

So, let us not be blind to our differences - but let us also direct attention to our common interests and to the means by which those differences can be resolved.

-John F. Kennedy

We encourage you to become a sponsoring member of the Germantown Democratic Club!

Sponsoring Membership

Benefactor \$50.00 and up
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**Make checks payable to:
Germantown Democratic Club**

Mail to:

Susan Simmons Treasurer
10316 Shea Oaks Cove
Collierville, TN 38017

USE THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE

Germantown Democratic Club Officers:

*President: Dick Klenz, 756-4165,
dklenz@bellsouth.net*

*Vice President: Dave Cambron,
624-2504, davecambbron@live.com*

*2nd Vice President: Judy Palmer,
753-9932, judydypalm@gmail.com*

*Treasurer: Susan Simmons,
854-6725,
peoplemaker1@comcast.net*

*Secretary: Diane Cambron, 624-2504,
dicambbron@live.com*

*E-mail Coordinator: Jeanette Warren,
754-2620,
robnet@aol.com*

Web Master - Becki Barnhardt,



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Website: www.gdctn.org

GERMANTOWN DEMOCRATIC CLUB

GERMANTOWN, BARTLETT, CORDOVA, COLLIERVILLE, EAST MEMPHIS, LAKELAND, BOLTON, ROSEMARK, MILLINGTON and UNINCORPORATED AREAS

JANUARY MEETING

Wednesday, January 26th, 2011 at 6:30 PM

MEET BILL GILLON

Bill is a member of the Memphis/Shelby County Industrial Development Board and will discuss the activities of the IDB, including efforts to streamline economic development operations in Memphis and Shelby County.

Socializing will begin at 6:30 pm

The meeting will begin at 6:45 pm

The meeting will be held at the Cordova Library.
8457 Trinity Road, Cordova

FEBRUARY MEETING

Wednesday, February 23, 2011 @ 6:30 pm

We will be discussing the upcoming Shelby County Democratic Party Executive Committee caucuses and convention. Announced candidates for Executive Committee Chair will be invited.

The meeting will be held at Fox Ridge Pizza
1769 North Germantown Pkwy, Cordova

MARCH MEETING

Wednesday, March 23, 2011 @ 6:30 pm

We have tentative plans to invite local bloggers. Details will be distributed by e-mail and on the website once plans are finalized.

Socializing will begin at 6:30 pm

The meeting will begin at 6:45 pm

The meeting will be held at the Cordova Library.
8457 Trinity Road, Cordova

Programs sponsored by the Germantown Democratic during 2010

2010 shaped up to be a very political year, and the Germantown Democrats hosted quite a few candidates. In January Jackson Baker of the Memphis Flyer presented his thoughts on the local political scene.

Almost every Democratic candidate for office in 2010 visited during one or another of our club meetings. We saw county mayoral hopefuls, gubernatorial candidates and congressional candidates. Most of the judicial candidates attended our "Just Desserts" social affair in July. Our meetings provided an opportunity for people to meet and talk to candidates face to face, and we are grateful to all for their participation.

Plans for 2011

In 2011 we are planning to focus on more issues oriented programs. In addition to the dates and programs listed on Page 1, we have reserved the Cordova Library for the following dates: April 27, May 25, June 22, July 27, August 24, September 28, and October 26 (all Wednesdays). Should we have something like a picnic or a special program, we may not have the meeting at the normal place and time, but any changes to these dates will be publicized in the newsletter or via e-mail.

We would like to continue the tradition of a fall picnic in September or October. These events have been well attended and a lot of fun. We are also exploring the possibility of a day trip to Little Rock in the fall (September/October) to visit the Clinton Library and the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site. At this time, no details are available, but we are trying to see how many people might be interested in such an outing. It would be on a Saturday, leaving early in the morning and returning in the evening. If you think you might be interested, please e-mail Dave Cambron at davecambbron@live.com. It was also suggested that we might get a group together to attend a Redbirds game. If you're looking for a fun night out at the ballpark sometime this summer, please contact Dave Cambron at the above e-mail address.

