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Wyden Watch

Press Release of Senator Wyden
Wyden to President: Isn't Congress Supposed to Approve International Trade Agreements?

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Washington, D.C. – As the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) prepares to ratify an international agreement related to the enforcement of intellectual property rights, U.S. Senator Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) – chairman of the Senate Finance Committee's Subcommittee on Trade – sent a letter to President Obama today asking why the administration believes the Anti-Counterfeit Trade Agreement (ACTA) does not require Congress's formal approval. According to legal experts, cited by Wyden, if the USTR ratifies

continued Page 5

As citizens flood plazas and parks to protest economic injustice, Salem area residents join the movement with Occupy Salem. Marion County Democrats approved a resolution of support for Occupy Salem at their October Monthly Meeting.

The Occupy Salem General Assembly meets twice daily 8:30am & 7:00pm on Cottage St SE Salem, Oregon @ Willson Park.

The GA is a gathering of people

committed to making decisions based upon a collective agreement or consensus. There is no single leader or governing body of the GA, everyone's voice is equal.



Anyone is free to propose an idea or express an opinion as part of the GA.

Occupy Salem Oregon Welcome Statement:

“Wof the people of the Occupy Salem action are gathering to recognize the blatant injustices that are being perpetrated by the political and economic structures in our own nation and around the

world. In solidarity with groups such as Occupy Wall Street and Occupy Portland, we are creating a way to re-empower the individual and society, so that we may identify and discuss

solutions to resolve expressed issues, through recognizing our common humanity. Occupy Salem is an all-inclusive, ongoing action in which people may engage in meaningful conversation to find common ground.

Each day new people are adding their voice. We invite you to add yours.”

For more, see page 2.



See who's reading

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Marion Progressive!

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Marion Democrats Resolution of Support for Occupy Salem

Resolved by Marion County Democratic Party October 20th, 2011

WHEREAS, the Marion County Democratic Central Committee (MCDCC) is a duly constituted chapter of the Democratic Party of Oregon,

WHEREAS, One (1) percent of the American public owns 34% of the total wealth in the nation,

WHEREAS, the severe economic recession beginning in 2008 and continuing has led to an increase in the number of people living in poverty and to on-going loss and lack of jobs impacting the middle and working classes,

WHEREAS, this economic recession

was due in part to mismanagement and overreaching on the parts of the financial, banking, mortgage and investment industries, and in part due to the flight of corporate industries to overseas labor markets leading to the lay-off of tens of thousands of workers in manufacturing jobs,

WHEREAS, The First Amendment rights of Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Assembly are integral to a fully functioning democracy,

WHEREAS, the Occupy Salem and the Occupy Wall Street movements have through their peaceful rallies called attention in a visible and meaningful way to these

problems and the lack of effective response from our political leaders at the State and Federal levels,

IT IS HEREWITH **R**ESOLVED that

Marion County Democratic Central Committee supports bold economic reforms and supports Occupy Salem and Occupy Wall Street in their peaceful efforts to call attention to these problems and to the need for immediate action which will promote reform for the benefit of all citizens.

Rick Hartwig, Chair
MCDCC

Date Oct. 20, 2011



The General Assembly meets twice daily 8:30am & 7:00pm on Cottage St SE Salem, Oregon @ Willson Park. Please Join Us!

<http://www.osoga.com/>

DeFazio Stands With Workers, Votes No on Three Job-Killing Trade Agreements

October 13, 2011
 WASHINGTON, DC— U.S. Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-OR) today responded to the passage of three job-killing trade agreements with South Korea, Panama, and Colombia:

“Unfortunately today the House of Representatives voted for three more free trade agreements that will lead to the further erosion of our already degraded manufacturing base. In the case of South Korea, Korean auto parts manufacturers are guaranteed easier access to American markets and in exchange the U.S. may be able to export more beef. Even the cheerleaders at the United States International Trade Commission admit that this agreement will increase our trade deficit which means we will lose more jobs.

“The Panama agreement is horrible. It gives the Western Hemisphere’s leader in sheltering drug runners and money laundering corporations better and freer access to the U.S. economy. Panama is a country with the population of Oregon and home to over 400,000 corporations seeking to avoid U.S. taxes and laws. Under this agreement, they will enjoy greater access to U.S. markets. This will not bode well for the future.

