

# Marion County Democratic Central Committee

## Newsletter

January 2008



### DEMOCRATIC VALUES

- Affordable Health Care
- Quality Education
- Fair & Equitable Taxation
- Healthy Air, Water, Land
- Family Wage Jobs
- Accountable & Fiscally Responsible Government

## Next DemoForum

Throughout the primary season, Marion DemoForum will host luncheons on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at Kwan's Cuisine.

### Senator Ben Westlund, January 23

On Wednesday, January 23, Marion DemoForum will welcome State Senator Ben Westlund. He is the only Democrat to declare candidacy for State Treasurer. Senator Westlund represents Senate District 27, that encompasses most of Deschutes County. Westlund was elected to the Oregon House of Representatives in 1997 as a moderate Republican. In the final days of the 2003 session, he was appointed to the Senate. In 2004, he was nominated for his Senate seat by both Republicans and Democrats in separate primary ballots. In February 2006, Westlund declared himself an Independent and launched a state-wide campaign for Governor. He later withdrew his candidacy and endorsed the Democratic incumbent Ted Kulongoski. After the election, he became a Democrat himself. In the 2007 session, Westlund co-chaired the committee that produced the Healthy Oregon Act to reform Oregon's health system. He supported legislation to protect Oregonians from predatory lending and identity theft. He also worked to expand Oregon's use of renewable energy. His campaign web site is <http://www.westlundfortreasurer.com>.

Marion DemoForum luncheons are held at Kwan's Cuisine, 835 Commercial SE, Salem. The cost of \$11 includes a buffet luncheon, tea, and gratuity. Reservations are required. Email [mariondemoforum@yahoo.com](mailto:mariondemoforum@yahoo.com) or call 503-363-8392.

## This is Your Newsletter: Name It!

By Laurel Muller, newsletter editor

The MCDCC newsletter is still without a new name, and we want you to help us find it!

While "Newsletter" is not an inaccurate description of our little publication, we feel that it lacks the excitement appropriate to this potentially historic election year. When you are gearing up to take back your country and save the world from Republican destruction, the word *newsletter* just doesn't cut it.

We want a name that will inspire us to canvass; give us the nerve to talk politics with people we don't know; reflect the passion we feel about our favorite candidates; and help us create world peace.

Once you help us name the newsletter, you can help us write it. The newsletter is a vehicle for you to communicate with fellow Democrats about the issues and events that are important to you. Write an impassioned opinion piece or tell us about your latest political project. Invite other Dems to your house party or announce an interesting event. This is your newsletter. Name it and *use* it.

Contact me ([laurel@LMgraphics.com](mailto:laurel@LMgraphics.com), 503-588-7190) with name suggestions and newsletter items. The next newsletter deadline is always printed at the bottom of the address panel. We will vote on newsletter names at the May meeting.

## Plan Neighborhood Action January 28

The monthly MCDCC meeting on January 28 will feature an action planning session, presented by Tina Calos, John and Carolyn Estelle, Cindy Kimball, and Sarah White. Participants will break into small work groups to become familiar with the other people in their own districts and precincts, and to develop plans for neighborhood action. We will distribute volunteer lists for each district and present step-by-step examples of how to organize your neighborhood from start to finish. We encourage you to bring friends or neighbors (*especially* neighbors) who are interested in working on the 2008 campaign. This is the perfect opportunity to get a glimpse of what the most effective activism looks like at the neighborhood level.

The program, open to the public, will begin at 7 P.M. and end at

8:45 P.M., at Salem Heights Hall, at the corner of Liberty and Madrona, in Salem. An abbreviated business meeting will run until 9 P.M.

### Treasurer Position Open

Cindy Kimball has announced her intent to step down as MCDCC treasurer to allow more time to pursue her many political and social interests. An election will be held at the Central Committee meeting January 28. Kasia Quillinan has placed her name in nomination. Others interested in the position or in nominating someone else for the position should contact John and Caroline Estelle, Membership Committee chairs: [jwestelle@comcast.net](mailto:jwestelle@comcast.net), 503 364-5228.

# You Can Have National Influence

By Rich Harisay,  
Legislative Committee

You can legitimately influence the votes of others so that your position on an issue translates into more votes for that position. In your own state or district you can: make contributions to candidates; walk the precincts to increase registration, represent your candidate, and solicit further contributions; hold house parties; and work phone banks.

