

In This Issue:

Thank You!	1	Community
Moraine Election.....	1	Connection 5
Social Security	2	Morrison Interview 6
NRA.....	3	Botterman Breakfast... 6
Obama & Israel	4	Poetry Slam..... 7

For information or to volunteer:

Email us at newsletter@tenthdem.org
 Or visit our website at www.tenthdem.org
 Or call us at 847.266.VOTE (8683)
 Or write to Hon. Lauren Beth Gash, Chair,
 Tenth Dems, P.O. Box 523, Deerfield, IL 60015

Editor: Barbara Altman

Editorial Staff:

Joan Attenberg, Lauren Beth Gash,
 Adrienne Kirshbaum, Allan Sperling

Contributors:

Anne Flanigan Bassi, Adrienne Kirshbaum,
 Eleonora di Liscia, Dave Rauen, Steve
 Sheffey, Laurie Kaplan Singh, Laura Tomsky

Design: Terry Wrem Jones

Distribution: Ravi Ganapathy, Glenn Stier

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

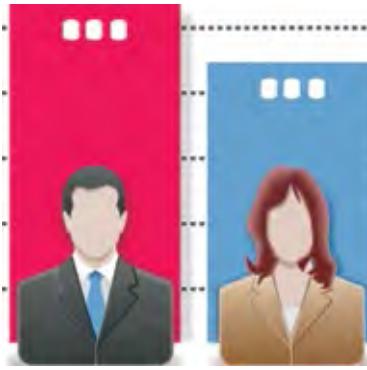


Thank You!

by Adrienne Kirshbaum

Running for office is no walk in the park, as any former candidate can tell you. It is demanding of your time, your resources, and your privacy. And you need a thick skin to withstand the things that may be said about you. When you open yourself up to public scrutiny, you have to expect some unkind words. It's not unlike writing a novel or painting a picture and waiting for the reviews.

The difference is that when you campaign for public office, the reviews are often about you and not about a work of art you created. Having the courage and determination to run



is admirable, and those who chose to put their hats in the ring for April's elections deserve a resounding thank you!

The people who serve as mayors of Tenth District communities, who run township governments and sit on city councils, who are members of school, park, and library boards have more to do with our everyday living than the President of the United States. Their experience in local politics sometimes prepares them for higher office. That is an important reason why they deserve our attention.

But equal respect must be given to those

continued on page 8

www.tenthdem.org

Tenth News

MAY 2013 Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats Newsletter Volume 10, Edition 5

New Democratic Team Elected to Moraine Township Government

Democrats will continue to provide outstanding, cost-effective service to Moraine Township residents for the next four years. The team that was unanimously slated by the Democratic caucus last December won the April 9, 2013 General Election.

- Anne Flanigan Bassi, Township Supervisor;
- Cynthia Plouché, Township Assessor;
- Gail Feiger Brown, Township Clerk;
- Olga Gomez Aguilar, Dwayne Douglas, Cindy Wolfson, and Amy Zisook, Township Trustees.

"We are fortunate that individuals of this caliber stepped forward to serve our residents," said Lauren Beth Gash, Moraine Township Democratic Organization Chair.

"Our team represents a cross-section of the age, geographic and cultural demographics of the township, and has devoted decades of volunteer effort to helping residents in our community," noted Anne Flanigan Bassi, who has represented most of the Moraine Township geographic area on the Lake County Board for the last ten years. "We can leverage our resources more effectively through partnerships, and my experience on the County Board



Front l-r: Cynthia Plouché, Anne Flanigan Bassi, Gail Feiger Brown; Back l-r: Cindy Wolfson, Dwayne Douglas, Amy Zisook, Olga Gomez Aguilar