Finally, we are planning to start publishing the newsletter on a quarterly basis. We are hoping to be able to include more articles of interest, and in pursuit of that goal, we are soliciting contributions from our members. If anyone would be interested in writing a brief article on a pertinent topic in your area of expertise, please e-mail Diane Cambron at dicambbron@live.com, or Dick Klenz @ dklenz@bellsouth.net.

Membership Dues

2011 GDC Membership fees are now due. Most of the dues go toward offsetting the cost of the newsletter. Please use the enclosed envelope and make checks payable to Germantown Democratic Club (GDC, for short). If you have already paid your dues, thank you for your contribution!

A Report from the Tennessee Democratic Party Executive Committee

As new members to the Tennessee State Democratic Party from District 31 it was our pleasure to participate in the biennial selection of our new State Party Chair on Saturday, January 8, in Nashville. Committeeman Bill Owen from District 7 in Knoxville moderated a debate Friday night featuring the three candidates: Matt Kuhn, Wade Munday, and current Chair, Chip Forrester. Following the debate, each of the candidates hosted a meet and greet reception at different locations located near Legislative Plaza where the vote would take place on Saturday.

Saturday morning the TNDP presented an analysis of the election and the losses suffered in the November election. In general, even in districts where Democrats should have voted in large numbers, they didn't. A Dutch treat luncheon followed with Mike McWherter as the featured speaker.

Members convened in the Tennessee House Chambers shortly after 1 p.m. The vote was taken by roll call. While we both supported our past Shelby County Democratic Chair, Matt Kuhn, who received

17 votes, Chip Forrester won the chairmanship on the first round of voting with 38 votes. Wade Munday received 10 votes. The majority of Matt's support came from West Tennessee, but he received support from other regions as well. A few committee members stated that they voted for Chip because they received numerous phone calls from their constituents advocating on his behalf. Your voice does matter and we do need to hear from you.

In other business, the dates for the county reorganizations were set to be held between April 2 and 10. Further information will be forthcoming from the Shelby County Democratic Party as to the exact procedures, place, and time to participate, not only for the convention but for the ward and precinct meetings that will precede the convention by a few weeks.

Many times over the weekend, we heard appeals for unity because of the divisiveness that had hurt the party after the election two years ago. While we are proud of Matt Kuhn for running for the position and helping to put a voice from West Tennessee in the leadership spot for the state, we will join in that call for unity to support re-elected Chairman Chip Forrester.

Please feel free to contact us for any questions.

*Adrienne Pakis-Gillon
Dwayne Thompson*

Shelby County Democratic Party Executive Committee Report

The date for the Shelby County Democratic Party district caucuses has been proposed for Saturday, March 26, and the date for the actual convention will be Saturday, April 9, 2011. At this time the location has not been confirmed, but is tentatively American Way Middle School at 3805 American Way (NOT Airways Middle School, where the caucuses and conventions have been held in the past few years). Final details should be available at the February meeting.

Due to the low number of Democratic votes for governor in November, the size of the new executive committee will be dramatically smaller than it was in 2009. The new committee will likely be about half the size of the current one. The caucuses and the convention are open to all Democrats, although only elected delegates can participate in the convention, and only elected committee members can participate in the vote for chair. If you are interested in participating in your local Democratic Party, please make sure to attend our February meeting, where the process will be discussed in more detail. Make your voice heard!

Dave Cambron

A Note from the Editor:

I chose the quote from JFK for this newsletter, because it helps to provide some much needed perspective on the country and times in which we live. Although much has changed since the early 60's, much has remained the same. The tragedy in Tucson brought about a long overdue conversation about the need for civility in our public debate. But we need more than civility. We need to begin engaging in dialog with people with whom we disagree, as difficult as that may be. It's difficult, because the fault lines run deep. Nonetheless, we must begin to bridge the gap, not because we stand much chance of changing each other's political attitudes, but because all of us need to start seeing one another as fellow citizens, not as "the enemy". John Kennedy hoped in vain for such a rapprochement 50 years ago, and sadly, did not live to see it happen. Will our generation be the ones to take the first step, or will we continue to sulk in our respective corners? Can this marriage be saved? I, for one, hope so, because the future of our nation depends on it.

Diane Cambron