



# District 8 Democrats

*Your Neighborhood Activists*

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Newsletter Editor  
Open

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

In the coming months, we plan on coordinating the community outreach program and the newsletter into a single theme. The results will be that district 8 will be better able to provide additional information and guidance for our members to access expanded resources.

This month our theme is Anti-war/Peace Initiatives. We have included excerpts from the Attack: Iran presentation by Scott Ritter as well as suggestions from the panel of activist groups that made an interesting and informative presentation at our April 19th program.

Scott charged us to do something, not just listen. We were urged to make a commitment to be active in protesting the Bush Administration policies regarding Iraq and, quite possibly, Iran. After all, he said, "We are the People". The Constitution refers to "We The People" as the ones in charge, not the self-appointed Decider. Scott says, "Check it out; read and understand the Constitution."  
<http://www.archives.gov/national-archives-experience/charters/constitution.html>

Although Scott fears a U.S. preemptive strike on Iran, he believes from his experience in the Middle East and his research and understanding of important policies and documents, that Iran does not pose a threat to the U.S. The Non-proliferation Treaty allows Iran to have nuclear energy as an alternative to the finite resource, oil. He further asserts that they do not have the capability to generate highly enriched uranium, which is required for development of a nuclear weapons program. Yet, we hear the drumbeat of weapons of mass destruction again.

District 8 PCs at their last business meeting on April 10th unanimously agreed to endorse the resolutions on Iraq and Iran being proposed by the Arizona Democratic Progressive Caucus. These resolutions will be discussed and hopefully approved at the State Democratic Party meeting on April 29th. If you haven't read them, see our website for copies at <http://www.d8dems.org/links.htm>

Another important way we can take action against this war and any future ones is to register more Democrats, our highest priority for this off-election year. On Saturday April 28th, we will participate in the National Day of Action. At 9:00 a.m., District 8 will launch a voter registration drive from Scottsdale Ranch Park on Via Linda near the Senior Center. We will set up at Ramada #6 where we will distribute the lists of new and/or unregistered Democrats. The list will be broken down by precinct. In addition, other materials will be distributed to make the effort of registering Democrats more efficient. When you return with new registrations, there will be a barbecue lunch waiting for you. Please RSVP at 480-596-8350

The State Committee meeting is on Sunday, April 29th, at the Windom Hotel in downtown Phoenix. On the agenda, in addition to the resolutions, is the process for Delegate Selection. You are invited to attend whether or not you are members of the Committee. Caucus meetings generally start at 10:00 and the general meeting begins at 1:00 p.m.

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THEME FOR THE APRIL NEWSLETTER  
Anti-War/Peace Initiatives

And You're Not Angry Yet?  
by Jerry Gettinger

Suppose I told you that anyone in the Government could open your mail if they thought you were a terrorist? Suppose I told you that someone could come into your house, arrest you and take you to an island and hold you there without any charges? What if I said that the writ of Habeas Corpus no longer applied and that the government could do just about anything to you and could not be stopped? What would you say if the president decided to go to war against a country based on lies, obfuscations, half-truths and egotistical arrogance? How would you feel if you were governed by a group of incompetent sycophants who believe they are divinely charged and can do no wrong and make no mistakes? What if you voted to stop this madness and, instead, your elected officials escalated the hostilities so that more of our young will be killed or maimed? Was the November vote rendered null and void by a person who thinks he not only can do no wrong, but is always right and can look upon those who do not agree with distain and arrogance? Wouldn't that make you mad? No? Not yet? Well, what if the news media, the congress, and the courts acquiesced and went along with this madness so that, in effect, gave carte blanche to whatever action was taken? What would you do if, instead of reducing our insane action in Iraq, the President decided (after all, he is the decider) to increase our belligerence and go after Iran and Syria? Does that make you mad? Well how about \$10.00 a gallon gasoline? How about a conflagration in the Mideast? Are you angry yet? What is it going to take to inflame your passions to the point where we come together and stop this madness? Take note everyone, you are witnessing history in the making. The worst President the country has had, the most incompetent group of people that has ever governed (heck of a job Brownie), and a truly evil perspective on our existence and destiny. And you're not angry yet? What's it going to take? A complete meltdown? Total devastation? Massive dislocation of our economy and our way of life? It can happen and very well might if we don't do something soon. One final thought, what if I told you that there is more of the same to come, well, now are you angry?

