

Meet Our Candidates



Jim Gordon Announces Bid for Legislature

Jim Gordon, a longtime community advocate and leader, U.S. Army veteran, attorney, and mediator, announced that he will seek election to the Legislature's District 25. The district, which includes parts of east Lincoln, Waverly, Walton and northern Lancaster County, is currently represented by Sen. Kathy Campbell, who is term limited and unable to run for re-election.



"I was born here, raised my family here, and have worked in many civic organizations to make our community a better place for families and businesses," said Gordon. "I believe the work I have done in the roles I have performed have prepared me well to represent the citizens of our community in the Nebraska Legislature.

"I am running for election to the Legislature because I care a great deal about our community and about the people who live here. I believe that serving as their state senator is a most effective way to continue my efforts to improve the quality of life for the people of our state and community. This dedication to service is part and parcel of my DNA.

"My paternal grandfather came to Lancaster County more than 130 years ago. My father lived here his entire life and my mother Sally Gordon served two Nebraska governors and then the Legislature as an Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms for 27 years—until she retired when she was 102 years old.

"My parents set sterling examples for me. I have a strong commitment to serving my community and a record of doing so. I look forward to continuing that work as a representative of District 25, and to visiting with voters to discuss the issues they care most about," said Gordon.

Gordon worked for the Burlington Railroad before serving in the U.S. Army. He was awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge for his participation in more than 30 combat assaults. Gordon was wounded in Vietnam in 1967, for which he was awarded the Purple Heart. He spent 17 months in the hospital recovering from those wounds.

In 1969, Gordon returned to UNL, earned his Bachelor's Degree in 1972 and a Juris Doctor Degree with distinction in 1974. He entered the private practice of law 42 years ago as a Certified Senior Law Student in 1973. He also served the Nebraska Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association, and the Nebraska Grocers Association, as their legislative lobbyist during the late 1970s and early 1980s.

"I am a strong supporter of our legislative process," said Gordon. "I believe Nebraskans showed considerable foresight when they created our nonpartisan Legislature. As a practicing mediator, I will bring a willingness—and the ability—to listen to what others have to say on any issue. My goal will always be to develop a consensus on workable solutions to the problems we are facing in our community and our state."

Helping to create good jobs for Nebraskans is a top priority, Gordon said. "Making education—including community college and technical training—available and affordable to all Nebraskans is key to prosperity for our citizens and for our communities."

Gordon said his priorities include providing to law enforcement the tools they need to crack down on illegal drugs, keeping our children and communities safe,

providing property tax relief, and enacting policies which support job creation and businesses in and for Nebraska.

Gordon has been active in numerous civic organizations, including: The Child Advocacy Center, former President and Board Member; Make a Wish Foundation of America, former National President and Chair of Board; America's Charities, Board of Directors; Lincoln Children's Zoo Foundation, former President; The Mediation Center, President and Chair of the Board; Better Business Bureau Arbitration Panel; Legal Aid of Nebraska, President and Chairman of the Board; Lancaster County Budget Monitoring Committee; Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, former Chair of the Transportation Committee; former Chair of Friends of Parks, Trails and Children's Zoo, City-Wide Bond Issue Committee; former Chair, State Foster Care Review Board; Friends of the Classroom Committee, LPS; Leadership Lincoln, former President and Board of Directors; Nebraskans for Public Television, Board of Directors; Lincoln Northeast Rotary's Outstanding Citizen Award 1997; Sertoma International's 1996 Service to Mankind Award; American Legion Post No. 3, Legal Advisor, American Legion Cornhusker Boys State 1993; Disabled American Veterans, life member; Nebraska V.F.W. Post 10617, life member; Nebraska State Bar Association; Lincoln Bar Association; Nebraska State Bar Foundation, lifetime fellow; former Chair of the Advisory Council to the Office of Dispute Resolution (Nebraska Supreme Court Appointment).

For more information, contact Jim Gordon at 402-438-2500 or info@votejimgordon.com.
Website: votejimgordon.com.

The Watchful Citizen

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

As of press time, the current guest on the show is State Senator Ken Haar (21st Legislative District); beginning in mid-September our guest is scheduled to be State Senator Patty Pansing Brooks (28th Legislative District).

