

Yavapai County DEMOCRAT

July, 2011

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Democratic Party at:**
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Theme of the Month **A Salute to the Labor Movement**

The Folks Who Brought You the Weekend!

- ... AND a living wage!
- ... AND workplace safety!
- ... AND the right to organize to improve working conditions!
- ... AND the American Middle Class!

In a special session called by Governor Jan Brewer, Republicans in the Arizona Legislature refused to extend unemployment benefits for 15,000 Arizonans, declaring that such benefits take away the incentive to look for a job. In reality, the Republicans held the benefits hostage; they wanted yet another tax cut for businesses.

Republicans continue to take positions against Arizona's unemployed despite the facts:

- The Arizona unemployment rate is stuck above nine percent. There are four applicants for every job available.
- Weekly benefits average \$216, hardly enough to live off of. Only Mississippi has a lower rate.
- Funding comes from the federal government and adds nothing to the Republican engineered Arizona budget deficit.

All three of Legislative District One's Republicans—Steve Pierce, Andy Tobin, Karen Fann—voted against the extension. Senator Steve Pierce, majority leader in the Senate, said, "We think it's stupid." It's not clear whether he was speaking of the call for the special session or the idea of helping Arizona's workers who can't find jobs.

But hey Democrats! Maybe voters are finally waking up! Check out these comments from the Arizona Republic's Letters section, all in just one week in June!

- *To our GOP legislators: Have you no shame? Is your ideology more important than extending federal funds for Arizona's thousands of jobless? Money that would be spent on paying rent, buying groceries, and actually helping the economy? We will remember in next year's election!*
- *How on earth did we get this legislature? Extending unemployment benefits would have cost the state nothing! Instead, we have cost the state the purchasing power of these desperate people.*
- *Once again, our Republican legislators have demonstrated their total disregard for the citizens of Arizona. They believe our unemployed are lazy and unwilling to work when*

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Annual Picnic to Feature a Salute to Labor



The Yavapai County Democratic Party will feature a “Salute to Labor” as its theme for the Annual Picnic. Our great friends, Local 469 of the UA Plumbers and Pipefitters, will once again provide the hamburgers and hot dogs, and the YCDP Executive Board and Democratic Women of the Prescott Area will provide desserts and sides. This year, as part of our Salute to Labor, we will provide free admission to all who show a union card. The day will feature games, raffles, and plenty of fun! Cost is \$10 per person, or \$20 maximum for families. Join us at the Watson Lake Upper Ramada in Prescott on Sunday, July 24, from 3:00 to 6:00 PM.

Rebekah Friend, Labor Advocate, to Speak at Annual Picnic



The speaker at YCDP’s Annual picnic will be **R e b e k a h Friend**, Executive Director of AFL-CIO Arizona, the labor union federation in Arizona representing 185,000 union members through over 200 local union affiliates. For over 30 years, Friend has been a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, a committed advocate for work-

ing families, and a long-standing friend of Democrats.

Throughout her career, Friend has played an integral role in developing legislation to improve the lives of working people in Arizona. Friend served as the first President of the Coalition for Labor Union Women in Maricopa County, lobbying state legislators on pay equity bills affecting female workers. Friend successfully chaired the Minimum Wage Coalition, which brought Proposition 202 to the ballot in 2006 and raised the minimum wage to \$6.75, along with a cost-of-living adjustment every year. In 2007, she played an instrumental role in passing historic legislation that increased workers compensation benefits and added a yearly cost-of-

living adjustment. She also led the charge for increases to unemployment insurance benefits in Arizona. Friend continues to lobby legislators to make Cesar Chavez Day an official state holiday to recognize Arizona’s farm workers.

Friend has received numerous awards of distinction for her public service. In 2002, Friend was presented a lifetime achievement award by the Arizona Democratic Party and inducted into the party’s Hall of Fame. In 2004, Friend was awarded the YWCA’s Woman of the Year, their highest award for a civic leader. She has also received the Arizona Capitol Times Leader of the Year in Public Policy Award (2007), the Ballie Award for Electoral Impact (2007), and the Emerge Arizona Woman of the Year Award (2008).

The Struggle for Workers’ Rights –Still Going On

By: *Ben Furlong*

The struggle to establish unions as a fact in the lives of American workers was not easy. However, over the years union workers with decent wages came to comprise the base of America’s middle class. Working Americans were able to send their children to college, to own homes and enjoy lives of material comfort.

The wage rates and benefits won by union members established a higher standard of living for non-union families too. However, events dating back fifty years were aimed at weakening unions.

Today unions are being blamed for the deficits at the state and national levels. In reality the deficits have been caused

by long term efforts by Republicans to reduce taxes. Republican governors are trying to restrict public union members’ right to collective bargaining. They are calling for major changes in pension benefits. These funds have been managed with integrity through the years but have suffered because of the unregulated finan-

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Kurt Vonnegut wrote this in 1965, and nothing's changed!

