

# The Alexandria Democrat

## Dear Alexandria Democrats:

The primary, if not the only, topic of discussion among Democrats for the past few months has been “the Primary — who are you voting for?” My answer — and I hope yours — is that I am **FOR** my candidate, but I am **NOT AGAINST** the other candidates.

As a Democrat, I have been so proud of our candidates for President. They exhibited knowledge, foresight, compassion and thoughtfulness. They exemplify the kind of leadership that America needs. We need a leader who will be able to pull us out of the morass that W has sunk us into.

The world now views our current leader as a buffoon, a fabricator and a cruel autocrat with no regard for human rights. Constitution — Schmonstitution!!! If he doesn't like a law, he simply signs it, winks and signs another document saying he has no intention of enforcing it. A real man would veto a bill he did not believe in. This simpering coward goes “heh, heh, heh” and wanders off to waterboard someone. The past nearly eight years have been a living nightmare for those of us who believe that the United States of America is a nation of due process and people of good will.

Impeachment has never been more warranted, but the alternative was even more unthinkable. The prospect of Dick Cheney as President was even worse than our present situation.

Whoever emerges as our Democratic nominee will be a fine representative of our country. Our nominee will lead the United States into a new day of true world leadership and commitment to the principles our country stood for until the year 2000. Our nominee deserves our wholehearted support and I do believe that we will be the most unified Democratic Party ever.

It is my firm belief that Virginia WILL vote for the Democratic nominee for President and that the Virginia Democratic Electors will go to Richmond in December to actually vote for our new President. I hope that all of you who are delegates to the Eighth District Convention on May 17<sup>th</sup> will join in supporting former Delegate **Marian VanLandingham** to be our Elector.

As we go forward to November, let us all come together to have a rousing, happy and successful adventure. We can and we will restore America to be an example of democracy and justice.

Susan Kellom



Scenes from the George Washington Birthday Parade Feb. 18, 2008



## Alexandria Democratic Committee

### March 2008



The St. Patrick's Day Parade in Alexandria is Saturday, March 1 — a great opportunity for Alexandria Democrats to show their community spirit. Parade starts at King and West Sts. at 12:30 and moves east on King to Fairfax. Help is needed earlier to make this a memorable event. See page 8 for details.

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## Obama Victorious in Virginia with 64%, Alexandria with 65%

Then Wins His 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> States in a Row in Wisconsin and Hawaii

*Commentary by Paul A. Friedman*

**Winning every one of the 26 precincts in Alexandria by at least 55 percent, including two (Durant and Cora Kelly) by over 70%, Illinois Senator Barack Obama won a one-sided victory in perhaps the most influential Democratic Presidential primary ever held in Virginia.**

In a turning point for his national campaign, Virginia voters of all demographic stripes supported Obama, most significantly white women, people earning under \$50,000 a year, and Latinos. In addition, 60% of Democrats said they trusted Barack more on the war, health care, and the economy. They connected with his campaign of hope and the desire to be part of change we can believe in!

Perhaps affecting the result was Barack Obama's electric visit to **T.C. Williams High School** on Sunday, February 10, which appeared to be the largest multi-cultural/multi-generational event ever held in our community. Approximately 5,000 Alexandrians, Northern Virginians and others, lined up for hours in advance, eventually filling up the gym and two overflow rooms. Folks not only heard an inspiring speech from Barack about working together to bring about change in Washington, but got specific answers on a wide range of issues as a result of questions from random members of the audience, including a mother from Hawaii - Obama's home state. One example, Commonwealth's Attorney, Randy Sengel, made his mind up for Barack as a result of seeing him in person at this historic gathering.

While Virginia went for Barack Obama in a Democratic primary though, we all know the real prize is still to come. We have good news there too though! According to a poll sponsored by News 7 in Roanoke, Richmond and Washington, D.C., published on Tuesday, February 19, Illinois Senator Barack Obama is ahead of Arizona Senator John McCain by 6 points, 51-46%, in Virginia.

