

DONKEY TRACKS

NOVEMBER, 2023

#bluetothe core

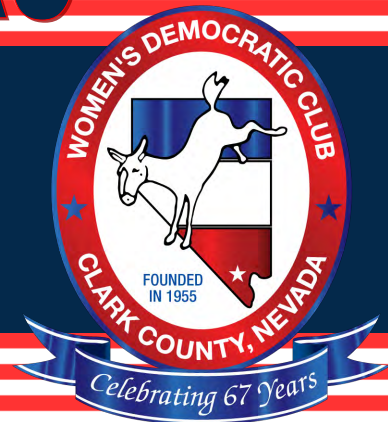
Visit our web site at:

www.womensdemo.com

Women's Democratic Club of Clark County



@womensdemocc



Marla Turner
President



Rhonda Nolen
1st Vice President



Margie Gonzales
2nd Vice President



Dawn Dudas,
Treasurer



ShaRhonda Ramos
Corresponding Secretary



Mary Ella Holloway
Recording Secretary



Ida Gaines
Inspirationalist

**Women's Demo
Wishes You**



**A
Happy
Thanksgiving**

A Message from the President

WOW! What a great Spotlight Dinner we just had! As my friend Sandy Eddy used to say, "I love me a room full of Democrats!" and that's what we had – a packed house full of great Democrats honoring some outstanding public servants.

An event of that size is only made possible by many hands. All of the staff at the Westgate Hotel – from the valet to the executive team - were outstanding. The ballroom was beautiful, and the dinner was excellent.



We had volunteers from Moms Demand Action working check-in, veterans from our brother Democratic clubs doing security, and Young Democrats were the runners for our silent auction. Women's Demo members Sharifa Wahab and Mary Hickey provided ushering and floor monitoring, and Margie Gonzales steered audience members into the reception and silent auction area. Our one-of-a-kind quilt made up of campaign shirts from Nevada's first-in-the-nation female majority legislature sold for \$2,100!

The Spotlight Committee consisted of Barbara Aupperle, Dawn Dudas, Tom Edwards, Ida Gaines, Karen Kretchmar, Senator Roberta Lange, Rita Ransom, and me. Husbands and children helped, too! And the person who steered the ship, bringing all the many moving parts together, was our extraordinary Spotlight Committee Chair Judy Klein. Thank you all for your hard work!

With the Spotlight Dinner behind us and our final meeting of 2023 just in front of us, I am reflecting back over the past year and thinking about what comes next. Thanks to the 2023 Spotlight Dinner and the one we will hold in 2024, there will be a substantial amount of money to donate to candidates. Additionally, in 2023, we:

- Created a diverse board composed of Asian, Black, Hispanic, and White members.
- Exceeded our goal of recruiting 35% new members.
- Became an active member of the Clark County Democratic Party's Club and Caucus Activism Team.
- Gave the Renee Diamond scholarship to two students this year, with one being our first male recipient.
- Went to digital communications, allowing us to send out group emails faster, track their progress, and know right away if an email address bounced or unsubscribed.
- Alternated meetings between lunchtime and evening hours to better serve our working members.
- Participated in community events.

Our final meeting of 2023 will be on November 9th when we will meet for lunch at Bahama Breeze and hear from Moms Demand Action about gun safety in Nevada. In December, we will hold our annual holiday party and in January, we will be back to business as usual. I look forward to seeing you there!

My best to you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marla". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Marla Turner, President
Women's Democratic Club of Clark County



**WOMEN'S
DEMOCRATIC
CLUB OF CLARK
COUNTY**

Talking Gun Sense in the Silver State

GUEST SPEAKERS: MOMS DEMAND ACTION

**NOVEMBER 9, 2023
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM**

Bahama Breeze
375 Hughes Center Dr.
Las Vegas, NV 89169

Members - \$30
Non-Members - \$40

**RESERVE YOUR
SEAT TODAY**

bit.ly/3RyjWLI



Hear from Jamie Bunnell and the Nevada Chapter of Moms Demand Action about legislation that has taken place, legislation that failed, and what's next for gun safety in Nevada.



