

The Alexandria Democrat

Message from the Chair:

Dear Alexandria Democrats:

Giving thanks comes easy to so many of us in Alexandria – many of us have so much. Many of us have material possessions that would be the envy of most of the world's people. We have health or we have access to health care when we need it. We have more than adequate shelter and food. We have educational, recreational and creative opportunities. We have family and friends to share the good times and make the bad times bearable.

And we have the freedom to participate in politics and to shape our community so that those who do not have as much as we do may enhance their lives.

I am both proud and thankful to be part of a family of Democrats who care enough to make Alexandria a better place for all of our citizens. I am thankful that the people who have come forward to lead our City value all people. I am thankful that our Mayor and City Council stood tall to declare that we would not tolerate bigotry. I am thankful that our Constitutional Officers enforce our justice system with respect for everyone. I am thankful that our General Assembly Delegation looks out for the welfare of all who live in the Commonwealth.

What makes our Democratic community so special is the people. We have candidates of honor and integrity, and we have people who give generously of their time, talent and treasure to get them elected. Democratic politics in Alexandria is so much fun and so soul-satisfying. We know that we are doing good and we are doing it with people that we respect and enjoy. They make the long hours, the icy mornings standing the polls, the folks who are less-than-happy to receive our GOTV phone calls, the rock hard ground when we try to post signs and the worn shoe leather from dropping the lit all worthwhile.

As we look forward to 2008 and all of the hard work that faces us, let's view it as a joyous opportunity to restore America to the true meaning of Democracy. It is up to us to make our Democratic nominee the next President of the United States.

I am also so thankful for my husband Ben, who brought four children, four grandchildren and three great-children into my life. He also brought a wonderful, irreverent sense of humor and was raised by a grandfather who told him to "vote for the devil himself before you vote for a Republican." He followed the advice quite well.

Thanks to all of you for another wonderful year in Alexandria,

Susan Kellom

Commonwealth's Attorney Speaks...

...As one of three of Alexandria's elected constitutional officers (Commonwealth's Attorney, Clerk of the Circuit Court, and Sheriff), I am thankful that I am able to hold this office and remain low on the political radar screen. (I confess to mild bemusement over the fact that the three of us are often forgotten when the ever-expanding list of elected officials, former elected officials, and various party chairs, captains, sous-chefs, and members of the stage crew are introduced at events, but maybe there is an advantage to the public forgetting that we are even elected.)

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**Alexandria
Democratic
Committee**

Thanksgiving issue

November 2007



ADC Reorganization

Every two years, the Alexandria Democratic Committee ceases to exist for a brief moment in time and then reappears as a new organization!

Under the provisions of the Virginia State Party Plan, the ADC must reorganize every two years. This means that the current ADC will dissolve and an entirely new committee will be formed, with each member filing for membership again and officers elected again. Each Alexandria precinct is entitled to six members plus one member for each 500 voters above the baseline number of 2500 voters. There are also 10 at-large members for each Alexandria School Board District. The number of members per precinct will be determined by the voter list used in the November 2007 election. In addition, current and former Democratic elected officials, members of the Electoral Board, and members of the State Central Committee are automatic members of the ADC and do not count against the precinct membership.

If more people file for membership in a precinct than there are slots, we will first ask if anyone would accept an at-large seat. If we still have precincts with more applicants than slots, an assembled caucus would be held to elect the precinct members before the reorganization meeting, and would be open to any Democratic registered voter in the involved precinct.

The reorganization keeps the local committees in tune with their communities. Local Democratic Committees are quasi-legislative bodies which provide the framework and legal basis for all Democratic political activities in each city or county. For example, the ADC is empowered to determine the method of nomination for some elective offices and to set the dates and rules for nominating caucuses.

The reorganization call was made and adopted at the September ADC meeting. The provisions are: Members MUST REAPPLY (download application from the ADC website, www.alexdem.org) and submit the completed application and membership fee of \$25.00. It MUST BE RECEIVED IN the ADC office BY 5:00 PM on MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26. Post marks do not count. No Faxes or Emails permitted. There is a mail slot in the right hand door to the office which you may use to deposit the form after hours.