And check our video archive on Youtube:

<http://www.youtube.com/LancasterCountyDems>

Meet Our Candidates

BRINKMAN FOR LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD CAMPAIGN MOVING FORWARD



On Tuesday, August 25th, the Brinkman for Lancaster County Board campaign held its official kickoff. I'm grateful to all who were in attendance and those who have contacted me since my announcement expressing their support for my candidacy. I am thrilled to have the support and endorsement of many Democratic elected officials including:

Mayor Chris Beutler
County Commissioner Bill Avery
Councilwoman Leirion Gaylor Baird
Councilman Carl Eskridge
Councilwoman Jane Raybould
Senator Kate Bolz
Senator Ken Haar
Senator Adam Morfeld
LPS Board of Education members Kathy Danek, Don Mayhew and Annie Mumgaard
Airport Authority Board Member Anna Wishart
NRD Board Member Deb Eagan

and many other former Democratic elected officials.

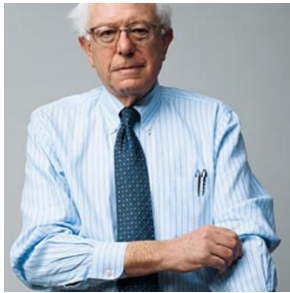
Our campaign is up and running and I'll be walking door to door throughout the district throughout the fall. For more information about the campaign, please visit jenniferbrinkman.com.

I will need the support of many to be successful next November. You can use the website to contact me about issues important to you or indicate your willingness to volunteer or make a donation.

I look forward to working with the members of the Lancaster County Democratic Party during the next 15 months. My sincere thanks to everyone who has helped me to date.

Meet Our Candidates

Why Bernie Sanders?



Why Bernie? You know he can't win? Isn't he the "socialist?"

These are the questions every "Berniever" hears many times a week, and to each one different answers are given. The answers really get down to the person giving

them. Why that individual, that voter, that citizen has decided to feel the Bern. So let's get into a few of mine.

If I had to say why Bernie, it would simply be this, "I fear very much that for the first time in the modern history of our country the next generation will have a lower standard of living than their parents, and that would be a real tragedy." When he said this in '06, our family was getting ready to welcome our first child into the world. Here was a guy who gets it, because that's what we were already worrying about. "The Wars," or whatever you would like to call them—Citizens United, the trade policies, equal rights for all Americans, SSI, Veterans, education, a living wage, ongoing racial tensions—he gets it. Not only talking it, but walking it for years. He wants us all to get it and fix it.

But, you still know he can't win? Actually no, I do believe Bernie not only can win the party's nomination, but firmly believe he would trounce any Republican if we continue to Bern it up. Truth be told, in dark corners, most supporters 9 weeks ago thought he could come close in Iowa and New Hampshire, but as his actual name recognition grows, his numbers do as well. Now we are focused on winning, not only the FOTN but, caucuses and primaries across this country. We are the "little people" and we are "thinking big." People vote; dollars don't. Bernie Sanders can win.

Best for last. Isn't he a "socialist?" Well yes, he is a self-described "Democratic Socialist." I'm not going to bore you with European countries or what that means. But you know what? The roads, our police/fire departments, public libraries/schools/parks, SSI, Medicaid, our state's electricity—all socialist programs. What so many don't step back and realize is that in reality our very lives work through and with socialist programs every day. We don't see the corn through the rows. Let's be honest here folks, it's not like Bernie Sanders and Vladimir Putin are going to be seen skiing together anytime soon.

So if you want to know more about Bernie Sanders you can go to www.BernieSanders.com

or, find out how Nebraskans are helping www.facebook.com/NEforBernie and [@NEforBernie2016](https://twitter.com/NEforBernie2016) on Twitter.

Signed,

A Nebraskan for Bernie Sanders

Meet Our Elected Officials

How and Why Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts were Created

By Ann Bleed, Lower Platte South Natural Resources District Board Member



I have been reading about the formation of our country and the writing of the constitution in the books, *The Quartet, Orchestrating the Second American Revolution 1783-1789* by Joseph Ellis, who describes the contributions of John Jay, James Madison, Thomas Jefferson, and Alexander Hamilton to the writing of our constitution, and in David

McCullough's biography of John Adams, both excellent reads. Two themes stand out in my mind: the incredible thoughtfulness, hard work, sacrifice, and leadership of these men; and the importance of establishing local control, both as a country, separate from Great Britain, and as a state, separate from the federal government of the United States. The importance of having good leaders and the desire to maintain local control were also major factors leading to the creation of Nebraska's natural resources districts (NRDs). As many already know, the NRDs are a unique governmental institution. No other state, and I think, no other country has developed such a natural resources governance institution.

