



# District 8 Democrats

*Your Neighborhood Activists*

May-June 2007

Volume 1, Number 8

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The theme for the May newsletter is Alternative/Solar Energy. At our program meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup> at Mustang Library, we had an excellent line-up of speakers taking various approaches to the topic. Highlights from their presentations are featured in this newsletter. Where possible, we have cited web sites for further information. (Pages 2 & 3)

Update on Voter Registration Initiatives.

One of our goals for 2007 is to increase Democratic voters in D8. You may not know this, but District 8 increased the number of Democratic voters by 3.66% from 2002-2006. During that same time period, Republican voters in D8 declined by 1.56%. However, all other categories combined increased by almost 30%!! Our goal for 2007 is to increase Democratic voters in D8 by 600. That's less than 1% of our current numbers. Here's what we're doing and how you can help!

District 8 participated in the National Day of Action for Voter Registration on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Although we were not successful in registering any new Democratic voters, we did learn a valuable piece of information. In Scottsdale, an unregistered resident with a Democratic profile may be a winter visitor who is registered in another state. However, we are regrouping and exploring different avenues to meet our goal for increasing Democratic voters in D8.

On May 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, Jim Hogan and our Young Dems, Sam Goldstan, Waseem Albasha and Ross Broadway are conducting voter registration at Desert Hills High School. Hopefully, they will meet our monthly quota!

Carmen Gallus, State Voter Registration Campaign Manager is holding a "Best Practices" meeting on May 31<sup>st</sup>, at 5:00pm at the State Party Office. The meeting is for LD Chairs or their representatives. The topics for discussion include what is or is not going well with the use of the unregistered Democrats' data. A report on this activity will be made at our PC meeting on June 5<sup>th</sup>. A new direction for the use of the potential Dem data is likely to be the result.

A "Register By Mail" or RBM mailer with follow-up calls to "chase" the registrations will be initiated in June. The mailers are very appealing, on the order of the "Vote by Mail" mailers of last year. Phone banks are being scheduled to call potential Democratic voters in CD5 and CD8. District 8 is committed to providing 2 days: Tuesday, June 12 and Tuesday, June 26. We will need 8 to 10 volunteers for each date. The times are 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the State Party Office on Central. Please call Maxine Petti at 480-391-1614. We will set up car pools and provide a light dinner. Please help!

Knowing that we need more votes for Harry from D8 to ensure his re-election makes me committed to increasing the numbers of Democratic voters in D8. I will be participating in the phone banks. I hope many of you will join me!

Newsletter Editor  
Open

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## THEME FOR THE MAY-JUNE NEWSLETTER Alternative/Solar Energy

### Alternative/Solar Energy Experts Speak at Outreach Program



#### [Introduction by Rochelle Lebhar, Moderator](#)

The Thursday May 17 Community Outreach meeting at Mustang Library included a panel of Alternative /Solar Energy Experts. Panel members included the following people: Tom Kociemba: PC from LD4 and Advocate for the Apollo Alliance, Lee Feliciano, Valley of the Sun Solar and Community Education instructor for SCC, Harriet Williams, D8 Volunteer and Solar Energy Activist, Ben Marcus, Residential Sales Manager, American Solar Electric, Inc. All, including Rochelle, are members of various organizations promoting advocacy, technology and finance for alternative/solar energy. There is a wealth of information and material about this topic. Magazines and TV programs are discussing how important the environment and global warming is to us. We read daily about all types of companies and cities that are going "green." Our Democratic leaders, like Harry Mitchell, believe that Arizona should be leading the world in the production and use of solar energy.

Tom Kociemba. The Apollo Alliance is a joint project of the Institute for America's Future and the Center on Wisconsin Strategy for the promotion of clean energy and new jobs. It is a 501-c3 organization and a non-partisan initiative. Tom asked the Alliance if he could attempt a grass-roots campaign to get endorsements from the Democratic Party in Arizona. The Arizona and Maricopa County Democratic Parties endorsed the Alliance's plan. Several legislative districts have also endorsed. Tom was so successful in gaining support in Arizona that he was asked to become part of a broader effort to gain Democratic Party support. Tom is hopeful that the Alliance's plan will become part of the Democratic Party's platform for 2008.

To learn about the Alliance's plan, look on the right hand side of the home page of the website ([www.apolloalliance.com](http://www.apolloalliance.com)) for the "Ten-Point Plan." You can also review benefits to Arizona by clicking on the map at Arizona. To see the impressive list of members of the Alliance, click on "About Us." For further information, contact Tom at [Tom@hpbgteam.com](mailto:Tom@hpbgteam.com).