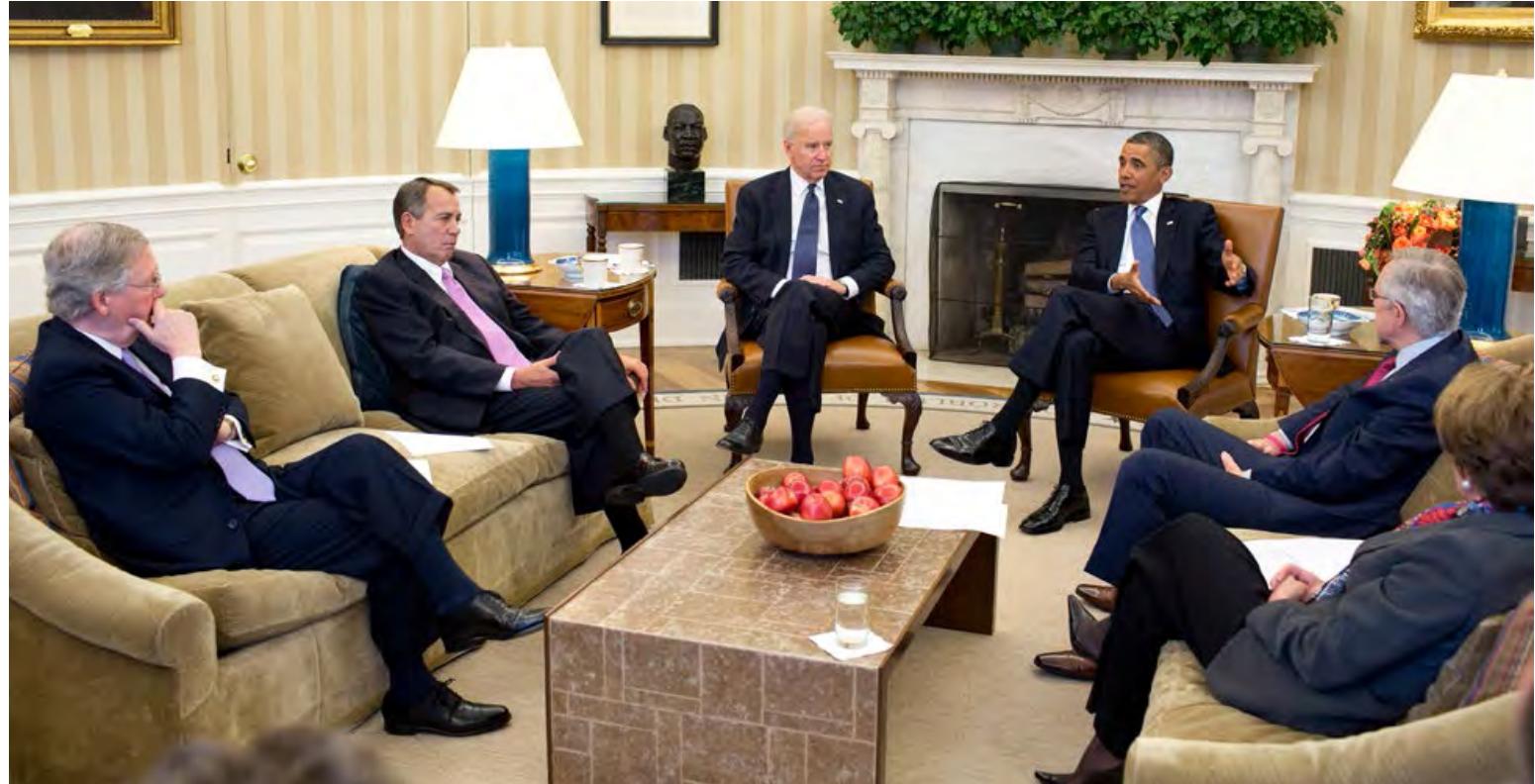
will help us understand the regional resources available to help our residents here in Moraine."

