

THE Democrat

The Newsletter of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee

Volume 17, Number 1

www.fairfaxdemocrats.org

January 2008



Chair's Corner

By Ginny Lehner Peters,
Chair, Fairfax County

It has been my pleasure to serve as Chair of FCDC for the past four years. This is my opportunity to thank all of you for the support and hard work you have given over the last four years. There have been sad

times and happy times but we have managed to keep Fairfax County "Blue." It has been a very gratifying experience.

Now it is time for some one else to take the reins of our Committee, with probably a different leadership style, but always with the same objective – electing Democrats. I hope you will all work together with that objective in mind.

Congratulations to all who have been elected at the Magisterial District level. I hope none of you will ever lose sight of the big picture. This is a campaign committee – we don't set policy and we don't operate separately. We are all in this together and the more we work together the more we can accomplish.

I would also like to thank my hus-

band Rob for putting up with all my nights out, visits to different areas of the County, interrupting telephone calls, constant confusion about who's on first and what's on second. He has been supportive through it all.

This coming year will be very demanding and exciting as we move into a Presidential year, elect another Democrat to the U.S. Senate, and retake the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts. We can even turn Virginia "Blue" this year too, with your help.

Please be supportive of your next Committee. The only way we win is if we all work together. See you on the campaign trail.

— Ginny

Volunteer Thank You Brunch a Huge Success



Chairman Gerry Connolly

Chairman Gerry Connolly would like to thank everyone who helped us put on another wonderful Volunteer Thank You Brunch this year! The FCDC event

co-sponsored

by the 8th, 10th and 11th CD committees was a great huge success and it was all for and about the volunteers.

Just under 500 people came out to join us and celebrate the year's great victories! Hundreds voted in our Presidential straw poll and gave Hillary Clinton another win (she also won the St. Patrick's Day straw poll). Barack Obama came in a close second. The full results can be found on Gerry's Website.)

Senate Majority Leader Dick Saslaw and Counselor to the Governor Larry Roberts gave inspiring speeches and the crowd heard from Governor (soon-to-be U.S. Senator)

Mark Warner via telephone hook-up. The volunteers were joined by dozens of elected officials, recent candidates and labor officials who thanked the attendees for contributing their valuable time, efforts and support for the Democratic party.

Yes, the real purpose of the event was to thank all of the wonderful volunteers who knocked on the doors, stuffed the envelopes and made the phone calls. Without you, none of our great Democratic victories would be possible. We are especially pleased with the large amount of items donated for the troops serving under the American flag. John Niemic gave a great speech about taking care of those taking care of American freedom, and he led the Fire-Fighters collection drive of personal items.

On Wednesday, December 12, Chairman Connolly was officially sworn in for his second term as Chairman. Gerry is already hard at work setting the agenda with the new 8-2 democratic board of supervisors to ensure that Fairfax County continues to be the best-managed County in the nation. ☺



Fairfax County Democratic Committee Reorganization Meeting

Tuesday, January 8th, 2008,
7:30 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA

If you have been elected to your Magisterial District Committee, this is the meeting you go to to participate in the election of the FCDC Officers.



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The Democrat
The Newsletter of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee

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About The Democrat

The Democrat is the monthly publication of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee. The purpose of The Democrat is to provide information to Committee members and other interested persons through district reports, committee reports, news articles, campaign notices, and flyers. Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of the FCDC unless specifically approved by an appropriate Committee Resolution.

How to Submit Material:

Material may be submitted in the following ways, listed in order of preference: (word limit: 300 words)

- E-mail.** Send to thedemocrat@fairfaxdemocrats.org. Attach text file (any word processing program) or photos (.jpg,.eps,.tif); or copy the article in the e-mail message.
- Mail CD/Scanned Photos.** Include a hard copy of text, your name and telephone number. Mail to Mark Richards, 18108 Camdenhurst Drive, Gainesville, VA 20155

Deadlines

Articles must be received by 5:00 pm on the second Tuesday of the month. Articles received after the deadline may not make it into the issue. Material may be included as flyers inserted into The Democrat for a charge of \$35. You supply the printed flyer. Call FCDC at (703) 573-6811 for the quantity of flyers to be printed. Also, please supply a volunteer to help collate on Friday, for 1-1/2 hours.

