

Northwest Democrats News



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

Nov. 15th Program: How We Turned Bexar County Blue

Don't forget to attend our November 15th meeting when Roger Herr will discuss the election results as they pertain to Bexar County.

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

2006-2008

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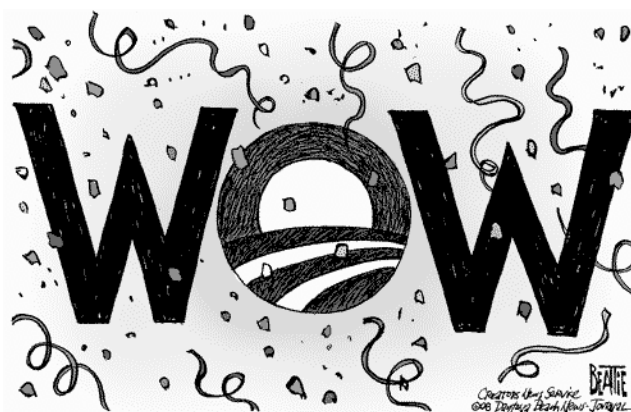
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Our November Project

This month our project will be to help fill "Lisa's Pantry." One of our members, Lisa Lanett, helps the homeless, and she is in need of the following items: men's white socks and medium-size underwear.

You may bring these items to our November 15th meeting or, if you prefer, you may donate cash. She is in real need of these items, so please participate if you can.

Authorized & Paid for by the Northwest Democrats

To submit an article or other info, email Jacob Middleton at:

TXDemocrat@satx.rr.com

A Few 'Joyce' Words

by Joyce Dorrycott

Well, our activities at the Crossroads office are over, and we can look back to some very busy days. Some of us have spent seven days a week, every week, at the office. There have been many who have been so faithful. Without them we would not have been able to complete all the many things that we did. We are grateful for each and every one of them.

But, one of our members, has gone above and beyond anything we might have asked. She has been there everyday, arriving early, opening the office, engaging in every activity, serving as our primary front office volunteer, who took care of signs, T-shirts, buttons and bumper stickers. In doing so, she made everything else go more smoothly. She has been a tireless worker, always friendly, good-natured and helpful. Just who is this paragon without whom our office would not have functioned so well nor have accomplished so much? She is our own Evelyn Mortola, and we shall forever be in her debt.

And, just what did we do these last three months? First, we worked on making our annual dinner a success - which it was. We also put together a successful rally in Leon Valley just prior to early voting. We are most appreciative that most of the elected officials who serve our area, as well as the candidates for office in the northwest, attended.

However, you all know that I am a numbers person. So, let's look at the numbers we developed this time. We purchased 1,250 Obama signs; 1,000 Vote Democratic signs - (all of which we gave to Democrats who wanted them - many were even delivered); sent welcoming and rally information to 23,440 families who were first time voters in the Democratic Primary (some called to tell us they were really Republicans who voted in our primary so Hillary would be McCain's opponent); and wrote and had 40,000 newspapers printed with information about our candidates, where to vote early, how to register, etc.

Thousands of our newspapers were delivered in 25 precincts; 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 to all the hours it took to do these things - perhaps the most tedious was all the lining through of people who voted each day so we wouldn't call people who had already voted - we kept a ready supply of Obama items for people to make donations for. We purchased 1,050 bumper stickers, 81 dozen Tshirts, and 1,597 buttons. The good news is that everything is gone except some bumper stickers, and people are still calling.

Most of all, we are all thrilled that we now have a Democratic president- one for whom we have worked so hard, and I reached my primary goal - to see Bexar County turn **BLUE!!!** I had no real hope for us to take Texas this year, but I do believe it is more competitive now, and that offers real hope for Democratic candidates statewide in 2010.

I was especially glad to see Barack Obama win because I just couldn't face the idea of four more years under a Republican president - ANY Republican president. And, like so many, the idea of Sarah Palin being a heartbeat away from the presidency was just too frightening to consider. It has been a long campaign for many of us. But, the final results were all we could have wished for. While there is much talk about the historical nature of this election - and it truly is historical - my prayer was that Barack Obama would win because our country needed his wisdom and judgment to lead us through this difficult time. Like all of you, I rejoice in his election and look forward to the next four years as he guides us through these troubled waters.

Yes We Did

President Barack Obama and Vice-President Joe Biden. We know how we did nationally, expanded majorities in the House and Senate, but what about locally?

First, some disappointments. The first that comes to mind is Chip Haass' race for county commissioner. We knew it was an uphill climb in a difficult district and running against a well-known name (not opponent, name), but it's still a hard loss. The good thing Chip, is you're young and can always run again.

To our local state representatives and state senators, here's an idea I would like to see talked about and pushed in the upcoming session: amending the state constitution to allow counties a variance in the required number of county commissioners. First, the smaller counties. Does it really make sense for Loving County, population 67, to have 4 county commissioners and a county judge. Couldn't it make do with say 2 commissioners and a judge? Second, the larger counties. Take Harris County; an estimated population of over 4 million and only 4 county commissioners. Do you really think a county commissioner can aptly represent the interests of over 1 million people? The cities of Houston & Dallas each have 14 city council members. Once again, you really think 4 is fine?

Another close loss, was Amber Liddell Alwais. 730 votes. Sometimes it takes more than one try as some of our current district judges can tell you. And in 2010, we have 5 Republican district judges up for election. After the two new judges are sworn in, there will be 15 Democratic district judges and 9 Republican district judges.

A good win was Cathy Stone's election as Chief Justice of the 4th Court of Appeals. The downside to her election is that Rick Perry now gets to name her replacement which means the 4th Court will now be 6-1 in favor of the Republicans. When can we change that? In 2010, all 6 Republicans will be up for election. Now is the time to recruit strong candidates who can raise money and get their message out and win. Dan Pozza, we're looking at you. Would any of our district judges like a promotion?

One result I was thrilled about was the term limits change. People saw past the "just say no" slogan and set a new and better course for the city.

Statewide, we also saw a much brighter future for Texas Democrats. In Dallas County, we proved that 2006 wasn't a fluke by electing more Democrats and ousting more Republicans. In Harris County, out of the 26 district court races, Democrats ousted 22 Republican incumbents. We're building our base for wins in 2010.

Let's start preparing for the future.

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