

The Alexandria Democrat

Dear Alexandria Democrats:

We certainly do live in interesting times. We Democrats are blessed with two marvelous candidates for President. All the other party has is a guy who says he really doesn't understand the economy -- and he wants to stay in Iraq for 100 years, but he can't seem to figure out which faction over there is in cahoots with Iran.

Either **Hillary Clinton** or **Barack Obama** can do cartwheels around Bush-Lite. No matter which Democrat you support, we hope that you will join us on April 22 to watch the results of the Pennsylvania Primary. See page 4 for details.

Democrats in Motion -- The Alexandria Caucus, the Eighth District Convention and the Virginia Convention

Since we only have a Presidential election every four years and our memories fade, I have been asked to go over the Caucus and Convention process once again.

The process starts with local caucuses, which select the delegates who go on to both the Congressional District and the State Conventions. There is no winnowing down -- if you are a delegate to the CD convention, you are a delegate to the State Convention. Alexandria will have 54 delegates and 27 Alternates -- 35 delegates and 18 alternates for Obama; 19 delegates and 9 alternates for Clinton. These numbers were determined by the vote in the February 12 primary. The deadline to file for delegate or alternate is April 14th. The filing forms are available from the ADC office or on our web site,

If the number of filings is the same as the number of allocated delegates and alternates, it will not be necessary to hold an Alexandria caucus. However if more people file than there are slots, a caucus will be held on April 19th, with early voting on the 17th and late voting on the 21st. Each filing category is a separate caucus. It is possible that we could have a caucus for Clinton alternates and Obama delegates, any other combination or no caucus at all.

Our next step is the Eighth District Convention, which will be held in Alexandria on May 17th at Hammond Middle School. This convention will adopt resolutions, elect delegates to the National Convention in Denver and elect an Elector. The National Convention delegates will be 2 males for Obama, 2 females for Obama, 1 male for Clinton, 2 females for Clinton and 1 male alternate for Obama. Alexandria's own Marian Van Landingham is running to be the Eighth District's member of the Electoral College.

On June 13th and 14th, the Eighth District delegates and alternates will travel to Hampton, where they will become delegates to the State Convention. This convention will adopt resolutions, elect delegates to the National Convention and elect two more Electors and the Virginia members of the Democratic National Committee. The delegate allocation is 6 males and 6 females for Obama, 3 males and 3 females for Clinton. Alternates will be 1 male and 1 female for Obama and 1 female for Clinton.

The form to use to file for National Delegate or Alternate is at <http://www.va8thcddems.org/2008-district-convention>. The deadline to file to run at the Eighth District Convention is May 2nd; the deadline for the State Convention is June 2nd.

To those of you who are making the effort to run for delegate or alternate at either the State or National level, we thank you so much for your dedication. See you at the Legislative Wrap-up and Dessert Party!

Susan Kellom,
Chair

Alexandria Democratic Committee

April 2008

Legislative Wrap-up and Dessert Party:

Monday, April 7

Dessert at 7:00pm. ADC
Meeting and Legislative
Report at 8:00 pm.

Hear what really happened
in Richmond.

See pages 4, 7 for more
information

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Hillary Clinton: A Candidate for all Ages by Hazel and Ron Rigby

Senator Hillary Clinton is: Qualified, confident, reassuring, “statesmanlike”. Once you hear her speak, you will agree with our assessment. People respond to Hillary when they meet or see her in person--her poised look and manner, her positive message, her plans for action, her quick wit, her ability to handle criticism with tough but intelligent responses.

We have made thousands of calls to almost every State in the Nation. We are talking with enthusiastic people who are responding to Hillary and her message; people who are spreading the word. At this writing she is moving ahead – leading in polls in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Indiana.

When we make these calls we hear many personal stories of Hillary’s involvement and help. For example: A woman from Arkansas told how, after her husband died, she lost his share of Social Security payments and had to move to a trailer park to reduce rent and expenses. After trying in many ways to get help she decided to call Hillary, personally. After talking with a staff member in the White House, Hillary came on the phone, heard her story and sent her the necessary forms to get help. Hillary told the woman to tell her staff to call her if she didn't get a positive response. The woman got the help she needed and was able to move into an apartment for the elderly. She said she would vote for Hillary in the primary if she had to be taken on a "gurney." We hear many such stories -- just like Rep. Moran's story about her appearance at the bedside of his daughter. This is a woman who moves her thoughts and compassion into action.