A Review of the Scott Ritter Event  
By Pat Kofahl



On March 31st, former U. N. Chief Weapons Inspector Scott Ritter spoke to an audience of several hundred "activists" at the New Vision\_Spiritual Growth Center. The topic of his presentation was the potential for war in Iran. Ritter's opening words were a solemn warning: our presence at the event was meaningless.

He was right of course. In a recent poll conducted by the Pew Research Center, only 32% of respondents could name "Sunni" as one of the religious factions in Iraq, when given the name "Shiite" as the other group. Sadly, I thought, more would have been aware of the name "Sanjaya" instead. Ritter spoke passionately of the need to become knowledgeable about the various factions in the mid east (Sunni and Shia). There is more involved in supporting our troops than just putting a ribbon on the back of a Humvee. As Americans we must be proactive in our actions.

Ritter also challenged us to read and understand the documents on which our country is founded: the documents that over three thousand of our husbands and wives, sons and daughters, family members and neighbors have died in Iraq to defend: our Constitution and the Bill of Rights. He was forceful, eloquent, and articulate. He carefully drew the distinction between citizens and consumers, and made us ask ourselves into which category do we fall?

Ritter implored the audience to take action and not be silent when they leave the gathering. To do so would allow the country to continue on its present course. That would be a tragic mistake. I've included a link to Ritter's remarks. Please listen and share them with others.

<http://web.mac.com/espritdecor/iWeb/Site/Podcast/Podcast.html>

### Anti-War/Peace Activists Speak Out at Outreach Program

By Margaret Hogan

The Thursday April 19 Community Outreach meeting at Mustang Library included a panel of activists representing anti-war/peace organizations operating in Arizona. Each of the panelists presented a brief description of their activities and some indicated ways D8 could help their efforts. We were all invited to join in.

The Moderator was Sherry Bohlen, LD 8 Vice Chair, Deputy Director of Progressive Democrats of America, Co-Chair of the Arizona Democratic Progressive Caucus, member of Military Families Speak Out and CodePink.

Panel members included the following people. For each person, their name, the name of their organization and their website is presented along with a brief statement of their message.

Dan O'Neal: Speaking for Progressive Democrats of America [www.pdamerica.org](http://www.pdamerica.org)  
Dan requested that we ask our representatives to support HR508, that would fully fund a peaceful withdrawal from Iraq in six months. The bill is against the surge and the supplemental bill President Bush has requested.

Sherry Bohlen: Speaking for Arizona Democratic Progressive Caucus  
[www.progressiveazdems.org](http://www.progressiveazdems.org)

Sherry explained that the Caucus is a member group of the Arizona Democratic Party. It meets four times a year when the State Party holds its meetings. Generally, the meeting time is 10am until Noon. This is the group that will present two resolutions at the next State meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup>: one on Iraq and one on Iran.

Rebecca Bahr: Speaking for Military Families Speak Out [www.mfso.org](http://www.mfso.org)  
Rebecca said the "mantra" of her group is "Bring them home now!". She said it is difficult to speak out when the family is in the war. She believes Congress must end the war because Bush is not going to do it.

Sheila Ryan: Speaking for Women in Black  
Sheila said Women in Black work for peace and justice. They stand in silent vigil because words are not adequate to oppose rape, torture or concentration camps. They mourn people who have been harmed by war.

Caryn Gardner: Speaking for Code Pink [www.codepinkphx.org](http://www.codepinkphx.org)  
Caryn said Code Pink also works for peace and justice but their stance is the opposite of Women in Black. Code Pink members get inside places and make loud statements until they are removed.

Edwina Vogan: Speaking for Arizona Alliance for Peace and Justice  
[www.azpeace.org](http://www.azpeace.org)  
Edwina said her organization is opposed to the degree of militarism in the world. They are currently working in Columbia.

Mitch Rubin: Speaking for The End the War Coalition

Mitch said because the groups share a common goal to end the war in Iraq, they have founded a coalition. They now meet regularly to share their mutual interest and efforts. At every 1,000 deaths, they carry out an "unhappy hour" from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. across the street from John McCain's office to protest the war. They are looking for ways to transform the anti-war sentiment to action.

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#### UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 24 "LAST TUESDAY LUNCH GROUP" for Democratic talk among friends will be held at 11:30 am at Veneto Restaurant in the Hilton Village. Call 480-951-0529 to RSVP.

