

**Special points of interest:**

- What happens after the caucus
- The County Central Committee
- The Iowa Democratic Veterans Caucus
- A true story of life by Chris McShane
- Two resolutions for consideration
- Messages from local candidates

## What Happens Next by Dennis Nebendahl

If this was your first caucus, you may be curious as to what happens with the platform proposals and what the elected delegates do.

Each begins the upward journey to further consideration. The next step is the county convention where our platform ideas will be combined with those from the other caucuses in Allamakee County. Either of two possibilities can happen; individual proposals will be the same as others or they will be opposite of one another.

If several competing ideas are similar, the platform committee will combine all of them into one to be submitted to the county convention as a platform plank.

In the event conflicting proposals come before the platform committee, there may again be two different outcomes; one may be dropped or both may be submitted to the convention for the delegates to choose. As conflicting viewpoints move up in the process, they may be labeled as the ratified plank and a minority report.

To complicate matters, new pro-

posals may be introduced at this level by following the procedures established by the rules committee.

The same general process takes place at the district four convention, then the state convention, and finally the national convention.

A similar procedure takes place with the delegates elected to the county convention. Eighty delegates have been chosen throughout the county to vote on the submitted platform planks (and any new ones) and to elect six to ten delegates for the district and state conventions. Again, these delegates will be chosen among preference groups. Several of the state convention delegates will move on to the national convention.

As you can see, the caucuses form the broad base of a triangle that narrows to a peak at the national level.



**Restoring YOUR American Dream**

## From Caucus to Victory - 2008 by Karen Pratte

You have just helped choose the Democratic nominee for president and now on to the election. Commend yourselves for taking the first step in a process that will result in a stronger, safer America when a Democrat occupies the White House.

Can you do more? Elections are won when folks at the grassroots participate and take small actions that

yield big results. Here are activities you can do:

- 1 **Vote early at the courthouse or vote absentee** - Early and absentee voting increases voter turnout. When voter turnout is large, Democrats win.
- 2 **Get your kids**

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## From Caucus to Victory (cont. from page 1)

- and grandchildren registered to vote** - Tell them why you are a Democrat and encourage them to register as a Democrat and to vote in 2008.
- 3 **Tell a neighbor why you support a candidate** - Word-of-mouth and person-to-person are the best advertising for a candidate.
  - 4 **Make phone calls** - Inform Independent voters about the Democratic candidates. Remind fellow Democrats to vote.
  - 5 **Donate money to the Allamakee Democratic Central Committee** - Your donation goes a long way in helping the Central Committee “get the word out” and “get out the vote” through paid advertising, printing costs, postage, and supplies. Please send your check to Treasurer Galen Kuhens at 622 Sojourn Lane, Harpers Ferry 52146.
  - 6 **Write a Letter to the Editor** - Discuss issues of importance to Democrats.
  - 7 **Attend the Allamakee Democratic Central Committee meetings** - What a good way to keep abreast of the Democratic activities and efforts in Allamakee County. You will meet fun, interesting people with whom you have much in common.
  - 8 **Contribute to the Allamakee Democrats’ blog** at - [www.allamakeedemocratsviews.net](http://www.allamakeedemocratsviews.net)
- Your help translates into election victories. In 2006, Allamakee County went blue by 508 votes because of people like you. You can again help turn Allamakee blue in 2008. Call Chair Karen Pratte at 535-7254 and say you will volunteer and help the Democrats.**

## Does Allamakee County Have a Democratic Central Committee? *Indeed We Do!* By Karen Pratte

The group meets the first Saturday of the month and has an open-door policy. Interested Democrats are welcome and encouraged to attend. The next meeting is Saturday, January 12 at 11:00 AM at Gus & Tony’s Restaurant in Waukon.

What motivates Democrats to get involved is a mutually shared belief that together we can make a difference, hold government accountable to the people and elect representatives who reflect values and principles Democrats hold dear. What also motivates Democrats to get involved is the fun, enjoyable, and stimulating hour we spend with a good group of people.

The Allamakee Democratic Central Committee is the official governing body of the Democratic Party at the county level. Currently, the officers are:

- 1 Karen Pratte, Chair
- 2 Bob Malli, Vice Chair
- 3 Galen Kuhens, Treasurer
- 4 Mary Pladsen, Co-Secretary
- 5 Paula Rehahn-Hill, Co-Secretary

Other vital, key positions on the Central Committee are filled by:

- 1 Tom Hill, Issues Committee Chairman
- 2 Bob Malli, Recruitment Committee
- 3 Laura Odegard, Media
- 4 Ann Klees, Advisor
- 5 Dennis Nebendahl, Advisor
- 6 John Smola, Veterans’ Caucus

Getting the word out and getting out the vote are the Central Committee’s primary functions. Once candidates are selected, we engage in a variety of activities to assist these candidates in conveying their messages. When it is time to vote, we make sure people get to the polls and encourage them to support the Democratic candidates. During non-election years, our group continues to find creative, interesting ways to let people know what Democrats stand for, to build our coffers, and to build the party locally.

Please consider joining us on January 12. We will gladly have a member pick you up. For a ride, call Chair Karen Pratte at 535-7254.

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