“Thus did a handful of rapacious citizens come to control all that was worth controlling in America. Thus was the savage and stupid and entirely inappropriate and unnecessary and humorless American class system created. Honest, industrious, peaceful citizens were classed as bloodsuckers, if they asked to be paid a living wage. And they saw that praise was reserved henceforth for those who devised means of getting paid enormously for committing crimes against which no laws had been passed. Thus the American dream turned belly up, turned green, bobbed to the scummy surface of cupidity unlimited, filled with gas, went bang in the noonday sun.”

(From God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater, 1965, by Kurt Vonnegut)

Salute to Labor, Cont'd

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the facts are clear that there are no jobs. They are willing to push these people to the ranks of the homeless to advance their twisted ideology. Shame on them, and let's all remember this in 2012!

- *Our legislators gave away \$550 million in tax cuts to corporations and the very wealthy. But they refused to make a one-word change that would have kept unemployment checks coming for Arizonans desperately seeking work. It's true – Republicans scratch the backs of the wealthy and kick those down on their luck in the teeth.*

- *As a Republican, I am pro-business and into promoting our wonderful state and her image. The recent canceling of unemployment benefits with little cause is a despicable act.*

- *I may be unemployed, but I vote. And I'm assuming the 15,000 other people who have been thrown under the bus will do the same. Let's make sure the politicians who didn't extend jobless benefits in Arizona are unemployed after the next election cycle.*

Yavapai County
DEMOCRAT

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
July 20, 2011	11:00am-1:00pm	DWPA Luncheon Meeting Speaker Justin Unga, ADP Political Affairs Director, on Redistricting \$11.00	Wyndham Gardens Hotel Hwy 69, Prescott
July 24, 2011	3-6:00PM	Yavapai County Democratic Party Annual Picnic, featuring "A Salute to Labor"	Watson Lake Upper Ramada, Rte 89 & Outer Loop Road, Prescott, AZ
July 28, 2011	6:30PM	DOVV General Meeting AZ State Legislator, Chad Campbell Beverages & snacks provided	Randall's Restaurant 891 S. Main St., Cottonwood

No DORR Movie Night or Breakfast Meeting this month---See you in Septmenber!

**No Yavapai County Democratic Party County Committee Meeting this month
 See you at the plnic July 24!!**

From the Chair . . .

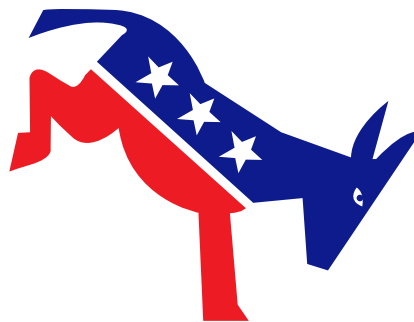
By: Lindsay Bell



I am a lifelong Democrat. I registered as a Democrat when I was first eligible to vote, and I anticipate being a Democrat forever. It could have gone the other way. We know that kids tend to register with the same party affiliation as their parents. I confess that I was raised in a mixed family: Dad was a Republican and Mom was a Democrat. Although I think Dad may have voted once for Franklin Roosevelt in the name of unity for the war effort, my folks split their vote in most elections. To be completely honest, Mom was a fairly conservative Democrat (this was Texas after all—the “Dixiecrat” version of Democrats) but it was a “liberal” issue, unions, that made her a Democrat

Mother was the youngest of four children, and in 1920, when she was still a pre-schooler, Mom’s parents divorced. As you can imagine, it was very difficult at that time for a single mother to support a family. Without any help from her ex-husband, my grandmother managed to raise her four children by running a boarding house. Grand-

mother’s sister was also in the labor force since she had never married and had to support herself. The two sisters ended up having to support their widowed mother as well. Growing up in this situation gave my Mom a keen appreciation for the plight of working women. Not only were there were few job opportunities for women, but women were routinely paid less than men doing the same work. The few jobs that were available for women were often sweat shops with deplorable working conditions, long hours, and no benefits. These circumstances, as well as horrific work place tragedies such as the New York sewing factory fire in which dozens of women perished because they had been locked in the building, led to the formation of unions some of which particularly focused on working women. While I was growing up, Mom always talked about the union movement, and how much unions had done for working women. Democrats were the party that stood by working men and women and the unions that represented them, so my Mom was a Democrat. Today, the Democratic Party still stands by unions, and that’s just one of many good reasons to be a Democrat.



Workers’ Rights, Cont’d

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cial industry—another of the Republican Party’s ideological tenets. Such notable Republicans as Jeb Bush and Newt Gingrich would allow states to declare bankruptcy. This would permit state governments to renege on their commitments to retirees

In 2011, the Arizona Legislature proposed measures to:

- Restrict picketing
- Require that unions get annual renewal from individual members to withhold dues/money to be used for political purposes
- Revamp public employee pensions systems
- Prod or force local governments to privatize services.

When you combine refusal to recognize the effect of policy with hypocrisy, distortion and deceit, the future looks bleak.

