

# Northwest Democrats News



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

## Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> Program: Contested Democratic Primary Races

Don't forget to attend our Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> meeting when we will hear from contested Democratic primaries. Both our January and February meetings will feature contested primaries on the Democratic primary ballot. Early voting starts Feb. 16.

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

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## Special Projects: San Antonio Food Bank

This month we are collecting items for the San Antonio Food Bank. Monetary donations are always appreciated, but the items most in need are:

Peanut Butter  
Chili  
Canned Stews  
Canned Soups  
Canned Luncheon Meats  
Tuna  
Beans & Rice  
Macaroni and Cheese  
"Pop Top" Food Items  
Full Meals in a Can/Box

FYI: The San Antonio Food Bank service area reaches north to Kerrville, south to LaSalle County, west to Uvalde, and east to Seguin. This area covers 16 counties.

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

### 2008-2010

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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*

It is getting harder everyday to have anything but contempt for the Republican members of Congress. They were elected to represent the people – not to spend everyday and every vote waging war against the President of the United States. Yet, they consistently spend every day seeking to ensure that they are re-elected and the party of George Bush is re-established in Washington. I could spend pages extolling my disdain for each of them, and my inability to comprehend how they can justify what they are doing as meeting their responsibilities under the Constitution.

This does not excuse those Democrats who held the health care bill hostage for months, thus frittering away the one advantage Democrats had in getting it passed – their 60 vote majority. Members of the Senate are indeed elected to represent their particular state. But, that is only one part of their responsibility. They are also elected to represent the entire country. And, many of them are totally ignoring that part of their duty.

The health care issue should be of personal concern to each of us. When I remember the hundreds of thousand dollars that it cost to take care of Don in 2007-08 alone, I am so grateful that he had served in the military for 30 years and had Tricare; that he was over 65 and had Medicare, and that we had the foresight to buy a supplemental policy for him. Supplies to keep his PICC line open for 6 months cost over \$10,000. And, still, two days before he died his question to me was, “When do you think they will quit paying for my medical care?” The idea that so close to death that was a major concern to him haunts me. Not for Don, but for the thousands of Americans who do not have the medical care available he had.

And, so, the questions arise, “Why aren’t we Democrats doing more to provide the President our support on health care? Why are we sitting back and letting the Republicans dominate this issue? Why don’t we energize that same great Democratic fighting spirit we had in 2008? Why don’t we just let the Republicans filibuster?”

Imagine newscasts saying, “It’s day 1 of the Republican filibuster of health care.” “It’s day 2. . . ,” day 3, etc. It took 54 days of filibuster before the Civil Rights Act passed in 1964. Surely our leaders have enough concern for the health care of the American people to wait out a filibuster or to simply pass as much of the health care bill as possible through reconciliation which would only require a majority vote.

On a different note – There may be Democrats who are flirting with the notion to crossover to the Republican Primary and vote against Rick Perry. Just remember Kay Bailey Hutchison is a member of the “party of NO.” We have a number of great candidates who badly need your support in this primary. Many have served us well, and there are newcomers also engaged in contested primaries. The time to vote against Rick Perry is in November if he makes it that far. To vote against Rick Perry, we need to vote for a good Democrat to run against him.

Above all, participate, write letters to the editor, (we should have a campaign; designate people to write, Monday, more on Tuesday, etc.) pushing the need for Washington to WORK for US. Write to the president – urge him to be more aggressive. Too much time has been wasted the past year. The other side has a Tea Party. Let’s start a party for us – The People’s Party – or something similar. We’ll still be Democrats – just pushing our issues against the Tea Party. As an aside, have you seen such a blatant attack in the past 50 years as they made at their convention?

.And, DON’T FORGET TO VOTE EITHER EARLY FROM FEB. 16-26 OR ON MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup>. Our democracy needs us. Our citizenship demands it.

## Round Up the Usual Suspects

by Jacob Middleton

First a big Thank You. Thank you to the volunteers who helped put the Super Bowl together: Verna Blackwell, Adam Castillo, Anna Dorrycott, Joyce Dorrycott, Barbara Moschner, Judy Moczygamba, Esmeralda Rodriguez, Ruth Stewart. Forgive me if I left someone out.

Thank you to Absolutely Everything Catering for the venue and the wonderful food. Thank you to Allied Advertising for the always great sponsor board and for the items they donated for the auction. Thank you to Minuteman Press for the invitations. Thank you to everyone who donated items for the auction; everyone who bid on auction items; and County Commissioner Tommy Adkisson for being our auctioneer.

Thank you to the sponsors, without your support Northwest Democrats would not be able to continue to help our Democratic candidates every general election.

Because of everyone's hard work, we set a new record for the number of sponsors at over 90. While we will have a complete report and the meeting, we may also be on track to set a new record for money raised.

Turning to the title, I'm sure most of us feel like Claude Rains' character from the movie *Casablanca*. If you'll recall, Captain Renault's (Claude Rains) famous line from the movie is "Round up the usual suspects." Anytime there is a Democratic bill in the Senate and there is opposition from fellow Democrats, I feel like saying, "Round up the usual suspects." Most of the time I'd probably end up bringing in Bayh, Landrieu, Lieberman, Lincoln, and Nelson or some combination of the five.

My problem isn't with moderate to conservative Democrats in Congress. My problem is with moderate to conservative Democrats who obstruct, are obstinate, only seem to want to grab headlines, and look so selfish in the opposition (not what's good for the country, but what's good for me). For example, when the Senate passed a bill that gave the FDA the power to regulate tobacco, I disagreed with Sen. Kay Hagan's (D-NC) vote against the bill. She comes from North Carolina, tobacco is big there and her own hometown has a tobacco company in it. I get it; she's protecting her state's interest. The difference between Hagan's vote against this particular bill and how any of the "usual suspects" vote against Democratic bills is how I distinguish and draw my lines.

How many of us heard Hagan on TV or on the Senate floor just going off the Democrats? Telling how she was going to fight this bill tooth and nail? That she was going to threaten to filibuster it, etc., ad nauseum, ad infinitum. If that had been any of the "usual suspects", you would most likely have seen them on TV raking the Democrats over the coals for a horrible bill and the terrible repercussions it would have on this country and that we needed to compromise on it and be bipartisan and work out a deal.

I know for the pundits and Washington crowd, there still seems to be this reticence to use reconciliation (as well as getting tough on these senators). I for one say use it. Why do you think Bayh and Lincoln have come out publicly against reconciliation? It makes them irrelevant. Suddenly Democrats don't have to worry about pleasing Lincoln or Lieberman. They don't support the bill? No big, we only need 51 votes instead of 60.

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## **Membership Dues Due**

Reminder: Membership dues were due in January. It's \$15 for the year for the whole family. In addition, this money goes into our operating account to help pay for items such as the cost of the newsletter.