

# Northwest Democrats News



Sept, 2011  
Volume 15 Issue 9

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

## Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> Program: What's Happening at City Hall?

Don't forget to attend our Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> meeting when we will hear from our City Council members: Ray Lopez, District 6; Cris Medina, District 7, and Reed Williams, District 8.

Please join us for this important meeting at 8:30 am at Luby's at Ingram Park Mall.

### 2010-2012

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## NWD Campaign Workshops

Reminder: Northwest Democrats will hold two campaign workshops open to anyone.

### Campaign Skills Workshop

Sept. 24, 8:30 am – 4:00 pm

First National Bank Building

\$150

This workshop will cover such topics as making the decision to run, crafting a message, making a budget and timeline, organizing the campaign, targeting the voters, working with the elections office, and advertising your efforts.

### Finance and Media Workshop

Oct. 29, 8:30 am – 4:00 pm

First National Bank Building

\$150

Topics to be covered in this workshop include fundraising, social media, election finance laws, delivering your message, working with the media and preparing for the editorial board.

**Sign Up for both workshops and it's \$250. RSVP: 210-867-6338 or  
TXDemocrat@satx.rr.com**

**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

While I would have used different words than Jimmy Hoffa (the son, not the dad) yesterday as he worked to energize labor for the upcoming election, my feelings are just as strong when I think of the upcoming 2012 election. No knowledgeable person can argue that organized labor is in a fight for its life. Just look at the governors of Wisconsin, Ohio and Indiana to choose only a few. They are determined to take away all the rights organized labor has won over the past 70 years so that they will have more money to give to their business cronies. Personally, I think they both should do well but, in this economy, business should not profit further on the backs of the working men and women of this country.

We are in a war – a war of ideologies. One side thinks all government is bad and should be punished by cutting off funds for needed programs. The other side believes there is a role for government in our society. When your house is robbed, does your Tea Party friend come over, examine what happened and set out to find the culprit? No, you call the police. **Government in action.** When a massive fire comes, threatening your subdivision and hundreds of acres of land, who do you call? **Government in action.** And, when there is an epidemic of flu crossing the country, who do you call? **Government in action.**

There are so many times when problems are beyond our narrow capacity to act that we must have someone to call on. **That someone is government at every level.**

So, yes, we are in a war. People are angry, frustrated and dissatisfied with government. But, we (well, maybe not all of us) elected these people. Since we do elect them, we can also unelect them. I try to work as hard at one as I do the other. And, we all need to work out our frustrations with government.

Instead of verbalizing our disagreements, let's express them by 1) educating ourselves on HOW to work in campaigns, learning how to use technology to reach voters, and many other techniques we can use to help elect candidates of our choices. This one -is really easy - **sign up and attend the Northwest Democrats' campaign workshops on September 24<sup>th</sup> and October 29<sup>th</sup>.** Just call Jacob Middleton at 867-6338 before September 20<sup>th</sup>. Whether you plan to work in a campaign, be someone's campaign manager, or be a candidate YOU NEED TO BE THERE! We don't go to war without first going through training, and, remember, we are in a war. 2) Once trained, go into action. Find a candidate you really respect and agree with, or just come to work with Northwest Democrats.

And, one last word, about our president. Many people express disappointment with President Obama. And, I am not happy with every decision he's made. But, just look at that Republican field –who there would you prefer over our current president. I don't know how it sounds to you, but just think – President Perry?

Don't forget to contribute for enough "Don't Pick, Rick" stickers to send to friends and relatives around the country. I'm surely sending one to the cousin in Alabama who called Saturday and said, "Looks like your governor will be our next president." My reply, "Over my dead body." See what I mean about a war? Just not a violent war.

## Death by a Thousand Cuts

by Jacob Middleton

The term comes from a form of execution in China (ended in 1905) that also translates to slow process or lingering death. The modern phrase of this is death by a thousand paper cuts.

I would say paper cuts, except that the cuts that have come down from the state and federal government have not been small or insignificant. What's even worse, more are on the way. Word is some want to go beyond the \$1.5 trillion in "budget savings", i.e., cuts. This continual drumbeat of cuts, cuts, cuts, cuts, cuts, cuts...

Comedienne Wanda Sykes made a joke during a stand-up routine about the Arthur Anderson accounting scandal, which also appeared in her book *Yeah, I Said It*, that seems to fit very well into this current government mindset of cut everything. The joke is this: *These CEOs, man, to be that ruthless, you're a scary dude. I tell ya, now I walk past a little gangbanger, I don't even flinch. But if I see a white dude with a Wall Street Journal, I haul ass. Before I walk by the Arthur Andersen building, I'm cuttin' through the projects. Cutting through the projects, you might just lose what you have on you that day. I ain't never been mugged of my future. No thug ever ran up on me, "Give me your 401K. Give it here. I want your college fund, your IRA. I want it all."*

This whole mantra of doing nothing but cutting government is robbing this country and its people of a future. And now it looks like they're getting ready to cut a government program that works. You may have heard about the Postal Service and its default. If you only read the New York Times article you'd think the USPS is so poorly operated that it has this huge deficit that will cause it to shutdown. Like with a lot of things, the devil is in the details. Why does it owe \$5.5 billion? We can all thank the Republicans. From Fredric Rolando, President of the National Association of Letter Carriers: *The problem lies elsewhere: the 2006 congressional mandate that the USPS pre-fund future retiree health benefits for the next 75 years, and do so within a decade, an obligation no other public agency or private firm faces. The roughly \$5.5 billion annual payments since 2007 — \$21 billion total — are the difference between a positive and negative ledger.*

Only listening to the Republicans you might not know some interesting tidbits such as: *The Postal Service hasn't used any taxpayer funding for more than twenty-five years. It pays for its operations through the sale of its services and products. In the past four years, operational revenues at the USPS have exceeded costs by \$611 million. Customer satisfaction and delivery of the mail on time are at record highs.*

Once again you have this often used Republican tactic of intentionally doing harm to a government program and then suddenly scream when the government program doesn't work. Republicans don't need to cut the program entirely, just enough to be able to make it dysfunctional and earn it a permanent place on the chopping block.

This trend of constantly cutting and going after unions and the middle class has implications. A new study from the Pew Charitable Trusts found that since 1979 "33% of Americans raised middle class move[d] downward as adults." Since that time, what have we done? Continually lowered taxes on the rich, busted unions, and cut government.

Unemployment is at 9.1%. So what's the solution? Cut more jobs and increase the unemployment rate. The proposed "budget savings" for the USPS would include laying off 120,000 workers. Talk about robbing people of their future. If this is the train we're on, can I please get off at the next stop?

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Get your “Don’t Pick Rick” bumper stickers.

Available at the next NWD meeting.

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