

Clear the decks for a two-day **BINGE** of Democratizing!

May 15 is the J-J Dinner

Republicans call theirs a banquet; we have called ours a dinner for 200 years.

May 16 is the 8th CD Convention

You only have to be a registered voter locally to attend. Come on out!

Details on this page

## Glenn Nye to keynote J-J

Congressman Glenn Nye, who has one of the most intriguing backgrounds of any member of the House, will be the keynote speaker at this year's Jefferson-Jackson Dinner, Friday, May 15.

Nye, 34, who defeated Republican Thelma Drake in the long-time GOP 2<sup>nd</sup> District of Virginia, gave the commonwealth's congressional delegation a 6-5 Democratic majority.



REP. NYE

A fifth-generation resident of the 2<sup>nd</sup> District, which includes much of Hampton Roads and the Eastern Shore, Nye is a former Foreign Service officer.

He served in Kosovo and Macedonia where he helped secure the release of U.S. hostages. That earned him the State Department's Superior Honor Award. Later Nye volunteered to go to Afghanistan, spending almost a year as part of a U.S. government sponsored team managing the historic Afghan Constitution Commission and sup-

porting the country's first Presidential election.

He also managed a U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) community development program in the West Bank and Gaza. He served as Operations Director in the Middle East by registering eligible voters in major U.S. cities for Iraq's Transitional National Assembly election. In Iraq, Nye led operations to create jobs for Iraqis as part of the counter-insurgency effort.

*continued on page four*



## Convention for all 8th District Democrats is set for May 16

The annual 8th Congressional District Convention will be held Saturday, May 16, with the main order of business being the election of members of the State Central Committee.

The convention will be held at Edison High School, 5801 Franconia Road in Alexandria. Convention registration begins at 9 a.m. with the convention being called to order at 10 a.m.

All registered voters living in the 8th Congressional District—encompassing Arlington, Alexandria, Falls Church and chunks of Fairfax County—are eligible to attend.

Each registered voter attending is required to sign an affirmation that he or she is registered to vote here, is a Democrat, does not intend to support any candidate opposed to the Democratic nominee in the 2009 general election, and has not and will not participate in the nominating process of any

other political party this year.

The principal business of the convention is to elect 20 members of the Democratic Party of Virginia's State Central Committee. That 20 includes seven from Arlington, of which three must be female and four male.

Candidates for that election must pre-file by 5 p.m., Friday, May 8. The form is on the Eighth District Website, [www.va8thcddems.org](http://www.va8thcddems.org). The form may be faxed, mailed or hand delivered to: **Margo Horner**, Eighth Congressional District Chair, c/o Arlington County Democratic Committee, 2009 14th St. N., Suite 612, Arlington, VA 22201. Fax: (703) 528-2321.

The convention will convene at 10 a.m. and immediately break into four jurisdictional caucuses—Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax and Falls

*continued on page eight*

**Report from Chairman Peter Rousselot**

# *GOP to unemployed: Drop dead!*

Nearly 300,000 Virginians are unemployed — with unemployment rates in places like Martinsville as high as 20.2%.

Yet on Wednesday, April 8, Virginia's Republican-dominated House of Delegates followed the lead of Virginia Republican gubernatorial candidate Bob McDonnell, and rejected \$125 million in federal unemployment funds that were being offered to Virginia.

As news media reported, Bob McDonnell "favored rejecting the jobless money" and "McDonnell opposes unemployment stimulus." All but two Republicans in the Virginia House of Delegates voted to reject expanding unemployment benefits for struggling Virginians.

The \$125 million is part of President Barack Obama's federal stimulus package — paid for by Virginians' tax dollars. These funds would have gone to displaced workers in Virginia and helped to stimulate our economy.

Despite the highest unemployment rates our state has seen in decades, Bob McDonnell and the Republican-dominated Virginia House of Delegates chose to play political games instead of protecting our future.