The excitement created by this campaign has truly helped to change the dynamic in our state and, for the first time since President Lyndon Baines Johnson defeated another Arizona Senator, Barry Goldwater, a Democratic candidate for President has a real chance to paint Virginia blue in November.

Barack Obama is committed to redesigning our health insurance system, so all who want it can get fully covered and afford that coverage, and fighting global warming, so that our children and grandchildren will still have a livable planet in which to achieve the American dream. Moreover, he is determined to carefully and quickly end a war in Iraq that should never been authorized and never been waged so that we can start using those funds and resources to achieve those commitments, rebuild America in an environmentally intelligent way, and focus our military on Al Qaeda in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Join our electeds, **Delegate David Englin, Mayor Bill Euille, Councilman Ludwig Gaines, Governor Tim Kaine, Councilman Rob Krupicka, Sheriff Dana Lawhorne, and Congressman Jim Moran**, who endorsed Barack before the primary, and help the **Obama for America** campaign via **Alexandria Democrats for Obama** by clicking on: <http://my.barackobama.com/page/outreach/view/main/PAF>.

**Yes We Can. Yes We Did. Yes We Will!**



Alexandria Mayor Bill Euille addresses Obama Rally Attendees at T.C. Williams High School, February 10, 2008

Barack Obama speaks to crowd of 5,000 at T.C. Williams High School, February 10, 2008



## MY UP-CLOSE AND PERSONAL VIEW OF THE BEST-QUALIFIED PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, HILLARY CLINTON

Commentary by Hazel Rigby

I was a Hillary supporter before I was a Bill supporter. I first learned about Hillary when Bill was Governor of Arkansas, and I was a teacher in Alexandria. He asked Hillary to tackle the issue of education and improvement of public schools. Teachers' salaries were at the bottom of state rankings, and the Arkansas public school system was at the bottom of state rankings for effectiveness. She accepted the challenge. Along with improvements proposed by Hillary as she worked with the state educators, she knew that her committee would have to tackle the controversial issue of teacher improvement if it were to convince the legislators to spend more money on education. Eventually she was able to convince teachers' unions to make the National Teachers Exam mandatory for all teachers. Teachers' performance improved; the legislature increased funding; the Arkansas public schools moved up in the rankings. It was her political savvy and her ability to work with the opposition that made change possible.

When Hillary worked for the Children's Defense Fund, she provided legal services to lower income families and organizations seeking to increase funding for children's health care. Her concern for children's health and education has never wavered. She has continued her pursuits for the cause in her tasks as First Lady and on into the Senate. Her name is on several pieces of legislation involving child care and education.

Family is important to Hillary. She has been a loving, caring mother who together with Bill has raised a wonderful daughter. Chelsea, and her friends, too, speak of their warm relationships with Hillary. In the thousands of telephone calls I've made I've heard extraordinary stories of how she helped with issues in people's communities and the many individual ways she has helped people when they have contacted her about a sick child or funds for college educations. And yet, some women turn from her and her accomplishments. The many reasons I hear are not profound—"change," "hope," "inspiring." Hillary is a living inspiration of hope for women and girls – and all people - throughout the world.

Yes, she's a policy wonk —She is pragmatic, smart, level-headed, wonderful to work with and a pleasure to support. She has a joyful spirit, a great sense of humor, she's gracious, tactful and appreciative of all the support that comes her way. I have received numerous letters from her thanking me personally for my volunteer work, donated money, ideas – whatever I have contributed. I've worked in many campaigns, big and small, and who else bothers to include basic phonebankers envelope stuffers in their planning meetings? Hillary does, because she is appreciative, kind, and extremely loyal. She visits the call-center in Arlington, her Headquarters, to tell us how important to her our work is. When she speaks she never skips a name of volunteers, planners or other politicians who are at her events. She goes out of her way to get her lists together.