In 1895 Nebraska passed a statewide law regulating the use of surface water, but until the drought and dust bowl of the thirties, resource management was not a big issue. However, because of the loss of soil during the dirty thirties, in 1937 under federal authority of federal soil conservation legislation, passed in 1935, the Nebraska Legislature established local soil conservation districts. However, even though these were locally controlled districts, there was still strong opposition to giving these districts regulatory and taxing power. In 1937 *The Nebraska Farmer* magazine editor denounced the legislation as "a good example of the radical revolutionary ideas for government planning a la Russia, originating in the minds of Washington officials." Thus these districts had little power and limited taxing authority.

Nevertheless the local-control model was used by the Legislature to cope with a large number of other natural resource issues, such as flooding and drainage control. By the 1960s there were over 22 sections of the Nebraska statutes that created over 500 locally controlled authorities to manage Nebraska's natural resources. Warren Fairchild, the Executive Director of the State Soil and Water Conservation Association called this situation "districtitis." There were lots of overlapping authorities, but also gaps, and for the most part the districts did not have sufficient power, will-power, or resources to successfully address the state's natural resources problems.

With the leadership of Fairchild, Governor "Nobbie" Tiemann, Senator Maurice Kremer, Clayton Yeutter, and many, many other State and local conservationists, meetings were held, bills were drafted, and finally in 1972 a law was passed and Nebraska's natural resources districts were created. Even up to the last minute, there was opposition and everything was put on hold by a lawsuit contesting the constitutionality of the new law. Just in time, the Nebraska Supreme Court declared the law to be constitutional and Nebraska's locally controlled natural resource districts became a reality.

Our state owes a great deal to these conservation leaders and to their desire to create an effective locally-controlled natural resource governance institution. We also owe a lot to the many NRD board members and staff who have shown similar kinds of leadership to make the NRDs an effective part of our natural resource management and governance. To meet the considerable challenges of the future, we will continue to need dedicate natural resource leaders both in state and local government. I am greatly encouraged, because I see many such young leaders, many of whom are Democrats.

Labor's Perspective

Labor Day 2015

By John Kretzschmar

Labor Day is our only national holiday dedicated to everyday wage earners and how their many contributions make this a great nation. It became a national holiday in 1894 during the Gilded Age—a time of extremes. It was an era noted for its Robber Barons, Huddled Masses, and not much in between. It was a time when Robber Baron Jay Gould, who once owned the Union Pacific Railroad, bragged that he could "hire one half of the working class to kill the other," and William Henry Vanderbilt, the self-described richest man on earth noted, "The railroads are not run for the benefit of

the dear public. That cry is all nonsense. They are built for men who invest their money and expect to get a fair percentage on the same."

Labor unions were essential to modifying a greed-driven economy to find ways to make it work and benefit more than just the economic elite of our nation.

Unions became this nation's first successful anti-poverty programs. Organized labor provided the ladders for exploited workers to use in climbing out of poverty and into the middle class. Susan B. Anthony encouraged women to form labor unions. Anthony wrote in *The Revolution*, a women's suffrage newspaper, "Join the union, girls, and together say Equal Pay for Equal Work."

Most people don't know the history of how the modern employment relationship was humanized as we moved out of the Gilded Age, but if they did, they'd recognize that every step on the way to humanization was taken with the support of the American labor movement.

Whenever I make that statement in conversation, people wonder why employers weren't the leading force in making things better for their workforces. After all, employers refer to their workforce as "human resources" which some claim is their most important asset. Unfortunately in the real world, publicly traded corporations exist to maximize short-term profits for their investors. In fact, they compete with other publicly traded companies to attract investors, and all things being equal, return on investment (ROI) for better or worse will determine whether institutional investors buy or sell a company's stock.

That completion to attract and retain investors reduces all the costs of doing business; everything from labor costs to taxation are examined 24/7 to see where reductions can be made in the never ending attempt to please investors. Because each employee right and safeguard directly and indirectly increases the cost of doing business, each was vigorously opposed by employers, employer associations and their allies in elected office.

