

GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR NORTH TEXAS DEMOCRATS

September 29, 2017

Garland, Texas

Volume 4, Number 9

“Dammit, this is not a good news story.”

Mayor Carmen Cruz of San Juan, Puerto Rico

“When you’re drinking from a creek it’s not a good news story. When you don’t have food for a baby it’s not a good news story. When you have to pull people down from their buildings, because — I’m sorry, but that really upsets me and frustrates me.”

Cruz added:

“Dammit, this is not a good news story.

This is a people-are-dying story. This is a life-or-death story. This is there’s-a-truckload-of-stuff-that-cannot-be-taken-to-people story.

This is a story of devastation that continues to worsen because people are not getting food and water — if I could scream it a lot more louder. It is not a good news story when people are dying, when they don’t have dialysis, when their generators aren’t working and their generators aren’t providing for them. Where is there good news here?”

Cruz said aid efforts in Puerto Rico had been plagued not by a lack of supplies but by logistical difficulties in distributing food, water, and medicine across the island — particularly in rural areas.

“The good news is that we’re getting heard,” she said. “The good news is that there are boots on the ground. The good news that the people from FEMA have their heart in the right place and the HHS people know what to do. For heaven’s sake, somebody let them do their job.”

www.businessinsider.com/san-juan-mayor-slams-trump-administration-dhs-comments-on-puerto-rico-relief-good-news-story-2017-9

Remarks spoken in response to the Dtrump’s slow response to the American citizens in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The hospital ship has been docked in Virginia for 10 days awaiting orders to go to bring aid to the Carribbean Islands.

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Second Front Page

I Kneel to Honor Freedom



Rep Sheila Jackson Lee (TX18-D)

Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (TX18-D) defended the First Amendment as she took a knee on the House floor.

“There is no basis in the First Amendment that says you cannot kneel on the National Anthem or in front of the flag,” the Texas democrat said while presenting a special order of the Congressional Black Caucus.

From the podium, Lee explained that she kneeled to honor freedom.

“I kneel in honor of the first amendment.

I kneel because the flag is symbol for freedom.

I kneel because I’m going to stand against racism.

I kneel because I’m going to stand with these young men and I’ll stand with our soldiers.”

“I stand with America because I kneel.”

www.aol.com/article/news/2017/09/26/rep-sheila-jackson-lee-takes-knee-on-house-floor/23223978/

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GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

EDITORIAL

He Plays the Fiddle As Americans Die

No matter how many times I beat my head against a brick wall, the results will be a bloody head. These are the wise counsel words of a therapist I worked with back East. I had to learn to run around the end of the wall. Wise words have guided me for 30 years and saved me many bloody heads.

The American people said no to the head beaters for the 61st plus times. This time the GOP'pers took their marbles and went home — they chose to withdraw the bill by not taking it to the vote. Of course, immediately they declared to bring back “repeal and replace” in the future. Dtrump took out his fiddle and declared he had enough votes to pass the health care bill, except for the one person who was hospitalized. “Believe me ...”

Constantly, Dtrump and the GOP'per Congress are trying to promote the head-beating of the folks by taunting the people with a wide variety of threats. The latest tax plan proclaimed to have tax cuts for the middle and lower classes. “Believe me ...”

At the same time, the EPA is being dismantled and ended. More money for the wealthy. Deport the Dreamers. Send the money to the rich. Stop immigration. Send the money to the rich. Wipe out women's right to their own bodies. Send the money to the rich. Take away benefits and care for our veterans. More money for the wealthy. Change and weaken the provisions of the American with disabilities. Money for the 1 percent. End Social Security. More money for the wealthy. End Medicaid and Medicare. More money for the wealthy. Starve and end the Department of Education. More money for the wealthy. Ignore the repairs of our infrastructure. More money for the wealthy. Destroy our National Parks. More money for the wealthy. Eliminate Civil Rights - First Amendment rights. More money for the wealthy. Kill the IRS. More money for the wealthy. Remove fire arms regulations. More money for the wealthy. Inflate the Defense Budget. Send the money to the rich. Cuddle up to the Russians. More money for the wealthy. Ridicule and threaten the north Koreans until Kim Jung Un and company strike us with nuclear warfare. More money for the wealthy. Rig our elections through gerrymandering and eliminating the right to vote. More money for the wealthy.

