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# Resolutions 2012



The *Tenth News* invited Democratic officials and office-seekers throughout the 10th District to send in New Year's resolutions and/or a statement of their hopes and dreams for 2012. Nine of them responded, and their New Year's wishes can be found inside, accompanied by authors' photos.

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# Tenth News

January 2012 Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats Newsletter Volume 9, Edition 1

## Dold Mailers Exemplify Republican Double-Speak at Its Best

*Congressman Dold voted for Paul Ryan's budget resolution, which, if enacted, would have slashed Medicare funds current seniors' nursing home care and eliminated Medicare for future seniors*

Tenth District Congressman Robert Dold has been dipping into predecessor Mark Kirk's bag of tricks. As did his predecessor and mentor, Dold feigns support for vital government programs that, in truth, he votes to undermine.

To wit: just months after Dold voted for the Paul Ryan budget—which, if enacted, would have ended Medicare as we know it, replacing it with an inadequate privatized voucher program—10th District residents were bombarded with a series of deceptive mailers designed to mislead senior voters into believing that Dold is working on their behalf to protect

the vital government health insurance program. The brochures depict Dold as a "leader, working hard to protect programs that improve seniors' quality of life, including the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit."

Of course, just the opposite is true: President Obama and Democrats in Congress are working to save Medicare and Social Security, while Dold and his party attempt to dismantle these vital programs—all for the sake of boosting private insurance company profits.



Some of the pro-Dold mailers (like the one depicted here) come from a group called RetireSafe. According to *Roll Call*, "RetireSafe bills itself as a nonpartisan senior citizens advocacy organization, but it is led by former Bush and Reagan administration officials, small-government activists

**See page 12 for photos from Gov. Quinn's birthday party**

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# Dold Mailers Exemplify Republican Double-Speak at Its Best

(continued from page 1)

and pharmaceutical industry lobbyists and consultants." ("Seniors Group Has Close Ties to GOP, Industry," [http://www.rollcall.com/issues/57\\_67/Seniors\\_Groups\\_Close\\_Ties\\_to\\_GOP\\_Industry-210650-1.html?zkMobileView=true](http://www.rollcall.com/issues/57_67/Seniors_Groups_Close_Ties_to_GOP_Industry-210650-1.html?zkMobileView=true)) One source of RetireSafe's funding is the pharmaceutical industry lobbyist group, PhRMA, *Roll Call* reveals.

The pro-Dold mailers exemplify Republican deceptive doublespeak at its best. The RetireSafe mailer highlights Dold's receipt of RetireSafe's "2011 Standing up for America's Seniors Award," recognition, *Roll Call* reveals, that RetireSafe conferred on "more than 20 vulnerable Republican Members of Congress," among them the far-right Peter King (R-NY) and Allen West (R-FL). ("Seniors Group Has Close Ties to GOP, Industry," [http://www.rollcall.com/issues/57\\_67/Seniors\\_Groups\\_Close\\_Ties\\_to\\_GOP\\_Industry-210650-1.html?zkMobileView=true](http://www.rollcall.com/issues/57_67/Seniors_Groups_Close_Ties_to_GOP_Industry-210650-1.html?zkMobileView=true))

Similar mailers came into the 10th District from the conservative American Action Network (AAN), an organization formed and headed by Norm Coleman, the former Republican senator from Minnesota. Twisting truth and turning facts upside down, the AAN brochures accuse President Obama of "attempting to balance the budget on the backs of

seniors"—language lifted directly from Democrats speaking out against Republicans who actually *are* trying to balance the budget on the backs of seniors, the middle class, and the poor. AAN's campaign opposed the Medicare Drug Savings Act of 2011, which was introduced by Henry Waxman (D-CA). The bill would "bring down the cost of drugs by making drug manufacturers pay a rebate to the government for Part D recipients who receive both Medicare and Medicaid benefits." <http://www.margiemetzler.org/Lungrenmailer.pdf> Opposition to this bill is also a priority of RetireSafe.

