

Marion County Democratic Central Committee

Newsletter

December 2007



DEMOCRATIC VALUES

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

Dynamic New Web Site Keeps County Dems Informed

By Adrienne Pauly

Marion County Democrats now have easy access to an upgraded and expanded web site that will keep them in the loop on political issues and activities in the county, the state, and even on the national level. Using the state Democrats' network as backbone, the new site focuses on Marion County and offers up-to-date postings on activities and issues, campaigns and events.

"It is a living, breathing entity," says Tina Calos, "that will be ever-changing with new information."

A team of veteran Web experts are building the site and will maintain it. Gus Frederick, Leslie Burr, and Joy Fargo teamed up this fall to voluntarily make it happen." The most robust site is the Calendar," says Frederick. It presents a full-page calendar of events and activities of the current month and features in the upper right hand corner a rotating calendar of upcoming events in Salem and in outlying communities like Woodburn. Tina Calos will act as



liaison between the Executive Committee and the Web Team.

Another feature called "Our Party" lists the achievements of the 2007 Democratic-controlled legislature. Under "Campaigns," Presidential and national House and Senate campaigns are covered as well as state legislative races and the offices of State Secretary, Attorney General, and Treasurer. A "Get Active" site makes it easy for those interested to volunteer by contacting the heads of whatever committees interest them.

Not only does the site blanket all current political activities, it also offers

a rich reference site under "Resources," with links to state and national sites, issue-oriented sites, and a number of progressive BLOGs.

A "Galleries" site will present photographs from various events and meetings such as potlucks and the Art Fair and captures some of the fun of politics.

One goal of the new site is to offer greater interactivity. This is still in development. In the future, if members have material they think belongs on the site, they will be able submit it.

Check it out:
www.mariondemocrats.org.
Then bookmark it!

Help Name Our Newsletter!

Take a look at the top of this page. Don't you think the name "Newsletter" is a little bland?

Well, you can do something about that! Send us your suggestions for a name with a little more pizzazz. We will publish the best suggestions in future newsletters, ending with a vote at an MCDCC meeting in the spring.

Send your creative suggestions to laurel@lmgraphics.com or call Laurel at 503-588-7190

New Web Site: mariondemocrats.org



From Where I Sit

By Wayne Baum, MCDCC Chair

Thanksgiving is the one holiday devoted to reflection on our good fortune. It naturally evokes thoughts of family and friends, we tend to see the best in people, and, most importantly, hope for the future is manifest.

Thanksgiving could not have come too soon for those of us feeling a little short in the hope department. It can get pretty depressing reading the national and international news. Luckily, here in Oregon there is much for which to be thankful. We just won an enormous victory with Measure 49. That election brought out thousands of people from every point on the political spectrum who cared deeply about Oregon. They spoke with one voice, and that voice said the common good must be protected and that governmental regulation is a necessary part of that protection.

The success of the Salem Progressive Film Series is another harbinger of hope. When 250 people turn out to watch a film without a single explosion, car chase, or special effects and surround sound—that’s noteworthy. When they stick around to have a serious discussion about the subject of the film and what to do about the problems it presents, that’s exceptional.

Positive signs can be seen in the increased attendance at Central Committee meetings and the steady support for the DemoForum. More people are becoming involved and asking how they can help. Out of our seemingly impersonal society a real community with a strong social conscience is forming, and that is certainly cause for celebration.

Last, but certainly not the least: We invest much of our hopes and aspirations in our children. So it is with great pleasure that we congratulate Sarah and Dmitry White on the birth of their new son, Griffin, born November 28, 2007, at 7:00 A.M. Welcome to the world Griffin White, our youngest Marion County Democrat!

May you all have a wonderful and hopeful holiday season!

Communication Helps Influence Lawmakers

By Rich Harisay

The problems facing us today are so many and devastating in scale that they often seem overwhelming. We need to use a systematic approach to overcome them. We have to start with the most basic and fundamental attacks on democracy, before democracy can help us in solving the other problems.

However, we cannot ignore all of the other problems while we do this. Just as we have the ability to multitask, so do our legislators. It is not asking too much of our legislators to expect them to put in some overtime at a time of national emergency.

Here is what you can do:

1. Make yourself aware of the problems.
2. Keep in constant (daily) communication with your legislators, administrators, and local party leaders as to your position on each issue.

3. Take part in meetings, demonstrations and events.
4. Contribute as much as you can—not only to one candidate or measure, but wherever you want to show approval or disapproval.

The Legislative Committee of the Marion County Democratic Central Committee will try to keep you aware of the issues and who among our representatives can influence their outcome.

Currently, I’m calling John Conyers, Nancy Pelosi, Darlene Hooley, Gordon Smith, and Ron Wyden to encourage the impeachment of Dick Cheney. They can all be reached at the general number for congress (202-225-3121). Your call has an impact. Conyers’s aide told me they were getting one call per second. He asked me for my name and phone number and on what grounds I thought Cheney should be impeached, so be prepared.

It’s Kicker Time

By Trudy Margules

Which would you rather have, a few extra dollars at the end of the year or better schools and children’s health care, adequate highway patrols, clean water and air, a rainy day fund when the next economic downturn comes?

Oregon is the only state with a “kicker” law. The kicker is a refund of “surplus” tax money in Oregon’s general fund. When a 2 percent (or more) difference between the final tax forecast for a biennium and the actual tax collection at the end-of-biennium, the difference is regarded as surplus and the entire surplus is returned to individual income taxpayers. This biennium, the kicker is \$1.071 billion.

The Oregon Center for Public Policy deems the kicker wrongheaded, unjust, costly, and a federal tax increase. Why?

