

Northwest Democrats News



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

Apr. 17th Program: NISD Bond Election and Dr. Masarrat Ali

Don't forget to attend our Apr. 17th meeting when we will hear from NISD School Board member Katie Reed about the May NISD School Bond Election. We will also hear from Dr. Masarrat Ali, candidate for House District 122.

For more information about the proposed bond visit:
<http://bond.nisd.net/2010/proposal/>

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

Special Projects: Eckhert Road Clean Up

The next clean up will take place after the April meeting. We look forward to seeing the regulars plus some new faces. It is good exercise and contributes to the beauty of our community!

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

Any questions, contact Adam Castillo,
adamcastillo55@yahoo.com

Woodlawn Lake Earth Day

Woodlawn Lake Earth Day is April 17 from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm.

There are numerous booths about energy conservation and other green topics. There is a tree giveaway; and in addition they will be raffling off a Ford hybrid to someone who attends. It is a great outdoor event, so come and celebrate Earth Day.

Authorized & Paid for by the Northwest Democrats

To submit an article or other info, email Jacob Middleton at:
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A Few 'Joyce' Words

by Joyce Dorrycott

I heard someone say the other day that they had been so surprised that few Democrats had either spoken out concerning the state of the Bexar County Democratic Party nor expressed the outrage they surely feel over the manner in which our party had been so badly misused.

Well, now that the primary season is over and before we begin the fall general election campaign, this seems just the right time to share our feelings about the disastrous situation our party is in. Are we mad? Are we outraged? Are we disappointed in our former leaders? Of course, we are.

When someone runs for an office, we anticipate that they are ready and willing to carry out the duties of that office. Why else would they run? So, when we elect a county chair for our party we believe they will study what the job entails (which they should have done before running). One of the primary responsibilities of anyone who runs a political organization is to raise the money needed to carry on the organization's activities. And, certainly, you need to follow up on those who take care of the money once it is raised.

When you are the one responsible for an organization such as a political party, it is your duty to keep an eye on all the income and outgo. How can anyone in a leadership and managerial role not know that they not only get credit when things go right, they are equally responsible when things go wrong. Most of us remember the famous quote on President Truman's desk in the Oval Office – "The buck stops here." And, so it does for the party chair.

No one in that position can excuse themselves from responsibility when the party is evicted for failure to pay rent or from failure to watch the handling of party funds. While neither is a criminal offense, it is a moral failure to meet the requirements of holding a position of authority.

And the result of this failure? Our party has been made a laughing stock. Our opponents have been presented with a golden argument against us. Our candidates will have a more difficult time persuading the voters that they can be trusted to do a good job for the people they wish to represent.

That is the bad part. But, it is not the end of the story. The rest of us must now step up and represent the strong values of the Democratic Party. No one can sit down this year. It is not a presidential year, but we have some really great Democratic candidates running in contested races for offices from Justice of the Peace to Governor. We need not hide our heads in the sand. We must rededicate ourselves to the task of getting out the messages of our candidates. We must work hard and be good stewards of the funds we have raised for the fall campaign. We must apply real wisdom to the making of a budget; to targeting our voters; to planning our campaign; to spreading the word in as efficient and effective manner as humanly possible.

And, we must do all this holding our head high and wearing the name of Democrat with pride. Northwest Democrats is an organization of which I am very proud. Our candidates and officeholders contribute to us because they know we are careful spenders of those contributions. More importantly, they trust us to represent them well to the voters. And we must not let them down.

If you are interested in being involved in the planning of our fall campaign, come to our planning meeting on April 17th, at Martha's, right after our regular meeting. Then, set aside time to help out at the campaign office, and make that time as definite as any other appointment you make.

This is a time when our Democratic organizations must pull together and find a way to cover our county in helping to get out the vote! The challenge is ours. The opportunity is ours. What will we do with it?

Back to the Future with Advise and Consent

by Jacob Middleton

You want to see the modern day Senate in action 50 years ago? You need only watch the best political movie about it. No not that Frank Capra film about Mr. Smith. It's the all-star classic *Advise and Consent*. In the movie the president nominates a liberal college professor (Henry Fonda) for Secretary of State. So now we go to the Senate where the Democratic Majority Leader (Walter Pidgeon) has the herculean task of getting Fonda confirmed.

Now comes the drama. Pidgeon first creates a mess when he appoints a special committee to hear Fonda's nomination. He chooses a Democrat who enables the more conservative and obstructionist elements in the Senate (both Republicans and Democrats) to essentially have a free run of things. And it wouldn't be the Senate without a obstructionist Democratic Senator (Charles Laughton) who doesn't want Fonda confirmed and does everything he can to stop the nomination. Interestingly enough, Laughton's character just happens to be from the South. I guess we now know where Blanche Lincoln got her inspiration from.

Does any of this sound familiar? A Democratic president who has a Senate majority, but can't get his nominee(s) confirmed because the Republicans and a few Democrats decide to obstruct.

Recently President Obama made 15 recess appointments. While I'm glad that he managed to get some "controversial" nominees appointed, I'm not glad that they were recess appointments. Recess appointments still have to be approved, which means that if these appointments aren't confirmed by the Senate, they can only serve through the end of 2011. Hopefully, once these 15 have been in their jobs for a while and don't generate the supposed and hyped controversy surrounding them, they'll be easily confirmed later on.

What Bush and the Republicans understood was that judges have a lasting impact. By the end of Bush's first year in office he had nominated 65 judges and had 28 confirmed. From January 20, 2009 to January 20, 2010, Obama nominated 39 judges and had 14 confirmed. Bush had a Senate evenly split at 50-50 and later in 2001 had a Senate split 50 Democrats, 49 Republicans, and 1 Independent. So far this year (i.e., after January 20th), Obama has nominated an additional 18 judges and had 5 confirmed (the 5 confirmations were from those first 39 nominations).

Some say, well the president has a lot on his plate. He's focused on healthcare, the economy, Iraq, Afghanistan, etc. I don't buy that argument. He's the president, I expect him to be able to multitask. I expect him to have a group of people who do nothing but interview and vet potential nominees.

Some say the Republicans are asserting a greater role in the process. Like John Cornyn and Kay Bailey Hutchison wanting to have the say so on who gets nominated in Texas. Yes they're doing that, but you're the president. You nominate, the Senate either confirms or denies. Aside from that, historical precedent has been that if there is no Democratic Senator from the state, the Democratic House members from that state get to send up possible names for the president to choose from. This is when you make a deal: for every two Democratic names, the Republicans get one. This is also when you work over Hutchison and entice her to get revenge on Rick Perry and other state Republicans by screwing them over on some nominations.

For the president's 19 confirmed judges, 4 were confirmed by unanimous consent. For the other 15, the average was 90 Senators approved versus 6 opposed.

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Northwest Democrats Election Strategy Meeting

Reminder: Northwest Democrats will be having an election strategy meeting on April 17 at 10:30 am (it will take place right after our regular Saturday meeting) at Martha's Mexican Café, 5822 Babcock Rd.

This is the opportunity for members of Northwest Democrats to strategize and learn where we feel our money and efforts would be best spent in the general election in northwest Bexar County.