Even the most cursory examination of Dold's record reveals that protecting Medicare is not a priority for the current 10th District congressman. On January 19, Dold voted for repeal of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), supporting a bill that proposed to eliminate Medicare coverage for annual checkups and cancer screenings. Repeal of the President's landmark healthcare legislation also would have reopened the Medicare [Part D] "donut hole," costing many seniors an additional \$5000, and more, annually. Dold's record also

shows that on April 15, he voted for Paul Ryan's budget resolution, which, if enacted, would have slashed Medicare funds for current seniors' nursing home care and eliminated Medicare for future seniors. The Ryan plan would have turned Medicare into a privatized voucher program, charging seniors huge premiums and 68 percent of their health care costs (compared with 15 percent currently),



according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. Fortunately, the bill was defeated in the Democratic-led Senate and never became law.

So, the next time you receive a glossy mailer lauding Dold, be sure to check its claims against his actual voting record. You can find that record here: <http://www.votesmart.org/candidate/key-votes/116548/robert-dold>.

*"You have to give the Republicans credit — they act upon their beliefs.... [T]hey do not believe in a government role in clean air, clean water, food safety, public safety, public education, public health, Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security. They don't believe in that. And they act upon that. "*  
-- Nancy Pelosi

# Dold Works to Reverse Dodd-Frank

*Dold Pushes to Weaken Investor Protections*

Once again Bob Dold has shown that he cares more about the Wall Street scam artists who nearly brought down the global financial system than Americans who are saving and investing for their retirement and their children's education.

Dold is front and center among House Republicans who are doing all they can to reverse the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. A front page article in the December 8, 2011 *Bond Buyer* reported how one of the

industry's trade organizations, the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA), has spent \$3.96 million in the first nine months of 2011 lobbying Congress for changes in Dodd-Frank. Among SIFMA's \$185,000 in campaign contributions was a check for \$1,000 for Dold, who sits on the House Financial Services Committee.

Dold works cheap. With SIFMA's \$1,000 in his war chest, he serves as principal sponsor of H.R. 2827, a bill that seeks to weaken several provisions of Dodd-Frank that are intended to require many players in the financial industry to assume a fiduciary responsibility on behalf of their clients. In other words, under Dodd-Frank investment firms would be prohibited from knowingly selling hopelessly defective securities. As reported in books such as Michael Lewis' *The Big Short*, during the run-up to the financial crash investment firms concocted a number of securities—bonds backed by sub—prime mortgages, for instance—that they sold to clients only then to take short positions in the same securities, betting their own firm's money that the bonds would drop in price.

Not all of Wall Street supports SIFMA's and Dold's efforts to weaken Dodd-Frank. According to a July

17 article in *The New York Times*, the Council of Institutional Investors, a lobbying group that represents pension and employee benefit funds, endowments, and foundations, said that the Dodd-Frank Act was "a clear win for investors."

"Excessive risk by Wall Street fueled the market meltdown that wiped out millions of U.S. jobs and billions in retirement savings," Ann Yerger, the Council's executive director, said in a statement. "The Dodd-Frank Act, if implemented as intended, will be a critical bulwark against such massive abuse of investors."

Yerger represents that part of Wall Street that serves to help families save for their future. Dold represents the bunco artists of Wall Street who crowed about selling financial instruments they compared to barnyard excrement.



And on another front, in case anyone is confused about where Republicans stand, the same week that the *Bond Buyer* article appeared, Mark Kirk voted with Senate Republicans to block President Obama's nominee to head the Consumer Financial Protection Agency established to enforce Dodd-Frank, former Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray.

## “What in God’s Name” by Ron Levitsky

If Congress were a James Bond movie, the Republicans would be Dr. No. While admitting there were problems with the American healthcare system, Republicans refused to propose a plan of their own to deal with the crisis, nor would they contribute to the healthcare reform bill passed by a Democratic Congress. Although decrying the high unemployment rate, they did not propose a major jobs bill, nor would they support President Obama’s proposal. Many Republicans refused to go along with a renewal of the Social Security payroll tax cut that would help millions of working Americans, because part of the loss in revenue would be made up with an increased tax on millionaires.



