

Utah County Democrats

The monthly newsletter of the Utah County Democratic Party

April 2008

Upcoming Events

April 30 (Wednesday)

A Night at the Museum. 6:30 p.m. at the Springville Art Museum. Tickets are \$16 and include a catered dinner and private museum tour. Open to all interested community members. Please RSVP by April 28 by contacting Lou Ann Talcott at (801) 489-9681 or ltalcott46@msn.com. Sponsored by the Democratic Women of Utah County.

May 3 (Saturday)

County Convention. 9 a.m. – 12 noon at Dixon Middle School. Will include legislative district meetings and a county-wide meeting. Everyone is invited to attend!

May 9 (Friday)

Jefferson-Jackson Dinner at the Carl Rampton Salt Palace and Convention Center in Salt Lake City. Registration for convention and dinner, 3–6 p.m. Convention to elect Denver delegates, 5 p.m. Dinner and entertainment, 7:15 p.m. Dress is casual. With a table of ten, tickets are \$50 each. About one third of proceeds go to candidates and a public awareness campaign. To RSVP, contact Alane Kester at (801) 756-4808 or alanekester@msn.com.

Please send information about upcoming events to newsletter@utahcountydems.com.

County Convention May 3

The county party will hold its annual convention on Saturday, May 3, at 9 a.m. at Dixon Middle School, located at 750 West 200 North in Provo.

The convention is an opportunity to meet our legislative candidates, hear from county and state candidates and officials, and mingle with fellow Democrats. In addition, there will be a vote on two contested races for the state legislature occurring in Senate District 16 and House District 57. Delegates from those districts will be able to vote in those contests.

The keynote speaker will be House Minority Leader Brad King, who also is a state senate candidate. His district, Senate District 27, includes parts of Utah County.

Please join us for an exciting kick-off to the general election campaign of 2008.

Message From the Chair

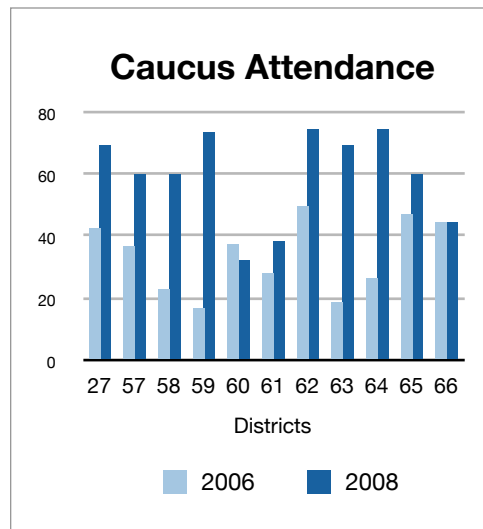
Richard Davis



The caucuses were a smashing success. I'm not a person who throws around superlatives, but the participation was so high in some areas we were all amazed.

To the right are some figures I've collected and a comparison with the caucus attendance two years ago. Some of the districts had spectacular increases in attendance.

Continued on next page.



A Night at the Museum!

Next Wednesday, April 30, at 6:30 p.m., the Democratic Women of Utah County will host "A Night at the Museum" at the Springville Art Museum at 126 East 400 South in Springville.

The event is open to spouses, friends, and any interested community members. Tickets are \$16 and include a catered dinner and private museum tour. RSVP by April 28 by contacting Lou Ann Talcott at (801) 489-9681 or ltalcott46@msn.com.

Message from the Chair (continued)

A big thank you to Hinckley, the legislative district chairs, and the caucus coordinators across the county who put the caucuses together this year. We are grateful for your hard work.

Our convention is coming up in May and all Democrats are invited to attend. Only the county delegates will be allowed to participate in the voting, but everyone is welcome to attend and join the celebration.

It is a celebration because we've already made great strides in changing politics in Utah County. We should celebrate that. We all should be proud of what we've been able to accomplish so far.

There is still much to be done. We'll talk about that and ask for your support as the campaign goes on. Candidates need support in many ways. Funds need to be raised to provide resources for these wonderful candidates.

But for a morning in May we'll just meet, enjoy the association with each other, mingle with our candidates, and relish the moment. Come join us.

The convention is on Friday, May 3, at 9 a.m. at Dixon Middle School. I look forward to seeing you all there.

"I'm Your Neighbor" Campaign running in local newspapers

Thanks to generous donations to the Party, the Utah County Message Committee has started a newspaper and web campaign that presents photos and short statements from various Utah County Democrats.

The campaign aims to demonstrate that Utah County Democrats are friends and neighbors and have values common to Utah County.

The 17-week campaign (52 pending additional funding) includes a weekly Sunday ad in the "Our Town" section of the *Daily Herald* and weekly Thursday ads alternating between northern and southern community papers. The "Neighbors" are also displayed on the Utah County Democrats website, www.utahcountydemocrats.com.

If you are interested in being a "Neighbor," send a short statement and high resolution photograph to recox@firston.com.

I'm Your Neighbor! Profiles like this are being printed in the Sunday "Our Town" section of the *Daily Herald* and in Thursday ads alternating between northern and southern community papers.

Dems make strong caucus showing

Joe Pyrah
Daily Herald, 27 March 2008

If the general election looks anything like Tuesday night's caucuses, Democrats may have a fighting chance in November.

OK, at least they won't embarrass themselves.

A quick rundown of attendance shows District 63 in Provo jumping from 19 two years ago to [70]* this year, said county Democratic chairman Richard Davis.

"It helped us that we tripled the number of caucus locations," Davis said. "I think it also helped that we had candidates."

Several other districts showed a doubling or tripling of the last caucus meetings in

2006, including 74 this year (versus 17 two years ago) in District 59 in Orem.

