



# District 8 Democrats

*Your Neighborhood Activists*

January, 2008

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Happy New Year, Everyone! This is going to be a blockbuster year for us and I hope everyone is excited and ready to work electing Democrats! We couldn't have a better selection of presidential candidates nor a more exciting primary contest. Our state and local races are shaping up and looking like a great field of Democratic contenders. The Republicans have targeted Harry Mitchell. We have a BIG job ahead of us. I think we're ready. We have recruited additional PCs and volunteers. We've participated in leadership training and for use of the voter activation network (VAN), recruitment and training of grassroots leaders, and voter registration. We have made calls to newly registered Democrats to welcome them and to inform them about permanent vote by mail. Through individual efforts of D8 PCs or volunteers, we have initiated several new programs to attract new people: "Friday Night at the Movies in Fountain Hills," "Last Tuesday of the Month Lunch," "Blue Monday Book Club," and most recently, "Drinking Liberally." We've raised money to support our efforts in '08 and now have a respectable balance. We made a thorough and valiant search for candidates for state legislature for D8. We have several very impressive people who are not quite prepared to run but who may be interested in the future. We remain hopeful that we will have one or more candidates announce later this spring.

One of our best efforts in 2007 has been voter registration. Because of its importance to increasing the numbers of Democratic voters, we have assigned column space to our chair for voter registration, Jeff Jameson. He will be contributing to all newsletters in the future. Following his column for this issue, there is a report on our efforts with photos of the creative and hard-working members of the voter registration committee.

Another very promising strategy for increasing the number of volunteers has been the "grassroots leader" program. Jim Hogan provides an update on the status and plans for '08. He too will report each month.

Also, with this issue, we will begin a guest column. Our Vice-Chair Jerry Gettinger will be first with his comments on Congress. We invite you to contribute your thoughts to one of our upcoming newsletters. Send your copy by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Finally, there is a calendar of events for January. Please make note of them in your new 2008 planner.

See you soon!

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## Why Voter Registration?

By

Jeff Jameson,  
Chairperson for Voter Registration-D8

**Reason 1.** I've always espoused to the idea that if you don't exercise your voice, you have no room to complain. Unfortunately, MILLIONS of Americans think they have the right to complain about the state of affairs without having voted in years (if ever). To them I say, "Get up off your duff and get to the polls"

Does anyone really think any elected official cares what a non-voter thinks? Not likely. It's a motivated and mobilized ELECTORATE that moves ideas through the halls of power.

**Reason 2.** The right to vote has been such a historic struggle for our nation; I cannot imagine people not exercising this hard fought right. From Reconstruction, through suffrage, the civil rights movements and into today's return to Jim Crow-ism, people continue to battle for a space in line at the ballot.

**Reason 3.** Look at other countries. In many other countries people stand in lines for hours just to raise their voice. Even more to the point, other governments have been so repressive as to kill citizens trying to enact democracy. We hold America up as a shining example of democratic process and we can't even muster 50% of the populace to vote. Shameful.

**Reason 4.** D8 moments. The work we're doing is so important. The perception of Scottsdale as an enclave exclusive to Republicanism is being challenged everyday. YES! There are DEMS in Scottsdale and by damn, we're going to keep growing and growing. The activism and spirit I find with our volunteers is amazing and it keeps me motivated.

**Reason 5.** When my hackles get up by seeing or hearing this insane President and his Neocon ideologues I just want to rise up! But I know I can't do it alone so I seek to recruit more to our side. It's a great outlet for me.

I'm sure everyone has their own reasons for doing voter registration and I'd love to share those in upcoming newsletters. Drop us a line and we'll spread the word.

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## Report on the Activities of the Voter Registration Committee

There have been a number of very successful initiatives of the voter registration committee: registration of seniors at the Springs of Scottsdale Retirement Residence, the State Fair, Scottsdale Arts Fest, D8 events, and the Lode Star Day Resource Center for the Homeless.



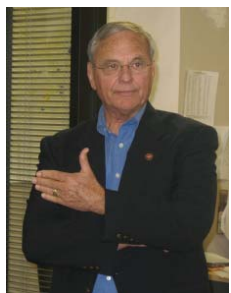
The latter was the creative idea of PC Rhea Ritter. She learned that Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> was the National Homeless Resource Day and that many of the homeless participants at the shelter wanted to register to vote. She contacted Maxine Petti, former Chair of the Committee and asked if D8 would be interested in providing registration at the Center on the 12<sup>th</sup>. The Shelter staff prepared their clients for voter registration by requiring that they get ID cards, birth certificates and social security numbers ready. Our D8 workers (some pictured below) registered 74 people. They left forms with the Director to register others when possible. A wonderful result of this activity is that the Center may become a polling place for the homeless for the first time this year. In all, D8 registered over 300 of the 500 voters registered in Maricopa County in September and October. We are very proud of the 30+D8 volunteers who worked to achieve these numbers. We thank you all very much for your efforts!