However, in the midst of economic hardship, there is a glimmer of light. The Republican-controlled House of Representatives, in a rare show of bipartisan unity, overwhelmingly passed a non-binding resolution sponsored by Congressman Randy Forbes (R-VA). By a vote of 396-9, with two abstentions, the House reaffirmed that “In God We Trust” is the national motto and should be displayed in all public schools and government buildings. In part, this was because President Obama had referred erroneously to “*E pluribus unum*” (“from many, one”) as our national motto. In addition, Congress

ordered that “In God We Trust” be engraved in the new Capitol Visitor Center in place of “*E pluribus unum*.” We can all thank God ... er ... the House Republicans for prioritizing how they should spend their valuable time. No wonder the American people give Congress a nine percent approval rating.

In addition, conservatives chastised President Obama for not thanking God during his weekly Internet speech on Thanksgiving Day. Instead, Obama thanked our soldiers fighting overseas and those Americans helping in soup kitchens and homeless shelters. It didn’t matter that Mitt Romney, Newt Gingrich, and Rick Santorum also issued Thanksgiving statements without mentioning God. The President of the United States should have his priorities straight.

Of course the “In God We Trust” resolution is another example of Republican hypocrisy – the pretense of caring for the welfare of the average American by appealing to a holier-than-thou sense of morality instead of doing something concrete to help Americans

struggling to keep both body and soul together. The *Chicago Tribune*, hardly a progressive journal, asked in an editorial entitled, “In symbolism they trust,”—“Given that there’s no movement afoot to alter the motto, is [the resolution] an act of piety or a blasphemy to use the name of God for a cheap political stunt?” The editorial goes on to ask why a secular government should declare its trust in God, when our nation’s laws fully protect those who don’t believe in God.

Although a political stunt, the

resolution is by no means harmless. It taps into a number of historical trends that have proven dangerous to American principles of liberty and democracy. In 1630, the Puritans settled in Massachusetts Bay. Their goal, in the words of John Winthrop, was to create “a city upon a hill,” a political entity of civic virtue for the world to emulate. In attempting to live up to this ideal, Puritans persecuted those of other faiths, including Anglicans and Baptists, and even hanged several Quakers. In the nineteenth century, Manifest Destiny declared that God favored the American nation, which went on to commit atrocities against Native Americans and fight an unjust war with Mexico that helped to spread slavery. In the early twentieth century, American imperialism, coupled with Muscular Christianity (the belief that Christians should be physically fit and willing to challenge whatever stood in the way of their mission to civilize the world), resulted in another unjust war, this time against Spain. It also began an American Empire with the acquisition of the Philippines – and the first use by American soldiers of the word “gook” against Filipino insurrectionists, a derogatory term that would be used in future wars against Latin American and

Asian enemies.

Bob Dylan refers to the danger of a partisan deity in his song, “With God on Our Side,” which includes the lyrics:



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# “What in God’s Name”

(continued from page 4)

“But now we got weapons of the chemical dust, If fire them we’re forced to then fire them we must One push of the button and a shot the world wide, and you never ask questions when God’s on your side.”

What Dylan criticized, conservatives have embraced. George W. Bush first described the war against Iraq as a “crusade,” a word with historical and religious connotations that included massacres of non-believers. More recently, this religious “Us vs. Them” mentality has been invoked by Newt Gingrich, a leading contender for the Republican presidential nomination. Gingrich stated that the proposed Muslim community center near New York City’s Ground Zero would contribute to “an Islamist cultural-political offensive designed to undermine and destroy our civilization.”

Going further, voters in Oklahoma approved a ballot measure, sponsored by Republican State Representative Rex Duncan, that prevents judges from making a ruling by considering Islamic/Sharia or international law. As absurd as the national motto resolution, this measure is also unnecessary, bigoted, and absurdly ironic. These same conservatives, who are so wary of Muslim law interfering with U.S. law, have no problem pushing their own religious beliefs on our judicial system. For example, the most recent American Civil Liberties Union newsletter notes the following: in Kansas, doctors can be criminally prosecuted for performing an abortion to save a woman’s life; “a new South Dakota law would force women seeking abortions to submit to humiliating,

degrading lectures by anti-abortion zealots;” and the U.S. House made deep cuts in funding for woman’s healthcare, because such care included contraceptives. In early 2011, Conservative members of the Iowa State Legislature proposed a constitutional amendment denying gays the right to marriage, civil unions, or even domestic partnerships. Apparently, what all these conservative lawmakers really want is not Islamic Sharia law but rather



Christian Sharia law that covers the most personal aspects of human behavior. Never mind that the Constitution protects the individual’s freedom of religion as well as freedom from religion. The moral certitude of these conservatives is as strong as any jihadist and just as brutal.