In trying to justify killing Virginia's receipt of this federal money, Virginia Republicans pointed to the possibility that businesses might have to pay more in unemployment insurance two years from now when the federal dollars are exhausted. But, Governor Kaine stated that if Virginia were to assume the obligation of continuing to fund unemployment assistance after the federal dollars stop flowing, it would cost Virginia businesses only \$4.50 per worker per year. A company with 10 employees would pay a mere \$40 extra in 2011 to help those now out of work get back on their feet.

In a state, like Virginia, in which businesses currently pay very little per worker per year for unemployment insurance (\$98 versus the national average of \$258), the Virginia Republicans have presented a lame and totally unconvincing argument for their heartless rejection of help for those who need it the most.

In these tough economic times, rejecting the \$125 million offered by the federal government is a reckless and fiscally irresponsible act. That reckless act was masterminded

by the right-wing-dominated Virginia Republican Party and their hand-picked gubernatorial candidate, Bob McDonnell. Their shortsightedness will hurt both businesses and families in Virginia. As the state unemployment trust fund approaches insolvency, the \$125 million in federal funds could have delayed rate hikes for businesses. At the same time, these funds would have helped unemployed Virginians get the job retraining they need.

What should Arlington Democrats do?

**First**, you should sign now the Democratic Party of Virginia's petition or record a video expressing your outrage at what Bob McDonnell and the Virginia Republicans have done. You can do both at this URL:

<http://www.standupforva.com>

**Second**, you should volunteer now to help the 2009 Arlington Joint Campaign develop strategies to drive up our Democratic turnout in the general election in Arlington so that we can defeat Bob McDonnell and the other Republican statewide candidates.

**Third**, you should make a financial contribution now to help key Democratic candidates running for the Virginia House of Delegates so we can gain a majority of the seats in the House. You can do that by going to the following URL:

<https://secure.dlccweb.com/o/5285/p/10021/donate>

## *New poll shows Undecided leads for governor*

A poll on the gubernatorial primary shows a clear and overwhelming advantage for "undecided."

The poll was taken by the Democratic blog Daily Kos and Research 2000 in early April.

It indicates the June 9 primary is still up in the air and the remaining weeks of the campaign will be decisive.

The poll shows 41 percent of Democrats undecided, 24 percent backing Brian Moran, 19 percent supporting Terry McAuliffe and 16 percent for Creigh Deeds.

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*Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of the ACDC unless expressly approved by an appropriate Committee Resolution*

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**Next Monthly Meeting—  
All Dems (Volunteers Especially) Invited**

*Wednesday, May 6, 2009, 7 p.m.*

NRECA Building, 4301 Wilson Blvd  
*Corner of North Taylor and Wilson, just east of Glebe & Wilson  
Free parking under building, enter from Taylor Street*

Every month, we are collecting cereal for the needy in Arlington. Please bring a box to the monthly meeting. Do it every month. In other words, **THINK CE-REAL SERIALLY**. There's more than cereal needed. Please bring canned and dry goods as well.

***Bumper Sticker  
of the Month  
Annoy a  
Republican  
—THINK for  
yourself!***

***TRS lifts the  
veil just this  
single time***

One of the benefits of being a member of The Roosevelt Society (TRS) is being invited to special receptions featuring elected officials.

For this time only, in an effort to garner new members, you don't even have to belong; you just have to be interested in good food, good company and substantive conversation.

On Sunday, May 3, from 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m., TRS members, their guests and prospective members will gather at the home of County Board Chair **Barbara Favola**, 2319 N. 18<sup>th</sup> Street (between Wilson Boulevard and Lee Highway; accessible by the Courthouse Metro) to mix and mingle. And it's all free.

State Senator **Mary Margaret Whipple** will discuss women leading the Senate and Delegate **Bob Brink** will provide an update on the critical upcoming battle for Democratic control of the General Assembly. There will also be a pitch for joining TRS, but you were already interested in that—right?

