Congratulations to Election Winners!
Lincoln City General Election, May 2, 2017

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<tr>
<th>Leirion Gaylor Baird</th>
<th>Bennie Shobe</th>
<th>Zachary James</th>
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<td>Lincoln City Council</td>
<td>Lincoln City Council</td>
<td>Lincoln Airport Authority</td>
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<td>At-Large Position</td>
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<th>Kathy Danek</th>
<th>Barbara Baier</th>
<th>Don Mayhew</th>
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<td>Lincoln Board of Education, District 1</td>
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We took back the majority on the city council May 2nd with the election of Bennie Shobe, overtaking incumbent Roy Christensen and Tom Nesbitt, both Republicans! Republican Trent Fellers decided not to run for a second term, leaving an at-large seat open. I couldn’t be more pleased with the outcome of this election cycle. We returned Leirion Gaylor Baird with a four thousand plus increase in votes over her first election in 2014. Leirion received 22,713 votes and Bennie received 19,633. Democrats came in 1st and 2nd! Adding to the sweet taste of victory was our own Zachary James, receiving 19,352 votes for 1st place in the race for Airport Authority. This was Zachary’s first campaign. He is Legislative District 30 Team Leader for the county party and only in his mid-twenties! Congratulations to Leirion, Bennie, Zachary, and our three school board members: Kathy Danek, Don Mayhew, and Barbara Baier who all ran unopposed and were voted for another term. They are doing such a great job on the school board that Republicans are apparently convinced they can’t win against our Democrats.

Many people helped elect Democrats in the city elections. I must give a shout out to Brandon Bayer, owner of Blue Fire Strategies, his Field Director Garret Swanson, and Field Coordinator Emma Craig. Brandon’s team coordinated the campaigns to share volunteer and fundraising resources so that all of our candidates were supported. They did a great job and were so fun to work alongside. We endured the sharing of colds and flu, some had personal emergencies and a surgery, most had college finals and papers to get done. In spite of it all, we pushed through, worked hard calling voters, distributing yard signs, designing and mailing slate cards. We don’t have the final numbers in as of this newsletter, but it has been estimated that between 50 and 80 thousand calls were made to voters! Our volunteers stepped up and came in to phone bank the two weeks prior to the general election. We had over 30 people on a Sunday! Volunteers also canvassed voters door to door and made that all so important face to face contact. Other volunteers provided food and drinks to keep our team going. We appreciate everything you did to help us win this important election!

For the first time in history, the Democratic National Committee (DNC), Nebraska Democratic Party (NDP), the Lancaster County Democratic Party (LCDP), and the Bernie Sanders Foundation called Our Revolution. The local grassroots Stand Up Speak Out (SUSO) organization and the Mayor’s Vote Local Vote Lincoln PAC all coordinated our resources to take back the majority on the City Council, re-elect our school board and put a Democrat back on the Airport Authority Board. It is this kind of coordination that made us successful and has provided a model for future elections.

We always like to say, we can’t outspend them, but we can outwork them. Now I will add, we will out organize them too!

I want to say a special thank you to Roger Eschliman who staffed our office and made many phone calls to voters. He took voters to the polls and he picked up ballots and delivered them to the election commission.

Another special thank you goes to 2nd Associate Chair Debi McGee for attending our coordinated campaign meetings, providing invaluable guidance, phone banking and donating food.

Maryjo Engelhard Shibata and Ann Hopkins did an amazing job of staffing the office during a very busy election cycle and provided invaluable support to our volunteers. Ted Kessler handled many duties related to paying the bills and keeping our computer programs going. James Baldus and Amy Hochstetler kept our calendar and social media event on track. Lou Braatz came up with an out of the box idea to raise money at our Patriots’ Dinner fundraiser, and set a new bar for future events. As you can see, it takes a lot of people with many different skills to operate a county party and organize an election effort.
Setting the Record Straight

There was some misinformation spread about the county party not supporting all of our city council candidates. This is simply not true. We were fortunate to have four talented people run for three at-large seats on the city council in the primary. Only three could make it to the general election. Your county party equally supported all four in the primary race and all three in the general election race by sharing our volunteers and funds in a coordinated effort to get them all elected. We did not play favorites and we did not withhold or redirect any resources at any time away from a candidate.

