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Democratic Values

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

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Home Rule Charter Update

By Aileen Kaye

The last step in bringing the Home Rule Charter to Marion County is to get out the vote. The issue has generated a huge buzz in the area, and the anti-charter forces really brought out their big guns. So must we. If you can help out in the last few days please do so; and don't forget to vote.

The Charter would change the current County Commission structure from three Commissions to five, while eliminating two highly paid policy advisers and the county treasurer. It would require Commissioners to be elected by district. The plan would increase the quality of representation by making sure each Commissioner has strong ties to the neighborhood and by broadening the range of opinion represented on the Commission itself. The plan would also save money because additional elected commissioners can take over functions now performed by highly paid non-elected staff.

A big thank you to everyone who helped get the Marion County Home Rule Charter measure, M. 24-292 on the ballot! Thank you, also, to those of you who have helped on the YES campaign by volunteering time and money to the cause.

We can still use volunteers to help make phone calls and do lit drops/canvass. Please give me a call if you have even just an hour to spare.

Please attend our election night party, Tuesday, May 18; Grand Ballroom; 6 PM. Potluck.

More next month when we will know the results of all your efforts!

Aileen Kaye, 503-743-4567

Election Night Party

Join us for an Election Night Party at the Grand Ballroom, Tuesday, May 18th, starting at 6 P.M. Support the campaigns of Chuck Bennett, Laura Tesler, Brian Clem, Peter Courtney, Betty Komp, Claudia Kyle, Bill Dalton, Rich Harisay, Jason Frielinger and the Charter Initiative (H.A.V.E). This will be a potluck with a no-host bar.

Book Drive to Benefit Local Children

By Staff

The Marion County Democrats have partnered up with Salem-Keizer Head Start to put on a book drive.

The Salem-Keizer Head Start program serves children 3-5 year old. We are looking for new or gently used books to give to families. We want to offer books to families to give these kids material to read in their homes over the summer. This way our head start students will have the opportunity to continue to be exposed to literacy throughout the summer and families will be encouraged to read together.

Some popular books are:

The Very Hungry Caterpillar
Skippy Jon Jones
Where the Wild Things Are
Spilt Milk
There was an Old Lady
Head to Toe

Book can be dropped off at the Marion County Democratic Party Headquarters. 250 Liberty St. SE

Democrats For Democrats

By Staff

Members of the communications committee will soon begin the initial steps in exploring a new feature for the newsletter and website. Informal conversations have already begun for a project that would establish a kind of “craigslist” classifieds to be added to Marion County Democrats two main information outlets.

“I’m excited by the notion,” says Communications Committee chairman Roger Pike. “If you need something, from a buyer for your boat to someone to re-roof your house; why not first offer that opportunity to a fellow Democrat?” Roger envisions a structure similar to classifieds or Craigslist, which would divide goods and services into sections; for sale, help wanted, etc.

The idea is only in its earliest planning stages. Pike says it hasn’t yet even been discussed in formal committee meetings. “I’ve bounced the idea around with a couple of members and there’s been some initial enthusiasm.” But, he says, the project would require a considerable amount of work; from organizing information for the newsletter on a monthly basis, to designing and maintaining the section on the website.

“If we can’t find volunteers willing to administer it, it’s going to be hard to make it happen,” said Pike.

Still, such an exchange could prove invaluable to Democrats who need services or who are looking for work in these troubled times; or who just want to sell items they no longer need.

If you have ideas for the exchange, or would like to be a part of any effort that does develop, contact Pike at rogerpike1@gmail.com or 503-871-9233.

Hispanic Outreach Breakfast Set

The Marion County Democrats and PCUN will hold a breakfast at the PCUN headquarters in Woodburn, Saturday, May 15. The headquarters are located at 300 Young St. The event will start at 8:30 A.M. Cost will be \$6 payable at the door. Since the caterers need an accurate headcount, please RSVP to MCDCC1@gmail.com or leave a message at 503-363-8392.