“And finally the Colombian agreement. The Colombian government murders labor activists seeking better working conditions as a national policy. They promise they won’t do it anymore and in exchange average Colombians, who earn \$9,000 per capita, will put all of their earnings toward buying U.S. goods. Yet one more bait and switch. Colombia will become yet another base for U.S. manufacturers to access cheap, exploited labor to export goods back to American markets.

“We need a new trade



Congressman Peter DeFazio

policy for this country. We cannot continue to hemorrhage our manufacturing jobs and industrial base to countries that don’t compete fairly. These three agreements were written by the Bush administration and are unfortunately endorsed by the Obama administration and they will be a disaster for this country.”

Why We Live In Oregon - The Coast



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Did You Know?

If Your Name Has Changed, You Must Submit a New Paper Voter Registration Form.

Your County Election Office keeps a sample of your signature on file. At election time, the Election Office compares the file signature to the signature on your ballot envelop when your ballot arrives. If you change your name, upon marriage or for any reason, the Election Office needs a new signature sample - thus the need for the new paper voter registration form. You can print a voter registration form at www.oregonvotes.org or pick one up at the any Oregon DMV office or County Election Office.

Notes from the Oregon Summit

by Pat Williams

Once every other year, in the off-years between elections, the Oregon Summit offers a fabulous opportunity for Oregon Democrats to get together, socialize, learn, and go home inspired. It is held in the beautiful Sunriver Resort, just south of Bend. The Summit brings in elected state and national officials, as well as nationally-known speakers and presenters. These are featured at every meal and workshop, and there are also other activities known as “after-events,” and lots of vendors. The Summit kicked off with a late Friday evening reception, with welcoming remarks by DPO Chair Meredith Wood Smith, and featuring Governor John Kitzhaber. As soon as the reception ended, the “after-events” began. These are more informal chances to meet officials and candidates, talk issues and party. Some people “evented” into the wee hours, so it was no surprise to overhear the following at breakfast: “The coffee is so far away ...”

Breakfast on Saturday featured Treasurer Ted Wheeler, Secretary Kate Brown, and Superintendent Susan Castillo, at lunch we were honored with Representatives Peter DeFazio, Earl Blumenauer, and Kurt Schrader, and -- AL FRANKEN ! Breakfast the following day was with the leadership in the Oregon Legislature: Diane Rosenbaum, Ginny Burdick, Tina Kotek, and Arnie Roblan.

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Senator Jeff Merkley Urges Rehab-to-Rent Strategy to Help Stabilize Housing

October 27, 2011
WASHINGTON, DC – Oregon’s Senator Jeff Merkley joined 33 of his colleagues in asking the Obama Administration and the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) to swiftly develop an efficient and effective real estate owned (REO) management strategy.

This strategy will convert foreclosed homes into affordable rentals to help address the foreclosure crisis and stabilize the housing market.



The senators today wrote a letter to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and FHFA stating: “We urge you to analyze, quickly and diligently, the input you have received so that all REO properties under your control may be best managed to produce the most value for Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and FHA. As part of this analysis, we ask that you also keep in mind the importance of looking for the most effective ways to stabilize neighborhoods and housing values.”

Earlier this year, Senator Merkley released a comprehensive plan to stem the tide of foreclosures. His six point plan would bolster the market by providing a permanent tax credit for first-time homebuyers; assist families facing foreclosure through a national “short refinance” program that would enable homeowners who are facing foreclosure to refinance their mortgages based on current interest rates and home values; stop the “dual track” by which mortgage companies continue foreclosures while loan modifications are evaluated; require banks to provide homeowners with a single point of access when they seek a loan modification to improve accountability and ensure greater clarity during the process; establish

a third-party review prior to foreclosure and fully enforce existing law; and implement the “lifeline” bankruptcy option by providing bankruptcy judges with the power to modify the terms of home loans just as they can with loans for vacation homes and yachts.