Finally--when I looked at the eight people standing on stage during the earlier debates, the only difference I saw was "female." I support Hillary because she is the best qualified, the most experienced, the most organized speaker, the best debater and more. And I say to myself as others have--isn't it great that there's a woman up there? Our Country, our world need women's voices. It's hard to believe that this enlightened Country has never had a woman as President. I only have to remember the brave speech Hillary delivered to world acclaim in China--"that women's rights were human rights" to know that she is more than capable of bringing people together to find solutions to problems. She already has.

Yes, I SUPPORT HILLARY, and I know she's ready to "go" on day one when she's elected. But, I also know, that like women in every country, race, ethnic group, religion, tribe, and society - and we are the only special interest that transcends every political divide - in whatever capacity she finds herself on election day she will rise to meet that challenge, facing great odds, like women everywhere.

I support Hillary, and I vow to continue to work endlessly on her behalf because it's in my best interest, and my Country's.



Senator Clinton speaking at  
Jefferson Jackson Dinner,  
Richmond, VA,  
February 9, 2008

## If Neither Candidate has a Majority in June: My View

**Avoiding Fratricide:** Regardless of who each of us voted for on February 12, I think we all would agree that some method needs to be found to avoid Democratic civil war after June 7 if neither candidate has enough delegates for a clear nomination victory. We certainly don't want either campaign to engage in what could potentially be incendiary steps to garner more delegates.

If the number of pledged delegates is close, I think it would be terrible for our chances in November if the super delegates gave the nomination to the candidate with fewer pledged delegates. I also strongly believe the rules should be followed and the Florida and Michigan delegations should not be seated. In addition, it appears it would be very expensive, confusing, and perhaps practically impossible to run caucuses in those states.

I am proud that the Democratic Party, and especially the Democratic Party of Virginia, is the party of Jefferson and Madison, who believed democracy should be the bedrock principle of the country. If our party ends up in the position of not having a clear winner in June, I think the only fair, transparent and potentially acceptable system to both sides is to urge the super delegates to cast their votes for the candidate who won the most votes. Because we would be *requesting* that the super delegates do this, not seeking a ruling that they be *required* to do so, I think we must leave it up to their individual consciences whether this means the popular vote in their district (e.g., if they are a Congress person), in their state (if they are a Senator), or in the nation (if they are "distinguished party leaders," like Al Gore.)

I have asked that the Resolutions Committee consider this question in early March. If a position were brought forward from the Resolutions Committee and adopted by the Alexandria Democratic Committee, it could be taken to the Virginia Democratic Party Resolutions Committee, the state party and other state parties well before June.

David A. Drachsler

Member, Resolutions Committee

Presidential Primary Day, Feb. 12, 2008:

### Cold Day— Warm Stories

My wife (Joyce Woodson) and I worked in shifts for most of primary day at the GW polling place. We were getting signatures for Warner and Moran petitions and asking voters to support Obama.

We had glove warmers and toe warmers and pretty much kept the cold at bay all day. But we weren't prepared for the precipitation. Late in the day it started to rain. The rain froze and covered everything in sight. Joyce did not have an umbrella but she did have on a hooded coat. When I came to relieve her about 6:00 p.m., I noticed she was literally shining! As I got closer to her, I saw that she was completely covered in ice!! The falling rain had frozen into a thin coating of ice. Yet, there she was, holding an Obama sign and asking people to support his candidacy.

I asked her why she didn't get in her car to avoid the rain and she said, "Because I believe in this man so much that he will make a difference in this country that I can't let the opportunity pass because of some rain."

With that, I relieved her, put up my umbrella and continued seeking Obama supporters until the polls closed at 7:00. The next day I got into the car and found the seat covered with broken ice.

....Howard Woodson

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I was unable to volunteer on primary day this year having a backload of work at the office. I tried to be one of first voters at my precinct so that I could get into the office early.

Out front of Cora Kelly High School I ran into something I had never seen in Alexandria before . . . A Republican poll worker. While talking to the Clinton volunteer, the GOPer approached and asked me if I wanted any information on the Republicans? I looked dumbfounded at her and asked, "Why?!?"

