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The opinions expressed are those of the writers, and not necessarily endorsed by Tenth Dems.

Tenth Dems Day of Service Community Expo

by Carol Hillsberg

Positive energy filled the spacious room in the Sullivan Center in Vernon Hills as representatives from more than 45 not-for-profit groups shared their missions with interested attendees. In response to Governor JB Pritzker and Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton's call for service as a prelude to their inauguration, Tenth Dems organized the Expo that took place on Saturday, January 12. It was a family-friendly event with ample, delicious snacks and art activities for the children.



There were many participants. They included Moms Demand Action for gun violence prevention, Latino Coalition, Waukegan to College, Sierra Club, PADS Lake County, and more. Our Day of Service included several off-site simultaneous events. As part of



the Day of Service, Lake Villa Township Democrats, thanks to Chair Ed Erwin's leadership, collected a large amount of donations for the Northern Illinois Food Bank and A Safe Place. In addition, Tenth Dems promoted several projects, including the Poetry and Prose Contest and Awards Night in the spring and the Capitol Steps performance on January 27. This Day of Service Expo fittingly set the table for the return of aspirational leadership in the state of Illinois. ❖



– More pictures from Tenth Dems Day of Service Community Expo –





New Lake County Democratic Officeholders Awarded at MLK Event

Tenth Dems was proud again to be a sponsor of the Annual Waukegan Township Martin Luther King Day Breakfast as we celebrated the life and legacy of Dr. King. It was a thrill to see Holly Kim (our new Lake County Treasurer) and our new Lake County Sheriff John Idleburg both honored with a “Drum Major Award,” which is presented to community leaders for their integrity and contribution to the greater good. ☑



Full House of Happy Dems Comes Together to Celebrate the Holidays

By Laurence D. Schiller

A full house of over 100 people converged on the Lake House Restaurant in Lake Bluff on December 11, 2018, for the Tenth Dems Holiday Member Appreciation Party. Not only did attendees celebrate the holidays, but they also celebrated the best showing ever by Democrats in Lake County.

A delicious buffet was available while the happy Democrats listened to some of our newly-elected candidates for state and countywide offices. The program was kicked off by Tenth Dems Founding Chair Lauren Beth Gash. Communications Director Eric Herman recapped how well area Democrats did supporting our candidates. A highlight of this analysis was hearing how close some of the races were and letting the crowd know that some contests were still being counted.





After Eric’s superb presentation, there was a series of short, exciting speeches from several of our newly-elected (and re-elected) candidates. It was a wonderful turnout. The enthusiasm that got our candidates elected carried over to the party and a good time was had by all. One important theme emerged: hard work and the willingness to fill all candidate slots in elections can pay off handsomely.

Congratulations to all our elected officials and to Tenth Dems members for playing a role in the Blue Wave success! ☒

– More pictures from the Tenth Dems Holiday Member Appreciation Party –



– More pictures from the Tenth Dems Holiday Member Appreciation Party –



An Internship That Matters

If you have progressive values and are looking for a summer internship that will make a difference, have we got a deal for you! The Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats (Tenth Dems) is now accepting applications for its Summer 2019 Internship Program. The internship is a substantive program designed for high school, college, and graduate students seeking an opportunity to become deeply engaged in the political process.

Tenth Dems is a grassroots political organization that helps mobilize voters and activists in one of the most widely watched Congressional districts in the country. This is the ideal time to complete a political internship as we prepare for the critically important 2020 elections. Tenth Dems interns have staffed issue forums and events for elected officials and candidates up and down the ballot, worked on campaigns, and conducted research. Tenth Dems interns were very active during the 2018 election cycle, including legislative races, at the county board level, with countywide candidates, and in helping to turn the US House of Representatives blue. Interns may choose to complete general internships or specialize in areas such as media, technology, volunteer management, and political outreach.



Internships are unpaid, educational positions; however, academic credit is often available.