We make the calls because we believe this woman will be a great balance of policy and diplomacy, knowledge and action, and personal responsiveness when she becomes President. People of all ages agree with us!

We ask you to join us at the call center in Arlington, near the Ballston Metro. We are currently calling into Indiana and Pennsylvania. Even better, join us in a road trip to Pennsylvania before the April 22 primary there and listen to the cares and concerns of the people. To get more info, go to www.hillaryclinton.com.



This young supporter met Hillary at her rally in Manassas. Rebecca Bedelstein and her mother came, unsolicited, to City Hall Precinct to work for Hillary on Primary day.



Teens for Hillary are greeted by Hillary and Chelsea (her back to camera) at Constitution Hall, March 26

These Just In —

The Alexandria Democratic Committee has purchased a supply of yard signs, bumper stickers and pins from the “Dem Store” and they are now available at the ADC office for your buying and displaying pleasure. Yard signs are \$4.00; Bumper Stickers are \$2.00 and Pins are \$2.00. Show your support for the candidates of your choice, including, of course, Clinton, Obama, Warner, Jim Moran, Brian Moran.

The ADC office, at 618 N. Washington St. is staffed on Mon., Wed. and Friday from 10-3:00 – and most weeks, Tue. and Thurs. as well. Call before you come in: 703-549-3367.

On the campaign trail.....On the campaign trail.....On the campaign trail

Obama Rises to Occasion Inspires Nation with Speech on Race Relations

Receives Gov. Bill Richardson's Endorsement

by Paul A. Friedman

On Tuesday, March 18, **Sen. Barack Obama** lifted the country and showed that words do matter when he addressed race relations in our nation and made clear his opposition to the offensive comments made by his former pastor, the Rev. Jeremiah Wright, in a handful of sermons he has given over the past decade.

Praised from coast-to-coast in editorials for condemning the remarks at issue while, at the same time, opening a much needed conversation on race relations with honesty and intelligence, his historic speech was compared to Sen. John F. Kennedy's on the separation of church and state in connection with his own Catholicism in 1960 and, of course, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have A Dream" speech in 1963.

Indeed, even strong Sen. Hillary Clinton supporter, ADC member, long-time Virginia Democratic Party activist, national committee member, and superdelegate, Mame Reiley, said that Barack's speech "proved to the nation that he's more than just an inspirational speaker, he's a true leader."

Barack has faced criticism for his former pastor's remarks largely because he was married by Wright and often described him as a spiritual mentor. The fact remains though Rev. Wright does not speak for Barack and guilt by association is wrong. Moreover, Barack's career and campaign have been consistently about hope and unity.

Remarkably, former Gov. Mike Huckabee, offered understanding for the feelings underlying some of Wright's remarks. He said "I grew up in a very segregated south and ... we've got to cut some slack to people who were called names and were being told you have to sit in the balcony when you go to a movie, you have to go to the back door to go in a restaurant and you can't sit out there with everyone else, there's a separate waiting room in the doctor's office, here's where you sit on a bus and, you know what, sometimes people do have a chip on their shoulder and resentment and you have to say I might have had one too. In fact, I might even have had more of a chip on my shoulder had it been me."

Huckabee's comments throw a wrench into the plans of those on the right who are planning to run negative ads on this to destroy Barack's chances should he be the nominee. At the same time, it is now incumbent upon Sen. John McCain to repudiate the offensive statements made by religious leaders, like the Rev. John Hagee, whose endorsements he has sought to curry favor with the evangelical base of the Republican Party.

Now, after his courageous speech, and with the support of people like Gov. Bill Richardson, Barack Obama is ready to win the nomination, win the presidency, responsibly end the war in Iraq, re-prioritize our national budget, provide national health care, and strengthen our economy. For more information on how to help, go to www.barackobama.com. To give credit to **Alexandria Democrats for Obama** when you donate, go to <http://my.barackobama.com/page/outreach/view/main/PAF>.