.... Daniel "D.C." Sachs

## Cold Day — Warm Stories, continued

- It was very cool to be behind a voter who stepped forward in the L-Z line, stated his name, was found in the books and handed his "registration verified" card as the election official shouted "FIRST TIME VOTER" for all to hear! I dare say the place lit up on that cloudy, gray, cold, rainy and otherwise nasty Election Day and everyone stopped, clapped, yelled, whistled and cheered! No matter who that guy voted for...an African American, A Woman, or a Veteran, he made history that day; for himself, for Alexandria and, of course, for America!  
...Lauren Smith

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- Primary day was very cold, at least at Temple Beth El. I helped with the ADC materials. There was a Hillary worker there, and even a McCain worker. We three folks, in the brutal cold, found important areas to agree. We discovered we could cover for one another while someone needed to warm up inside the Temple.  
....Paul Vogel

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- Precinct 109 (Firehouse) won the prize for the precinct collecting the most petition signatures for Mark Warner (168) and Jim Moran (102). It took the cold fingers of Larry Grossman, Marianne Anderson, Judy Knepper and Holly Wallace in the morning on primary day to get these signatures, but we were warmed by the number we got!  
....Marianne Anderson

## Global Warming

It took me about two hours to make it from the Washington College of Law, down the icy, accident-ridden GW Parkway, and into town for our Virginia Primary Watching Party on February 12<sup>th</sup>. When I arrived, the party was already in full swing and **Barack Obama** had already been declared the winner. **Ron and Hazel Rigby**—appropriately adorned in full **Hillary!** gear—were holding court with **Susan Kellom** and **Sarah Stott**. And “the Germans” were in the corner. I wasn’t the only one making a long-trip in this weather: a German film crew was present to record the ADC with its hair down.

I had heard earlier in the day that a German film crew wanted to attend the party. But I had not had the good sense to ask where in Germany they were coming from. So they became “the Germans” in much the same way that a film crew from News Channel 8 might become “the Americans” if they showed up for an event in Düsseldorf without explanation.

The Germans were there to witness and record how we faithful reacted to the poll returns. But for my money the real story was *their* response: they were positively giddy. I watched as the film crew interviewed us one by one, each of us expressing hope for a brighter future for America, and hope, too, for a warming of relations with the rest of the world. Behind the microphone the interviewer, a statuesque blonde woman, beamed approvingly at the mention of our shared global responsibility. She smiled sympathetically as we explained how the present administration has squandered our global goodwill and devastated our world standing. The sound guy nodded quietly in unconscious solidarity. The camera man—a gray-haired, tree-like character who had somehow managed to back himself into my open clothes closet—grinned hugely as he stood there, atop my favorite loafers, aiming his lens at a successive stream of hopeful Alexandria Democrats. The theme of every interview seemed to be along the same story line. My wife, **Tina Lay**, put it eloquently: “Whoever ultimately becomes our nominee, he or she will surely succeed in righting the many wrongs suffered by America—and the world—during successive, Republican administrations.” **Randy Sengel** maintained order. The stories were all centered on themes of hope and change.

As the night wore on, the sound man put down his equipment and headed for the beer. The camera man extracted himself from my closet and went for the pizza. The reporter entertained my children, who were too excited to go to bed. When it was finally time for the Germans to leave, each graciously thanked us at the door. But it wasn’t the simple thanks one generally receives as a host; rather, it was something else entirely. “Thank you,” the sound man said, holding my hand in both of his and keeping eye contact a few seconds longer than necessary. “We thank you.”

As the Germans headed out into the ice, I closed the door behind them and returned to the television to see the last returns coming in. On every channel, and throughout the room, Obama supporters and Hillary supporters engaged happily in this unfolding piece of history. Despite the chill outside, the night will be remembered for its warmth.

