



Where Orange County Democrats Come to Meet

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Issue 2

***DEMOCRATIC FOUNDATION OF ORANGE COUNTY
CELEBRATING 25 YEARS!***



Message from the Chair

Since January 3rd, we have witnessed voter participation in the Presidential Primaries and Caucuses across the country, in unprecedented numbers. At the top of the Democratic ticket, we have two extraordinary candidates seeking the nomination --- Democrats will more than likely make history in November.

As many of you know, in late December, I traveled to Iowa to help Senator John Edwards' campaign. While the outcome was not what I expected, participating in the Iowa Caucus process was an eye-opening and worthwhile experience.

Why would someone come to Iowa in the middle of winter? A legitimate question to ask. And why should we consider Iowa important, no matter what the outcome, and no matter who the victor? There are many in California who viewed Iowa irrelevant. I traveled to Iowa believing it was important because the media and the pundits said so --- that could not have been further from the truth. You would think a trial lawyer could have figured that out. If juries can and should make important decisions affecting people's lives, and if focus groups can truly reflect public opinion, than why not the laboratory of Iowa? Why is the slick 30-second commercial in California, with virtually no contact in a meaningful way with the candidates, any more relevant?

I found myself in the middle of the Heartland in the dead of winter. If you believe this election is

about real change and real attitudes by those most affected by national policy --- eliminating the top 1% of those who have accumulated wealth, than Iowa was the place to be; if you believe the lower and middle class are the backbone of this country, then Iowa was the place to be.

It was in Iowa where I met the people of Newton, who are suffering the loss of jobs with the closure of the Maytag plant and the Steelworkers of Des Moines, who are struggling to support their families. It was the people of Marshalltown, where you can actually walk down "Main Street" complete with a traffic light and an old courthouse. These are real towns where people were engaged in the process of electing the next President --- towns similar to the ones we all grew up.

In the months leading up to the November election, we in Orange County have an opportunity to make a real difference in the future of this country. The February 5th California Presidential Primary produced some amazing statistics, particularly in Orange County --- long been viewed as a "Republican stronghold". In two of the five Congressional Districts, currently held by Republicans, Democrats were outperformed by less than 7,000 votes --- and in the 44th, a CD with a registration of 2-1 favoring the Republicans, Democrats outperformed by 234 votes! Encouraging news all!

There has never been a time in history, where your investment in the Democratic Foundation of Orange County holds more value. Because the top of our ticket is so strong, Democrats running in non-partisan School Board and City Council races have an excellent chance for victory in November. All of these candidates will need the help of the DFOC and the resources of its membership to succeed.

Please take a moment to read the DFOC Newsletter and visit our website at

www.dfoc.com, to learn more about what we do. Becoming a member today, will strengthen Democrats in Orange County. Please feel free to give us a call at 714-979-4436 or email us at Karen@dfoc.com

I look forward to working with all of you in the coming months!

Wylie Aitken
Chair



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***Take a look at highlights from DFOC events from 2007 –
Photographs, courtesy of Tony Aloï***



DFOC Goals for 2008

The DFOC has set its goals for the 2008 Election Cycle:

- Create a forum to develop and discuss methods to revitalize the Democratic Party at both the local and national levels.
- Organize special events conducive to networking among DFOC members and provide a vehicle to discuss important local and national policy issues.
- Sponsor regular high-profile events to increase visibility of Democrats and Democratic ideas.
- Provide DFOC Members with introductions and access to key Democratic political leaders and elected officials.
- Devote DFOC resources toward the

production of our ***DFOC Orange County Voter Guide***, to help elect Democrats in both partisan and non-partisan offices.

- Cultivate candidates to enter races as well as mentor candidates currently running for office; provide leadership in voter registration and get-out-the-vote efforts.
- Concentrate DFOC resources on re-electing our local Democratic incumbents, such as Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez along with many local Democratic-elected officials.

