

Spring & Summer 2009



Above from left: Des Moines Mayor Frank Cownie leads the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick in the annual parade in March. Polk County Democrats were at Gay Pride Fest in June. It was raining at the West Des Moines July 4th parade, but we were there. It was an easy walk on Saturday in the Urbandale and Windsor Heights parades with overcast skies and a mist in the air. The 4th is a good time to show the colors even in an off year.



Des Moines Civil Rights Director Rudy Simms discusses marriage equality with Rep. Ako Abdul-Samad in May.



Tamyra Harrison and Bruce Stone represent the Polk County Democrats at Gay Pride Fest.

2009 Spring Dinner and Auction

The Polk County Democrats would like to thank all of those who attended the Spring Dinner and Auction, as well as all of those who helped to make it happen! It was a great night full of food and conversation, a tribute to a few fellow democrats and the highlight of the night—the auctions!

Those in attendance, about 150 democrats, enjoyed pork chops donated by the Iowa Pork Producers and salads, desert, and drinks catered by Anthony Marinaro with Out of the Box Catering. As the food was served, people enjoyed a musical slideshow of photos donated from the past several years featuring those who have served for and volunteered for the Polk County Democrats. Photos included everything from parades and events, to the election, and the Inauguration of President Obama. There's a good chance YOU were a part of the slideshow—if you missed, it, not to worry! You can pick up your very own copy of the DVD by contacting Tamyra at 515-285-1800 or polkdems@polkcountymocrats.org



The John Sarcone All-Star Grill Team prepared pork chops for the Spring Dinner.



Dinner was followed by a video tribute to a few special democrats who have passed on. Representative John Connors, who passed away in early March after serving 32 years in the Iowa House of Representatives, was remembered as well as Glenn Buhr, Ellie Phillips, Paul Mann and Bob Mickle. Copies of the video tribute are also available by contacting Tamyra.

Although this years' attendance was not the best we have ever had, there was great enthusiasm for the auction which featured Congressman Leonard Boswell as the auctioneer. Some favorite items included a numbered print President Obama poster that was auctioned for \$800 as well as a 2008 Presidential Candidates poster with candidate autographs which went for \$500. There was also a silent auction featuring election memorabilia including posters and clothing as well as other donated items. The auctions brought in around \$3,000 for the Polk County Democrats!

Once again, we would like to thank everyone who attended and also those who volunteered that night. It was a great night and we hope to see all of you at the next dinner!

Questions? Comments? Submissions? E-mail polkdems@gmail.com or call 515-285-1800

Polk County Democratic Party
Tom Henderson, Chair
Betty Brim-Hunter, Vice Chair
Stephan Hampton, Treasurer
Joseph Jones, Secretary
Tamyra Harrison, Executive Director

Polk County Democratic Party Communications
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Polk County Chair Tom Henderson pictured with Vice-Chair Betty Brim-Hunter

SPOTLIGHT ON TOM HENDERSON

POLK COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY CHAIR

Tom's interest in politics was sparked by his family's political activism. His grandfather was a campaign manager in a 1940's Senate campaign. His grandmother was the first woman elected to the Des Moines City Council. In addition, his great-grandmother was one of a few women who received a Presidential commission in the 1920's.

He recognized the importance of becoming involved in politics after the horrible 1994 election. Since that time he has seen so many positive changes in the Democratic Party in Iowa. Tom says, "We have gone from being a party that was in control of no aspect of State government to a party that is in control of all aspects of State government and with a majority of the state's delegation in Congress."

One highlight of his involvement was the 1998 election when he and Peggy Huppert were elected co-chairs of the Polk County Democratic Party. "It was great to be part of the effort of many Democrats to bring the Democratic Party together to change the course of history and elect Tom Vilsack as the first Democratic Governor in thirty-two years," exclaims Henderson.

Tom was born and raised in Des Moines. He received both his undergraduate degree in public administration and law degree from Drake University. Both he and his wife are practicing attorneys. He is in private practice at the Whitfield and Eddy, P.L.C. Law Firm focusing on trial work in the civil area. His wife, Nan Horvat, is a prosecutor in the Polk County Attorney's Office. They have two children, Mary Grace and Aidan.

Our Polk County Democrats applaud Henderson's fine leadership and commitment to Democratic endeavors which is no small task in the largest county in Iowa...and particularly in the 2008 election. Please express your appreciation to him the next time you see him.

The 10th Annual Polk County Democrats Women's Event - Friday, August 14



Photos by Kerry Bowen

Polk County Democrats host internet radio talk shows

"Mac's World, Live" is a set of internet radio shows which are also podcasted with studio video available to listener/viewers online. Programming includes some Polk County Democratic activists who team up to offer varied content unrivaled by local mainstream media.

Democratic Party activists among show hosts include Bruce Stone, Dr. Alan Koslow and Carl Olsen.

The Mac's World studio is moving into Des Moines' downtown Walnut Street mall, on the skywalk, as this edition of The Polk County Democrat is delivered to readers. Working well with both guests and call-in formatting, the online radio station includes programs covering the political gamut; Democrats will find a good home for discussion about timely and controversial issues.

Program days, times and hosts for live shows (includes opportunity for call-in), follows:

Bruce Stone: "On the (L)iberal Edge," Mon-Fri 5-7 pm

Dr. Alan Koslow: "The Doctor is In," Mon 2-4 pm

Carl Olsen: "Carl's Cannabis Corner," Sat 12-2 pm

The online live link for all show hosts: <http://macsworldlive.com/des-moines-local-live/>

Obtain podcast links by clicking onto the show host's photo to send an e-mail request the direct web address; the web site does not currently feature smooth, direct links for recorded shows as this report is completed.

POLK COUNTY DEMOCRATS EVENTS Visit our website for more info: <http://www.polkcountymocrats.org/>

Council candidate Leisha Barcus "Cake and Conversation" events

Monday, August 24 6:00PM

Willkie House, 900 17th Street

Tuesday, August 25 6:00PM

Northwest Community Center
5110 Franklin Avenue

Saturday, August 29 9:00AM

Four Mile Community Center, 3711 Easton Blvd.

September 7 - Solidarity Fest, Parade at 11am and festival at 4-H building, Fairgrounds 12-3pm

September 12 - Volunteer Opportunity - Governors Cup Race- Sept 12th, Des Moines

Volunteers are needed with set up, tear down, water stations, registrations, etc. For information on volunteering, please call 265-1222. <http://www.iagovcup.com/>

September 19 - Beaverdale Parade

October 24, 2009 - Volunteer Opportunity - Reggie's Sleep Out- October 24th, Drake Stadium

Experience a night under the star in a box, while gaining education on youth homelessness in Iowa. Takes place at Drake Stadium.

Volunteers are needed with set up, tear down, registration, field marshal, food tent, Reggie's Store, entertainment and education. For information on volunteering, please call Toni at 265-1222. <http://www.Reggiesleepout.org/>



Polk county Democrat, and Communications Committee member Carl Olsen hosts a weekly radio show.