Lee Feliciano: Lee addressed the basic issues when considering solar energy for one's home: essentially, the benefits and incentives in Arizona. Among the benefits he identified were the reduced reliance on an electrical utility and the resulting reduction in the cost. In addition, there is a reduced production of greenhouse gas emissions. Finally, moving to solar provides a hedge against higher costs in the future.

The incentives for the use of solar in Arizona include a utility rebate of \$3 per watt for a residence, no sales tax on equipment, and no property tax increase. Two types of tax credits are offered: a federal tax credit presently capped at \$2,000 that may be changed if pending legislation is passed, and a state tax credit of \$1,000. If the federal legislation is passed, the cap would be lifted (therefore no limit) and the formula for calculating the tax credit would change from 30% of the system cost not to exceed \$2,000 to 1.50 for every 500 watts or \$3/watt. Harriet Williams' "adventure" which follows, provides a practical example of just how affordable a change to solar energy can be.

Harriet Williams: I began my adventure by attending the lectures provided by the City of Scottsdale on solar energy and green building in general. From my first lecture given by LEED architect, Dan Aiello, I learned to start with passive techniques. Fortunately, I had plenty of trees shading the house which is the first rule. I also started my "save the trees" project to keep the pines from dying from our extended drought. Next I added dual-paned gas-filled windows, and switched over to compact fluorescent bulbs as the incandescent ones burned out. Next on my list is to replace the attic insulation of my 22 year-old Hallcraft home.

As for day lighting. I don't have curtains on the north side of the house. During the day, except in the bathrooms, I never need to turn on a light. And I moved into the coolest space in the house, my basement.

The primary "active solar technique" is the photovoltaic panels on my roof. I have a small system and subscribe to SRP's Netmetering, whereby, at night, when my solar cells aren't producing electricity I use SRP's. During the day, however, when my cells produce more than I use, the excess runs back to SRP.

How much did this cost? The net I paid, after SRP's rebate and government tax credits was \$5,500. However, one of the main benefits of this system had nothing to do with money. It is the spiritual uplift I get when I go outside and see the electricity meter's wheel actually turning BACKWARDS!

<http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/greenbuilding/Lectures/SolarFlyer2007.pdf>

Ben Marcus: Residential Sales Manager American Solar Electric, Inc. Ben talked about what District 8 can do to support more solar energy use in Arizona. There are two bills that need support from voters. The first is in the Arizona State Legislature HB 1254 - Homeowner's Right to Install Solar Energy Devices. The bill clears language in current legislation to put it on the HOAs to make a case against solar instead of making the customer make a case for solar.

The second bill is before the US Congress: HB 550 – Tax Credit for Solar Electric Systems. The bill increases the tax credit for homeowners to install solar electric systems on their homes. It extends the life of the credit. Currently set to expire in 2008, this would extend the credit until 2016. Having long-term predictable incentives makes it possible for large, long-term investments in the industry, removing fear that the rug might be pulled out from under solar...again.

Call your Legislators and tell your family and friends. Following are some other talking point you can use:

- 1) Arizona currently has a \$6 billion annual energy deficit.
- 2) As the fastest growing state in the US, Electric demand in Arizona is predicted to double by 2015.
- 3) AZ has the most solar resources in the country.
- 4). Yet there are more solar energy devices in New Jersey.
- 5). Energy efficiency is the most cost effective approach, however, nothing can reduce your carbon footprint as much as installing a solar electric power plant on your property.
- 6). Current incentives reduce the cost of a solar electric system by almost 60%.

This is perhaps even more important!

Tell Gary Pierce and Jeff Hatch-Miller at the Corporation Commission to support the

Renewable Energy Standard & Tariff (REST). <http://www.cc.state.az.us/>  
This is the thing that requires electric companies to make 15% of the electricity from renewable energy by 2025. This is the reason for the BIG utility rebate on residential and commercial solar electric systems! This is bigger than the two HB's combined!!!!!!

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#### UPCOMING EVENTS

May 29 "LAST TUESDAY LUNCH GROUP"  
"Last Tuesday Lunch Group" will meet at the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Grill in Chapparal Suites, 11:30 a.m. \$20.00 includes tax and tip. This month's topic is "Your Dream Ticket for '08 and Why?" For more details call Lois Bernstein (480) 951-0529 or Saralee Beletz (480) 946-0557.