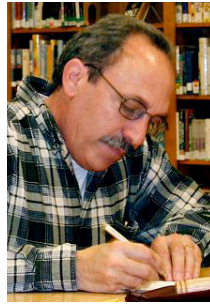
But what can you do at a distance?

The first step is to learn which legislators support (or, even better, promote) your positions. Also learn which legislators oppose your positions. Over the next months preceding the election, the legislative committee will identify an issue and give you as much information as possible about who to contact those supporting or opposing the issue.

This month, the issue is the impeachment of Dick Cheney. Dennis Kucinich presented a “privileged resolution” on the impeachment of Dick Cheney to the House. The resolution was referred to the Judiciary Committee chaired by John Conyers. One member of the Committee, Henry Wexler, has established a website, [wexlerwantshearings.com](http://wexlerwantshearings.com), calling for hearings to begin. On that site you can sign a petition. The signatures (180,000 so far) will be presented to the committee.

The members of the committee are listed at <http://judiciary.house.gov/CommitteeMembership.aspx>. You can find out more about the members by clicking on their names. There are twenty-three Democrats and nineteen Republicans on the committee. Two other members of the committee, Luis Gutierrez (D-WI) and Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), joined Wexler in pushing for hearings.

Senate candidate Steve Novick is also supporting the impeachment ([www.novickforsenate.com](http://www.novickforsenate.com)).



## From Where I Sit

By Wayne Baum, MCDCC Chair

My annual “love letter” from Kaiser Permanente arrived a few weeks ago with the usual increased premium as thanks for our half dozen years of good health. The premium has increased roughly \$500 annually over the past three years. Not including co-pays and deductibles, the cost to my wife aged 53, and me aged 58, is now \$11,220 a year. Nationally, premiums have risen 78% since 2001. We’re fortunate we can still afford health insurance. Two of our adult children trying to find their way in the world cannot. Although they are less than half my age, their lower premiums would still be more than 25% of their gross annual income. After they’ve paid rent, food and transportation expenses, there’s not that much left over.

More than 47 million American share this dilemma. President Bush says not to worry because there’s always the emergency room (at three to four times the cost of an office visit) when they need to see a doctor. The government (you and me) and cost shifting through higher premiums (you and me), will pick up the tab. Personal bankruptcies in the United States have risen from approximately 300,000 in 1980 to more than 2.2 million. Medical bills are the cause for half of those filings and 75% of those people had medical insurance!

Is it any wonder that our neighbors in Canada and our friends across the pond in Britain and Europe scratch their heads in amazement that we continue to perpetuate a health care system that is the costliest in the world with the poorest return on investment for the subscriber? Experts have estimated that for the same amount of money we now spend as a nation, we could have universal (“Medicare for all”) health care. Imagine: A million bankruptcies prevented; 47 million men, women and children cared for comprehensively and with dignity; and Kaiser wouldn’t be spending millions of member premium dollars imploring us to live well and thrive—we actually could afford to do just that.

If there were no other reason to vote Democratic in 2008, our burgeoning health care crisis would be enough. Every major Democratic presidential candidate has proposed some form of mandatory or comprehensive coverage for all Americans. Edward’s and Kucinich’s plans come closest to the ideal, but all demonstrate a desire to place health care ahead of “insurance care.” The Republican candidates on the other hand, are universally opposed to any comprehensive health care reform and still believe the current system just needs some tweaking. Yeah, right. What we need are snappier advertising slogans, easy thirty-year loan payments to pay the premiums, or perhaps Part D for all. That should make ’em happy.

### People to Contact:

*Darlene Hooley* Salem: 503-588-9100  
Washington DC: 202-225-5711

*Nancy Pelosi* (Speaker of the House)  
San Francisco, CA: 415-556-4862  
Washington DC: 202-225-4965

*John Conyers* (Judiciary Committee Chair)  
Trenton, MI: 734-675-4084  
Washington DC: 202-225-5126

The members of the Judiciary Committee  
(contact info on website cited above)

## Merkeley Event

Chuck Lee is hosting a fundraising event for senate candidate Jeff Merkeley. Cosponsors are Peter Courtney, Dennis Koho, Jeff Anderson, and Patrick Sieng. Brian Clem will be introduce the candidate.

