

Northwest Democrats News



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

Jan. 16th Program: Contested Judicial Races

Don't forget to attend our Jan. 16th meeting when we will hear from contested judicial 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.

Special Projects: Eckhert Road Clean Up

The next clean up will take place after the January 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

Membership Dues Due

Reminder: Membership dues are 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.

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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 all suffered a tremendous loss on December 15th when our beloved judge, Andy Mireles, passed away after suffering a massive heart attack on the 13th. Andy was such a fixture at Northwest Democrats. He was always there. The few times he missed were when his father died, when his brother died and when Andy had surgery.

It might be more respectful to call him "Judge Mireles," but I had known Andy for over 25 years and thought of him more as friend than as another officeholder. Don and I met Andy when he was running his first race – for San Antonio Independent School District Board of Trustees. He won then and won every political race he ran thereafter. And, we were involved in all his contested races.

I last talked to Andy at our November meeting when I asked him if we would be able to have the Super Bowl party at his house this year. As usual he said, "Ask Margaret." Margaret said "yes," and the plan had been to have our Super Bowl at their home.

But, I last spent significant time with Andy when the two of us talked to the Democratic women in November. I was scheduled to speak, and I asked him to join me so they would have more than one point of view. The moment I asked, he checked the date and said he would be glad to do so. It was a great evening. Andy never missed a chance to ask me if I had started that book (on my political experiences) that he had first asked me to write about ten years ago. And he asked me again that night. I told him that if I did write such a book I would lose half my friends and that no one would be interested in it anyway. He disagreed, so I promised him when I wrote it I would simply give it to him and he could hold on to it till I died. Then, he could publish it. Now, if I ever do write it, it will be dedicated to him.

Neither of us knew that he would beat me to heaven. So, now two empty chairs at Northwest Democrats have been added the last two years. Both Andy and Don have been taken from us far sooner than we would have liked.

Northwest Democrats will be raising money for a project to honor Andy until we raise a large enough sum to do something meaningful in his name. The organization will vote on the project when we have raised sufficient funds to do so. If you were not at the December meeting where we raised \$458 and would like to contribute, you may either do so at the January meeting or by mailing a check to – Northwest Democrats, P.O. Box 681911, San Antonio, TX 78268.

We shall all miss our dear friend and great supporter. The community has lost a great judge, and the youth who were sent to his court have lost a judge who was dedicated to helping them turn their lives around. Our thoughts and prayers remain with Margaret, Jonathan and Matthew. They have suffered the greater loss, and we should not forget them as we return to our everyday lives.

Calendar

Feb 7 - NW Democrats Super Bowl Party

Feb 20 - 8:30 am - NW Democrats, 9251 Floyd Curl @ Huebner

Mar 3 - 6:30 pm- Young Democrats, Joe's Crab Shack. 4711 NW Loop 410

Mar 13 - 8:30 am - Northeast Democrats, Luby's, 8511 Tesoro Dr.

Mar 20 - 8:30 am - NW Democrats, 9251 Floyd Curl (@ Huebner)

No, Nothing Party

by Jacob Middleton

Before I get too political, let me first mention the Super Bowl (the article title has nothing to do with our Super Bowl party). You should get invitations with this information, but there's no harm in repeating it. This year's Super Bowl will take place at Absolutely Everything Catering (3915 San Pedro, or the corner of San Pedro and Olmos). If you have sponsored, you're tickets will be included in your invitation. We will also have tickets available at our Saturday meeting. You can also purchase tickets at the event.

For anyone who has ever been you know that it's always a good time. If you haven't been before, please come and enjoy yourself. There's food, the game, and live and silent auctions. You can go online to www.northwestdemocrats.org to view a list of auction items. Some of the items we have recently had include: limousine service, a large gavel from the Texas House, a granite paperweight in the shape of Texas, wine basket, noodle basket, beauty basket, breakfast with Congressman Charlie Gonzalez, breakfast with Congressman Ciro Rodriguez, political button collection, books, jewelry, artwork, a day with mayor, and more.

If you have an auction item, you can bring it to our next Saturday meeting. If you have an auction item but won't be at the Super Bowl or can't bring it to the Saturday meeting, let us know. It's a safe bet that anyone on the Executive Committee will be able to help you find a way to get it to the Super Bowl party. The item doesn't have to be political in nature. Even though we are a political organization we all have interests outside of politics (for example, I go to the Majestic and see Broadway shows that are in town). As I noted earlier, we have had numerous items that are not political. One drawback is that we can't accept corporate donations. This means that if a restaurant wanted to donate a free dinner for example, we couldn't accept it. However, if you as an individual bought it and donated it, we could accept it.

Turning back to the article, I think it is safe to say that the Republicans have turned into the No, Nothing Party. I won't say they're the Know Nothing Party because they do know how to do something. They know how to obstruct. From economist Paul Krugman: *"The political scientist Barbara Sinclair has done the math. In the 1960s, she finds, "extended-debate-related problems" — threatened or actual filibusters — affected only 8 percent of major legislation. By the 1980s, that had risen to 27 percent. But after Democrats retook control of Congress in 2006 and Republicans found themselves in the minority, it soared to 70 percent."*

Vote after vote on major issues like the economy, energy, healthcare, fair pay, and SCHIP, there has been just a steady drumbeat of No, No, No. At the same time the Republicans don't have any serious alternatives to offer. Remember the Republicans during the healthcare debate (I think it was in the House). Republicans touted that their healthcare bill (which they came up with after it was pointed out they had nothing to offer) was only 200 pages. That is an insult to my and everyone's intelligence. A major overhaul of U.S. healthcare only takes 200 pages? If it were so easy how come it wasn't done before, especially when they controlled Congress and the Whitehouse?

If I were Democrats (especially heading into this year), I would find out what it would take to get an official Tea Party on the general election ballot. We've seen the Republicans split themselves with the Teabaggers on one side and the Republican establishment on the other. I say we use it to our advantage. I know in Texas, Teabaggers need collect enough signatures to equal 1 percent of the vote in 2008 general election. Anyone wanna pass this info along to some Teabaggers?

Northwest Democrats
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SUPER BOWL

February 7, 2009

4 - 9 pm

Absolutely Everything Catering (at San Pedro
and Olmos)

Tickets \$25 or 2 for \$45

Cash Bar

Live and Silent Auctions

Visit www.northwestdemocrats.org for a list of
auction items

We are still accepting sponsorships for the Super
Bowl, please send a check to PO Box 681911,
San Antonio, TX, 78268. Your name will be
listed on our Sponsor Board at the event.

