

Northwest Democrats News



November, 2007
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Northwest Democrats, P.O. Box 681911, San Antonio, TX 78268; TXDemocrat@satx.rr.com

November 17th Program: So You Want to Be a Precinct Chair...

Don't forget to attend our November 17th meeting when the topic will be becoming a precinct chair. Bexar County Democratic Party Chair Carla Vela will speak on the need for precinct chairs. Our own Joyce Dorrycott, the person who literally wrote the book on precinct organizing, will talk about precinct organizing. We will also have precinct organizing books available for \$3 at the meeting as well.

Please join us for this important meeting at 8:30 a.m. at Luby's, 6200 Bandera Rd.

WEAR YOUR T-SHIRTS AND BRING YOUR MUGS

Don't want to have to think about what to wear to the Northwest Democrats meeting: WEAR YOUR NORTHWEST DEMOCRATS' T-SHIRT. If you are a member of Northwest Democrats and you have Northwest Democrats' t-shirt (blue or red) wear your t-shirt to the meeting.

If you have a Northwest Democrats' mug, bring it to Luby's and use it rather than the styrofoam cups. We know styrofoam is bad for the environment, so do your part to help it.

Special Projects: Thanks to Eckhert Road Volunteers

After the October meeting eight hardy souls cleaned up Eckhert Road: Ruth Stewart, Adam Castillo, Darby and Charlie Riley, Richard Barber, Bert and Jacob Middleton, and Gene Marck. The next clean-up will take place in January, 2008. Thanks to all who participated in our four clean-ups during 2007.

The Northwest Democrats signs are quite visible at the busy corners of Eckhert & Bandera and Eckhert & Huebner. The traffic count is quite astounding on Eckhert Road. It is excellent exposure for our organization.

2006-2008

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Soldiers and Families Assistance Center, One Year Later

In December of last year Northwest Democrats began contributing to the Soldiers and Families Assistance Center at Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC). Nearly one year later this effort is part of the Democratic Party's outreach, with a Democratic club contributing to the center each month. December will once again be our turn. We will be collecting contributions at our Dec. 15 meeting. From our Communications Chair Ruth Stewart, earlier this year:

The Soldiers and Families Assistance Center at Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC) is a haven for troops on long-term therapy following severe injuries during the two gulf wars. The Center is a homey environment, providing a relaxing contrast to the medical scene necessary for physical rehabilitation. It is open daily under the direction of Judith Markelz, Program Manager, with the help of many volunteers...some of them wounded warriors themselves.

There is equipment jammed into the limited space (1200 square feet) providing for television or video watching, computer activities, games, reading or chatting with each other or with helping staff. Snacks are always available, and homemade cookies bring a sense of home to these men and women whose lives have little of this. There are scheduled group activities such as bingo, scrapbooking and leatherworking as well as off-base trips to sporting and entertainment events sponsored by outside resources.

Ms. Markelz is the vital center to the operations, a dynamo with an answer or a resource for virtually every need of the wounded soldiers, marines and their families. She maintains contact with assigned case managers, connecting the hospital-based resources with those beyond the capability of the military medical system. She finds an answer for personal situations, ranging from how to file an income tax return to how to get a spouse to a new assignment locale. She provides comfort and a sense of reality to those whose lives have been so severely traumatized.

Northwest Democrats contributed generously to these troops in December, with dozens of homemade cookies and bottles of water. In honor of Armed Forces Day this month, we are again providing these items and others (see below) donated by members and their friends. We have also suggested this project to the other Democratic clubs in the area and each month through November a Democratic club will be helping these wounded warriors and reminding them that Democrats appreciate their sacrifices on behalf of our country. We expect that this monthly Democratic endeavor will continue.

Please Help Our Wounded Warriors

The Warrior and Family Assistance Center at BAMC is providing marvelous help to men and women wounded in the gulf wars and stationed at BAMC for months of rehabilitation from severe injuries. They appreciate so much the "extra's" that are not part of government issue. Each month, one of the Democratic clubs in this area is contributing to the Center, and December is NWD's turn for this.

Please bring a contribution to the December 15 NWD meeting, such as:

Homemade cookies (in freezer bags)

Bottled water

Phone cards

Gift cards

Diapers

If you cannot attend the December 15th meeting, please send your contribution with a friend. For further information, call Ruth Stewart at 696-7980.

Thanks So Very Much

Northwest Democrats Super Bowl

by Jacob Middleton

Yes it's that time again. Time for the Northwest Democrats Annual Super Bowl Party. At least Dallas finally has a good chance of making it this year (diehard Dallas fan here). As always we need help putting it together. We need envelope stuffers, people to help with the food, callers, auction items, people to help setup and take down, etc.

Like with our dinner featuring Congressmen Charlie Gonzalez, Ciro Rodriguez, and Henry Cuellar, all money raised at this event will go toward our 2008 election effort in the fall. While we set a record for money raised last year, there's always room for improvement. This year is no exception, from the auction to the food. If you want to help us get better, come to our planning meetings.

Judge Tessa Herr and our Treasurer Roger Herr have graciously volunteered their house once again for the Super Bowl. And once again, we want to thank them for allowing us to use their beautiful home for our Super Bowl fundraiser.

If you have not already heard, Northwest Democrats conducted an area-wide campaign for Democrats in 2006. **We walked to over 14,000 houses, delivering literature for an average of 30 Democratic candidates. In addition, we mailed their literature to 7,129 apartments, gated communities and retirement homes. During the last week, we made 4,005 phone calls in the get-out-the-vote effort.** However, we need to do more in 2008 to win even more seats for Democrats in our county and in Texas.

In part, because of the efforts in the northwest, **Democrats now have a majority of the district courts in Bexar County with the addition of Judges Larry Noll, Gloria Saldana, Peter Sakai, and Catherine Torres-Stahl.** No incumbent Democrat was defeated.

We helped force Republican Congressman Henry Bonilla into a runoff. And although it's taken several tries, **Congressional District 23 is once again represented by a Democrat, Ciro Rodriguez, in Congress.**

With your help, the Northwest Democrats can play a pivotal role in 2008. Already we are revamping our election strategy and will also be conducting a series of workshops in 2007. To do the organizing and training that is so critical in successful election efforts and to operate an office in the general election of 2008 will be expensive. While everyone in our campaigns works as a volunteer, it is still necessary to raise a significant amount of money to fund this effort.

If you would like to help out with the Super Bowl party drop me line at TXDemocrat@satx.rr.com or 867-6338. With the holidays coming up, finding a time to meet might be difficult, but we will have a planning meeting for the Super Bowl. Thanksgiving will be on the 22nd this month. Right now our first meeting is planned for Saturday November 24th at 2:00 pm. Location is still to be decided. Once again, if you would like to help out with the Super Bowl contact me at TXDemocrat@satx.rr.com or 867-6338.

The stakes are too high for government to be a spectator sport.—Texas Congresswoman Barbara Jordan.

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San Antonio, TX 78268-1911

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Our annual Super Bowl party/fundraiser is coming up and we need help.

If you would like to help out with the Super Bowl party contact our Vice Chair, Jacob Middleton, at TXDemocrat@satx.rr.com or 867-6338. With the holidays coming up, finding a time to meet might be difficult, but we will have a planning meeting for the Super Bowl. Thanksgiving will be on the 22nd this month. Right now our first meeting is planned for Saturday November 24th at 2:00 pm. Location is still to be decided. Once again, if you would like to help out with the Super Bowl contact Jacob Middleton at TXDemocrat@satx.rr.com or 867-6338.