Today's labor movement, while smaller than at any time since the 1920s, can look back and know that coming out of the 1920s it grew because it worked consistently to become an institution advocating for economic and social justice. It did that by acting in ways that showed it was a champion of everyone who sells her or his intelligence, experience and strength to earn a living.

Sidney Hillman was the first president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, and was a close ally of President Franklin Roosevelt. It was during this period when Hillman stated, "We want a better America, an America that will give its citizens, first of all, a higher and higher standard of living so that no child will cry for food in the midst of plenty."

Today's AFL-CIO is looking at the roadblocks to economic and racial justice and has created a Commission on Racial and Economic Justice. The Commission will launch a series of internal conversations in the labor movement about how racism weakens the collective power of all wage earners to create more fair and just workplaces and communities. This important step forward may prove crucial to building the solidarity required to make a difference in communities large and small all across the nation.

Growing Nebraska's Economy

By Congressman Brad Ashford, Nebraska's 2nd Congressional District

Growing up in a small business family meant a heavy reliance on the ability to plan ahead. From monitoring sales trends to knowing when to go to the bank, my parents monitored and planned everything. Today, when I talk to small business owners across Omaha, I hear the same story. In order to thrive, businesses need to be able to plan ahead—down to every last detail.



On June 30, the Export-Import Bank expired. In failing to reauthorize the Bank, Congress robbed our small businesses of the opportunity to plan. The Export-Import Bank has been in business for 80 years and has been reauthorized under every President and Congress, Republican and Democratic. The Bank provides loans to businesses which would like to purchase large and expensive American-made goods and services. Additionally, the Bank can provide American companies assurances that they will get paid from foreign buyers, by requiring the buyers to sign a legally binding contract with the United States government. These loans will be repaid with interest which ensures there is no cost to the taxpayer.

Additionally, the Export-Import Bank, which has helped create 1.3 million American jobs since 2009, has cut the federal deficit by \$7 billion over the last 20 years. That's right. The Bank does not cost American taxpayers money; instead it helps to reduce the deficit.

Small businesses across Nebraska account for \$841 million in exports in partnership with the Export-Import bank. Now that the Bank has expired, many of these businesses have lost the ability to plan and face

uncertainty in the coming months. The questions linger: How much of their product will be sold? Which materials to purchase? How many employees can they keep? It's every business owner's fear—shelves overstocked with no incoming business. Such a scenario can spell financial disaster for employer and employee alike.

Critics of Export-Import Bank reauthorization contend that the bank is a form of corporate welfare. I disagree.

Helping Nebraska's small businesses compete against foreign companies levels the playing field. China, for example, has state-supported businesses that compete directly with small businesses in Omaha. In 2013 and 2014, the Chinese Export-Import bank provided more government financing than the United States Export-Import Bank has in over 80 years of existence.¹ When 96 percent of the economic capital rests outside our borders, it is unfair to hinder businesses attempting to sell overseas. Critics point to big companies like Boeing Airlines, stating they get the majority of the assistance. Perhaps those armchair pundits haven't seen how airlines are made, like I have. An airliner is built from hundreds, if not thousands, of parts manufactured by small businesses. From the locks to the seatbelts, each part has to come from somewhere, and many of them are coming from right here. A loan is certainly not a handout, as anyone with a mortgage can tell you.

Working to foster an environment in which Nebraska businesses can be more competitive in the global marketplace is a chief goal of mine in Congress. I embrace all opportunities to ensure that small businesses succeed. I'll continue to raise awareness and support the reauthorization of the Export-Import bank. You can plan on it.

Columnist

Veterans' Health Care

By Dayle Williamson

The constant struggle for improvement of veterans' health care between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Congress continues. It is well known that mismanagement issues for veterans' health care have been centered on the Veterans Administration. However, it seems a little less is known about how unwilling both the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees have been to work together to provide solutions to at least some of the stated problems. Complaints seem to abound rather than working together on solutions.



The latest brouhaha started in mid-July 2015 when the Department of Veterans Affairs announced that because of its inability to budget, VA hospitals around the country would be shutting down in August. This short notice caused even greater strained relations with House and Senate members. Fortunately, after much consternation, the rescue started on July 29, 2015. On that date, the House passed the Surface Transportation and Veterans Health Care Choice Improvement Act (HR 3236) with a vote of 385 ayes and 34 nays.

