



MAZATLÁN

CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

February 2008

WHAT A GREAT TIME TO BE A DEMOCRAT!

My first Presidential election, back when the voting age was 21, was the horrible year of 1968 when Richard Nixon became President. Republicans have won our top office for six of the nine elections since then. The result of their years of success and power is a country divided by wealth and class in a world where we have few friends.

This year we have been rich in honorable, intelligent and inspiring candidates. It's been a thrill to watch debates and hear our candidates in speeches displaying wisdom, humor and vision rather than to hear the words of fear, division and denigration that have been standard from our President and Vice President for the last seven years. Now we are down to two excellent candidates. I believe we can win with either of them. It seems clear that most Americans are ready for something new, that most understand the damage that's been done to our country and our standing in the world in these last years.

But it's also clear to me that we can lose this election. The Republican Party hasn't won these last 6 of 9 by lack of skill, money or squeamishness. Most anything can and will be tried to persuade the American voter to choose the Republican nominee. Ralph Nader certainly hasn't helped things by jumping in again; he probably won't hurt much, but he certainly won't help. We can hurt ourselves if the party divides again, perhaps over the issue of convention super-delegates. We can hurt ourselves more if we grow complacent and sure of victory. Our obligation as citizens, as parents and grandparents is to stay involved, to contribute time, money and effort to assure that our candidate takes office next January. Then our obligation will be to make sure that that President and the next Congress deliver on our country's and their own promises of equality and justice.

Your participation in Democrats Abroad this year to find eligible voters and help them vote can make a difference in this election. Your registration and ballot request on www.VoteFromAbroad.org could make the difference in a close race in your precinct and your state for that state's electoral votes. Your vote can make a difference in a tight Congressional race. Your vote, all of our votes, can together make the United States and this world a better, safer place.

Rose Ann Porter, Mazatlan Chapter Chair

Primaries still to be held (April - June) are: Pennsylvania, Indiana, North Carolina, Nebraska, West Virginia, Kentucky, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico and South Dakota. If you're from one of these states, register now at www.VoteFromAbroad.org for your absentee ballot. While you're there, join Democrats Abroad!



Isabel Hudgins Medina and Myriam Roiz had an interview on Saturday, Jan. 26th with reporter Luis Angel Gómez of Noroeste. We spoke of the coming elections and urged all Mexicans with dual citizenships to please log on to register to vote at www.VoteFromAbroad.org, to be able to vote in the global primary. Our interview, along with a banner ad, appeared the following day,

On the third Friday of each month, DA Voter Registration committee will be helping voters register and/or request absentee ballots at Canuck's from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Anyone wanting more information or wanting to volunteer to register voters please contact Audrey and Jim Maynard at jim.maynard@juno.com.

Mazatlan Chapter Officers:

Chair: Rose Ann Porter
Vice-Chair: Warren Conrad
Secretary: Nancy Dardarian

Treasurer: Barbara Fisher
Counsel/Parliamentarian: Eliot Deutsch
Contact us: chair.mazatlan@mexicodemocrats.org



Global Primary Results

The total vote cast in over 100 countries was 23,105 with 65.6% for Obama and 32.7% for Clinton. The Americas Region total vote was 5,255 with 54.6% for Obama and 43.5% for Clinton. Mexico cast 1,560 votes, 56.6% Obama, 40.1% Clinton.

What does all this mean? We had a record breaking turnout in the first ever Global Primary. The Americas Region gained an additional delegate and DA Mexico will cast at least 30% of the votes at the Americas Region Caucus.

Media Workshop in Mexico City

A media workshop was held in Mexico City in January to train Democrats Abroad media contacts in how to deal with the challenges of dealing with the media. Ana Maria Salazar put together a one day workshop, and the Mazatlán chapter was happy to send Isabel Hudgins de Medina for the training.

Along with Ana Maria Salazar, Ceci Connolly of the Washington Post and Javier Cázares (an expert on Mexican Media), the group got a chance to perform mock interviews and have their performances critiqued.



Democrats Abroad On the Air!

Isabel Hudgins de Medina (right) being interviewed by Judith Fernandez of Radio Cultura on Friday, February 1, 2008.

Isabel is co-chair of our Publicity Committee and has been working hard to get the word out to both English and Spanish speakers in Mazatlán!

The interview with Radio Cultura was a great start at reaching out to the community—which also includes many who hold dual citizenship and may not realize they are able to vote in the United States.

MOVIE NIGHT ~~~ SAVE THE DATE

Democrats Abroad is going to be showing the movie "Sicko" at Canucks on April ____, 2008 at 7 pm. Donations are gladly accepted.

This Michael Moore documentary compares the highly profitable American health care industry to other nations.

Reminder to all DA members to read the DA México bi-monthly newsletter Roundup (soon to be called Accion/Acción) for incisive articles, book reviews and web links. Read the article about Congressman Michael Honda's Overseas Vote Act and follow the bill's progress on www.MexicoDemocrats.org To let your congressman or congresswoman know how you feel about making voting easier for ex-pats, go to www.visi.com/juan/congress for an online directory of email addresses for the 110th Congress.

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Publicity: Isabel Hudgins Medina & Myriam Roiz

Voter Registration: Jim & Nancy Maynard

Membership: Nancy Blakeslee

Treasurer: Barbara Fisher

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