Jim Lay

## West End Precinct and Outreach Event Successfully Identified New Democrats and Brought Fun to Families in the West End

On Sunday February 10, 2008 the ADC identified 40 new Democrats, 6 new volunteers, and one candidate for Tucker Precinct Captain at the West End Presidential Pre-Primary Extravaganza. The event held at Cameron Station brought presidential campaign activists and would-be activists together for conversation, education, and plans for future action. Vice Mayor Del Pepper and Councilman Paul Smedberg welcomed everyone to the event and spoke about the importance of voting and being involved in our community. Live music and vocals were provided by "The Constituents" with our own Sarah Stott joining them for one song. Children, and some adults, received free caricature portrait drawings from artist Derrick Rivers. Also, children enjoyed painting and coloring under the direction of our own Ethel Underwood and Marge Thiel.



Ethel Underwood, left, and Marge Thiel, center, color with the kids.



Vice Mayor Del Pepper with "The Constituents".



Richard Hobson and friends

Each guest received "My Little Blue Book—A Gift from the Alexandria Democratic Committee to our Community". This publication contains community civic and political information. Copies are now available free of charge at the ADC office or at [www.alexdem.org](http://www.alexdem.org). My Little Blue Book will be updated on a quarterly basis. We are still accepting ads for the next edition. Please contact the ADC office if you want to place an ad. No matter when you purchase your ad it will run for a full year in each edition.

We thank all of those supporters who purchased ads. It is because of your support, we anticipate that we made a significant profit from this event which will further our efforts to get Democrats elected. Additionally, we would like to thank Del. David and Shayna Englin for the donation of the coloring books for the children to enjoy.

We also would like to thank the following volunteers for helping Charniele and Diana: Susan and Ben Kellom, Julie Jakopic, Carolyn Herring, Liz Campbell, Ron and Hazel Rigby, Amanda Ruff, Matt Harris, Jamal Awamleh, Holly Wallace, Mary Giordano, Laura Mandala, Paul Vogel. Diana expresses her special thanks to her Dad, Saul Bedoya, who came from Staunton to help at the event. The ADC also extends a very special thanks to Mayor Euille for his many efforts to publicize this event and to everyone who attended. We are making the West End stronger than it has ever been before.

Marianne Anderson, Charniele Herring and Diana Bedoya contributed to this article

## VAN 101

by Holly Wallace

The **Voter Activation Network**, known as the VAN, is the computerized Voter File management tool that the Virginia Democratic Party has provided to track information about voters throughout the state. Both campaigns and local committees like the ADC contribute information to be shared toward our common goal. Last year the VAN replaced the old Prevail system as our source of data for phone, canvassing, lit drop lists and related activities. As a commercial product used by the Democratic Party in many states, the VAN includes interesting features which were previously not available to us. For example, in last June's City Council caucus, we were able to use the VAN for voter check-in rather than cumbersome print-outs; this year we will be able to make walking list maps using the VAN.

More information on the VAN product is available from the manufacturer's site at <http://www.voteractivationnetwork.com>. While the VAN is a commercial product, each state tailors the various features to meet the needs and desires of the local Party, so the Virginia version may not include everything mentioned.

### **What data is in the VAN?**

The VAN includes the name, address, and precinct of every registered voter, as well as other information like phone number, birth date, registration date and voting history. All of this information is provided to the VAN by the State Board of Elections. The IT people at the DPVA in Richmond are in charge of periodically loading all of this data into the VAN, so we don't have to worry about it.

For each voter there may also be other information, which is gathered by campaigns or local committees and that can be changed as we learn more about a voter. This information is of three basic types:

- 1) Specifics about the voter such as email address, additional phone numbers, bad address, or a bad telephone number;
- 2) Survey responses: answers to the questions you ask during phone banking or canvassing such as "what candidate do you support" or "Do you consider yourself a Republican or Democrat?"
- 3) Activist Codes: are used to provide various types of information about the voter such as ethnicity, if the person volunteers, is a Young Dem, voted in the 2007 local caucus, or likes to get yard signs, lives in a locked building, or absolutely detests phone calls.

For each voter there is also the all important Likely Party designation – from Strong Democrat to Strong Republican, or the always popular Unknown. The VAN figures out the Party ID every night by analyzing the data acquired from voting history and surveys performed with phone banking or canvassing; thus, the Party ID is always very up to date, helping us to make fewer phone calls.