October 27, 2011

The Honorable Timothy F. Geithner
The Honorable Shaun Donovan Secretary
The Honorable Edward J. DeMarco

Dear Secretary Geithner, Secretary Donovan, and Acting Director DeMarco:

We write regarding the Request for Information (RFI) put forward by the Department of the Treasury, the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), and the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA), on innovative and efficient ways in which to sell or rent real estate owned (REO) properties owned by Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and FHA. We urge you to analyze, quickly and diligently, the input you have received so that all REO properties under your control may be best managed to produce the most value for Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and FHA. As part of this analysis, we ask that you also keep in mind the importance of looking for the most effective ways to stabilize neighborhoods and housing values.

We all know too well that our housing markets are under severe stress. With 7.5 million homes in the foreclosure process since 2007 while other homeowners find themselves very much underwater, foreclosures have taken a heavy toll

on too many Americans. Owning a home has become so difficult that our nation’s homeownership rate dropped to 65.9% in the 2nd quarter of this year, which is the lowest level since 1998. At the same time, the national rental vacancy rate has decreased from 10.6% in the second quarter of 2010 to 9.2% in the 2nd quarter of this year. With 10.4 million households in jeopardy of defaulting on their mortgages at the same time that the demand for rental housing is increasing, Americans are facing pressure on all fronts in the housing market.

As Federal Reserve Board Governor Elizabeth Duke recently stated, “we, as a nation, currently have a housing market that is so severely out of balance that it is hampering our economic recovery.” It is clear that we need to gain traction in our housing market so that we can anchor a sustainable economic recovery that actually reaches and helps the middle class. We continue to believe, especially with the benefit of a recent hearing in the Senate Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development on “New Ideas to Address the Glut of Foreclosed Properties,” that a more efficient and effective REO management strategy will help put us on a path towards stability.

Indeed, developing a successful REO management strategy is critical given the findings of a recent evaluation by the Federal Housing Finance Agency Office of Inspector General, which stated:

“FHFA has yet to conduct a targeted examination of [Fannie Mae’s and Freddie Mac’s (collectively, the Enterprises)] management of their REO inventories, despite the surging number of foreclosures since 2007. For example, Fannie Mae’s REO inventory increased in size by more than 6 times, growing from 25,125 properties in January 2007 to 162,489 at the end of 2010. REO represents a

significant financial risk to the Enterprises since they incur taxes and fees on the properties in their inventories, these costs increase the longer it takes to resell the REO, and all the while the value of the properties may be declining. FHFA cited the Enterprises’ REO management as a primary reason that it has classified operational risks at both entities as a “Critical Concern” from 2008 through early 2011. FHFA-OIG views the fact that FHFA has not examined a critical risk area like REO as indicative of the adverse impact of staffing shortages on the Agency’s examination program.”

As part of the RFI process, we urge FHFA to do everything within its powers to take this opportunity to address these concerns head on. We also ask that FHFA, Treasury, and FHA respond to these questions:

- When do you expect to finish reviewing the RFI submissions?
- Are there any particular strategies or proposals that appear promising at this moment?
- What appear to be the greatest challenges and concerns?
- Once you have finished reviewing and analyzing the RFI submissions, what is the likely next step, and when do you expect to take this next step.

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to your response. Please let us or our staffs know if we can be helpful to you or your staffs.

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Did You Know?

College students have an option. They can register at their college address or their home town address – but not both. The decision on where to register will determine what candidates and measures will appear on the student’s ballot.

If a student is from Oregon and going to school in Oregon or elsewhere, the student may register at their Oregon home town address and ask that their ballot be mailed to their college address.

To do this, using Oregon’s online registration at www.oregonvotes.org, the student enters their Oregon home town address as their “Oregon Residence”, checks the box “I will be away from home on Election Day”, and then enters the address to which their ballot should be mailed. Alternatively, an Oregon student may register at an Oregon college address.

A student going to school in Oregon and residing in Oregon while going to school may register to vote in Oregon at the college address. Whether an out-of-state student can register to vote in their home state depends on the voter registration laws in that state. In any case, a student may NOT be registered to vote in two places.

Students should check with their schools or financial aid provider to determine whether their place of registration will affect their tuition status or financial aid.