“This is an opportunity to learn about a grassroots political organization and to develop important skills,” said former State Representative Lauren Beth Gash, Tenth Dems' Founding Chair. “Many of our interns have gone on to law school or other graduate programs, as well as paid political positions with local campaigns, and jobs in Springfield, Washington, and with national not-for-profit organizations.”

Acceptance into the program is selective, competitive, and contingent upon an interview. Residency in the 10th District is not required but applicants must have an interest in electing Democrats, be able to travel to our offices, and devote a minimum of 16 hours per week to the internship during the summer. Applicants should submit a brief paragraph explaining why they would like to be part of the program, along with a resume summarizing their educational background and activities. Neither need be formal.

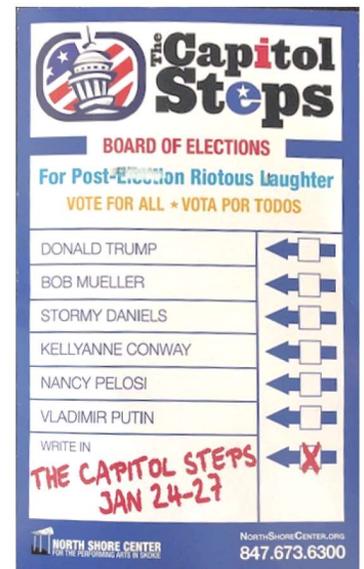
To apply or request more information, email us at volunteers@tenthdems.org. You can also "like" us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter (@TenthDems). ☐

Fun with a Capitol ‘F’: Tenth Dems Friends Share Laughs, Dinner

Thanks to everyone who came out for The Capitol Steps and dinner. The outing could be summed up like this: Great show, great food, great view, and great company!

Because so many people wanted to attend, dinner at Jameson's Charhouse after the performance of “Make America Grin Again” by The Capitol Steps was moved to a bigger space – the 12th Floor Room in the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel.

A three-course plated dinner was served to Tenth Dems friends, who shared a nice meal and lively conversation about how talented The Capitol Steps musical comedy troupe performers were. ☑



Schneider Introduces a New Ethics Pledge for Administration Appointees

By Jane Goldenberg



With the Democrats back in charge of the House of Representatives – after a long eight years – the ethics sheriff has galloped back into the arena with Congressman Brad Schneider in the lead group. Refusing to be distracted by Trump’s shutdown, the Dems seized the momentum and introduced a bundle of anti-corruption bills to fulfill their promise to return good governance to the Capitol.

As part of the package, titled For the People Act, Schneider introduced the Ethics in Public Service Act to put a halt to the corrupt revolving door between industry lobbyists and the executive branch. While the Senate is unlikely to take up the bills, their reluctance to support ethics in government could very well come back to haunt them in 2020.

The Ethics in Public Service Act would require members of the Cabinet and other political appointees to sign an ethics pledge to prevent them from engaging in relationships with corporate lobbyists that might motivate corrupt practices. As Schneider explained, “Trump hasn’t just accelerated the revolving door, he’s added grease to it, and it’s getting faster and faster.” Moreover, “the idea of Trump draining the swamp... was never a legitimate promise.” Schneider pointed out that part of the problem is cultural. “In this sad moment, people will say or do anything.” In the Trump era, “People just expect government officials to ignore the rules, self-promote and self-enrich.”

“We need to strengthen the firewall between public service and corporate lobbying to ensure public servants are putting the needs of the people first and not the industries they regulate,” Schneider said. As of last July, according to Open Secrets, 164 former lobbyists were working in various positions for the Trump Administration and that already 18 of those had left and were now lobbying the government.

Multiple members of the Trump Cabinet exemplify the problem. To wit:

- Scott Pruitt resigned last summer as head of the Environmental Protection Agency after being accused of multiple spending abuses – remember the soundproof phone booth? – and too cozy relationships with corporate lobbyists.
- Tom Price, former Secretary of Health and Human Services, was accused of repeated violations of government travel rules that cost taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars, and most recently,
- Ryan Zinke, under a cloud of multiple ethics violations, resigned at the end of 2018 as Secretary of the Interior Department.