Members of the team are committed to working hard to ensure that Moraine Township government operates with compassion to provide a safety net for our neediest residents. **TD**

Criticism of Social Security Proposal Obscures Strengths of President's Budget

The outcry over proposed changes to the computation of cost-of-living adjustments for Social Security has overshadowed a host of good ideas in the President's budget proposal for the 2014 fiscal year. Obscured by the criticism are significant proposals which, together, would put the nation on the path to realizing the President's vision of a stronger middle class, a revival of U.S. manufac-

To offset the increased cost of these programs while also reducing the deficit, the budget proposal cuts other expenditures by about \$1.2 trillion over a decade. It achieves the savings by replacing the arbitrary and damaging sequestration cuts with more sensible spending reductions; demanding greater efficiencies from Medicare providers, doctors, and hospitals; and requiring drug



turing, a fairer tax system, improved education, and responsible stewardship of the environment.

Aimed at reviving the nation's manufacturing sector and creating new jobs, the President's proposed budget includes a \$1 billion investment in a network of manufacturing innovation institutes across the country modeled after the successful Youngstown, Ohio pilot. The President's budget proposal also includes a new targeted tax credit, along with other incentives to support investments in communities that have suffered a major job-loss event, such as the closure or substantial reduction by a major employer of a large facility or operating unit.

The proposed budget also raises the minimum wage to \$9 an hour; implements the Affordable Care Act and Wall Street Reform (protecting consumers against the abuses and reckless behavior that contributed to the 2008 financial collapse); improves healthcare (including mental health) for veterans and military families; and invests in clean-energy research and development, energy efficiency in cars, homes, and businesses, and responsible domestic energy production. It also improves educational opportunities for all Americans, providing a year of free, public preschool education for four-year-old children.

companies to pay a much larger share of the costs now borne by low-income Medicare recipients. The budget proposal also cuts farm subsidies and reduces spending on the military, the State Department, and the Department of Homeland Security.

Importantly, the President's 2014 budget proposal raises approximately \$600 billion in new revenues by requiring higher-income Americans to pay more. Couples with incomes starting at about \$170,000 a year are required to pay about five percentage points more for Medicare premiums. The proposal ends the carried-interest tax break enjoyed by wealthy hedge fund operators and reduces tax breaks for couples making more than \$250,000 a year. The administration's budget also imposes a "Buffett Rule," ensuring that millionaires pay at least 30 percent of their income in taxes. And it doubles the federal cigarette tax to \$1.95 a pack.

The New York Times editorial board had it right when it concluded on April 11 that the Social Security proposal—a bad idea in itself—has served its purpose. “No one will be able to accuse Mr. Obama of refusing to touch entitlements, and no one can credit Republicans for being at all serious about a deficit-reduction compromise.” (<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/11/opinion/president-obamas-budget.html>) **TD**

Fear Not! The NRA's Stranglehold on Congress is Sure to Backfire

by Eleonora di Liscia

The night of the November 6, 2012 election, the party that had virulently opposed immigration reform and essentially vilified Hispanics wound up with a glass of *agua fria* flung in its face.

"I went to bed last night thinking we're outnumbered," Rush Limbaugh bemoaned the morning after President Barack Obama's reelection.

Bill O'Reilly opined, "The white establishment is now the minority. The voters, many of them, feel this economic system is stacked against them, and they want stuff. You're going to see a tremendous Hispanic vote for President Obama, overwhelming black vote for President Obama, and women will probably break President Obama's way. People feel that they are entitled to things, and which candidate between the two is going to give them things?"

Republicans had taken an increasingly polarized line on immigrants (translation: "Mexicans"), opposing reasonable and common-sense reforms. They even blocked passage of the Dream Act, a bill that they had helped write and that was intended to give innocent children of illegal immigrants a path to citizenship. The GOP's arrogant attitudes and extremist stance ended up creating a backlash that made for a lot of weepy Republicans the morning after. Latinos are credited for sweeping Obama to victory as they voted 71 percent for the President and only 27 percent for Mitt Romney.

Now that worm is starting to turn, as the bipartisan Gang of Eight tries to hammer out a compromise bill in Congress. The lessons for immigration reform are instructive as we watch more reasonable and common-sense reforms go down in defeat—this time involving gun safety.