Associate Memberships also expire on Monday, November 26. Associates, however, may re-apply at any time.

ADC officers will be elected at the January meeting.

I am thankful for working with members of the ADC who are such a smart and dynamic group of individuals who inspire me every day.

Charniele Herring, Deputy Chair, Precinct Operations West

Join Your Fellow Democrats for the Start of a New Day

A new day in Richmond is fast approaching as the new Democratic Senate majority, led by our Senator Richard Saslaw, prepares to begin its work with the new, more Democratic House of Delegates.

Please join us for our annual General Assembly Preview wine and cheese on **Sunday evening, January 6, 2008** from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S Washington St., Alexandria.

Our delegation will share their hopes and expectations and field questions about the upcoming session before they leave to start the session. The suggested contribution is \$21.51 -- \$21 to celebrate our new Senate majority and 51¢ to focus on taking back the House of Delegates in 2009. To RSVP or for more information contact the ADC office at office@alexdem.org and 703-549-DEMS or Julie Jakopic at julie@creatingthevision.com and 703-201-6004.

...Continued from page 1, Commonwealth Attorney

Of course we are all thankful for the advances made by the Democratic party in the most recent election. But behind the politicians who jostle for the spotlight at center stage there are dedicated and career public servants who make government work, and to whom we all owe a greater debt of thanks. Mark Warner's observation of what voters really want from government always comes to mind: "They want to see stuff done. They don't care if it's Republican or Democratic. They want to see stuff done." (Washington Post, November 10, 2005.) Of course this isn't some simplistic abdication of party loyalty. The fundamental principles of the Democratic party inspire doing the right stuff.

But who really gets it done? In my office, assistant prosecutors and other dedicated staff have given this community years of quiet, steadfast, largely unrecognized, and certainly under-compensated service in the pursuit of justice. All of us owe these dedicated stewards of public safety a healthy measure of gratitude and recognition.

As an elected official, I never forget that my name on a ballot is only a symbolic and certainly inadequate reflection of the names of those who serve in this small band, for they are the true recipients of every vote that affords me the privilege of public service. As we move forward as a party, let us pause for a moment and extend our thanks to the men and women off stage and out of the spotlight across this Commonwealth who show up every day and get stuff done.

S. Randolph Sengel
Commonwealth's Attorney
City of Alexandria

I am thankful that Alexandrians have elected a city government which does not indulge in hatred against immigrants, however they may have arrived in our city, and regardless of what surrounding jurisdictions may do.

Holly Wallace, Technology Officer

A Time for Democrats to be Thankful

Paul A. Friedman

For the first time ever, the Democratic Party is chockfull of outstanding and viable presidential candidates who truly represent the diversity of America.

Impressively, they are all vocally advocating some previously off-limits progressive positions, like universal health care and subsidizing a variety of alternative energy sources instead of more oil wells. Moreover, they are committed to ending the transfer of wealth in our nation from the middle class to the super-wealthy at the expense of fiscal responsibility and the long-term viability of Social Security and Medicare.

Further, they, like the rest of America, are sick of political extremism, crony capitalism, and incompetence and are determined to protect America from those who seek to do it harm without torturing our Constitution -- or the people we have captured. Instead, our candidates pledge to use military force only if absolutely necessary after first employing intelligent and persistent diplomacy.

For all that, we Democrats are surely proud, but I know we won't be truly thankful until we achieve victory a year from now and restore America to its true greatness.

Valuing Democratic Values

I am thankful for a full year of Democratic victories in Alexandria and across the state that ensure our Democratic values are represented -- values of fairness and opportunity for all; and safety and security built through respect and open government. I am thankful to live in a city whose government and citizens exemplify these values at every opportunity. I am thankful for the chance to work with committed, like-minded people who share their time, talent and treasure to make this possible. I am thankful for the good fortune to work with great colleagues to bring these values back to the White House in 2008.

Julie Jakopic



Hearing the news of State Senate and House of Delegates victories, from left: State Senator Patsy Ticer, Delegate David Englin, Alexandria Democratic Committee Chair Susan Kellom, and Councilmember Tim Lovain.