### **What About Security?**

The VAN is accessible by web browser, like Internet Explorer or Firefox. Because there is so much detailed information, a User ID and Password are required to access the VAN and only a limited number of accounts are permitted for each locality.

### **What is the ADC going to do with VAN?**

As with the old Prevail system, our goal is to add as much information as we can to the VAN. We do this through canvassing, phone banking, precinct mapping projects, and information we acquire through outreach events. As of today, Feb 19, there are only 49,967 Unknown voters to go!

**Next Time: What else we can do with the VAN .**

## WHY AM I A DEMOCRAT?

By Julie N. Jakopic

That's the question my 17 year old niece Rebecca asked me as she prepared to vote for the first time in the Virginia Primary. Over the years, there have been many reasons. Because your grandparents were. Because when I lived in Maryland, the Democratic primary was where the decisions were made. But it was interesting to stop and really think about why. What I told her was that I want her and her sisters to be respected, safe and in charge of their own bodies. I want the girls, and their brother to know that their lives won't be wasted for the sole purpose of defending rich pockets. I want all kids to grow up knowing that they are valued and judged by what they bring to the table - by the content of their character and that applies to race, gender, ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation.

I want to elect leaders who believe in the fundamental fairness that all are created equal; that work should pay enough to avoid poverty; that values our planet as well as profits. I want to elect leaders who don't waste the blood of our citizens on fights that are about settling scores, not protecting the nation. I want to elect leaders who share my belief that those of us who have more have an obligation to those that have less, that children should be safe, wanted and have every opportunity regardless of their parentage or their parents' decisions. I want to elect leaders who respect diverse perspectives and can bring them together to craft creative solutions to our nation's challenges; solutions that one perspective alone could never develop. That's why I am a Democrat.

Editor's Note: From time to time, we will publish "Why I am a Democrat" articles. Your submissions are welcome and encouraged.

## Sign Up to be a Neighborhood Leader

The DNC is looking for neighborhood leaders to help us get out the vote this year. Through all their research they have found that the most effective way to get out the vote is the good ole method of talking to people one on one, and not just at election time. They have created a program called Neighbors Organizing the Vote (NOTV).

This is a program that involves sustained personal contact at the neighborhood level. It is based on the Party's database of registered voters. Volunteers sign up to be a neighborhood leader and are directed online to a map of targeted registered voters in their neighborhood. Each volunteer chooses 25 people in their neighborhood that he or she agrees to contact 3 times between now and the general election and talk to them about our Democratic candidates and the issues that matter most in our community. The volunteer also agrees to recruit two more Democrats to do the same thing.

If you are interested in being a neighborhood leader, please go to <http://www.vademocrats.org/page/s/nlsignup>. The ADC will be coordinating this effort through the precinct captains. I've signed up to be a Neighborhood Leader. I hope you will too.

Sarah Stott

### **Join your fellow Democrats on Saturday, March 1, for the St. Patrick's Day Parade!**

The Parade begins at 12:30 at King and West Sts. and proceeds east on King St. to Fairfax.

**Your help is needed (at 10:00) to:** blow up balloons, pass them out to children of all ages along King St., carry the Alexandria Democratic Committee banner in the parade, "march" with the Alexandria Democrats. Come to 1307 King St. at 10:00 to help!

Thank you in advance, Julie Jakopic

## Out and About...

### Stars and Gripes Forever: Hexagon 2008

We are musical, we are satirical, we are theatrical. We are Hexagon. Oh, and proceeds go to area charities. Every year, for more than 50 years, this nonprofit has put on Washington's only all-original revue of its kind with more than \$3 million donated to 40-plus organizations.

Our all-volunteer membership makes up the cast, crew, orchestra, front-of-house and production team. We even write our own material. Our mission: to use theatrical arts to help improve the lives of others within our community.

