



District 8 Democrats

Your Neighborhood Activists

June 20, 2006

Volume 1, Number 4

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"The Democratic Vision: a Bold New Direction for a Secure America"

Governor Howard Dean and the Democratic National Committee have put forth a six-point plan for achieving the vision. Following are the goals that have been identified and that will be pushed as the Democratic cause for this campaign.

- **Honest Leadership & Open Government:** "We will end the Republican culture of corruption and restore a government as good as the people it serves."
- **Real Security:** "We will protect Americans at home and lead the world by telling the truth to our troops, our citizens and our allies."
- **Energy Independence:** "We will create a cleaner and stronger America by reducing our dependence on foreign oil."
- **Economic Prosperity & Educational Excellence:** "We will create jobs that will stay in America by restoring opportunity and driving innovation."
- **A Healthcare System that Works for Everyone:** "We will join 36 other industrialized nations by making sure everyone has access to affordable health care."
- **Retirement Security:** "We will ensure that a retirement with dignity is the right and expectation of every single American."

What the District plans to do is focus on these issues for the next 6 months. We will devote each newsletter to one of the issues. For June, that issue is Health Care. We will review aspects of our April Community Outreach Program, "Can Arizona Solve Its Health Care Crisis?" Susan Ackley shares her research. *(Continued on page 2)*

House Parties: Eight house parties to meet the candidates scheduled for different precincts from June 1st through June 11th, thanks to our Hosts!



Hosting the house parties are PCs Bob Freund, Margaret and Jim Hogan, Ellen Hemmendinger, Linda LeBlang, Ron Owen, and Bobbye and Peter van der Walde.



Two great Democrats, not PCs, are also hosting: Chris Brown and Eve Mayer. These pictures were taken at the Hogans. The candidates are able to collect final signatures and donations to support their candidacy. They are also able to hone their speeches, field questions and hear the concerns of voters. There is still time to attend one of the remaining parties through this upcoming week end. Call (480) 596-8350 for info.

Democratic Vision: *Continued from page 1*

Facts about the healthcare crisis contributed by Susan Ackley . . .

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- **US ranks 5th in quality:** Though the United States spends more on health care per capita and as a % of GDP than any other industrialized country (almost \$6000 per person in 2003), it ranks 5th in the quality of care provided to its citizens, behind Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and the UK.
- **US trailing on health information technology:** The US also trails behind five other countries (UK, Canada, Germany, Norway and Australia) in spending on health information technology, which improves both the quality of care and the efficiency of its delivery.
- **US spends more to get less:** Recent research suggests that more expensive care and greater resource utilization is associated with poorer quality, worse outcomes and lower satisfaction with care. We in the US are spending more money and getting less for the dollars we spend.
- **Fewer employees take employer health coverage:** Most of the non-elderly in the US obtain their coverage from employers. The number of workers enrolled in employer-sponsored health care coverage dropped from over 85% to 80% between 1998 and 2003 because the cost of premiums rose over 42% in that time period. Even though the percentage of the premium paid by the employer remained constant (82%), many employees cannot afford their portion of the increased premiums, so cannot enroll in the plans.
- **Increasing number of uninsured:** If this trend continues, it could dramatically increase the number of working but uninsured people in this country.
- **Uninsured in Arizona:** Arizona has one of the nation's highest rates of uninsured, at about 18% of the population. This is well over a million people. Who are these uninsured?
 - Some of them are whom you expect: the low income. Of those earning less than \$20K per year 53% are uninsured, up from 49% in 2001.
 - They are increasingly the working middle-income wage earners, those making \$20-50k per year. Last year 41% of this population was without coverage for at least part of the year, up from 28% in 2001.

For more information, see "Guide to Finding Health Insurance Coverage," [Cover the Uninsured Week 2006](#). Copies are available at the District Office. Also see Kaiser Family Foundation's web site at www.kff.org.

Arizona Health Care Plan

The ranking Democrat in the Arizona House may have an answer for Arizona. Representative Phil Lopes presented his plan for a Healthcare Bill at District 8's Community Outreach Program on April 18.

Representative Lopes' bill "Arizona Care" guarantees access to comprehensive quality healthcare coverage regardless of income or health and employment status. Arizona Care is based on the New Mexico model. It is essentially a single payer program.