Apparently, requiring a background check for gun purchasers or banning high-capacity magazines or assault weapons was just too much for the Second Amendment to bear. On April 16, the Senate blocked several sensible and minimally intrusive measures. Evidently, gun lobbies, run by the criminally insane Larry Pratt and Wayne LaPierre, hold more sway over these elected officials than the 90 percent of Americans who wanted the background checks.

Or at least the senators who opposed the legislation think they do. But is that true?

According to the Sunlight Foundation Reporting Group, a nonpartisan nonprofit that follows the money in politics, the NRA spent over \$11 million in the 2012 election, but only less than one percent (.83%) of its money purchased the desired result. (http://reporting.sunlightfoundation.com/2012/return_on_investment/) Although the NRA supported 27 winning candidates, NRA dollars opposed Democratic winners President Barack Obama, Wisconsin Senator Tammy Baldwin, Missouri Senator Claire McCaskill, Virginia Senator Timothy Kaine, Florida Senator Bill Nelson, and Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown.

In Indiana, the NRA opposed moderate Republican Senator Richard Lugar, which helped lead to his primary defeat by Tea-Party extremist Richard ("Even when life begins in that horrible situation of rape, that it is something God intended to happen") Mourdock. Say hello to Indiana Democratic Senator Joe Donnelly! (Donnelly did vote for the background check although, unfortunately, he has otherwise given the NRA little reason to complain.)

Increasingly, the NRA is no longer the only player in this game. The pro-gun-safety lobbies are increasing in potency. Mayors Against Illegal Guns announced plans to put out its own legislator scorecard on gun-related issues. Close to home, the group poured \$2 million into the special primary held to replace Representative Jesse Jackson in the 2nd Congressional District. As a result, gun-control advocate Robin Kelly ousted front runner Debbie Halvorson. Halvorson had an "A" from the NRA as opposed to Kelly's "F."



In January, former U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords and her husband Mark Kelly launched Americans for Responsible Solutions. Giffords is both a gun victim and a gun owner. The group intends to raise money to combat anti-gun-safety special interests and encourages legislators to "stand up for solutions to prevent gun violence and protect responsible gun ownership by communicating directly with the constituents that elect them." (<http://americansforresponsiblesolutions.org/>) In an April 18 email, Giffords wrote how more than 10,000 individuals had contributed to her group since the April 16 Senate defeat.

And just as insulting the intelligence of women and minorities harmed Mitt Romney's bid for the presidency, the idiotic rhetoric of Pratt and LaPierre is virtually guaranteed to alienate more and more voters. After the Sandy Hook massacre, LaPierre pointed fingers at everything but the guns and advocated for armed guards in every school. Even former Republican National Committee Chair Michael Steele called that vision "haunting and

continued on page 8

President Obama Reaffirms American Support for Israel

by Steve Sheffey

President Obama fulfilled two campaign promises when he visited Israel last month—his own promise to visit Israel in his second term and Mitt Romney's promise that, if elected, his first trip overseas would be to Israel. This was President Obama's third trip to Israel; he also visited in 2006 and 2008. Only two U.S. Presidents visited Israel during their first terms (Carter and Clinton). Nixon and George W. Bush visited Israel in the last year of their second terms.



President Obama said little in Israel that he has not, in one form or another, said before. But his saying it in Israel has allowed many Israelis to see the president that we have known for the past four years; and his saying it in Israel has caused even some of President Obama's critics in America to finally take notice and understand why the vast majority of American Jews voted for Obama in 2008 and 2012.

President Obama received Israel's Medal of Honor. No other American has received this honor. He visited the Shrine of the Book (Dead Sea Scrolls). He laid wreaths on the graves of Theodor Herzl and Yitzhak Rabin. He also brought a pebble from the Martin Luther King, Jr., memorial in Washington and placed it on Rabin's grave.

At Yad Vashem, President Obama said, "Here, on your ancient land, let it be said for all the world to hear: The State of Israel does not exist because of the Holocaust. But with the survival of a strong Jewish State of Israel, such a Holocaust will never happen again."