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB
OF CLARK COUNTY'S ANNUAL

*Holiday Party
& Potluck*

SATURDAY

DECEMBER 9, 2023

5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Location and address information
provided one week before event

RSVP here: <https://bit.ly/3Pys6RJ>

Carol's Corner

By Carol Chesnut



Thanksgiving:

Why I Am So Grateful For You!

You are the people who care, the folks who work hard to promote the common good, the ideal of a peaceful law respecting citizenry who understand that that which harms one harms all of us. You work to spread knowledge, to inculcate values which support a caring community and to insure that no one goes hungry or homeless, or in pain.

You are brave. You do this work while facing down those who try to make good people quit to protect themselves and their families from all the threats and vilification so bigots and scofflaws can take over our institutions and destroy them. You protect our communities and environment so all creatures great and small may thrive and prosper. The preservation of all things of true value is your life's work.

You are the compassionate, the folks who treat other humans in the way you would want to be treated, who eschew cruelty and greed and graft. You are not the greedy, grasping grifters who cheat others and destroy lives.

I embrace the caring community we share, and I support it in all the ways I still can. May you live in a world that shares your values and your ethics!

To each one of you I wish a very warm Thanksgiving full of loving family and friends and a life filled with the gratitude of your community for all the good work that you do! Live long and prosper!

Sharing Our Legacy

By Judy Klein



We just concluded a very successful Spotlight Dinner. When I say, "It takes a village," I am not overstating the value of each and every member of our Spotlight Committee and all our volunteers that brought this Event to fruition.

Without the members who gave their time, energy, and ideas, none of this was possible. My thanks to Barbara Aupperle, Dawn Dudas, Tom Edwards, Ida Gaines, Karen Kretchmar, Senator Roberta Lange, Rita Ransom and our President, Marla Turner. Just thank you doesn't seem to be enough. Without you, there wouldn't be a Spotlight. The many meetings, plans, and running here and there to get what we needed to the day of the Event, you never stopped! You are all amazing!

I would like to thank our young Democrats Katie Membreno and Kassie Noe who volunteered to be our runners that night and brought all the merchandise sold to the winning individuals. Mary Hickey joined Katie and Kassie as a runner and we thank her for working all day and running for us at night! David and Karen Kretchmar you did an outstanding job as did our Treasurer, Dawn Dudas. Dawn doubled at Will Call with check-in and with checking out our guests who won their bids! Marla was a fantastic chair for the Silent Auction, but once it started, Karen and David were responsible for putting the plan to motion and getting our bidders their items. It worked like a ballet!

A very special thank you to our check-in volunteers, "Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense". What an awesome group of women. Teresa Crawford, Wendy Starkweather, Aurora Cox and Arnetta Meagher, you were calm, patient, and helpful. This was, without a doubt, the best run check-in I've seen in years.

Thank you, Paul L. DePierro, President of Paradise Democratic Club, Rita Ransom, and Sharifa Wahab for greeting our guests with a smile. You all did a wonderful job and were courteous and helpful.

Thank you to our veterans Matt DeFalco, Justin Guzman and Vic Rivera, who volunteered to be our security for the evening. I could not think of a better crew to assist us! We thank you for your service to our Country and for doing super security. You gave security that extra kick because of all the extra events scheduled that night. You were professional, caring, and did an outstanding job. Thank you.

I was so pleased to see so many Past Presidents in the room.



Caren Wolfson, Marla Turner, Ida Gaines, Sharon Segerblom, Renee Diamond, Senator Roberta Lange, Judy Klein, Barbara Aupperle and, Kerin Rogers



October

Marlyn Buckley
 George Dunckhurst
 Donna Miller
 Regent Laura Perkins
 Rita Ransom
 Kim Sedway
 Bonnie Swadling
 Judith Whitmer

November

Barbara Aupperle
 Ashlee Cooper
 Mary Dungan
 Tom Edwards
 Olivia Enriquez
 Margie Gonzales
 Debbie Mitchell
 Lani Paz
 Vickie Samuelson