In order to achieve each and every one of these goals, the Foundation needs to increase its membership and encourage others to commit their time, talent and resources. If you have not already done so, please consider renewing your DFOC membership. Please encourage others to join!

MEMBERSHIP PACKET AND APPLICATION AVAILABLE ON-LINE

www.dfoc.com.

HOW TO BECOME A CALIFORNIA DELEGATE TO THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION IN DENVER, CO

For those who would like to participate in the Democratic Convention process by becoming a California Delegate, below are steps you need to follow. For more information regarding California Delegate selection, please visit the DFOC website at www.dfoc.com.

California is eligible for 241 District-Level Delegates to the 2008 Democratic National Convention (August 25-28, 2008 at the Pepsi Convention Center, Denver, CO).

Each of California's 53 Congressional Districts are allocated from 3 to 6 "district-level" delegates, based upon population and presidential voting from the 2000 and 2004 elections. Using the same criteria, 40 of the 53 CD's are also allocated 1 Alternate each

Steps to Follow:

You must be a registered Democrat. While Democrats do allow Independents to vote in the CA Primary, only registered Democrats can run as Delegates.

- 1) Selection is done by Congressional District. Attached is a list showing how many Delegates and Alternates are allocated to

each Congressional District. You will note from the attached list, Loretta's CD does not qualify for an Alternate.

- 2) **Beginning January 15, 2008. FORM A**, will be available on the California Democratic Party website: www.cadem.org. **Form A must be completed online and/or faxed back by April 2, 2008. In addition, the CA Dem Party requires your original signature. In addition to submitting on line or faxing back the form, you must also mail the original to: 1401 21st Street, Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95811.**
- 3) When filing Form A, you must pledge your support for one Presidential Candidate. However, should your chosen candidate drop out of the Presidential race prior to the Form A filing deadline – April 2, 2008, you have the option to re-file Form A and pledge your support to one of the remaining candidates.
- 4) A California Delegate is selected this time around through an election process, which means, you will need to line up as many family and friends as you can to cast their vote for you. Each must be a registered Democrat and registered to vote in the Congressional District where you are running.

5) **On Sunday, April 13, 2008**, you and your supporters attend your Presidential Candidate's Caucus. Your supporters can begin voting once they have signed in and received their ballot. The Presidential Caucus will begin at 3:00PM (although the doors will open at 2:00PM to allow people to sign in). The process allows for speeches, etc., but supporters can leave once they've cast their ballot. Anyone in line at 3:00PM will be allowed to vote.

6) Once the speeches are over and everyone signed in has cast their vote --- the votes are then tallied. The Presidential Campaign

Committee and the California Democratic Party will notify and confirm all winners in each CD.

7) The key to winning is to invite as many supporters (registered Democrats) who live in your Congressional District as possible so they can vote for you. You can also bring signs and pass out literature, buttons, etc. Of course, you can always pick up extra votes by giving an inspiring one-minute speech, which should focus on your political passions.



DFOC Upcoming Events

Monday,
March 24th –Lunch – Noon – 1:30PM

The DFOC will be hosting Speakers' Luncheon Series on Monday, March 24th at the Caspian Restaurant, 14100 Culver Drive, Heritage Square, Irvine, CA 92604, from Noon until 1:30PM. Featured will be:

Beth Krom – Mayor, Irvine
Rose Espinoza, Mayor, La Habra
Sharon Quirk – Mayor, Fullerton
Katrina Foley, Councilwoman, Costa Mesa
Toni Iseman – Laguna Beach City Council
Lorri Galloway, Councilwoman, Anaheim
And Debbie Cook, Mayor Huntington Beach and candidate for Congress
in the 46th Congressional District.

The luncheon will feature a panel discussion with these successful and trail-blazing women leaders, highlighting their legislative accomplishments in turning Orange County green. Please watch your mail for additional information regarding this important event.

SAVE THE DATE

***DFOC Annual Dinner in celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the
Foundation
Details to Follow Soon***



Please Join Us in Welcoming New DFOC Members!

