

# Northwest Democrats News



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

## MEETING LOCATION HAS MOVED

### March 15<sup>th</sup> Program: Transportation: New Projects and Future Possibilities

A reminder, after meeting at Luby's on Bandera for fifteen years, we have moved 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 15th and head for our old location. Just go instead to the new Luby's at Floyd Curl and Huebner at 8:30 am.

We have a very full program for March 15th. Michelle Perales from VIA on bus rapid transit and Bill Barker, a transportation expert, on the future of light rail.

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### Eckhert Road Clean-up: Sat., April 5, 10 am

Our clean-up date will be moved to April 5. This is to coincide with a statewide "Don't Mess with Texas Trash-off."

We will be meeting in the parking lot of Marshall H.S. at 10 am on Sat., Apr. 5<sup>th</sup> for our clean-up.

We are recycling the cans and bottles collected to help save the Earth.

Questions? Call Gene Marck, Special Projects Chair.  
Office: 614-7400; Cell 273-9201

#### 2006-2008

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

TXDemocrat@satx.rr.com

## A Few 'Joyce' Words

by Joyce Dorrycott

I never thought I would say this, but I am beginning to think that you can want to win a political campaign too much. Watching the presidential campaign wind down in Texas these last few days has become an exercise in disappointment. I understand being a candidate. I've been one. I understand running political campaigns. I have run a number of them. I understand political tactics. I have devised and implemented many of them.

Yet, despite my 35 years of political involvement (beginning in the 1972 Texas gubernatorial campaign), I confess to being unprepared for a Democrat's use of voter's fears for their children's safety in order to win votes in a primary. This is a Republican tactic. And, a tactic from which Democrats have suffered in far too many elections.

This has been labeled by Democrats as our year to win the presidency. And, we have two good candidates with sufficient resources to reach voters. But, suddenly what was a fairly civil campaign has degenerated into tactics guaranteed to come back against us in the fall general election. It's common for words spoken in a primary to be thrown back at us in the fall. But, now we have the specter of being the first party to use fear to gain votes in this year's election – so we certainly can't complain when ads such as those used in the Democratic presidential race come back to us in the November election.

By the time you receive this newsletter the votes will have been counted in the March 4<sup>th</sup> primaries, and the candidates will have moved on. One can only wonder when the party's nominee will be selected. It has been exciting having all the candidates and their surrogates here. However, the most exciting thing has been the tremendous increase in the numbers of voters in this Democratic primary. It is wonderful that so many of our young people are so energized about voting and about supporting their candidate. Our job will be to keep all these voters engaged in the fall election. So, get your rest now for we'll need all your energy by mid-summer.

Meetings will be held shortly with our candidates and those of our organization who want to be involved in planning our fall general election effort. This year we want to be especially efficient and to work in conjunction with our candidates in a manner which will help them win in November. Therefore, early planning is necessary, and we will begin meeting to do this about April 1<sup>st</sup>.

In addition, we will be holding our first meeting to plan for our annual "Pat Maloney Public Service Award" dinner on Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, at 2 pm, at my home at 6454 Village Park. If you are interested in being involved in any of these planning events, please call me at 680-5701.

One last note: Don and I are very appreciative of our being chosen as "Unsung Heroes" at the February 23<sup>rd</sup> "Braggin Breakfast". Unfortunately, Don's health did not allow us to attend, but we have heard only good things about this event. We were especially pleased that so many members of Northwest Democrats were present. It is so important that we participate in party activities as we are part of the county party and should be supportive of it.

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## 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.

## Beware Voters Bearing Gifts

by Jacob Middleton

One lesson most people or married couples learn over time is that you never fight when you're tired and angry, because when you're tired and angry you may say something you regret. Before I get to the topic I want to talk about, I first have to vent a little. I attended my precinct convention. I also attended my precinct convention in 2006, the year I was elected precinct chair. At my precinct convention this year, a certain candidate's precinct captain had already picked up the precinct packet, and then proceeded to lie to my face and try to prevent me from having the precinct packet; even though I arrived in plenty of time to pick it up and my name was in fact on the front of the packet as the precinct chair. I don't mind a candidate's supporters being passionate about their candidate, but I have to draw the line at lying. But I digress.

What is in the water in Iowa and New Hampshire that would cause the people of these two states to enjoy having so much attention focused on them? Maybe it's because Texas got the first bout of negative campaigning between the two candidates. Maybe it's because of the influx of new voters who I have never seen before. Maybe it's seeing the same ad for a candidate 5-10 times during one program. Maybe it's the nonstop phone calling. For some reason though, Iowa and New Hampshire seem to thrive on this.

One thing that everyone is noting is the increase of voters. In 2006, the final numbers for the primary race for the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senator and Governor each totaled a little over 500,000 voters. This year, the number of votes for the Democratic presidential candidates was over 2.8 million. While that's nice, there is one disconcerting and troubling portion of this. The next statewide race on the ballot was U.S. Senator. The number of voters dropped to 2.1 million. After that, there were three contested statewide races: railroad commissioner and two supreme court seats. The average number of voters for all three was 1.9 million.

I hate being the Cassandra in this instance, but I can't help it. This is worrying to me and should worry any Democratic candidate down ballot. Yes we have seen a great turnout of voters, but a drop-off of almost 1 million for down ballot races. Almost 1 million voters turned out just for the presidential. Massive turnout is great, but not if there is this significant a drop in votes. Who is the president is important, but it is your state and local offices that affect a person just as much as the office of president.

Remember CHIP? People weren't drastically cut from the program until the Republicans gained control of the State House. Remember the tort reform? Caps on punitive damages weren't implemented till the Republicans took control of the State House. School textbooks? It wasn't until the conservative fundamentalist Republicans gained control that we had science, health, and history books being rejected for religious or personal beliefs.

Again, this worries me that people are coming out for only one race thinking that as long as we get either Clinton or Obama as president things will be righted. No. You can have a Democratic president and a Democratic congress pass CHIP legislation, but as we have seen, it's the states that get to decide criteria for eligibility. You can have a Democratic president and congress, but that in no way guarantees a cure all for our problems. It's great there are so many voters, but if they don't vote down the ballot, what's so great about it?

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From NW Member Rona Aduna:

The San Antonio Chapter of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State will have their general meeting on March 19<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m., at the Community Unitarian Universalist Church (4818 Beverly Mae E. off Babcock near the Medical Center). Everyone is invited.

The guest speaker will be Kathy Miller of the Texas Freedom Network ([www.tfn.org](http://www.tfn.org)). The Texas Freedom Network advances a mainstream agenda of religious freedom and individual liberties to counter the religious right.

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## **MEETING LOCATION HAS MOVED**

**The Luby's on Bandera has closed. Our February meeting will be at the Luby's at the intersection of Floyd Curl Drive and Huebner; 9251 Floyd Curl Dr.**

## **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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