New Members - 2023

January Nicole Bhat Jennifer Brown Forrest Darby Francine Green Stephanie Alendia	February Cecilia Alvarado	March Marbella Alfonso Blanca Ortiz Sabrina Torres	April Honey Boria Anthony Doyle Estifania Esparza Sharifa Wahab Kevin Wong	May Joel Enriquez Olivia Enriquez Kai Huffman Chloe Moore Emilia "Amy" Nicolas Harriet Reitman-Goldstein
June Edith Cardiff John Delibos	July Teresa Crawford Mary Hickey Iris Revels Brenda Smith-Braam	August Leaha Crawford		
September Ashlee Cooper Joan Israel Donna Miller Teneshia Spencer	October Senator Dallas Harris Jacque Jones Anat Levy Assemblyman David Ohrentlicher			

Letters From An American

By Heather Cox Richardson

President Joe Biden spoke today in Tel Aviv, Israel, reiterating support for the Israelis but also hammering on the need to address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

Biden called the actions of Hamas “pure unadulterated evil” and noted that such brutality “would have cut deep anywhere in the world, but it cuts deeper here in Israel.” The attack,” he said, “has brought to the surface painful memories and scars left by...millennia of antisemitism and the genocide of the Jewish people.” In the past, he said, the world watched and did nothing, but “[w]e will not stand by and do nothing again. Not today, not tomorrow, not ever.”

Biden promised the U.S. is working to recover the hostages, and he empathized with those who had lost loved ones. He promised that Israel would always be a safe home for the Jewish people. He promised military aid and once again warned “any state or any other hostile actor thinking about attacking Israel.... Don’t. Don’t. Don’t.”

But in a statement that spoke to the Arab world, Biden also warned Israel not to give into the “primal feeling” of “[s]hock, pain,... an all-consuming rage.” “I caution this,” he said: “While you feel that rage, don’t be consumed by it. After 9/11, we were enraged in the United States. And while we sought justice and got justice, we also made mistakes.”

Biden also appeared to speak to the administration of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu when he spoke about what it means to be a war leader. “[I]t requires being deliberate,” he said. “It requires asking very hard questions. It requires clarity about the objectives and an honest assessment about whether the path you are on will achieve those objectives.”

“The vast majority of Palestinians are not Hamas. Hamas does not represent the Palestinian people.”

Biden reiterated that Hamas uses families in Gaza as human shields, putting command centers, weapons, and communications tunnels in residential areas. “The Palestinian people are suffering greatly as well,” Biden said. And then he took on the issue of yesterday’s explosion at the hospital in Gaza, expressing outrage and sadness.

And then he clarified what had happened in that explosion: “Based on the information we’ve seen to date, it appears the result of an errant rocket fired by a terrorist group in Gaza.” This statement reflects the assessment of the U.S. Defense Department and was echoed today by the Senate Intelligence Committee, with a Democratic majority, and the House Intelligence Committee, with a Republican majority.

“While we continue to collect information, our current assessment, based on analysis of overhead imagery, intercepts and open source information, is that Israel is not responsible for the explosion at the hospital in Gaza yesterday,” White House National Security Council spokesperson Adrienne Watson said today.

Biden went on to explain that the United States stands unequivocally for the protection of civilian life during conflict—a key tenet of the laws of war—and said “I grieve—I truly grieve for the families who were killed or wounded by this tragedy.”

“The people of Gaza need food, water, medicine, shelter,” Biden said, adding that he had asked the Israeli cabinet to agree to the delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza. He said that Israel has agreed, based on the promise that the aid would go to civilians. Should Hamas divert or steal that aid, he said, access will stop and Hamas “will have demonstrated once again that they have no concern for the welfare of the Palestinian people.” Biden said the U.S. is working closely with Egypt and the United Nations to get trucks moving across the border as quickly as possible. It is also demanding that the International Red Cross be able to visit Hamas’s hostages.

Biden also announced that the U.S. will dedicate \$100 million in new funding for humanitarian assistance in Gaza and the West Bank to help the more than 1 million displaced Palestinians.

Biden urged Israelis to remember that their state is a democracy. It must live not by the rules of terrorists, but by the rule of law. “What sets us apart from the terrorists is we believe in the fundamental dignity of every human life—Israeli, Palestinian, Arab, Jew, Muslim, Christian—everyone,” he said. “You can’t give up what makes you who you are. If you give that up, then the terrorists win. And we can never let them win.”