The TRS is ACDC's way of providing a steady source of funding for on-going costs such as office rent, utilities, phones and supplies. For as little as \$10 a month (more is gladly accepted), members receive a special monthly newsletter, discounts on J-J Dinner tickets and invitations to events such as this one. And they have the satisfaction of knowing they are supporting the Democratic Party in Arlington with the single-minded goal of electing Democrats to office at the local, state and national levels.

RSVP to TRS President **Charlene Bickford**, [Charlene.bickford@gmail.com](mailto:Charlene.bickford@gmail.com) or (703) 525-7368.

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Arlington Chamber of Commerce

# Lists! Lists! Lists! — The challenge of keeping track

Keeping track of all of ACDC's volunteers, contributors and friends has always been a huge job. It became even more of a challenge in the last four years when the numbers grew exponentially as the result of the excitement and enthusiasm brought about by the candidacies of Governor Tim Kaine, Senators Jim Webb and Mark Warner and, of course, President Barack Obama.

Keeping track of numerous lists with thousands of names is a monumental task. There were several different systems in use at several different locations maintained by several different people. Coordinating the lists and keeping them up to date was almost impossible.

## *Nye to address J-J May 15th*

*continued from page one*

In addition to Nye, all three gubernatorial candidates—Creigh Deeds, Terry McAuliffe and Brian Moran—have been invited to speak. And with the June 9 primary only a few weeks later, there will be plenty of other candidates in attendance as well.

As in the past three years, the event will begin with a reception at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. at the Westin Arlington Gateway Hotel, 801 N. Glebe Road, in Ballston. Valet parking is available and there is a public garage a short block away on Vermont Avenue just off Fairfax Drive. It is also accessible by Metro from the Ballston station.

Tickets are \$125 with discounts for Young Democrats (\$100) and Roosevelt Society members (\$115). For \$250 you get to attend a special VIP reception.

The J-J has become ACDC's signature event of the year. Not only is there great food and ambiance, it's a chance to meet and mingle with Arlington Dems and elected officials.

Invitations highlighting the theme "Arlington: Gateway to a Blue Virginia" have already been mailed. Or you may purchase your tickets online by going to the ACDC web site at [www.arlingtondemocrats.org](http://www.arlingtondemocrats.org).

This event has been a sell-out for the last three years.

ACDC Chair **Peter Rousselot** tasked webmaster **Jordan Higgins** and communications director **Melanie Ciolek** with consolidating the data base using the NGP system—recently adopted for maintaining financial records—to also better manage volunteer records as well as online email communications. [See profiles of Jordan and Melanie on page seven.]

This is a critical ACDC team effort on which many ACDC leaders have collaborated. They include "List Lady" **Carrie Johnson**; the volunteer coordination team of **Marj Signer**, **Marge Epstein**, and **Nancy Pilchen**; secretary **Kate Mesches**, and assistant secretary **Peter Owen**.

By keeping volunteer records all in one place, it is more likely that up-to-date information will be available during critical election periods. It will also provide an historical record of what types of activities volunteers have participated in, enabling ACDC to better direct and engage its community of volunteers to activities in which they are most interested.

For email communications, the goal is to provide more content-rich emails as well as track key statistical data that can help make online efforts more effective. This is still in the early stages but possible applications could involve sending subscribers more targeted emails that are tailored to their specific interests.

"This effort to consolidate our records and streamline our online communications will ultimately enable ACDC to better serve and support our most critical resource, the individual members of the Arlington Democratic community," said Higgins.

## *Precinct Ops fills slots*

Three new Precinct Operations slots were filled at the April meeting. **Carol Fontein** was elected Precinct Ops vice chair, replacing **Sarah Godlewski**, who is now serving as president of AYDs.

Also elected were **Ginny Sadler** as co-chair of the Metro Area and **Charley Conrad**, as chair of the Four-Mile Run Area. Charley replaces **Krysta Jones**, who will have her hands full serving as co-chair of the Joint Campaign this year.

