

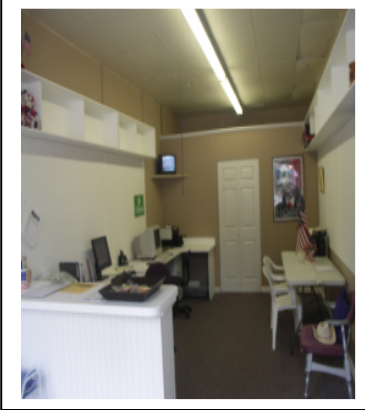


# FROM THE DONKEYS MOUTH

Chair: Gloria Stulz

SUMMER 2009

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## DEMOCRATIC OFFICE

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The Fremont Democrats dreamed for many years of a permanent office, but we held on as we improvised, borrowed living rooms, squatted in restaurants, bars, churches and commandeered just about any place we could talk our way into. . Our current office was occupied by the “elephants” during the Kerry campaign and we were in a tiny dark space next to the old Bubbas Sporting Goods. As soon as the 2004 election was over our fantasy of a real office reasserted itself but not yet, thanks to John Kaufman’s shed for holding our few democratic

Treasures and his home being our new meeting place. Our dreams of an office ended up on the back burner through the Christmas party and into spring with the FDR dinner. The invitations for these events were hand written, mostly around Pat Frieda’s dining table. Good things come to those who wait (or are otherwise busy) and the “elephants” moved out of 628 main and our chance had arrived. Money!/? Remember, it was an “off” year (another words, democrats didn’t win) and funding was not assured. After much gut-wrenching debate the opportunity for the office was too great to turn down. This would be the last executive decision made in a restaurant or bar. We took our two months’ rent, the deposit and forged ahead with the optimism and “hope” endemic to our intrepid group. On the heels of that move, the Century Club donations lead by Virgil Olson and Jim Milam began at a good clip and matching funds donated by Roger Ratcliff and Donna Young were very welcome and timely. The next “gut-wrenching” concern was to have the office window professionally painted or done with a homemade “rodeo days” job. Spending \$200.00 would mean we would have to stay put! No one thought we would make it through the summer much less into the fall. Well-used chairs, tables, filing cabinets and all manner of office equipment were scrounged from basements and sheds, even a bookcase straight from Cara Fisher’s den. Sorry for the cliché but “build it and they will come” worked for us as well. Going professional was a good idea, we looked serious and new members poured in. When we rented our office we thought it would be big enough for the ten or so who usually showed up at Central Committee meetings. We bounced around a little but usually found ourselves holding C.C. meetings at the Administration Building or Golden Age Center, lately at Keller Williams. Bouncing around is okay as we have a home office now! Wrestling with weighty decisions like whether to buy another bulletin board or punch another hole in the walls is a pleasure. But this lead to the need for renovation as holes often won out as our brave volunteer contractor, Tom Berry may have noticed. The ongoing success of the Fremont County Democrats is directly a result of unselfish dedication from so many, past and present. Thanks go out to those who did what they could and many who worked tirelessly for days, as one week to renovate turned into a month. Come see how professional look now. We can all be proud. (Contributed by Joan Parker)

### **CALENDAR**

**Central Committee meeting**  
**July 21 2009 at?????**



**CHAIRS CORNER:** We had the most amazing experience during the remodeling of our Dem's Headquarters; I don't know if it was we were creating so much coming and going, sawing and hammering, or if our good karma was playing its part, but we had young people showing up in our doorway asking how they could get involved. The first visitor was a young Florence High School student John Campbell with his mother, Catherine. This eager young man stepped into our office asking if we had a Young Democrats group. As I looked at him in the doorway my eyes went passed him to our words on our door, "Young Democrats Welcome". What a moment it was. I answered back with a "We are just about to start one and would you help us?" We chatted for a moment with his mom, Catherine, and she told us of her experiences as a young democrat. John looked around the office and asked if he could help us do anything. Well, he had a paintbrush in his hands in a matter of minutes and has been coming in on a regular basis. If this wasn't enough, the very next day, a young woman poked her head in the door and said "Can I register to vote here?" She had just turned 18 the day before and was ready to register her name as a Democrat. These are happenings that I count, not as coincidence but as signs of an opportunity we need to pay attention to. We have a population of eager young people looking for a place to begin their political involvement. We have an opportunity to educate and help these young people feel like they are an important part of our governmental process. We have high schools that could have Young Democrat's Clubs; we need to talk with PCC to inquire about starting a club there. Let me know if you want to get involved and join us in welcoming our young democrats and look for our first meeting, July 23 at the Dem's office, 7:00 PM, to organize our "Young Democrats of Fremont County.

**SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT:** The winner of the scholarship essay for 2009

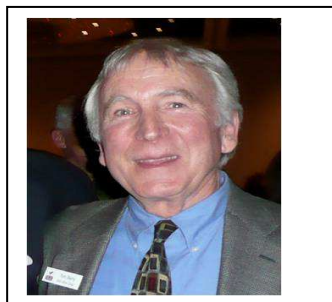
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**DEMOCRATS AT WORK:** The Farmers Market is in full swing and Ray Plummery, Janelle Giganti, Katherine Sounart and Diane McNeeve are working the luncheon booth to raise funds for the Democrats. They will be serving lunch and breakfast at the Farmers Market with offerings from a variety of restaurant's in the area. The Democrats will be doing this all summer so if you want to help out, just come on out around 8:00 to help with breakfast and 11:00 till 12:30 for lunch in Veterans Park every Wednesday. You will meet a lot of people and perhaps you will recruit someone for the party over pizza and salad.



**CALL FOR CANDIDATES:** This November elections for local offices will be held. Both Florence and Canon City will elect a mayor and three council seats. It is critical that interested individuals step up and represent the values that we share. Currently, former Party Chair, Pat Freda, is the only woman serving on either Council and the lone Democrat on the Florence council. Our party is loaded with intelligent, caring, ambitious people. Local office is where most of us can have the most impact; it is also a stepping stone to higher office. The election begins in August when interested individuals take out petitions which must be signed by 25 electors from the district that corresponds to the office sought. Once the petition is certified (the city clerk verifies that all of the signatures are eligible electors), then the campaign begins. Now is the time to get involved. The pay is meager, the rewards priceless. Contributed by Kevin Bradley

**DEMS OF THE MONTH:** ★ **April-Rosemarie Scutti** Rosie earned her Dem of the Month Award with her tireless efforts towards our auction items for our FDR Dinner. Rosie succeeded in obtaining over 50 items for our silent auction. This year we made \$2500 on our Silent Auction and \$1800 on the Live Auction. Not only did she make the calls, she picked up the items and kept good records on who donated what and how much. We could all take a good lesson from Rosie. Thank you, Rosie for your efforts toward our successful FDR Dinner. ★ **May-Tom Berry** Little did we know that when we awarded Tom with the Dem of the Month Award this month for his organization of the Tire Collection for Earth Day, and the building of our Blossom Day Float, that we would be thanking him for his “tireless” contributions to the remodeling of our office. Tom has proven to be a dedicated volunteer for our party. His expertise in building along with his “get ‘er done” attitude has earned him a triple thank you. Thanks again, Tom, you are a pleasure to work with. ★ **June-Denise Wilson** Denise serves as the Secretary on our Executive Committee for our party, in Fremont Co. Being a newcomer to our county, Denise has immersed herself in getting to know our community and our governmental processes. She has also been a valuable part of our office during our remodeling efforts. Who knew she was so good at electronics, construction details, and painting. As Chair of this organization, I have appreciated the extra time Denise has put into our operation. All the while, she has been looking for fulltime! work. Thank you, Denise, for your dedication. You are a hoot!



**Fremont County Democratic Party**  
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**Canon city, Co 81212**  
**719-276-9150**  
**[www.fremontcountydems.com](http://www.fremontcountydems.com)**

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