

Proud District 17 Democrats

Monthly Meeting!

August 3rd

Info Exchange at 6:30
Meeting 7:00 pm

Pyle Center

655 E Southern Ave, Tempe
(just west of the Library)

Speakers

Gather with energized Democrats and get more involved in local, state, and national politics!

Questions?

Contact Doug Mings
480-628-2481
dougming@gmail.com

Free Films

D17 Democrats continue their **FREE** Big Picture Film Series, with July showings of two documentaries:

War Made Easy
Friday, July 6, 6pm

and

Small Town Gay Bar
Friday, July 20, 6pm

Escalante Community Center
2150 E Orange St Tempe

War Made Easy, narrated by Sean Penn, exposes a 50-year pattern of government deception and media spin that has dragged the US into one war after another, from Vietnam to Iraq.

Small Town Gay Bar, produced by Kevin Smith of *Clerks* fame, is, you guessed it, a documentary about small-town gay bars, set in the Deep South. The film, directed by Malcolm Ingram, was an official selection of the 2006 Sundance Film Festival.

Meg's Legislative Wrap-Up

When Congressman Harry Mitchell sat in the State Senate seat I now hold, he often told people that "much of what we do here is to fix what we did not do right the year before." Well, I intend to tell Harry that his theory was, sad to say, right again this year. For me, this 2007 legislative session both honed my skills in compromise and at times forced me to draw a line in the sand on compromise.

One high point of the session was a successful negotiation connecting the business community, organized labor, and legislators from both parties to adjust workers-compensation benefits. On the flip side, I was disappointed that we were unsuccessful with health-care reform measures for the uninsured.

Looking ahead, tackling the problem of the uninsured will be critical. But one of the most heated debates both at the legislature and in public forums has been the employer-sanctions bill. As one of four senators who voted against the flawed legislation that passed this session, I was happy to see the Governor urge lawmakers to revisit the language in a special session.

The Arizona Republic (July 3, 2007) editorial simply urged "Fix the Flaws." I agree; one challenge is to foster cooperation between both sides of this complicated issue to ensure that flawed legislation does not hurt Arizona. But perhaps my biggest concern about this legislation is something that we Arizonans cannot control. Namely, a federal program – the "Basic Pilot" – which is supposed to help businesses verify immigration status – well, the Basic Pilot itself is flawed and severely underfunded. We all agree that accountability is a good thing; but it seems at times there is disagreement in the legislature as to IF accountability is a two-way street. I believe it is. If we expect businesses to be responsible parties, we need to provide them adequate tools to be responsible. Much of my "out-of-session" time this summer will be spent working to build the bipartisan strength needed to fix the flaws we can address. But without the federal government's commitment to improving their existing pilot program, our state legislation is bound to have unintended and unfortunate consequences for Arizona.

–Meg Burton Cahill



Bipartisan Legislators Accomplished Much

Although this year's 164-day legislative session was unnecessarily long, this Legislature accomplished more in 24 weeks than any other in recent history.

The most significant improvement in the 2007 session is that this year's budget is a bipartisan compilation that was premised on the best interests of the people of our state instead of personal and political motivations.

We passed a \$10.6 billion budget that includes \$46 million to be spent specifically on teacher salaries. The budget also includes the removal of the gag rule that prevented school officials from informing parents of their children's ability to get health care. We also passed much-needed growth funding to ASU.

My budgetary priority this session was more funding for education. I proposed a bill to set a statewide minimum teacher salary of \$33,000. I introduced the idea of a teacher loan-forgiveness program. I fought for Teach for America and Arizona Financial Aid Trust funding. I couldn't have predicted at the beginning of my tenure at the Legislature which of these line items I would be successful in helping to secure. We got pretty much all of them.

Thanks to a group of elected leaders who are working hard to move our state in the right direction, my message of better funding for our education system did not fall on deaf ears.

This budget was a collaborative effort that included a large group of like-minded people who are focused on providing for Arizona's future. A vast majority of Arizona senators (Republicans and Democrats), the House Democratic caucus, and Gov. Napolitano worked well together to develop this compromise. We can only hope that the parties will get together in a similar way next year.

Although this session was very productive, there is a great deal of work yet to be done. We still need to come into compliance with the US District Court's judgment against our state for failing to adequately fund English language learner education. Despite this and last year's increases, our state's education system and teacher salaries are still drastically underfunded. Our state also needs some serious health care reform.

But for now, Arizonans should be confident that the people's work is being done and help is on the way.

–David Schapira

DISTRICT 17 DEMOCRATS

P.O. Box 26047, Tempe, AZ 85285

Next Meeting: August 7 at
the Pyle Center in Tempe!

Inside:
FREE MOVIES!

July Events!	2	3 District 17 Democrats Meeting 6:30-9pm, Pyle Center, Tempe	4	5 (and 19) Drinking Liberally, 5:30-9 pm Casey Moore's	6 Big Picture Film Series, 6pm <i>War Made Easy</i> FREE. Escalante Ctr,	7
8	9	10	11	12 Democratic Happy Hour, 6:30pm Papago Brewing Co. 7107 E McDowell, Scottsdale	13	14 AZ House Town Hall, 11-12pm with Reps. Ableser and Schapira, Pyle Center. Tempe
15	16	17	18	19 Nucleus Club Lunch, 11:30am 602-234-6545	20 Big Picture Film Series, 6pm <i>Small Town Gay Bar</i> FREE. Escalante Ctr,	21 East Valley Breakfast Club, 7:30am, Ranch House Restaurant, Mesa
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	Aug 7 District 17 Democrats Meeting 6:30-8:30 Pyle Center, Tempe	8	9	10	11 rest up...we got work to do!

HELP DISTRICT 17 ELECT DEMOCRATS PLEASE DONATE TODAY!

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Campaign finance laws require that you fill out this information below. *Donations are not tax deductible.*

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Enclosed is my check for: ___\$17 ___\$25 ___\$35 ___\$50 \$_____Other

Thank you for your commitment to turning AZ blue!

Save Us Moolah!

Email our editor to receive
this newsletter by email:
laurenkuby@gmail.com

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