Hexagon 2008: Stars and Gripes Forever runs February 27 through March 16, 2008, at the Ellington Theatre of the Duke Ellington School of the Arts at 3500 R. St., NW, Washington, DC. This year, proceeds will benefit The Ellington Fund for the Duke Ellington School of the Arts. Tickets are \$25 for Wed. or Thurs. nights and \$30 for weekends. Get info online at [www.hexagon.org](http://www.hexagon.org), or call 202-333-7469, or contact me at 703-370-9064 .

Libby Cooperman

## Which is safer to drink? Tap Water or Bottled Water? The answer may surprise you.

Food & Water Watch, a consumer advocacy group ([www.foodandwaterwatch.org](http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org)), started looking into the safety of bottled versus tap water and found that bottled water is not safer or better for you. To start with, bottled water isn't regulated as much as tap. Tap water has to go through a series of tests on the federal, state and local level before it comes out of your faucet, whereas some bottled water isn't regulated at all. Tests the Natural Resources Defense Council did showed that about one third of the bottled water they tested had problems, the most common contaminants being arsenic and synthetic organic carcinogens.

Some examples of interesting bottled water labels NRDC observed include: "**Spring Water**" (with a picture of a lake surrounded by mountains on the label) -- *Was actually from an industrial parking lot next to a hazardous waste site.*

The next time you pick up bottled water, think about the cost of it (three times the cost of a gallon of gas) as well as the wasted resources. Most bottles end up in landfills, and oil is used in production and transportation of bottled water. People in other parts of the world fight over water yet we are willing to pay 1,000 times more for this resource that comes out of our tap for almost nothing. Imagine that.

Sources: [sustainabletable.org](http://sustainabletable.org) and National Resources Defense Council ([www.nrdc.org](http://www.nrdc.org)).

Check out the website, [www.tappening.com](http://www.tappening.com) for much more info and examples about bottled water versus tap water. For instance, read about the efforts of Connecticut, State Rep. Beth Bye—a Democrat from West Hartford, and about the cities of Los Angeles and Albuquerque.

Carolyn Cason

## 2008 DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION – VIRGINIA'S DELEGATE SELECTION PROCESS

Many meetings and elections occur on the way to the Democratic National Convention, August 25-28 in Denver, Colorado. Now that the Primary has been held, the next steps are a local caucus, an 8th District Convention and a State Convention.

- Alexandria will hold a caucus in April, on Saturday, the 19<sup>th</sup>, with early voting on the 17<sup>th</sup> and late voting on the 21<sup>st</sup>. to elect delegates to the 8th Congressional Convention. Based on the results of the Feb. 12 Primary, Alexandria has been allotted 54 Delegates (35 for Obama, 19 for Clinton) and 27 Alternates (18 for Obama, 9 for Clinton) to the 8th Congressional District Convention and the Virginia State Convention. More about the caucus in the April newsletter.

(Chair's note; The only Saturday option we were given for our Caucus to select delegates from Alexandria to the Eighth District and State Democratic Conventions was April 19th, the first day of Passover. I appealed to the State Party and also to the General Counsel of the Democratic National Committee for a waiver to hold our caucus on the previous Saturday, but was denied. I have been assured that more care will be taken in the future to avoid such conflicts. As outlined above, we will have early voting on Thursday, the 17th. On Saturday, we will recess our caucus-not adjourn it- then reconvene on Monday evening, the 21st)

- **Congressional District Convention and Virginia State Convention: The 8th Congressional District Convention will be hosted by the Alexandria Democratic Committee and held on May 17 at Hammond School.** The eleven Congressional District Conventions in May 2008 and the State Convention on June 13-14, 2008 will elect the National Delegates.

**Virginia's Delegation:** Virginia will elect 85 National Delegates and 14 Alternates. Virginia's 11 Congressional Districts will elect a total of 54 National Delegates and 11 Alternates. The remaining 31 Delegates and 3 Alternates will be chosen at the State Convention. Another 18 National Delegates are Party Leader and Elected Officials who are "automatic" delegates.