Advertising

Ads are very much welcomed and accepted; however, we reserve the right to reject ads for any reason. No product, service, or event advertised herein is endorsed by The Democrat or the FCDC, unless otherwise noted. Rates are:

Size	Price	Dimensions	Size	Price	Dimensions
1/6	\$35	2.25" w x 4.5" h	1/2	\$100	7.25" w x 4.5" h
1/3	\$70	4.75" w x 4.5" h	Full page	\$200	7.25" w x 9.5" h

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Write articles! Send photos! See details above, under "How to submit material."

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Steering Committee

FCDC OFFICERS

Chair: Ginny Peters (703) 799-3418

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- Vice Chair South: Kate Wilder (703) 455-9007
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- Vice Chair North: Eileen Manning (703) 757-5422

Vice Chairs:

- Precinct Ops: Sue Langley (703) 403-0190
- Administration: Les Halpern (703) 435-2891
- Voter Registration: Chris Ambrose (703) 550-1725
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- Record. Sec.: Rafael Arancibia (703) 869-3037
- Treasurer:** Bruce Neilson (703) 323-0457
- Asst. Treasurer:** Mark Terry (703) 885-1531

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FCDC Parliamentarian:

(703) 573-2894

Communications Director:

George Burke (202) 288-2104

District Chairs

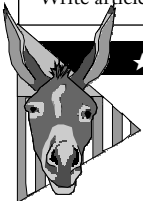
- Braddock:** Marc Greidinger (703) 323-4661
Walt Mika (703) 978-5732
- Dranesville:** Sue Rosenberg (703) 938-5031
- Hunter Mill:** Bob Haley (703) 476-9440
Bettina Lawton (703) 242-1652
- Lee:** Scott Robinson (315) 529-8418
Hugh Robertson III (703) 924-1433
- Mason:** Rachel Rifkind (703) 941-9574
- Mt. Vernon:** Scott Surovell (703) 765-8115
- Providence:** Rick Dotson (703) 319-9010
- Springfield:** Ruth Miller (703) 913-0487
- Sully:** Mary Lee Cerillo (703) 830-3435

Standing Committee Chairs

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- Labor:** Shannon Sullivan (703) 968-9441
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- 11th Cong. District:** George Burke (202) 288-2104
- Fairfax Young Dems:** Rafael Arancibia (703) 869-3037
- Headquarters:** Bill Lahue (703) 577-6339

Key Phone Numbers

- White House (202) 456-1111
- U.S. Senate and House (202) 224-3121
- DNC (202) 863-8000
- Democratic Party of Virginia
 FAX: (804) 343-3642; Toll Free (800) 322-1144



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Deadline for the NEXT issue (January 2008) of The Democrat:

Articles:

Tuesday, December 11, 10:00 a.m. (see above for more details)

Flyers:

Thursday, December 20, 3:00 p.m. (due at headquarters, printed and ready to collate)

Collating:

Friday, December 21, 9:30 a.m.

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Deadline for the February 2008 issue of The Democrat:

Articles:

Tuesday, January 8, 10:00 a.m. (see above for more details)

Flyers:

Thursday, January 17, 3:00 p.m. (due at headquarters, printed and ready to collate)

Collating:

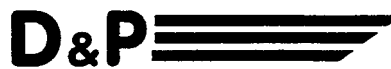
Friday, January 18, 9:30 a.m.
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Byrne for Congress Campaign Report



Leslie Byrne

Things are going fast and furious in getting our campaign together. We have more endorsements coming in each day. The most recent are Virginia NOW and the Women's Campaign Forum.

They join with our labor supporters and other elected officials who know that the 11th Congressional District is considered to be one of the top 50 districts in the nation targeted by the DNC as "Most likely to change hands" in 2008.