## 2008 GRASSROOTS LEADER RECRUITMENT AND PLANNING

BY Jim Hogan, Chair of Recruitment and Training

We are asking all PC's and active volunteers to attend the next D8 Business Meeting on Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. This meeting will initiate the planning for the 2008 Election cycle. The Democratic Party has provided a great plan with tools for PC's and "Grassroots Leaders" to wage a strong campaign in every precinct in the United States. The plan borrows from other successful Democratic organizations of the past election. The plan allows individuals to access their neighbor's voting data and create campaign material that addresses both Democrats and Independents concerns.



If you are as upset about the direction the country is headed as I am, then we need to do all that we can to save our country for our children. We have young Americans fighting and dying in Iraq and Afghanistan. It is important that we all put in a few hours a month to elect national and local candidates that will turn things around. It is especially of great concern because the Democratic voter turnout in District 8 for the 2006 election was only **22.4%**, while the Republican turnout was **50.7%**. And still Harry Mitchell won! However, to regain the seat this year, we need to raise that percentage significantly. This is our most important goal for 2008. See you on January 8<sup>th</sup> at the Hogan's. [ 9434 N. 125<sup>th</sup> Pl., Scottsdale 85259 ]

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### Guest Columnist, Jerry Gettinger



I want to write about something that has obviously been troubling a great many people: that is the Democratic majority in congress. The only ones with lower approval ratings than George is our august body of legislators. That says a lot when you think of it.

I was at a function awhile back where a member of Congress spoke. He talked about healthcare, and immigration and civil rights and all the other subjects that are a problem these days. When it came time for questions from the audience, he was asked what he planned on doing about them. His answer is what gave me a subject to ponder for the next few days. He answered that there wasn't much that can be done since we (the Democrats) don't have the votes necessary to override the President's veto. He said he had been at a luncheon with Nancy Pelosi and she was almost in tears over the situation. That's when I started thinking...I don't know about others, but I am not on the verge of tears. I am mad as hell over the loss of civil rights, the war, the spending, the ignoring of contrary opinion and if I were to think about it there probably are a dozen other reasons.

I don't understand why the Democrats in congress are acting as if they are afraid of making someone angry. I don't want Palos to be on the verge of tears, I want her to be angry. I want to see the congress make the rest of Bush's term a nightmare. If he vetoes a bill, then send him another two days later and let him veto that. And if he does, then send him another. I want to see Bush having to think about the Democrats when he wakes up in the morning, through the day and the last thing he thinks about when he goes to sleep. I want to see the Democrats in Congress raise hell for the rest of Bush's term. Let him know we know him for what he is and we are not going to let him get away with it. No tears, just plain out and out anger at what that man has done to this country. I want to see the Democrats in congress be the biggest thorn in Bush's foot.

Sadly, that hasn't happened yet. But it's not too late. We must let our congressman (or woman) know how we feel (that is, if you feel the same as I do). We can't allow our representatives to roll over and be George's lap dog. Instead, we must insist that they show Chutzpa and demand that Bush answer for every move he makes. He won't, but that alone will speak volumes about the character of the man. Even though he will probably veto most of the bills that congress sends

him, put the onus on him rather than allow us to be passive. There's a line from the movie Network where the anchorman has flipped out and he stands up and says "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore." Well.. I feel the same way, don't you?

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, January 3, 2008 – D8 Executive Committee meeting at the home of Chair, Margaret Hogan, 9434 N. 125<sup>th</sup> Place, Scottsdale. Time is 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 8, 2008 – D8 PC Meeting at the home of Chair, Margaret Hogan, 9434 N. 125<sup>th</sup> Place, Scottsdale; meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 8, 2008 – D8 Meeting of the Voter Registration Committee, 6:00 P.M. at the home of Chair Margaret Hogan.

Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup> – “Drinking Liberally” at the Epicurean, Scottsdale Rd and Thunderbird, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m..

Thursday, January 17, 2008 – D8 Public Meeting at the Mustang Library. A Candidate Forum will present representatives of the presidential candidates. This is your opportunity to ask questions so that you can finally make a decision before the Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> Presidential Preference Primary. 6:30 for reception; 7:00 for Forum

Saturday, January 19, 2008 – National Day of Action- Kick-off for the '08 Election Year; Convening Location, 9434 N. 125<sup>th</sup> Pl., Time is 10 a.m.

Sunday, January 20, 2008 – First Annual MCDP Diversity Awards Dinner. Location is China Chili Restaurant in Phoenix. Time is 6:00 p.m. Cost is \$65 for PCs and \$90 for Non-PCs.

Tuesday, January 22, 2008 – National Jewish Democratic Council (NJDC) meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. Location: TBA.

Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008 – Grassroots Leader Insider Briefing. Conference call and Webinar at 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 26, 2008 - Winter State Committee Meeting for the Arizona Democratic Party – Caucus meetings from 9 to 11 a.m.; General Session begins at 1:00 p.m. Location: Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, 1401 E. Jefferson St, Phoenix.

Tuesday, January 29, 2008 – “Last Tuesday of the Month Lunch.” Jade Palace Restaurant, 11:30 a.m. Cost is \$11. Agenda includes a planning process for the 08 year.

**See the weekly calendar published on our web site  
each Sunday for upcoming events.**

<http://www.d8dems.org/events.htm>

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Paid for by the District 8 Democratic Party.  
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