“The Constitution gave no rights to working people; no right to work less than 12 hours a day; no right to a living wage, no right to safe working conditions. Workers had to organize, go on strike, defy the law, the courts, and the police, create a great movement which won the eight-hour day and caused such commotion that Congress was forced to pass a minimum wage law and Social Security and unemployment insurance.” Howard Zinn

Republicans on Jobs and Working Families

By: Lindsay Bell

Let's talk jobs and the economy. Republicans tend to be a one trick pony when it comes to stimulating the economy and creating jobs. They think that giving tax breaks to big corporations, business and the wealthiest Americans will encourage those folks to invest in business and create jobs. Unfortunately, history doesn't validate this conclusion. Consider just one example. The top five companies in the oil and gas industry together enjoy about \$4 billion in annual tax subsidies, courtesy of the US taxpayer. One of these companies, BP, had record profits in 2010 (despite that little environmental problem in the Gulf) and paid zero taxes for the year. BP's employment figures, however, are down 10,000 from the previous year, and that doesn't include jobs lost when the oil spill caused small businesses in the area to close and/or lay off workers as well. So much for trickle down to working families

Cutbacks in safety net programs are another action agenda for the extremist Republicans. In a recent special session, Arizona lawmakers could not bring themselves to make a one word change in state statute to allow 40,000 unemployed Arizona workers to receive an additional 20 weeks of unemployment payments. 100% federally funded, the extended benefits would have no impact on Arizona's budget, other than the proven stimulus effect of workers spending that money on food, housing, gasoline,

etc. In declining to make the change, AZ lawmakers expressed the belief that extended benefits cause workers to delay looking for work. Citing the same argument as AZ lawmakers, the Republican controlled US Congress also wants to cut unemployment benefits.

Another Republican tactic is to go after unions and blame them for state budget woes. Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker is leading the charge on this one. After manufacturing a state budget crisis by giving away \$137 million in corporate tax cuts, he is balancing the budget by getting financial concessions from the unions and ending collective bargaining rights. Multiple states, including Arizona, are following Walker's example. Research indicates that the average income of working families follows the trend lines of union membership: when union membership falls so does the average income of working families. Union busting hurts the middle class, including those who are not union members.

Republicans say they are focused on jobs, but to quote a prior campaign slogan, "Where's the beef? I heard Nancy Pelosi on a weekend news program say that in the second year of President Obama's Administration, more new jobs were created than in the entire eight years of the Bush administration. So, are the Republicans and their policies friendly to working families? Make that a resounding NO!

Fundraising Update

In recent months the Yavapai County Democratic Party has been stepping up its fundraising efforts. Fundraising is always more challenging in a non election year, and this year the YCDP was also hit with a significant decrease in our grants from the Arizona Democratic Party. Thanks to the efforts of many volunteers, and your generous donations, our increased fundraising activities are starting to pay off. We had a successful "tag" sale at the office last weekend, and revenues from the last two county party meetings have also added to the bottom line. We will soon be sending out letters for our annual Yavapai Blue fundraising campaign. We have two special events coming up as well. The YCDP and DWPA annual picnic will be held on Sunday, July 24 at Watson Lake, and the Truman-Clinton dinner is scheduled for Friday, October 21. Rebekah Friend, Executive Director of the Arizona Chapter of the AFL-CIO, will be our keynote speaker for the picnic, and Congressman Raul Grijalva has confirmed as our speaker at the Truman Clinton banquet. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend both events.

Check this Out...

http://front.moveon.org/scribbling-sharpie-illustrates-the-truth-about-our-economy/?id=28091-18120578-mO_aPCx



Seeing RED? Help Turn Arizona Blue
by investing in the work of the Yavapai County Democrats

I will support the Yavapai County Democrats!

I Pledge \$10 per month \$20 per month \$25 per month \$50 per month \$100 per month
 \$ _____ per month One-time contribution of \$ _____

Payment Arrangements Check Enclosed Please bill me Bill my credit card as follows

Credit Card Visa MasterCard Bill the amount of \$ _____ one time annually monthly

Card No. _____

Signature _____

Name (as it appears on card) _____ *

Address _____ *

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ *

E-mail _____ Phone _____

Occupation _____ Employer _____ *

*Arizona law requires political organizations to report the name, address, occupation and name of employer for each individual whose aggregate contributions exceed \$25.00 in a calendar year

The Yavapai County Democratic Party coordinates activities and fundraising with our Democratic partners. We encourage you to support these organizations, and if you so designate, we will share up to 20% of your YCDP donation with one or more of the following Democratic groups.

Please designate 5% 10% 15% 20% of my YCDP contribution to:
 Arizona Democratic Party Democratic Women of the Prescott Area
 Democrats of the Red Rocks Democrats of the Verde Valley

If you wish to make a direct donation to or receive information about YCDP's Democratic Partners, please contact:

Arizona Democratic Party
2910 N. Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85012-4200
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www.azdem.org

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vgarciabunuel@gmail.com

Democrats of the Red Rocks
P. O. Box 1165
Sedona, AZ 86339-1165
www.democratsoftheredrocks.org

Democrats of the Verde Valley
P. O. Box 4328
Cottonwood, AZ 86326
www.dovv.org

Return this form with your contribution to:

Yavapai County Democratic Party
P.O. Box 1644, Prescott, AZ 86302
ATTN: Ms. Fran Chadwick, Treasurer



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