County Republican chairwoman Marian Monnahan said Wednesday that she hasn't seen specific attendance numbers, but multiple precincts reported back attendance of 100 people.

Kirk Jowers of the Hinckley Institute of Politics at the University of Utah said there are four reasons the caucuses drew high numbers:

- "National presidential races have been so predominant so far that "a lot of people are thinking about politics that haven't thought about it before."
- "[School] vouchers got a lot of people interested in how government functions and perhaps at times that our legislators can be out of touch."
- Both parties and media outlets did a better job of explaining caucuses and their importance.

- The LDS Church had a statement read over the pulpit on Sunday urging members to attend the caucuses.

Jowers said he thinks the groundswell of participation will push through to November elections.

"I think the general could be record-breaking," he said.

The next step for those voted in as delegates are the party conventions, where they will have a chance to vote on party candidates.

The Utah County Republicans will meet April 26 at Orem High School.

The Utah County Democrats will meet May 3 at Dixon Middle School in Provo.

**Editor's note: The article reported 2008 attendance in District 63 to be 100, but the correct total is 70.*



Candidates Spotlight

This is the first installment in our Candidates Spotlight series. Each month, we will spotlight one or two Democratic candidates running in Utah County.

Debbie Swenson

House District 66



Debbie (Johnson) Swenson grew up in Brigham City, Utah. She continued her education at BYU where she met and married Kenneth Swenson of Springville. They moved into the small apartment above the office of Swenson

Metal in Spanish Fork as they learned the challenges and joys of running a small business. As the business grew, they bought their first home in Salem where they have resided for the past 32 years.



Together they have raised six children, all of whom are married except their youngest who is serving a mission for the LDS church in Mexico. Their greatest joy is their seven grandchildren.

The journey of raising six children led Debbie into unexpected paths that have served to broaden her horizons. She found herself coaching youth softball and soccer, even volunteering as the coordinator of the Salem Girls Softball league. With children being involved in softball, cheer, football, baseball, soccer, tennis, track and hockey, she has spent her share of time on the sidelines cheering. Like many mothers, Debbie became actively involved in her children's education serving in various capacities with the PTA and on school advisory councils.

As the Spanish Fork Area PTA president, she had numerous opportunities to serve on school district committees such as the Nebo Education Foundation, the Healthy Lifestyles committee and the Career Ladder committee. One of the most cherished experiences for her was being recognized by the Spanish Fork High School's National Honor Society as "1994 Volunteer of the Year."

Debbie's desire to serve in a more meaningful way led her to the United Way, where she was trained and worked as a "Welcome Baby" volunteer in south Utah County. While helping new mothers learn mothering skills, she learned about needs in the community that exist all around her. She has also served on the board of directors for "Kids Cause"—an organization that provides for the physical needs of children in Utah County. She has realized that we don't have to look across an ocean to find people who are hungry or living in poverty, because they live among us.

In 2001, Debbie returned to BYU to finish her bachelor degree in Marriage, Family and Human Development. Her studies and associations during that time instilled in her a passion for strengthening families as a solution to so many problems. She also developed a belief that helping to create stronger families is what all community service should be about. After graduation in 2002, Debbie was challenged by one of her professors to use her degree to strengthen families in the community. This challenge motivated her to run for the Nebo District Board of Education where she has been serving for the past 6 years.

Don Jarvis

House District 63



Don Jarvis is an experienced educator now employed as a consultant at Utah Valley State College. He taught Russian at Brigham Young University from 1970 to 2004, where he also

founded the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning, established the Foreign Language House, directed General Education, and

chaired the Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages. Jarvis published widely on language teaching and faculty development, headed two national organizations for Slavic professors and consulted for universities and government agencies. Early in his career he taught high school in Beaver and Salt Lake City.

Jarvis is active in community and church. A member of the Provo Rotary Club, he also volunteers as a supervisor for Provo School District's adult English as a second language program. His family has contributed lunches to the Provo Food & Shelter Coalition for twenty years, and he has served as Wasatch Neighborhood Chair. He has served three missions for his church, one as mission president in Moscow, Russia, and has filled many church assignments from bishop to home teacher.



Don and his wife Janelle have deep roots in Provo. They have lived here for thirty-eight years, where they raised six children. They have twenty-two grandchildren, thirteen of whom live in Provo. All four of Don's grandparents attended and taught at Brigham Young Academy/ University. His great-grandmother also taught there, as did his great-grand-uncle Karl G. Maeser. He is related to many Provoans with the same last name as well as to local Youngs, Cannons, Woodburys and Johnsons. He is a fourth cousin of Mitt Romney.

Jarvis, 68, has traveled widely. He studied at BYU, the University of Utah, and Ohio State University. He has lived in New York, Iowa, California, Ohio, Finland, Russia, and Belarus and has visited most countries in Europe as well as Canada and Mexico. He speaks Russian, German, Finnish, and a little Spanish. His hobbies include gardening, guitar, and reading history.

COUNTY-PLATFORM CORNER

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

As Utah County Democrats we call for public policies that create good jobs for all Utahns.

We support a business climate characterized by fair tax policies, a skilled and well-educated workforce, and well-planned infrastructure.

We support workers and their right to a living wage and therefore call for an increase in the minimum wage.

We stand for equal pay for equal work, a safe workplace, and the right to organize.

We call for cooperation between business and government to support working families with access to affordable health care and retirement benefits, as well as comprehensive training and apprentice programs in the skills and trades in order to maintain a highly qualified labor force.

To read the entire platform of the Utah County Democratic Party, please visit our website at <http://utahcountydems.com>.



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