They would be wise to follow the advice of our greatest political leader who governed during our greatest political crisis. In his book, *Lincoln’s Melancholy*, Joshua Wolf Shenk discusses an unpublished document written by President Abraham Lincoln called, “Meditation on the Divine Will.” While other religious and political leaders of both the Union

and the Confederacy were absolutely certain that, as Bob Dylan sang, God was on their side, Lincoln was anything but smug.

In this document, Lincoln stated, “The will of God prevails. In great contests each party claims to act in accordance with the will of God. Both may be, and one must be, wrong. God cannot be for, and against the same thing at the same time.”

One would expect him to continue by declaring that God was on the side of the Union. Instead, Lincoln concluded, “He could have either saved or destroyed the Union without a human contest. Yet the contest began. And, having begun He could give the final victory to either side any day. Yet the contest proceeds.”

When a minister mentioned to Lincoln that he hoped the Lord was on their side, Lincoln replied, “I hope we are on the Lord’s side.”

Lincoln’s uncertainty as to the divine plan gave him tolerance, empathy, and compassion unmatched by any other American political leader. Those conservative Republicans who are so concerned about proclaiming their trust in God should, instead, follow Lincoln’s example and do God’s will as stated by the Prophet Amos: “Only to do justice And to love goodness, And to walk modestly with your God.”

But perhaps they’re too busy cutting workers’ benefits, environmental protection, and a woman’s right to reproductive freedom to read the Bible.

Newt says to get a job—after you take a bath. Karl Rove says the Occupiers are lazy bums. Hannity says almost anything disparaging toward everything that isn't radical right. These are good signs.

It is human nature to defend against or attack anything we perceive as a threat. And the Occupy Wall Street movement most certainly does threaten the status quo of the wealthiest one percent of Americans. That's what makes Newt and Rove and Hannity say the stupid things they say about the Occupiers.

The big-money system is a spider web of interlocking complexity that includes bankers, politicians, and people from big pharmaceutical companies, energy companies, the insurance industry, and others, all pursuing that most human of endeavors, ensuring their own survival. Their financial and legislative system works for them, and anything beyond what serves their goals is beyond their consideration. The interlocking web is designed to promote and maintain the system. It is possible that some actually

believe that what is best for America is for the wealthy to become even wealthier. Some may be sufficiently dull-headed as to think supply side economics is born of science, rather than graft and greed. Those true believers, the Kool-Aid gulpers, can be rewarded with honorary stars next to their names for their simplemindedness and lazy integrity. The rest are just short-sighted and greedy. Either way, their snarling, defensive response to OWS tells the tale: They feel the heat.

Recently, Chris Hayes released a memo his team had secured. It was from the Washington lobbying firm Clark Lytle Geduldig Cranford ("CLGC") and was addressed to the American Bankers Association. In it, CLGC proposed to conduct an elaborate study of the Occupy movement, this for the purpose of determining the best ways to discredit it. It appears that CLGC had already begun the smear campaign by writing in this very memo, "OWS bears many of the hallmarks of a well-funded effort and media reports have speculated about associations with George Soros and others." Do you suppose that the media reports to which they refer just might have come from the blathering lips of propaganda-spewers at Fox News?

That it is claimed in this memo, "OWS bears many of the hallmarks of a well-funded effort . . ." may most significantly reveal the writer's inability to think beyond standard operating procedure for his end of the financial spectrum. Apparently, in the mind of the big-money people and those who

serve them, everything starts with big money. Even as the spin-masters fraudulently claimed the Tea Party was a grass roots movement, money from the Koch brothers and Dick Armeiy funded it. That's how they do things. The one-percenters seem to be unable to imagine citizens who motivate themselves and show up for demonstrations without fat cats providing the buses and the signs.

The CLGC proposal to the American Bankers Association is just one memo aimed at supporting the big bankers, the primary bad guys whom OWS protesters have identified on their signs. That there are more actions afoot to discredit OWS is certain. And that is good news.