- It will guarantee choice of provider
- Provide a good benefit package
- Preserve the private delivery system
- Provide strong protections for retirees

Representative Lopes said he is taking a "Go-Slow Approach." He said it would take 3 to 5 years before the program would be in effect. During Year 1, the focus would be on financing:

1. cost of the plan
2. individual premiums and employer contributions
3. workers' compensation and auto insurance premium reductions

By the end of year 1, the Legislature and the Governor will need to approve the financing.

During years 2 and 3, a plan would be developed with the Legislature, the Executive Branch and Public input. It would include an administration similar to the Regents, i.e. an independent, non-governmental commission with 9 geographical representatives.

Representative Lopes is looking for endorsements; he says public support will help convince the Legislature. He added, Arizona could have saved \$4.6 billion from 1997 to 2004 if we had had this type of state program in place.

For more information on Representative Lopes' bill, HB 2752,
Go to his web page:

http://www.azleg.state.az.us/MembersPage.asp?Member_ID=30

Block Captains

To be sure the 2006 election campaign season is well on its way. We have had several successful events in the past six weeks: National Democratic Canvas 4/29 and the "I Am Just Wild About Harry" Pizza party, 5/16. With those two events we have recruited twenty six (26) Democrats that have expressed interest in becoming Block Captains. Four (4) of those volunteers have been through training and are ready for On The Job Training for phone and canvassing. The rest will be trained this month. These new volunteers will be a great asset to the PCs in their Precincts. Any one interested in becoming a Block Captain please contact: Barbara Gordon (480) 596-4065 or Jim Hogan at (480) 661-4997 for more information.

Reports of the County and State Meetings *From the Chair*

The Executive Committee of the Maricopa County Democratic Party held its May meeting on the 25th. Judy Kennedy, Chair, announced the resignation of Jeanne Lunn, Executive Director. Jeanne has decided to run for the Arizona House of Representatives from District 7. Judy appointed Todd Landfried as Interim. Todd has served as the 2nd Vice Chair and the author of the on-line candidates' resource corner. Jeanne will be missed but we wish her well in her campaign. She will be an asset in the Legislature.

A major agenda item dealt with "Campaign Finance—What Districts Can and Cannot Do". The list of "cans" and "cannots" has been shared with all D8 officers, committee chairs and PCs. If you would like to have this information, call the Office.

Judy announced the need for poll workers, both captains and inspectors. Maricopa County Dems is also looking for a Voter Registration Chair.

The Arizona Democratic Party (ADP) is continuing the process of winning an early presidential primary for Arizona. There may be a decision in August or it

may be deferred until November. If an early presidential primary should become a reality, it could be in the form of caucuses, for which the County and LD Chairs would appoint caucus moderators. Good reason to stay active!

The ADP is also holding a one-day "Coordinated Campaign Summit" on July 8th. Apparently, it is the first of this type of meeting for the ADP. The expectation is that everyone will come away with clear expectations and a commitment to the plan for success on Election Day.

IMPORTANT DATES

- A. (Last chance) Thursday, June 8 at 6:30 p.m.
Wine-tasting at Terroir Wine Pub. 7001 N. Scottsdale #157
Call Barb Schachenman at 480-502-8533
- B. June 8 at 7:00 p.m. House Party at Chris Brown's 480-664-9300
- C. June 8 at 7:00 p.m. House Party at Ellen Hemmendinger's in Fountain Hills, call 480-596-8350.
- D. June 9 at 7:00 p.m. at Eve Mayers, call 480-596-8350
- E. June 10 at 10 a.m. at Linda LeBlang's, call 480-483-7252
- F. June 10 at Noon at Ron Owen's, call 480-694-4545
- G. June 11 at 11:00 at the van der Walde's, call 480-473-3424
- H. June 14—last day for candidate petitions including PCs running for re-election
- I. "The Voice of Air America and the 2006 Elections"—a Community Outreach Program at Mustang Library. 6:15 p.m. reception; 6:45 p.m. Jeff Farias is speaking for Air America, KPHX

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THANKS! GREAT JOB!!

1. Barbara Gordon for recruiting (26) block captains
2. Harriet Williams for her donation of a refrigerator to the D8 office
3. Sarah Gettinger for training for the Rock and Roll Marathon
4. Saralee Beletz for her dedication to the office & winning ways with voters



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

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