



# BLUE NOTES

## Major Democratic Event Planned on Jan. 9

Hold on to your hat — this Rural Democratic event is going to be HUGE. It's called our "First in the West: Rural Blue Dinner," and it'll take place in Minden an January 9, 2016.

As soon as we get confirmation, we'll announce our **big name** keynote speaker. You won't be disappointed.

There'll be a spectacular raffle and auction. Dinner will be buffet-style.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. Admission is \$55.

This will be a major fund-raiser for Douglas and other Rural Nevada counties and the Nevada Democratic Rural Caucus. It's a joint effort.

We expect tickets will sell out early, so get yours early!

This event will take up every single meeting room at the Carson Valley Inn.



U.S. Senate candidate Catherine Cortez Masto expresses her passion about "working for all Nevadans" at a Saturday Douglas County lunch meeting.

*Photo by Dave Price  
courtesy of The Record-*

# **FIRST IN THE WEST** **RURAL BLUE DINNER**



**SATURDAY JANUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2016**

**CARSON VALLEY INN**

**DOORS: 5:30PM**  
**DINNER: 7:00PM**

**\$55 ADMISSION**

FOOD PROVIDED BY

**GOURMET NEVADA**  
**GRILL BUFFET**



## From the Chair ...



### Second wind: Life lessons learned on a racetrack (and at the Legislature)

By Kimi Cole

I've learned that any worthwhile endeavor will likely be seasoned with combinations of challenge, frustration, breakthroughs or elation (not necessarily in that order). Obstacles can become allies and presumed allies can become obstacles. And yet, with a clear vision and perseverance, even the most seemingly overwhelming undertakings can turn into grand successes.

The honeymoon phase of new ventures can be overtaken by the reality of doing the work that the endeavor will require. The sweat and long hours loom ever more daunting than they did when the task began, and the magnificent goal begins to be filtered through a lens of "OMG, what have we gotten ourselves into?"

I often relate back to experiences racing motorcycles in the desert, when an enthusiastic anticipation of glory at the end of the race prevailed, based on the dream that I could be the first to cross the finish line on a given day.

Races began with the engine running crisply, a clear set of goggles and seemingly unbridled energy achieved after months of long workouts, adhering to a strict diet and getting a good night's sleep on the eve of the race. It was easy getting started, with the goal in mind and a winners trophy on the brain. Although the end game seemed very clear, the path from A to Z was not always rigidly or perfectly defined.

My maiden voyage into the cataclysmic world of a legislature gone topsy-turvy started somewhat like the desert race: full of optimism and hope. Yet there were those who had different perspectives and motivations, even seemingly devious plans to disrupt or derail progress that has been so dearly earned in Nevada. Things can happen.

On the racetrack, things could happen, too. After enduring miles of semi-blinding dust and scrambling to get away from the starting pack, the engine labored a bit more, attempting to draw air through a progressively clogging filter. A flat tire halted progress for a quick six-minute pit stop. And then the race went on. And on. And on.

Muscles that had started so fresh were feeling challenged by the rigors of one of the most physically demanding sports in the world. The ride quickly revealed itself as the test of concentration, stamina and machinery that could realistically be expected. Yet the goal of a victory at the end blazed so brightly as to obscure the temporary discomfort of a body being taxed to its physical limit.

During the legislative session, brave and determined allies waged valiant efforts to keep insanity from reigning, halt losses, and push through occasional gains. Wins served to re-energize the efforts, to realize, in spite of daunting odds, that victories indeed could be snatched from the wild animal snares of defeat.

So, back to the race — just past the halfway point, something amazing occurred — the feelings of fatigue that had threatened to settle in were now being replaced by a feeling of oneness with the desert, the machine, the body and the mind. The lungs were now functioning at full capacity. Muscles were warmed up and operating at the high level that only months of training and practicing could bring forth. The body no longer hurt. The mind was crystal clear, focused only on the trail ahead, nobody else in sight. The race was now closer to the end than the beginning. That's called a "second wind."

There may come a time that it hurts to keep going, when it feels like there's nothing left to give. And yet the taste of victory surely provides nourishment that will sustain beyond the threshold of perceived exhaustion.

Although my days of dusty tracks, sweaty leathers and powerful racing machines have long since been filed in the memory banks of days gone by, the lessons remain, often to be applied in the realm of political activities.

Plans may begin on a great note, only to be confronted by the reality of uncovering different perspectives and motivations within a group. Pleasant conversations can march along with conflicting discussions that occasionally feel a bit like breathing through clouds of dust. But the dust can clear and the conversations can go on, often on a better path than on which they began.

It behooves us always to find the power in working

**SEE KIMI** (next page)

## Democratic Presidential candidate Websites (as of late August):



Lincoln Chafee: <http://www.chafee2016.com>



Hillary Clinton: <https://www.hillaryclinton.com>



Bernie Sanders: <https://berniesanders.com>



Martin O'Malley: <https://martinomalley.com>



Jim Webb: <https://www.webb2016.com>

### **KIMI** *(continued from previous page)*

for what we believe in and to overcome the challenges that accompany the work required to accomplish the goal. When the goal is big enough, the drive is solid enough, and the determination is stronger than perceived challenges, temporary obstacles or setbacks are no match for a driving, burning desire to do what must be done, to make a difference in

a world constantly crying out for somebody to “DO SOMETHING!”

I’d be hard-pressed to describe any greater feeling than sailing along on a second wind, realizing that amazing things are truly possible for anyone willing to do the work and pay the price for success.

