

Marion County Democratic Central Committee

Newsletter

May 2008



DEMOCRATIC VALUES

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

It's Election Season in Oregon!

Campaign Office to Open May 15

By Trudy Margules

A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held at 12:30 P.M., Thursday, May 15, to celebrate the opening of the new Marion County Democrats' office. An open house will be held there from noon to 2 P.M. Refreshments will be served.

The office, at 250 Liberty SE (across the street from the Grand Phoenix Hotel), will serve as a meeting place for the county party, a recruiting center for volunteers for all Democratic campaigns, and a resource and operation center for our local candidates. We will offer them phone banks, Internet connected computers, a high-speed printer, and space for conferences, general meetings, and training.

Many thanks to Congresswoman Darlene Hooley and Representatives Brian Clem and Betty Komp, who have been generous in their support for the office. Clem and Komp will have their campaign headquarters there, and Hooley generously donated office equipment and furniture.

All elected Democratic officials and candidates have been invited to attend the grand opening celebration. Please come to this special occasion.

If you can't attend, join us the evening of Tuesday, May 20, when we will have a Primary Night Party and Open House celebration at the office.

File to Be a Delegate!

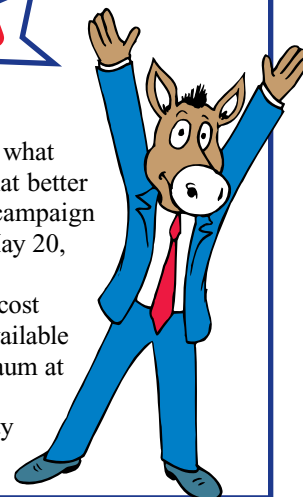
Delegates to the 5th CD convention on June 7 will begin the process of selecting delegates to the national convention in Denver. But, as Wayne Kinney explained at the last MCDCC meeting, it's a lot more complicated than that. Be part of the process by filing to be a delegate. More info at dpo.org. Filing deadline is May 22.

No Meeting in May — It's Time to Party!

We all deserve a little break from campaigning, and what better occasion than the Oregon Primary? And what better venue than our very own, freshly inaugurated MCDCC campaign office? All Democrats are welcome to come celebrate May 20, starting at 5:30 P.M.

Bring finger foods to share. We will have water at no cost and sodas for sale. More details about the party will be available on our web site (mariondemocrats.org), or call Claudia Baum at 503-364-9741.

The MCDCC campaign office is located at 250 Liberty SE (across the street from the Grand Phoenix Hotel).



Organization Meeting at New Office June 16

By Trudy Margules

After the primary election we will have the Organization meeting, which includes the election of officers.

Any registered Democrat can be elected to an office of the MCDCC, which means YOU can be an officer. If you would like to be nominated, contact John and Carolyn Estelle (503-364-5228) by June 11 so your name can be placed on the ballot. Later nominations can be accepted as write-in candidates.

What do Officers do?

Brief descriptions of the main duties of each officer are below. For full descriptions see the bylaws (Article IV) and remember that the descriptions below don't include some of the side benefits that come up for officers. Did you see Wayne Baum (Chair) and Sarah White (Vice-Chair) with Barack Obama when he was in town?

The main duties of the **Chair** are presiding over meetings, representing the MCDCC to the public and to other organizations, and serving as a delegate

to the State and Congressional District organizations. The **Vice-Chair** assists the Chair and may take on projects that are approved by the Chair as well as takes on the Chair's duties when the Chair is unable to do them.

The **Secretary** takes minutes at regular and executive meetings, keeps records, prepares written notices when necessary, notifies the Marion County clerk when a PCP is appointed or resigns, and is responsible for MCDCC correspondence. The **Treasurer** keeps account of funds and reports them at MCDCC meetings, completes forms required by the Secretary of State.