Wyden Letter to President Obama on Trade

ACTA without Congress' consent it may be circumventing Congress's Constitutional authority to regulate international commerce and protect intellectual property and would therefore represent a significant expansion of the executive branch's authority over international agreements.

"It may be possible for the U.S. to implement ACTA or any other trade agreement, once validly entered, without legislation if the agreement requires no change in U.S. law,"

Wyden writes, "But regardless of whether the agreement requires changes in U.S. law... the executive branch lacks constitutional authority to enter a binding international agreement covering issues delegated by the Constitution to Congress' authority, absent congressional

approval."

Wyden goes on to indicate that while the USTR has long asserted its authority to enter ACTA as a "sole executive agreement," with no congressional authorization or approval needed, it has yet to publicly explain its legal justification for that assertion.

ACTA is a plurilateral agreement currently negotiated by the U.S., Australia, Canada, Japan,

"to give the public a say over issues that so profoundly affect their lives."

Morocco, New Zealand, Singapore and South Korea, establishing basic minimum standards on a broad range of intellectual property enforcement issues. In addition to covering issues ranging from counterfeit goods to generic medications to online copyright infringement, ACTA creates a governing body

that would operate outside of current international institutions such as the World Trade Organization and the World Intellectual Property Organization.



Senator Ron Wyden

Last year, Wyden raised concerns about the lack of transparency surrounding the ACTA negotiations which took place largely in secret over the course of five years and encouraged the USTR ***"to give the public a say over issues that so profoundly affect their lives."***

Last month, he applauded the USTR for not including controversial proposals to expand the enforcement of copyrights in the digital environment in ways that threaten the development of the Internet as a viable platform for commerce, and again stressed the need to be more inclusive: "The public has a right to know what its government is seeking in these trade agreements, especially as it relates to the Internet, and it's time for the Obama Administration to tell them."

To read the letter visit <http://wyden.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/>

Senators Raise 'Serious Concerns' About State Department Study on Tar Sands Oil Pipeline

October 14, 2011

WASHINGTON, Oct. 14 - Three key senators today questioned the U.S. State Department about its dealings with a Canadian company seeking U.S. approval to build a crude oil pipeline from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico.

The State Department is responsible for deciding whether to approve the billion-dollar Keystone XL pipeline project. TransCanada, the company trying to build the pipeline, reportedly was permitted to screen private firms bidding to perform an environmental impact study. Sens. Bernie Sanders (I-

Vt.), Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) and Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) wrote a letter to Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton raising what they called "serious concerns" about the matter. Their letter questioned why Cardno Entrix was picked to perform the critical study despite its significant financial ties to TransCanada. "We find it inappropriate that a contractor with financial ties to TransCanada, which publicly promotes itself by identifying TransCanada as a 'major client', was selected to conduct what is intended to be

an objective government review," the senators said. "This is a critically important issue for our environment and the energy future of our country. At a time when all credible scientific evidence and opinion indicate that we are losing the battle against global warming, it is imperative that we have objective environmental assessments of major carbon-dependent energy projects," the letter added. The senators said "the only satisfactory remedy" would be for the State Department to conduct a new, objective,

and comprehensive environmental review, either directly or through a contractor with no financial ties to TransCanada. Environmental activist Bill McKibben, a leading opponent of the Tar Sands pipeline project, applauded the senators. "I'm so glad to see senators sticking up not just for the integrity of the atmosphere, but also the integrity of the political process. If environmental reviews are run by the companies involved, there's really not much point in doing them; hopefully this letter will help the Obama administration figure out that it's time to start over again."

Did You Know?

Homeless People Can Register and Vote in Oregon.

Here is how. A homeless person fills out a registration form using the place where he keeps his belongings and generally sleeps as the voting address. This place can be a homeless shelter or even a park or place like the under the Marion-County side of the Marion Street Bridge.

As a mailing address, the homeless person can use a homeless shelter that will keep his mail for him, a friend's house, a friendly business or even the County Election Office. "In care of" should be part of the address so that the Post Office does not return the ballot to the Election Office.