Our party bylaws require us to support candidates if they ask us to support them. Leirion, Bennie, Lou, and Maggie Mae all asked for our support and we gave it to them equally. Sometimes a candidate may decide to use a strategy that is counter to the commitment made to them by the county party, but we will stand by our candidates no matter what unless they commit an egregious offense that would force the county party to denounce them. We chose to take the high road and remain silent on the issue until after the election. In the future, if you rely on social media or other media news outlets to determine your position, I would say be very skeptical. It is always better to come straight to the source for the truth.

Going Forward

We have more important elections coming up in 2018. House Representative Jeff Fortenberry (R) has consistently voted against the interests of Nebraskans, Democrats and progressives. He must be defeated! Let’s all plan to work together to make that happen by starting now to raise money, train volunteers and identify candidates who can deliver our message and win the Congressional District 1 seat in the House. I believe we are in a wave that will carry Democrats in local, state and federal elections. We had a great success May 2nd electing Democrats to local seats. We can’t let up and must keep the momentum going to turn back Republican rule.

Enjoy the lovely May weather and don’t forget that DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECATATOR SPORT. GET OUT. GET ACTIVE. IT’S UP TO YOU AND ALL OF US ARE IN THIS TOGETHER. TAG! YOU’RE IT!

From Roger Eschliman, Secretary
Lancaster County Democratic Party

Didn’t we have fun at the after-election party? Democrats rule in Lincoln. Our majority on the City Council will insure that this great city continues with visionary leadership. The Airport Authority will provide out of the box thinking. And the Lincoln Board of Education will carry on with remarkable dedicated leadership.

This election was all about building towards the future. Lincoln is a great community for us to live in now. We have the responsibility of passing a great community on to future generations. Our futures are in good hands with the elections of: Leirion Gaylor Baird, Bennie Shobe, Zachary James, Kathy Danek, Barbara Baier, and Don Mayhew.

Democrats know what we have to do if we want to win elections: raise funds, find good candidates, develop a plan, work hard, and believe. We must never falter or grow faint!

At the moment we celebrate. But very soon we’ll start focusing on the upcoming 2018 campaign. Now we know we can do this!

“The political process does not end on Election Day. Young people need to stay involved in the process by continuing to pay attention to the conversation and holding their leaders accountable for the decisions they make.”

- Patrick Murphy

“Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.”

- Unknown
Update from Nebraskans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty
By Amy Miller, NADP Board President

NADP has developments at the legislature as well as internal news to share.

Last month, the Nebraskans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (NADP) board of directors announced that Executive Director Stephen Griffith has stepped down.

Stephen Griffith told us, “When I retired in 2015, I intended to relax a bit and invest some time and energy in building interfaith understanding and a variety of social issues. I never expected to go to work full time, but it has been a pleasure to serve NADP these past 18 months. I've met many new friends and will treasure this experience. Now, I'm returning to my work with the Faith Coalition of Lancaster County and the Methodist Federation for Social Action. I wish NADP much success. I’ll stay in touch.”

NADP has greatly appreciated all Steve's hard work toward the fight to end executions in Nebraska, and the fight is not over.

Our current focus is defeating LB 661—the bill that would shroud all purchases of lethal injection drugs in secrecy and exempt this information from the public records law. The bill remains on General File. Senator Chambers has filed thirteen amendments already, signaling he will continue to fight the shameful proposal with every tool available.

Recent developments underline the need for transparency in the state’s lethal drug purchases. In April, news reports broke that the most recent purchase of potassium chloride was made under false pretenses. The German-based manufacturer, Fresenius Kabi USA, has repeatedly requested the Department of Corrections to return the drugs in order to avoid their use in an execution. Nebraska has refused to honor the request.

This sort of information would not be publicly available if LB 661 were to pass into law. After repeated missteps and scandals from Nebraska’s efforts to obtain execution drugs, it is clear that Nebraskans need more information—not less—about the state's death penalty.

There is no word yet on when the next round of floor debate will occur, but NADP will continue our work to provide education and collaborate with other organizations opposed to LB 661.