Ad infinitum

More money for the wealthy. More money for the wealthy. More money for the wealthy.

The GOP'pers want us to continue beating our heads against the wall of fear. Every day more disastrous policies are announced and presented to the supposed Dtrump-serfs of the American populace. When he says, “Believe me!” The lies are flowing. “Believe me” is an invitation to beat our heads against the wall.

It is not too late to call out and stop these malignant bullies. Keep the pressure on Washington. Our pursuit of happiness, and to “ensure domestic Tranquility,” and our persistence for justice is counting on us.

Rachel Baker Ford, editor

GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

STATEMENT EDITORIAL 2

Preamble to the United States Constitution

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution

The words of the Founders established our Constitution as a “living document” that has led us for over 200 years. Americans today follow and honor our founding document when we work together toward a more perfect union by respecting the rights, duties and responsibilities of Federal, State and Local Governments, when we recognize each has a unique responsibility one to the other for the good of the people. Fair elections and the protection of our election systems are intended to insure our system of unified government. Only a functional congress is a sign of a healthy union. Congressional and Legislative leaders take an oath to “protect the Constitution from all enemies both foreign and domestic.”

Congressional and Legislative actions that protect our enemies constitute a violation of their oath and a violation of the Constitution.

We honor the call to establish Justice through the exercise of the principal that only with Justice will there be Peace. Justice under the Constitution means equality in Status, Rights and Opportunities for all. When laws are broken and apprehension, sentencing and incarceration is necessary we must have competent policing, due processing, fair sentencing laws and humane prisons.

Only when our nation is at peace with other nations will the United States government be able to promote healthy family life through honest government, a thriving economy, educational and training opportunities and healthcare for all. Only then will there be Domestic Tranquility.

Our Founders sanctioned a common defense which today means that a diplomatic corps, intelligence services, cyber security and military services are all necessary components in our national defense. The State Department, Diplomats, Ambassadors and National Security organizations exist to prevent military action. War must be a last resort in our common defense.

General Welfare is assured when fair taxation provides for needed infrastructure nationwide and social programs for those who need it most, including returning veterans.

For over two hundred years this document has guided the United States through difficult times. Today climate change threatens us with the destruction of life on earth. Climate Change is real. Storms, fires, famines, and floods are impacting human life and health now. These realities can no longer be denied or ignored. Will our politicians find the political will to act to reduce CO2 emissions? Perhaps the way forward can be found in the Constitution.



editor: This article/editorial was written by Judith Matherne, Chair
Rockwall County Democratic Party, a regular contributor to the **GARLAND
DEMOCRATIC VOICE.**

GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

ARTICLE FROM THE DALLAS COUNTY CHAIR



Chair's Corner with Carol Donovan



YOU are the power behind the Dallas Democratic Party

The Dallas County Democratic Party (DCDP) is always open to good ideas. You talk, we listen. We are great at what we do, but we are always ready to do more and engage with you on new concepts. The DCDP is an open community organization, and we work with many, many people who come to us with new ideas and create positions of leadership for the cause by launching new organizations, projects and committees.

For example:

1. El Centro Democrats are ready for action: Earlier this month, DCDP Youth Recruitment Director Herlinda Resendez (a current El Centro student) and DCDP Youth Recruitment committee member Chris Nguyen (an alum) put the wheels in motion and announced the formation of the El Centro Democrats last week! After approval by the college administration, the El Centro Democrats will soon announce their first official meeting. In the meantime, Democratic students at El Centro have organized a voter registration drive at the college for National Voter Registration Day, tomorrow, Tuesday, September 26, 2017. If you'd like to help, call DCDP Executive Director Carmen Ayala at 214-821-8331.
2. Enabling New Democratic Leaders: The Democratic Leadership Institute has been an enormous success. We are grateful for the many elected officials and other experts who have taught workshops on a great many topics, including community organizing, field work, lobbying and fundraising. The Institute sponsors a series of ongoing seminars, so check the DCDP website calendar and the *Round Up* for news on upcoming topics. On Wednesday, September 27, at 6:30 p.m., we will have a seminar on how to handle stress during a campaign. This topic was requested by campaign managers and staffers who have attended our Institute. The session will be led by Dr. Clare Buie Chaney.

Do you have ideas for DCDP? Want to launch a project, a club or a committee to help the cause? We need you and your concept will be treated seriously. We need all hands on deck in 2017 and 2018 to resist the Trump agenda and reach out to voters with a positive message about the Democratic Party and its values and goals for North Texans.

