

Utah County Democrats

The monthly newsletter of the Utah County Democratic Party

May/June 2008

Upcoming Events

Friday, June 27

Utah County Democratic Party Fundraising Dinner, 6:30 PM at the Riverside Country Club in Provo.

Scott Matheson, Jr. will be the keynote speaker. Matheson is a former Rhodes Scholar, graduate of Stanford, Oxford, and Yale, gubernatorial candidate, and son of the late Governor Scott Matheson.



Funds raised through the dinner will be used to support the party's legislative candidates. To obtain a ticket, contact party secretary Kathy Cook at

kathryn@utahcountydems.com.

August 25-28

Democratic National Convention in Denver, Colorado. For more information, see <http://demconvention.com>.

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

Message From the Chair

Richard Davis



As the chair, I want to express my gratitude to all those who helped make our convention earlier this month such a success. The convention drew about 250 people.

Our keynote speaker, House Minority Leader Brad King, noted that the attendance was a major improvement over past conventions. It was the largest convention of Democrats in Utah County I've attended. Thanks to all who came and participated.

Special thanks to Larry Brown and the events committee co-chaired by Sara Jensen and Jenny Oman, as well as to Kristin Gerdy for staffing the main table in front of the hall.

You all might be interested to know that Jim Matheson indicated sometime ago that he wanted to be at the Utah County Convention. He had seen our progress in rejuvenating the

party and wanted to participate. A special thank you to him for joining us at our convention.

Now that the convention is over, the hard work begins. The party or the candidates will be contacting Democrats across the county to help with campaigns and party efforts to support our candidates this November. Please

give us some of your time, and your money, to help us between now and November.

As many of you know the "I'm Your Neighbor" ads have been running in the Daily Herald and the weeklies each Sunday. I'd be interested to hear of reaction you've

received from others. Have they sparked any conversations between you and your neighbors about the Utah County Democratic Party? If you have anything to share, please send it to me at richarddavis@utahcountydems.com.



Jim Matheson addresses the Utah County Democratic Convention, May 3





Candidates Spotlight

Gwyn Franson

House District 27



Gwyn Franson, a long time resident of Northern Utah County, has been active in local political organizations for more than two decades. She most recently served two terms as a city council member in Highland.

She believes her experience in city government will help her represent the constituents of District 27 in the state legislature, and stresses that she does not come to the office with a rigid ideological agenda.

Gwyn served in many civic and educational volunteer positions through the years including the Boy Scouts of America and the Parent Teacher Association. She gained valuable leadership skills through church service experience. The decision to run for the State House of Representatives shows her desire to serve the members of her community. She is anxious to represent them and voice their concerns. It is her desire to find resolutions to problems and broaden public participation in decision-making. She believes when we bring a range of differing viewpoints to the table, we are more likely to achieve that balance so critical to maintaining the democratic values we cherish.

Gwyn was instrumental in implementing the first gifted pullout at Highland Elementary, working as the coordinator of the program for several years. During that time she continued her own course work; receiving a BA in Education from BYU in 1996. She returned to school later in life and earned an education degree in order to "make a difference in the lives of children." She teaches fifth grade and last year was named teacher of the year at Highland Elementary. She and her team members have received

both state and national recognition for their economics education program. She is currently working toward obtaining an elementary education math endorsement.

Gwyn is married to Jay Franson, the current mayor of Highland. They are the parents of five children: Lon, Eric, Kevin, Janell, and Alayne. They are also proud grandparents to fourteen grandchildren.

Paul Thompson

House District 59



Paul H. Thompson and his wife Carolyn are the parents of six children, five daughters and one son. They have 24 grandchildren, 11 of whom are living in District 59, and six of whom are attending

Bonneville Elementary School.

Paul is passionate about education. As the former president of Weber State University he sees the need to build a better future for those 11 grandchildren who live in Utah. "Without a first rate education our children will be unable to reach their potential, to participate fully in the American dream. Our goal should be more than mediocrity."

Paul received a doctorate in Business Administration from Harvard University in 1969. From 1969 to 1973, he was an assistant professor at Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration. He began work at Brigham Young University in 1973, serving during his time there as professor of Organizational Behavior, chairman of the Department of Organizational Behavior, assistant dean of the Graduate School of Management, dean of the Marriott School of Management, and vice president of Development and University Relations. He served as president of Weber State University from 1990 to 2002.

Following his service at Weber State he was called to be the president of the Massachusetts Boston Mission of the LDS Church. He returned to Utah, to Orem where three of his children and those 11 grandchildren live.

He has served on boards of a number of community organizations, including:

- The Utah State Economic Development Board
- The Coalition for Utah's Future
- Holy Cross Health System of Utah
- Ogden Regional Medical Center
- The Chamber Ogden/Weber
- Ogden Eccles Conference Center
- Utah Higher Education Assistance Authority
- The Governor's Work Force Development Task Force
- Ogden Eccles Dinosaur Park
- National Advisory Committee for the Reserve Officers Training Corp

During those years of representing the university and acting on those boards he was always supportive of the governors under whom he served, while still working for increased support for education and various other state needs that seemed to always go "begging".

Paul is the co-author of two books: *Organization and People: Readings, Cases, and Exercises in Organizational Behavior* and *Novations: Strategies for Career Management*.

He has had articles appearing in *Harvard Business Review*, *Research Management*, *Management Review*, and *Organizational Dynamics*.

Democrats hope to build on new support in Utah County

Daily Herald, 4 May/June 2008
Caleb Warnock

Local Democrats positioned themselves on Saturday as the only party listening to the public, saying Utah's voucher repeal proved Republicans have lost their mandate.