It is good news because it is proof that the persistence of opposition to the very unlevel playing field that is America today is making its mark. Those who are presently at the top are feeling the threat and are recognizing that the citizens of this country will not tolerate the situation. That puts the fat cats at risk of an adjustment from what they have come to know and love and put into their investment portfolios, and that makes them defensive and aggressive.

When the other side strikes out, you know you're getting to them, and that is the beginning of change. That's a good sign.



### **The Trickle Down Theory**

**Is Great  
If You  
Like  
Getting  
Peed  
On!!**

# YES, WE DID! Obama and Consumer Safety

by Eleonora di Liscia

Sometimes you go to a movie and see a really great picture. The acting is terrific, the script is brilliant, and the director really knows his camera angles. But maybe that great movie didn't just come about because of the actors, the writer, and director. Maybe someone behind the scenes enabled all those players to do great work by making sure that everything on the picture ran smoothly.

And that's a little like President Obama and consumer safety. Sure, there has been some high-profile legislation such as Wall Street Reform and the Food Safety Modernization Act. But some of the change is in the way things run. It's making sure information gets to the right people and coordinating between government agencies. It's reversing years of neglect and resetting priorities. It's the kind of change that is not sexy and not easy to explain but is important nonetheless.

Overall, Obama is significantly more proactive on consumer safety than former President Bush. A December 2010 OMB Watch report stated: "Unquestionably, Obama has dramatically changed course from the Bush years. The Bush administration took a hands-off approach to regulation, regularly failing to take a stand against repeat violators. As a result, uncertainty permeated regulatory agencies as staff approached their duties under the law tentatively. The Obama team has moved to change this culture by nominating people interested in regulatory enforcement, by increasing resources for regulatory activities and by showing a greater willingness to use the regulatory tools at its disposal."

<http://www.ombwatch.org/files/regs/obamamidtermenforcementreport.pdf>  
For example, while the Food and Drug

Administration (FDA) used warning letters under Bush, it no longer issues multiple notices before resorting to tougher action. And, the number of warning letters overall has increased significantly from the Bush years. For example, in 2008, three FDA agencies issued a combined total of 104 warning letters, which more than doubled to 246 in 2009 under Obama. The FDA has also taken steps to work more smoothly with state, local, and international enforcement partners in order to more quickly address problems.



In March 2009, Obama formed the Food Safety Working Group. This task force recommended a tracking system to help investigators quickly pinpoint the source of food contamination. This recommendation became part of the Food Safety Modernization Act, passed by the heroic lame duck 2010 Congress and hailed as "the most sweeping overhaul of America's food safety system since 1938" in a January 4, 2011 CNN wire article. For the first time, the FDA can issue mandatory recalls of contaminated food.

Even before the Act, the FDA had shifted priorities toward preventing

rather than passively reacting to food-borne illness.

The FDA has worked to improve its tracking of post-marketing drug studies after a 2009 Government Accountability Office report revealed a lack of adequate procedures. The FDA can expedite approval for new drugs as long as manufacturers perform post-marketing studies, but FDA wasn't following up to make sure these studies were done. As part of his "We Can't Wait" initiative, Obama bypassed a deadlocked Congress on prescription drug shortages. An October 31, 2011 executive order directed the FDA to broaden reporting of potential drug shortages, expedite regulatory reviews to prevent shortages, and investigate illegal price gouging.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) had been crippled by years of abuse and neglect, which Obama has striven to reverse. "The CPSC is in really bad shape," David Arkush of Public Citizen said in a May 2009 *Los Angeles Times* article. "They've been underfunded for years and demoralized." Obama quickly appointed a fresh face, Inez Moore Tennenbaum, to lead the commission, replacing Nancy Nord, a former lobbyist who argued against increasing the agency's authority, staff, and money.

In September 2009, the Administration developed a "Recall Search" database, which allows the public to report unsafe products and get safety updates. As of April 2010, the CPSC is coordinating more smoothly with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, allowing both agencies to more quickly identify risks from imported products. This partnering has helped

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## YES, WE DID! Obama and Consumer Safety (continued from page 7)



block the import of lead-tainted toys.

The CPSC has availed itself of its expanded enforcement powers. In March 2010, CPSC fined a children's product importer \$2 million for violating lead standards. The agency also undertook the largest compliance investigation in its history involving contaminated Chinese drywall.