Just give us a call at the DCDP office at 214-821-8331 or sign up: <http://dallasdemocrats.org/get-involved/volunteer> .

Yours Democratically,
Carol Donovan, Chair, Dallas County Democratic Party
DallasDemocrats.org

GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

ARTICLE ON DTRUMP AND NAFTA

Trump Trade Tracker

— Charles E. Ford, Jr.

The North America Free Trade Agreement, NAFTA, is a trade agreement between the United States, Mexico and Canada. Before NAFTA we had a stable, balanced trade balance with Mexico. The trade balance instantly went negative and has become more negative each year. In 2016 the trade balance for goods and services was \$63 billion in favor of Mexico. Donald Trump has decided he is a better negotiator than those who negotiated the current agreement so he is currently in discussions with both Mexico and Canada. [Editor: He doesn't actually do anything but tell others to do something.] As a result, we need to track the results. To keep things in perspective, here is the total U.S. trade deficit for the last three years in BILLIONS of dollars.

	2014	2015	2016
U.S. TRADE BALANCE	-490.3	-500.4	-504.8

This chart is the trade balance with Mexico and Canada for the same three years, also in BILLIONS of dollars.

	2014	2015	2016
MEXICO	-51.3	-58.3	-63.1
CANADA	-11.1	4.17	7.73

From January through July 2017, the United States had a balance of **-52.5** BILLION dollars with the two NAFTA countries. July is the latest results published on the Census website or the U.S. Trade Representative website. We will track the results of the renegotiations periodically.

Raoul Lowery Contreras claims on the website, *The Hill*, Mr. Trump is wrong. Mexico is not killing us on trade. He contends that because partial items such as parts of automobiles are sent to Mexico for additional labor and parts they come back to the United States as a higher value item. Thus, our imports dollars are higher than our export dollars. He continues by saying while the labor cost is less in Mexico the current arrangement supports 6 million jobs in the U.S.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/presidential-campaign/247649-no-mr-trump-mexico-is-not-killing-us-on-trade>

My reply is: If this is such a good deal for the United States, why are so many American workers unemployed or employed in lower paying jobs than they had before their jobs were exported and why did \$63 BILLION more flow SOUTH than came NORTH in 2016?

How do American workers regain the seniority they lost because their job was exported?



GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE FROM THE DALLAS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CHAIR

We'll Take a Knee. We'll Build an Army of Voices.

Friends,

The battle begins here in Dallas County for the soul of America and our Democratic values.

From the Chaos, Comes the Storm:

The Commander-in-Chaos, Donald Trump, keeps doing his best to divide us by creating social media storms, the latest drama caused by his criticism of NFL players who take a knee to rightly protest the inequality and injustice that still plagues us. Mr. Trump would love to have the power he had on reality television, and just say “you’re fired” to anyone who disagrees with him. But he can’t do that as president. This is a democracy after all.

Last Sunday, I attended Hamilton Park United Methodist Church and listened to Rev. Sheron Patterson preach on race relations. She made the point that race relations cannot improve if we attack those who are bringing attention to discrimination. Protest doesn’t materialize out of thin air. It comes from real injustice in the real world. To make a point, she took a knee, right there on the altar, and we all applauded.

As Democrats, we are proud to stand with those who oppose the Trump agenda, but let’s think about that term. Is there even a Trump agenda anymore, or has the politics of hate spun beyond his control? It certainly looks that way. Based on the Republican runoff election in Alabama for U.S. Senate this week, it appears that the coming storm of fear, hatred and division may get worse before it gets better. Republicans in Alabama chose the incendiary Roy Moore — who is known for racist, homophobic and bigoted remarks — over Trump’s own pick, the incumbent Sen. Luther Strange. Pandora’s box is open, and we continue to slide back into the ideological dark ages that ought to remain part of our past.

Building an Army of Voices:

Perhaps, the chaos Trump has sewn across the political landscape has come home to his own backyard. But we cannot count on mayhem and extremism in the Republican Party as we mount our efforts. We must continue the battle for our values in the community here in Dallas County. We must speak the truth, as Rev. Patterson did last Sunday. We must build our army of voices. We build with organizing efforts, registering voters, and getting out the Democratic vote.

