



# BLUE NOTES

## Douglas County Democrats



The Voice of Douglas County Democrats

April 2014

# Katherine Winans wins Democratic Star award



**Katherine Winans**

Katherine Winans of Minden has received the 2014 Democratic Star of Douglas County award. The award recognizes outstanding Democrats who help build the party, support campaigns and further the goals of the Democratic Central Committee.

It was presented during the annual Keep Nevada Blue dinner held at Carson Valley Inn March 22.

Winans first became active with local Democrats when she joined the Douglas County Democratic Women in 2004. She later served as vice chair of the Democratic Central Committee, for which she is currently secretary.

She has been a state party central committee member since 2011 and currently serves on the credentials committee for the state convention coming up June 21 in Reno. She also participates in the Democratic rural caucus.

In addition, Winans has worked on the Democratic booth and float in the Carson Valley Days parade.

She has held numerous posts with the Democratic Women, including parliamentarian, legislative chair, public relations chair, and newsletter editor. She was its president in 2009 – 2010.

Keynote speaker at the Keep Nevada Blue dinner was Nevada State Treasurer Kate Marshall, Democratic candidate for Nevada Secretary of State. The evening's theme was "Take the House Back."

Please share this newsletter with your Democratic friends

# Keep Nevada Blue dinner



*(Top Left)* — Katherine Winans was presented the Star Award by Melanie Meehan-Crossley.

*(Top Right)* — Keynote speaker State Treasurer Kate Marshall (Democratic candidate for Nevada Secretary of State) talked about turning the House blue.

*(Bottom Left)* — Lucy Flores, Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor and a rising star in the party, addressed the KNB Dinner.

*(Bottom Right)* — Central Committee chair Kimi Cole shared some thoughts.

# March DCDCC meeting



*(To Left)* — Bob Fulkerson of PLAN Action addressed the Douglas County Democratic Central Committee at its March 27 session.

*(Top Right)* — Fulkerson and DCCC chair Kimi Cole.

*(Below)* — The audience listened intently to Fulkerson's talk.



Member profile**Dotty Dennis: dog sledder, line dancer, Democrat**

**(Editor's note: Each edition of your Blue Notes features a profile of a Democratic leader in Douglas County.)**

There was a time Dotty Dennis “couldn’t have cared less” about politics, but today she’s a longtime and respected member of the Democratic state central committee.

Dotty, the co-owner/operator of a dog sledding company, graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, where she majored in education. For a while she lived in Sunnyvale, CA, where she taught the third grade.

Then she started dating the nephew of Grant Sawyer, who served as Nevada Governor from 1959 to 1967. “He got me into politics,” she said. Dotty recalled attending fundraisers and other Democratic events and wearing “those crazy straw hats.”

Her late husband was in the gaming business, which took the couple to Las Vegas for 11 years.

She also lived for a while on the California side of Lake Tahoe, but eventually found property in the Pine Nuts east of Gardnerville, where she now lives and keeps huskies. She and David Beck operate Sierra Ski Touring and Husky Express out of Hope Valley.

The state central committee now meets at various locations around the Nevada, but she fondly remembers when Tonopah was its gathering place. “I used to ride there with Yolanda Garcia-Banueos. It was fun. Tonopah was the halfway spot (between Reno and Las Vegas).”

Garcia-Banueos is a regional representative to Sen. Harry Reid.

Dotty worked on Reid’s early political campaigns.

Dennis firmly believes in the Democratic Party’s credo. “I like the way it’s written. It basically tells what we stand for and is something you can use when talking with others. There *is* a difference between the parties. I wouldn’t be a Democrat if I didn’t believe in what they stand for.”

She’s a regular at various Douglas County Democratic events. Dotty is also active with non-political events. She volunteers at the annual Candy Dance in Genoa. You’ll spot her hard at work at the Carson Valley Days in Lampe Park. She is active at the local Senior Center. She also participates regularly in line dancing and tai chi classes.

Her grandson is eight years old and plays hockey and her daughter teaches at the Tahoe Valley Elementary School.

The next time you spot Dotty, be sure to say “hi.”



***Dotty Dennis***

## From the Chair ...

By Kimi Cole



# Keep it Simple! (Looking Ahead in 2014)

Over the years I have painted myself as being lazy — ambitiously lazy. To that I'll immediately plead guilty as charged.

In no way should that be taken that I don't enjoy accomplishing things — I absolutely do! However, if a task can be accomplished in four steps instead of six, that's my type of lazy. When the mission can be accomplished by focusing on what needs to be done while avoiding as much unnecessary effort as possible, THAT'S what I'm talkin' about!

Let's take, for example, the looming election season. Whether or not we're ready for it, the cycle is already in motion. During my lifetime, as surely as the sun has always risen in the east, election cycles continue to come around again and again, just like a wheel set reliably to the "perpetual motion" mark on a revolving dial.

What does this have to do with being lazy? I'm glad you asked! One of the simplest observations I've made during my brief but active political involvement is that when Democrats get out to vote, we tend to do well! And, unlike when I first became involved, I've discovered that necessary activities DO NOT necessarily involve arguing with, or attempting to persuade, ANYBODY who feels his or her only obligation to learn about the political process revolves around repetitively and obediently turning on Faux News,

day after day, as they develop and refine their own unique versions of voluntary ignorance. Oh sure, casual conversations may develop around other delightful topics, such as discussing the latest movies or debating the weather, but I don't feel my (or anyone else's) time is well spent engaging in fruitless arguments based on somebody's second-hand recycled opinions, gathered by listening to someone else's opinion of how things ought to be. As my young son once said, "People can FLY on TV. I don't believe it!"

That leaves us with the simplest, easiest option imaginable when it comes to productive election season activities ... talk to Democrats about supporting Democrats! Bring yourself to central committee meetings. Bring anyone willing to listen to a central committee meeting, too! If you prefer not talking to people in person, we'll set up phone banks to talk to friendly Dems on the phone. If you DO like talking to people in person, by all means I'll be your cheerleader! And all the time I will be out talking to people on my own as well.

Over the next few months, there are no wrong ways to be involved, no wrong answers, except for only one: doing nothing at all. That shall not be our legacy!

*"All tyranny needs to gain a foothold is for people of good conscience to remain silent."* (Edmund Burke)

# Your 2014 DCDCC Officers ...

Chair of DCDCC: Kimi Cole (kimimcole@gmail.com)

First Vice Chair: Paul Belt

Second Vice Chair (Campaign Liaison): Cindy Trigg

Secretary: Katherine Winans

Treasurer: Eric Griffin

Member-at-large: Melanie Meehan-Crossley

Member-at-large: Gim Hollister

## Chairs of Standing Committees:

Administration Committee: Nancy Downey (data base maintenance, etc.).

Publicity/ Public Relations: Pat Stanley

Fundraising/Finance: Pending

Membership: Pending

Candidate Recruitment: Pending

Political Action/ Programs: Pending

## TIMELY TICKLERS

April 21 — Monday

DCDCC Executive Committee  
6 p.m. Democratic Headquarters

April 24 — Thursday

Douglas County Central Committee  
6 p.m. Democratic Headquarters

May 3 — Saturday

DC County Convention  
Douglas High School (Time TBA)

May 19 — Monday

DCDCC Executive Committee  
6 p.m. Democratic Headquarters

May 22 — Thursday

Douglas County Central Committee  
7 p.m. Democratic Headquarters



July 26 — Saturday

7 p.m. Drinking Liberally  
CV Country Club

June 21 — Saturday

State Democratic Party Convention  
Reno (Time TBA)

July 26 — Saturday

DCDCC annual Barbecue  
Mormon Station State Park