“Nations of conscience like the United States and Israel are not measured solely by the example of their power,” he said. “We’re measured by the power of our example. That’s why, as hard as

it is, we must keep pursuing peace. We must keep pursuing a path so that Israel and the Palestinian people can both live safely, in security, in dignity, and in peace.” “For me, that means a two-state solution,” he said. He also reiterated that Israel must be better integrated with its neighbors.

“May God protect all those who work for peace,” Biden concluded. “God save those who are still in harm’s way.”

The speech was one of Biden’s best, drawing on personal experience, religion, history, politics, and the present. But it was not just rhetoric. Biden’s personal arrival in an area at war—his second as president—and his adamant support for Israel were a key demonstration that the U.S. does not want this war to expand, either by the introduction of the Iran-backed Hezbollah militia or by Israeli overreaction in the Palestinian territories.

It also put Netanyahu on notice that the U.S. is watching his actions. As David Rothkopf discussed today in *The Daily Beast*, Netanyahu allied himself with former president Trump and has appeared to consider his U.S. relationships with right-wing figures more important than his relationship with Biden. Now, with his own government on shaky ground as Israelis blame him for failing to protect them, Netanyahu jumped at the chance to be seen with Biden, whose response to the explosion and his steady handling of the ongoing crisis has made him enormously popular.

On Air Force One on the way home, Biden told reporters that his quest to get humanitarian aid had succeeded. Egypt has agreed to send up to 20 trucks of aid to Gaza, seemingly testing whether the aid will get through and if it will disappear into the hands of Hamas. If Hamas “doesn’t let it get through or just confiscates it, then it’s going to end,” Biden said. He continued: “[T]he bottom line is that [Egyptian president Abdel Fattah] El-Sisi deserves some real credit because he was very accommodating and, quite frankly, as everyone I’ve spoken to thus far since this trip began.”

Biden said that Special Envoy for Middle East Humanitarian Issues David Satterfield was already in Cairo to coordinate the aid.

When reporters asked if Biden was disappointed that his trip to Jordan was canceled, the president said no and laughed. “Disappointed? Look, I came to get something done. I got it done.... Not many people thought we could get this done, and not many people want to be associated with failure.... [H]ad we gone and this failed, then, you know, the United States failed, Biden’s presidency fails, et cetera, which would be a legitimate criticism.... I thought it was worth taking the chance to get it done.”

Biden’s steady hand, experience, and courage stood in contrast today to the House Republicans in the ongoing fight to elect a speaker. Representative Jim Jordan of Ohio, a far-right extremist and key Trump ally, lost more votes in the second round of voting than in the first, in part because he and his allies infuriated colleagues by threatening people. After saying yesterday that it was imperative to finish the balloting and get on to the people’s business, today he announced he would not retire from his crusade but would keep trying to get the votes he needs as the crisis stretches into a third week.

The House will vote again tomorrow, but Republicans predict Jordan’s support will fall even further. Some Republicans are exploring the possibility of sidestepping the question of electing a speaker by expanding the powers of acting speaker Representative Patrick McHenry (R-NC).

On Thursday night, President Biden will address the nation from the Oval Office.





Senator Richard Bryan, Berna Rhodes Ford, Mike and Barbara Aupperle and Marla Turner
Governor Steve Sisolak and Dr. Rachakonda Prabhu

Berna Rhodes Ford, Judges Carolyn Ellsworth, Tierra Jones, Nancy Allf, Valorie Vega, Joanna Kishner and, Marla Turner
Berna Rhodes Ford, Justice Linda Bell, Marla Turner and, Justice Elissa Cadish

Berna Rhodes Ford, Judge Karen Bennett Haron, Judge Ann Zimmerman and, Marla Turner

Honorees

Fake Electors, Real Consequences; The Folding Begins In Georgia

By John L. Smith



With Israel and Ukraine on fire and the U.S. House paralyzed by Republicans willing to put our country at risk in the name of their extreme ideology and fealty to a failed former president, two slender rays of light managed to pierce the storm clouds.

In Atlanta this week, a pair of high-profile defendants accused of participating in efforts to overturn Donald Trump's loss in the 2020 election in Georgia [pleaded guilty](#) prior to the start of jury selection in state court. Trump loyalists Sidney Powell and Kenneth Chesebro, who had faced the threat of years in prison for violating Georgia's anti-racketeering law, cut deals that will spare them jail time.