"Senator Obama gave a great speech on race in America. We are all the product of the people around us, family members, church leaders and even adversaries. We chose from what we hear, what we will believe in, and what we will reject. We argue with our better angels, resulting in the people we become. Senator Obama has become a great leader, taking us from stereotypes which divide us, to showing how we can join together"...Dorthea Peters, Co-chair, Alexandria Democrats for Obama.

To attend a special gathering with **D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty** and Barack Obama's campaign pollster, Anna Bennett, on Thursday evening, April 10, at DD Danforth Burlin's home in Washington, D.C., please contact me at paulfriedman@comcast.net or 703-671-3843.

Resolutions Committee Votes To Urge Speeding of the Nomination Process

by Dick Hobson

On Thursday, March 19, the Alexandria Democratic Committee's Resolutions Committee voted by a vote of 9 – 2, in favor of encouraging all superdelegates to make their presidential choice known by no later than June 10. Mame Reilly, an ADC member and a national committee member elected by the 2004 Virginia State Convention and a super-delegate this year, attended the meeting.

While the full Alexandria Democratic Committee won't take this resolution up until Monday, April 7, the committee vote suggests that Democrats can come together to support an early decision on a presumptive nominee.

Legislative “Wrap-up” — and Sweets to Start Us Off

by Julie N. Jakopic

In January, we held a "Legislative Preview" to send off our legislators to Richmond for the 2008 session. Now they have returned and want to give us their good news and not-so-good news, but news, nonetheless. Come and recognize them and their work on our behalf and hear what they were able to accomplish and what they hope to accomplish in the future, at 7:00pm, April 7th, just before the ADC meeting at Minnie Howard School, 3801 W. Braddock Road, downstairs in the cafeteria.

So that we may partake of all the sweetness we can get—huge quantities of chocolate in all forms especially welcome—(which we will have provided for each other), the "Sweets" portion of the meeting begins at 7:00 pm with lots of goodies and the chance to hear from our Delegation about what really happened in Richmond. What bills passed? What bills flopped? What does it all mean to Alexandria? The Wrap-Up will wrap-up with an auction of confectionary contributions.

Please plan to join us at this "fun"draiser - \$7.00 per Adult, \$15.00 Cookie Monster, \$25.00 Chocoholic, \$50.00 Decadent Devourer of Desserts (Students – free).

If you wish to contribute at the Cookie Monster Level or above, please email us at office@alexdem.org so that we can list you as a supporter. If you can't make it and wish to contribute, please go to www.alexdem.org and download and fill out a contribution form.

We can still use a few more sweets and a little set up/take down help. Please call 703-549-3367 or email office@alexdem.org if you can help. Bring your goodies to the downstairs cafeteria of Minnie Howard School at or before 7:00 pm.

Remember, the calories do not count if eaten while analyzing legislation so come hungry for sweets and knowledge, and plan to join us for dessert at 7:00, then the regular ADC meeting will begin at 8:00 p.m. See page 7 for more information.

Congratulations to:

Charniele Herring

- In January 2008, Governor Kaine appointed Charniele to the State Council on the Status of Women;
- In February 2008, she was elected President of the West End Business Association.

Anna Leider upon election to Secretary of the Alexandria Electoral Board

If you have recently joined a board or commission, or you have received a promotion or award, please tell us so that we may share your good news.

Email to marianneanderson@verizon.net.

Leadership Circle needs your support!

by Mark Feldheim

The expense of keeping our Alexandria Democratic Committee office open, staffed and operational will continue to increase in the months leading up to the election, and, notwithstanding the dedicated efforts of a number of volunteers and generous donors, we need your support now!

Please contribute whatever you can to support Leadership Circle. Contributions are used to pay office expenses and are subject to federal election laws.

To pledge contribute or inquire, please contact Mark Feldheim at mark.feldheim@verizon.net. Pledge forms and payment arrangements are available!

Primary Return Watching Party Invitation from Charniele Herring

- WHEN:** April 22, 2008, 6-10 PM
WHERE: 715 N. Ashton St., Alexandria, VA 22312
WHY: Because it is the tradition of the ADC members to come together and support all of our Democratic candidates no matter whom we favor.