In the meantime we have been fundraising to make it all happen. If you can contribute please go to www.lesliebyrne.org. If you would like to put a little "Fun" in the fundraising checkout www.actblue.com/page/dailyshowtickets for our raffle of 4 VIP tickets to Jon Stewart's Daily Show in New York. Raffle tickets are \$100 and the drawing will be held January 1, 2008 and there will only be 300 tickets sold for the drawing.

We plan to have our office open in January so more information will be in the next Democrat.

Here is wishing all of you a Happy New Year, let's make 2008 a banner year for Fairfax Democrats! ☺

Denneny for Congress Campaign Report



Doug Denneny

Doug Denneny Picks up Key Endorsement, Appears on TV's Inside Scoop

Doug Denneny's campaign to beat Tom Davis and to be your next Congressman from

the 11th District took off in December. Doug picked up an important endorsement from Congressman Patrick J. Murphy (D-PA). Representative Murphy is a member of the House Armed Services Committee and traveled to the 11th District to host a fundraising event for Doug.

Congressman Murphy explained his endorsement this way. "To change direction in Iraq, we need strong voices in Congress who can speak with real world experience," Murphy said. "From aircraft carriers to Fairfax County, Doug knows the issues - none more so than the war in Iraq. As a fellow Iraq War veteran, Doug is uniquely prepared for this job and I know he is ready to continue his public service and join the fight to bring our troops home."

On Sunday, December 9th, Doug headlined the TV show "Inside Scoop Virginia" with host George Burke. In a compelling hour-long discussion Doug spoke about the Iraq War, immigration, the environment, access to affordable health care, the need for a tunnel through Tysons corner, and a host of other issues. On the Iraq War, Doug called for a "tough love" approach to the Iraqi Government and said it was time for the Iraqis to put more of their forces in the line of fire. He also called for a "smart, phased withdrawal" of U.S. forces from Iraq. "I will be a strong voice" said Doug, asserting that he would be effective in Congress. "as a veteran... someone who has been shot at, who has put his skin in the game, standing up and saying 'we are on the wrong track.'" A link to the video and TV show can be found on Doug's website at www.dougforcongress.com

Doug's next scheduled event is a holiday party and reception at the Mantua Swim & Tennis Club at 9330 Pentland Place, Fairfax 22031 on Sunday, December 16 at 6:30 pm. Come on out and hear what he will do to improve your future, and how he will fight to improve this district for future generations. Information on Sunday's event and other exciting information about Doug's campaign can be found at www.dougforcongress.com ☺



**Moving?
Let us know.
(703) 573-6811**



Feder for Congress Campaign Report



Judy Feder

I can't tell you how excited I am to get to work building on the success of Fairfax County Democrats in 2007. Two years ago I began a run for Congress to change the direction of our country.

Thanks to your help we attracted thousands of supporters, garnered national attention, and made a strong stand for our shared values while giving Frank Wolf his closest race in twenty-four years.

Now, two years later, we still need change in Washington. We need to bring an end to a disastrous war in Iraq and ensure that Congress takes a strong stand against war with Iran. We need affordable health care, and we need a Member of Congress who works every day to preserve our environment and our quality of life in Northern Virginia.

On November 28, we kicked off the '08 season with a reception headlined by Delegate-elect Margi Vanderhye and Supervisor-elect John Foust. With their help and the support of friends throughout the Commonwealth we're stronger than we've ever been. In the last quarter we out-raised Frank Wolf by nearly 3-1 and became one of only a handful of Democratic challengers to have more cash on hand than an incumbent Member of Congress. With increased name ID, an existing donor base, and an active grassroots network, we have everything we need to run the strongest voter contact program the 10th District has ever seen.

Five current freshman Democrats in Congress won in 2006 after having lost their previous races. Building on our effort in '06, I plan to be next. I thank you for all of your past support and am looking forward to working with you again. You can find all of the latest news on the campaign at www.judyfeder.com. ☺

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McKay Campaign Report



Jeff McKay

As I prepare to try to fill the very large shoes of retiring Supervisor Dana Kauffman, I'd like to thank him and his colleagues on the Board of Supervisors for their help and guidance. Most of all, I would like

to thank them for all that they have done and will continue to do to make Fairfax County one of the best places in the country to live and raise a family.