(At the 8th District Convention, the following National delegates will be elected: Two males for Obama; One male for Clinton; Two females for Obama; Two females for Clinton. In addition, one male alternate for Obama will be elected. The remaining delegates will be elected at the state convention.)

The process is open to all members of the Democratic Party regardless of race, sex, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, economic status or physical disability. The Party also has an active affirmative action and outreach program to encourage full participation by all Democrats.

*For additional information, including the Virginia Delegate Selection Plan and other materials, contact:*

Democratic Party of Virginia, 1710 East Franklin Street, Richmond, VA 23223, Telephone: 804-644-1966 (or toll-free 1-800-322-1144), Fax: 804-343-3642, Web Site: [www.vademocrats.org](http://www.vademocrats.org).

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### Help with a Democratic Victory and win an all expense paid trip to the DNC National Convention in Denver, Colorado, August 25-28, 2008 from Congressman Jim Moran

This year we will retake both Virginia Senate seats and the Presidency.  
Victory is the reward in itself, though friendly competition and prizes are always fun.

Each month through July, Congressman Moran is holding house parties throughout Northern Virginia to build our volunteer network and readiness for the November election. Points will be awarded to everyone who participates. The 9 highest point winners in the 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District will win a trip to the Democratic National Committee National Convention in Denver, Colorado.

For more info, go to [www.jimmoran.org](http://www.jimmoran.org)

## *Alexandria Democratic Leadership Circle*

**618 North Washington Street  
Ground Floor, Suite 2  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314**

Here are the contributions and pledges to the 2008 Leadership Circle as of February 22:

**Benefactors (\$1,000 +)**

Bill Euille

**Patrons (\$501 - \$1,000)**

Jack & Fay Slotnick

Julie Jakopic

Mark & Micki Feldheim

**Sponsors (\$251 - \$500)**

Max Stolper

Holly Wallace

Lucelle O'Flaherty

David Speck

Matthew Harris

Del Pepper

Susan & Ben Kellom

Jim & Susan Butler

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## **Alexandria Democratic Leadership Circle**

(Please mail to: ADC Leadership Circle, 618 N. Washington Street, Ground Floor Suite 2,  
Alexandria, VA 22314 703-549-3367)

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please make checks payable to ADC and indicate for the Leadership Circle**

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# Alexandria Democratic Committee

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

Phone: 703-549-3367  
[www.alexdem.org](http://www.alexdem.org)

## Monday, March 3, 8:00 pm, Alexandria Democratic Committee Monthly Meeting at Minnie Howard School, 3801 W. Braddock Rd, Alexandria

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#### Immediate Past Chair

Paul Smedberg [SmedbergPC@aol.com](mailto:SmedbergPC@aol.com)

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102	City Hall	Hazel & Ron Rigby	703-548-2422	<a href="mailto:hrgiby@aol.com">hrgiby@aol.com</a>
103	Lyles Crouch School	Vacant		
104	Durant Center	Mark Feldheim	703-739-9772	<a href="mailto:mark.feldheim@verizon.net">mark.feldheim@verizon.net</a>
105	The Lee Center	PJ Palmer-Johnson	703.566.0856	<a href="mailto:drepj@aol.com">drepj@aol.com</a>
106	Cora Kelly Rec Center	Ed Walters	703.863.3278	<a href="mailto:ed.walters@gmail.com">ed.walters@gmail.com</a>
107	Mt. Vernon Rec. Center	Paul Cox	571.332.6474	<a href="mailto:dragon2eden@gmail.com">dragon2eden@gmail.com</a>
108	George Washington	Vacant		
109	Fire Dept. HQ	Marianne Anderson Trish Curran	703.548.0295 703.549.9064	<a href="mailto:marianneanderson@verizon.net">marianneanderson@verizon.net</a> <a href="mailto:pdclkg@msn.com">pdclkg@msn.com</a>
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208	NOVA Arts Center	Vacant		
209	James K. Polk School	Dorathe Peters	703.399-5654	<a href="mailto:doratheapeters@netzero.com">doratheapeters@netzero.com</a>
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