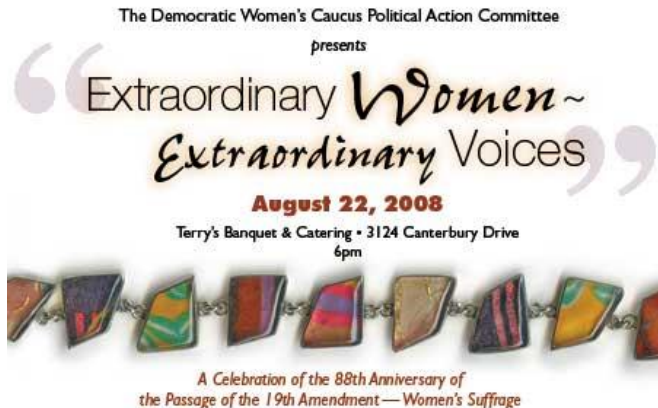


# Democratic Women's Caucus

## Monday Morning News on August 18, 2008

Take a minute to look at some events of special interest to the women's political sphere this week.


**THERE ARE SOME EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITIES HERE FOR ACTION!!!**



### EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN, EXTRAORDINARY VOICES!!

We hope all of you have the Democratic Women's Caucus fundraiser on your social calendars for this Friday, August 22. The 4th Annual Women's Equality Day Dinner at Terry's Banquet and Catering promises to be an inspiring night with powerhouse keynote speaker, Ann Delaney, and our special musical guests, "Unity." We know you don't want to miss this celebration of the passage of the 19th Amendment, and an elegant evening with extraordinary women (us) and friends!

The November election is a critical one for women and the issues that impact our lives. Come this Friday to get inspired to meet the challenges ahead. Let's all help fund, inspire, recruit, support and train more dynamic women for the political pipeline. Your generous support this year is needed more than ever!

As we're hosting a plated dinner this year, Event Coordinator, Mary Norman, needs your RSVP's pronto! Please don't wait to the last minute to place your meal request and reservation. If your reservation is "in the mail" or if you are paying online via,  <http://www.actblue.com/page/wed08> please assist us by emailing your dinner order to Mary. You can request *chicken, beef or vegetarian* for yourself and your guests. Please, RSVP Mary Norman, [mcrnorman@earthlink.net](mailto:mcrnorman@earthlink.net) as soon as possible so that we can respect the chef's need to know ahead of time to honor our meal requests.

And, get ready for an EXTRAORDINARY evening this Friday beginning at 6:00 p.m. at Terry's!



**EVENTS THIS WEEK** – There's literally something **each day** this week for women who are interested in political participation and support of women who aspire to elected office! Have a great celebratory week, **but don't poop out before Friday's celebration of EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN, EXTRAORDINARY VOICES!!**

#### -- MONDAY --

Another Fundraiser for **Julie Thomas** will be held at the home of **Linda Sievers, Bloomington Township Trustee** on Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, from **5:30 to 7:00**. Linda's house is at 2210 W Amherst Road. Linda invites you to: Please stop by my house for an ice cream social with Julie Thomas. Meet Julie and hear what she has to say about a green economy, public safety initiatives, and civic engagement. Directions: Take 17<sup>th</sup> St./Arlington Rd, heading west pass Westbury Village, at bottom of hill turn right onto Maple Grove Rd. Go approximately one mile, Amherst is the first road on the left, my house is the second driveway on the left.

#### -- TUESDAY --

"**Community Chats**" takes place each Tuesday morning at the Village Deli at 7:30 – 8:30 am. This Tuesday, The **League of Women Voters will be featured**. Come hear from local League President Sally Hegeman, and **VP Voter Service Liz Feitl**, how the League fulfills its mission and what we can expect locally as our national election approaches.