Responding to consumer pleas that toys be made safe before going to market, CPSC approved a new rule

in November 2011, requiring periodic third-party testing and certification of toys and other children's products. In October 2011, the Federal Communications Commission collaborated with the wireless industry to get an agreement that provides for mobile phone users to receive automatic alerts before triggering overage charges.

Last but not least is Wall Street reform. In July 2010, Obama signed "a sweeping expansion of federal financial regulation," according to *The New York Times*. The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act subjects more companies to federal oversight, such as credit derivatives and payday loan vendors. Latino leaders favored the Act for protecting the many Hispanics who rely on nontraditional money services such as check-cashing and prepaid cards. National Council of La Raza called the Act "an incredible victory

for consumers" and "the most significant banking reform legislation in 75 years."

The Act is also intended to prevent the need for future bailouts and to crack down on abusive mortgage practices by, for example, simplifying contracts to disclose hidden fees. The Act also creates the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), a "neighborhood cop" overseeing financial institutions, according to CFPB's website. However, Republicans are so threatened by financial regulation that besides trying to repeal the bill, they have blocked Obama's choices to head the CFPB, first Elizabeth Warren, and now Richard Cordray, an Ohio attorney general who took on big banks, thus underscoring yet again the need to return more Democrats to Congress as well as to reelect Obama.

## Paul Kelly, January 2012 Volunteer of the Month by Kimberly Rodriguez



Paul Kelly is a bit of a celebrity, and not just within Tenth Dems. He has a sausage named after him at the famous Hot Doug's, a self-described "Sausage Superstore and Encased Meats Emporium" in Chicago. This signature sausage is the "Paul Kelly," a bratwurst "soaked in beer" (\$3.50). Paul worked with owner Doug Sohn when they were cookbook editors many years ago, and Sohn named the

brat after Paul in appreciation of his help with the original restaurant menu.

Sausage celebrity aside, why is Paul the Tenth Dems Volunteer of the Month?

Paul has volunteered for Tenth Dems since 2005. As Communications Committee chair, he has handled communications ranging from newsletter articles, blogs, press releases, media management, and overseeing the Tenth Dems Facebook account. He also served a term as editor-in-chief with the *Tenth News*. He has made a commitment to become an even more effective volunteer.

"I am especially interested in having the Tenth Dems help the local candidates even more. Our goal, our mission, is to help Democrats

get elected throughout the 10th Congressional District of Illinois. I think we can be very effective as a group if we are able to offer even more help to local candidates who are running for State Rep, or for County Board, or for a myriad of other positions," Paul explained.

Paul has previously worked on Rep. Daniel Biss's campaigns in 2008 and 2010. He spent early mornings at Metra stations collecting petition signatures for candidates Dan Seals and Zane Smith. "I urge everyone to consider volunteering for the Tenth Dems," says Paul. "It is a wonderful organization."

Paul lives in Glenview with his wife, Patti, and their two children, Amanda and Jack.



# Resolutions 2012



New Year's resolutions from Debra Shore, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commissioner:

"In 2012 I will:

- Connect to the wild in the world. On Saturday, December 10, as I stood in my driveway in Skokie, I heard a wild and haunting sound overhead. Sandhill cranes flying overhead!!

I searched and found them high above, winging their way south for the winter. What a call, so different from our pedestrian geese. And to see them in the midst of a great metropolis! I'm reminded that we share this planet with marvelous, mysterious creatures.

Next year I will make time to marvel at the wildness near me. (This sound can be heard at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oOctNGaJy\\_4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oOctNGaJy_4))

- Be fearless.

I will stand up more and sit down less. I'm getting older (it's true!); the stakes are high. There is no time left to be timid.

- Carve out time for thinking and reading.

Our 24/7, always-connected,

Twitter feed and txt msg world leaves little time for extended reads and actual, discursive thought. I yearn for that.

- Make new friends and keep the old.

Remember the Girl Scout ditty? "Make new friends and keep the old, one is silver and the other gold."

- Work as hard as I can to re-elect President Obama.

