

THE KENDALLIAN

The Monthly Newsletter of the Democratic Club of Kendall County

Health Care Reform—It's All About Money

Jack Morgan

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 6

We're taking the summer off. The Kendall County Democratic Club will **not** hold it's regular monthly meeting during August—stay cool.

The summer break will end on September 3 when the club will meet at 7:00 PM in the Board Room of the Boerne ISD at 123 Johns Road . John Courage, who is running for the Democratic nomination for the Texas state senate, will speak at the meeting. Call Mary Lowery at 830 537-5271 for details.

August 13

The Kendall County Area Democratic Woman's Club will meet at the Holiday Inn Express in Boerne at 10:00 AM. The agenda includes the election of a new slate of officers. Call Jean Robitaille at 830 981-4971 for details.

August 18

Blue Tuesday social get-together for Democrats at the Dodging Duck Pub on River Road. 6:00 PM. Anything you want to talk about as long as it is Democratic.

September 2

Kendall County Fair Association Parade on Main Street. 10:00 AM. The Democratic entry is being organized by Josephine Renfro. Josephine needs help—please give her a call at 830 249-3118 and offer to give her a hand. Events like parades are a good way for us to keep reminding people that there is a strong and active Democratic presence in Kendall County.

The debate over health care is enough to make you sick, which would be funny...but only if you have insurance for treatment. And only then if that insurance company decided your being sick over the health care debate wasn't a pre-existing condition, thereby finding a reason not to cover you!

To be made even more sick, go to www.opensecrets.org and check out where lobbying money is going. In 1990, pharmaceutical companies gave just more than 3 million bucks to politicians. A LOT of money isn't it? No, it's NOT a lot of money. Not if you look at what they gave last year: nearly 30 million bucks. Hospitals & Nursing Homes gave 23 million bucks to politicians. But who **really** hit the ball out of the park? No, not professional baseball...Health Care Professionals. They proved they were more "professional" than most by donating \$95,000,000 to politicians. That's more than a dollar for every third American!

Question: do you think they did so 'cause they're great folks who just want to support the American political process? If so, please contact me. I have a bridge to nowhere for which I'm accepting bids. Make yours now; I've got a vacation to pay for.

Since I've made you feel a bit sick about health care, let me make you feel better about the Kendall County Democratic Club: on Saturday the 25th we had a wine tasting soiree at Boerne's Hampton Inn. The wine and food were every bit as good as the crowd, and since there must have been close to a hundred people there, I suspect we made some good ca\$h for the KCDC. Congrats and thanks to Claire Gluck and all who made it happen.

Congratulations also to Texas Democrats, who have a fine, viable candidate in the form of the day's keynote speaker, Tom Schieffer. Tom's the brother of CBS News' Bob Schieffer, and appears to be every bit the candidate that Bob is journalist. Also present at the party were dignitaries like Bexar County Commissioner Tommy Adkisson, and former Senator and Ambassador Bob Krueger and his author/wife Kathleen. It's nice when, in the little town of Boerne we get to hang out with people who have made such a difference.

See? I'll bet you now feel good enough to where you don't even have to dig in your wallet for a \$20 co-pay...

Club News

Another reminder—No club meeting in August. Our next meeting will be September 3. John Courage will be the speaker. John has decided to run for the Democratic nomination for the Texas Senate seat now held by Jeff Wentworth. **Let's show John we strongly appreciate his long time efforts on behalf of San Antonio and Hill Country area Democrats by having a good turnout.**

As we write this, **the health care reform effort hangs in the balance.** As always, the insurance and pharmaceutical industry lobby are proving to be very tough foes of health reform. They have been strong-arming members of Congress to protect their special privileges in the current health care system that awards them many, many billions more than they deserve. Some lily-livered, weak-spined Republican and Democratic congressmen have wilted under pressure from these lobbyists and are working to weaken the reform measures.

Do you know the dirty little secret about doctor owned hospitals? Studies have shown that they charge Medicare much more per Medicare patient than other hospitals. These studies have shown that the reason is because they run many more tests on expensive equipment like scanners resulting in huge profits for the owners. According to an article in the Washington Post a doctor owned hospital in McAllen, Texas, one of the nation's poorest regions, has been one of the largest contributors to congressional campaigns and so far has been successful in insulating doctor owned hospitals from one reform proposal that would limit physician ownership to no more than 40 percent at any hospital.

Thanks to Claire Gluck for her work in planning, organizing, and carrying out the KCADW wine tasting and political event last Saturday evening. As Jack has mentioned, it was a really first class event. It was very well attended and attracted a number of new faces. The main speaker was Tom Schieffer, the brother of the well known broadcaster, who is running for the Democratic nomination for governor in next years election. As might be expected from someone who had been Ambassador to both Australia and Japan, the speech was very well delivered—hit all the Democratic hotspots, and went a long way in dispelling concerns some have had about Schieffer's Democratic credentials in view of his friendship with former President Bush.

Please try to help Josephine put together an entry in the Kendall County Fair parade on September 2. Trying to get people to help on projects like this is hard work. Please give her a call at 830 249-3118 and see if there is anything you can do to help.

Membership in the Club is payable yearly starting in January. We suggest an annual contribution of \$20 per person (payable to KCDC). If you enjoy receiving the *Kendallian* as a way of keeping up with local Democratic activities but cannot be an active member, we would appreciate a contribution to cover the cost of the stamps. If you would prefer to receive the *Kendallian* by E-MAIL or if you would like for us to take your name off our mailing list please let us know. **Sarah White is our treasurer. Her address is 138 Stonegate South, Boerne, Texas 78006. Her phone is 830 755-8794.**

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