April MCDCC Meeting A Great Evening

By Rick Hartwig

Great happenings occurred at the monthly meeting of the Marion County Democratic Central Committee on Monday, April 19th. After a brief social time, Chairman Rick Hartwig brought the business meeting to order. After the Treasurer’s report, Hartwig praised the Auction Committee, especially Claudia Baum, chair, and Ben Allen, donations chair, on their hard work. Our bank balance is the highest it has ever been! We are now in a position to move forward on our office lease. After a full year of negotiations, the MCDCC voted to approve a three-year lease on our headquarters. A big thanks goes to Michael Miles, Vice Chair and Operations Manager, for his tireless negotiations. This will provide the county party stability and the framework for future growth. James Atkin, Campaign Director for Rep. Kurt Schrader spoke of the upcoming campaign. State Senator Rick Metzger gave us information on his campaign for State Treasurer as did Timi Parker, candidate for House District 25. Vice Chair Michael Miles gave information on the State Platform Convention in June. The business meeting portion of the evening concluded at 7:30 P.M.

The program for the evening consisted of a legislative candidates panel discussion focusing on the special challenges of legislative politics in Marion County. Participants were: Sen. Peter Courtney (SD 11), Representative Brian Clem (HD 21), Representative Betty Komp (HD 22) and legislative challengers Claudia Kyle (HD 19), Bill Dalton (SD 10) and Richard Harisay (HD 17). Rich Riggs, former candidate in (HD 20), moderated the discussion. Much of the discussion centered on having to raise the enormous amount of money required to run a viable campaign. The discussions were very informative and enlightening.

The next meeting of the MCDCC will be an election night party, Tuesday, May 18th at headquarters, 250 Liberty Rd SE, Salem.

News & Notes: Changes in the Central Committee Meeting Schedule

We are canceling our regularly scheduled meeting for May. It falls on the third Monday of May, May 17. Most good Democrats will spend that night in telephone banks making last minute calls for their favorite candidate or ballot measure.

Change in Month Meeting Date – Summer Experiment

Marion Democrats will experiment with a change in the monthly meeting date during the summer months. In June, July, and August, we will meet on the third Thursday of each month instead of the third Monday. If this change works, we may continue into the fall with the Thursday meeting date.

Summer Meetings

Traditionally, summer meetings for the Marion Democrats are usually social events with limited business or program time. We will probably continue that tradition this summer. At this time, we don't have formal plans. However, we are exploring the idea of having a July picnic again this summer – perhaps a joint picnic with the Polk County Democrats.

Progressive Film Series Hosts Special Event

By Cindy Kimball

A big night is planned by the Salem Progressive Film Series. **Capitalism, A Love Story; a documentary by renowned filmmaker Michael Moore will be shown on Saturday May 22 at the Grand Theatre, at 7 PM.**

Leaders of the Salem Progressive Film Series are working with MoveOn.org people to put this event together. Considering the scope of the event, it would be great to have a big turnout.

The charge to see the film will be only what is required put the event together. Likely, it will be less than five dollars. The film is expensive to bring to Salem. It cost \$250 to get the rights to show the film for one night.

So, join us on the May 22nd for a showing of **Capitalism, A Love Story.**

The Grand is located at 191 High St NE in Salem. Doors will open at 6:15 p.m. The film will begin at 7. For more information contact 503-881-5305.

Newsletter Staff

Roger Pike: Editor in Chief

Don Hudgins: Paste-Up Editor & Web Master

Tina Calos: Sr. Editor Publications

Michael Mile: Staff

Steve McCarthy: Staff

MCDCC Leadership

Rick Hartwig: Chair

Michael Miles: Vice Chair

Claudia Kyle: Secretary

Kasia Quilliman: Treasurer

Email: MCDCC1@gmail.com

Calendar

05/15/2010 - 8:30am - 9:30am

[Saturday Morning Breakfast-Latino Community & Marion Democrats-May 15 - 8:30 AM](#)

05/18/2010 - 6:00pm - 10:00pm

[Election Night Party - Grand Ballroom - 6 PM - ??](#)

06/25/2010 - 9:00am - 06/27/2010 - 7:00pm

[2010 Platform Convention](#)

08/11/2010 - 12:00pm - 1:00pm

[DemoForum -Congressman Kurt Schrader - Wed August 11 - Noon to 1 PM](#)

Opinion Editorials

Wanted: 50 More Good Democrats

By Andy Bromeland

Just a short time ago, the Marion County Democrats signed a three-year lease on our downtown headquarters office at 250 Liberty St SE, downtown Salem. The big blue “for lease” sign that has graced our storefront window for the past year is gone!