The new bill would require each appointee in every executive agency to sign a pledge to uphold ethics rules that include:

- A lobbyist gift ban. Appointees would not be permitted to accept any gift from a registered lobbyist or lobbying organization.
- Revolving door ban. Appointees could not participate in any matter that involves a former employer or former clients for a period of two years.
- Restrictions on lobbyists entering government. If the appointee was a registered lobbyist within two years of appointment, they could not participate in any matter on which they lobbied within the two years or seek employment with the agency to which they lobbied for the two years prior to the date of the appointment.

Schneider's bill would return the government to the Obama-era ethics rules for executive branch appointees. Still, he's not overly optimistic about the bill actually becoming law. "I think Mitch McConnell is going to do everything he can to avoid bringing forward any piece of legislation that comes out of the Democratic majority in the House of Representatives," Schneider said. "He's shown an abject lack of shame (as) he's abdicated his First Article Constitutional responsibility as the Congress to hold the government to account." ✕

Inauguration Day Brings New Illinois Governor Who Delivers

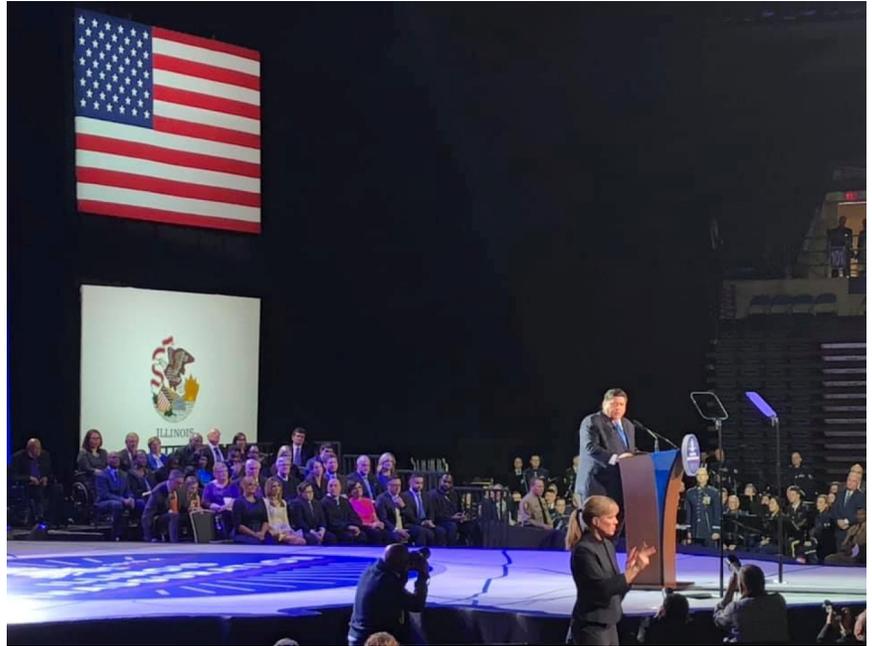
January 14th, 2019, was a big day for Illinois—JB Pritzker was sworn in as our state's new governor. Hundreds of 10th District Democrats were in Springfield to commemorate the Inauguration. Tenth Dems' Lauren Beth Gash served as a member of the official Inaugural Committee. The day marked the turning of a page for the state. And, already, Governor Pritzker has begun bringing common sense back to Illinois and standing up for 10th District values.

Pritzker signed Illinois' first gun licensing law, which former Gov. Rauner had vetoed. Thank you, Gov. Pritzker, and those who have worked so hard for that measure! Common sense gun safety reforms mean so much to the people of the 10th District.