That family thing is very much on my mind these days, as my wife Crystal and I watch our new baby daughter and think about her future. I know that we'll be relying on our strong Democratic team to maintain a strong quality of life for all of us. I look forward to being part of that team.

I also want to thank my campaign team, the Lee District Democratic Committee, and all the wonderful volunteers who knocked on doors, stuffed envelopes, made phone calls, and much more. On December 9, at our joint Barker/McKay volunteer thank you party, volunteers, campaign staff, committee members, and elected officials reveled in a job well done.

Thank you again for your support and help. I look forward to representing you well on our County Board. ☺

Vanderhye Campaign Report



Margi Vanderhye

The weeks between the election and the end of 2007 were a bit of a whirlwind as I prepared for the coming legislative session while navigating the customary holiday activities of family, church, and community. In late November, the "freshman" legislative class of 2008, five newly-elected Democrats and five rookie Republicans, convened in Richmond for

three days of orientation presented by the Clerk of the House of Delegates, Bruce Jamerson. The program included a crash course on the history of the General Assembly (1619 to present!), an overview of legislative and parliamentary procedures, and an extensive study of the logistics of running a successful General Assembly office. We newcomers, along with the returning veterans, will all be sworn in on January 9th, the first day of the session.

In early December I had the privilege of spending a weekend in retreat with members of the House Democratic Caucus. I cannot tell you how excited I am about working with this group of great legislators from all over the Commonwealth of VA.

During December I also met with a number of groups and individuals to gather input for my legislative program, which I will be announcing in early January. I am excited about going to Richmond and honored to be representing the 34th District in what should be an eventful and productive session. I continue to welcome your thoughts and suggestions. The contact information for my district office is P.O. Box 7335, McLean, VA 22106; 703-448-8018; info@vanderhye.com. In Richmond the phone number is 804-698-1034; delmvanderhye@house.va.us is the email address.

Also, please mark your calendars for a Town Hall Meeting sponsored by Senator Howell, Delegate Scott, and me on Saturday, January 12 from 10:00 AM till noon in the McLean High School cafeteria. We look forward to a lively discussion of our hopes and expectations for the 2008 Session of the General Assembly.

Finally, I want to again extend my heartfelt thanks to all you Fairfax Democrats who supported my campaign with so much generosity and enthusiasm. Without your help, I could not have endured! ☺

Braddock

Walt Mika, (703) 978-5732
E-mail: wmika@aol.com
Marc Greidinger: mpoweru@cox.net

Braddock Democrats reelected Marc Greidinger and Walt Mika as co-chairs. Susan Cranfill will serve as Treasurer and Casey Crowe as Secretary. Finance chairs will be Liz Griffith and Gretchen Bulova. Serving as vice chairs for precinct operations will be Peter Fabry, Barbara Allen, Cheryl Fulton, Janyce Hedetniemi, Bill Lahue and Bruce Neilson. The vice chairs

will be working with groups of 5 precincts and coordinating with campaigns, FCDC, and communications.

The district will be developing a Braddock Democratic Club to build relationships with Democrats who have an interest in developing ties with other Democrats and assisting with Party activities. A key component will be social evenings to meet with elected leaders, candidates and other political leaders. Qualifications for membership will be a demonstration of support for the party and our candidates. ☺

Dranesville

Sue Rosenberg, (703) 938-5031
sue.rosenberg@cox.net

It was a dark and stormy night, but that didn't stop most of the members from showing up at our reorganization meeting. Forty people were able to make it out of their driveways and through snowy, traffic-clogged roads to the McLean Governmental Center to elect the new committee and officers for 2008-2009. We have ten people who are first time members of FCDC.

Sue Rosenberg was re-elected Chair. Ron Blecker is Vice-Chair, Brenda Frank takes over the important role of Precinct Ops, Peg Thomson is Secretary, and Sue Boucher continues as Treasurer.