President Obama told the Palestinians that a settlement freeze by Israel should not be a precondition for negotiations and that the only way for the Palestinians to achieve an independent state is through direct talks with Israel.

This trip to Israel marked the tenth time that President Obama and Prime Minister Netanyahu have met as president and prime minister. At their joint press conference, President Obama said:

"We've spent more time together, working together, than I have with any leader. And this speaks to the closeness of our two nations, the interests and the values that we share, and the depth and breadth of the ties between our two peoples..."

"As President, I've, therefore, made it clear America's commitment to the security of the State of Israel is a solemn obligation, and the security of Israel is non-negotiable.

"Today, our military and intelligence personnel cooperate more closely than ever before. We conduct more joint exercises and training than ever before. We're providing more security assistance and advanced technology to Israel than ever before. And that includes more support for the missile defenses like Iron Dome, which I saw today and which has saved so many Israeli lives.

"In short—and I don't think this is just my opinion, I think, Bibi, you would share this—America's support for Israel's security is unprecedented, and the alliance between our nations has never been stronger..."

"And finally, we continued our close consultation on Iran. We agree that a nuclear-armed Iran would be a threat to the region, a threat to the world, and potentially an existential threat to Israel. And we agree on our goal. We do not have a policy of containment when it comes to a nuclear Iran. Our policy is to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon."

President Obama explained why the United States stands so strongly with Israel. Right off the bat, upon landing in Israel, President Obama made the case for a strong U.S.-Israel relationship:

"I want to begin right now, by answering a question that is sometimes asked about our relationship -- why? Why does the United States stand so strongly, so firmly with the State of Israel? And the answer is simple. We stand together because we share a common story -- patriots determined 'to be a free people in our land,' pioneers who forged a nation, heroes who sacrificed to preserve our freedom, and immigrants from every corner of the world who renew constantly our diverse societies.

"We stand together because we are democracies. For as noisy and messy as it may be, we know that democracy is the greatest form of government ever devised by man.

"We stand together because it makes us more prosperous. Our trade and investment create jobs for both our peoples. Our partnerships in science and medicine and health bring us closer to new cures, harness new energy, and have helped transform us into high-tech hubs of our global economy.

"We stand together because we share a commitment to helping our fellow human beings around the world. When the earth

continued on page 5



by Laura Tomsky

Launched in 2011 with the motto “Politics is about more than just elections,” the Community Connection office in Waukegan is hard at work to show 10th District residents that Democrats lead by example, live their values in our communities, and help to make the world a better place.

As spring takes hold, Community Connection is buzzing with activity. Our third annual poetry and prose contest is providing a forum for high school students to share their dreams. We also are holding classes on job interviewing and establishing connections to relevant services for residents in times of need.

Third Annual Poetry Slam & Awards Night – Mark your Calendar for May 16th

On the evening of May 16th the Community Connection will be hosting our third annual Poetry Slam & Awards Night at the Ramada Inn in Waukegan. Please plan to join us for this awe-inspiring event.

Volunteers are needed to fill leadership roles and help staff the event. From creating a “dreamy” atmosphere for our venue to registering participants the night of the event, big and small, there are many ways to help.

Obama Supports Israel *continued from page 4*

shakes and the floods come, our doctors and rescuers reach out to help. When people are suffering, from Africa to Asia, we partner to fight disease and overcome hunger.

“And we stand together because peace must come to the Holy Land. For even as we are clear-eyed about the difficulty, we will never lose sight of the vision of an Israel at peace with its neighbors.

“So as I begin this visit, let me say as clearly as I can—the United States of America stands with the State of Israel because it is in our fundamental national security interest to stand with Israel. It makes us both stronger. It makes us both more prosperous. And it makes the world a better place.

“That’s why the United States was the very first nation to recognize the State of Israel 65 years ago. That’s why the Star of

Where else can you help? Volunteers are the key to our success!

Our new “Garden to Table” project works alongside other local organizations to fight for an end to food deserts and provide classes on how to prepare healthy meals with home-grown produce.