## *After primary, local electoral front looking (yawn) quiet*

No Democratic challengers filed to run against incumbent Delegates **Adam Ebbin** (49<sup>th</sup> District), **Bob Brink**, (48<sup>th</sup> District) or **David Englin** (45<sup>th</sup> District) so they are now the official nominees of the Democratic Party.

The same is true for County Board Vice Chair **Jay Fisette**, who is running for re-election. **James Lander** was formally endorsed for School Board by ACDC at its April meeting after no one else filed for the endorsement. (School Board candidates run on a non-partisan basis, but it has been traditional for political parties to endorse a candidate that best represents their goals and values).

There will be five candidates for the 47<sup>th</sup> District on the June 9 primary ballot. They are **Miles Grant**, **Patrick Hope**, **Alan Howze**, **Adam Parkhomenko** and **Andres Tobar**.

As for the November ballot, as of press time only two of the six locally elected posts have seen non-Democrats file—and neither of them is Republican.

In the 47<sup>th</sup> District, the winner of the five-man Democratic primary will face perennial Green Party candidate Josh Ruebner, who has been nominated by his party.

In the 49<sup>th</sup> District, represented by Adam Ebbin, J. Ron Fisher, of the Independent Green party, has also filed. (The Greens and the Independent Greens are totally different parties.)

There is still time for others to run against Democrats. Republicans have been trawling the county for candidates willing to run and have until June 9 to name them. As of our deadline, no Republican has been masochistic enough to take on this strong Democratic slate.

In his formal announcement at the April ACDC meeting, Delegate Brink said he hopes he does have opposition because 1) "it is good for the Democratic process" and 2) "it keeps me focused on what I have to do."

Delegate Englin, whose district lies mostly in Alexandria but includes three precincts in Arlington, has noted that "the Alexandria Republican Party started attacking me the day I announced."

## Early voting killed (but not for Arlington)

So vote early but not  
often in the June 9  
Democratic primary

A proposal to allow no-excuse absentee voting throughout the commonwealth has been killed by the GOP majority in the House of Delegates yet again.

But that won't stop early voting in Arlington for the June 9 Democratic primary. That voting will begin by **May 11 on the Third Floor of the county building, 2100 Clarendon Blvd. The hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays plus two Saturdays—May 30 and June 6—from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

The state legislative proposal for "no excuse" early voting was first buried by a House subcommittee during the January-February legislative session.

The General Assembly then returned to Richmond April 8 to review Governor Tim Kaine's vetoes and proposed amendments. Kaine re-drafted one bill on voting to include a right for all voters to cast their ballots up to 45 days before Election Day without having to provide any explanation. Kaine said, "If you want people to participate in elections, I think this is a no-brainer."

The GOP-run House of Delegates managed to bury that proposal again without taking any vote that would leave their fingerprints on the death of the popular measure. Kaine said, "I conclude that the Rs want fewer people to vote, not more."

The existing voting law will continue to require that voters give one of 17 reasons for voting before Election Day. One of those reasons is that the voter will be out of the county on Election Day, even if just for one minute to smell the roses next door. Thus, it is easy for many Arlingtonians—residents of the smallest county in the entire nation—to qualify, but much harder for residents of larger counties in the state.

### Calendar items

To submit items for the ACDC calendar, go to <http://www.arlingtondemocrats.org/submitevent.phtml>.

## Donkey Ears

Listening to the doings  
of Arlington's Dems

as overheard by  
Dan Steen and Warren Nelson



**Off to the wars, literally:** Outreach and Visibility Co-chair **Felix Herrera** is suiting up to do another tour in the war zone. He previously served tours in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Now, he's going back to calm and quiet Afghanistan. Felix got a standing ovation when the announcement was made at last month's meeting. Right now, he's at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, for a few months of training and preparations. Felix is a native of El Salvador who came to the United States at the age of 16, got his bachelor's and master's degrees from George Mason University and now teaches English and science at Wakefield High.