This is going to be an exciting year. For the first time in many years, we have elected officials on the Dranesville committee, Supervisor-elect John Foust and Delegate-elect Margi Vanderhye. Another committee member, Judy Feder, is an announced candidate for the 10th Congressional District seat to run against Frank Wolf.

Our next DDDC meeting will be on January 22 at Holmes Intermediate, before the FCDC meeting. ☺

Hunter Mill

Emilie Larson, (703) 938-1379
emielarson@erols.com

Hunter Mill had a very successful reorganization meeting on December 7th, 2007. Bettina Lawton and Bob Haley will lead the Committee as Co-Chairs, and other officers include Vice Chairs for Technology and Communications, Tom Goldsmith; for Finance, Ed Robichaud; Precinct Operations Vienna, Kathey Moore; Reston South, Meg Copernoll; Reston North, Lynn Blank; Herndon, Glen Tomkins. Also ad-

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dressed were Precinct Captains, members for the FCDC Standing Committees, and our March Lasagna Dinner. A meeting schedule was approved, and future meetings will be held on the third Thursday of each month, with regular meetings on even months and precinct operations meeting on odd months.

The Hunter Mill "Thank You" Party, hosted by Cathy Hudgins, Ken Plum, and Janet Howell was held on Sunday December 9th at the home of Cathy Hudgins in Reston with a very large turnout, celebrating a victorious November election. Our many, many thanks to all who volunteered and worked in the great effort!

The Hunter Mill Lasagna Dinner kick off planning meeting will be held on January 9, 2008, time and place TBA. The Lasagna Dinner will take place on Saturday evening, March 29, 2008. Please mark your calendars. ☺

Lee

Scott Robinson, (315) 529-8418
Hugh Robertson, (703) 924-1433
E-mail: lee@fairfaxdemocrats.org

Congratulations to our new elected officers for the Lee District Democratic Committee:

Co-Chairs: Hugh Robertson and Scott Robinson, Vice Chair: Linda Waller, Vice Chairs for Voter Registration: Maggie Britvec and Brian Murray, Precinct Operations Chair: Ed Joseph and Precinct Operations Vice-Chair: Brian Murray

We still have openings on our committee for Secretary and Treasurer. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Hugh or Scott. If you missed the filing for our reorganization you can still become a member of the Lee District Democratic Committee. Just send us your new filing form and we will bring you on at the January FCDC meeting.

Special thanks to Steve Bunn who did a great job as our Co-Chair. He set up and maintained our Web site, established our Robo-Dialer, founded our "One Until Done" project, and continually excelled in promoting our Lee District Democratic Committee activities. His efforts were a determining force in making Lee District a Democratic stronghold. Steve's hard work and contributions to our committee, the Fairfax County Democratic Committee, and the 8th District Democratic Committee has been invaluable. We look forward to his continued commitment and urge everyone to come out to support Steve for FCDC

Chair in the January election.

Our next Lee District Democratic Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 27th at 7:30 pm, however instead of a formal meeting at the Franconia Government Center Center, we will have an informal "get-together" at the home of Susie Warner at 6229 Edison Road. If you will be around please join us and relax after the hectic holidays. Contact Hugh if you will be able to attend. We look forward to seeing everyone soon and starting the new year with more Democratic victories. ☺

Mason

Rachel Rifkind, (703) 941-9574
E-mail: rrifkind@gmail.com
Andrew Hunter, (703) 916-0942
E-mail: aph7294@fastmail.fm

Happy Holidays to everyone! I hope all of you have a great holiday season and that you come into the New Year rested and ready for a productive year.

The Mason District Democratic Committee reorganization was held on December 5. Congratulations to all of the newly elected committee members (new and returning). Congratulations particularly to our three new members: Steve Hoffman, Christopher Worley and Jay Fadgen. Thank you to the committee for re-electing me and congratulations to the officers of the new Mason Committee: Norma Jean Young, Vice Chair, Rafael Arancibia, Secretary, and Rose Chu, Treasurer. I will be finalizing the new committee list and I promise I will get it out to all of you.