The event will be held on January 17 at 4:30 P.M. at Mi Na’s Restaurant at the McNary Golf Course in Keizer. The address is 165 NcNary Estate Drive N. The cost is \$50 per person. Contact Chuck Lee at 503-304-9135.

# Committee Corner

**SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS** If we can get as many people as possible to receive the newsletter electronically we can save money that will be better used to win elections. Please send your email address to [wlbaum@gmail.com](mailto:wlbaum@gmail.com) so we can get you on the list. And if you need to receive the newsletter by mail, be sure to tell us when your address changes.

**PROGRESSIVE FILM SERIES** The monthly film and community discussion event features *Big Bucks, Big Pharma* at Salem's Grand Theater (191 N High St.) Thursday, January 10 at 7:00 P.M. *Big Bucks, Big Pharma* pulls back the curtain on the multi-billion dollar pharmaceutical industry to expose the insidious ways that illness is used, manipulated, and even created, for capital gain. Focusing on the industry's marketing practices, media scholars and health professionals help viewers understand the ways in which direct-to-consumer (DTC) pharmaceutical advertising glamorizes and normalizes the use of prescription medication, and works in tandem with promotion to doctors. Combined, these industry practices shape how both patients and doctors understand and relate to disease and treatment. Ultimately, *Big Bucks, Big Pharma* challenges us to ask important questions about the consequences of relying on a for-profit industry for our health and well-being. Our guest speaker will be Maribeth Healey, executive director of Oregonians for Health Security. Doors open at 6:15 P.M. for lobby networking and information resources. The film starts at 7:00 P.M. with post-film speaker and audience discussion. For more info: [www.salemprogressivefilms.net](http://www.salemprogressivefilms.net), Cindy Kimball 503-588-8713, or Ed Taylor 503-365-9524

## George Porter Dec. 13, 1917–Jan. 1, 2008

By Andy Bromeland

George Porter, a long time precinct committee person and former party officer passed away on New Year's Day 2008. George was a long time Democrat and civic activist in Marion County. His involvement in the Marion County Democrats dates to the 1970's.

George was an educator. He had a long career with the Salem-Keizer Schools. He ended his career in 1982 at North Salem High School. George was also a World War II veteran. He continued his service to country after the war as a member of the army reserves retiring as a major.

George was involved in a number of progressive organizations and causes. He was a longtime active member of the Salem Education Association. He was also involved in the Salem City Club and many other political and civic causes.

**Visit Our  
New Web Site:  
[mariondemocrats.org](http://mariondemocrats.org)**

Please join us at 3 p.m. on January 20, 2008 as we learn about an important new program from **Oregon PeaceWorks**.

*Location:* the Estelle home,  
3425 Fir Tree Drive SE  
Please RSVP by Jan. 17:  
503-364-5228

Learn how we can take a personal stand to

### **Stop Global WARRING and Global WARMING**

by addressing one of the causes of both:  
**our addiction to oil.**

If you're tired of watching our country go to hell in a handbasket and feeling helpless to prevent it, this program is for you. It will challenge you and may change your life!

Bring your open, inquisitive mind and your checkbook as this program is also a fundraiser for Oregon PeaceWorks.

Light refreshments will be served.

For more information about Oregon Peaceworks, call 503-383-2767.

## **Annual Auction Benefit: Mark Your Calendars and Sign Up to Help!**



Wednesday, Feb 20, 2008  
6–9 P.M.

Grand Ballroom, 187 High St NE

\$30 per person  
Tables for 8: \$240



- ◆ Catered hearty appetizers and delicious desserts
  - ◆ Wine by Willamette Valley Vineyards
  - ◆ Live auction with professional auctioneer
  - ◆ Silent auction
- ◆ Featured speaker Carl Wolfson (from KPOJ)

Contact Claudia at [claudiabaum@msn.com](mailto:claudiabaum@msn.com) or 503-364-9741 for information or to make reservation or to donate an auction item.

# MCDCC CALENDAR

## JANUARY 2008

**January 10 ★ Thursday ★ 7 P.M. ★ Salem Progressive Film Series.** *Big Bucks, Big Pharma.* Grand Theater, Court and High Sts., Salem. Admission \$3. Ph. 503-588-8713.