**Back from the wars, early:** Former ACDC Program Chair **Jonathan Morgenstein**, who has been serving with the Marines in Iraq, was medevaced to Germany for surgery. Don't worry, it's not what you think—Jonathan tore his Achilles tendon playing soccer with Iraqi soldiers! By the time you read this, he may have been transferred to Bethesda Naval Hospital for recovery and rehab, but expects to be in a cast for three months. He only had three more weeks left in his tour, but the docs advised him not to wait for the repair job. He looks forward to being back in the ACDC fold soon.

**First Arlingtonian to Obama Administration:** President Obama has named the first Arlingtonian of whom we are aware to the Administration. **Aneesh Chopra**, who is currently Governor Kaine's secretary of technology, will be the federal government's first chief technology officer. Obama said, "In this role, Aneesh will promote technological innovation to help achieve our most urgent priorities—from creating jobs and reducing health care costs to keeping our nation secure."

**The grapes of Democracy:** Former ACDC Chair **Jim Turpin** is about to be deep in the grapes. He's now supervising the installation of trellis posts at the Nelson County vineyard he and wife **Susan Prokop**, former ACDC historian and Roosevelt Society newsletter editor, are starting up. They have named it Democracy Vineyards. As Susan says, "After all, Democracy is about choices—in this case, red or white." If you'd like to get some first hand experience working in the vines or care to reserve a bottle, contact Susan at [democracyvineyards@att.net](mailto:democracyvineyards@att.net). BTW, last month we reported Jim was retiring as treasurer of the state party. Ooops! Make that vice chair for finance.

**These gals open doors!** The recent GWEN meeting at Arlington's Hotel Palomar was more eventful than planned. School Board Member **Libby Garvey**, AYD Outreach Director **Atima Omara-Alwala** and Commissioner of Revenue **Ingrid Morroy** found themselves stuck in an elevator following the meeting. After repeated telephone attempts to reach the hotel engineer and even the elevator manufacturer proved fruitless, our resourceful women took matters in their own hands, prying the doors open and climbing out on their own. A third call went out to the powers that be to let them know the women had freed themselves—and that the men contacted had been useless. Somewhere in there is a metaphor! BTW, GWEN stands for either Get Women Elected Now or Grant Women Elevator Naptimes.

**Lotsa beer to cry in:** There's no champagne in Champaign for former Oakridge Precinct captain **Jeff Kohmstedt**. Jeff and mate moved back to Champaign, Illinois, a year ago and Jeff promptly ran for School Board. Seven candidates ran for three slots in April. Jeff says, "I got beaten soundly." He came in last. But he also figures he learned a lot about running a campaign in Champaign. And he says, "The biggest lesson I learned was that I enjoy the behind-the-scenes work of a campaign more now that I've had my head on the chopping block."

# The lieutenant governor's race

On this page you will find reports from the three remaining candidates who have filed to run for the Democratic nomination for lieutenant governor.

Pat Edmondson of Virginia Beach, who spoke at the April ACDC meeting, failed to collect the necessary 10,000 signatures to qualify to run.

*The Voice* is not carrying reports this month from the three candidates for governor because the mainstream press has provided considerable coverage of that race. The lieutenant

governor candidates are the least well-known to Arlington Dems so they are being highlighted this month.

Candidates for delegate from the 47<sup>th</sup> District, which includes almost half of Arlington County, are actively campaigning in the district and participated in the ACDC-sponsored candidate forum on April 21.

Next month's *Voice*—the issue immediately preceding the June 9 primary election—will feature reports from all eleven candidates.

## Jody Wagner

Dear Arlingtonians! One thing is for sure – we can't afford four more years of Bill Bolling. As a member of the Warner and Kaine administrations (first as State Treasurer, then as Secretary of Finance), I've battled Bob McDonnell and Bolling for years, as we sought to clean up the mess left by Republicans and keep Virginia moving forward. Following the disastrous Gilmore administration, we were able to restore the state's fiscal health and balance the budget, while expanding important education, health, and conservation programs. In the process, Virginia was named both the "best managed state" and the best state for a child's lifetime success.