The “Let’s Talk...” series invites residents, including local leaders, to engage in a dialogue that talks through issues, not around them, with a commitment to raising awareness, making a difference in the community and in the world.

Volunteer office help is needed to research and provide connection to local services for residents, and forward-thinking individuals are always welcome to join our monthly Steering Committee meetings. With summer rapidly approaching, we need help planning and getting ready for appearances at local festivals and events.

Supplies such as printer ink, paper, postage, paper kitchen products and bottled water are in great demand, as well as cash donations. Office store gift cards are a great help too!

While the Supreme Court’s *Citizens United* ruling allows corporate dollars to flood Republican campaign coffers, we fight back at Tenth Dems with grassroots volunteers and donors like you. The Tenth Dems Community Connection office at 118 N. Genesee Street in Waukegan is open on Saturdays from 11 am to 2 pm to accept donations and welcome volunteers. Won’t you join us?

For more information, to volunteer, join a committee or make a donation, email LauraTomsky@tenthdems.org or call (847) 871-7049. **TD**

David and the Stars and Stripes fly together today. And that is why I’m confident in declaring that our alliance is eternal, it is forever—lanetzach.”

The highlight of the President’s speech was his historic speech to young people in Jerusalem. The selective quotes we’ve read from various sources sometimes say more about the views of the person selecting the quotes than President Obama’s views. I urge you read the speech in its entirety:

<http://blogs.jta.org/politics/article/2013/03/21/3122721/obamas-speech-as-prepared>. Better yet, if you have time, watch it at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nyt4yygMDRc&feature=em-uploademail>

You’ll see for yourself why the mainstream pro-Israel community stands so strongly behind President Obama on Israel. **TD**

A Tenth Dems Check-In

Tenth Dems checks in with State Senator Julie Morrison to see how her first few months in office are going. First in a series.

How has your time changed postelection? What was the transition like after November 6? Can you describe a given week now?

It has been an incredibly busy and exciting time! With so much to learn and do before I was even sworn in, those weeks flew by! I requested committee assignments (and am happy to say that I received a position on every committee I asked for), spent several days in Springfield at a new legislators educational conference with other freshman senators and reps, opened an office in Deerfield, and hired staff for it and for the Springfield office.

A given week these days means a trip to Springfield. I try to leave the afternoon before session starts to meet with staff and prepare for committee work. Committee hearings and session take up most of the day, but there is a continuous flow of visitors, advocates, and lobbyists who want a few minutes that I meet with, too.

When I am not in Springfield, I am at the district office or meeting with people across the district. And weekends give me a chance to stay in touch with different organizations and groups that invite me to various functions.

What aspects of the job have been most enjoyable? What aspects of the job have you found interesting? Now that you are in office, has your idea of the job changed or expanded from when you first entered the race?

This job is one that demands a great deal of energy—we are facing unbelievably tough economic challenges, as well as issues like gun control, setting Illinois up to administer the ACA (Affordable Care Act), and the most prominent issue of all: pension reform. Our budget, our spending ability, our priorities all are attached to how we finally sign off on a comprehensive reform package.

I most enjoy talking with constituents about specific ways my office can intervene to help them deal with state agencies, etc. I'm delighted that I was able to work with IDOT to secure funding for the Village of Lake Bluff to do some critically needed road resurfacing in that community.

Committee work is the most interesting part of my work, so far. I serve on Human Services, Education, Appropriations, State Gov-

by Dave Rauen

ernment and Veterans Affairs, Environment—all areas of concern and interest for our district. This is a time to ask questions of the experts, and drill down into specific programs.

How are you building coalitions? Who are you working with? Are there any groups – nonprofits, councils of government, businesses or corporations, etc.—that you have worked with? On what issues have you worked with them?

I have a special interest in early intervention for children, mental health, and developmental disabilities, and have found many agencies and organizations ready and willing to partner with me to develop legislation. Site tours and meetings with the service providers as well as department staff have really helped me to begin to build coalitions around specific issues of mutual concern.