**January 14 ★ Monday ★ 7 P.M. ★ Executive Committee.** Home of Wayne Baum, 3435 Fir Tree Dr. SE, Salem. Ph. 503-364-9741.

**January 17 ★ Thursday ★ 4:30 P.M. ★ Jeff Merkley Fundraiser.** Mi Na's Restaurant, 165 McNary Estate Dr N, Keizer. \$50 per person. Ph. Chuck Lee 503-304-9135.

**January 20 ★ Sunday ★ 3 P.M. ★ Oregon Peaceworks House Party.** Home of John & Carolyn Estelle, 3425 Fir Tree Dr. SE, Salem. RSVP 503-364-5228.

**January 23 ★ Wednesday ★ 12 noon ★ DemoForum ★ Ben Westlund.** Kwan's Cuisine on Commercial at Mission. \$11 includes buffet, tea, gratuity. RSVP 503-363-8392.

**January 28 ★ Monday ★ 7:00 P.M. ★ Central Committee.** Neighborhood Action

Workshop. Salem Heights Hall, corner of Liberty and Madrona.

**January 31 ★ Thursday ★ 7:00 P.M. ★ Bylaws Meeting.** Salem Fire District #1 Fire Station, 300 Cordon Rd NE (just N of State St.).

## FEBRUARY 2008

**February 20 ★ Wednesday ★ 6:00 P.M. ★ Annual Auction Benefit.** \$30 per person. Grand Ballroom, Salem. Ph. Claudia, 503-364-9741

**February 25 ★ Monday ★ 7:00 P.M. ★ Central Committee.** Program TBA. Salem Heights Hall, corner of Liberty and Madrona.

*Note:* To get involved with Marion County Dems, contact the committee chairs listed at the right.

**Next Meeting:  
January 28, 7:00 P.M.**

**MARION COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE**  
**MCDCC Officers**  
*Chair:* Wayne Baum  
*Vice Chair:* Sarah White  
*Secretary:* Sean Stewart & Monica Moran  
*Treasurer:* Cindy Kimball  
**Newsletter**  
*Editor-in-Chief:* Laurel Muller  
Laurel@LMGraphics.com  
*Copyeditor:* Trudy Margules  
*Committee Chair:* Jackie Main  
**Web Site**  
www.marion.oregondemocrats.org  
**Tel.: 503-363-8392**

**COMMITTEE CONTACTS**  
*Executive:* Wayne Baum, 503-364-9741  
*Legislative:* Dmitry White, 503-428-2657  
*Programs:* David Vancil, 503-981-8863  
*Candidate Support:* Sarah White, 503-428-2657  
*Communication:* Jackie Main, 503-363-9395  
*Membership:* John & Carolyn Estelle, 503-364-5228  
*Fundraising:* Claudia Baum, 503-364-9741

Newsletter labor and printing donated.  
NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 1

PRSRRT STD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
Salem, OR  
PERMIT NO. 243

Marion County  
Democratic Central Committee  
P.O. Box 13835  
Salem, OR 97309-1835  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Marion County Democratic Central Committee  
Auction Donation Form**

**(\*\*Required by State Law)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Eve): \_\_\_\_\_

E.mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Occupation (required by State Law):** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Employer (required by State Law):** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Work Location (required by State Law):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Donation:**

**Please provide as accurate a description of the item or service that you are donating. Include all details of accomodations if item is an overnight stay.**

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**Approximate value of the donation (\*\*required by State Law):** \_\_\_\_\_

All donated items, such as meals or services, require that the donor and the purchaser work out an agreeable time and place for the redemption of the auction item.

Please return this form to: Marion County Democrats  
P.O. Box 13835  
Salem, OR 97309-1385

# Annual Auction Reservation Form

Yes, I'd like to make a reservation for the

**Annual Auction Benefit**  
**Wednesday, February 20, 2008**  
**6:00-9:00 PM**

Grand Ballroom, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
187 High Street NE, Salem

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ people at \$30/person

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form with check made payable to *Marion County Democrats*,  
to:

**Marion County Democrats**  
PO Box 13835  
Salem, Oregon 97309