While we will miss Steve Griffith’s passion and dedication to social justice, we anticipate the happy opportunity to continue collaborating with him in his new roles. We are pleased to welcome back Matt Maly as our new Operations Coordinator; Matt worked both with NADP and with the ballot committee Retain a Just Nebraska. NADP will share more information in the coming months about our future plans. Be sure to follow NADP on Facebook and Twitter to keep up-to-date on the latest news and how to get involved.

“Capital punishment is the most premeditated of murders.”
- Albert Camus, French philosopher
The U.N. Needs You
Bob Haller

We Democrats are happy with the results of the local elections. We have good new and returning people on the Airport Authority, City Council and Board of Education.

We know how important local elections are for our taxes, our access to education and travel, our daily movements and activities in our city.

It is less obvious, but we are also affected by what is perhaps the most remote of the governing bodies that play a part in matters that affect us: the United Nations.

Its Preamble says that “We the peoples of the United Nations” are determined to end the scourge of war, reaffirm faith in human rights and respect for international law, and promote social progress.

Our country is where the U.N. Charter was signed and where the General Assembly meets and the Secretary General and his staff have offices. As a permanent member of the Security Council (with a veto) and as the largest funder of U.N. operations and the largest contributor to peacekeeping, world health, development, and the campaign to mitigate the effects and slow the activity of climate change, we are guaranteed power on the world stage. We signed a treaty to join the U.N. and treaties, says our Constitution, are the supreme law of the land.

But the United Nations has no natural constituency, no group of people whose daily life is directly affected by what the U.N. does or does not do.

Eleanor Roosevelt recognized this fact, and after chairing the committee that wrote the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, she founded the United Nations Association and actively went about creating Chapters, including the one in Nebraska. She came to our state and through a friend in Lincoln found community leaders to become charter members.

The U.N. at its founding had bipartisan support, but we know that Republicans in power—alas!—often reject it, and that our current President has threatened to reduce its funding (and that of the State Department) and cut off funding to international programs of development.

So I am appealing to Democrats in Lancaster County: Join the UNA and become part of the constituency that supports U.S. engagement with the U.N.

The local chapter does three things.

- We educate ourselves about the U.N. and its current activities, priorities and relevance to our country and state.
- We are a part of the national United Nations Association of the USA, a program of the U.N. Foundation, and support its programs and advocacy efforts.
- We connect with local efforts to promote international engagement and highlight the importance of U.N. programs for the quality of life in our community.

So here is what I am asking:

- **Join the UNA.** If you are a student, membership is free. The introductory membership is $25 a year. Simply adding to our numbers makes our advocacy efforts stronger.
- **Come to our meetings.** You will meet other people who share your values and are dedicated to both our community and the efforts we share with the U.N.: refugee care and resettlement, joint efforts to slow climate change, response to epidemics and humanitarian crises; peace-keeping and peacemaking actions; human rights and women’s empowerment; poverty reduction and development.
- **Help us in our advocacy efforts.** We write letters, lobby locally and with our Congressional delegation.
- **Contribute to the support of local activities**, such as Model U.N. in colleges and schools.
- **Be involved in Chapter leadership and bring your friends to the effort.**
- **Take advantage of our national and international connections.** The United Nations Association of the USA is a program of the United Nations Foundation and its Better World Campaign. There is a yearly Leadership Summit in D.C. where you can hear U.N. and State Department people and other citizen and student international activists. There is a Members’ Day at the U.N. in New York City every year.

The UNA is non-partisan, so bring your Republican friends with you. The Web Site is [http://unausa.org/membership](http://unausa.org/membership). Contact me at 402-488-4258 or mshortt@inebraska.com.
Labor's Perspective

Race and Organized Labor
By John Kretzschmar

The United States is a nation dedicated to the credo that we are all created equal and endowed with inalienable rights. Every time we repeat the Pledge of Allegiance, we state that ours is “one nation with liberty and justice for all.”

