

# Northwest Democrats News



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

## December 15<sup>th</sup> Program: Cong. Charlie Gonzalez

Don't forget to attend our December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting when Congressmen Charlie Gonzalez will be giving us a report on what Congress has been doing.

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.

### Please Help Our Wounded Warriors

Please bring a contribution to the December 15 NWD meeting, such as: Homemade cookies (in freezer bags), bottled water, phone cards, gift cards, and diapers.

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

Thanks So Very Much

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## A Few 'Joyce' Words

*by Joyce Dorrycott*

The last few weeks have been difficult ones, and at times I have lost track of everything but Don. But, a number of us are working on plans for the Super Bowl. We are still looking for help in putting our 9<sup>th</sup> Super Bowl event together. Because of my tenuous situation, I'm really asking you to step up and help out. So, please call me at 680-5701 or Jacob at 867-6338 if you will join the Super Bowl planning committee. This is a critical fundraising event for us because we need to continue to build up our treasury if we are going to have the needed resources for our 2008 general election.

We are still trying to identify precinct chairs from our northwest area precincts. If you haven't yet made a decision to run to represent your precinct, please give serious consideration to doing so. Our party is only as strong as we make it, and our candidates all need a strong Democratic Party behind them. Additionally, we need a strong group of precinct chairs in Northwest Democrats for the fall.

Regardless where you stand on the toll road issue, it is hard not to see that the chairwoman of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is making lots of waves in her decision-making on toll roads. For those who missed Jaime Castillo's column in the 12/3/07 Express-News, it is apparent that Councilwoman McNeil hasn't done her homework on the people who live in the 281 area. (She thinks they all make two – three hundred thousand dollars a year.) Turns out more than half the district's households make less than \$60,000 a year.

We certainly need someone to lead the MPO who has a better understanding of the real circumstances of the people who will be served by the road being planned. Adding to the current situation is the lack of trust people have in TxDOT and the continual raiding by the legislature of dedicated highway funds. Altogether, these factors are a recipe for the bitter fight currently going on over the first toll road proposed for San Antonio. For those of you who don't know, our own Charlie Riley is involved in the lawsuit against the toll roads. State Representative David Leibowitz who also opposes toll roads sits on the MPO if any of you want to call and express your own opinion.

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Many of you have inquired as to how Don is getting along since his two long trips to the hospital. First he was in from October 31<sup>st</sup> to November 15<sup>th</sup>, then back from November 20<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup>. The first trip was definitely the most serious. Don spent 8 days in the Intensive Care Unit.

Then a few days after coming home he had problems breathing and was admitted again. This time his hematologist ordered the first round of a new brand of chemotherapy developed in the past 3 years solely for his disease, myelodystasis. As most of you know, Don's system no longer creates his own blood, so he has lived the past months on blood transfusions.

We are both so grateful for the contributions of blood so many have made for Don. We are grateful for your cards, calls, hospital visits, food and for your prayers. We appreciate all of you.

If any of you are O+ and would like to donate, Don continues to have a critical need for blood and will have from now on. Just call me at 680-5701 if you wish to make a blood donation. Meantime, thanks again so very much.

Joyce and Don

## Precinct Chairs Needed

by Jacob Middleton

Last month our program focused on the responsibilities of a precinct chair. Previously we've featured presentations on the Texas Democratic Party's VAN system and True Blue Action. Continuing that train of thought, now is the time to put those words into action. So how can you do your part?

First, file to run for precinct chair in your precinct. If you're not sure what precinct you live in, you can check your voter registration card or visit the Bexar County Elections Department website, [www.bexar.org/elections](http://www.bexar.org/elections), and scroll down to the 'Who Represents Me' section. If you don't know if someone has already filed for your precinct you can visit the Bexar County Democratic Party website, [bexardemocrats.org](http://bexardemocrats.org). You can download the filing form from the Bexar County Democratic Party website or the Texas Democratic Party website, <http://txdemocrats.org>.

Next, become engaged in the process. So you don't have any races going on in your area during the primary. Guess what, you're still needed the evening of Election Day to chair your precinct convention. If you think it's hard, think again. Speaking for myself, I had never chaired nor attended a precinct convention until 2006. All I did was read through the instructions several times and just like that we had an informal convention. Believe me, voters are very understanding; they're probably happier that you're serving rather than being able to conduct a perfect convention. And after the precinct convention comes the senate convention (honestly, not as much fun as the state convention). Never been to a state convention before? Now's your chance. You've always seen the national conventions on TV, well, come experience a smaller version closer to home.

Maybe you can't necessarily walk your precinct. Maybe your job or family responsibilities prevent you from going out and meeting voters in your precinct. Maybe your precinct is an apartment building. Remember, there are tools you can use to get around this. We've had presentations on the Democratic Party's VAN system and True Blue Action. With these tools you can phone bank or send letters to potential Democratic and Independent voters. I will be filing once again to be a precinct chair. I may not be able to or even make an effort attend the monthly CEC meetings, but I will get out there and campaign for our candidates. One thing that has been the most interesting about walking my precinct is finding out how many households in my precinct are Democrats or Independents.

If you're a former precinct chair, I encourage, implore, and urge you to file once again. If you are unsatisfied with the situation of the party, the only way you can be able to change it is to have a vote at the table. And together, with enough votes, we can begin to change the party for the better. My first proposal would be to scale back the monthly meetings to once a quarter or 4 times a year rather than the too-often once a month. But I digress.

Back to the matter at hand. Right now, change can only happen with enough people. People who think the party can do better. People like the members of Northwest Democrats. So please, file for precinct chair in your area.

On a personal note, when a presidential candidate issues a press release that points to essays written by their opponent in kindergarten and third grade in order to gain an advantage, I have to wonder how far this candidate will go to win. Especially when the press release in question was not written in a joking or tongue-in-cheek manner.

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To help out with the Super Bowl,  
contact Joyce at 680-5701 or Jacob at  
either 867-6338 or  
[TXDemocrat@satx.rr.com](mailto:TXDemocrat@satx.rr.com)

We need auction items for our Super  
Bowl! If you have items for our silent  
and live auctions, please bring them to  
the meeting. You will need to let us  
know the price of the item as well.  
Items don't necessarily have to be  
material. If you know someone who  
owns a restaurant, florist, travel agency,  
or other business and would offer a gift  
certificate or similar item and might be  
willing to donate...

