

Yamhill County
DEMOCRATS

The Democrat Leader

January 2007 Newsletter

Election Reflection

Following the mid-term's "blue wave", the mission of Democrats needs to be to cement the shift (sorry for the mixed metaphor). After many years, people's eyes have been opened to the failures of the Republican idea of government. But Democrats have not closed the deal yet — people were willing to take a chance with us, but we shouldn't delude ourselves that they are *convinced* Democrats have the right stuff either. Our mission to accomplish this is two-fold:

- We need to communicate with them better to show that we share values and principles.
- We need to show we govern differently.

And as the Yamhill County Democratic Party, we will continue to field good candidates and give them great support.

Sal Peralta Lost by a Hair's Breadth!



What a disappointment to come just a couple hundred votes short of putting Sal in Oregon House to represent us. Sal ran a great campaign as a new face against an incumbent in a Republican-registration edge county. But each race has gotten tighter and tighter for the Republican opponents!

This, with Cassie Sollars slim elimination in the May primary, should be a spur to us all that with just a little more effort, organization and preparation, we'll soon see more victories for more Democrats in Yamhill County.

Growing the Party: 2007 - 2008

We are committed to growing the Yamhill County Democrats in 2007 and 2008 and making it the party people in Yamhill County look to for leadership.

We are starting the process to develop a three-year plan for strengthening the Democratic Party in Yamhill County, focusing on creating a positive environment for Democratic candidates to run in, strengthening the infrastructure for helping our candidates get elected and improving messaging & communications and increasing fund-raising.

In addition, we are developing a fresh and consistent look for our documents.

No Annual Holiday Dinner Party This Year

Campaign season took up so much energy, we ran out of time to plan for a proper holiday party. Look for its return next year!

Continuing County Headquarters

At the October 31 Executive Committee meeting, we agreed to keep a scaled down headquarters office open after the 2006 campaign season ends. We have moved into the space next door, at 421 NE Evans in McMinnville. We will use the space as a meeting ground, for on-going committees and for work to update the voter database, update the website, etc.

Annual Theater Fundraiser

The annual Theater Party raised about \$1200 on November 4. Thanks especially to Kathleen O'Daniels for arranging the refreshments at the break and Frank Nelson for arranging ticket sales.

Yamhill County Democrats' Officers for 2007 - 2008

We had a great crowd of around 60 people for the November "re-organization" meeting to elect officers. Sal Peralta gave a good talk about his experiences running for the House District 24 seat and made it clear he will remain strongly engaged in politics going forward.

Results of the election of officers for 2007 - 2008:

Chair — **Will Neuhauser** joins as Chair (see summary in this newsletter).

Vice-Chair — **Frank Nelson** moved from Chair.

Secretary — **Vince Lowe** continues.

Treasurer — **Stephanie Van Horn** continues (see summary in October newsletter).

State Delegate — **Debbie Groff** (alternates: Tim Duerfeldt, Debbie Runciman, Jill Poyer)

Congressional District 1 Delegate — **Al Smith, Bruce Freeman, [open position]** (alternates: Thelma Butzlaff, Sharon Freeman)

Book Review: *All Together Now, Common Sense for a Fair Economy*



In "[All Together Now, Common Sense for a Fair Economy](#)", Jared Bernstein lays out a comprehensive economic philosophy to direct progressive economic policy making ... and shows how to apply it in key areas of globalization, pensions, healthcare, macro-economic policy, etc. He provides a comprehensive contrast between conservative "You're On Your Own" (YOYO) free-market fundamentalism and progressive "We're In This Together" (WITT) models, as he calls them (and which extend beyond economics, but the economic world is what he focuses on).

An engaging read, he avoids the progressive tendency to get so caught up in the litany of anecdotal problems created by the conservative economy as to forget to offer a complete alternative.

Instead, he shows at each step of the way how the core conservative philosophy is itself responsible for the problems — the rapidly growing economic insecurity, failures to provide healthcare for much of the population, declining real disposable income for the middle class, etc. — it isn't "incompetence" or an accident or fate but the inevitable, predictable result of the conservative philosophy of an extreme Social Darwinism that harkens back to the hard-hearted Dickensian Victorian England era of exploitation and to the Robber Baron era of rapacious greed and inequality in America.

At the same time, he shows the progressive approach: founded on working together in our common interest (as I put it), and of returning to America's roots of using government to tackle new challenges to ensuring broad-based prosperity.

One of the key philosophical differences is in how progressives and conservatives see the role of government. He eloquently makes the point that when the cause of economic challenges is systemic (such as globalization commoditizing work, lack of healthcare for 40 million Americans, etc.), we need a systemic, national response and not the conservative approach of leaving each of us to take it on ourself to try and struggle against the tide and bear the burden of the consequences of factors outside our control.

Highly recommended.

— Review by Will Neuhauser

Neighbor-to-Neighbor Program

The Neighbor-to-Neighbor Program is a direct result of Governor Dean's 50-state strategy and the Democratic Party of Oregon's 36-county strategy of making sure we are engaged and communicating with everyone across the country. The following is an introduction to this program, whose implementation in Yamhill County is being led by Thelma Butzlaff.