Strategizing to make historic gains during November's elections, Democrats gathered for the annual Utah County party convention said they would take advantage of growing discontent among long-time Republicans.

With new infusions of money and hope, Democrats said they will work to swing Republican voters, campaigning on the platform that the Republican Party has grown corrupt, opaque, emboldened and disrespectful to their constituents after years of insular de facto rule of the state.

"We have shown that one-party rule is on the way out," said Utah County party chair Richard Davis. "We will end one-party rule and the Republicans will no longer be able to do what they want in this state."

Change and optimism were manifest everywhere at Saturday's convention. With 200 people attending, party leaders remarked repeatedly that interest in the party has never been so high in modern times. In addition, more than half of local Democratic candidates have out-fundraised their opponents so far, party leaders said.

While Republicans have done much good in Utah, years of ruling without significant opposition have allowed the party to sink into "arrogance, entitlement and corruption" said Wayne Holland, State Democratic Party chair. If Utahns would only spend one day at the Legislature to see the Republican Party in action, the state would turn Democratic overnight.

"This is a day when you saw the beginning of something big," Holland said. "This opportunity was given to us in part because of the behavior of the Legislature, and its leadership based in Utah County."



Wayne Holland addresses the Utah County Democratic Convention

Noting that Utah was once a Democratic state, Holland said a fundamental shift has begun.

"They will come back," he said of the public. "They've had enough and they are embarrassed."

One by one, Democratic candidates said they would go door to door, talking to Republicans about Utah County's deplorable air quality, overcrowded schools, the need for Legislative ethics reform, and the need for portable, affordable health care.

In the most watched contest at Saturday's convention, RaDene Hatfield won 80 percent support against Fred Desporio and will now go on to fight Republican Senate Majority Leader Curt Bramble for his seat.

Desporio immediately eschewed the Democrats, announcing to the Daily Herald that he will continue his bid as an Independent.

Speaking in plenary session, Democrats said they are ready to bring balance back to Utah politics.

"I am pretty sure some of you are disgruntled, disenfranchised former Republicans," said House Minority Leader Brad King to thunderous applause. King is a candidate for Senate District 27.

Utah's political system "is sick because it is out of balance," he said. "The Founding Fathers never meant it to be this way What happens between now and November will determine whether or not we have a true democracy.

"We especially need you to talk to your friends and tell them about the Democrats you know who are worthy of their vote and attention. ... We need to tell everyone in the state of Utah to release their inner Democrat. It is in there somewhere."

Congressman Jim Matheson said Utah voters are giving Democrats new attention because the public has "figured out that the Legislature does not listen to people anymore."

He advised his fellow Democratic candidates that winning in November will hinge on proving to voters that Democrats are listening.

"That is really the issue here in Utah today," he said.

His own campaign will focus on standing up against radioactive waste, fiscal responsibility and health care for the working poor, he said.



Utah County's 2008 Democratic Candidates

Party Welcomes Kathryn Cook as New Secretary

We are happy to welcome Kathryn Cook as our new secretary of the Utah County Democratic Party. Kathryn is taking the helm for Hinckley Jones-Sanpei, who was unable to continue as secretary due to demanding time requirements of a new job. We are truly grateful for Hinckley's outstanding service and wish her well.

Kathryn is a home-grown Utahn. Born in Logan, she has lived in at least 13 other Utah cities. She earned an RN degree in nursing



from WSU and USU, and has worked as an RN in the Logan Hospital, American Fork Hospital, Timpanogos Hospital, Colorado Springs Hospital, and in holistic clinic settings.

She and her husband Vaughn R Cook have lived in Utah County for most of the past 22 years and are the parents of 5 children and almost 9 grandchildren. She enjoys gardening, socializing with friends and neighbors and is an active member of her LDS Ward in Provo.

Kathryn is excited to serve as the secretary for the Utah County Democrats. She can be reached at kathryn@utahcountydems.com.

Former Gubernatorial Candidate Scott Matheson to Keynote Party Fundraiser on June 27

Scott Matheson, Jr., will be the keynote speaker at a special fundraising dinner for the Utah County Democratic Party on Friday, June 27, at 6:30 p.m. at the Riverside Country Club in Provo.

Matheson is a former Rhodes Scholar, graduate of Stanford, Oxford, and Yale, gubernatorial candidate, and son of the late Governor Scott Matheson.



Funds raised through the dinner will be used to support the party's legislative candidates. Legislative

candidates are making major efforts to be financially competitive with their Republican opponents. The county party is seeking to help these candidates obtain the necessary resources to run viable campaigns that allow them to get their message out to Utah County voters.

The cost for the fundraiser will be \$75 per person. Richard Davis, county party chair, said the county party has probably never done this kind of fundraiser before.

"This is a major act of faith on our part," Davis admitted. "Will Democrats in Utah County be willing to put up \$75 to attend a fundraising event to help elect Democrats in Utah County? We think so. This is the year when we can make a difference, and we invite Utah County Democrats to join us in this fundraiser to support the candidates who want to change Utah politics for the better."

To obtain a ticket, contact Kathy Cook, party secretary, at kathryn@utahcountydems.com.

COUNTY-PLATFORM CORNER

TRANSPORTATION

As Utah County Democrats, we have watched as traffic has increased on our highways leading to conditions of near-gridlock. We believe we need leadership at the county and state levels that will work harder to alleviate this problem.

We pledge to work to bring more state and federal money to Utah County for expansion and better maintenance of our roads.

We also call for the extension of mass transit systems, including commuter rail and bus rapid transit in Utah County, to connect with systems in other counties along the Wasatch Front.

The entire platform of the Utah County Democratic Party is available online at <http://utahcountydems.com>.



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