

Marion County Democratic Central Committee

Newsletter

July 2008



DEMOCRATIC VALUES

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

July Meeting Will Feature Ice Cream Social with Local Dem Candidates

Our monthly meeting on July 21 will be an Ice Cream Social to provide a chance for all of us to get to know our local candidates while enjoying delicious summer treats. The event is B.Y.O.T. (Bring Your Own Toppings), so let your creative ice cream spirit free to bring fruit, nuts, sprinkles, syrups, candies, whipped cream, and other toppings to enjoy and share with others.

All our candidates have been invited to the social, and as of publish-

ing time Hanten Day, Betty Komp, Rich Riggs, and Kurt Schrader have confirmed. You will also have a chance to meet Patrick New, the Obama campaign field coordinator for Marion County.

The Ice Cream Social will begin at 7:00 P.M. at our campaign office, 250 Liberty Street SE, in downtown Salem, across from the Phoenix Grand Hotel. It will be followed by a very short business meeting from 8:45 to 9:00 P.M.

Merkeley's Senate Race Offers Oregon a New Voice at the National Level

by Adrienne Pauly

“Ours is one of the hottest races in the country,” says Jeff Merkeley, who is waging a hard-hitting Senate campaign against Republican incumbent Gordon Smith. “Smith has been wrong on everything,” Merkeley says. “He’s voted with Bush/Cheney 90 percent of the time while representing a state that has a very low opinion of this administration. His vote canceled Ron Wyden’s vote 1,700 times. Now Smith is trying to run from his record by casting himself as a moderate. That is deceitful. We have to hold him accountable.”

Merkeley’s own campaign is straightforward and presented on his web site: www.jeffmerkeley.com. His first priority is to end the war with our troops out of combat within 6 to 12 months. He supports rebuilding Iraq using Iraqi contractors, leaving no permanent bases in Iraq (“they are counterproductive”), and ending our dependence on foreign oil.

On health care Merkeley supports the Healthy Americans Act that promotes affordable health care for all, eliminates

medical precondition limitations, and is not employer-based. It emphasizes the expansion of clinics, preventive medicine, and disease management. The plan also ends noncompetitive pricing in Medicare.

To assure Americans a living wage, Merkeley would change tax policies that encourage the shipping of jobs overseas. “This has been a huge mistake,” he says. NAFTA should be modified.

To restore America’s image in the world, Merkeley supports three main actions. First, protect habeus corpus and stop the practice of holding people in prison without legal representation. Second, commit the United States to the Geneva Convention. Third, end secret prisons and the use of torture.

To Merkeley the Supreme Court is “a huge factor.” He would vote against the appointment of any more right-wing judges.



Jeff Merkeley

MCDCC Coming to Salem Art Fair

Marion County Dems will have a booth in the Free Speech area at the Salem Art Fair July 18, 19 and 20. We will promote the MCDCC, talk up local candidates, register voters, and sell bumper stickers and pins. Several local candidates will be coming by the booth to meet the public. We will also have straw polls where you can weigh in for your favorite VP choice and your top campaign issues.

It’s not too late to volunteer. Your help is needed to staff the booth by working a two-hour shift. For more information please contact Claudia at 364-9741 or claudiabaum@msn.com or stop by the MCD office (250 Liberty St. SE) and sign up today!

Merkeley plans to cover every corner of the state in his “100 Town Tour.” He has already campaigned in several communities. “I’m finding the issues people are most concerned about are jobs, the squeeze on the middle class, gas prices, the war in Iraq, and the national debt. People are worried about the path this country has been taking.

“There is tremendous enthusiasm for changing direction. And with this election Oregon can play a large part in making that change,” he says.

At every opportunity, Merkeley draws a clear distinction between himself and his opponent. “Smith knows he is clearly in trouble, and he is spending huge amounts to re-create his image. But basically, Smith is for the people at the corporate board table. I’m for the people at the kitchen table.”

To get involved with the campaign, visit www.jeffmerkeley.com.

DEMOFORUM—JULY 16

Kroger to Speak on Sentencing Measures

Lewis and Clark law professor and former federal prosecutor John Kroger is running unopposed for Attorney General in the general election after successfully securing the Democratic and Republican (by write-in) nominations. John makes a return appearance at DemoForum July 16, from 12 noon to 1 P.M. He will share his views on the Kevin Mannix supported mandatory sentencing ballot measure and on the alternative sentencing measure referred by the legislature (SB 1087).

SB 1087 is a statute that increases term of imprisonment for persons convicted of specified drug and property crimes under certain circumstances. It prohibits courts from imposing less than the presumptive sentence for persons convicted of specified drug and property crimes under certain circumstances and requires the Department of Corrections to provide treatment to certain offenders and to administer a grant program to provide supplemental funding to local governments for certain purposes.

Oregon Ballot Measure 40, proposed by Kevin Mannix, has also been approved for the November election.