In a day and age where most people are constantly bombarded with emails, television, marketing, and advertising, the notion that “face-to-face” communication is the most effective means of getting your point across is validated.

Increasingly, voters have grown weary of or all together ignore our methods of “robo-calls”, slick mailings, and scores of volunteers calling from campaign offices that sound like professional call centers. It is YOU who can make all the difference.

The mission of this Neighbor-to-Neighbor Organizing Program (NtNOP) is for all our activists to develop a long-term and continuous relationship with your neighbors. You should come to be known as the Democratic Party representative in your neighborhood — as the one-stop shop for Democratic Party information, candidate literature, voter registration center, etc. You know your neighborhood the best, you know your neighbors the best, and you can connect with them on a personal and individual

level. Your face, voice, and presence will strengthen and build the Democratic Party in your area.

The Neighbor-to-Neighbor program not only creates the personal relationships necessary to put us ahead in voter contact, but will also break down the tasks of voter contact into achievable goals spread among multiple Neighborhood Leaders. We can personalize our communications with voters, be involved with the Party regularly and yet not exhaust ourselves in the hectic months leading up to Election Day.

Anyone who wants to help, can become involved.

While this program won't be built overnight, the goal is to assemble and train a team of Neighborhood Leaders across the county who are ready and prepared for 2008. Through Neighborhood Leaders, the Democratic Party can and will be ubiquitous and victorious!

— The Democratic Party of Oregon

To learn more about becoming a Neighborhood Leader, contact Thelma Butzlaff at (503) 474-0635 or trbu7tzlaff@verizon.net.

Spotlight on New Chair: Will Neuhauser

At his election, Will mentioned that his two big priorities were to build the Yamhill County Democrats as a consistent force for electing Democrats and to improve our message & communications.

Recently elected Chair of the Yamhill County Democrats, Will lives outside the town of Yamhill with his family. His two children are in Yamhill Grade School. His wife is Co-medical Director with the Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Centers. Will is an “Oregon native since 1975” when he moved here to go to college. He spent some 20 years in the software field, starting his own company in Portland in 1993 with a friend. They sold that a few years ago, and moved to Yamhill in 2002. Will serves as Chair of the Board of the Virginia Garcia Memorial Foundation and works with the McMinnville Rotary on its annual Wine & Art auction, is incoming chair

of The Nature Conservancy in Oregon, is a member of the Steering Committee of ¡Salud! and is a member of the Oregon Community Foundation's Metropolitan Leadership Council.

His political blog can be found at <http://www.ProgressiveViewpoints.com>.

Remarks by Peter Buckley, HD 5 Representative, at the October Meeting

Peter Buckley, assistant Democratic Leader in the Oregon House, recalled that President Kennedy in his inaugural address urged Americans not to ask what their country can do for them, but instead to ask what they can do for their country. Liberals, he said, are interested in the "common good". Republicans however, have discredited the term liberal by making it denote something undesirable. They have, he said, undermined the concept of the common good and replaced it with emphasis on personal gain. Democrats should continue aggressive efforts for the common good, and should react strongly against Republican slurs and falsehoods.

—Vince Lowe

The Voting Process in Yamhill County

Yamhill County Democrats are serious about making sure every voter's vote is counted correctly. The following is a report and observations from Hank Franzoni, Jr. who headed up the 2006 Vote Protection Program for us in Yamhill County.

Unnoticed amidst the clamor of the last weeks of this year's political campaign, with its push-polls, insultingly tasteless messages, and annoying robot telephoning, a sparkling little gem appeared — one that should be a source of pride and inspiration to every Yamhill County voter, Democrat or Republican.

I'm talking about the Yamhill County Clerk's office and the way the clerk, Jan Coleman, her staff, and the paid and unpaid volunteers took care to see that

your ballot was properly "processed" — a bureaucratic word that hardly tells the story in Yamhill County: each ballot, from the moment it arrived in its two sealed envelopes, was nurtured and cared-for as if it was a premature baby in an incubator.

Ballot Processing and Counting. The entire "process" is open to observation by individuals or those representing a candidate or party. **Tabulating machine verification.** Before ballots are tabulated, the tabulating machines are tested to verify that the three machines are operating properly by running sample data for several cities through each machine. The sample data includes checks for "over votes" (more than one response for a given vote and for "under votes" (no votes). **Voter verification.** The bar-coded envelope is matched with the computerized registration list matching up the voter's name and precinct and the enclosing envelope's signature is matched to the registration signature on file which had been scanned and is displayed on screen. **Ballot sorting.** The verified ballots are carefully stacked and sorted by precinct. From here on, each ballot must stay with its precinct even after it is separated from its enclosing envelope to assure that the counts are by precinct since local measures and candidates are isolated by precinct. **Ballot preparation.** During ballot preparation, the ballots are handled in teams of two, pairing Democrats and Republicans where possible. As each ballot is separated from its envelopes, it is stamped with its precinct number and the count of envelopes and ballots is compared to be sure that none has gotten to the wrong pile or left inside a secrecy envelope. Tallies are kept of returned envelopes with no ballots. If needed, the paper ballot itself is cleaned up so it can be run through the counting machine because a huge number of ballots arrive with ink marks, poor erasures, ink outside the reading area, smudges, etc. **Vote-counting.** When the vote-counting begins, the tabulating machines (optical scanners) carefully scan every ballot, recording the vote or sorting out those which need hand review, primarily because the voter marked either more than one choice for a given position ("over vote") or

measure, or marked nothing (“under vote”). Every aspect of how the vote was handled is checked and cross-checked, as well as available for observation. Much of this process is backed up by redundancy built into the machines.