Congratulations to Peggy Gooding on her election as an Emeritus member from Skyline. Peggy has served all of us on Mason District for over 20 years and I was honored to present her name at the reorganization meeting for the emeritus position.

Mason has tentatively scheduled its monthly meetings for the second Wednesday of the month at the Mason Government Center. Watch the FCDC calendar or our MasonDems calendar on Yahoo for updates.

FCDC will hold its biennial reorganization meeting on January 8 at the Fairfax County Government Center and its regular meeting at Holmes Middle School on January 22 at 8:15 (social at 7:30 prior). I look forward to seeing everyone there. Happy Holidays to everyone and a beautiful New Year. ☺

Mt. Vernon

Scott Surovell, (703) 765-8115
E-mail: ssurovell@smillaw.com

The MVDDC recently had a very successful reorganization. The group was first addressed by Leslie Byrne who filled us in on her coming campaign, congratulated us for our tradition of hard work, grassroots activism, and dedication to electing Democrats in Mt. Vernon and Virginia.

The MVDDC elected 72 members. An additional five members filed after the meeting for a total of 77 members. Scott Surovell of Hollin Hall precinct was re-elected as chair, and Mary Paden of Marlan Precinct was re-elected as secretary/communications chair. Jeanne O'Hara of Stratford was elected treasurer/vice chair finance. Other vice-chair positions were elected as follows: Vice Chairs of Precinct Ops - Janet Myhre, Woodley, Karen Stallings, Woodley, and Chris Ambrose, Lorton; Vice-Chair Outreach - Andrew Rogers, Woodley; Vice-Chair Technology - Doug Reimel, Woodlawn; Vice-Chair Events - Laura Sonnenmark, Westgate; Vice-Chair Volunteer Coordination - Sherry Dana, Saratoga. MVDDC elected Ginny & Rob Peters, Reg Smith, and Glenda Booth to emeritus status.

Senator-elect George Barker thanked the MVDDC for its grassroots activism, support, and its hard work in Mt. Vernon's six precincts which freed him up to focus on his other 39 th District precincts that needed help.

The committee also voted to create a new annual fundraising event in early February on the theme of Mardi Gras featuring a presidential straw poll and 11th Congressional District straw poll. The first will be held Saturday, February 2, with the location to be announced. The MVDDC is also planning its third annual President's Day trip to Richmond to visit Mt. Vernon's legislators.

At the next meeting on Thursday January 24, the MVDDC will review an analysis of the 2007 election results, plan the upcoming the Mardi Gras fundraiser, and prepare for outreach efforts during the Democratic Presidential Primary. The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the South County Government Center. ☺

Moving?
Let us know.
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Providence

Rick Dotson, (703) 319-9010
Cell : (703) 785-3850
E-mail: Rickdotson@aol.com

The Providence District Committee, fresh off a smashingly successful election in which only one precinct voted Republican in all combined races, held its reorganization meeting Dec. 6, at the new Oakton library.

Rick Dotson, who served as Co-chair with Linda Byrne on the previous committee, was elected Providence Committee Chair by acclaim. Other committee officers include: Bill Baker, Vice Chair, Precinct Operations; Mary Dotson, Vice Chair, Finance and Fundraising; Bill Felmlee, Vice Chair, Administration; Susan Weltz, Treasurer; and Sarah John, Training Coordinator. The committee also elected four Regional Precinct Chairs: Carrie Nixon (west); Holly Hambly (central); Jim Simos (east-1); and Charlie Hall (east-2). Other positions are: Micah Himmel, Democrat editor; Linda Drumheller, National Affairs; Irvin Varkonyi and Don Morrison, State Affairs; Diversity, Jerry Zimmerman, Marian Pflaumer and Shiva Makki; Women's Rights, Joanna DeLaune; Labor, Ellen Scully Russ; and Senior Citizens, Lilyan Spero and Marianne O'Brien.

All precinct leaders and at-large members were voted in without contest, but several openings remain on the committee. In addition, the committee still needs volunteers to serve as communications director, recording secretary, web site and technology, and FCDC meeting coordinator. To learn more or volunteer, call Rick Dotson at 703-319-9010, or cell 703-785-3850.

