

Northwest Democrats News



February, 2008
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Northwest Democrats, P.O. Box 681911, San Antonio, TX 78268; TXDemocrat@satx.rr.com

MEETING LOCATION HAS MOVED

February 16th Program: Candidates for Railroad Commissioner, County Commissioner, 379th District Court, Constable, Democratic County Chair

After meeting at Luby's on Bandera for fifteen years, we will be moving to the **Luby's at 9251 Floyd Curl Drive (at Huebner)** for our monthly meetings. The Luby's on Bandera has been closed, and that sent us scurrying with only a few days to find somewhere to meet. Our new location should be very comfortable for us as everything else should stay pretty much the same.

So, don't get up on the morning of the 16th and head for our old location. Just go instead to the new Luby's at Floyd Curl and Huebner.

We have a very full program for February 16th. It will include the following contested races - the Railroad Commission; the district judge race between Ron Rangel and Scott Simpson; the Precinct 1 County Commissioner's race; the Constable's race in Pct. 2; and the county chair's race. So, start out early so you will arrive on time and not miss anything.

2006-2008

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A Few 'Joyce' Words

by Joyce Dorrycott

The operative word this year is “change,” and members of Northwest Democrats are not immune. The Luby’s where we have met at for the past 15 years has closed. So, we will be meeting at the Luby’s at 9251 Floyd Curl Drive (at Huebner) from now on. We are grateful to have found a location that will be comfortable for all of us and not too far from where we have been meeting.

For those of you who missed our Super Bowl event on Sunday, you missed a really great party. The food was fantastic, the people were all great and fun to be with, and the game itself was unbelievable. Added to all that, it was an extremely successful event and will add a lot of money to our fund for running our general election effort.

Many people were involved in making this Super Bowl such a great success. I am especially appreciative of all the work done by so many in a year when it was difficult for me to contribute in the way I normally would. So, hoping I won’t leave anyone out, I want to say “thank you”; to Larry and Jeannie Ricketts and to Kathy Day and Sue Wilson for preparing and serving the food; to Esmeralda Rodriguez who did an outstanding job of putting the live and silent auctions together; to Jacob Middleton who did everything asked of him from putting out the signs to working with Esmeralda & Gloria Diaz on the auctions; to Ruth Stewart and Evelyn Mortola who manned our registration table; to Gene Marck who spent the evening selling shirts, bumper stickers and buttons; to Ray Baray for arranging for the television; to Anna Dorrycott, Lisa Lanett (who also made potato salad), and Larry Romo who served on the planning committee; to all those who cleaned up afterwards; and to our hosts – Tessa and Roger Herr – who made us so welcome in their lovely home once again.

We all owe a debt of gratitude both to those who made contributions to the auctions and to those who made financial contributions to ensure that the event would be so successful. A heartfelt thank you to each one of you. (And, please forgive me if I left someone out.)

It has been many years since Texans have had the opportunity to play a meaningful role in the selection of our presidential nominee, but this year it will be different. You and I will be able to work for the candidate of our choice and to have our votes count in the selection process. We have about four weeks to roll up our sleeves and get to work. So, no matter whom you support, or even if you are an Edwards supporter who hasn’t yet decided on a candidate, we all need to make good use of this opportunity to help nominate a candidate for our party.

It is still possible that the nomination will not be settled until the conventions. So, don’t forget to go to your precinct meetings at 7 pm on the night of the primary and continue on to the state convention in June.

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 or NEW POLO SHIRT.** If you are a member of Northwest Democrats and you have Northwest Democrats’ t-shirt (blue or red) or polo shirt, wear your t-shirt or polo 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.

On the Road Again

by Jacob Middleton

I wonder if Willie Nelson knew he would be singing the new theme song for the Texas Republican Party (or at least the ones on the state Supreme Court). First, Justice David Medina came under fire for travel expenses between Houston and Austin. Then Justice Paul Green (originally on the 4th Court of Appeals) had an ethics complaint filed against him for his travels between Austin and San Antonio. Justice Nathan Hecht made it a trio because of his travel expenses from Carrollton to Austin.

What's possibly unethical about these travels is that they may have used campaign funds. From the Express-News, "The Texas Ethics Commission said in a 1993 advisory opinion that appellate judges cannot use their campaign funds to pay for commuting expenses between their hometowns and the city where the court sits. Judges are allowed to use their political funds for campaign travel and travel related to their jobs."

On top of this Justice David Medina became the first sitting justice since Don Yarbrough in 1977 to be indicted. Medina and his wife were both indicted in connection with a fire that destroyed their Houston home. Luckily for Medina the indictment fell under the jurisdiction of the Harris County D.A., who also happens to be a Republican. The Republican D.A. in Harris County dismissed the indictments against Medina and his wife saying there wasn't enough evidence, even though the D.A. had gone to trial in other cases with less evidence. Two members of the grand jury which handed down the indictment were incensed enough to come out publicly and chastise the D.A.'s office.

What this whole incident showed is that there are special circumstances for some people. From the Houston Chronicle: *Bail was set at \$20,000 for Francisca Medina and \$5,000 for her husband. Both offenses are felonies. The arson charge carries a punishment of probation to 20 years in prison. Evidence tampering or fabrication would be punishable by probation to 10 years.*

Grand jurors anticipated that Rosenthal would seek to have their indictments dismissed. Foreman Robert Ryan and assistant foreman Jeffrey Dorrell said that the district attorney's office made it clear, even before the grand jury started considering the case, that it was vigorously opposed to Medina being indicted.

Ryan said that about a month ago the assistant district attorney handling the case informed him that he had discussed it with Rosenthal, and neither thought charges were justified.

"This is ludicrous. This is not right. This is a miscarriage of justice," said Ryan, 63, a Republican who has been foreman on at least four grand juries. "If this was David Medina, comma, truck driver, comma, Baytown, Texas, he would have been indicted three months ago."

... "I've just never seen anything like the vigor with which these two defendants were defended by the Harris County District Attorney's Office," Dorrell said. "It was theater of the absurd. We knew before we handed the indictment down that the district attorney was going to refuse to prosecute, but we did it anyway."

Add to all this, the headline from the Houston Chronicle: *State high court case backlog is worse than ever.* It took four years for the justices to issue one opinion. Are these judges too busy traveling? Do we need to hire ghost writers in order speed things up?

It's amazing, the Republican always talk about making government run efficiently like a business. I didn't know they had Enron and Arthur Anderson in mind.

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DUES WERE DUE IN JANUARY

Remember that changes in the bylaws means that all dues are now due in January. Dues are \$15 for the entire family.

If you are not able to attend the meeting you can send in a check to:

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