APRIL 28 National Day of Action for Voter Registration, D8 will launch its Voter Registration Canvass in concert with the DNC National Day of Action. This is an important event, signifying the start of the voter registration canvass to increase the number of Democratic voters by 100,000 across the state of Arizona. We will have walking lists by precinct available for all PC's and volunteers. Join us at 9:00 a.m. at Scottsdale Ranch Park. Please RSVP so we can have your materials available for you. CALL 480 596-8350. Schedule:

9:00 Sign in, get materials, and receive training for voter registration

9:30 Leave to conduct voter registration canvass in your neighborhood

9:30-11:30 Contact and register potential Democratic voters

12:00- Turn in registration forms and enjoy a barbecue lunch.

May 1 D8 PC Business Meeting. 6:3 p.m. at the Via Linda Senior Center, 10440 E. Via Linda Dr., Scottsdale

May 4 Cinco de Mayo's Eve Fiesta sponsored by Foothills Dems. 6-9 p.m. at the Satisfied Frog in Cave Creek. Cost is \$25. Mail check or AMEX to Foothills Democrats, PO Box 5913, Carefree, AZ 85377, or call 602-234-6590 for more information.

May 10 Jewish Democratic Council, The organizational meeting of the Phoenix/Scottsdale Chapter of The National Jewish Democratic Council will be held at the Jewish Community Center in Scottsdale. The meeting will begin at 6:30pm. Please reserve a place so that the security guard can be given a list of attendees. For reservations or more information, email Jerry Gettinger at [njdcph@cox.net](mailto:njdcph@cox.net) or phone 480-510-1320

May 17 D8 Community Outreach meeting at Mustang Library, 10404 E. 90<sup>th</sup> St. Ben Marcus, Chairman of the Arizona Solar Energy Association, will touch on the state of energy in Arizona and in the world, with an emphasis on renewable energy, specifically on solar energy. Arizona is in an excellent position to develop this abundant and sustainable energy alternative.

#### COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF MARCH 29

In summary, the MCDP Exec Committee heard a report from Carmen Gallus, Voter Registration Campaign Manager, regarding the plan to register 1,000 more Democrats during the April 28<sup>th</sup> National Day of Action. Tom Reade explained the State Attorney General Office's new program, "Senior Sting." Seniors are requested to collect their "junk mail" which will be sorted and analyzed to determine if any business is in violation of harassment. Scam email can be sent to: [communityservices@azag.gov](mailto:communityservices@azag.gov). Tom Kociembra introduced the Apollo Resolution for

alternative energies. He requested that the County Party and the Legislative Districts endorse the plan. Executive Director Todd Landfried reported that the radio show would begin on April 7<sup>th</sup>. It will be titled "Desert Politics. Programs will run on Saturdays at 2p.m. for one hour at 1480 KPHX

NO STATE REPORT  
THE STATE DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S NEXT MEETING IS ON APRIL 29  
ON THE AGENDA IS THE PROCESS FOR DELEGATE SELCTION AND RESOLUTIONS ON  
IRAQ AND IRAN

#### NEWS ABOUT D8 MEMBERS

Are you missing Ginny Dickey?? Ginny has been a faithful member of D8 Dems for some time. She wants everyone to know that she has been unable to attend our meetings since she was elected to the Fountain Hills City Council. On Tuesday and Thursday evenings coinciding with our PC and Community Outreach meetings Ginny has Fountain Hills City Council obligations. She is keeping abreast with us through our electronic communications.

Thank You to Lois Bernstein and Saralee Beletz for putting together the Last Tuesday of the Month Lunch club

Thanks to Barbara Gordon, Harriet Williams, Joan Sheff, and Saralee Beletz for calling to remind people of the Precinct Committee meetings and Community Outreach Program meetings.

Kudos and Muchas Gracias! To volunteers who helped make the D8 office move successful: Tim Ackley, Vicki Billing, Sherry Bohlen, Bob Freund, Barbara Gordon, Margaret and Jim Hogan, Ron Owen, Doreen Saferstein, Joan Sheff, Cynthia Silver, Mark Triner, Harriet Williams. (If anyone who helped is not on this list, let us know so we can print a retraction). Thanks!!

Paid for by the District 8 Democratic Party.  
(480) 596-8350

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