Like the others named in the Georgia indictment, Powell and Chesebro were blindly sycophantic as two of Trump's legal advisers. Powell is infamous these days for declaring she would "release the Kraken" of apparently many-tentacled lawsuits that would prove Trump's election victory had been stolen by the Democrats. Alas, the facts had no place in her legal strategy. Team Trump's many lawsuits were chopped and fried like calamari, but even her attempts to [backtrack the Kraken](#) attack didn't diminish her role in the attempted election fraud. She pleaded guilty to misdemeanors.

Chesebro, another pro-Trump mouthpiece who helped choreograph the cabal's 2020 fake electors' plot, pleaded guilty to a felony charge Friday. Chesebro wrote memos detailing how Republicans could create the illusion of legal rigor by sending false slates of presidential electors to Congress with the goal of overthrowing the election. As an architect of the anti-democratic scheme, Chesebro is capable of testifying against defendants Trump and attorney John Eastman.

Chesebro's guilty plea cuts particularly close to home here in Nevada for the Trump acolytes who lead the state Republican Party — party Chairman Michael McDonald and Republican National Committeeman Jim DeGraffenreid. Text messages obtained from McDonald's cellphone by the FBI during its election fraud investigation show the chairman's Nevada inner circle discussing Chesebro and the fake elector plan.

McDonald and DeGraffenreid were among the Trump true believers who participated in the election charade by signing a fake elector certificate declaring Trump the victor in Nevada in 2020 despite losing by approximately 33,000 votes to Joe Biden. They gave themselves over willingly and knowingly to the attempted fraud.

It would be foolish to think they didn't know they were participating in a national con job. [Text messages](#) made public during the investigation make clear McDonald's concern about the optics of the constitutionally corny political theater.

In a reply to fellow fake elector Shawn Meehan's text about McDonald's concerns about the plan, DeGraffenreid wrote, "I know. He's concerned that we will look like foolish crybabies."

At this point, I think we can conclude those worries were justified.

Called before the House committee charged with investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol, McDonald and DeGraffenreid invoked their Fifth Amendment protection against self-incrimination hundreds of times. After bellowing for months about the grand scheme to steal Trump's victory, they were suddenly microphone shy.

In June of this year, both men were granted limited immunity to testify in Washington, D.C., before a grand jury in connection with a Department of Justice investigation of the fake elector scheme. Their silence continued in August after Trump was [indicted on four counts](#) related to the attempt to overthrow the results of the election.

Of all the rights they've flouted and tarred, they've proved beyond a reasonable doubt their appreciation for the right to remain silent.

Meanwhile, polls continue to show Trump leading other announced Republican presidential candidates as the state GOP claims the Democrats are trying to deprive them of their right to rig their own presidential nomination process by insisting on a caucus over a primary. DeGraffenreid himself recently reminded skeptics that the caucus "is [open to every Republican](#) in the state." Yes, as long as they're available at [5 p.m. on Feb. 8, 2024](#) – two days after the legally scheduled primary.

Observers of the state party know the after-dark-on-Thursday caucus is made-to-order for Michael McDonald's monkey wrench.

All of this, of course, is reduced to minor mishegoss next to the GOP's embarrassing and dangerous public breakdown in the House thanks to election denier Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio. A far-right political bully with exactly zero bills passed in his 16 years of huffing and puffing in Congress, by Friday Jordan's political inflexibility after 16 days and three failed votes [had come home to roost](#) even in a party of Trumpian chickens.

At least one Republican, Rep. Don Bacon of Nebraska, got it exactly right when he [rejected Jordan and told a reporter](#), "You don't have a process where I play by the rules and these other people can't and then they get what they want. That's not American. Americans want fair play and rule of law."

Nevada's GOP officials should take note. Chaos and incredulity will reign until they get their own house in order.

John L. Smith is an author and longtime columnist. He was born in Henderson and his family's Nevada roots go back to 1881. His stories have appeared in Time, Readers Digest, The Daily Beast, Reuters, Ruralite and Desert Companion, among others. He also offers weekly commentary on Nevada Public Radio station KNPR.



