

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Leader Pelosi  
**From:** Steve Israel  
**Re:** Progress on Member Dues, Recruitment, and Meeting with Messina  
**Date:** January 24, 2013

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Here is an update and follow-up requests for the DCCC's three priorities this month:

- I. Member Dues
- II. Recruitment
- III. President Obama Commitments

### **I. MEMBER DUES**

As you know, we broke our record for Member Dues in January, which was previously sitting at \$1.3 million. As of this writing, we have \$1.6 million in commitments and I have asked finance staff to plan a path to \$1.75 million - \$2 million. Our success is largely the result of the monthly Ranking Members Meetings you have attended. I recommend these meetings be continued.

### **II. RECRUITMENT**

We invited 11 top-flight recruits to Washington for the Inauguration, DCCC luncheon, and other events. We are now focused on the following priority list:

- Former State House Speaker **Andrew Romanoff** (Coffman, CO-06)
- Kentucky Secretary of State **Alison Lundergan Grimes** (Barr, KY-06) (*see below*)
- **Gwen Graham**, Attorney and daughter of Senator Graham (Southerland, FL-02)
- Judge **Ann Callis** (Davis, IL-13) (*see below*)
- **Sean Eldridge**, Political Director of Freedom to Marry and Chris Hughes' partner (Gibson, NY-19)
- **Erin Bilbray**, Executive Director of Emerge Nevada and Rep. Jim Bilbray's daughter (Heck, NV-03)
- Businessman **Michael Sherzan** (Latham, IA-03)
- Astronaut and 2012 candidate **Jose Hernandez** (Denham, CA-10)
- Kern County Supervisor **Leticia Perez** (Valadao, CA-21)
- Redlands Mayor **Pete Aguilar**, although he fell ill and was unable to attend (Miller, CA-31) (*see below*)
- Former Rep. **Brad Ellsworth** (Bucshon, IN-08)
- Businessman **Jim Graves** (Bachmann, MN-06)

### ***Leader Pelosi Recruitment Calls***

Please call the following top-priority prospective candidates. Call sheets are attached.

#### **Judge Ann Callis, IL-13 (Davis)**

I met with Illinois Third Circuit Court Chief Judge Ann Callis on Tuesday. Her father is a prolific trial lawyer from her area, and she is a local powerbroker in her own right. She has a large fundraising capacity within the legal community and a compelling personal narrative as a reformer on the bench and as the mother of a son in the military. She would be a great candidate for this toss-up district – in fact, we tried to recruit her last cycle after Rep. Costello announced his retirement (she lives at the intersection of both districts). Callis will make her final decision in the next five weeks after her son returns from Officer Candidate School. A call from you would help convince her that IL-13 is a top priority for House Democrats, and that she is our preferred candidate.

*Note: We have also submitted a call sheet for President Obama to call Judge Callis, although we do not know if he will actually make the call.*

**Kentucky Secretary of State Allison Lundergan Grimes, KY-06 (Barr)**

Allison Lundergan Grimes met with me this week. She is very impressive. At age 34 and in her first term in statewide office, she is considering her many political options. We need to make the case to her that service in the House provides the best way to help her community and her country, as well as something that opens up opportunities at the federal level. Her top priority right now is working with the Kentucky Legislature to pass a bill making both registering to vote and voting easier for active duty military personnel and their families. She will be able to retain her seat while running for office in 2014 (she was elected in 2011), but would like to wait until the Kentucky legislative session is over before making any decision on a run for higher office. Session ends in late February, so we need to continue to recruit her as we work towards a March announcement.

*Note from Missy: You met Allison and her husband, Andrew, at the Candlelight Ball on Sunday evening. Allison came up to you and introduced herself and said she was exploring possibly running for Mr. Chandler's old seat.*

**Redlands Mayor Pete Aguilar, CA-31 (Miller)**

Redlands Mayor Pete Aguilar planned to be in Washington for the Inauguration, but fell ill at the last minute.

Although he was unable to be here, he has expressed to me that he is seriously considering running for Congress again. Aguilar is our top recruit in this district. He has thought long and hard about the reasons he didn't make it through the primary in 2012, and we have provided him with an analysis of the district demonstrating that it continues to be the most Democratic seat held by a Republican. We believe a call from you will help finalize his decision and get him into the race.

**III. PRESIDENT OBAMA REQUESTS**

I met with Jim Messina this week and we finalized the following commitments:

- President Obama will do three fundraising events for the DCCC in 2013. They want to set a date before he speaks to the Caucus. We are going to ask for events in Chicago, Los Angeles and New York (in that order).
- Additionally, POTUS committed to raising money for us directly through events, emails, and direct mail.
- They agreed to share their voter file modeling data with us.
- They will help with recruitment, including POTUS calls to candidates.
- Please note: The 501c4 organization, Organizing For Action (OFA), will do advocacy on guns, immigration, climate change and debt/deficit. They will target Republicans *and* Democrats in their districts.