I've been listening to Jonathan Alter's *The Promise*, about President Obama's first year in office. The man can't do it alone, friends, and as weary as we may be, we will have to step up and stand up and fight. I believe our democracy depends on our active engagement and our fierce advocacy. (My experience on the campaign trail this past fall leads me to believe our democracy is more fragile than we would like to think.) It's up to us, and, yes, we can."



New Year's resolution from Chris Kennedy, candidate for Lake County State's Attorney:

"I look forward to 2012 being the year when Lake County's voters

decide they've had enough. The Lake County State's Attorney's Office has become national news for all the wrong reasons. The focus has so far been on the injustice to those wrongfully convicted, including one man in prison for over 19 years. But, soon taxpayers will be confronted with the financial burden of numerous lawsuits. For me, though, the worst part of this failure of the criminal justice system is that the actual perpetrators of violent crimes have been free to commit more violent crimes, while our prosecutors have persisted in pursuing the wrong person. I believe I can bring

positive changes that will make our prosecutors' office an example of what can be accomplished, instead of an embarrassment. My resolution is to bring leadership and reform to the State's Attorney's Office and to work as hard as it takes to bring our message to every voter in Lake County."

more resolutions on page 10

JANUARY ISSUE

# Resolutions 2012



New Year's wish from Reginald C. Mathews, candidate for Lake County State's Attorney:

"In 2012, I hope to strive for perfection as a husband and father; my dream is to become the next State's Attorney in Lake County."



New Year's wish from Vivek Bavda, Democratic candidate for Congress, 10th District:

"Happy Holidays! My New Year's hope is that each of us lives as long as we want and never wants as long as we live. Best, Vivek and the entire Bavda family."



New Year's resolution from Brad Schneider, Democratic candidate for Congress, 10th District:

"To see the best in all people. To see the best in our future. And to do all I can to make that future a reality. Not just for some but for all of us. Happy New Year."



New Year's wish from Mary Ellen Vanderverter, Lake County Recorder:

"Looking forward to the campaign trail with great friends and family!"



New Year's resolution from Ilya Sheyman, Democratic candidate for Congress, 10th District:

"My New Year's resolution is to send Robert Dold packing and prove that government and politics can once more be about bringing concrete improvements in people's everyday lives. In 2012, with our friends at the Tenth Dems, hundreds of Sheyman for Congress volunteers will build a people-powered campaign to rebuild the middle class and restore the American Dream!"



New Year's resolution from Scott Drury, Democratic candidate for 58th District State Representative:

"My New Year's resolution is to work tirelessly to meet all of the voters in our community in order to learn their ideas and concerns and to spread our campaign's message of independence, ethics and honesty and my commitment to serving the public's interests, not selfish interests."

*more resolutions on page 11*

**JANUARY ISSUE**

# Resolutions 2012



New Year's resolution from John Tree, Democratic candidate for Congress, 10th District:

"I resolve to fight for the middle class with every bit of strength that I have. I resolve to fight against the dire economic unfairness that wreaks havoc across our country, and I resolve to stand up to the extreme partisanship that is destroying the America that I know and love. The America I've served for over 21 years as an officer in the United States Air Force. I will fight to protect and uphold the promises our government has made to our veterans and senior citizens.

My hope for 2012 is that, as a country, we are able to come together and solve these critical problems that are threatening us all. I want to work with other like-minded leaders to create jobs, quality education, affordable housing, and economic opportunities. My hope is that we win our 10th Congressional District and work to create a better tomorrow for all of us."

## SAVE THE DATES

**Saturday, February 25, 2012**  
**Candidate Debate Sponsored by**  
**Tenth Dems and WCPT**  
**Chicago's Progressive Talk Radio**

Time: 1:00 – 4:00

**Sunday, March 4, 2012**  
**Tenth Dems District-Wide Convention**

Time: 2:00 – 4:00 (doors open at 1:30 pm)

Tenth Dems is pleased to host our next signature candidate debate with Dick Kay of WCPT Chicago's Progressive Talk Radio. It will take place on February 25, 2012, the Saturday before early voting begins.

Come to the Tenth Dems district-wide convention and help make a positive impact in Illinois' 10th Congressional District. You'll be part of an enthusiastic group (500-plus attended our first convention in 2008) who will hear from candidates running for election at all levels of government from all parts of the district. The event is free and open to the public; however, only Tenth Dems members may vote in our straw poll.