The Senate took similar action on July 30, 2015 with a vote of 91 in favor. Senator Ben Sasse of Nebraska was one of the Senators who voted against restoring funding. Senator Jerry Moran of Kansas, a very influential member of the Senate Veteran Affairs Committee, skipped voting on the measure and had this to say, "It's another instance of the VA telling Congress, the Veterans Committees and others about how, if we give them money, it would be spent, and then it is a different plan once we give them money."

Even with this overwhelming support to avoid hospital closures before the end of the fiscal year, it seems obvious that a cooperative spirit will be hard to obtain. Surely members of Congress do recognize the extraordinary demand on VA resources. Congress has improved funding for the Veterans Administration over the past several years and more veterans are coming to the VA for care. According to the Department, the VA completed more than 56.2 million appointments between June 1, 2014 and May 31, 2015. This represents an increase of 2.6 million more appointments than were completed during the same time period in 2013/2014. The VA made over 3 million authorizations for veterans

to receive care in the private sector from June 1, 2014 through June 15, 2015.

The increase in veterans' requirements for health care is unprecedented. The cost to provide the health care is also unprecedented. The costs are at an all-time high as a result of fighting two wars for over a decade and caring for the many injured who are returning from those wars. Caring for aging veterans from other wars is also increasing costs. Payments cannot be delayed. The men and women who have served their country faithfully deserve better from their elected representatives. Cooperation is essential and the constant bickering solves little.

Columnist

The T Effect

By Suzanne Jouvenat



The T Effect: what in the world is that? I hesitate to say his name but I think you know of whom I speak. In this brief essay I wish to present some universal Positives for empowerment as a Nation because of this phenomenon in the current political system.

The only reason leaders can exist is if and when the "People" follow them. In order to have the Following, there must be a Need in the People that has not been fulfilled and is frustrated. *Therefore: the People, the Need, the Leader, the Following.*

Seeking to understand how certain Leaders receive the attention and the Following, as a mental health, addiction, family and couples' therapist, my view leads me into exploration to seek the core of the issue. Thus, it is natural for me to seek a deeper perspective of the apparent outer manifestations and immediate responses occurring in this highly charged political environment.

Those of us living in America and within the system of U.S. Laws and the moral underpinnings of our society often feel caught and even confused in the extreme busyness of daily demands. We do not have the time to read all views of the political spectrum, study up on economics, and investigate into legal issues that prevent or allow certain practices. We know what we know. Most often that has to do with the microcosm of our cultural sphere, i.e., my family, my finances, my faith, my lifestyle, my world. This precludes others not in our immediate cultural environment.

It is understandable how People would more or less latch onto a voice appearing to comprehend their concerns and anger. Unfortunately, the dominant close historical memory of a negative Leader with Followers is the example of the Germanic one from WW II.

If we simply isolated the mood from the financial culture in Europe at the time of his rise, one could superficially point to a possible reason he initially dominated the People's psyche. Currently, the People's sense of their stagnant fiscal mobility could be loosely compared. Relevant to everyone's level of studies in history, one could note others who have had charismatic effects, cleverly and expediently speaking to the Needs projected by the People.

At the moment The T Effect is not positioning to exterminate others but perhaps does question a particular group's ability to live and work in the USA. The analogy of the charismatic Leader and the fascinated Followers is hopefully to provide a reality arousal. It is to achieve an understanding of the vital importance to embrace the contrasts that make America so exceptional; maybe even to internalize the amazing and astonishing differences. Just as in Family Systems Therapy, this System is a great Nation of individual members who deserve their varied feelings, abilities, dreams, desires, wants and certainly fears to be validated.

As I tell my clients, everything that occurs in our lives is for our learning and ultimate growth. As I see it, there are antidotes to transcend any seeming problems and the most powerful is our Thinking! The T Effect phenomenon now occurring in this country can have remedies. *The T Transformations: Teaching away Ignorance, Honor Truth and Trust in Equality.*

Our society is global, yet the everyday citizen lives locally. Hard work, extensive hours laboring to provide for the family (Americans work the most hours of any developed country), and limited energy or time to research or seek for facts, often keeps the People in the grind. Our mindset of some fun in the day can become the "reality shows," no-time-or-energy-to cook "take out," text-tweet-snapchat or, a Facebook /e-mail diversion.

