

Northwest Democrats News



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

June 21st Program: Toll Roads & State Rep. David Leibowitz

Don't forget to attend our June 21st meeting where we will hear State Rep. David Leibowitz discuss the issue of toll roads. Rep. Leibowitz is currently a member of the Metropolitan Planning Organization which has been discussing the issue of toll roads.

Please join us for this important meeting at 8:30 am at Luby's, Floyd Curl and Huebner.

2006-2008

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Special Projects: Warrior and Family Support Center needs our help!

Please bring to the next NW Democrats meeting:

homemade cookies (in freezer bags)

bottled water (six-packs)

Pampers

toiletries

gift cards

phone cards

Following the meeting we will transport the goodies to the Support Center.

The Support Center helps the returning wounded soldiers and their families. It has been instrumental in maintaining the morale of the injured and provides comfort to the families who come to San Antonio.

Call Gene Marck, chairman-Special Projects, if you have any questions...273-9201 (cell) 614-7400 (office).

Authorized & Paid for by the Northwest Democrats

To submit an article or other info, email Jacob Middleton at:

TXDemocrat@satx.rr.com

A Few 'Joyce' Words

by Joyce Dorrycott

After a tiring two days in Austin for the State Democratic Convention, some of us who were delegates in the 26th Senatorial District came away with a number of observations. Among them was the manner in which deliberations were conducted in choosing who would represent the district on everything from the Resolutions Committee to the choosing of our representatives on the State Democratic Executive Committee (SDEC). All the persons chosen but the SDEC members were simply temporary, but those two individuals will represent the 26th District for the next two years determining the rules the Party will be run by and the activities in which it will engage. What was so surprising was that for the first time in my memory (36 years of attending these conventions on and off), nominees for each position were chosen on the basis of their presidential preference.

The "Hillary delegates" met in a caucus and nominated someone for each office. The "Obama delegates" did the same. Then, the two groups came together to make the final choices. It was not difficult to tell who was who since the "Hillary delegates" all wore yellow shirts and caps. Still, our delegation chairman saw fit that each time he would say, "The Hillary people nominate _____", and "the Obama people nominate _____." Since the "Hillary delegates" vastly outnumbered those representing Obama, it quickly became clear that simply being identified as the "Hillary choice" was enough to assure victory. Unfortunately, in at least one instance, the person nominated by the "Hillary delegates" had really seemed to have no concept of the job for which he or she was being considered. Neither did the delegates. It was enough that the person nominated wore a yellow shirt.

It made little difference overall (except to those from the Obama delegates who wanted a chance to serve), but the selection of our SDEC representatives was more serious. Here, you need people who have a clear understanding as to what the job entails. It would perhaps be helpful next time to say what the SDEC does, how often it meets and where, as well as to prepare those nominated to serve with the costs involved in serving in these positions. The result of the SDEC elections was to defeat both of our current SDEC representatives – both of whom had the misfortune to support Obama. Word was that the reverse occurred in other senatorial districts. Both types of action were unfortunate. We should never again have people chosen for a position based on which presidential candidate they support. When the nomination process is over; it is over!! We are then just Democrats working hard to elect good people to every position in order to have both the strongest state and local parties and to elect every Democrat possible.

A second observation was more positive. The sheer number of delegates present – over 7,000 – was in itself the most impressive showing of interest in the Democratic Party and its nominees that I have ever seen. There were Democrats in the hall as far as the eye could see. And, almost everyone who spoke mentioned how wonderful it was to see how many were there. Our job now becomes seeing that all these new people, as well as our consistent supporters get to work to elect our Democratic candidates. That means we will have to get together those lists of people who attended precinct meetings or voted in the Democratic primary and begin contacting them. We need to keep as many of them active and involved in the fall election as possible.

We have such a great start on increasing the number of voting Democrats – something so important if we are to "TURN TEXAS BLUE". For the first time in many years there will be national Democratic involvement in providing resources **to** Texas rather than just **taking** resources from Texas. (How Don would have loved that!!) An email I got from Barack Obama today said, "I am proud to announce that our presidential campaign will be the first in a generation to deploy and maintain staff in every single state."

What a wonderful change!! We know that the road to changing Texas from red to blue will not be easy. Already our Northwest Democrats' board has met with a number of the Democratic nominees and begun plans for the fall. Jacob and I are actively looking for a possible headquarters for the fall campaign effort, and we would appreciate it if you would let us know if you hear of a possible location. There is so much to do and so little time to get it done. We will all need to bind together and run the most efficient and effective campaign possible.

So, put aside the presidential candidate you supported and let's get to work. There are no more "Hillary Democrats" or "Obama Democrats". There are only Democrats!!

Now it's on to Denver, and let's win there

by Jacob Middleton

What I'm about to say in regards to the state convention are my thoughts and only my thoughts.

First, the divisions and the convention were disappointing. We had a Democratic nominee the previous Tuesday, but apparently only half of the delegates got that memo. And the lack of leadership by some of the elected officials was also disappointing. I'm sorry, but whether or not there was an official concession, we had a nominee. And when an elected official stands before us and espouses a message of unity, but refuses to even say the name of our nominee, Barack Obama, that is abysmal.

Second, the State Democratic Executive Committee (SDEC) is responsible for helping run the state party for the next two years. Among the many responsibilities of the SDEC, recruiting precinct chairs is not one of them. Recruiting precinct chairs is the responsibility of the county chair and the local party.

Third, if someone wants to represent their senate district on a committee or on the SDEC, they should have to speak for themselves; just because your voice isn't loud isn't an excuse. If you can't explain in your own voice and words why you should serve as my representative, how then are you going to stand up and be heard?

In reality, I could care less about these committee positions and SDEC. I just don't like seeing the way people were divided along presidential preferences. It also makes me wonder how many people will be back for the state convention in 2010. How will we pick committee members and SDEC representatives without a presidential campaign to distinguish them? Maybe based on qualifications?

Before anyone gets too angry, remember it's not like I'm a nationally syndicated columnist appearing in papers across the country. Someday maybe.

On to more important matters, our 2nd Annual Pat Maloney, Sr. Public Service Award Dinner. Last year we honored our three Democratic congressmen representing Bexar County. This year we are honoring Mayor Phil Hardberger. The dinner will be August 20th at the Omni Hotel at the Colonnade. Tickets are \$55 or 2 for \$100. We will have tickets available at our June and July meetings. Like with the Super Bowl, the money raised from the dinner will go to our fall general election effort.

We have a stark choice this year between Barack Obama and John "Crypt Keeper" McCain. Just having a Democratic congress will not stop John McCain. We need a Democratic president. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas was approved by a Democratic Senate.

A President McCain means having Phil Gramm as Treasury Secretary. Yes, the same Phil Gramm who played a large part in creating the current housing crisis. As Texans, we had to suffer with Gramm as our Senator. Do you really want him back in a position of power?

Speaking on the subject of change in 1992, Barbara Jordan stated, *"Public apprehension and fears about the future have provided very fertile ground for a chorus of cynics. And these cynics go around saying that it makes no difference who is elected President of the United States. You must say to those cynics, 'You are perpetuating a fraud.' It does make a difference who is president. A Democratic president would appoint a Supreme Court Justice who protects liberty, rather than burden liberty. A Democratic president would promote principles, programs, policies which help us help ourselves."*

"I am a Democrat without prefix, without suffix or without apologies."—Sam Rayburn

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SAVE THE DATE

Our upcoming dinner will be on August 20th. Individual tickets are \$55 or 2 for \$100.

Our next planning meeting for the dinner will be on June 22 at 3:00 pm at Verna Blackwell's house, 5743 Ascham.