Delegates to the State Central Committee and the Fifth Congressional District represent the MCDCC at their meetings and report back to the MCDCC. Elected delegates have a vote at the meetings. **Alternates** to the delegates are called upon to replace delegates when delegates are unable to attend the meetings. They may also attend the meetings but have no vote unless they are acting as delegates.

Unity Through Diversity *Reflections on the State Platform Convention*

By Rick Hartwig

The Democratic State Platform Convention convened in Eugene, April 11–13. This biennial confab’s goal is to set the direction of the party for the next two years. Each county is allotted a number of voting delegates. Delegates sign up for two plank sessions. A committee gave us a beginning point. Delegates added statements, edited given statements, and voted for their top six. The entire document with all 13 planks was then voted on by all the delegates with the top six in each plank adopted.

Although not new to the Democratic Party, I am very new to being active in the party. My first recollections of a party convention were in Chicago in 1968—hardly a good example of democracy in action! I’ve always fancied myself as very progressive. How could the state party be this progressive? Was I to feel like an outsider the entire weekend? After all, I really didn’t know anyone there. Would I be given the opportunity to address *my* priorities? Did the party assemble a document for us to merely rubber-stamp, and we were expected to be like sheep, not straying from the fold? Was our diversity as a party to be our bane or our strength? With all this trepidation, I dutifully made the trip to the Hilton in Eugene.

I had forgotten one very important aspect of our party. We are the party of the commons. We are the party of suits and overalls, turbans and cowboy hats. All were present. Diversity was not only present, but celebrated.

I signed up for planks on Education and Civil Liberties. To my great surprise, the given plank statements were so progressive that I had very little to add. There were delegates who came with additions that were discussed and voted on. Majority rules. Our moderators did a great job of managing time and making sure everyone had their say. This truly was democracy in action! Throughout the process, I wondered what the other major party did at their conventions.

Democrats have some great candidates on the slate for the primary. There was quite a bit of politicking going on through the weekend. This could have been very divisive, but all participants handled themselves very well.



From Where I Sit

By Wayne Baum, MCDCC Chair

In all the excitement over passage of gay rights legislation, funding for more state troopers, the Rainy Day Fund, and a raft of other high profile bills passed by the landmark 2007 Democratic legislature, HB2595—the new ethics law—didn’t stir much comment when it sailed through the statehouse. One of its effects was to extend the transparency and openness in government required of larger city and county bodies since

1974, to smaller governmental agencies in the state. With its passage into law, however, there has been a firestorm of protest and resignations in small city councils and planning commissions in mostly rural Oregon. According to the *Statesman Journal*, Polk County has lost six of its seven planning commissioners. In Sublimity, four planning commissioners have left while two commissioners have departed Silverton. Monmouth and Dallas have also lost two commissioners. Scotts Mills has lost two city councilors while Turner has lost one. Lore Christopher, Mayor of Keizer, has considered resigning. She complains “The main problem is that people do not want to turn in their family members. In this day of identity theft and all of the information that can be garnered from the Internet, there are many local officials that don’t want to do this.”

Do all these departures, resulting in delayed projects and disrupted government, mean this was a bad, ill-conceived law? Hardly. The law simply requires these individuals, as public servants, paid or not, to disclose whether they or any adult family members have economic interests in matters that come before them. They do have to provide their sources of income, but not the amount. They do have to provide names of relatives, but not their addresses or financial information. They do have to list their real estate interests, but not the financial details.

Of the 5,400 public officials now required to file, 97% have complied. Many of the remainder are pressing hard for a review or changes in the law. The 2007 ethics law has turned over a rock that finally is allowing a bright light to shine on a good-ol’-boy system that has operated for too long in too many parts of this state. This is a system that has been responsible for the poorest kind of development and planning decisions. It is a system we can well afford to do without.

Thank you Peter Courtney, Brian Clem, Betty Komp, and every member of the Oregon legislature who stood up for ethical, fair, and open government at all levels of decision making in the public interest. Don’t let lobbying efforts on the part of a handful of ethically-challenged individuals distract you from the correctness of your historic vote.

