

Northwest Democrats News



May, 2007
Volume 11 Issue 5

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

May 19th Program: SEED Coalition and any Council Runoffs

2006-2008

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Don't forget to attend our May 19th meeting when Karen Hadden, the executive director of the Sustainable Energy and Economic Development (SEED) Coalition will speak. SEED, according to its website is an "alliance of individuals, businesses, and organizations advocating sustainable energy strategy for Texas, including the use of renewables and conservation." Based in Austin, SEED Coalition can track many of the environmental issues and legislative policies and keep us informed. Their website is www.seedcoalition.org. Join us for this important discussion and learn how we can all participate in a sustainable energy strategy!

We also hope to have the runoff candidates if there is a runoff in the City Council District 8.

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

Special Projects

by Gene Marck

Support Our Injured Troops

Bring homemade cookies, healthy snacks, bottled water (six packs), and phone cards to the May meeting for the injured and wounded troops recovering at Ft. Sam Houston and their families. The Center for the Intrepid is providing world-class rehabilitation services for the troops and it is a long process. Their families are living at the nearby residence quarters and they need our support and encouragement. Let's show them that Democrats really care.

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

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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 Dorfyott

It seems the Texas Legislature may join a number of other states in moving its primary to February 5th. This means that we have an even shorter period of time before we are engaged in full blown political activity in the Democratic Primary.

We have already been visited in San Antonio by John Edwards, Hillary Clinton and Bill Richardson. And, it isn't just presidential candidates who are active so soon. Indeed, state and local candidates are already making plans for their 2008 campaigns.

One of our more important races in Texas this year will be that for the U. S. Senate. Republican John Cornyn is up for reelection, and those of us who have paid close attention to his votes in Washington know that he has spent more time protecting the president that he has in working for the people of Texas.

Word has it that Cornyn's favorable rating is not good among Texas voters which produces a good opportunity for Democrats to take this seat – especially since this will be a presidential campaign year and large numbers of Democratic and Democratic-leaning independent voters will be turning out to express their opposition to the Iraq War once again.

Several candidates have been mentioned as possible Democratic challengers for this Senate seat, and each of us will choose which one will get our support. However, this year it will be especially important that we use good judgment in making that choice. Periodically, we Texans seem to play Don Quixote as we go to the polls. Remember how many times Gene Kelly has knocked off really superior candidates.

We need to choose candidates in every race for their ability to win – candidates who are able to raise the money, who will put together efficient and effective campaigns and who are committed to winning themselves. We can't afford weak candidates this time.

2008 provides many great opportunities for Democrats. We need to elect a Democratic president; send a Texas Democrat to the US Senate; take back the Texas House and State Senate; continue our 2004 and 2006 capturing of the judiciary in Bexar County. But, we can't do these things unless we are willing to put aside personal preferences as to race, ethnicity and gender and pick strong candidates who can win.

Then, we need to dedicate our time, talents and money to winning. Whomever you choose to support in the primaries, make sure that it is someone who will have the resources and staying power needed to win in November – and someone who will cause you to get up early, work late, and give your total dedication to them.

2008 is our year!! Let's use this opportunity wisely, and get to work to take back the White House and every office down the ladder. And, we must be COMMITTED to winning. I am; are you???

Help Needed

For some weeks now a number of us have been meeting on alternate Thursdays at noon to lunch and visit together while also looking up phone numbers for those voters for whom we do not have numbers at present.

The task is so large that we simply must have more help. By working together now we will be better organized for the 2008 General Election.

What we are about is no small task. There are over 150,000 names to be checked. So, if you have the time to assist us, please join us. We meet at my home at 6454 Village Park at 12 noon, every other Thursday. Our next meeting will be May 24th. Call me at 680-5701 if you need further information or directions.

The San Antonio Progressive Action Coalition (SAAPAC) will feature the film "China Syndrome" at 6PM on Sunday, May 20th at the Bexar County Democratic Headquarters, 3010 N. St. Mary's St. 78212. For information, call Barbara at 492-3069.

A Conversation With Garbage

by Jacob Middleton



It's
amazing
the
political

conversation

topics that can come up when cleaning up Eckhert Road.

During the last cleanup I had fun picking up the shredded remains of what used to be a tire, along with a rusted hubcap. Unfortunately I couldn't find the rest of the car; but I digress. From the shredded tire remains can spring numerous topics: hybrid cars, cars needing to get better gas mileage, the greediness of the oil companies, Dick Cheney's energy task force, global warming, etc.

On one occasion I happened to find part of a practice TAKS test (remember, we're right by Marshall HS). I thought how appropriate, because the TAKS test is a piece of garbage that needs to be trashed, along with the teaching to the test

mentally now imposed on our educators and might soon be imposed on our college campuses by Gov. Goohair. (See numerous topics).

Over the course of two cleanups I found a broken golf club and a golf ball (I hope to someday have the whole set). From these items come the reminder of Jack Abramoff's golfing trips to Scotland with Republican Congressman, which leads to remembering the whole Culture of Corruption.

I've also picked up a crutch, which can naturally lead to a conversation about healthcare and the need for universal health coverage and how sad it is that the richest country in the world is behind Costa Rica when it comes to something like health insurance.

Recently I happened to find the cardboard packing of a condom package. On the upside, at least someone is practicing safe sex. Of course anything related to sex is going to create hot topic conversations: abortion, stem cell research, sex

education.

Then there are also the numerous lottery scratchoffs found. Only to remember that the lottery money for education hasn't gone where it was supposed to.

Right off the bat one time I found a discarded textbook (high school not college). All I could think was how much I had to pay for my college textbooks because of price gouging tactics used by the publishing industry.

It was particularly satisfying after the 2006 election. Some of you may remember the nasty race for State Representative District 125 (Joaquin Castro and Nelson Balido). While cleaning up, there happened to be a Balido sign on the ground. It was so satisfying to use his sign as a doormat. Hey, he was going to be a doormat himself for Bob Perry and James Leininger.

So please, join us the next time we have a cleanup. There won't be one this next month, but the next time there is, all you'll need is a pair of gloves, we provide the rest.

And I hope that if we were to check the voting results, all of the NW members would be on it because you voted in the local elections.

In Anticipation & Check This Out

Saturday, May 19, 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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