

COMMON SENSE

"Try not to be a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value." —Albert Einstein (1879–1955)

FROM THE CLUB PRESIDENT

I would like to take this time to say Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year.

I would also like to invite each and every one of you and encourage you to attend our monthly meetings. We will be focusing on several issues this year:

- Growth of the club;
- Educating ourselves and our voters;
- Motivating our community;
- Fund raising and events.

We are working diligently to put together informative and fun programs for you. I encourage you all to begin to invite your friends and fellow Democrats to our meetings. It's time to stop "preaching to the choir" and begin growing and educating our members.

I look forward to seeing you all at our monthly meetings and hearing from you with comments and suggestions.

Let's have a great year!

—JoAnn Martinez

TOM GREEN COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY CHAIR

I wept today as I read about funeral services for Jack and Noah in Connecticut, the first two of many services to follow. As Democrats, we can probably all agree that assault weapons and their ammunition should be banned. Personally, I'd like to melt down the last gun on earth. But the mental health issue is just as urgent.

As individuals, we cannot solve the myriad problems our world faces, but we can do our small part by loving our neighbors a little bit more, by speaking in kind voices, by helping those in need, and by holding our children and grand-children tightly in our arms and treating other children as if they were our own. My words are inadequate.

I thank God for Democrats and for friends. At my church, we say "Merry Christmas." Perhaps your phrase is different, but in exchanging our holiday greetings, let us be sincere and do our best to bring about "Peace on Earth, good will to men and women."

—Linda Shoemaker



The Road Ahead

7 p.m. Monday, January 9, 2012
San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts

Don Dunagan, our new secretary, will discuss possible options for overcoming the challenges we face as we begin a new year of promoting Democratic principles in West Texas. He has a vi-

sion for encouraging participation by people outside our usual ranks. Don's presentation a couple of months ago was well received by club members. Don't miss it!



Talking Points

WITH BEN QUIET

It appears to me that the Republicans are still in a dream world and are ready to drive over the cliff. This doesn't surprise me at all and in fact the Democrats, during the debt ceiling fiasco, were too timid to stand up to them. They think the President will cave again.

Folks, the election changed many things. The voters endorsed the President's program and he was re-elected. The Teapublicans are in denial (and in control of the GOP) and it is going to take another visit to the woodshed to budge them. The same people who were convinced of Rom-

ney's victory are also certain that the President will give in. I don't share their delusion and I am not convinced that a fiscal cliff exists. I believe it is more like a curb and I am ready to ride it out. The Democrats have got to establish some control and show some fortitude. Otherwise, the election victory is meaningless. We won and it is time to act like it.

We have a great many things to do and if we falter now, we won't achieve any of things necessary to get the country and the economy back on the road.

announcements



■ **Executive Committee Meeting** 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 14 at Mejor Que Nada at 1911 S. Bryant. All are welcome.

■ **Concern Committee:** Please contact Erma Brooks when you know of someone we need to contact with congratulations, friendship, get well, or condolences. sunshine311@netzero.net or 325-651-6423

■ Mark your calendar for the 2013 monthly meetings:

- January 7
- February 4
- March 4
- April 1
- May 13
- June 3
- July 1
- August 5
- September 9
- October 7
- November 4
- December 2



The fact that this problem is complex can no longer be an excuse for doing nothing. The fact that we can't prevent every act of violence doesn't mean we can't steadily reduce the violence, and prevent the very worst violence.

—President Barack Obama announcing the taskforce on gun violence, Dec. 19, 2012

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**Mail to Mitch Krasny, Treasurer, Tom Green Co.
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