It is very easy to not be involved, sit back, and complain about the world we live in. Or, we can be involved in conventions like this one. Marion County Democrats had delegate positions that were not filled. In two years, the process will be repeated. I highly encourage everyone to consider participating.

The final platform will be coming out soon. I hope it gets enough press so that everyone—including non-Democrats—gets the opportunity to delve into it.

The platform needs to be the basis for the actions of our elected Democratic legislators. We need to make sure they all have copies and are encouraged to implement it.

And finally, a big thank you to George W. We are a more unified party because of him.

Marion Dems Happier Than They Used to Be

Nine happy Democrats launched the new monthly Happy Hour for Happy Dems April 24 at Thompson’s on Liberty next to Salem Heights Hall. The next chance to get happy will be Thursday, May 22, 5:30–7:30 P.M.

Find out more about
MCDCC events at
mariondemocrats.org

Campaign Corner

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE John and Carolyn Estelle (Membership Committee Co-Chairs) would like to thank the following volunteers for canvassing non-affiliated voters in Precinct 332 as part of a state wide Re-Registration Campaign on April 26. This will insure that people who want to vote in the Democratic Primary will be able to do so: Wayne Baum, Dick Boyle, Agatha Brown, Tina Calos, Hanton Day, Wei Day, Richie Day, Jackie Main, Melissa Michaux, Tina Turner-Morfitt, and Bridg Zani.

DEMOFORUM EVENTS

Steve Novick, Candidate for U.S. Senate. Thursday, May 1, 7 P.M. Salem Public Library, 585 Liberty St SE. No cost.

Jeff Merkley, Candidate for U.S. Senate. Friday, May 9, Noon to 1 P.M. at Kwan's, 835 Commercial St SE, Salem. \$11 luncheon, reservations required.

GOTV Check the MCDCC web site (mariondemocrats.org) for links to the campaigns and information about Get Out The Vote events.

SALEM PROGRESSIVE FILM SERIES

The last film of the season will be *Uncounted* at Salem's Grand Theater (191 N High St.), Thursday, May 8 at 7:00 P.M.

Guest speakers are the film's director David Earnhardt and Marion County Clerk Bill Burgess. \$3, \$2 for students.

Uncounted exposes how Americans were cheated during the 2004 and 2006 elections. Eyewitness accounts from whistleblowers are backed up by election experts, revealing how Jim Crow tactics, electronic voting machine security breaches, vote count manipulation, and illegal behavior by a major voting machine manufacturer all threaten the very core of our democracy—the vote. Democrats, Republicans, business leaders, elected officials, and rank and file voters are acting to correct an election system gone bad.

For more info:
www.salemprogressivefilms.net,
Cindy Kimball 503-588-8713.

APRIL 21 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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

April Meeting Features DNC's Kinney

Wayne Baum welcomed the group, and reminded everyone that the MCDCC depends on proceeds from raffle tickets and automatic withdrawals to pay its expenses.

Beginning in May, monthly meetings will be held in the new office space at 250 Liberty Street SE in downtown Salem. Wayne mentioned the need for folding chairs for the office. The Grand Opening will be Thursday, May 15.

Wayne introduced Wayne Kinney, representative for the Democratic National Committee. Mr. Kinney spoke on the delegate process and the upcoming Oregon primary and national convention in Denver.



Wayne Kinney

Cheryl Roberts, president of Chemeketa Community College, spoke in support of the Chemeketa Bond Levy on the May ballot. Money from the bond levy would help the college in the areas of expansion, facilities, and programs.



Cheryl Roberts

Clackamas County Commissioner Martha Schrader spoke on behalf of her husband, Kurt Schrader, candidate for the House of Representatives, Oregon CD 5.



Martha Schrader

Hanton Day spoke to the Central Committee about his campaign for state representative in HD 19.



Hanton Day

Representatives for the Clinton, Obama, and Kroger campaigns spoke briefly about office locations and volunteer opportunities.