The Dallas County Democratic Party recently participated in National Voter Registration Day, which we recognized as part of our year-long voter registration efforts. We need your help. Contact the Party office to learn how to be deputized and help register voters in your area of the county in coordination with our Voter Registration Committee, co-chaired by Leigh Bailey and Hon. Candice Quarles.

The Dallas County Democratic Party helped Democrats win every countywide office in 2016, and we pushed a straight ticket message that helped us win back a judicial seat and a Texas House District, and come closer than ever in several more districts. But we didn’t stop after the 2016 election, because Democrats must participate in every election. In 2017, we mounted a Democratic get-out-the-vote (GOTV) campaign that encouraged Democrats to vote in municipal and ISD elections. These efforts helped elect progressives in places like Mesquite and Farmers Branch.

Though the next Democratic primary is scheduled in March 2018, the next election in Dallas County is coming up in November of 2017. You can help us engage in voter outreach to encourage participation in this election. We want Democratic voices to be heard in all elections, not just primaries and general elections. Why? Because all the research shows that, if you get voters to vote — creating regular voting behavior — it’s like a top that keeps on spinning. They keep on voting. We need your help with these efforts now to make sure we sweep the county once again, defend House District 107 in November of 2018, and mount strong challenges for all of our House Districts, Senate Districts, and Congressional and Court of Appeals candidates.

The wave may be on our side, but we have to row the boat too. Join us as we fight to elect Democrats who will stand with us for Democratic values. Call us at 214-821-8331 or visit our website, www.DallasDemocrats.org.

Democratically,
Carol Donovan
Chair, Dallas County Democratic Party

GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

ARTICLE

Thoughts About A County Chair

— *Katherine Savers McGovern*

I am reminded of the actions of the Trump campaign's engaging in negotiations with third parties, whose own financial interests would be positively impacted, rather than recognizing the fact that President Obama was the only elected official entrusted to engage in negotiations on behalf of the U.S.A. . I object to any unelected person attempting to negotiate a deal concerning matters entrusted to the current elected representatives of the Dallas County Democratic Party. The action has the appearance of impropriety at a minimum, and of offering financial gain for possible campaign and/or election support. Our Democratic Party doesn't need it. Any person or entity has the freedom to endorse or support any candidate they favor, but not for financial gain.

Admittedly, as a Precinct Chair and long time Democratic Party activist, I spend the majority of my time in locations where voters and potential voters are located, not at DCDP offices. Over the many years in Dallas County Democratic Party GOTV and party meeting activities at the Parry Street location, I have never had any problems or concerns for safety or parking. The DCDP has consistently arranged with nearby businesses for parking privileges, which have worked fine, when larger activities are scheduled. In contrast, generally when I attend DCDP activities at the CWA Hall, I have to park up the street on or off Bryan or in a business parking lot marked with towing warnings. Also, the further away from the CWA location one has to park, the increased likelihood that I will be alone as I walk to my car. I see that as a safety concern and act responsibly. Unlike the Parry Street location, there is no Dart station close by.

As to cost, the Parry Street location provides 10,000 sq. ft. with offices and larger rooms for training, 25 people +/- meetings, printing, getting campaign materials ready, as well as the day to day operations. I am not concerned with the freshness of the interior or exterior of either Parry Street or CWA, which appear similar to me.

With the CWA Hall available for large meetings in any case, the question to consider is what are the side by side comparisons for working and office space configuration, costs (rental, utilities, insurance, etc.), and with the two level configuration at the CWA location, will there be a "walled" off area where party leadership would reserve for "important" meetings, excluding precinct chairs?

As a Precinct Chair, I'm offended that any candidate would engage in actions which are disruptive to the cohesiveness of the whole Dallas County Democratic Party members working together in the future.

An example is Chris Hamilton's statements at the Preston Hollow Democrats candidates forum that, if elected, he would "clean house" — clearly implying that he intends to fire all the current employees of DCDP who work every day to help elect Democratic candidates and to support the Party. I don't agree with such a short sighted, mean approach, particularly just after the March 2018 Primary when we will need all hands on deck to engage in electing Democrats slightly over 7 months later in the November 2018 Election. People may be working "at will", but they should not be thrown out if they are working for the election of Democrats just because they were hired by a predecessor Chair.