- It’s wrongheaded: Oregon can’t prepare for the next recession when the legislature will have to cut school, health care, and public safety funding.
- It’s unjust: The top 1 percent of taxpayers with incomes averaging \$862,000 will get an average kicker of \$13,548. The top fifth of taxpayers will receive an average of \$2,002. The poorest fifth will get an average of \$28.
- It’s costly: The state gets most of its revenue between January and April. At other times in the biennium the state has to borrow to cover its costs, including paying for the kicker. The state will be paying about \$45 million in interest this biennium.
- It increases federal income taxes. Many taxpayers will not enjoy all (or any) of their kicker because it will push them into a higher federal income tax bracket.

An initiative measure put the kicker law into Oregon’s Constitution. Changing the kicker would take a vote of the people. The shortcomings of the kicker should give Oregonians pause to consider whether they should commit to revisiting the kicker, as well as to vote for poorly conceived measures.

Committee Corner

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH EMAIL Marion County Democrats are now sending notices about the DemoForum, the Progressive Film Series, and other local events of interest to Democrats via email. If you are not yet receiving our email announcements and would like to, send an email to dbmgr@msn.com with your correct email address and ask to be placed on the Marion County Democrats email distribution list. To be sure that an email filter (either yours or your service provider's) does not filter out our emails, add editor@mariondemocrats.org to your email address book.

DEMOFORUM Senator Brad Avakian is scheduled to speak at the Marion DemoForum Wednesday, December 12, noon to 1 P.M. Senator Brad Avakian is one of four Democrats who have declared their candidacy for the office of Secretary of State. Senator Avakian represents District 17 and serves as assistant majority leader. Marion DemoForum luncheons are held at Kwan's Cuisine, 835 Commercial SE, Salem. Cost of \$11 includes a buffet luncheon, tea, and gratuity. Reservations are required. Make your DemoForum reservation by emailing mariondemoforum@yahoo.com or by calling 503-363-8392.

PROGRESSIVE FILM SERIES The monthly film and community discussion event, features *Maxed Out* at Salem's Grand Theater (191 N High St.) Thursday, December 13 at 7:05 P.M. *Maxed Out* exposes the staggering debt to which Americans have subjected themselves individually and collectively. It analyzes the impact of financial industry practices and government policy failures that reinforce our culture of "minimum payment." Guest speaker will be Angela Martin from Our Oregon. Doors open at 6:15 for lobby networking and information resources. Film starts at 7:05 with post-film speaker and audience discussion. For more info: www.salemprogressivefilms.net, Cindy Kimball 503-588-8713, or Ed Taylor 503-365-9524

NOVEMBER 19 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Excerpted from the minutes submitted by Sean Stewart & Monica Moran, co-secretaries.

AG Candidates Featured at Meeting

Wayne Baum welcomed folks to the potluck meeting, especially our visitors from Linn, Polk, and Benton counties.

Cindy Kimball reminded folks that people can have an automatic donation made on a monthly basis. Last year \$7000 was generated to support candidates. It was recommended that people donate their kicker check.

Claudia Kyle and John Hughes were introduced and appointed as PCPs.

The membership committee was spotlighted. Chairpersons John and Carolyn Estelle explained that the intent of this committee is to bring new people to these meetings and gain new membership.

The Salem Progressive Film Series had a tremendous turnout last month. There will be a special showing of the series on 11/29/2007 highlighting journalist Reese Erlich and his movie *Reel Bad Arabs*. The series' regular event will be on December 13th and will be the movie *Maxed Out*.

Motion was made and approved to appoint a subcommittee to look into

costs associated with renting/creating an office and report back to the committee in January. The office would be needed from May until November of next year.

Aileen Kaye thanked everyone for their work on Measure 49. She relayed that precinct by precinct, it was apparent that the phone calling worked.

Claudia Baum announced that KPOJ's (620 AM) morning show co-host, Carl Wolfson, will be a speaker at this years auction.

The program portion of the evening was the first of many multi-county (Linn, Benton, Polk and Marion) events. The Polk County Democrats next Central Committee meeting will include the candidates for Secretary of State. This will be December 13th at Salem Electric in West Salem. See their website, www.polkdems.org, for more details.

Wayne introduced the Democratic candidates for State Attorney General and speakers for the evening, John Kroger and Greg Macpherson. Both made opening remarks and fielded questions from the county chairs and audience.

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 or 503-364-9741 for information or to make reservation or to donate an auction item.

MCDCC CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2007

December 12 ★ Wednesday ★ 12 noon ★ DemoForum ★ Brad Avakian. Kwan's Cuisine on Commercial at Mission. \$11 includes buffet, tea, gratuity. RSVP 503-363-8392.

December 12 ★ Wednesday ★ 7 P.M. ★ Friends of Marion County ★ Ralph Bloemers. West Salem Public Library. Ph. Roger Kaye, 503-743-4567.

December 13 ★ Thursday ★ 7 P.M. ★ Salem Progressive Film Series. Maxed Out. Grand Theater, Court and High Sts., Salem. Admission \$3. Ph. 503-588-8713.

JANUARY 2008

January 9 ★ Wednesday ★ 12 noon ★ DemoForum ★ Vicki Walker. Kwan's Cuisine on Commercial at Mission. \$11 includes buffet, tea, gratuity. RSVP 503-363-8392.

January 21 ★ Monday ★ 7 P.M. ★ Executive Committee. Home of Wayne Baum, 3435 Fir Tree Dr. SE, Salem. Ph. 503-364-9741.

January 28 ★ Monday ★ 7:00 P.M. ★ Central Committee. Program TBA. Salem Heights Hall, corner of Liberty and Madrona.

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.

**No MCDCC Meeting
in December
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
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Committee Chair: Jackie Main
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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 DEADLINE: JANUARY 4
Newsletter labor and printing donated.

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**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.

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, 4th 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