

Northwest Democrats News



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

May 15th Program: Lt. Gov. candidate Linda Chavez-Thompson and State House candidate Dr. Masarrat Ali

New Location: Luby's at 1604 & Bandera

Don't forget to attend our May 15th meeting when we will hear from Lt. Gov. candidate Linda Chavez-Thompson. We will also hear from Dr. Masarrat Ali, candidate for House District 122.

For more information visit: <http://www.electchavezthompson.com/> and <http://www.alifortexas.com/>

Please join us for this important meeting at 8:30 am at Luby's, Bandera and 1604.

Special Projects: Eckhert Road Clean Up & Memorial Day Cards

We had to move last month's cleanup so the next clean up will take place after the May 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.

We will also be signing Memorial Day cards and delivering them to the VA Hospital after the regular Saturday meeting.

Any questions, contact Adam Castillo,
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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

The past two months have seen one disaster after another throughout our world. First, an earthquake in Haiti (first time in 200 years), then earthquakes in Chile and Indonesia, followed by a volcano erupting in Iceland (again, first time in 200 years), then a massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico endangering my home town and the area in which I grew up, tornadoes in Mississippi and Arkansas and rains flooding Nashville, TN. And, as if all that wasn't enough -there has been an attempt to bomb Times Square.

As I think of all those disasters, it reminds me in a lesser way of the problems which have befallen our party in recent months - a party in disarray, lacking effective leadership and with few resources, owing hundreds of thousands of dollars, and with a difficult fall election facing its candidates. But, I've never been one to sit around majoring on the negative. Instead, I believe we should all work to turn negatives into positives.

Such an opportunity will be ours in the fall general election of 2010. As it has been our practice for years, Northwest Democrats will conduct an active political campaign on behalf of our Democratic candidates. We have a gubernatorial campaign to help win - goodness knows we should all have had enough of Rick Perry by now. We have the opportunity to contribute to the election of a governor and a lieutenant governor - both from San Antonio; to help elect a woman to be attorney general - as well as the responsibility to work hard to put a Democrat on the Fourth Court to work with Chief Justice Catherine Stone; to ensure that Democratic judges remain the majority in district and county courts and to elect a Democrat the District Attorney of Bexar County.

We know how to work hard at Northwest. We have raised the funds to run a campaign. We have met and agreed we liked many of the activities we engaged in during the 2008 general election and begun planning for this year's general election. We are beginning much earlier. Jacob and I have already been looking at offices. But, there is even better news. We have met with the leaders of five other Democratic organizations and begun efforts to work more closely than we have ever done. We want to be Bexar County United Democrats - united under this umbrella for the fall election to work for our Democratic candidates and to help them over the finish line.

The leaders of our organizations - Northeast, Northwest, Stonewall, Democratic Women, Mission City, and Young Democrats have agreed to go to our organizations and ask their support for this plan. All of the organizations except Stonewall will have met by the time we meet on the 15th. So far, Northeast, Democratic Women and Young Democrats have met and agreed to support this effort. I really believe this will be a great fall effort, and we will talk more about it when we meet.

We are Democrats who believe in our party, who care about our candidates and who don't just talk about doing something - but who actually work to help make them both more successful. But, it will take all of us - all who believe in our party whether they belong to organizations or not to put our heads, hearts and hands together to ensure that Democratic candidates win in November.

Do Something

by Jacob Middleton

I will be the first to admit that it is frustrating, tiring, and infuriating helping people who don't want to do what's in their best interest. This is coming from someone who is working for the U.S. Census as an enumerator (i.e., I'm out there knocking on doors getting Census forms completed that weren't turned in).

You try and you try and you try to get people to fill out their forms only to get avoidance and in some cases rudeness and threats. Having said that, everyone I have spoken to (except for a couple of people) have been very nice and cooperative. The big task is getting people to answer the door or return a phone call.

I will be the first to admit, there are times when I get frustrated and think, "You know, this particular household hasn't returned their Census. I've left notice of visits on their house and haven't received a phone call. I've been there 3 times on different days and at different times of the day and still haven't gotten a response; they don't seem to care, why should I? Can't we cut off some of their government services?"

Having said that let me once again say that the vast majority of people who have answered their door have been nice and cooperative, with most people saying they simply forgot to fill it out. But it's those few holdouts that seem to ruin it for everyone else. And when I say holdouts, I mean those who answer the door with a gun (actually happened) or threaten you (also happened).

After being threatened by a resident, a family member of mine who is also a Census enumerator went to one of the police substations to make a report as required. While making the report, the family member had to endure the bashing of the Census as invasion of privacy followed by how horrible the socialist healthcare bill is. Who did the bashing? None other than an on-duty San Antonio Police Officer.

If any civil servant wants to go out and wave a sign and shout at the top of their lungs against the president; or voice support of the president, let them do it on their own time. With the police officer voicing his political views in such a way that leads me to wonder how serious he takes the complaint? I could easily take this to the extreme. Does this mean we've reached a stage where we protect and serve as long as you agree with me?

How would that officer feel if he came to me for help while I was working for a government agency and I proceeded to spout off about how the police force is a corrupt bureaucracy?

So having made this long story long, what is the point? The point is that even though there are people out there like this, you continue to fight for what is in the best interest of everyone. Yes it gets frustrating. Yes it gets tiring. Yes you will get infuriated. In spite of that you must do something. Doing nothing is never the right answer.

Having said that, there's no reason to not have a good laugh at doing nothing. There's a funny internet video available at current.com. This is the website for Current TV, the network former VP Al Gore started. One of its shows is called *SuperNews!*, which takes a humorous look at the current events and news stories. The one I got the most laughs out of was called *Obama says screw it* (a stronger four letter word is used instead). Just to give you a sample of what the president says in the clip, "In 2009, I tried the hope thing. The change deal. And the bipartisan b.s. But apparently it wasn't enough. I tried to give you healthcare and you were like cheap healthcare, what are you trying to kill me? I want my freedom, wah wah."

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NEW MEETING LOCATION AND SAVE THE DATE

Reminder: Northwest Democrats will be meeting at a new Luby's because the Luby's we are currently at has decided to start serving breakfast on Saturdays. Our new location will be the Luby's at Bandera and 1604.

Reminder: Save the date: August 3, 2010. Our 4th Annual Pat Maloney, Sr., Public Service Awards Dinner will take place at the Omni from 6-9 pm.