



The WDC Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 10

December 2009

DEM RIVERSIDE UPDATES

Sheila Kay Riley

WDC Campaign/Election Committee Chair

ELECTIONS 2009/2010

The November election is over and another special election is brewing. As I write this, I now have exact/for sure information as to who might be running to replace Senator Benoit (CA 37th State Senate District) as he has been appointed by CA Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to fill former Riverside County Supervisor Roy Wilson's seat.

Since we now know that CA Senator Benoit has decided to resign the end of November, the needed special election would be held on Tuesday, April 13th and, if needed, the special general election for the top finishers (one from each political party) would be held on the regularly scheduled June 8th primary election day (verified by Riverside ROV). This option will save Riverside County mega bucks.

According to the Press-Enterprise, several Republicans are talking about running: Bill Emmerson (R-Redlands; 63rd AD who would use his Hemet address as he does not currently live in the 37th CA Senate District); Brian Nestande (R - Palm Desert; 64th AD); Jeff Miller (R-Corona; Riverside County Supervisor); and Russ Bogh (R-Beaumont; former Assembly Member). The Press-Enterprise also reports that Palm Springs school

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President's message

By Becky Foreman, WDC President

This is my last President's Message. On December 6, my term will end as we install new officers at our annual Holiday Party. I suppose I should be waxing poetic now about how difficult and bittersweet it is to say goodbye, but that would be untrue. Bitter? No way. Sweet, very sweet. And difficult? Are you kidding me? Piece of cake.

I don't say this with disrespect. It is just that first, I'm not really "going" anywhere, just changing my role from a sort of figurehead to a part of the body, and second, I am leaving the executive board in the hands of some of the finest women I know. Let me tell you about them, from my perspective as one who has worked, laughed, cried and occasionally blasphemed with each of them over the past several years.

Let's start with Corinne Parker, our incoming President. The first impression one may get from Corinne is that she is just a lovely, lovely woman inside and out. And that's true. But don't let her sweet face fool you. She is also capable of steely resolve, and has a hidden toughness that she uses only (in my experience) in pursuit of justice. She is talented (without her we would not have this great newsletter) and able to get things done. For example, she has managed to coax and cajole a monthly President's Message from me, an infamous ditherer and procrastinator, and if she can do that she can do just about anything. And she is clever, and funny! Follow her on Facebook or Twitter and you'll see what I mean. She will be a great president.

Next, there's Sheila Kay Riley, continuing as our Secretary and Campaign/Election Support Chair. Sheila is a Democratic force of nature, simple as that. She is the most hardworking volunteer I have ever met, and although she drives herself to the point where any normal woman would either collapse in exhaustion or end up in a straightjacket, Sheila somehow manages to remain sane (okay, it's a relative term --- as she points out, none of us is "normal") and she also keeps a balance in her life that is admirable. And she has great ideas!

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boardmember and Democrat Justin Blake announced his candidacy on Nov. 5th. I've also heard that former 37th CA Senate District candidate Art Guerrero will also be running. Who knows who will be running by the time you read this?

Now, let's look at which **Democrats** apparently won on November 3rd in the local non-partisan elections (the election has yet to be certified as ballots are still being counted):

Riverside Major: Ron Loveridge was re-elected.

Alvord School District: Democrat, Jose Luis Perez, is in a very close third place in this race for two seats.

Riverside Unified School District: Democrat, Kathie Allavie, has been re-elected to one of two seats.

Perris School District: Democrats Monica Martin and Shirley Zschokke, appear to be well ahead in this race.

Perris Union High School District: Democrat William Hulstrom appears to be one of the two winners.

Banning Unified School District: Democrat Wendell Bainter appears to be one of the two winners.

Mt. San Jacinto Community College Trustee Position: Democrat Gwendolyn Schlange, appears to have won.

Norco City Council Race: In this race to fill 2 seats, it looks like Democrat Harvey Sullivan, has been the victor in this close race; however, as this is a tight race at this point, Frank Hall, has yet to concede.