Having had the opportunity to live in Europe and Africa for about 15 years, I may have some different perspectives, yet I honestly love the USA and feel passionate about Her being the best She can be! We are a driven people whose outward independent spirit can often fall prey to conformity without even realizing. In other words, we call ourselves "independent" and may need to see ourselves more as another word: "stubborn." As I tell my clients, "Life is change; how well we handle that change determines our success or failure." Pertinent to this discussion of a stubborn or self-important society is another shocking outcome in The T Effect. The macrocosm mimics the microcosm in the therapeutic

area of "healthy communication." Blatant incivility common by Leaders in the media would not be allowed when working with a couple or group in my office. We discuss *disagreeing agreeably in counseling of ALL ages (even with Kindergarteners when I did school counseling!)*.

What is the answer for the above stubbornness, self-centeredness, inability to change, incivility, lack of time, energy or desire to see others' perspectives? I wish it were as simple as group therapy!

As an educator for 12 years, I see we are a smart People. We need validation for our lives. The Leader's placating pronouncements transfix People confirming their fears while offering words of promise to provide the change. The People feel comforted and connect with the Leader. Overall, Americans want to feel safe and have hope.

I view each individual as autonomous and endowed with free will. Therefore, my response to the above picture is to provide humble guidance and paths to truth. The T Transformation remedy is to Teach away Ignorance by educating with pertinent unbiased knowledge for self-discovery. It could eventually lead to the criteria for a great country of a "rational citizenry" as stated by John Locke. Teaching the People how to speak out from an educated perspective as well as to value varied views is the T of honoring Truth.

Throughout all of recorded time, the poor and underprivileged have been with us. As the People with Needs become more globally aware, more enlightened, more cognizant of the One Planet mentality, awareness of the unfairness in certain systems is emerging. The global economy and, to a lesser extent, the connections with the rest of the world's governments dictate material dealings of the Globe.

Fear, greed and prejudices of all kinds often appear to be the engines running American society, thus stimulating a clamor of injustice. Some align with the Following. Many are reacting in agreement with a recognition of the Need for financial fairness. Some desire equity for the races, religions, mentally ill, gender identity, handicapped, and other preferences.

Thus, the People are looking for transformation so they can connect to a sentiment reflective of their own. The T Transformation provides hope that someone is hearing "me," understanding my feelings of not being supported by my government. Or not allowed to follow my preference. Or not validated in the years I have been a part of the American culture, even if my parents came here years ago illegally.

Trust can replace skepticism in the ability for Washington to act. The T Transformation of Trust can be renewed. As in building trust through relationships, we first build trust within self through self-efficacy and empowerment. Always looking to someone else for trust breeds contempt and distrust. Thus Teach and Truth lead

to Trust. When the “core” is secure, we will be following our inner knowledge to voice the Needs of all People to be fairly managed by the Leader.

Teach, Truth, Trust. I desire to see the real T Effect be a learning experience to enhance my America into the T Transformation. We as a People can grapple with our growth toward healthy empowerment: *Teach away the Ignorance, Honor the Truth of who we are as a Nation and Trust ourselves to stretch beyond the singular self to embrace an all-inclusive America.*

Why the United Nations Association?

By Bob Haller

In June Marcella and I crossed K Street in Washington DC, a couple of blocks north of the White House. I can report that, much to our surprise, we saw no marquee advertising “Luxurious Office full of Lobbyists” on every building. As it happens, we ourselves were headed for the United Nations Foundation building at 1750 Pennsylvania Avenue, where, on the 12th floor balcony, the view to the east is blocked by the West Wing. Not a TV show set; the real thing. Talk about big lobbyists!

The UNF building was constructed with funds provided by Nebraska’s biggest bison farmer, Ted Turner, who is said to have approached Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary General, at a UNA Leadership Dinner, asking how he could help the UN with the \$1,000,000,000 he had lying around. “You can’t” said the SG: the UN cannot accept contributions from individuals. “How best could I use this billion to help the UN?” Ted came back. “Build support for the UN among the citizens of your country,” he was told. And so he founded the UN Foundation. In the UNF is the Better World Fund, dedicated to lobbying support of the UN.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Association, founded in the 1950s by Eleanor Roosevelt and friends, was in a financial crisis. Its annual leadership dinner for big donors was not bringing in the usual revenue and membership was growing smaller with every generation. So it accepted the invitation from UNF and its board to become “a program of the United Nations Foundation.”