Finally, the committee honored the contributions of two officers stepping down from their positions. Linda Byrne ended her term as Providence Committee co-chair, after serving with cheer and patience, and presiding over a growing and vibrant party organization. And Tania Hosain, the committee's Vice Chair Campaign Coordination, Corresponding Secretary & technology guru, moved to Sully District. No title could do justice to Tania's contributions. As one committee leader said, "I am not sure what to say about Tania except that she is the best, most wonderful person, and the most dedicated Democrat I know and we will miss her greatly." ☺

Springfield

Ruth Miller, 703 913-0487
E-mail: rkm@usp.org

Congratulations to Springfield's own Bob Pearson, who was named FCDC Precinct Operations Person of the Year!

Springfield welcomed 6 new members at its reorganization meeting, showing that our party-building and outreach in the district really has been paying off. Springfield is ready for more! We plan to reach out to potential Democratic volunteers and voters at the polls on presidential primary day, and keeping building Democratic momentum all through 2008 to be sure that we emerge victorious in the 2009 delegate races.

Our next meeting will be held at 7 pm on January 8 at the Government Center, immediately before the FCDC reorganization meeting. We also plan be at the Road to Richmond event on Jan. 6 to send off our own Senator-elect George Barker and our Delegates Dave Marsden, Chuck Caputo, and Steve Shannon to Richmond in style! ☺

Sully

Mary Lee Cerillo, (703) 830-3435
E-mail: MLCerillo@aol.com

No report available for publication ☺

Eleventh District

George Burke, (202) 288-2104
Email: georgeburke@cox.net

As the New Year begins, our party's focus moves into the federal arena, with races for president, US senator, and congressman. Here in the 11th CD, we already have two announced Democratic candidates for the office and there is some speculation that there are more to come.

Former Congresswoman Leslie Byrne and newcomer Doug Denny are the two announced 11th CD Democratic candidates.

At its last meeting, the 11th Congressional District Democratic Committee decided to hold a Democratic primary, rather than a convention, to give all Democrats the opportunity to vote to choose our nominee. The vote was unanimous. As chair, I will remain neutral in the 11th CD race, but I have encouraged the members of the committee to be active in the upcoming June primary.

It is unclear at this point whether or not

incumbent 11th CD Congressman Tom Davis will seek reelection. Expect an announcement from Davis in January. Either way, we believe Davis is vulnerable based on the changing demographics of the 11th CD and the fact that Davis' margin of victory declines with each successive election, even when he outspends his Democratic opponent by margins of 10 to 1. In the 2006 election, Davis spent more than \$3 million -- more any other congressional campaign -- to win reelection, yet he only won by a 10 point margin.

We just came off the lowest turnout election year of the four-year election cycle in Virginia. We are now moving into what is traditionally the highest turnout year -- a presidential year -- that brings out all of the so-called "federal" voters. We have a good shot at winning the 11th CD seat this year, regardless of whether or not Davis seeks another term. With popular Senate candidate Mark Warner on the ballot and Republicans unhappy with all of their presidential choices, it should be a banner year in the 11th CD.

The 11th CD Committee will be working hard to elect a Democrat to Congress this November -- and we will continue to thank our lucky stars that we have Mark Warner on the ballot to help all Democrats on the November 2008 ballot.

Happy New Year and don't forget to join us for our 3rd annual Super Bowl Party at the home of Sharon and Seth Stark on Sunday, February 3, 2008, beginning at 6 pm. See the flyer in this issue of the Democrat for more information. ☺

Diversity Committee

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Lina Orr, (703) 281-0985
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The Outreach Committee of the Democratic Party of Virginia is sponsoring a seminar on delegate selection on Sat. January 26, 2008 (1:30 to 4 pm) at the Mason Government Center (6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale). This seminar will discuss the February 12 primary, magisterial district caucuses, Congressional district conventions, State convention (June 13-14 in Hampton) and the Democratic National Convention (last week in August). The Democratic Party of Virginia would like to encourage full participation by active Democrats in Virginia. RSVP to Rose Chu. ☺