Of interest is the fact that many, many races were not even on the ballot because there was no contest. What this means is that either the number of candidates equaled the number of seats to be filled or, worse yet, there were less candidates than the number of seats open. We have just "given away" many chances to elect Democrats! So, what do we need to do?

We've got to get **more Democratic** candidates to seek election to our local races. As **Chair of the Central Committee's Candidate Development and Training Task Force**, I will be sending AD Vice Chairs to local races for the 2010 Elections, those that are in need of Democrats.

And as the **Elections and Candidate Support Chair of WDPAC**, I can also provide that information directly to our club and its members. Want to help? **Mark your calendars right now** for the **January 16th and 17th** as we will once again be offering our **Political Training Series** right here in Riverside. If we're to really turn Riverside **Blue** (meaning: more registered Dems as well as more elected Democrats in office), we've got to get busy – so plan to attend and learn what you can do to help – either as a **volunteer for a candidate** or as a **candidate**! See you there! ❖

STRATEGIC PLAN UNVEILED

At the November 4th Women's Democratic Club/Political Action Committee general membership meeting, the work of many months was presented to the attending members. The committee to draft the Strategic Plan consisted of: Becky Foreman, Nan McCoy, Corinne Parker, Sheila Riley, Suzanne Tanenbaum and Marisa Yeager.

Drawing upon earlier work prepared by Grey Frandsen and Marisa Yeager, your committee developed a plan for opening a permanent **Democratic Headquarters in Riverside**.

The task before us now is to raise about \$20,000 – the amount we need to have on hand to run the office for 12 months. We're looking for someone who would like to take the lead as **chief fundraiser for WDPAC**. Sheila is more than willing to work with you with some ideas of who to contact, etc.

If you're interested, please contact one of the officers. Your help is needed to continue our work of turning Riverside **BLUE** – both in voter registration and in elected Democrats! We'll keep you posted as to the fundraising progress. ❖

Don't forget! **Sunday, December 6** is the **WDC Holiday Party and Officer Installation: 2-4pm.**
RCC Alumni House – 3564 Ramona Drive
Bring an unwrapped toy. Vote for 2010 E-Board.



**WDC Holiday Party and
2010 Officer Installation**
Sunday, December 6
2:00pm-4:00pm
RCC Alumni House
3564 Ramona Drive Riverside

MYTHS CONSERVATIVES BELIEVE ABOUT PROGRESSIVES

Sheila Riley
WDC Secretary

Following is an excerpt of an article from Sara Robinson.

MYTH #10: "Liberals are wimps."

Conservatives like to caricature liberals as being soft in all the places our society values toughness. Our refusal to adhere to any dogma must mean that we're soft in our convictions. Our reflexive open-mindedness is often derided as evidence that we're soft in the head. Our persistent and gentle insistence on humane government is evidence of hearts too soft to set hard boundaries or do what must be done. And all of this together makes it easy for them to portray us as a mushy bunch of feckless, effeminate intellectuals lacking in cohesions, backbone, focus, or purpose.

But you can only believe this if you don't know anything about the history or reality of American liberalism. The Constitution is, itself, a liberal document – the ultimate expression of Enlightenment principles. In every decade since the republic was founded, progressives have stepped up and put themselves on the line to further the purposes of government laid out in the Preamble. We're heirs to the people who fought and died to free slaves, organize unions, give the vote to women, end child labor, protect family farms, enact civil rights laws, and preserve our environment. Some of the boldest, bravest Americans in history – Harriet Tubman, Susan B. Anthony, Frederick Douglass, Teddy Roosevelt, Cesar Chavez, and, of course, Dr. King – have proudly called themselves "liberal" or "progressive."