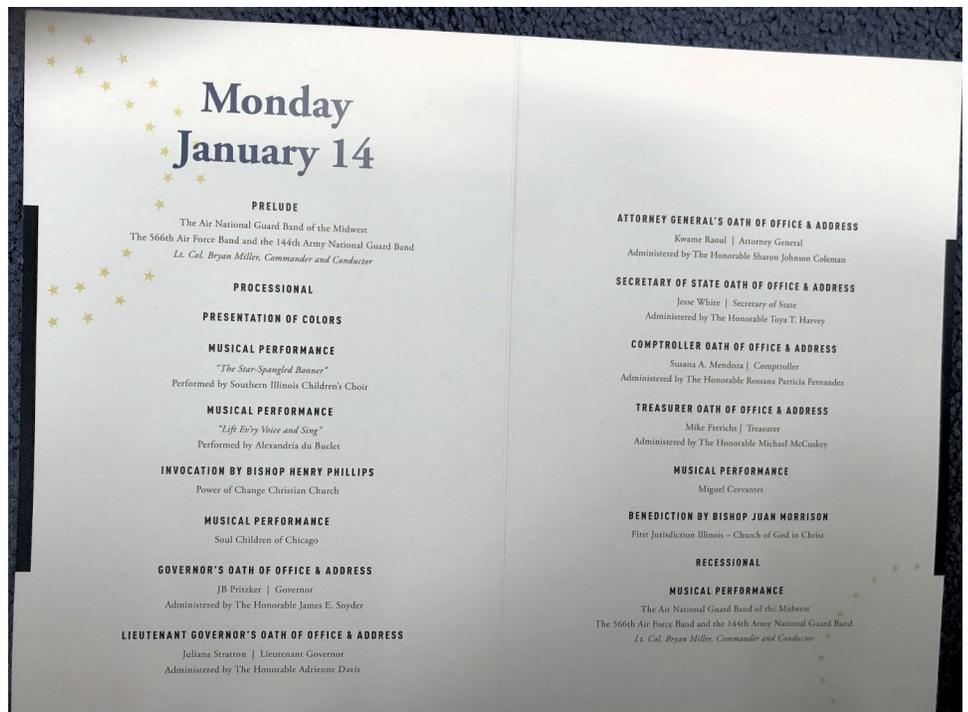


Gov. Pritzker also issued an executive order that defends women's reproductive rights. At a time when such rights are threatened by Republicans in Washington, D.C., our Democratic governor is working to make sure Illinois is a state where reproductive rights are protected. As Pritzker said, "I'm very proud to sign an executive order that will further expand and enforce a woman's right to choose in Illinois."

In addition, Gov. Pritzker became the 18th governor to sign onto the U.S. Climate Alliance, even though President Trump pulled the United States out of the Paris Agreement in 2017. As the governor explained, "I ran on a bold agenda to protect our environment, help our workers thrive and build the 21st century economy our state deserves, and now I'm taking action to join the U.S. Climate Alliance and stand on the side of science and reason. I'm proud to join the bipartisan coalition of governors and states committed to upholding the provisions of Paris Climate Agreement. While the president is intent on taking us backwards, I will work hard every day to move our state forward. We know that climate change is real. We know it's a threat. And we know we must act."



As Gov. Pritzker's early actions show, elections matter! Let's keep it going! ✪



Congressman Brad Schneider to Co-Chair Program to Defend Democrats in Tough Districts

Congressman Brad Schneider will serve as co-chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee's Frontline program aimed at defending the most vulnerable Democratic House incumbents.

Given the Blue Wave of 2018, the program has its work cut out for it as it looks toward the 2020 election cycle. The DCCC hopes to build on those gains but will work hard for the reelection of those Democrats who are most at risk, especially the 24 freshman Democrats who won their seats by five percentage points or fewer. "It wasn't long ago that I was a newly-elected member from a swing district, and I remember well the important support the DCCC Frontline program offered me," said Schneider. "I'm looking forward to working with my fellow co-chairs to help our current frontline colleagues in the same way, with the resources and guidance they need to effectively serve their constituents and earn re-election. I could not be more thrilled to work under the leadership of my friend and new DCCC Chair Cheri Bustos to protect and further expand the Blue Wave of 2018."

Schneider also now serves on the influential House Ways and Means Committee. ✕



Paid for by the Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats (www.tenthdems.org)