You've read and listened to the pundits who say that as a result of the continuing race between Obama and Hillary the Democratic Party is splitting asunder. They obviously haven't been to an Alexandria Democratic Committee primary return party! We will support whomever receives the Party nomination and, as always, we will watch the election results together. Please join us. Email me at: cherringlaw@yahoo.com or call the ADC office at: 703-549-3367, or just come!

Alexandria Earth Day Alexandria: What's Your Footprint?

by Carolyn Cason

Alexandria Earth Day is now in its 15th year and has become Alexandria's premier environmental festival. On Saturday, April 26th, 2008, Earth Day in Alexandria will be celebrated at Ben Brenman Park (in Cameron Station, just off Duke St., across from the Charles Beatley Library) from 10 AM to 2 PM.

Earth Day has become an important educational experience for our city's youth involved in scouting programs, 4-H, and other school-based environmental programs—and for adults! This year's theme is **Alexandria: What's YOUR Footprint?** and will focus on everyday activities citizens can do to reduce their environmental footprint.

At the event, **Art for Humanity** will be collecting clothing, linens, shoes, microwaves, baby strollers, tools, pots & pans, backpacks, tires, computers, latex paint, mattresses. **Diana's Books** will collect gently used DVDs, VHS tapes, musical CDs, data CDs, audio cassettes, audio books, and of course, books. **Recycle ink** will collect used ink jet and laser printer and fax cartridges. **Subtractions** will collect all Computers & Components, including servers, networks, routers, monitors, LCDs, CRTs, hard drives, memory chips, nicad batteries, ups devices, TVs, printers, copiers. Visit www.alexearthday.org for more details or if you're interested in volunteering.

ADC Adopt-a Block event: It is that time of year again for our Duke Street Clean-Up. This year we have scheduled it for Earth Day, Saturday April 26. Please join us in the Sears Automotive parking area at Landmark. Coffee, water, donuts and conversation from 8:00 to 8:30 AM and our clean-up project begins at 8:30 AM. The more volunteers we have, the sooner we finish. We are usually done before 10:00 AM. Trash bags, gloves & safety vests provided. Last minute help is always welcome, but it would be helpful if you let us know you are coming. Contact Mark Feldheim at 703.739.9772 or mark.feldheim@verizon.net

A Belated Thank You: to our friend and fellow ADC member, Ellen Miles, as a volunteer who helped us at the West End Presidential Primary Extravaganza last month. Charniele Herring and I are grateful for her support and enthusiasm.
Diana Bedoya

Political Trivia Quiz: (a monthly or occasional quiz to test your political history astuteness)

Three U. S. Presidents were born in the Carolinas. What else do these three have in common?

The first person with the correct answer will be highlighted in the May ADC Newsletter. (Until we develop mugs and paperweights, we know you'll be content with your name in print.) Send your answer to F. J. Pepper by e-mail fjpeppermd@aol.com, fax (703)823-2429, or home phone (voice mail) (703)751-0770.

F. J. Pepper, M.D.
St. Martin's Precinct

VAN 101 Part 2

by Holly Wallace

So, the VAN (**Voter Activation Network**, in case you need a refresher from last month) has been loaded with voter registration information from the State Board of Elections. It also contains assorted other information that was acquired from people like you who talked to voters and gathered even more data. Almost everyone in the ADC will be involved with the VAN in some way before November -- using it, requesting lists for a specific project, or through phone banking, canvassing and lit drops. So... what can we do with the data?

Lists, lists, and more lists ...

All VAN related projects involve creating a list of voters. The first step is always to carefully define **WHY** a list is needed, **WHO** the target audience is, the **SCOPE** of the project, and the **FORMAT**. Careful planning will ensure better results and happier volunteers.

WHY is the list needed? Survey calls, lit drop, GOTV, canvassing, postcard mailing, event invitations, etc.

WHO can be targeted? Young people, seniors, specific precincts, everyone who voted in the last 3 elections, all the ID'd Democrats for a lit drop, all the Independents for persuasion calling, people who signed up for yard signs last year, all the people who live on a particular street, the Democratic Party of Virginia's (DPVA) pre-defined target list, etc.