### **Democratic Women's Club Lunch**

The Monroe County Democratic Women's Club will meet Tuesday, August 19, at **11:30 a.m. at the Colorado Steak House**, 1635 N. College Avenue, Bloomington. IU Political Science Professor **Marjorie Hershey** will present "Obama vs. McCain: the State of the Race".

### **-- WEDNESDAY --**

**Iron Ladies of Liberia** Is a film that will be shown on Wednesday at 7:30 pm at the Fine Arts building room 102. Sponsor is the IU African Studies Program. In 2006 Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf was inaugurated president, the first freely elected female head of state in Africa. Facing the daunting task of lifting her country from debt and devastation, she turned to a remarkable team of women, appointing them in ministerial positions in her cabinet. The directors follow these Iron Ladies behind the scenes during their critical first year in office. Highlighting the challenges that African countries currently face, this film provides an uplifting example of women who have become the backbone of change. Here's a You Tube link for President Johnson-Sirleaf. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vpo4oyIJQs8> When Allida Black spoke at breakfast in March, she described some of the problems facing this nation, and how her connection to Hillary Clinton made a difference supplying resources to Liberia.

### **-- THURSDAY --**

Lunchtime- Noon at City Hall Bring a brown bag and listen to **caucus member and School Board member Lois Sabo-Skelton** and her students perform String-in-Sync "Open Rehearsal - Fiddles and Fun" Sabo-Skelton is known for her performance as Ann Richards in the DWCAucus "WomenSpeak Readers Theater" and is running for re-election this year.

**State Senator Vi Simpson asks you to come by --** Vi is co-hosting a fundraiser for Attorney General candidate **LINDA PENCE** on August 21 2928 Olcott Boulevard, between **5 and 7 pm** on Thursday the 21st. If you want just to send a check, please do so, in any amount you can: Linda Pence for Attorney General, PO Box 441040, Indianapolis, IN 46244.

**Member Sheri Benham sends word** that also on Thursday, August 21, from **5-8 pm Nick's** server Natalie will be donating all her tips and Nicks will contribute 20% of food sales from the back room to **Stepping Stones**, the agency that provides transitional housing and supportive services to youth ages 16-20 who are experiencing homelessness. **Members Sophia Travis and Regina Moore** have presented evening programs on government, civic participation and elections to these young women and men in the past.

### **-- FRIDAY --**

### **EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN, EXTRAORDINARY VOICES!!**

**Caucus Fundraiser DINNER!** Have you made your reservations??? [www.democraticwomenscaucus.org](http://www.democraticwomenscaucus.org)

### **-- SATURDAY --**

#### **Doris Wittenberg tells of Iron Jawed Angels screening:**

The HBO film, "Iron-Jawed Angels", which chronicles "the struggle of the suffragists who fought for the passage of the 19th amendment" will be presented by the League of Women Voters of Bloomington-Monroe County on Saturday evening, **August 23rd at 7:00p.m.** in the lounge of the Health Pavilion at **Meadowood**. This is a powerful and suspenseful portrayal of the struggle of women to get the vote. Reserve the date—large screen, refreshments---free!!! If you have any questions, please email Sally Hegeman ([hegemans@indiana.edu](mailto:hegemans@indiana.edu)).

### **-- SUNDAY --**

Dale Jones hosts fundraiser for **Val Haughton!** Beautiful Stranger's Hill Farm will be the place to be at **5 pm** on Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup>. Enjoy a spectacular garden setting on a hill top while helping Val in her effort to become Monroe County Judge. To volunteer to help Dale and for more information contact Linda Sievers: [btsievers@bluemarble.net](mailto:btsievers@bluemarble.net)

### **IN THE NEAR FUTURE!**

Next week starts the Democratic National Convention. During that time, delegates and other attendees will be able to celebrate Women's Equality Day in many ways. We've seen notes of the White House Project, Emily's List, the Feminist Majority, and various women's caucus meetings and receptions, especially on Tuesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. Our hope is that many of these events will be televised in some way! If anyone hears of TV or streaming programming that we can pass along, especially of these events, please let us know so we can pass it on. Until then, we'll rely on reports from DWC Steering Committee member, State Senator and Clinton delegate Vi Simpson to keep us informed!  
<http://www.denverconvention2008.com/index.cfm?page=calendar>