New Hope:

I am grateful that Virginia has elected a State Senate that will be led by Democrats. This election breathes new hope into the system. Just think of the possibilities for progressive legislation!!!!

I look forward to Dick Saslaw's leadership as Senate Majority Leader and as Chair of the Commerce and Labor Committee. And as co-chair of the committee that is monitoring the Mirant power plant's activities, I am especially delighted that Senator Patsy Ticer will become Chair of the powerful Agriculture, Conservation, and Natural Resources Committee. This is the committee that can help us with issues of pollution. Also, she will be in a position to thwart efforts to merge the state citizen review boards into one board and to take away their permitting authority. This is critical to our ability to reign in Mirant's efforts to continue to pollute.

Lastly, I am thankful for all the wonderful volunteers who made this victory possible. We can all take pride in our efforts. We did it!!

Del Pepper, Alexandria Vice Mayor

Gratitude for Community and Family

I am very grateful this Thanksgiving to live in a caring community like Alexandria, a community that refuses to scapegoat our immigrant citizens, a community that takes the time to speak up and speak out on issues from a local, polluting power plant to reckless wars being waged by our President halfway around the globe. I am proud to be on the City Council of a city that provides services to the disadvantaged beyond what most communities provide, and I am proud to help the wonderful non-profit human service providers in this City, such as through the United Way (remember the Community Impact Fund, code 9001!). I am deeply grateful for the close friendships I have formed by working in the trenches of Alexandria Democratic campaigns, and I am proud of how Alexandria is leading the Commonwealth into the blue column through our votes and our home-grown statewide candidates like Mark Warner and Brian Moran. But most of all, I am grateful for a wonderful family who love this City as much as I do. Happy Thanksgiving, everyone!

Councilmember Tim Lovain

It Takes a Democratic Village

Counsel's Corner, November 2007

There was much to be thankful for election night, and most of our successes were available for the entire world to see as the returns came in over the internet. But one of our smaller successes—largely hidden from view—bears mentioning, as it reflects a well-oiled Committee machinery at work.

I was lecturing law students at American University when my cell-phone—forever turned on vibrate—started to dance across my podium. Usually I ignore calls during class, but I could see that it was **Susan Kellom**. Pity the Legal Counsel who ignores a call from Susan on election night.

Susan relayed that a fire at a metro stop had caused modest havoc among the City's workforce (and electorate). Trains were being re-routed and delayed. It was 6:20 p.m. The polls were scheduled to close in forty minutes. Coordinating her efforts with Englin-Campaign Maestro **Shayna Englin**, Susan had concluded that it would be prudent to attempt to have the polls kept open.

"Can we do that?" I asked.

"I don't know, Jim." Susan replied. "You're our attorney; you tell me."

It was 6:25 p.m. by the time I gathered up my papers, stuffed them in my briefcase, and started out. I knew that I would not make it back to the City in time to be of much use so I called *Lay, Moore & Poretz* colleagues, **Elisa Moore** and **Daniel Poretz**. I tossed out the legal equivalent of a 911 call: we needed to find a judge, draft a petition, and argue it—all in the next half-hour.

Susan and Dan went to the Courthouse to meet with Judge Kloch, while Elisa and I patched together a petition. I called Dan, who was sitting with the Judge, and relayed our argument. Dan then relayed my argument to the judge, just in case he couldn't already hear me yelling excitedly through the phone at Dan's ear. (A Republican lawyer was present, too, and he was busy arguing against the petition.)

The Judge was receptive to our argument—even sympathetic—but he was lacking one little detail: legal authority. As it turns out, a Virginia Circuit Court Judge apparently has no authority to extend the vote under such circumstances. (Stay tuned for more on this subject. The Executive Committee is already considering the advisability of plugging this hole in the Virginia Code.) As I pulled up to the Registrar's Office to meet with **Commonwealth's Attorney Randy Sengel**, our goose was already cooked. Judge Kloch had denied our petition.

Two observations come from all this:

First, while it would be tempting to see this as a defeat, I don't see it that way. Various and far-flung members of the ADC came together instantly to form a highly-functioning legal machine. With Susan and Shayna's leadership—and with the assistance of my colleagues—we managed to draft and argue a petition aimed at expanding the franchise. The whole process from start to finish took 35 minutes.