At election time, the homeless person will need to get his ballot from where ever it was mailed. Then he will vote it and get it to the Elections Office or a ballot drop-site by 8:00 PM on Election Day, just like other voters.

Did You Know?

You Can Check Your Voter Registration Status Any Time, Online.

In Oregon, you can check your voter registration status at www.oregonvotes.org. Just click under the heading "My Vote".

**Summit Notes
con't**

You could ask questions! you could talk to them, after! It is a wonderful experience to be able to meet and greet our elected officials. The Keynote Dinner on Saturday evening was extraordinary, featuring our Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley -- and Cecile Richards, President of Planned Parenthood Action Fund.

In between meals -- the learning part of the Summit was the workshops. The worst part was deciding which one to go to. There were a total of fourteen, and you could chose only three. The topics ranged from the economy, jobs, and revenue, the fight for workers' rights, saving the middle class, campaigning, communicating, health care, women's issues, environmental public health, education, the Tea Party, and the

Democratic Candidates Put The House In Play

The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee now has strong candidates running in 60 Republican and open districts, reaching its recruitment goal for the year and putting in play more than twice the 25 seats needed to gain the majority.

The newest recruits continue to reflect the values of their districts and have both traditional and non-traditional profiles including farmers, small business men and women, former Mayors, prosecutors, veterans and even an astronaut. As part of the "Drive to 25"

campaign to win the House, the DCCC had pledged to put at least 60 Republican and open seats in play for the year but reached this benchmark three months early.

"With the wind now at our backs, we have strong Democratic candidates running in 60 Republican and open districts across the country..." DCCC Chairman

Steve Israel

Two new polls out yesterday show voters want to elect Democrats to Congress next November. According to the new Reuters/Ipsos poll voters would support a Democratic candidate over a Republican candidate in their district by 8 points

(48 percent - 40 percent). A new NBC/Wall Street Journal poll found that voters prefer a Democratic-controlled Congress to a Republican-controlled Congress by 4 points (45 percent - 41 percent).

"With the wind now at our backs, we have strong

Democratic candidates running in 60 Republican and open districts across the country, putting twice as many seats in play as Democrats need to take the House," said DCCC Chairman Steve Israel. "Thanks to the work of DCCC

Republican war on voting. Extraordinary speakers, facilitators and teams led each workshop. I hope you will visit the website at oregonsummit.org to read more about

the people who brought us the workshops.

Start saving your pennies right now, so that you can go year after next! You won't be disappointed.

A bureaucrat is a Democrat who holds some office that a Republican wants
- President Harry S. Truman

Marion County Democrats Central Committee
Fall Silent Auction
Wednesday October 26th, Cherry City Cafe
Guest Speaker: Senator Peter Courtney

Special Thanks to
Marion-Polk-Yamhill
Labor Council
Michael Swalm
KPOJ AM 620
for their sponsorship of our Fall Silent Auction



The MCDC Fall Silent Auction Committee
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"The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have too much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little... I see one-third of a nation ill-housed, ill-clothed, ill-nourished." - FDR's 2nd inaugural address, 1937

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If you move, you must update your registration with your new address. If you do not update your registration, you risk not getting a ballot in the mail for the next election.

The simplest way to update your registration is online, at www.oregonvotes.org. Just one click under the heading "My Vote" brings up a simple screen for updating your information.



(top left) Aileen Kaye (left) & Bobbie Cade (right) with Carl Wolfson, of KPOJ's "The Morning Show"

(top right) Carl Wolfson and Paul Pimentel search for items for their show.

(bottom left) KPOJ's Carl Wolfson and Paul Pimentel: Topsy-Turvy

(bottom right) Carl Wolfson and Paul Pimentel of KPOJ's "The Morning Show" find amusing items in Marion Progressive.