What is the **SCOPE** of the project – how many names do you need? If you are doing a mailing, you probably have a budget that will accommodate only a certain quantity of voters. If there is a ton of lit and a lot of available volunteers, then a larger list is appropriate.

The VAN provides lists in several printed **FORMATS**: mailing labels, form letters, canvassing forms with survey questions, phone banking forms, etc.

VAN's new ways to work and plan

The VAN makes it possible to conduct phone banking directly on the computer and record the results – no paper calling sheets and all results are recorded immediately.

If you've ever been stuck with a highlighter in your hand marking walk maps, you'll be happy to know that the VAN offers great walk packet assistance. When lists are created for canvassing or lit drop purposes a map can be printed right along with the list of voters. A feature called "turf cutting" allows the VAN user to easily separate a large walking list into manageable chunks, then print out a complete walk packet including both the list of voters and a map, complete with little tags to indicate where each voter lives.

A cool feature of the VAN is its ability to quickly and easily create charts showing various voter characteristics. For example: how many unidentified voters are in each precinct? What is the percentage of 18-24 year old voters in each precinct? The answers to these and similar questions can help to plan voter interaction events.

Coming soon... the VAN will provide a volunteer management tool called "My Campaign" to replace a previously offered tool called "Donkey".

Speaking of Voter Data...

by Matt Harris and Charniele Herring

This is a "mark your calendars" item: Matt Harris and Charniele Herring (Precinct Operations Deputy Chairs, East and West precincts, respectively), request the honor of the presence of all of the Precinct Captains to a one-hour meeting beginning at 7:00 pm on May 5, prior to the 8:00 regular meeting of the ADC.

Precinct captains should be prepared to discuss their precinct "mapping" progress. We are trying to make a concerted effort to finish the mapping project as soon as possible.

At this meeting we will also discuss our plan for a future precinct captains' retreat to be held on a yet -to-be-determined Saturday morning.

Though there is a lot of overlap with the Alexandria Democratic Committee's outreach efforts, both outreach and precinct operations plan to work together to recruit ADC members to staff ADC tables at the various festivals planned in Alexandria.

**2008 Annual Democratic Legislative Wrap-up
& Dessert Party**

What REALLY happened in Richmond?

Senator Patsy Ticer Senator Dick Saslaw
Delegate Brian Moran Delegate Adam Ebbin
Delegate David Englin

Monday, April 7, 2008, 7:00 PM
Minnie Howard School Cafeteria, 3801 West Braddock Road, Alexandria

\$7 per Adult \$15 — Cookie Monster \$25 — Chocoholic
\$50 — Decadent Devourer of Desserts (Students Free)

Yes! — We need more desserts and help with set up and clean up. Please call the ADC office, 703-549-3367
 Reservations are appreciated, but not required. Children are welcome. Donations of \$15 or more will be posted at the event.

Please mail this coupon to the Alexandria Democratic Committee, 618 North Washington Street, Ground Floor, Suite 2, Alexandria, Va. 22314. For further information, call the Alexandria Democratic Committee office (703) 549-3367

Name (s) _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Email _____

Occupation _____ Employer _____

Employer's Address _____

____ I (we) will be unable to attend, but have enclosed _____ to help the Alexandria Democratic Committee to support our Democratic candidates and issues.

Legislative Wrap-Up and Dessert Party Reservations

____ Adult(s) @ \$7.00 ____ Cookie Monster(s) @ \$15.00 ____ Chocoholic(s) @ \$25.00
 ____ Decadent Devourer of Desserts @ \$50.00

Contributions are not tax deductible for federal income taxes purposes. Your contribution may be used in connection with federal elections and is subject to the limitations and prohibitions of the Federal Election Campaign Act. State law requires political committees to report the name, address, occupation and employer of individuals whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$100 in a calendar year. Federal law requires the Alexandria Democratic Committee to use its best efforts to collect and report the name, address, occupation and employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year. Corporate and PAC contributions will be accepted for deposit in the ADC State account.