Second, the Alexandria Democratic Committee was once again on the side of democracy, while the Alexandria Republican Party stood for something patently anti-democratic. Essentially, we sought to expand the vote, they sought to restrict it.

So, as I've said a hundred times since election night, it was a great night to be a Democrat. Even when we lose, we win.

Jim Lay
Counsel for the ADC

During Thanksgiving week, I wanted to share my thanks for all of the support I received in my successful reelection campaign.

Best wishes for a peaceful and joyous Thanksgiving for you and all you hold dear,

Delegate Adam Ebbin

I Love a Good Victory...

As we enter into a time of Thanksgiving, I wanted to write and share what I am thankful for. Here goes: I am thankful for my family, my friends, my Delegate and Democrats. Good thing they are all right here in this photo, taken on Election Day, of some very excited Democrats an hour before our polling place, Cora Kelly, closed.



Another word about family – I am thankful for my mother, who taught me everything I know about how to vote – Early, Often & Democratic! She was busy being the Chief at the Polk precinct once again. I think she’s worked every Election Day for nearly 18 hours since Daniel was born! Thanks for all you do, Mom!

Lastly, I would like to share how thankful I was this year to be able to work with my State Senator, Patsy Ticer. Stu Ellis and I had an absolute blast being with her on election night, especially in the Senate Democratic Caucus suite at the McLean Hilton! What an exciting moment it was when Governor Kaine walked into the suite and announced as calmly as possible: “I’m ready to go downstairs and declare victory, who’s coming with me?!” and the room went wild in jubilation! Thank you, Patsy, for the experience of another spectacular Election Night. I love a good Victory! I am thankful.

-Lauren E. Smith, Cora Kelly Precinct

GRATEFUL TO BE A DEMOCRAT

Often in jest I have characterized my lifelong commitment as a Democrat to the observation: “Just think of the kind of people you would have to rub shoulders with if you were an active Republican.” That view was reinforced during the recent election campaign when I attended the candidate forum at Agudas Akim Synagogue at which the two candidates for Fairfax County Board Chairman appeared.

One of our Alexandria Democratic stalwarts was seated with the GOP candidate’s wife and campaign aides. Their table discussion turned to Native Americans. Those Republicans present agreed that Native Americans possess a predisposition to drugs and alcohol, and have an inability to be educated. Our local Democrat took exception and, rightly, left their table and told us what had been said.

I have worked in many countries around the world and have never seen any group of people who could not benefit by education and a decent chance. Tragically, lack of nutrition has stunted mental growth in some people. Many others may lack opportunities for education, but there are no people anywhere who cannot be educated because of their ethnicity.

An additional thought: When I was in the Carter Administration, two of my top executives were Native Americans. One later became a U.S. ambassador in Africa. Both did outstanding work for our country in highly difficult circumstances.

The GOP candidate lost. He may not have had similar views as his wife and aides. But maybe he did. Thank goodness we will never know. He will fade into the nether world of the defeated. The incident, however, has made me ever more grateful to be a Democrat.

Jack Sullivan, Precinct Captain, Temple Beth El

As co-captain of our Precinct (109-Firehouse), I usually begin emails to my list of identified precinct “worker” people with, “I’m Back” or “Here I am again”... and they know what that means! Several actually take me up on my offer to put them to work – canvassing, flyering, calling, standing at the polls, rain or shine, they do it. I am amazed and very grateful and I think they know it. We like to think of ourselves as dedicated Democrats!

Marianne Anderson, Co-Precinct Captain, Firehouse

PRECINCT AND COMMUNITY BUILDING PROJECTS IN THE WEST END

During this year ADC members and volunteers have been working on the Precinct Building Project to prepare for the 2008 Presidential, US House and Senate Elections. The Project, coordinated by Deputy Chairs for Precinct Operations, Charniele Herring and Sarah Stott, focuses on building those precincts which have a traditionally strong Democratic base but need support to increase voter turn-out and to keep those communities informed about the progressive efforts of the Democratic Party.

