



# Common Sense



Next Meeting : Monday, July 9, 2012, 7:00 pm at San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts, I Love Street

## **Karen Watkins to address the club in July**

Karen Watkins has handled appeals in the state courts of appeals in Texas for more than 20 years and has been recognized as a specialist in civil appellate law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization since 2005. Karen is a partner in a law firm that is more than 80 years old, McGinnis, Lochridge & Kilgore, LLP. For the last several years, Karen has chaired the firm's Appellate Practice Group and has assisted the firm's trial lawyers with jury charges and legal arguments. *Texas Law & Politics* has included Karen in the civil appellate section of its "Super Lawyers" publication every year since 2005.

Karen has 6 years of experience serving on an administrative court. In 2001, the Supreme Court of Texas appointed Karen to its 12-member Board of Disciplinary Appeals. The Board has all of the powers of a trial court and all the powers of an appellate court necessary to decide cases in which lawyers are alleged to have violated professional rules of conduct. In her final year on the Board, the other members elected her to serve as their Chair. Karen was the youngest lawyer serving on the Board at that time and is the only woman ever to have served as the Chair of the Board.

Before joining the firm, Karen spent her first year after law school working for a justice at the Third Court of Appeals. During that time, Karen learned how the Court worked and why lawyers believed it to be one of the best appellate courts in the state. When Karen left the Court to take a job at McGinnis, Lochridge & Kilgore, the Court had issued opinions or had drafts of opinions in all the cases assigned to her justice's chambers during the year.

*Information from [www.karenwatkinsforjustice.com](http://www.karenwatkinsforjustice.com)*

## **Talking Points**

**by Ben Quiet**

Republicans are afraid to run a campaign on the issues facing the nation. Romney has the nomination sewed up and it is time for him to tell the nation what he will do if elected.

He refuses to tell us what he will do to "fix" Social Security and Medicare; whether he supports a Paycheck Fairness Act; what tax loopholes he will eliminate; or what Federal agencies he will eliminate.

Perhaps the most glaring omission of all is his refusal to say why he and the Republican controlled Congress haven't supported the President's jobs creation bills or what they would do in this critical area. The Republicans are quite happy with things as they are---the Bush income tax structure and policies that sent the economy over the cliff. It just doesn't work for the rest of us but he and they just don't care because Wall Street and Grover Norquist like it.

## **2012 Democratic State Convention Report**

**by John Perry**

Democrats from all over Texas gathered in Houston June 8 & 9 for the 2012 Democratic State Convention. It was a historic convention as the Democratic Party put its diversity on display. Gilberto Hinojosa was elected the new state party chairman becoming the first Hispanic to chair either of the major parties in Texas. In addition, the party passed the most progressive party platform in history. Highlights include the overturn of DOMA, full marriage equality for all, full funding of public schools in the state, passage of the Dream Act, and the decriminalization of marijuana.

In the Senatorial District Caucus, new SDEC members were elected. Jacob Martinez and Sue Barrick, both of Lubbock, will represent SD 28 on the State Democratic Executive Committee. Three delegates to the National Convention in Charlotte, NC this September were selected, including John Perry of San Angelo. Committee assignments were handed out and several local club members served including Sally Ayana and Michelle-Taylor Chinn.

## **Announcements**

The month's guest speaker is Karen Watkins, candidate for 3rd Court of Appeals

### **Callers Needed**

We need some more callers. It only takes a few minutes each month and provides a valuable reminder for our members.

Contact Joyce Hubbard at 325-947-5253 or [hubbard7@suddenlink.net](mailto:hubbard7@suddenlink.net).

Thanks!

### **Bake Sale Fundraiser**

Please bring your spare change and bills to the meeting this month. We are holding a bake sale fundraiser to help raise money to assist John Perry with expenses for his trip to the National Convention in Charlotte, NC. It is estimated it will cost over \$2000 to make the journey this September. Please help support our delegate as he goes to represent San Angelo, Tom Green County, and all of Senate District 28 when we re-nominate President Barack Obama. For more information contact Ivey Mossell at 325-944-1137.

**All of us at the Tom Green Democratic Party ask that you please keep JB Hall and Floyd Crider in your thoughts and prayers. JB is recovering from leg surgery and Floyd is about to undergo back surgery.**

The Executive Committee (officers and board of directors members) meets for planning on the Monday following each general membership meeting.

Everyone is welcome.

Time — 6 P.M.

Place — Galilee Community Development Corp.  
1404 S. Oakes

# Contacts

## Club Officers

Floyd Crider – President  
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Mitch Krasney– Treasurer  
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Change will not come if we wait for  
some other person or some other  
time. We are the ones we've been  
waiting for. We are the change that  
we seek. Barack Obama

## County Chairperson

Linda Shoemaker  
325-450-0018  
325-224-2944  
countychair@tgcdc.org

## Party Hotline

325-655-VOTE (8683)

## TG CDC on the Internet

Visit us on the web at [www.tgcdc.org](http://www.tgcdc.org)  
and join us on Facebook at  
[www.facebook.com/  
groups/299114276625](http://www.facebook.com/groups/299114276625)

## Tom Green County Democratic Club

P.O. Box 450  
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Special Issues: \_\_\_\_\_