Noble sentiments, around which we can unite “in the abstract.” A critical reading of American history reveals that the nation has had a hard time “walking that talk” of its founding ideals. Situated on land taken from its First People and built with the labor of Africans held in chattel slavery, these contradictions are often overlooked or dismissed by the dominant culture. When classes in high schools and colleges address the plight of marginalized people of all kinds, conservatives claim that such an examination of American history is an affront to the founding values. Choosing to ignore a reality, is an ineffective strategy for making that reality go away!

Organized labor is an institution built around a quote from Samuel Gompers that served as a mission statement for the American Federation of Labor. Gompers was asked, “What does labor want?” His reply is as critical to understanding what unions should be doing today as it was in the late 1890s. “What do we want? More schoolhouses and less jails; more books and less arsenals; more learning, less crime; more leisure, less greed; more justice, less revenge; in fact, more of the opportunities to cultivate our better natures.”

Organized labor, in my opinion, is our nation’s oldest, largest and most successful institution advocating for economic and social justice. However, that doesn’t mean that labor leaders haven’t fallen prey to the racial divides that existed in society. Labor leaders understand the most important word in the labor lexicon is solidarity. They also know that employers, employer associations, and their allies in elected office understand the concept of divide and conquer.

Current AFL-CIO president Richard Trumka put it this way back in 2008, “There’s no evil that’s inflicted more pain and more suffering than racism—and it’s something that we in the Labor Movement have a special responsibility to challenge. It’s our special responsibility because we know, better than anyone else, how racism is used to divide working people. We’ve seen how companies set worker against worker—how they throw whites a few extra crumbs off the table—and how it’s black and Latino workers who get the dirtiest, most dangerous jobs. But we’ve seen something else too. We’ve seen that when we cross that color line and stand together no one can keep us down.”

The AFL-CIO’s Labor Commission on Racial and Economic Justice was created in 2014 because, as the report says in Ferguson, Missouri, “Our brother killed our sister’s son.” It reported its findings just this year. They held meetings with labor leaders and members around the country. Their final report can be found at https://racial-justice.aflcio.org/.

The report notes that “Talking about race is challenging, and sometimes it is controversial. The entire subject makes many Americans uncomfortable.” And yet, we need to have these hard conversations. It is essential to building the kind of solidarity needed to create public policy that makes the American Dream available to everyone who sells her or his intelligence, experience, and strength to employers to earn a living.

Dr. King knew the importance of organized labor to increasing the ability of everyday wage earners to become all that they can be. He understood that in this great nation we all do better when we all do better. He summarized it this way, “The United States is substantially challenged to demonstrate that it can abolish not only racism but the scourge of poverty of whites as well as Negroes and the horrors of war that transcend national borders and involve all mankind.”

Each of us, inside and outside of the labor movement have an obligation to be difference makers, each in our own way. We need to keep our eye on our founding ideals, and work to make them the reality for generations to come.
The A Approach for Change
By Suzanne Jouvenat

The facts are hard to escape. Anger creates a shield to protect our fears. We are subjected to more arrows now with the House's health bill and the forecast of tax cuts for the very wealthy. In the maze of the President's shockers such as acceptance of tyrannical foreign leaders, continued soliloquy of tweets, televised speeches declaring contradictory facts, nepotism, hypocrisy of promises vs. actions and diffusion of negativity about our country, Trump perpetuates a collective angst among the very people he is elected to guide.

After reading Hillbilly Elegy, I began tuning in on television presentations of various discussions with citizen groups. They share their financial hardships, job losses, healthcare dilemmas and concerns over their children’s futures, to name a few. Therefore, I have been attempting to seek objectivity in how we all can be effective in our desire to stand for the good of all our nation’s inhabitants.

Again as a therapist, I seem to look at the microcosm for answers in the macrocosm. A few years ago I devised a four-fold plan of change for assessing personal issues: Awareness, Acceptance, Affirmations, and Action. My clients and I have found it is important to progress in a linear fashion from each aspect to the next and I think this may engender personal and collective control to be effective in the Lancaster County Democratic Party’s work for change.

Awareness is that ability to stop and look clearly at the current issues. I think most of you reading this have a rational sense of reality and are not only learning about the example of those points stated in the first paragraph, but are reading and aware of the concerns of all fellow humans in our country. Let us continue with this pursuit of facts from many reputable sources in order to illicit a sensible approach.