In my seven years serving in the Warner and Kaine administrations, I worked with state and local leaders on many important issues. As a candidate for Lt. Governor, I've been humbled by the support I've received from many of these same officials. To date, 46 of the 66 Democratic Members of the General Assembly have endorsed me, and they're joined by 14 mayors as well as 4 of the 5 members of the Arlington Board.

Virginia's next administration will have an incredibly important task—preparing the Commonwealth for its future. My experience has taught me how to bring people together to work towards common goals and achieve results. Virginia needs leaders with the experience to get results, and I hope you'll consider me on June 9<sup>th</sup>. For more information please visit my website at [www.jodyforva.com](http://www.jodyforva.com). Thank you.

## Mike Signer

Having just finished up our barnstorm tour of Virginia, we are more confident than ever that our ideas-driven message is continuing to reach voters throughout the commonwealth.

As we toured throughout Virginia, our message was strengthened by our fundraising results from the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. Having only been in the race for 8 weeks, this campaign raised \$250,000 dollars from more than 800 donors. Even more exciting is the fact that 600 of those donors choose to donate online, which was more than any other candidate in the race.

Our message is also reaching the hearts-and-minds of political activists throughout Virginia. While in Roanoke, we were honored to receive the endorsement of long-time political activist Dave "Mudcat" Saunders. An expert in rural Virginian politics, and veteran of the Webb and Warner campaigns, "Mudcat" understands what is needed for a candidate to compete statewide and sees this campaign as a strong force come November.

We were also thrilled to receive the endorsement of Arlington Commissioner of Revenue Ingrid Morroy – an earlier endorser of Barack Obama and Jim Webb, and a bit of a campaign good luck charm.

If you have been keeping up with the blogs, it is clear that this campaign is developing momentum at exactly the right time. Voters are eager for a new generation of leadership and for a Lt. Governor who will fight for working Virginians, and we look forward to continuing a campaign based on progressive ideas to move Virginia towards a New Dominion.



## Jon Bowerbank

Jon Bowerbank is the founder and President of an energy services company that employs hundreds of people throughout Virginia and around the country. He has a business and technical background, and worked as an operational manager for a Fortune 10 company in numerous states. Jon is a Member-at-Large of the Russell County Board of Supervisors.

As an experienced businessman, Jon has spent years balancing the books and creating high paying jobs. As Lieutenant Governor he will use his business experience to help get Virginia's economy back on track. Jon strongly believes that investing in education and workforce training is essential to accomplishing this goal. He is also a strong proponent for improving Virginia's infrastructure and investing in public transportation options, particularly high speed rail.

Jon's diverse background within the energy sector gives him a unique perspective when it comes to combining private and public sector approaches into an integrated and holistic strategy for addressing energy issues. He strongly believes we can find green energy solutions that will grow, not stifle, Virginia's economy.

Jon has been endorsed by over 100 elected officials and party officials, including former Congresswoman Leslie Byrne, State Senator Chap Petersen, Fairfax City Democratic Chair Joseph Harmon, Prince William County Democratic Committee Chair Pete Frisbie, Manassas/Manassas Park Democratic Chair EJ Scott, and Gainesville Magisterial District Chair Bruce Roemmelt.



## Meet our leaders

These folks started in the GOP—but they learned fast



### Melanie Ciolek

The first political campaign ACDC Communications Director **Melanie Ciolek** ever worked on was for a Republican candidate for attorney general in 2002. “They were a nice group of people,” says Melanie, “but that was where I figured out I was a pretty strong Democrat!” And that’s not the only reason we know Melanie is smart!

Raised in Winfield, Illinois, an hour west of Chicago, she moved to the DC area to attend Georgetown University where she majored in international politics with a concentration in Latin American studies, graduating in 2005.

From there, she made the big move all the way from Georgetown to Rosslyn where she now resides. She hopes to pursue a Master’s degree in public diplomacy at USC in Los Angeles in the fall but expects to return to the area eventually.