**Locations to be announced.**

# Tenth Dems Interns and Volunteers Help Out and Celebrate at Gov. Quinn's birthday party



## Tenth Dems is desperately seeking...

supplies for the office space we use in Highland Park, Waukegan, and Grayslake. Please donate any of the following:

printer paper  
paper towels/toilet paper  
bottled water/healthy snacks  
general office supplies/stamps  
gently used laptops/flat panel computer monitors.

With your help, we can avoid the following unseasonable scenario:

*The night before the election  
All through the Tenth  
No volunteers hard at work  
Because their resources were spent.*

*No paper means no flyers  
Low energy without snacks  
Can't get the word out without computers  
Won't be able to take our district back.*

# Tenth Dems Holiday Membership Party

## by Kimberly Rodriguez

Tenth Dems held another festive Holiday Membership Party on Wednesday, December 7, at The Silo in Lake Bluff. Attendees included candidates for a variety of offices within the 10th District, elected officials, and Tenth Dems members old and new. It was a chance to meet and greet, make new acquaintances, renew old friendships, and assess the state of the Democratic Party within the 10th District.

The buffet tables were loaded with salads and pizzas and trays of holiday cookies and cupcakes. The Silo staff kept hot pizzas of all varieties on the tables, but those delicious pies disappeared within minutes.

"Our holiday membership party is mainly an opportunity for Tenth Dems members to gather and have fun," said Executive Director, Lauren Beth Gash. "Many members work hard all year round, and they help in so many different ways. This celebration was a thank you to everyone for all the hard work they do."

The atmosphere was noisy, but conversations included laughter, talk of holiday plans, and discussions about the March primary. The program gave all candidates present a brief opportunity to introduce themselves and talk about what was important to them.

Candidates took turns standing on a chair (so everyone in the crowded room could see and hear them) to speak about their candidacies and how they hope to make a difference if elected.

The new 10th District now includes Round Lake, and Round Lake Township Committee candidate Nick Burke kicked things off by

remarking on the "conviviality" of the holiday party and encouraging everyone in the 10th District to "come out and see us sometime!"

John Tree, Vivek Bavda, and Ilya Sheyman, candidates for the U.S. House race, were present and addressed the crowd. Steve Sheffey stood in for a fourth candidate, Brad Schneider, who was unable to attend.

Sheffey extolled Schneider's strengths as a candidate, saying Brad "could beat Dold on his own issues and turn the [10th] district blue!"

Bavda explained why he was running, saying, "My parents sought a better life for me. In the USA you can have the tools to work very hard and have a nice life. Let's take back the 10th so we can move forward and lead the way."

Sheyman's remarks emphasized jobs. "We need to get people back to work. We need to get more money in people's pockets," he declared. He exhorted the Tenth Dems crowd to get involved. "Are you in? Are you fired up?" Sheyman asked.

John Tree spoke about his background in the military and in business and said, "We need commonsense proposals." "We need to uphold promises made to senior citizens," he added.

Candidates for the Lake County State's Attorney also addressed the crowd. Reginald C. Matthews said, "I grew up here. I know what is needed. I know how to give back [to the community]."

Later, Christopher M. Kennedy spoke about integrity. "We need to seek convictions for justice," Kennedy said.

Many more candidates in races from judgeships to school board elections were able to stand on the chair and say a few words. The assembled Tenth Dems cheered and applauded each of them, acknowledging that every candidate who steps forward to run does so because of a desire to make the 10th District, and our nation, a better place to live.

Behind every candidate are families and supporters who spend endless hours organizing house parties and fundraising, canvassing and phone banking, and doing the numerous other tasks essential to a winning campaign. As attendees cheered for their candidates, their energy and high spirits added to the festive enjoyment of the evening.

Happy Holidays to all! Happy 2012 to everyone! All Tenth Dems members, families, and friends look forward to an even more festive holiday party next year, when we will be celebrating Democratic electoral victories!

*Paid for by the Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats ([www.tenthdems.org](http://www.tenthdems.org)) and not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee. Contributions are not tax deductible. Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, address, occupation and name of employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year. Corporate contributions are not allowed.*