



May 12, 2008 Monday Morning News Post Primary Election Edition!

Take a minute to look at some events of special interest to the women's political sphere this week. Monday Morning News will be sent irregularly during May and June.

**POST ELECTION LUNCH REPORT
MORE REFLECTIONS ON THIS PRIMARY ELECTION
WOMEN IN THE RUNNING
JULIA WARD HOWE'S MOTHER'S DAY PROCLAMATION**

Post Election Lunch Report

Our endorsed candidates have sent **thank you** notes to the DWC for our endorsements and for our support in this primary election. They also thanked us in person at the Friday after-the-election lunch. We honored each of their efforts and achievements in the election and sent them off with some yellow roses to remind them of our appreciation for their efforts. Able to attend this lunch were Cathy Smith, Julie Thomas, Val Haughton, Iris Kiesling, Sophia Travis and Vi Simpson, and all shared their feelings from the primary races, as well as our need for a unified effort to elect Democrats in the fall.

Thanks to all who attended the lunch.. every seat was filled, and thanks Lu Cregar for arrangements and to Susan Sweet of Affairs of the Sun for hosting us at her cozy dining room!

More reflections on this primary election:

If you still have the front section of the Sunday HT, turn to the back page (A8) and take another look at just what epitomizes the Indiana primary election of 2008. A young woman, Melissa Keith of Evansville, was so excited to vote for the first time, that she hopped in joy from her voter check-in to the voting machine, almost continually from the time she entered the school gym where she voted. Next to her was a white haired election worker watching with a hearty smile of amusement. We've seen such excitement, not just among young voters voting for the first time, but among older voters who remember the last 'relevant' primary election in Indiana some 40 years ago. Everywhere there was such energy spurred on by the presidential primary... volunteers for both Democratic candidates and visits by them and their surrogates have topped news stories in April, and drove record numbers of voters to the polls. And when was the last time YOU saw volunteers on the street on Election Day with signs that said "Vote Today – Polls close at 6 pm" getting honks of appreciation from passing motorists?!

So it's with a hearty laugh that I read David Broder's column on just the other side of that same page. Here is an aging white man from inside the beltway saying that Indiana and North Carolina's primaries were irrelevant because the last two weeks before the election brought only phony issues to the voters and that they will be totally irrelevant to the general election in the fall. He said that the states with primaries left to vote at this point lack 'political prestige.' I'm not sure he'd even understand that many young voters like Melissa are at the complete opposite end of the political spectrum from him on the importance of this primary.

Okay, maybe some of his claims are true if one is looking at a big picture, and from that old style political thinking. But what about the fact that 34,000 voters in Monroe County more than doubled the record high vote in the past 20 years (1992 primary brought out 14,500 voters)? What about the fact that the State Party had over 2000 folks at their Jefferson-Jackson dinner before it was announced that presidential candidates would attend? And what about the fact that students registered and voted in droves swelling the early vote totals before finals and graduation this year? And what about the prospect of electing the first woman or first black man as president of the country?

Because of the excitement and enthusiasm for this primary in Indiana, we have something that David Broder, out in Washington DC will never see, understand, or take into account in his writings. We will have the opportunity to build our local party's grass roots structures with new volunteers and reenergized workers. We have the opportunity to engage in conversations with our neighbors, friends, co-workers about politics in a way that recaptures the hope for our nation that we haven't seen for years. And that action translates into local actions, and more people of all ages becoming more involved in the political process.

So, Mr. Broder, take it from this Hoosier woman: your diminishment of our political primary experience allows us to diminish your interpretation of it. Come on out of the beltway and experience some Hoosier hospitality, and have breakfast with the Democratic Women's Caucus on any first Friday of the month. We'd really like to show you how WE feel about the political process this year! Note: Regina Moore will be sending her message to David Broder.

WOMEN IN THE RUNNING

Whether Or Not We Elect A Female President This Year, The Us Has A Long Way To Go When It Comes To Political Gender Equality. By Maya Schenwar was an interesting article sent to us last week. The link below will take you to it. http://www.truthout.org/docs_2006/050808J.shtml

MOTHER'S DAY PROCLAMATION

And finally, this was brought to our attention by Mother-to-be Sophia Travis

Mother's Day Proclamation – 1870 By Julia Ward Howe

Arise then...women of this day!
Arise, all women who have hearts!
Whether your baptism be of water or of tears!
Say firmly:
"We will not have questions answered by irrelevant agencies,
Our husbands will not come to us, reeking with carnage,
For caresses and applause.
Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn
All that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience.
We, the women of one country,
Will be too tender of those of another country
To allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs."

From the voice of a devastated Earth a voice goes up with
Our own. It says: "Disarm! Disarm!
The sword of murder is not the balance of justice."
Blood does not wipe our dishonor,
Nor violence indicate possession.
As men have often forsaken the plough and the anvil
At the summons of war,
Let women now leave all that may be left of home
For a great and earnest day of counsel.
Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead.
Let them solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means
Whereby the great human family can live in peace...
Each bearing after his own time the sacred impress, not of Caesar,
But of God -
In the name of womanhood and humanity, I earnestly ask

That a general congress of women without limit of nationality,
May be appointed and held at someplace deemed most convenient
And the earliest period consistent with its objects,
To promote the alliance of the different nationalities,
The amicable settlement of international questions,
The great and general interests of peace.