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National Affairs Committee

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WANTED: ACTIVE DEMOCRATS

What do the following have in common: winning the lottery; taking that dream vacation; achieving “peace on earth and good will toward men;” and having a Democrat in the White House? Those of you who are true cynics – and after seven years of Bush-Cheney, who can blame you? – the answer might be that they are all pipe dreams strung together by ribbons made of pure fantasy. But perhaps a more hopeful response might be that they are events that can only be achieved through effort. You can’t win the lottery without buying a ticket. A dream vacation can’t be enjoyed without planning. Peace on earth can not be achieved by sitting on the sidelines. And a Democrat in the White House will

not happen without active involvement, including voting, in the 2008 presidential campaign.

You may be thinking that because Bush-Cheney and the Republicans in general have done such an unprecedented poor job of leading this nation, then it will be impossible for the democratic nominee to lose in 2008. After all, with the war in Iraq, the overwhelming national debt, the tax credits for the rich, the assault on the environment, the dishonesty in government, the blatant cronyism, and the erosion of civil liberties as being just a few of the black marks against the Republican leadership, then how can anyone do anything but vote for the Democratic candidate later this year? None of these are small things, you say, quickly adding that other major infractions could easily be added to the list. Collectively, they have compromised the standing of our nation in the world, sprung leaks in the levees that have helped hold our nation together for over 200 years, and raised serious doubt as to whether generations that follow ours will be inheriting a better world.

There is little to dispute about this scorecard of the Bush-Cheney record. But much of the same was said back in 2004, too. The incompetence, the lying, the arrogance, the uncaring attitude toward those in need, the contempt for our constitution were very much on display prior to election day in November, 2004. But nevertheless “our guy” did not win. One major reason is because not enough Democratic voters gave Senator Kerry their active support. It’s true, many might have had some misgivings about Kerry, but can any one deny he was not a better choice than Bush?

The point here is that is much too early for us to break out the champagne. One thing that needs to occur between now and November 2008, is that all of us who believe the United States has taken a seriously wrong turn over the past seven years must roll up their sleeves and actively support this year’s Democratic nominee. Whoever this person turns out to be will be a much better choice than what the Republicans have to offer. ☺

Congratulations to our Democratic members of the 11th Urban County Board of Supervisors on the occasion of their swearing in on December 12.





**Reorganization Meeting
 Tuesday January 8, 7:30pm;
 Regular Meeting of the
 FCDC, Tuesday January 22,
 7:30pm, location to be
 determined**

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Calendar of Events

December

12/27/07 7:30 pm Lee District Democratic Committee Meeting, 6229 Edison Road

January

- 1/6/08 11:30 am 2008 Road to Richmond Brunch, McLean Hilton
- 1/8/08 7:30 pm FCDC Biennial Reorganization Meeting, Fairfax County Government Center
- 1/9/08 7:30 pm MDDC Meeting, Mason District Government Center
- 1/10/08 7:30 pm FCDC National Affairs Standing Committee (NAC) Regular Meeting, FCDC HQ
- 1/15/08 7:30 pm FCDC Steering Committee meeting, FCDC HQ
- 1/22/08 7:30 pm Regular Meeting of the FCDC, location to be determined
- 1/24/08 7:30 pm Lee District Democratic Committee Meeting, Franconia Governmental Center
- 1/26/08 1:30 pm Seminar on Delegate Selection, Mason District Government Center

February

- 2/5/08 7:30 pm Springfield District Meeting, Pohick Regional Library
- 2/5/08 7:30 pm FCDC National Affairs Standing Committee (NAC) Regular Meeting
- 2/12/08 6:00 am Virginia Presidential Primary
- 2/12/08 7:30 pm FCDC Steering Committee meeting, FCDC HQ
- 2/13/08 7:30 am MDDC Meeting, Mason District Government Center
- 2/18/08 8:00 pm 8th CD Monthly Meeting, Falls Church Community Center
- 2/28/08 7:30 pm Lee District Democratic Committee Meeting, Franconia Governmental Center

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