I could go on. Suffice it to say that “processing”, a word that often has come to stand for bureaucratic inaction, does not have that meaning when it comes to counting your vote in Yamhill County.

Will Neuhauser and I attended the County Clerk’s voting machine test and served as witnesses this year. All told, a dozen or so of us participated as “election observers” during the week running through Election Day, watching with admiration as a staggering workload was managed with meticulous care. Thanks to all the volunteers for covering shifts through-out the week plus.

Observations. I delivered a report on our activities to the Oregon Democratic Lawyers Council after the election where we conducted a county-by-county review of the voting procedures and problems that arose. Yamhill County came off looking pretty good. We may have had the feeling we weren’t doing much, just hanging around and being nosy, but our mere presence played an important role in the overall process. We covered the whole process from Tuesday, October 31st, through the day after Election Day.

An odd note was the almost complete lack of Republican observers. A single Republican showed up on Election Day, hung around for a half an hour and left. I was told this was very unusual. I’m guessing that maybe they saw the handwriting on the wall.

Some of us who observed the signature matching thought it was a little perfunctory. To the untrained eye, many signatures appeared to be far from identical but were never-the-less the less passed on. This could have something to do with a recent legal opinion from the Oregon Attorney General, Hardy Meyers to the Oregon Secretary of State, Bill Bradbury, to the effect that “mis-matching of signatures is not a basis for challenges to voter verification”.

At a time in our history that’s been marked by every kind of governmental chicanery imaginable, and by voting disasters like those in Ohio and Dade County, Florida, the level of cynicism and pessimism has risen so high it’s no wonder that we hear more and more reference to that old cliché about “It’s not voting that counts, it who counts the votes”.

On the other hand, there’s Yamhill County election time, and experience which should be shared by every adult and child, registered voter or unregistered non-voter in the county. They would come away with a feeling that there’s still plenty to celebrate about our political system.

At least there is here in Yamhill County.

— Hank Franzoni, Jr. (a portion was printed in the News-Register November 18, 2006)

Fresh Look

We’ve updated our logo to bring a fresh, modern look. We decided to build on the existing box with stylized stars and stripes, which Debbie Runciman had found for us, but added a Yamhill twist and then “punched it up” for web and other uses. With a patriotic, stylized stars and stripes over an outline of Yamhill County, we’ve added some shading to bring a little dimensionality to it. We have vertical and horizontal versions for different uses and this one can scale to any size. The logo work was donated by our new Chair, Will Neuhauser.

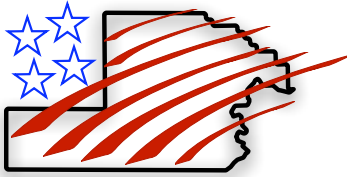
Washington County Democrats

The Washington County Democrats annual fundraiser, The Neuberger Banquet, was well-attended by Washington County and state officials, including newly elected Jean Cowan (whose district reaches the southwest corner of Yamhill County). Around 220 people attended the \$70/plate dinner. One speaker noted that just a couple of years ago they had under 20 people. Our 60-person attendance at our November meeting compares favorably for our smaller population.

— Will Neuhauser, Chair

Our Mission

Our mission is to elect Democrats to offices that represent Yamhill County.



Yamhill County
DEMOCRATS

We work to create a positive environment for candidates, help them win, and are the voice for the county to the Democratic Party of Oregon.

Newsletter

Send information, book review or articles for the Yamhill County Democrats newsletter to newsletter@ycdemocrats.org.

Volunteer at Headquarters

We have moved headquarters to a smaller space (next door) at 421 NE Evans, McMinnville.

Regular Meeting Summary

November 16, 2006. Sal Peralta gave a retrospective on his campaign and he said he plans to work on key issues, including campaign finance reform. We elected officers.

Executive Committee Summary

October 31, 2006. Approved continuing a scaled down headquarters facility.

November 21, 2006. Discussed a mission statement and guiding vision for the organization. Approved a new logo. Began work on a 3-year Plan, Operations Handbook and a Candidates Handbook.

Next Meeting

There will be no meeting in December. In January, Steve and Karen Packer will discuss their experience revitalizing the Washington County Democrats.

January 18, 2007 from 7:00 - 8:30 PM at Jake's Deli (1208 SW Baker St., McMinnville)

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