

Northwest Democrats News



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Volume 13 Issue 1

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

Jan. 17th Program: Toll Roads: the Pros and Cons

Don't forget to attend our January 17th meeting when we will hear the presentations from both sides on the issue of toll roads. This will be especially relevant given the recent reports about the state backing off of the Trans-Texas Corridor, but still keeping several smaller toll road projects around the state.

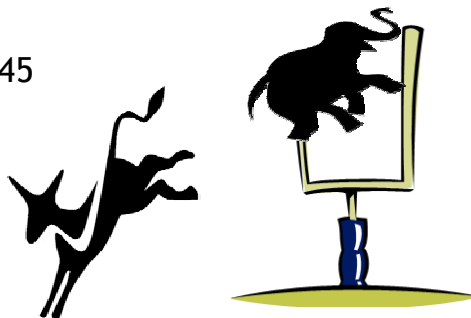
Please join us for this important meeting at 8:30 am at Luby's, Floyd Curl and Huebner.

Eckhert Road Clean-up

The quarterly **Eckhert Road clean-up** follows the **July meeting**. New volunteers are invited to join the hard-core neat-niks of past clean-ups. Join the fun on Eckhert Rd.

SUPER BOWL

February 1, 2009
4 - 9 pm
Home of Jimmy and Carrie
Willborn
6514 Laurelhill
Tickets \$25 or 2 for \$45



2008-2010

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A Few 'Joyce' Words

by Joyce Dorrycott

A breath of fresh air not only hangs over Washington, D.C., but it is also blowing over the State Capitol at Austin. Even though the November election brought more parity in the membership of the Texas House as Democrats continued to gain members. With a 76-74 (Rep - Dem) breakdown, the idea that there could be a change in the autocratic leadership of the House gained credence.

However, few of us were prepared for the swiftness of Speaker Tom Craddick's fall in one weekend in January. We were equally surprised that the new Speaker would be a two-term legislator from San Antonio - a city which has almost never produced the leaders of the legislative branch.

Still it is refreshing that both these things occurred. And, few (if any) Democrats missed the role our Democratic legislators played in determining who that new Speaker would be. So, now what remains is to watch through the session to see how much fairness really occurs in a body that has suffered for too long under a dictatorial leadership that has both prohibited and inhibited the development of any meaningful public policy in Texas.

The ideological perspective of Tom Craddick required that members of the House vote not to represent the people they were elected to serve but whatever Craddick's particular point of view on an issue might be. And, why should the rest of us feel hope at the change? Because we need public policy in this state to be based on what is best for our citizens - not what one person may dictate to an entire body.

On a national level, we are looking with real hope that life will change for the better in this country (Could it be worse?). For those of us who grew up in the Great Depression, watching the constant increase in unemployment, the increased number of people losing their homes, the loss of confidence in our financial system, and all the other myriad problems associated with the changes occurring daily that decrease our faith in government. Thus, it is with great anticipation that we await President Barack Obama's inauguration.

Few, if any, of us had any concept of the rapidity with which the American economy disintegrated during the fall. All of us must, however, be a part of trying to put it back together. In January 1961, at a time when Americans were also lacking confidence in their government and had elected a young, articulate president, there were great expectations of what this president would say to us in his inaugural address.

So, on a very cold day that January 20th, as we eagerly listened to his passionate, historic address, we heard the challenge that should resonate with each of us on this January 20th and, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

Dear Democratic Family,

I want to express my deep gratitude to all of you for your prayers, your cards, and your hugs which I felt even while I was in the frozen tundra of Minnesota during much of December holding my nieces and nephew and encouraging my brother's recovery from the devastating fire that took the life of my sister-in-law and burned their home to the ground. You are wonderful support. While we will miss our sister, who was a gifted teacher and loving wife and mother, we rejoice that her family has a strong faith, superb community support, and is moving forward to rebuild their lives and honor her memory. You, my friends, are incomparable! Thank you.

Judge Barbara Neller-moe

It's Super Bowl Time Again

First, another reminder, our Super Bowl party is just around the corner. If you didn't receive a sponsor letter, but would like to sponsor there is still time. Sponsor levels are at the bottom of the page.

Second, we are still looking for auction items. Did you get that fondue set for Christmas, but know you're never going to use it... In the past we've had a variety of items, including gift baskets with themes (political, food, etc) made by individual members. If you know of someone who owns a restaurant and/or business (a spa maybe) and they would like to give a gift certificate, that's also another option. (Reminder that as an organization we can't accept corporate donations, but if it's a personal donation that's acceptable).

Third, what is this all for? Electing Democrats. No offense to incoming Texas House Speaker Joe Straus, but I plan on having a Democratic Speaker after the 2010 elections. In addition, is there a *qualified* and *viable* candidate who can effectively challenge DA Susan Reed? There has to be someone who can make the argument that change is needed. The plane tickets, the special bond for her son's friend, and the Cantu investigation. My kingdom for a candidate.

Remember, if we don't have a Democratic majority with a Democratic Speaker after 2010, we won't have a seat at the table when it comes to redistricting. And I want a Democratic majority that won't be held hostage by a handful of obstinate Democrats just trying to advance their own power trips. For the past few sessions, we've called these legislators Craddick Democrats.

We will have tickets available at our next meeting for our upcoming Super Bowl party; 1 for \$25 or 2 for \$45. If you would still like to be a sponsor the levels are:

Season Ticket Holder: \$50 (2 tickets)

Quarterback: \$100 (4 tickets)

Coach: \$250 (6 tickets)

Owner: \$500 (8 tickets)

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State Representative David Leibowitz invites all the members of Northwest Democrats to be his guests at the pre-release party of his daughter, Jessica Leibowitz', first album on:

February 7th, 7 p.m.,
Floore's Country Store,
14492 Old Bandera Rd.
Helotes, TX 78023

Jessica has several of her songs online at:
Myspace.com/jessicaleibowitz