

Northwest Democrats News



March, 2007
Volume 11 Issue 3

Northwest Democrats, P.O. Box 681911, San Antonio, TX 78268; nwdemocrats@gmail.com

Mar. 17th Program: District 7 City Council Candidates & Northside Bond Campaign

Don't forget to attend our March 17th meeting when the candidates for City Council District 7, Councilwoman Elena Guajardo and San Antonio ISD Trustee Justin Rodriguez, will be there to answer questions.

Northside School Board member Katie Reed will be there to talk about the NISD Bond proposal. Katie Reed has been on the NISD School Board since 1990 (longer than any of the other current members). She is also the Immediate Past-President of the Texas Association of School Boards.

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

Special Projects

by Gene Marck

Eckert Rd Clean-Up: Mission Accomplished!

Thanks to the hearty volunteers who worked diligently to clean up Eckert Road after the February meeting: Kay Ford, Ruth Stewart, Richard Barber, Bert & Jacob Middleton, new volunteer Kathy Day, and Gene Marck.

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

Making a Difference

Last month we heard that the Rape Crisis Center is in need of donations for the children. If you have any toys, children's books, etc., that you can donate bring them to our March meeting.

2006-2008

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

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A Few 'Joyce' Words

by *Joyce Dorrycott*

In the last newsletter, we told you about the work Lisa Lanett, one of our members, has been doing with the homeless. She sent me an email to thank us for our participation and gave a very interesting account of her activities.

"Yesterday was a great success! Felicia Morales made 70 sandwiches, which disappeared in 5 minutes. My friend, Olive Gaskin, a good Democrat and member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church helped me with the distribution. We also gave out toilet articles, white socks (the last) and cat and dog food. (I have an order for a collar and leash for next Sunday!) I have made a deal with St. Vincent de Paul. I give them all the contributions that are not useable for street people (you'd be surprised how many canned olives and artichoke bottoms we get!), and they will let me have small food cans (there is a one portion can of beans & weenies with a pop top very good for eating on the street). Also, I made a contact with the man in charge of the laundry at the Hyatt Resort. They throw out sheets, pillow cases, towels, etc., when they have only a small blemish. Those I usually give to SAMM or St. Vincent. (I also get them from the Radisson)

"Felicia gave me a contact in her church (Methodist) who will help with items. I have opened a bank account (I have a volunteer bookkeeper who got me the IRS TIN and helped me solicit a 501C exemption - this takes about one year, but she says I may accept contributions meanwhile as long as they are always deposited in the bank account). I think monetary contributions are going to be the only way for me to buy diapers, toilet paper and dog and cat food. I am going to buy a wholesale box of detergent at Sam's and fill 1lb. bags to give to my clients. I also hand out information about clinics, dental and optical care. (Most of the homeless have no teeth! and so young!) I talked to an alcoholic yesterday who told me he was a skilled carpenter but always spent his paycheck on booze. He wanted my help to stop drinking! Sorry I'm not equipped for that kind of counseling, but I told him I would help him save his money.

"There were several families with kids. One 7 year old boy was enchanted with my dog "Holly" and asked my permission to walk her - which he did all the time we were there. I gave the kids paper and pencils, also pens (donated by Compass Bank) for the adults and notebooks (donated by Stewart Title). Homeless people also have thoughts and a need to sometimes make a list or write a letter. Olive did the most incredible thing: she brazenly went to the manager of a Walmart and asked for a donation of white socks and GOT THEM!!! I have been trying for a long time to get donations from large stores. They always answer that the corporate office is in charge and, when I write them a letter, they say they already have their charities that they support, and I have NEVER gotten anything! Now Olive is a very frail, skinny 89 year old - maybe that influenced the manager...?! I hope she does it again!"

This is such an important work, and I encourage as many of you as will to continue your contributions to this effort. Lisa also wrote me that there is a need for women and children's underwear and socks as well.

Many of our people live today one paycheck away from homelessness themselves. And, while some of the homeless are there due to addiction to drugs or alcohol and some are there due to the closing of mental facilities and nowhere left for them to go - some are families who need a hand up. Unfortunately, both the federal and state governments do little for these people who need so much help and encouragement.

I felt so devastated when I heard of the man who wanted help to get off alcohol. We need to find a contact with AA (and hope we can find him again!) to give him some assistance. As the daughter of an alcoholic father who lost his business, his family, and his faith in himself, I know the devastation of this addiction which gets so little attention anymore. Alcohol has such a strong hold on some people's lives that they buy alcohol rather than food. My father died of pancreatic cancer at 64 brought on by just such a pattern of life.

Thank you, Lisa, for keeping us reminded that there are so many who we usually don't "see" - but who need our help and support.

24 Hour News Cycle + Longer Presidential Campaign = ?

by Jacob Middleton

So much I could talk about. The Legislature, the HPV vaccine, the sexual abuse at the Texas Youth Commission. Instead, I'll focus on the presidential race and what we all have to look forward to. Insert your own opinion about what you think the answer to the above equation is. However, if you think that because there's a longer presidential cycle you're going to hear a more substantive debate from the candidates, guess again (I know that's so pessimistic to say, but think about it).

There's no way substance can happen in a 24 news cycle. How many times can CNN or Fox News report on a candidate's position on immigration? They need something shallower and attention grabbing. Expect to see stories like this: "Mirror, Mirror on the Wall: Which Presidential Candidate needs Plastic Surgery?"

Since we're still in the primary phase the

stories will be focused on racehorse polling (who's ahead), who's raised the most money, and which candidates are in the early primary states today.

Once we're about a month away from the Iowa caucuses, every story will be about what event each candidate had that day in Iowa. Along with more polling. Then the caucuses, and every story will be about who won, who didn't, and who's out. Then the stories will be the same as the Iowa stories, but with New Hampshire as the focus.

And then if the larger states move up their primaries to Feb. 5th, we will know who the nominee of each party is. FYI, Election Day is Nov. 4th.

Once the nominee is selected the press will then have about a month or two to do nothing but speculate on who will be selected for Vice-President. You'll hear story after story that will analyze the weaknesses and strengths of about 20 potential VPs (10 Ds & 10 Rs). Along with this will be

the daily horserace polling of who's ahead and who would be ahead if they selected a certain VP candidate. After the VP is selected, there will be nonstop polling between now and Election Day.

Don't forget of course that we will also have the conventions to look forward to; along with the numerous news stories about their relevance or lack there of. There will also be stories that look at past presidential campaigns and how they didn't traditionally start till after Labor Day.

And once again there will be polling. And more polling. And still more polling broken down by state. And don't forget those swing states.

After the conventions there will be the debates: 3 presidential (2 podiums, & 1 town hall) and 1 VP debate (sitting at a table).

And of course, throughout the campaign will be those interviews with undecided voters; those wishy-washy people that can't make up their minds by late October.

To sum it all up, Winston Churchill, "Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others that have been tried."

In Anticipation & Check This Out

Saturday, Mar. 17, 2007—Northwest Democrats Meeting.

Be sure to check out the Northwest Democrats Official Blog.

<http://northwestdemocrats.blogspot.com>

And also check out our website.

www.northwestdemocrats.org

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