Member Profile:

# Nancy Downey

**Editor's note: Blue Notes regularly profiles one of our Douglas County Democrats.**

**By PAT STANLEY**

During the last Nevada Legislative session Nancy Downey led a group of fellow Nevada Women's Lobby members in a campaign to ratify the ERA. They all dressed in costume to portray her political idol, Alice Paul, a tireless advocate and activist for women's suffrage.

"One Assemblyman told us, 'You ladies look lovely,'" she recalled. She replied, "We'd be even more lovely if we were equal!"

Nancy was born in Reno, but lived in the Washington, D.C. area for many years after her father, Howard Cannon, was elected to the U.S. Senate from Nevada.

She is a graduate of Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, and later received a master's degree in sociology from the university of Nevada at Las Vegas.

Today she owns Downey Research Consultants, a social research consulting firm, and teaches in the Sociology and Women's Studies Departments of UNR. Among her classes are the "History of the American Women's Movement," "Gender and Society," and "Social Movements and Social Change."

Nancy served as secretary for the



**NANCY DOWNEY**

DCDCC for five years (2008-2012), has been an active precinct captain, and assisted with convention organizing. She served as Development Committee Chair for Planned Parenthood Mar Monte and as campus advisor for the National Organization for Women Campus Action Network at UNR.

She's currently working with the Hillary Clinton Presidential campaign. "I look forward to seeing her become not only the first woman president," she said, "but a highly qualified and effective President."

Nancy has three children and two grandchildren. She's quick to add she also has two horses, a cat and a dog. She's been a Carson Valley resident (she lives in Minden) since 1997.





*Leaning a bit to the left*

# Some trashy talk

While walking my dogs this morning in the BLM land off the end of Johnson Lane, I was saddened to see all the trash left by thoughtless people. Not just empty beer cans and soda pop bottles. I saw two mattresses, a large cardboard box filled with old shoes and other junk, and a Christmas tree with tinsel still attached (in August?!).

I was reminded of a 1990s television PSA depicting a Native American chief, a tear rolling down one cheek as he watched motorists on a nearby highway toss garbage onto Mother Earth. For a moment I was that chief.

I'd like to say that's all I've seen dumped in that area, but in the past year I've seen abandoned junk cars reduced to rusty firing range targets and countless vehicle tires.

To those who desecrate our beautiful Nevada I say SHAME ON YOU!

All of the smaller items can be left with your garbage. The bigger ones can be taken to our dump (transfer station) off the end of Dump Road southeast of Gardnerville.

Better yet, how about recycling?

Frankly, I'm proud to say I recycle so much I only have about a quarter can of garbage to be picked up weekly.

The good news is, according to Douglas Disposal and Recycling Services, our county leads the state with a recycling rate of 54.5 percent. That's based on the latest report (for 2013). The state average was 28.8 percent. That's for the six counties required by law to have some type of recycling program (Carson City, Clark, Douglas, Elko, Lyon and Washoe). That represents just over a million tons of materials recycled.

Maybe someday we'll have curbside recycling like we had in Napa County where I lived before moving here. Until then, it's just not asking that much to take a load to the recycle center (at the entrance to the dump) once a month.

We can do better.

I'd love to see recycling taught in all our schools and homes. And the best way to teach something like this is by example!



## We NEED your pledge!

Contributing to the Douglas County Democrats just got easier. Just go to our Web page ([douglasdems.org](http://douglasdems.org)) and click on the ActBlue button. Follow the simple on-screen instructions. That's it.

# Your 2014 DCDCC Officers ...

Chair of DCDCC:	Kimi Cole (kimimcole@gmail.com)
First Vice Chair:	Brian Dempsey
Second Vice Chair:	Susan Minor
Secretary:	Melanie Meehan-Crossley
Treasurer:	Jan Walls
Member-at-large:	Peggy Wozniak
Member-at-large:	Eric Griffin

## Chairs of Standing Committees:

Administration	Katherine Winans
Programs/Policy:	Kimi Cole
Membership:	Katherine Winans
Candidate Recruitment:	Nancy Epstein
Publicity/Public Relations:	Pat Stanley
Fundraising/Finance:	(Your name here)



# Timely Ticklers

Thursday, August 27  
 Douglas Democrats monthly meeting.  
 Social: 6:30 p.m. — Meeting: 7 p.m.  
 Democratic HQ: 1513 Hwy 395 N.  
 Guest speaker: Chip Evans, Media Matters  
 Broadcasting

Monday, September 14  
 DCDW Luncheon- Carson Valley Inn

Tuesday, September 15  
 DCDCC Executive Committee  
 6 p.m., Democratic HQ, 1513 Hwy 395 N.

Thursday, September 24  
 Douglas Democrats monthly meeting.  
 Social: 6:30 p.m. — Meeting: 7 p.m.  
 Democratic HQ: 1513 Hwy 395 N.  
 Guest speaker: Elaine Hurd, publisher,  
 Let's Talk Nevada

Saturday, September 26  
 State Central Committee meeting  
 Carson City- TBD  
 (Video)

Tuesday, October 13  
 Nevada Democratic Presidential Debate

Saturday, January 9, 2016  
 First in the West: Rural Blue Dinner  
 Carson Valley Inn

Saturday, February 20, 2016  
 Statewide Democratic Caucuses

Saturday, April 2, 2016  
 County Democratic Conventions

June 3-5, 2016  
 Nevada State Democratic Convention  
 Las Vegas