



Victoria Democrats Club NEWSLETTER

November 2008

POST ELECTION REPORT AT NOVEMBER MEETING

Did you know that approximately 150 committed volunteers invested untold hours in Victoria County to help elect qualified Democrats to county, state and national offices? Joe Painter and Melissa Roth will lead the discussion about the county-wide get-out-the-vote effort at the November meeting. We will also salute those hard-working partisans who manned phone lines, set out yard signs and toiled mightily at Party Headquarters. A critique of what worked and what still needs refining will be offered at the 7:00 meeting. Come at 6:30 p.m. if you care to eat and visit before the meeting at Vera Cruz Restaurant, 3110 N. Navarro..

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THE HOLIDAYS ARE COMING

Planning has begun for the Club's holiday party on Tuesday, December 16. The format will be similar to last year's enjoyable soiree' and will again be held at Siesta Restaurant, 2505 Houston Highway, if that facility is available. Efren Diaz-DeLeon and Harold Crater would be most receptive to any other (female) club member who might be willing to help with the planning.

Mark your calendar and be on the look-out for further details.

AND ...THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'

The election of Barak Obama not only moved states from the center of the country into the blue column. It also highlighted growing problems within the Republican Party. As our democratic union becomes increasingly diverse, a party tied to the "traditional" white Protestant voter becomes more and more marginalized.

As Jon Margolis, former chief political reporter for the *Chicago Tribune*, commented:

"According to the exit polls, the people who voted for John McCain Tuesday were richer, whiter (meaning, in a political context, non-Hispanic whiter. Or white/ Anglo-er), more rural, more religious, and less educated. Oh, and older. [And] every year a smaller percentage of the electorate falls into any one of those categories, much less all of them."

CONDOLENCES

The Victoria Democrats Club extends heartfelt condolences to the families of **Harold "Woody" Wood** and **Mrs. Mary Reyna**, who died in October.



A long-time active member of the Club, Woody worked as a road and bridge foreman for Victoria County and ran for Precinct 3 Commissioner in 2004. Our thoughts and prayers are with Maxine, Woody's wife of 32 years, who is also an active Club member.

Mary Reyna was the matriarch of a large and loving family that includes E.T., Ron and Matt, all of Victoria. Ron serves as president of the Club and ran an energetic campaign for Precinct 3 Commissioner in 2008. Our condolences go out to Ron and the rest of his family.

COMING SOON

For more information, go to:
www.VictoriaDemocrats.com



November 17 ** 5:00-7:00 p.m.
404 E. Park

Crossroads Progressive Women



November 18 ** 7:00-8:00 p.m.
Vera Cruz Restaurant

Victoria Democrats Club



December 16
Siesta Restaurant (tentative)
**Victoria Democrats Club
Holiday Party**

MY, MY, HOW FAR WE'VE COME

by Cindy Bonner



Last month, the Democrats had a debate watching party at Las Palmas restaurant, for the last debate of the election year. Driving into town to attend, I couldn't help but think back to the first Democratic primary debate eighteen months before. I had a party myself that night, in my living room. Only three people out of the fifteen or so that I invited showed up. I had iced down beer and soda, laid out cheese and crackers. There were just the four of us. We had a wonderful time, and a lively discussion afterwards, deciding among ourselves who would we thought would be our best candidate. We got into a vitriolic argument or two in the process. But it was invigorating, and we did a group hug on the porch saying goodnight.

It has been a long, often poisonous campaign. We went from a large lineup of contenders down to one. And it wasn't an easy journey for any of us. Many of us worked hard for other campaigns. We've had our disappointments, our disillusionment, and yet there we were, strolling into Las Palmas one or two at a time, to watch our candidate knock 'em dead. We brought friends with us. We brought T-shirts and campaign buttons to share. We made room at our tables for the newcomers, cracked jokes with the old-timers, held up our signs and had a mini-pep rally. We ate popcorn and hissed at the opponent. We applauded when our fellow scored points. It was like being at an old-fashioned melodrama play. It was like old home week.


There were fifty of us at the last debate party. The excitement was thick enough to slice. Everybody hopeful; most were confident. All of us carried our own personal corner of the Obama/Biden banner. I wanted to stand up and say to everyone, "Just look how far we've come. Just look what a few of us can accomplish." We got record voters out for the Primary. We had an outrageous turnout at the County Convention. We sent a delegate to National. We got President Clinton to come to Victoria for a visit. We got the Advocate to pay attention to us ... well, a little. Hey, guess what! There are Democrats in Victoria! We don't have to whisper that anymore. We're here. We care. And we're not hiding in the back closet anymore!

Thanks! to Richard Cisneros for the use of his building for Democratic Headquarters.

New & Renewing Members ** Thanks

Ann Brown Mr. & Mrs. Harold Cade Emmett Cole, Jr. Charlye Dollins Mr. & Mrs. Fredrick Hill
Esther Caddell Jose & Mary Lou Canales Roleen Diamond Janice Grumman Nicholas & Amelia Hinojosa

Your mailing labels now reflect the date your membership expires. Check yours to see if your dues are current



Name: _____

Address: _____

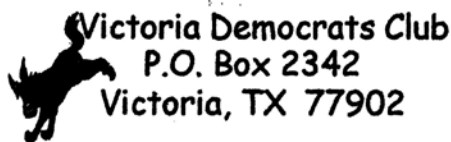
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Annual Dues (per person)

() \$25 Regular

() \$50 Sustaining

Mail to: **Victoria Democrats Club, c/o Harold Crater, PO Box 2342, Victoria TX 77902**



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