Progressives couldn't have survived and thrived if we were half as weak and indecisive as conservatives like to think we are. Our progressive forbearers were not fearful people. Nor did any of them seem to be bedeviled by the lack of conviction. "Mush" or "feckless" are about the last words I'd use to describe any of them. ("Stupid" isn't anywhere on the list, either.) When you sign up to become a progressive, this is a legacy you take on, and from then on attempt to live up to. It's not God's job to make the world a better place. It's yours. This has never been work for the faint of heart, mind, or spirit – and in this era of conservatism gone rotten, it still isn't.

It's going to be a stranger season than most, in no small part because the changing political winds are going to put some fresh twists and turn into the same old holiday discussions. But holiday arguments over religion and politics are a tradition that's as old as the republic. For most of us, wouldn't be an American family holiday without a little hot conversation served up over a freshly roasted bird."

Sara Robinson is a blogger for progressive websites such as www.ourfuture.org and has worked as a columnist or editor for several national magazines.

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Great in the sense of really cool, and also in the sense of BIG! Without Sheila we would not even have the dream of a Democratic headquarters in Riverside, and yet here we are, on the verge of making it a reality. Sheila lives, breathes, eats, sleeps and (I assume) dreams blue, and she is not only a role model for the rest of us, she is a true friend, always ready to lend an ear and a shoulder. She is our backbone, our inspiration and our conscience.

And then there's Suzanne Tanenbaum, in the unenviable role of Chief Financial Officer. Suzanne has handled our books with quiet competence during a time of great change and confusion. She makes sure we always have the right funds in the right account (and believe me that is no small feat!) and still manages to look cool, calm and collected. Suzanne is also the one who brought us into the 21st century by creating our wonderful Facebook page, which allows us to connect quickly to a much wider audience than we have ever had in the past. She is one of those rare people who makes a huge contribution but doesn't want or expect any recognition. Too bad, Suzanne. I'm giving it to you anyway!

And last, but not least by any standards, is Marisa Yeager, Past President and returning Membership Chair. We tease Marisa that we fully expect her to run for office any day now, and really, she should. She has an abundance of two character traits that are highly likely to ensure success: charm and chutzpah. It is rare to ever see Marisa without that room lighting smile, which reveals just a hint of fire beneath the surface. Marisa is a born leader, and the kind of young woman our club was formed to support and encourage. So let's keep teasing, and nagging, until she is ready to declare her candidacy for --- anything! I'll be there walking precincts for her, and I'm betting you will too.

And there you have it. With leaders like this stepping in, I can make my exit without a trace of sadness or regret. Just one last thing:

It has been an honor to serve you.

Yours in peace and unity,



Becky

The 2009 WDC Executive Board

wishes you all

A Wonderful Holiday Season!

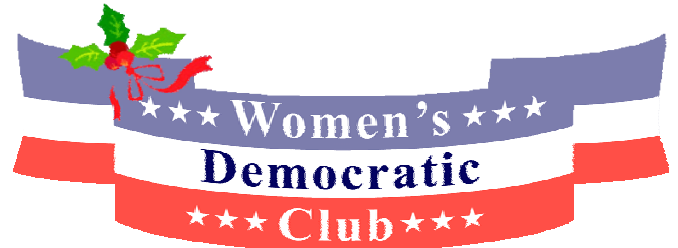
CONTRIBUTE TO THE WDC NEWSLETTER!

CONTACT US WITH NEWS, TIPS, AND
IDEAS...OR SUBMIT A GUEST COLUMN OF
YOUR OWN.

SEND YOUR SUBMITTALS TO:

CORINNE.PARKER@YAHOO.COM

Remember: this is **YOUR** newsletter, too!



WDC Executive Board

Becky Foreman, President
Corinne Parker, Vice President
Suzanne Tanenbaum, CFO
Sheila K. Riley, Secretary
Marisa Yeager, Membership Chair

Visit our website!

www.RiversideWomenDems.com

2009 HOLIDAY PARTY & OFFICER INSTALLATION: DEC 6



WDC IS ON FACEBOOK!

"WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC PAC OF RIVERSIDE"

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