

Northwest Democrats News



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

Dec. 19th Program: Congressmen Charlie Gonzalez and Ciro Rodriguez

Don't forget to attend our Dec. 19th meeting when we will hear from Congressmen Charlie Gonzalez and Ciro Rodriguez. Congress has been busy tackling numerous issues. What do you want to know about: healthcare, Iraq, Afghanistan, etc.?

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

Special Projects: Warrior and Family Support Center

The WFSC provides coordinated services to patients, next-of-kin and extended Family members with a primary focus on Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom Warriors. It provides a friendly, comfortable environment in which to take a break, watch a movie on big-screen TV's, play video games, check email or use the Internet, select a book or magazine to read, make a phone call or just grab a cup of coffee.

Wounded Warriors and their Family members visit the WFSC to maintain contact with other military members or extended Family members, to receive emotional support and answers to their questions, and to extend their rehabilitation away from the hospital. The rehabilitation involves learning to cope with war related disabilities as individuals, as couples and as Families.

Items needed include: bottled water, snacks (cookies, popcorn, chips), diapers, toiletries, books, magazines, puzzles, games, CDs, DVDs, and monetary donations

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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

We have heard more about health care these last months than any other bill before Congress for a long, long time. Hopefully, if President Obama can hold their feet to the fire long enough we will get a health care bill soon. I know that due to the nature of the legislative process the finished product will not please any side on this issue.

But, the key thing for all of us to remember is that we must get a framework that can be built on in the future. It is important to continue to call our senators now and members of the House when a compromise is reached. In writing or calling any of the senators, the following are points you should remember. (All you really need to say is, "Pass the Democratic Health Care Bill.")

If, however, you need to convince others, here are some of the important things left to be resolved:

1. Passing a health care bill this year which reduces the level of increasing costs is a critical matter this year.
2. Inclusion of some form of public option is the most effective way to increase coverage and to reduce costs, which appears to be jeopardized right now.
3. This bill does not need to include further language on abortion coverage than already exists because current law already denies use of any federal funds to cover abortion.
4. There must be rejection of the concept that the current bill establishes a government run health care system and a recognition that many of those most vocal on this issue are either Medicare recipients or their parents are. As one who does receive Medicare, I am well aware of the differences in what Medicare pays for a particular procedure and the amount charged to my son who is on an 80/20 plan. And, my level of care is equal to his but not superior to it.
5. While we appreciate that United State senators have particular responsibility to their states, they are also equally responsible to represent the country as a whole. The current position of Republican legislators not to vote **for** any bills proposed by the current administration is an abdication of their responsibilities to their state and to the entire country.
6. We **must** get a health care bill passed whether or not it meets the personal views of any particular senator or representative. Once a framework for increased public coverage is created, it will be possible for health care legislation to be modified and/or expanded as necessary.

Only by increasing pressure on the members of Congress by letting them know that the public is extremely supportive of the passage of health care legislation do we stand a chance to get health care legislation passed **this session**. And, it has been a hundred years since the subject of providing health care for our citizens was first proposed, and it has been 44 years since Medicare and Medicaid were established.

Our failure to speak up now **in favor of the health care bill** could contribute to its failure, and we will have lost this opportunity in our lifetimes.

Lastly, we will be planting two more trees in memory of Don (from the money donated for him) at an elementary school in Northside ISD in the next week or so. If you would like to participate, please call Jacob, 867-6338 or me, 680-5701, and we will let you know the details. We are currently awaiting the location of the school and the date and time they will be planted. We do ask that anyone who joins us for the planting bring a gallon of water. You'll understand why when you see the way they are planted!

It's That Time Again

by Jacob Middleton

Feb. 7 is just around the corner. That means it's time for the Northwest Democrats Super Bowl Party/Fundraiser. This will be our 11th Super Bowl Party. If you didn't receive a sponsor letter please consider this your invitation to be a sponsor.

In order to have the needed funds for the Fall 2010 campaign, we are again seeking your participation in this fundraising effort by asking you to become a sponsor at one of the following four levels:

Commissioner (above \$750) Owner \$500.00 Coach \$250.00
Quarterback \$100.00 Season Ticket Holder \$50.00

You will receive tickets to the event as follows: Commissioner - 10 tickets; Owner – 8 tickets; Coach – 6 tickets; Quarterback – 4 tickets, and Kicker – 2 tickets.

2010 looks to be a banner year for Texas Democrats with some great opportunities in Bexar County. 2010 will be especially important because reapportionment will take place during the 2011 Legislative Session. Texas is poised to gain 4 Congressional seats, let's make sure Democrats have a seat at the table.

Democrats only need 2 seats for a 75-75 tie in the Texas House of Representatives. 3 seats would not only allow Democrats to have a majority in the State House, but also a seat on the Legislative Redistricting Board if the Legislature can't agree on new district maps.

Statewide, Democrats look to be putting together one of the strongest tickets in decades and we want to make sure that in the fall, Northwest will have the resources to get out the vote.

There is only 1 Republican County Court Judge left. Let's make it a 15-0 Courthouse in the Democrats' favor. There are 8 Republican District Court seats up in 2010. We have the chance to make it 23-3.

One of our top targets in 2010 will be the 4th Court of Appeals. We helped elevate Justice Catherine Stone to **Chief Justice Catherine Stone**. Her election left a vacancy that was filled by Rick Perry and means Republicans have a 6-1 majority on the court. In 2010 we will have the chance to elect 2 Democrats to this court and to give Chief Justice Stone some support.

If you have not already heard, Northwest Democrats last year conducted an area-wide campaign for Democrats. In our 2008 Super Bowl letter we told you, *"This year Northwest Democrats will be publishing its own literature for the general election."* **We had 40,000 newspapers printed with information about our candidates, where to vote early, how to register, etc.** These newspapers were delivered in 25 precincts and 24,048 newspapers were mailed to gated communities, apartments, and retirement homes. **54 precincts were called** and reminded – first, to go vote early, and then, if they failed to do that, they were reminded to go vote on November 4th. In addition, we **purchased 1,250 Obama/Biden signs; 1,000 Vote Democratic signs; and sent welcoming and rally information to 24,440 families who were first time voters in the Democratic primary.** We also **purchased 1,050 bumper stickers, 81 dozen T-shirts, and 1,597 buttons.** By the end of the campaign we had no signs, buttons, or t-shirts left and very few newspapers.

With your help, the Northwest Democrats can play a pivotal role in 2010. To do the organizing and training that is so critical in successful election efforts and to operate an office in the general election of 2010 will be expensive. While everyone in our campaigns works as a volunteer, it is still necessary to raise a significant amount of money to fund this effort.

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SAVE THE DATE!!!!!!

Feb. 7 2010 - Northwest Democrats Super
Bowl Party