John Hueston

Attorney

Irrell & Manella, LLP

John is a litigation partner at Irrell & Manella, LLP, focusing on trial practice and securities law, corporate crisis management, internal investigations, complex civil litigation, intellectual property litigation and white collar criminal defense. John represents a wide range of clients from large Fortune 100 companies and governments, such as the Navajo Nation, to smaller businesses and individuals, including a co-founder of a multi-billion dollar internet business.

As a Prosecutor, Mr. Hueston was presented with four awards by each of the last three US Attorneys General for his trial work. He has never lost a trial. *Forbes Magazine* noted of his work in the trial of Jeffrey Skilling and Kenneth Lay, where he served as a lead prosecutor. "John Hueston was quickly able to establish a clear, uninterrupted connection between fraudulent activities at Enron and the two defendants...a methodically researched presentation of evidence proving the defendants' guilt." The *Los Angeles Times* described Mr. Hueston's cross-examination of Lay as "devastating" and the *Associated Press* called him "The perfect David to Lay's Goliath". Welcome to the DFOC John!

Nora Lehman

Writer

Nora was born in Westport, Connecticut and grew up in New Hope Pennsylvania. She split her schooling between a Friends School (Quaker) in the Fall and Spring, and in Winter, she and her family sought refuge in Manhattan, from the worst of the snow, and there, Nora attended Lincoln, a progressive school. In 1942, Nora made her way West to California where she attended Bishop's school in La Jolla and then went on to UCLA.

Nora moved to Orange County in 1958, where she has worked for three newspapers:

The Ensign, The Orange County Register and the *Daily Pilot*. In addition, she had her own magazine in the early '80's. Nora has done a great deal of volunteer work in Orange County and served on Boards ranging from her kids' PTA's to the Health Planning Council the Mental Health Association, Child guidance Clinic, Mardan School, Planned Parenthood, the Philharmonic Society, Pacific Symphony and the Orange County Museum of Art (formerly the Newport Harbor Art Museum). She has counseled with the Crisis and Suicide Prevention Center (when UCI Hospital was the County Hospital) and has also served as the Chair of the Social Services Committee. Welcome to the DFOC Nora!

Rima Nashashibi

Manager, Insurance Division, AIG Risk Management

Rima is an American Palestinian born in Jerusalem. She currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Democratic Party of Orange County. When elected in 1998, Rima was the first Arab-American to serve in this position. Rima has an extensive record of political involvement with the Democratic Party as well as other political activities for a period of more than 18 years. Rima has served as a delegate to the California Democratic Party since 1988. Rima is also President of the National Women's Political Caucus of Orange County (NWPCOC).

Rima has had her share of public recognition for her activism, including being selected as one of ten public figures, elected officials and activists profiled in Paul Findley's book "*Silent No More: Confronting America's False Images of Islam*." Rima is also the subject of a documentary on her life "Min Al Mahjar". She was the first recipient of the Dr. Consuelo Nieto Patriotic Activism Award in 2003 from the 55th, 56th and 67th Democratic Assembly District Committee. She attended the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, majoring in Economics. She currently works in Los Angeles, CA as the Manager, Insurance Services Division, AIG Risk Management, a member company of American International Group, AIG. Welcome to the DFOC Rima!

Paul Moses

Attorney

Paul A. Moses is an attorney with offices in Irvine. His solo practice concentrates on bankruptcy matters and alternative dispute resolution. Paul is a member of the Bankruptcy Mediation Panel for the Central District of California and also a Federal Court mediator. A life-long Democrat, Paul was assistant campaign manager for the Bergen County, New Jersey, McGovern campaign. When not practicing law, he serves on the Leadership Counsel and Campaign Executive Committee of Oxfam America and on the Leadership Counsel of Amnesty International. Welcome to the DFOC Paul!