2023



MEETING SCHEDULE

NOV

DEC

Nov 9

LUNCH

Meeting and
Officer
Elections

Dec 9

Annual
Holiday
Party and
Potluck -

NO MEETING



The Last Adult In The Room

By Robert Reich

When we talk about someone being “adult” these days, it’s usually by comparison to people who are technically adults but who act like children.

As I look at the people on the center stage of America now — the Republican clowns in the House, the childish narcissistic Donald Trump, the juveniles on Fox News, the forever infantile Elon Musk, the fraudulent RFK Jr., the greedy CEOs who are raking in record compensation while refusing to raise the wages of their frontline workers, the spoiled financiers who want to make even bigger bets with other people’s money — I’m appalled at how few adults are in the room.



When I look at people on center stage abroad — at autocrats like Netanyahu, Putin, and Xi, at mindless fanatics like the leaders of Hamas, and at dithering European prime ministers who waver over dependence on Russian oil, aid to Ukraine, and efforts to slow climate change — I’m dismayed by the paucity of adults.

While Israel is rudderless and leaderless, Biden gives a pitch-perfect speech about the October 7 massacres, holding Hamas clearly and firmly accountable. Then he says publicly that an Israeli occupation of Gaza would be a “big mistake.” And he quietly and shrewdly engages other Arab heads of state to help restore peace.

While Republicans accuse Biden of being responsible for the massacre because of \$6 billion promised to Iran in exchange for prisoners (which has not even been delivered), Biden risks his life on a trip to Israel. He shows the Israeli people and the world that America will not back down from its commitment to the safety and sanctity of that country. He brokers a deal with Egypt to allow truckloads of aid into Gaza.

While Republicans bellyache that Biden has no policy for the Middle East, he negotiates the beginnings of a Saudi-Israeli peace pact that would make considerable concessions to Palestinians. It is the single best opportunity for a more ordinary life for Palestinians and Israelis since the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin and Anwar Sadat, by Israelis and Arabs opposed to peace.

While House Republicans can’t select a speaker because they put their own selfish ambitions over the nation’s well-being — once again forcing America to risk a government shutdown because of their antics — Biden

quietly and competently does the work of governing the nation. His Cabinet is talented and committed. His White House staff is one of the best I've seen.

While Republican Senator Thomas Tuberville holds up the nominations of 301 senior military leaders to force changes in the Defense Department's position on equal access to reproductive health care services, Biden remains steadfast in his support for the military and for a woman's right to bodily autonomy.

While Trump and other Republicans pretend to be on the side of average working Americans — while promising their big corporate backers even more tax cuts — Biden raises the threshold salary for overtime pay, and makes it easier to unionize. Biden is the first president in history to walk a picket line.

As Senate Republicans prepare to impeach him for no reason and drag his son Hunter through the muck of right-wing media, Biden doesn't take the bait. He doesn't attack them or act vindictively, as would his predecessor. He maintains a dignified silence.

As Trump concocts nonstop lies about him, which are then repeated and amplified on Fox News and Newsmax, Biden remains unperturbed.

As the adult in the room, Biden doesn't lash out in ways that make entertaining news clips. He doesn't ridicule his opponents or call them names. He doesn't intentionally lie. He doesn't exaggerate his successes or minimize challenges ahead.

In contrast to his explosive and deranged predecessor (and likely rival for the presidency in the next election), Biden is emotionally mature, even-tempered, sensible.

America and the world need an adult in the room — especially now, when the kids are on a rampage. I thank our lucky stars that Joe Biden is in charge.



WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF CLARK COUNTY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please Print

2024

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Fax _____ Email _____

Facebook _____ Twitter _____

Instagram _____ Date of Birth _____

I affirm that I am registered to vote with the Democratic Party in the State of Nevada: Yes []
(Only a registered Democrat can be a member)

General Membership: \$35 Annual Dues Paid By: Check [] Money Order [] Cash []

Past WDC Presidents and Current Students: \$15 Annual Dues Paid By: Check [] Money Order [] Cash []

Renee Diamond Scholarship Fund Donation: Paid By: Check [] Money Order [] Cash [] Online []

I am interested in participating on the following Committees:
(you will be notified if there are vacancies available)

Ambassador Committee [] Candidate Donation Distribution Committee [] Communications/Media []

Thank You For Joining
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