Between now and the March Primary, I urge that each candidate for DCDP Chair focus on clear statements specifying what action(s) they promise to take and produce in Dallas County to elect Democrats. The time line for the initial results is the NOVEMBER 2018 ELECTION - if we change Chairs 7-8 months earlier, what is the way not to lose momentum?

In my opinion, the DCDP Chair candidates must focus to tell the voters:

1. What grassroots actions to win as many elected offices IN DALLAS COUNTY, will be taken in the months between March and November?
2. What actions to coordinate with our sister Democratic Party Chairs in neighboring counties to elect Democratic candidates running in bi-county races?

Like most everyone else, I am interested in State and National Democratic politics, but I recognize that the DCDP Chair's job is local — not a stepping stone to other positions at a state or national level. If the candidate's focus is not laser on Dallas County Democratic Party duties, responsibilities and obligations, all of the success since 2006 will be lost.

LET'S KEEP OUR EYES ON THE PRIZE! ??

GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

BITS & PIECES

Where to go to Help the Hurricane Victims

Nearly all of the U.S. territory's 3.4 million residents need assistance recovering from the storm.

Here's how you can help:

Cash. Most organizations are asking for cash, rather than supplies, so they can route help to where it's needed most more quickly.

This is a very short list of places where individuals where folks can donate money and supplies.

Here are some of the largest groups with campaigns underway:

United for Puerto Rico

(spearheaded by the First Lady of Puerto Rico)

UNICEF

Center for Popular Democracy

Hispanic Federation's "Unidos" page

International Medical Corps

One America Appeal Former U.S. presidents have expanded their to include recovery Efforts in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands

Catholic Relief Services

Americares

Direct Relief

Save the Children, which focuses specifically on the needs of families and their children.

Global Giving has a \$2 million goal for victims of Hurricane Maria

GoFundMe has also created a hub that includes all campaigns for Hurricane Maria.

You can also find campaigns for individual families seeking help for loved ones.

A Proper Tax Code Standard?

When did we set the standard for what is a "proper" tax code? Was it when we were fighting to rebuild our economy after the Great Depression? Was it when we put millions of unemployed to work, paid for the mobilization of our industrial might to win WWII and build the post-war Western economy? Was it when we set a course for paying down our national debt for the next 40 years ... or when we reversed course to give us a ballooning debt ever since? Was it when we decided to put 70 percent of upper income earnings to enhancing the commonwealth of the nation ... or when we decided that upper income earners should pay as little as politically possible of the cost of running the country?

In other words, are we going to look back to the pre-1980's "Greatest Generation" for the model of a tax code and economic policy which worked for all Americans ... or continue to listen to the self-serving mind-set of an "tax-reform- minded" leadership generation, content to let everyone else struggle to get by, so long as the "reforms" results in their continuing to get the biggest slice of the pizza?

— Steve Love

Published on Facebook 9/25/17 Here is my submission to The Dallas Morning News in response to their all for tax reform ... and why you need to support my candidacy for the 32nd CD of Texas

Bigot Jefferson Beauregard Sessions

Proud bigot Jefferson Beauregard Sessions III who began as AG by dismantling DOJ's Office for Civil Rights after proudly voting against the Voting Rights Act twice while Alabama's Senator has announced that he and Trump have RESCINDED DACA. It's disgusting to listen to this racist clown talk about "the rule of law" when he and Trump are actively deliberately upending established U.S. institutions of democracy and likely committed treason against the United States.

#hypocrisyonparade

#trumpisaLIAR

#trumphasalwaysbeenaLIAR

Comments

Judge Ken Molberg This is bad policy and immoral.

Patti Fink Yep. It's pure evil. While not surprising, I'm nevertheless still deeply furious that these self-serving racist a-holes pretend to shroud their evil in a twisted very sick hue of "patriotism" when we all know that doing this is the exact *opposite* of patriotism ?? I've always felt that these Dreamers are every bit as American as I am, and that will not and that will not change.

Posted on Facebook 9/5/17 Patti Fink

GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE BULLETIN BOARD

**Enrollment for 2018
ACA (Obamacare)
starts on
November 1
and ends on
December 15.**

**Trump has cut the funds to announce
when people can enroll.**

**Please share this widely so all American
citizens know when they can enroll
at the healthcare.gov website.**

In kind donation to the Re-elect Carol Donovan for Dallas County Democratic Chair

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- 1. Club Notices (Meeting times and Date/Events) :**
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