

The VOICE

is the quarterly newsletter of the

February 2007



A Message to Morgan Dems from State Chair Jane Kidd



A large contingent of Morgan County Democrats attended the celebration of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on January 15 in Madison. The breakfast was sponsored by the Morgan County Branch, NAACP. Above, Democrats Mary McGill (left foreground) and Avery Jackson (right) listen to speaker Chester Thomas (D), vice-chair of the Morgan County Board of Commissioners.

Dear Friends: When I was elected Chair of the Democratic Party of Georgia in January, I promised that we would make the big changes we needed to, in order to make the DPG more flexible and responsive to the needs of our local parties. I am pleased to announce the first of many changes designed to do just that.



Effective this week, I instituted a comprehensive, top-down review of the state party operations. As I campaigned for Chair, Democrats all over Georgia told me that they were unhappy with the party's responsiveness to their needs. We need to take a look at our staffing and determine what positions need to be added, which need to be redesigned, and which can be consolidated.

In order to make sure that DPG operations will continue as we examine our needs and hire a new Executive Director and support staff, I have appointed a transition team. Representing both new faces and current staff members, our transition team is a resource for our county parties, and I know that they'll do a great job of shifting our party's focus back to grassroots by serving as a resource for you. Over the next few weeks, the team will be calling on State Committee members and county party chairs for your input on what we can do to make the DPG a better resource for
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A Message from the County Chair Patsy Harris

Can we all agree to never again allow another Bush43? Can we all agree that next time, as thorns of lies emerge from the Oval Office, we will nip them in the bud. Can we all agree that no matter what political party occupies that office that the press and the people not abdicate their responsibilities, but call a lie a lie?



The debacle that is Bush43 continues to cost American lives, continues to shut its ears to the American people, continues to charge ahead and not look in the rear-view mirror to see what calamity it continues to wreak. The weak, kiss-up Congress that was fired in
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Nation NOT ready for health emergencies

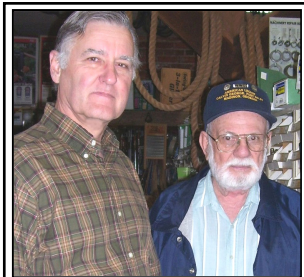
Trust for America's Health (TFAH) recently released the fourth annual "Ready or Not? Protecting the Public's Health from Disease, Disasters, and Bioterrorism," which found that five years after the Sept. 11 and the anthrax tragedies, emergency health preparedness is still inadequate in America.

The "Ready or Not?" report contains state-by-state health preparedness scores based on 10 key indicators to assess health emergency preparedness capabilities. All 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia were evaluated. (see website: <http://healthyamericans.org>)

Georgia achieved 7 of the 10 possible indicators. Half of states scored six or less on the scale of 10 indicators. Oklahoma scored the highest with 10 out of 10; California, Iowa, Maryland, and New Jersey scored the lowest with four out of 10. States with stronger surge capacity capabilities and immunization programs scored higher in this year's report, since four of the measures focus on these areas.

"The nation is nowhere near as prepared as we should be for bioterrorism, bird flu, and other health disasters," said Jeff Levi, PhD, Executive Director of TFAH. "We continue to make progress each year, but it is limited. As a whole, Americans face unnecessary and unacceptable levels of risk."

For the state-by-state scoring, states received one point for achieving an indicator or zero points if they did not achieve the indicator, therefore zero is the lowest possible overall score and 10 the highest. The data for the public health indicators are from publicly available sources or public officials in 2006.



Ruth Bracewell, chair of the Democrats' annual J-J Dinner, says nominations are closed for the Roy Lambert Public Service Award. Bruce Gilbert (left) and Marshall Williams are previous recipients.

District Chair Terry Holley to attend Morgan meeting

Terry Holley of Evans, GA, Chair of the 10th Congressional Dist. for the GA Democratic Party, will visit Morgan Co. Democrats at their regular meeting on March 8 in Madison.



He also attended the group's January meeting and was well-supported in Morgan County for his 2006 bid for the U.S. Congress.

Holley is upbeat, well-versed and is looking forward to the future after the GA Party's election last month. "We had a major victory!" he told local Chair Patsy Harris after Democrats elected state and district party officers.