Andy Bromeland
Salem, Oregon
Retiree; Active Democrat; Volunteer Political Activist & Consultant
Specialty - Organizing and Promoting Progressive Political Events
e-mail: mariondemoforum@yahoo.com
call: 503-551-6941

Marion DemoForum has a page on Facebook

Salem Progressive Film series

Thursday, Nov. 10, 2011 7 p.m. *The Economics of Happiness* describes a world moving simultaneously in two opposing directions. On the one hand, government and big business continue to promote globalization and the consolidation of corporate power. At the same time, all around the world people are resisting those policies, demanding a re-regulation of trade and finance-and, far from the old institutions of power, they're starting to forge a very different future. Communities are coming together to re-build more human scale, ecological economies based on a new paradigm - an economics of localization

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Hours: Doors open at 6:15p
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If you would like to submit an article for publication, please send your submission and attachments to:

MCDCCnewsletter@gmail.com

The Marion Progressive is produced through the efforts of volunteers. If you would like to be involved as a volunteer and have skills in any areas of publishing or would like to make a financial or in-kind contribution specifically to support this newsletter, please write the email address above.



Ads help support our publication costs!

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12U (V) 5.727" x 12.25"	\$275.00	\$295.00	\$318.00	\$345.00	\$365.00	\$410.00	\$435.00	\$460.00
10U 9.639" x 6.055"	\$250.00	\$260.00	\$275.00	\$300.00	\$320.00	\$350.00	\$370.00	\$390.00
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8U (H) 7.683" x 6.055" (V) 3.772" x 12.25"	\$175.00	\$190.00	\$205.00	\$220.00	\$235.00	\$260.00	\$275.00	\$290.00
6U (H) 5.727" x 6.055" (V) 3.772" x 9.15"	\$138.00	\$148.00	\$160.00	\$170.00	\$182.00	\$205.00	\$215.00	\$228.00
5U (H) 9.639" x 2.958"	\$120.00	\$125.00	\$135.00	\$145.00	\$155.00	\$175.00	\$185.00	\$194.00
4U (H) 7.683" x 2.958" (S) 3.772" x 6.055" (V) 1.816" x 12.25"	\$100.00	\$105.00	\$110.00	\$120.00	\$127.00	\$142.00	\$150.00	\$158.00
3U (H) 5.727" x 2.958" (V) 1.816" x 9.15"	\$74.00	\$80.00	\$85.00	\$92.00	\$98.00	\$110.00	\$115.00	\$121.00
2U (H) 3.772" x 2.958" (V) 1.816" x 6.055"	\$50.00	\$54.00	\$58.00	\$62.00	\$66.00	\$75.00	\$78.00	\$83.00
1U 1.816" x 2.958" H or V	\$25.00	\$28.00	\$30.00	\$33.00	\$35.00	\$39.00	\$41.00	\$43.00

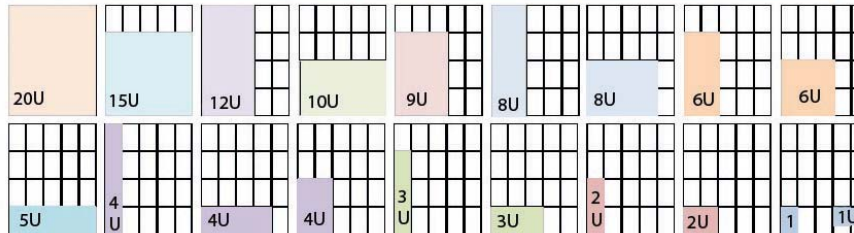
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Our next scheduled publication date is **November 22nd!** Just in time for the **2nd Annual Small Business Saturday and Christmas Shopping!**

Marion Progressive is widely available in **Downtown Salem**

Special Thanks to The supporters of Marion Progressive for your donations!



MCDCC Newsletter

Don Hudgins: Editor in Chief

Bruce Melendy: Proofing and formatting

MCDCC Leadership

Rick Hartwig: Chair

Peter Brown: Vice Chair

Aileen Kaye: Secretary

Wayne Baum: Treasurer

Email: MCDCCnewsletter@gmail.com

Special Thanks to Tina Calos & Helen Caswell for their assistance with this issue

Our ad rates are available online

http://www.marion.oregondemocrats.org/sites/marion.oregondemocrats.org/files/MarionProgressiveAdRates_web.pdf

"The great enemy of the truth is very often not the lie — deliberate, contrived and dishonest — but the myth — persistent, persuasive, and unrealistic." - President John F. Kennedy, Commencement address, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut (11 June 1962)