Scores of information has been accumulated for many of the West End precincts-- NOVA Arts Center, James Polk School, St. James Church, St. Martin de Porres, Beatley Library, John Adams and Cameron Station. Additionally, precincts in the East End have made similar efforts to accumulate information. Now we are in the process of memorializing our work. If you would like to assist us in completing our work, please contact us at cherringlaw@yahoo.com or [sstott@comcast.net](mailto:ssott@comcast.net).

In addition to building our strong volunteer base and well-organized system for the 2008 election, I am working with outreach chairs, Diana Bedoya and Scott Johnson, to build the West End community by planning the 2nd Annual West End Rally.

Thomas Jefferson said "Information is the currency of democracy." Embracing that notion, we will give Alexandria citizens the opportunity to obtain information about the Democratic Presidential candidates, register to vote, learn about local Boards and Commissions, talk with their elected officials, and pick up a directory of information, as we did last year. There will be games for children and free food for everyone. If you would like to assist in this project, please let us know. In 2008 the Republicans will be working hard to keep control of the White House and regain control of Congress. We must continue answering the resounding call to service to our community.

Charniele Herring
Deputy Chair Precinct Operations-West

Optimism and Responsibility

Two weeks ago I went to a program at Busboys and Poets in Shirlington called "Jerusalem Women Speak." Three women, a Muslim Palestinian, a Christian Palestinian and a Jewish Israeli, told their stories of living in Israel and Palestine. Abir Kopty, the youngest of the trio, said something very profound. She said that she was born optimistic and with optimism comes responsibility. That really resonated with me.

As we approach Thanksgiving Day, I am thankful for the people who retain their optimism even when surrounded by blatant displays of greed and uncaring attitudes. Many of these optimistic people are Democrats. Democrats care about others, and see their involvement in the political process as a way to make the world a better place. They have hope and shun the cynicism that pervades the Country. It is a joy to work with these dedicated and optimistic people. For that I am thankful.

Sarah Stott, Deputy Chair, Precinct Operations East

Speaking of Democratic Responsibility...

A Special Election in the First Congressional District will be held on Tuesday, December 11, due to the vacancy created by the death of Congresswoman Joanne Davis (R-VA). **Philip Forgit** is the Democratic nominee. He will face Republican nominee Robert Wittman. Go to his web site - www.forgit2007.com to learn more or to contribute. This will be a tough election but Phil Forgit's credentials are exceptional:

He is a Bronze Star decorated veteran of Iraq, serving with a Naval Special Warfare unit as an adviser to the Iraqi Army in 2005-2006. Phil won the 2005 National Education Association (NEA) Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence, including a \$35,000 national prize which was awarded to him live, via satellite, while he served in Iraq. A Naval Reservist, he was mobilized from his job as a 4th grade teacher at Rawls Byrd Elementary in Williamsburg. Since his return to the U.S. he has used his prize money to establish ForgitFilms LLC in order to make a documentary on Iraqi soldiers and their families.

The ADC is organizing people willing to make either 50 or 100 GOTV phone calls for Phil. All calls will be in-state long distance, so this project is ideal for people with Vonage or Comcast phone service, or who would be willing to use their cell phones (calls could be made on the weekends.) Please email the ADC office, office@alex Dems.org, if you can help. I will be assisting the volunteer effort and look forward to working with you to help a deserving candidate.

John Biechman,
Member, ADC and 8th Congressional Committee

Alexandria Democratic Committee

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December Meeting:

Monday, December 3, 2007,
Minnie Howard School
8:00 pm

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 – West
Charniele Herring cherringlaw@yahoo.com

Deputy Chair for Precinct Operations – East
Sarah Stott sstott@comcast.net

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

Young Democrats Representative
Jacinta Greene justjacinta@aol.com

Immediate Past Chair
Paul Smedberg SmedbergPC@aol.com

PCT	Name	Precinct Captain	Phone #	Email Address
101	Ladrey Senior Bldg	Marjorie Niehaus	703.836.8038	niehausma@comcast.net
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	dreppj@aol.com
106	Cora Kelly Rec Cen	Ed Walters	703.863.3278	ed.walters@fastcase.com
107	Mt Vernon Rec Cen	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	Vacant		
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	William Ramsay Rec	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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