Tina Calos spoke about efforts to register people who live in highly Democratic areas and are currently not registered to vote.

John Estelle spoke about Happy Hour for Happy Dems, to be held the Thursday after the monthly MCDCC meeting at Thompson's Brewery in Salem from 5:30–7:30 P.M. The first event will be April 24.

Wayne spoke about the new office and mentioned the need for help in moving furniture on May 10.

Next month's MCDCC meeting, originally scheduled for May 19, will be replaced by a Primary Party on May 20 at the new office.

Aileen Kaye invited people to the Grand Opening for the new office on Thursday, May 15, from 12–2 P.M.

Claudia Baum asked for people to volunteer to bring food and drinks for the Primary Party on May 20, to be held from 5:30–9:30 P.M.

Polk County Democrats are holding a fundraiser on June 4 at the Pentacle Theatre.

People wishing to be elections observers in November should see Tina Calos. (All photos by Evelyn Smith.)

It's Not Too Late to Become an Elected PCP!

Elected PCPs (Precinct Committee Persons) are the only ones who can vote for MCDCC officers at our June Organization meeting and again after the 2008 general election.

If you missed the deadline for getting your name on the ballot, you can still do a write-in campaign. Only three votes are needed to be elected.

So, write your name on the small green ballot. Find two other voters in your precinct and ask them to write in your name, spelled exactly the same way.

The term of service for elected PCPs is for two years until the 2010 primary election.

GET INVOLVED!!

MCDCC CALENDAR

MAY 2008

May 1 ★ Thursday ★ 7–8 P.M. ★ DemoForum ★ Steve Novick. Salem Public Library, 585 Liberty St. SE. No cost. Ph. 503-363-8392.

May 3 ★ Saturday ★ Noon–1:30 P.M. ★ U.S. Senate Forum. With Jeff Merkley, Steve Novick, Candy Neville, & David Loera. Linn-Benton Community College (in the Forum), Albany.

May 8 ★ Thursday ★ 7 P.M. ★ Salem Progressive Film Series. *Uncounted*. Grand Theater, Court & High Sts., Salem. Admission \$3. Ph. 503-588-8713.

May 9 ★ Friday ★ 12 noon ★ DemoForum ★ Jeff Merkley. Kwan's Cuisine on Commercial at Mission. \$11 includes buffet, tea, gratuity. RSVP 503-363-8392.

May 10 ★ Saturday ★ MCDCC Office Moving Day. Contact Wayne if you can help. Ph. 503-364-9741.

May 12 ★ Monday ★ 7 P.M. ★ Executive Committee. Home of Wayne Baum, 3435 Fir Tree Dr. SE, Salem. Ph. 503-364-9741.

May 15 ★ Thursday ★ Noon–2 P.M. ★ MCDCC Office Grand Opening. Ribbon cutting 12.30 P.M. MCDCC Office, 250 Liberty St SE, Salem.

May 20 ★ Tuesday ★ 5:30–9:30 P.M. ★ Election Night Party. Ph. Claudia 503-364-9741.

May 22 ★ Thursday ★ Filing Deadline for Convention Delegates. Contact dpo.org

JUNE 2008

June 4 ★ Wednesday ★ 7:30 P.M. ★ Polk County Dems Benefit at Pentacle Theatre. *Betty the Yeti*. \$20. Ph. Lisanne: 503-838-2500.

June 7 ★ Saturday ★ 5th CD Convention. Venue TBA. To sign up, contact dpo.org.

June 16 ★ Monday ★ 7:00 P.M. ★ Central Committee. Organizational Meeting. MCDCC Office, 250 Liberty St SE, Salem.

For more calendar events and information, visit mariondemocrats.org

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

Next MCDCC Meeting June 16, 7:00 P.M.

*MCDCC Office, 250 Liberty St SE, Salem
Program: Organizational Meeting*

MARION COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE

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