Melanie’s “day job” is right in line with her interests. She works at the Program on International Policy Attitudes, a non-profit public opinion research think tank affiliated with the University of Maryland, where she does communications coordination and survey management with a network of international partners.

But it’s her “night job” that really keeps her busy. In addition to serving as ACDC communications director, she is active in AYDs and writes their weekly emails along with the monthly column on AYD activities for *The Voice*. She is also active in the Arlington Community Volunteer Network.

All these pursuits belie her athletic prowess. She is an avid Georgetown basketball, Nats and Cubs fan. She plays both regular and mini-golf as much as she can and runs a road race every few months.

And she has several trophies for her accomplishments as a free-throw shooter, although she admits to being a little out of practice these days. She has even trekked on a glacier—“complete with crampons and a little glass of whiskey over glacier ice”—in Tierra del Fuego, Argentina, at the end of her study abroad semester in that country. “I believe Democrats, especially Arlington Democrats, have the



### Jordan Higgins

**Jordan Higgins**, ACDC’s webmaster, is one of those rare people who was actually born in Washington, D.C.

Being a child of the nation’s capitol, where politics is the business of this company town, one of his earliest jobs was at the age of 13 when he was an intern for then-Senator Dan Quayle. [We will forgive him this lapse in judgment because we know Jordan is smarter than that; he can spell “potatoes.”]

The rest of his political life has been strictly Democratic. He moved to Arlington in 2004 while serving as the lead web designer on the Kerry-Edwards campaign.

Prior to that, he performed similar duties for General Wes Clark’s presidential primary campaign, and since has designed campaign web sites for Governor Tim Kaine, Senator Jim Webb, Senator Mark Warner and, most recently, for gubernatorial candidate Brian Moran. It will not surprise you to know that he has also served as the webmaster for Arlington Young Democrats and is Internet director for the Virginia Young Democrats.

Jordan has been a professional website designer and developer since 1995 and has worked on a broad range of projects for corporate, non-profit and educational clients. He currently plies his expertise for the U.S. Senate Democratic Caucus. His personal website is [www.jordanhiggins.org](http://www.jordanhiggins.org).

Lest you think he is typecast, Jordan was a music major at Radford College and he still enjoys composing and plays several instruments, including guitar, piano, flute, oboe and bagpipes.

He also manages to find time for autocross racing and road trips. “I have a very short attention span,” says Jordan, “so hobbies tend to change frequently and drastically.”

energy, progressive ideals and the desire to put time and effort into improving their community the rest of the state and the country,” says Ciolek (pronounced seel-ik). “Being a part of that process is the best thing about being an Arlington Democrat.” We told you she was smart!

## *AYDs create new arms to reach out*

Arlington Young Dems (AYDs) are reaching out. Several caucuses that reflect the diversity of both AYD and Arlington in general have been established in an effort to bring all the varied interests in the community into the fold.

Under the leadership of **Atima Omara-Alwala**, AYD outreach director, and **Daphne Dador**, deputy outreach director, the newly formed groups have already been very busy—and successful. “The quick development of these constituency caucuses reflects the strong interest among young Democrats to develop an organization that looks like multi-racial America,” says Omara-Alwala.

The African American caucus has spon-

sored several events and happy hours, including a February Black History Month event that featured a screening of a PBS documentary on Shirley Chisholm, the first African American to run for the U.S. presidency.

The LGBT caucus, led by Tiffany Joslyn, has held several meetings and established a monthly happy hour series, along with joint events with other LGBT groups in the DC area. In late April they hosted an “Out and Proud” happy hour to facilitate conversation between caucus members and openly LGBT Virginia legislators and candidates. Be on the look-out for this caucus to have a hand in a different kind of AYD fashion show in June.

The AYD Women’s Caucus, led by **Amanda Brino**, had its kick-off event in March in conjunction with Virginia NOW. County Board Chair **Barbara Favola**, County Board Member **Mary Hynes**, Commissioner of Revenue **Ingrid Morroy** and School Board

Member **Libby Garvey** were among the nearly 30 attendees at the event honoring the eight elected women on the 2009 AYD Executive Committee.

