteen other states already have early voting laws. While turnouts have not increased significantly, in some states as many as 40 to 50 percent of voters have voted early. However, here in the 10th District, our hope is that we will boost turnout by encouraging friends and neighbors to vote early. We absolutely can have a strong Democratic turnout. As William E. Simon, former Secretary of the Treasury, once said, "Bad politicians are sent to Washington by good people who don't vote."

*Sharon Narrod is running unopposed in the Democratic primary for the office of Lake County Clerk.*

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