My first two bills were DCFS bills to provide for more comprehensive background checks on employees, staff, etc. On a totally different track, I have been carefully watching the fracking legislation that has been moving through the House and joined the Green Caucus of Illinois Legislators. I also met with the Sierra Club, Illinois Environment and Policy, and others to both understand and weigh in on my concerns.

I am also working on boating safety legislation aimed at deterring reckless behavior. This stemmed from a tragedy last summer when a ten-year-old boy was killed on a Lake County lake.

Is there something on the horizon that you are excited about? Is there a message you have for Tenth Dems members?

I'm looking forward to resolving the pension crisis—that is the single most important issue and the mission that each of us was given when we were elected. Concealed-carry legislation is slowly working its way around Springfield. My time on Lt. Gov. Simon's firearms task force was well-spent—I have a good understanding of this issue and can represent our district's concerns as this legislation is developed. And the feedback I got from an online survey was really helpful!

I would encourage everyone to subscribe to my email newsletters (green, efficient, and current!) at www.senatorjuliemorrison.com. **TD**

Wheeling Dems to Hold Botterman Breakfast

The sixth annual Patrick S. Botterman Breakfast and Awards Ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, May 19. This event is held each year to celebrate the career of the late Pat Botterman, Democratic Committeeman and long-time leader of the Wheeling Township Democrats. Pat began his career in local politics early in life and worked with vision and conviction to make the Wheeling Dems a vibrant grassroots organization. He advised several successful campaigns and was elected as a Harper College trustee.

In Pat's honor, the Botterman Leadership Award is presented, each year, to individuals who have shown excellence in grassroots organizing so that they could improve the quality of life in their communities. This award is a tribute to the recipients and to the memory of a man who dedicated his career to making a better world for his constituents.

Award nomination forms are available at WheelingDems.com. The Wheeling Dems ask that you send them the names of your best and brightest, and that you consider being a sponsor for the event. **TD**



**Contestants and other high school students
will be reading their creative works.
Prizewinners will be announced.
Free Event• Door Prizes**

Tenth Dems

Community Connection

3rd Annual

POETRY and PROSE SLAM

and Awards Ceremony

At the

Ramada Inn – Waukegan

200 N. Green Bay Road
Waukegan, IL 60085

Thursday, May 16, 2013

6:30 to 9:00 p.m.

(Doors open at 6:00 p.m.)

**Space is limited! Call 847-266-VOTE (8683)
or email info@tenthdems.org**

Thank You! *continued from page 1*

who ran and weren't elected. All the candidates on both sides of the ballot asked for our approval. Sometimes, in local elections, the difference between winning and losing is only a few votes. In most instances, those who lost worked just as hard as those who won election. We owe them our gratitude for running and for putting forth their ideas on how to make life better in our communities. We hope that they aren't discouraged and that the overall experience was a good one.

And finally, thank you to everyone who went out and voted. This is Civics 101. This is where democracy begins. Local governments are the purest form of democratic representation. Voting matters, as we learned in 2012 when people waited hours in line to cast their ballots. We are fortunate to have the right to vote, and if you don't like how things are, you should be first in line at your polling place every time there is an election. **TD**

NRA *continued from page 3*

disturbing." LaPierre especially blamed the media. Apparently, we need the Second Amendment to protect us from the First Amendment.

Pratt from Gun Owners of America, a group that thinks the NRA is too wimpy, declared, "Gun control supporters have the blood of little children on their hands."

Therefore, just as Republicans find themselves on the wrong side of history on immigration reform and issues like gay marriage, the time is coming when opponents of gun safety will find their stance to be their political undoing. Progressive reform has never been easy. What we can do is keep up the pressure and just stay tuned. **TD**



Tenth Dems leaders meet with Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon. L. to r.: Marguerite Hampton, Tina Sellers, Karen McCormick, Lauren Beth Gash, Karen Singer, Steve Sheffey, Lt. Gov. Simon, Nancy Chausow Shafer.