The main differences are: (1) Measure 40 has mandatory prison time for some first time felony offenders, while SB 1087 only does so for repeat offenders; (2) SB 1087 significantly increases funding for drug treatment programs, while Measure 40 provides none; and (3) Measure 40 will cost \$250–\$400 million per two year budget cycle, while SB 1087 would only cost \$140 million.

If both measures pass, the one with the most votes will go into effect.

Throughout the summer, Marion DemoForum will host luncheons on the third Wednesday of the month.

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



From Where I Sit

By Wayne Baum, MCDCC Chair

The Fourth of July Western Days Parade from Monmouth to Independence is a classic slice of small town Americana. The streets are lined the length of Monmouth Ave. between the two towns with thousands of people; many of whom are young children eager to catch the small candies parade participants lob at them. I was there to support Richard Riggs' campaign for HD20, whose district is shared

almost equally between Marion and Polk counties. As we meandered down the route laughing and passing out candy, sharing in the patriotic camaraderie with so many happy and smiling people, I couldn't help wondering how many of these citizens and others like them in Marion county voted—and voted the whole ballot in the last election.

In Marion county 74% of all registered Democrats turned in ballots in the May Primary. Of those 41,300 ballots, 1,102 (2.8%) did not vote for a presidential candidate—the under vote. In the U.S. Senate race the under vote was 5,681 or 13.75%. For U.S. representative (CD-5) the under vote jumped to 19.67% in Marion county. The Attorney General's race (which would determine our next AG since the Republicans didn't run a candidate) had a 20.9% under vote. Further down the ballot into house district elections, the under vote was more than 50%! Clearly many people are eager to choose the next president, but the large under vote down the ticket should concern every one of us. It suggests that many people don't care or are uninformed about those races and candidates so choose not to vote.

A lot of people are planning on putting all of their time and energy into electing Obama, but consider this: How much will President Obama be able to accomplish if he only has a razor thin senate majority to work with? How responsive would a Republican congressman like Mike Erickson be to your progressive values? How would he vote on health care, the environment, the war, jobs? How will our state legislature be able to continue its forward thinking agenda without the five additional Democratic votes it needs for revenue bills?

Effective governance, as we have so tragically witnessed these past 7½ years, is not a top down affair. We need people like Jeff Merkley in the Senate and Kurt Schrader in Congress to work with and support our new president. We need people like Betty Komp, Hanten Day, Dan Thackaberry, Rich Riggs, Jim Gilbert, Jason Brown, Brian Clem, Bob McDonald and Kevin Nortness in our State House to make Oregon a leader again. People don't always vote down the ticket, but we've found they almost always vote up the ticket. So please, consider giving your time and money to our many worthy "down ticket" candidates, so voters will be informed and make the Democratic choice up and down the ballot.

And don't forget our big Meet the Candidates Ice Cream Social July 21!

Schrader and Local Candidates Canvass

On Saturday, July 12 at 10 A.M., the Kurt Schrader campaign will be partnering with several Democratic state house candidates to go door-to-door throughout the district in what will be the first of a series of weekend canvasses throughout the 5th Congressional District.

The recent primary election on May 20th set new records for voter turnout, but many Oregonians only voted in the presidential race and left the rest of their ballot blank.

Democrats need to reach out to these voters and remind them that to make real progress, we need to focus on winning more than just the White House. We will be canvassing neighborhoods with especially high under votes and getting the word out about our Democratic candidates in other races.

Marion County canvassers will meet at the Marion County Democrats Office, 250 Liberty St. SE (across from the Phoenix Grand Hotel) in Salem.

Riggs Campaign Holds Spaghetti Dinner

HD 20 Candidate Richard Riggs will be holding an all-you-can-eat Spaghetti Dinner Tuesday, July 15, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, located at 600 State St. in downtown Salem.

The event is intended to recruit volunteers and raise campaign funds. Tickets will be \$5.00 or 2 for \$7.00. Kids under 10 can eat free.

Volunteers are needed to help with the event or to donate sauces and dry pasta. For more information, please call Sarah White at 504-428-4657 or Sarah Hoyt at 503-490-3263.

Komp Holds Town Hall

Rep. Betty Komp is hosting a town hall meeting to explore government accountability. The meeting will be held at the Woodburn Library, 280 Garfield St, Woodburn, Tuesday, July 22, 6–7 P.M.

Questions to be discussed include: Where should the state direct aggressive audits to ensure taxpayer money is being spent wisely? How can we make state government work more efficiently with local businesses to help create good-paying jobs? Which state documents need to be put in plain language so taxpayers know how money is being spent?

Komp will hold a town hall on employment and workforce development at McKay High School, 2440 Lancaster Dr. NE, Salem, August 21, 6–7 P.M.

If you have questions, contact Betty at 503-986-1422.

JUNE 16 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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

Officers Reelected at June Meeting

After a motion was made to adopt the bylaws, a substitute motion to adopt the bylaws and appoint a special revision committee was made and seconded. The substitute motion passed. A motion to postpone elections of officers for Marion County Democrats Central Committee was rejected.