In the works for May are the launches of Asian American and Latino caucuses, which will be sure to continue AYD’s outreach to young Democrats from all sectors of the community. You can find out more about getting involved with caucus development at any AYD meeting, from the growing presence of the caucuses on Facebook or by contacting outreach@arlingtonyoungdems.org

Meanwhile, at the annual Virginia YD convention, four Arlington YDs were elected to state office. They are:

**Andrew Almand**—Treasurer

**Terron Sims** (ACDC Outreach Co-Chair)—Veterans Caucus Chair

**Amanda Wolfe** (ACDC Treasurer)—Labor Caucus Chair

**Ben Spangenberg**—NoVa Region Chair

## *Policies, posts to be voted on at Convention*

*continued from page one*

Church. Each jurisdictional caucus will elect its own State Central Committee members. Following those caucuses, the full convention will reassemble to conduct business. That will include voting on proposed resolutions that are now being considered by the Temporary Resolutions Committee.

If you wish to submit a resolution for consideration, it must be e-mailed to [resolutions@va8thcddems.org](mailto:resolutions@va8thcddems.org) by Saturday, May 2, at 5 p.m.

The report of the Temporary Resolutions Committee will be posted on the Eighth District Website, [www.va8thcddems.org](http://www.va8thcddems.org), prior to the convention. All resolutions adopted by the 2009 Eighth District Convention will be forwarded to the Democratic Party of Virginia.

Convention participants will also hear remarks by a number of elected officials and party leaders.

Volunteers are still needed to work on the convention. If you would like to participate, e-mail **Peter Rousselot** at [peter.rousselot@gmail.com](mailto:peter.rousselot@gmail.com).

### *Calendar items*

To submit items for the calendar for the website go to <http://www.arlingtondemocrats.org/submitevent.phtml>.

## *Fairfax licking shows (yet again) the role of turnout*

ACDC always preaches the importance of turnout, turnout, turnout ‘til we are blue in the face (and blue in the state). Once again, the importance of turnout was demonstrated close to home, right next door in Fairfax County and Alexandria, where there have been three special elections already this year.

Special elections are the ones where turnout is traditionally low and party efforts to get out the vote are often the key to victory. Furthermore, the Republicans normally have a larger hard core than Democrats, so the GOP often wins special elections where Democrats normally prevail in general elections.

Now look at the three special elections in our area this year.

First, Brian Moran resigned his delegate seat to run fulltime for the Democratic nomination for governor. The special election to fill his seat, with 12 precincts in Alexandria and two in Fairfax County, was held January 13. We won—by all of 16 votes: 1,344 for Democrat Charniele Herring to 1,328 for Republican Joe Murray. That’s cardiac close.

The next special election was February 4 countywide in Fairfax to pick a chairman of the Board of Supervisors to replace Gerry

Connally, who had just been elected to Congress. We won—but with just 48.2 percent of the vote for Democrat Sharon Bulova to 47.1 percent for Republican Patrick Herry. Again, it was stressfully close. And only 16 percent of the active registered voters turned out.

The third ballot was March 11 in the Braddock District to pick a Fairfax supervisor to succeed Bulova. We slipped up this time, losing by all of 89 votes. The totals were 6,292 for Republican John Cook to 6,203 for Democrat Ilryong Moon. Only 19 percent of the active registered voters came out.

Fairfax Democratic Chairman Scott Surovell points out that in that last special election Dems improved their showing in only one precinct, Villa, where Sen. Chap Petersen spent the weekend before the balloting knocking on 200 doors. Surovell calculates that Moon would have won if only half of the Fairfax Dem activists had spent the weekend knocking on doors in the other 24 precincts.

Surovell said, “Everyone needs to get into the Democratic boat and pull on the oars.” You can never rest on your laurels (or your oars)—especially when it comes to special elections. Turnout, turnout, turnout.