Authorized and Paid for by The Alexandria Democratic Committee



Posing before the start of the St. Patrick's Day Parade, March 1

Mayor Bill Euille leads the way in St. Patrick's Day Parade



Alexandria Democratic Committee

618 N. Washington Street
Ground Floor, Suite 2
Alexandria, VA 22314

Phone: 703-549-3367

www.alexdem.org

April 7 ADC Meeting:

Annual Legislative Wrap-up and
Dessert Party
Starts at 7:00 pm
See pages 4 and 7

Executive Board:

Chair

Susan B. Kellom SusanBKellom@aol.com

Deputy Chair for Finance & Administration

Julie N. Jakopic julie@creatingthevision.com

Deputy Chair for Precinct Operations – East

Matt Harris matsharris@hotmail.com

Deputy Chair for Precinct Operations – West

Charniele Herring cherringlaw@yahoo.com

Clerk

Mary Lyman mslyman@verizon.net

Treasurer

Elisabeth Campbell campfair@comcast.net

Public Information Officer Marianne Anderson

marianneanderson@verizon.net

Technology Officer

Holly Wallace hjw@radix.net

Resolutions Officer

Richard R.G. Hobson

rhobson@mcquirewoods.com

Community Outreach Officers

Diana Bedoya dbedoya67@yahoo.com

H. Scott Johnson hscottjohnson@gmail.com

Volunteer Coordinators

Scott Price saprice@vhtp.org

Amanda Ruff amanda.ruff@verizon.net

Leadership Circle

Mark Feldheim mark.feldheim@verizon.net

Parliamentarian

Craig Fifer craig@fifer.net

Legal Counsel

Jim Lay jim@laymoore.com

Young Democrats Liaison

John Chapman j.taylor.chapman@gmail.com

Immediate Past Chair

Paul Smedberg SmedbergPC@aol.com

Pct	Name	Precinct Captain	Phone #	Email address
101	Ladrey Senior Bldg	Vacant		
102	City Hall	Hazel & Ron Rigby	703-548-2422	hrigby@aol.com
103	Lyles Crouch School	Vacant		
104	Durant Center	Mark Feldheim	703-739-9772	mark.feldheim@verizon.net
105	The Lee Center	PJ Palmer-Johnson	703-566-0856	drepj@aol.com
106	Cora Kelly Rec Center	Ed Walters	703-863-3278	ed.walters@gmail.com
107	Mt. Vernon Rec Center	Paul Cox	571-332-6474	dragon2eden@gmail.com
108	George Washington	Vacant		
109	Fire Dept. HQ	Marianne Anderson	703.548.0295	marianneanderson@verizon.net
		Trish Curran	703.549.9064	pdclkg@msn.com
201	Maury School	Mark Schofield	703.517.7510	marklynnschofield@gmail.com
202	George Mason School	Pat Butler	703.549.0177	phbraven@msn.com
203	Agudas Achim Cong.	Paul Friedman	703.671.3843	paulfriedman@comcast.net
204	Blessed Sacrament	Barbara Brenman	703.548.9485	bbrenman@netzero.net
205	MacArthur School	Dick Hobson	703.370.1858	rhobson@mcquirewoods.com
206	Chinquapin Rec Cen	Bill Dickinson	703.370.3089	wdickin953@aol.com
207	Temple Beth El	Jack Sullivan	703.370.3039	jack.sullivan9@verizon.net
208	NOVA Arts Center	Vacant		
209	James K. Polk School	Doratheia Peters	703.399-5654	doratheapeters@netzero.com
210	St. James Church	David Colton	703-256-2911	coltonva@verizon.net
302	St. Martin Rec Cen.	Dr. FJ Pepper	703.751.0770	fjpeppermd@aol.com
303	Beatley Library	Jamal Awamleh	703.786.4198	jawamleh@msn.com
		Jacqueline Meeks	703.823.0961	jackiemeeks@comcast.net
304	Tucker School	Vacant		
305	John Adams School	Vacant		
306	Wm.Ramsay RecCen.	Carolyn Herring	703.658.2305	cherringlaw@yahoo.com
307	South Port Apartments	Libby Cooperman	703.370.9064	lcooperm@aacn.nche.edu
308	Cameron Station	Derek Hyra	703.751.2725	hyra.home1@verizon.net

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