That’s why now the Better World Campaign, the lobbying arm of UNF, sets up at the UNA national meetings an opportunity for members to meet with their Senators and Representatives the day after the meetings. The BWC is one of the few NGOs dedicated to lobbying for the UN; the UNA is the only citizen’s organization with that as its mission.

Lobbying for the UN means, specifically, asking our country to pay in full its assessment for the support of UN administration; asking for full funding of UN Peacekeeping; asking for full funding of the State Department’s international budget, which includes

support for our mission to the UN as well as for the refugee, medical and development programs. It means also seeking Senate “advice and consent” on the UN treaties negotiated, signed but not ratified by the U.S., treaties on the rights of the disabled; the elimination of discrimination against women, and the law of the seas. Specifically, the UN lives on the dues of its members. The agencies of the UN depend on contributions from UN members—193 sovereign nations of the world—to carry their missions: peacekeeping, care and resettlement of refugees, response to epidemics, preservation of cultural treasures, development loans among them.

The UNA has other missions: educating its members and the public on international issues; supporting Global Classrooms and Model United Nations; encouraging contributions to UNICEF and participation in Shot@Life, Girl Up and Nothing but Nets, programs of the UNF. But its ultimate purpose is to demonstrate to Senators and members of Congress that there are citizens who care.

The UNA is non-partisan; its Executive Secretary is a registered Republican, for instance. But the current membership is largely made up of registered Democrats and Independents. But don’t let that stop you from joining. You can email unanebraska@gmail.com; go to our website unanebraska.org; or go directly to <http://unausa.org/membership/join-una-usa>. Or call me at 402-730-0296.

Mount Denali

By Dayle Williamson



I am all for the Alaska Native people and changing the name of North America’s tallest mountain from Mount McKinley to Mount Denali. In early August I had the opportunity to tour part of the six-million acre Denali National Park and had the wonderful opportunity to see the 20,320 foot high Mount McKinley from two sides. I must have been lucky as Alaskan’s claim that only 30 percent of the tourists that take in the sights in this area get to see Mount McKinley as it is normally shrouded in clouds.

I was also most fortunate to have breakfast with a most humble gentleman who had climbed Mount McKinley 30 years ago. He told about his setbacks and it actually took him four weeks to make the climb. But everywhere you went, the Alaska people would talk about their desire to bring back the original name of the mountain, Mount Denali. I was totally surprised to learn this debate and desire to rename had been going on for 40 years.

Here we have a mountain, named after the 25th President, who hadn't even gained the presidency when it was named. President McKinley never even traveled to Alaska, probably in small part because it was not a state until 1959. Checking a little more on President McKinley, his preference was staying close to home and campaigning from his front porch in Canton, Ohio.

So why has this renaming been stopped for 40 years? The Ohio Congressional delegation gets all out of sorts when Alaskans ask for the change. And this is happening at this very time. Ohio's two U.S. Senators really went wild the same day President Obama announced the name change. And you got exactly what one would expect from Speaker John A. Boehner, saying "I'm deeply disappointed in this decision." Even Carl Rove got in the fray by noting, "It would say something about the president if he found a gracious way to honor his forebear." The charge of course being the president is exceeding his executive authority!

The former Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska started the effort, later followed by Senator Lisa Murkowski, who has been working on this legislative change for years and now seems very pleased that the executive branch got it accomplished. I must admit, I came back to Nebraska determined this change was important. But, I did not do a thing about it, never even discussed the idea with my neighbors. Then all at once on Sunday, August 23, 2015 just three weeks after I had observed Mount McKinley in all of its splendor, the name had changed.

As President Obama made his three day tour to Alaska, I understand there was a chalkboard outside the entrance to Darkhorse Coffee, a café in downtown Anchorage declaring, "It's Denali, Thank you, Mr. President."



Behind the Scenes at the County Party TV Show

Here are a few snapshots of the crew that puts together our County Party TV Show, *The Watchful Citizen*. We aim for studio sessions on Sunday afternoons every two weeks, and you're welcome to volunteer; however, the studio requires all volunteers who will be using the equipment to take a one-hour training session. If you would be interested in helping us out with the show, or even if you think you might be interested but don't want to commit at this time, contact the County Party at 402-476-2268 and leave a message for Jim Johnson, Chair of the Communications Committee. Come join us!



Lancaster County
Democratic Party
P.O. Box 83213
Lincoln NE 68501-3213
402-476-2268
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