Our downtown storefront office has played an important role in our party building efforts for that past two years. We first rented the space in May 2008. Not long after that, Forward Oregon, the Democratic coordinated campaign group, moved in and set up a sophisticated phone bank that made tens of thousands of calls for Jeff Merkley, Kurt Schrader, and many of our local legislative races. The Obama Campaign rented space next door, above the Tea Party bookstore, and made tens of thousands of calls for Obama (and Merkley). The front office was filled with literature, buttons, and lawn signs. Thousands of Obama bumper strips and lawn signs were distributed – along with buttons, literature, and signs for the rest of the ticket.

The end result was one of the best years for Democrats in Marion County’s political history (perhaps the BEST year ever for Democrats!). Our storefront provided one of the critical building blocks for that victory – particularly when it was coupled with the energy and enthusiasm of a small army of active Democratic volunteers.

Since the election, we have had countless Democrat meetings in the new storefront. We have hosted numerous forums and held a variety of political events. A number of local and statewide campaigns – both candidates and ballot measures have used the office as a part time base of operations.

The owners of the building housing our storefront are holding the property for re-development and we were able to negotiate very favorable terms on the lease (far below the going rate for downtown space). That said, the addition of a lease adds a new responsibility for us.

For the next 3 years, we will have a rent bill at the beginning of each month. Half of our new rent is already met each month by the amounts that many local Democrats presently give to us through monthly deductions from their checking accounts. We could dip into our reserves to make the remainder of the monthly rent. However, it would make better financial sense to increase the number of our monthly donors.

Our estimated additional need for rent is another \$500 a month in new donations. If we had 50 additional Democrats who were willing to authorize a \$10 per month deduction from their bank account, we would have the money we need to pay our monthly rent.

Actually, we will need only 49 new contributors. We have already received our FIRST new \$10 a month donation! 49 donors sounds like a lot. However, we had 55,100 registered democrats in Marion County at the end of March 2010. That means that we need one out of every 1,125

(Continued next column)

Become A Monthly Donor

By Rick Hartwig

The Marion County Party needs you! After a year of negotiations, primarily by Michael Miles, our Vice Chair and Operations Manager, we now have a lease that gives us full use of the headquarters at 250 Liberty St. SE. The new 3-year deal allows us to be a stable force in Marion County.

The value of this space, as a meeting place, gathering place, outreach office, planning center, and information hub cannot be underestimated. It’s huge. Of course, such a commitment means ongoing expenses. We are not a county party funded by big money interests.

We are all volunteers. All of our income comes from “we the people”. At the present time only a third of our rent comes from monthly donors. Our goal is to pay the entire rent with monthly donors, freeing up monies to work for candidates and issues vital to the county party. “A Hundred Angels” giving at least \$10 a month could do the job. We can set “angels” up with a plan that will allow automatic withdrawals from their bank.

**Can you be an angel and stabilize our finances?
Call our office, 503-363-8392, and we can send you
the information. Be an angel today!**

(Continued)

Democrats in Marion County to step forward and contribute. Our monthly newsletter goes out to approximately 1200 “active Democratic” households – mostly from Marion County. If we asked only these active Democratic households to contribute \$10 per month, it would take about one in every 25.

Surely somewhere in this vast universe of Marion County Democrats, we have 49 more good party loyalists who are willing to step forward and give us \$10 bill once per month to make the monthly rent. Be one of the 49 who steps forward to make our new storefront a permanent part of the Marion County political scene!

We will keep tabs on our new contributors and report back to you each month on our progress toward our goal of 50 new \$10 a month contributors. The score today? One down and 49 to go!