**Bloomington Township Trustee and member Linda Sievers sends a Save the Date!**

Save the Date. Thursday, September 4th, 5-7pm, FarmBloomington. Come by and support **VAL HAUGHTON**. The party will be a mix of local food and local politics. The festivities will be in the Root Cellar (if you haven't been, it's a must see) with live music, and of course delicious hours d'oeuvres made by recognized Chef Daniel Orr. Price to be determined, fun will be a definite.

**---THIS MESSAGE FROM CHARLOTTE ZIETLOW ---**

**Can you imagine living in a place where birth control is considered an "abortion" and health insurers won't cover it? Where even rape victims are denied emergency contraception?**

It seems unbelievable, but the Bush Administration is quietly trying to redefine "abortion" to include birth control. The Houston Chronicle says this could wipe out dozens of state laws that protect women's reproductive freedom and protect rape victims.<sup>1</sup> Access to basic health care for millions of women would be jeopardized. And it's being pushed as a "rule change"—meaning, it doesn't need congressional approval.

Can you sign an emergency message to Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt, whose department is considering this rule change right now? Tell him: "Contraception is NOT abortion. The Bush Administration's proposal to change the definition of abortion and reduce women's access to birth control must be stopped."

Use this link to add your name to this message: <http://pol.moveon.org/contraception?id=13487-5726961-zfzzl2x&t=4>

A consortium of groups that include several of our own DWC members will be hosting a forum on the assault on reproductive health in this country. The Bush Administration has ignited OUR furor with a proposed definition of pregnancy that has the effect of classifying some of the most widely used methods of contraception as abortion. A draft regulation, still being revised and debated, treats most birth-control pills and intrauterine devices as abortion because they can work by preventing fertilized eggs from implanting in the uterus. If you need background on what is happening to throw women back into the 30s and 40s take a look at this:  
[http://www.nfprha.org/images/pdf/regs%20stories/WSJ\\_7-31.pdf](http://www.nfprha.org/images/pdf/regs%20stories/WSJ_7-31.pdf) and watch for a call to action.

**CANDIDATE NEEDS THIS WEEK:**

**Julie Thomas**, candidate for County Council At Large, needs your help walking door-to-door. Grab a friend and plan to spend a few hours helping to get Julie's name and issues communicated to as many Monroe County voters as possible. It's fun!

Contact Lorraine Farrell at [lm.farrell@comcast.net](mailto:lm.farrell@comcast.net) or leave a message on her cell to indicate your interest and approximate time commitment: 812-345-0150. She will contact you after August 8th to make arrangements to deliver your walk packet. Thank you!

**Valeri Haughton**, Candidate for Judge is back from her brief vacation (it IS an election year!) and is planning her walking program. If you can carry Val's literature through your neighborhood, or if you would like to accompany Val to help her take notes and keep her on schedule with walking, please email Glorianne Leck at [glorianneleck@sbcglobal.net](mailto:glorianneleck@sbcglobal.net). With what dates, or days, or times that you are free. She has been coordinating the field operation and voter contact for Val.

If you've read this far...

**THANK YOU!!!!** Please consider what you might do this year to help women become more politically aware, to exercise their right to vote, and to participate in their government. From bringing a friend to one of these events to

passing along that information regarding birth control being considered an abortifacient, to encouraging them to contribute to a candidate (it doesn't have to be much to make folks feel involved and committed to the process) to **bringing them as your guest to the fundraising dinner on Friday**, your efforts contribute to the overall mission of this organization and to helping women become more equal partners with those men who's gender does dominate governmental policy making positions. Collectively, we will change this. **THANK YOU!!!**