May 29 – D8 Executive Committee Meeting—open to PCs and Volunteers- held at 6:30 P.M. at 9434 N. 125<sup>th</sup> Pl.

May 31 – Maricopa County Executive Committee meeting at Headquarters on Central at 6:30 p.m. The Voter Registration Debrief will be held at 5:00.

June 5 – PC Planning Meeting – 6:30 p.m. Via Linda Senior Center. Come celebrate our young Dems' graduation from high school, the appointment of new PCs, review of voter registration strategies and further planning by committees.

June 29 – (Tentative date) Wine Tasting Party at the Gordons. Harry has been invited. Date will be solidified when we know when he can come. More about this in the next weekly

July 21 – Presidential Pre-primary Party – 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. at the Hogans, 9434 N. 125<sup>th</sup> Place, Scottsdale. Representatives of all the candidates will be there to state the candidates' positions on the issues; a Q & A will follow. At the end of the evening, guests will cast their ballot for their favorite candidate. Should be fun!

#### COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF April 26

Chair Mark Manoil provided updated PC lists for each District. He commented that there will be less presidential coverage in Arizona because of California and asked for ideas of how we can get more attention. Executive Director, Todd Landfried announced that reprinted county walk lists were available. He encouraged people to help hand out water at the May 1<sup>st</sup> immigration march. He reminded everyone about the NovaM Radio show on Saturdays at 1:00 p.m. and suggested that we download "Desert Politics" if we miss a program. To access the programs, go to "itunes" and enter "Desert Politics." Anyone who would like to advertise on NovaM should contact Kim Macias at (602) 317-2524 to learn about their reasonably priced packages. Help support the station and the Democratic Party in this way!

Best Practices reported by LD Chairs:

- ❖ Frieda Pollack--District 20 is working to improve their visibility in the community by tabling at events and registering voters where R's are not.
- ❖ Jack Yardley, District 6, said a reporter showed up at a PC meeting! PCs are visiting Dems in precincts without PCs trying to recruit more.
- ❖ Doug Mings--District 17 is holding a film series. Everyone comes for the movie, a commentator and fun!
- ❖ Debra Boehlke--District 4 is hosting coffees for high efficacy Dems in their precincts to try to recruit them to serve as PCs.

## Arizona Democratic Party Meeting of April 29

The new Executive Director of the State Party, Maria Weeg, was introduced. She spoke to the State Committee members about her efforts to learn about the state.

The following actions were taken at the meeting:

- 1) Approval of the Delegate Selection Plan
- 2) Approval of the Resolutions Committee Guidelines
- 3) Approval of the Resolution Commemorating the Life of Carmen F. Cajero
- 4) Approval of the Resolution to Obtain Umbrella Licensing for the Arizona State Democratic Party and its Affiliate Members
- 5) Approval of the Resolution Supporting Universal Health Coverage
- 6) Approval of the Resolution Supporting the Apollo Energy Alliance
- 7) Approval of the Resolution to End the U.S. Presence in Iraq
- 8) Approval of the Resolution in Opposition to a U.S. Preemptive Attack on Iran

## NEWS ABOUT D8 MEMBERS

The initial meeting of the Arizona Chapter of The National Jewish Democratic Council was held on Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, at The Jewish Community Center in Scottsdale. The meeting was well attended with more than 50 people present. The meeting started with a brief talk outlining the history of the organization and a biography of its executive director, Ira Forman. Moderator, Jerry Gettinger gave a short speech about how this meeting came about and his opinion that there is a wide-spread feeling that there are many issues relevant to the Jewish community in addition to the support of Israel. Those issues have not been addressed by local and state-wide candidates at this time. There was general agreement that it is time that the Jewish Community gains a voice and speaks to the candidates with authority. The meeting was then opened to a general discussion and a question and answer session. There was participation by most everyone present, and, while there was not always agreement on every topic, there was always the opportunity to be heard and have one's opinion respected.

The meeting lasted approximately one hour. It was decided that a committee be formed to decide the direction of the organization and to write a mission statement. David Schapira, state representative from Tempe, volunteered to head the committee. In addition there was a general feeling that the executive director should make an appearance at the next meeting. As a result Mr. Forman is scheduled to make an appearance the second week in June. A specific date and location will be announced shortly. For information and to be added to the local mailing list, contact Jerry Gettinger at [njdcphx@cox.net](mailto:njdcphx@cox.net) or 480-510-1320.

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