Ronald B. Schwartz

Attorney

Ronald B. Schwartz has over 34 years of trial experience with an AV rating from Martindale Hubbell Law Directory for well over 20 years in the areas of Personal Injury, Insurance Bad Faith, Product Liability, and Wrongful Death. With primary offices in Newport Beach, Mr. Schwartz is known for a variety of consumer verdicts. In representing injured victims of drunk drivers, Schwartz won a 5.3 million dollar verdict arguing a novel theory of civil conspiracy, proving teenagers conspired to party at their parents' homes and then drive. He won a landmark jury verdict in Los Angeles against Sue Bee Honey, which resulted in warning labels being placed on honey containers stating: "Do not feed honey to infants less than one year of age." He has helped consumers win cases against major corporations and insurance companies. He and his team continue to successfully represent victims of sexual abuse. Recently, the Schwartz firm has obtained multi-million dollar recoveries for mold-related bad-faith personal injury claims throughout California.

Ron is Past President of the Orange County Trial Lawyers Association, a founding member of the Celtic Bar Association and has previously been named "Trial Lawyer of the Year" by the Orange County Trial Lawyers Association. He was recognized as a Southern California Super Lawyer in 2007, and is included in the Best Lawyers in America for 2006 and 2007. Some of you may also know Ron and his wife Sindi, as the proprietors of Muldoon's in Newport Beach. Welcome to the DFOC Ron!

William Weinberg

Attorney

William Weinberg, a resident of Santa Ana, practices criminal defense throughout Southern California, focusing on serious felony matters. A lifelong Democrat, he sees criminal law as a way to practice Democratic values of individual rights, curbing government power, and restoring balance to the relationship between the individual and the State. With two future Democrats and his wife, Marci, Bill is excited about joining the Foundation and extending its core values deeper into our community. Welcome to the DFOC Bill!

Brett Williams

Attorney

O'Melveny & Myers, LLP

Brett is the Managing Partner of O'Melveny and Myers, LLP's Newport Beach office and a member of the Firm's Intellectual Property and Technology practice. He specializes in representing high-technology companies in intellectual property matters, with an emphasis on patent infringement, technology trade secrets and antitrust litigation. He was named a "Super Lawyer" for 2007 in a survey conducted by Law & Politics Media, Inc. and published in *Los Angeles* magazine and described as a "notable trade secret lawyer" by *Legal 500*.

Welcome to the DFOC Brett!

Hoa Van Tran

Attorney

In search of freedom, Hoa Van Tran escaped by boat in 1980 from the Communist Regime of Vietnam. Since arriving in Orange County in 1980, he has fought against adversity. He has held various jobs from picking strawberries to being a custodian while attending high school.

To protect freedom and democracy, Hoa Van Tran joined the US Army in 1984. His brother, Su Van Tran, also joined the US Navy at the same time. Hoa Van Tran is a former Military Intelligence Officer with the US Army. He served during the First Gulf War in Saudi Arabia in 1991 and in West Germany during the Cold War between 1984 and 1986. He served in the US Army and US Army Reserve for over 15 years and received numerous medals and awards. After coming back from the Gulf War, he worked full time for the Orange County Public Defenders Office and attended law school at the same time. Hoa is a consumer attorney and is running for Supervisor in the 1st District. Welcome to the DFOC Hoa!

***A Special Thank You to
DFOC Members Who Have Renewed Their Membership!***

**Frank Barbaro
Bill Blume
Pat Douglass
Michael Glover
The Hon. John Hanna
Brig. General David Henley
Daniel Hodes
VerLyn (Sonny) Jensen
Gerard Kenny
Phu Nguyen
Richard O'Neill
Harold Price**

**Sandra Price
Geoffrey Stack
Robert Steins
Robert Sterman
Carol Wallin
Ed Wallin
Elaine Weinberg
Louis Weiner
Myra Weiner
Joseph White, Ph.D.
Craig Wolf**

Be sure to go to www.dfoc.com for election and campaign information.