The first election held was for the position of County Chair. Vice-chair Sarah White opened the floor for nominations. Nominees Wayne Baum and Aaron Clingerman were each given two minutes to speak. Wayne Baum elected by a count of 30–5.

The following candidates were unopposed and elected by acclamation: Sarah White, Vice-Chair; Monica Moran and Sean Stewart, Secretaries; and Kasia Quillinan, Treasurer.

For the positions of Delegates to Congressional District 5, the nominees were Joye Camacho, Aaron Clingerman, Rich Harisay, Rick Hartwig, John Hughes, and David Vancil. Rick Hartwig, John Hughes, and David Vancil were elected as delegates. Alternates will be Joye Camacho and Rich Harisay.

For the positions of Delegates to the State Central Committee, the nominees were Tina Calos, Rich Harisay, Rick Hartwig, Claudia Kyle, Rosalie Pedrosa, and Judy Sugnet. Tina Calos, Rich Harisay, and Claudia Kyle were elected as delegates. Alternates will be Rick Hartwig, Rosalie Pedrosa, and Judy Sugnet.

During and after the election, other MCDCC business was addressed.

Jessica Craiser, who works with the DPO on the 50-State Campaign, spoke briefly to the group.

Richard Riggs, candidate for Representative of House District 20, spoke about his need for campaign volunteers.

Jason Brown, candidate for Representative of House District 23, spoke to the group about the progress of his campaign.

Patrick Sieng, campaign manager for the Salem-Keizer Schools Bond Measure, spoke about the measure and volunteer opportunities.

Wayne spoke to the group about the Congressional District 5 Convention, held June 7 at Leslie Middle School. The State Convention will be Saturday, June 21, at Western Oregon University.

Carolyn Estelle spoke regarding the Membership Committee. Topics included Happy Hour for Happy Dems, to be held from 5:30–7:30 at Chula Vista restaurant, next to the MCDCC office. MCDCC will have a booth at the Capitol Pride Day at Riverfront Park on August 2 from 11:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. The MCDCC office is still in need of volunteers and supplies.

Rich Harisay reported for the Legislative Committee. He is looking for volunteers to be “go-to” people; that is, people that can be turned to when questions regarding specific issues are brought up.

Wayne announced that all committees would be convening within the next 30 days. Wayne also stated that the earlier substitute motion to form a revision committee actually falls under the jurisdiction of the Rules Committee. People interested in being a part of the revision committee for the by-laws should contact Tina Calos.



The Richard Riggs campaign was one of several Democratic campaigns participating in the 4th of July Parade in Monmouth and Independence. Photos by Evelyn Smith.

Marion Dems Still Happy

Monthly Happy Hour for Happy Dems continues at the Chula Vista Restaurant, next door to the MCDCC office. Your next chance to get happy will be Thursday, July 24, 5:30–7:30 P.M.

MCDCC CALENDAR

JULY 2008

July 12 ★ Saturday ★ 3rd Quarter DPO State Central Committee Meeting. Location TBD.

July 12 ★ Saturday ★ 10 A.M. ★ Coordinated Campaign Canvass. Canvass for Kurt Schrader and others. MCDCC Office, 250 Liberty St SE, Salem.

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

July 15 ★ Tuesday ★ 6–8 P.M. ★ Richard Riggs Spaghetti Dinner. First United Methodist Church, 600 State St, Salem. Ph Sarah White, 503-428-4657.

July 16 ★ Wednesday ★ 12 noon ★ Demo-Forum ★ John Kroger on Ballet Measures. Kwan's Cuisine on Commercial at Mission. \$11 includes buffet, tea, gratuity. RSVP 503-363-8392.

July 18–20 ★ Salem Art Fair. Bush Park, Salem. To volunteer, call Carolyn at 503-364-2657.

July 21 ★ Monday ★ 7 P.M. ★ Central Committee. Meet the candidates ice cream social. MCDCC Office, 250 Liberty St SE, Salem.

July 22 ★ Tuesday ★ 6–7 P.M. ★ Betty Komp Town Hall. Government Accountability. Woodburn Library, 280 Garfield St, Woodburn.

July 24 ★ Thursday ★ 5:30–7:30 P.M. ★ Happy Dems Happy Hour. Chula Vista Restaurant. Next door to the Dems office.

AUGUST 2008

August 18 ★ Monday ★ 7 P.M. ★ Central Committee. Program TBA. MCDCC Office, 250 Liberty St SE, Salem.

August 25–28 ★ Monday–Thursday ★ Democratic National Convention. Denver, Colorado.

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.

MARION COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE

MCDCC Officers

Chair: Wayne Baum
Vice Chair: Sarah White
Secretary: Sean Stewart & Monica Moran
Treasurer: Kasia Quillinan

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Programs: David Vancil, 503-981-8863
Candidate Support: Sarah White, 503-428-2657
Membership: John & Carolyn Estelle, 503-364-5228
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Next MCDCC Meeting

July 21, 7:00 P.M.

MCDCC Office, 250 Liberty St SE, Salem
Program: Ice Cream Social with Candidates

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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