Acceptance is a quality that can save us from negative emotions and impulsive behaviors, i.e. speaking in anger to assert our thoughts. Part of the Serenity Prayer, “to accept the things I cannot change” provides the necessary space in our consciousness to think more clearly while incorporating facts without detrimental feelings.

Affirmations are the positive and true statements that are the anchor to continue on a steady and rational focus toward the goals we have made. For example, many of the signs I have seen at rallies for health care or women’s issues are strong affirmations. Women’s Rights are Human Rights or Make America Kind Again are among so many. As we personally and intentionally affirm within ourselves, we energize each other and the synergy of that positive power is an agency of change.

Action is the last of the four-fold plan of change. Due to our human experience it could seem this one to be the most important or requiring the most of ourselves. The very reason the other three are first is because the “doing” comes last. Having seen the many forms of Trump’s impulsive behaviors, our actions need to come from a thoughtful, planned perspective. Let us live Michelle Obama’s words, “When they go low we go high” and choose to act from a strength deep within the human spirit. The actions we effect will have germinated from a broad awareness, been digested to an acceptance, assimilated for strength through affirmation and then conclude in empowered action!

The current “buzz” is to resist the Trump regime and definitely is another way to protest. The Resistance in WW II was vitally important. Yet, as we look to Gandhi, Jesus and Martin Luther King, Jr., there is a profound and powerful force for change that emerges from within the human mind, emotions, will and spirit. The “passive resistance” movement shares in the above A Approach as a means of using our whole self. It is not just a “means to an end,” as we observe in Trump’s motivations. Self-Accountability, (another A word!), can hopefully provide the means to a new paradigm. Each one of us are responsible for our choices because they have the potential to pave the way to a rational citizenry.

Watchful Citizen

In case you haven’t discovered the County Party TV show on community access TV, check us out! The show airs on cable channel 13, at 10:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, and 12:30 p.m. on Saturdays.

And check our video archive on YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/LancasterCountyDems.
Election Night Victory Party

Pictures on these two pages were taken at the Election Night Victory Party, held May 2, 2017, at the Single Barrel restaurant. Congratulations to Leirion Gaylor Baird, Bennie Shobe, Zachary James, Kathy Danek, Barbara Baier, and Don Mayhew on your Election Night victories!
Leirion Gaylor Baird, Lincoln City Council

Kathy Danek, Lincoln Board of Education

Bennie Shobe, Lincoln City Council

Don Mayhew, Lincoln Board of Education

Zachary Mora James, Lincoln Airport Authority

Some of our youthful volunteers. Thanks!
Support the Lancaster County Democrats today!

Name: _____________________________________________________ Date: ________________
Address: ___________________________________________________________
City: __________________________ State: ______ Zip: ________________
Home Phone: __________ Work Phone: __________ E-mail: ____________________________
Occupation: __________________________ Employer: __________________________________________
I would also like to volunteer: ______ Prepare Mailings _______ Phone Banking _______ GOTV
I prefer to get my newsletter (please check one): ______ via e-mail or ______ via US mail.

Please also consider a donation to the Lancaster County Democratic Party.
Your donation helps support party activities including Get Out The Vote efforts,
candidate support services, political forums and the Lancaster County Democrat.

_______ Sustaining Donor (Monthly Donation – credit card authorization)
I hereby authorize the Lancaster County Democratic Party to charge the credit card below $_______ each month.
Signature __________________________________________________________

_______ One-time Donation (credit card authorization)
I hereby authorize the Lancaster County Democratic Party to charge the credit card below for a one-time donation of $______.
Signature __________________________________________________________

_______ Electronic Donation via ActBlue
I am sending a separate electronic donation via the County Party’s ActBlue account:
https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/lancaster-county--ne--democrats-1

_______ Check or Money Order Enclosed, payable to Lancaster County Democratic Party
Make check or money order payable to Lancaster County Democratic Party or charge to:
_______ VISA _______ MasterCard # __________________________ Exp. Date _______
Please return this form to the Lancaster County Democratic Party, PO Box 83213, Lincoln NE 68501-3213.