Democrat Action Team cleans up

Surrounded by many bags of trash and one nice hub cap, local Democrats breathed a sigh of relief after a job well done. The group, lead by Chris Hodges, picked up litter on East Washington St. in Madison January 28, then sorted and recycled it.



The Democratic Party is planning monthly community efforts in the areas of environment, health care and education. The public is invited to join in and can call Hodges at 342-7421. Shown above are (l-r) Bruce Gilbert, Andrew Simpson, Terrell Garrard, Hodges, Ruth Bracewell, Mary McGill, & Avery Jackson.

Calendar

----- February 25, 2 PM -----

Called Meeting of the Morgan County Democratic Committee for election of the State Democratic Committee Member at the home of Ted Arnold
391 S. Main St., Madison

-----February-----

Call Chris Hodges for Action Team dates (706) 342-7421

-----March 8, 7 PM -----

Regular Meeting of the Morgan County Democratic Committee at the home of Terrell Garrard, 424 E. Washington St., Madison

----- March 17, 10 AM -----

Public Planning Session at the Morgan County Library

----- April-----

Jefferson-Jackson Dinner, Madison

Executive Committee Of the Morgan County Democratic Committee

Patsy Harris Chairman
Avery Jackson 1st Vice Chair
Chris Hodges 2nd Vice Chair
Lindy Burnett Recording Secretary
Mary McGill Corresp. Secretary
Emmie Smock Treasurer
Ted Arnold Previous Chairman

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KIDD..... from front page

our candidates and local parties.

In related news, we began our search for a new Executive Director yesterday. I'm honored to tell you that Jim Martin, our 2006 candidate for Lieutenant Governor will be heading up the search for our next Executive Director. Jim has been a valuable and hardworking member of the DPG for many, many years, and I know he will conduct a fair and impartial search and will present a diverse and qualified roster of applicants from which I will make a final choice and present to the officers for approval.

I am excited about the new direction our party is taking, and I hope you are too. I know that Democrats are ready to work hard, work together, and work for what's right. I also invite you to contact me directly with any comments or questions you have about the DPG and the resources available to you. Thanks for everything you do!
For a strong, united party, Jane V. Kidd

CURL UP with a good, borrowed book or DVD

Losing America, Confronting a Reckless and Arrogant Presidency, Sen. Robert C. Byrd
Morgan County Library

Hubris: the Inside Story of Spin, Scandal, and the Selling of the Iraq War, Michael Isikoff 2006
Whose Freedom? The Battle Over America's Most Important Idea, George Lakoff 2006
Morgan County Library via interlibrary loan

With a new year full of expectation and hope...

I just think it has been such a long time since we have been very energized or excited about really having a voice or making a difference in local, state or national politics, that we've forgotten how much time and MONEY it takes to keep a local party viable. Let me list some of the things we need money for on a yearly basis (election years more than others).

- We have to recruit and support Democratic candidates-not just local ones, but state and national as well. That means paying part of their qualifying fees, as well as contributing to the campaigns.
- We pay dues to the Georgia Association of Democratic County Chairs.
- We send representatives to state dinners and seminars.
- We contribute to the UGA Young Democrats.
- We host social events and candidate forums.
- We maintain a county Democratic Party web site.
- We bring together Morgan Co. Democrats annually for the Jefferson-Jackson Dinner, with speakers & awards.
- One big expense is our quarterly newsletter. With our growing mailing list (a good thing) comes the growing expense of mailing (a bad thing).

We have formed a committee to examine and implement ways to raise money in the coming year. But the easiest and best way is for every Democrat reading this to send a pledge or donation right now before the expenses of a new year start to creep up on us!

Thanks in advance for what I know will be a happy and prosperous New Year for Democrats all over this country.
Emmie Smock, Treasurer, 642 Billups Avenue, Madison GA 30650

HARRIS..... from front page

November permitted their boy to run rampant with this country. Were Republicans, in the privacy of their homes and caucuses, really that supportive, that blind?

We have a little less than two years of the same from Bush 43, plenty of time to invade another country. The only saving grace is for the new Congress to exert its power of oversight, to pick apart every little million dollar request for "emergency" appropriations and to gain the moral high ground of truth-telling.

We voters must challenge this Congress to grab itself by the whatevers and to expect and then deal with the lies. And there will be more. Bush43 said, "I lie because I feel like it."

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please email us at morgancodems@yahoo.com or call (706) 342-1011.**