

Hello Fellow Democrats,

The SDEC met Saturday March 7 at the Austin Hilton in Austin. The committees meet in the morning from 9 to 12 noon and the business meeting is in the afternoon, from one until the work is all done.

I am a voting member of the Resolutions committee, and I also sat in on Convention, Legislative, Nominations, Grassroots and Finance.

We learned in the morning that State Chairman Boyd Richie was in the Heart Hospital, he had emergency procedures on Friday to implant two stents in partially clogged arteries in his heart. He is doing great and was to be released from the hospital on Saturday afternoon, but of course was not allowed to attend the meeting. His wife Betty who is also a Democratic National Committeewoman gave the Chair's report. She spoke to the "Yes We Can" attitude of Texas Democrats through the 2008 election cycle and the new faces in Austin that resulted from our hard work. She also reminded us that the Speaker Craddick days are over!

She left us with the urgent need for our people to go to Austin on Tuesday March 10 to fight the Republican Voter ID bills that are in both houses. If you are able to go to Austin there is more information on the state web site: www.txdemocrats.org If you cannot go please call your state senator and congressperson and register your feelings.

Leonora Sorola Pohlman, State Vice Chair conducted the afternoon meeting. She introduced elected officials and special guests. Houston Mayor Bill White attended the meeting. He is running for the U.S Senate seat being vacated by Kay Bailey Hutcheson. I had an opportunity to visit with the Mayor and I assured him of the support of Northeast Tarrant County. This will not be an easy race for him. The mud has already started.

The Treasurer reported a current bank balance of \$197,000

COMMITTEES:

Nominations: Met and elected a vice chair and had no further business at this time

Rules: Have had town hall meetings all around the state re Texas Two Step. There will be another meeting in Houston on April 25. Watch the state web site for further information

Convention: The 2010 state convention will be at the Convention Center in Corpus Christi. The dates are June 10, 11, 12. John Bell, Corpus Christi SDEC reported much excitement in the city anticipating the convention. There are lots of activities for families in addition to the beach. A theme for the convention is being sought.

Finance: The 2009 budget was approved. \$2 million and change. The net is expected to be approximately \$50,000. There will be only four SDEC meetings in 2009 instead of six, in order to save some money. A "Financial Council" is being formed of donors who contribute \$10,000 over the next three years.

Grassroots: The Grassroots Manual was approved. Copies are available at <http://www.txdemocrats.org/grassroots/> The Regional Train the Trainer Program will begin soon. This is training being offered in Austin for people willing to return to their regions and train people. There

are several different areas: VAN, Fundraising, Precinct Chair Development, If you are interested in this please call or email Sondra Haltom in the TDP office...shaltom@txdemocrats.org

Legislative: Twelve bills were submitted for support from the state party. Two were of major importance; SB105 - College Tuition Relief - There were 25 students from UTAustin and the State University in San Marcos plus the National President of College Democrats in attendance at the Resolutions and Legislative Committee meetings. They reported that tuition at UTAustin has increased by 164% between fall 2003 and fall 2007. They state that between 2001 and 2010 an estimated 2 million young people in America will forego higher education nationwide, because of the rising costs. SB 362 and HB 125 Voter Suppression Act - Resolutions committee referred an emergency resolution from SD12 to Legislative to be combined with a resolution they already had urging all Democrats to respond on Tuesday to these bills

Also supported were HB 2080 concerning CHIP; HCR 29 to accept the stimulus money; SB245 demanding there be a paper trail for all electronic voting machines. 108-516 Green job skills training
Resolutions: A resolution honoring Democrat Guy Jackson III was read and approved. Tuition Relief and Voter Suppression resolutions were heard and acted upon.

Majority Builders: This committee is reorganizing to better serve Texas Democrats. There are plans for rallies and mailings to keep interest up in this 'off election' year. The lists are being updated with the latest information.

The next SDEC meeting is scheduled for June 6, venue to be announced.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Pierce
SD 12 Committeewoman