

## Old Country Lawyer

The Northeast Portage Democrats are encouraged to open 2008 with an emphatic statement to the national Democratic Party and to the entire country. On January 3, while the national media watches the Iowa caucuses, Ohio Democrats will meet in each Congressional District to select candidates for delegate to the Democratic National Convention. Our 17th Congressional District has been allotted seven delegates to the Convention. We will meet at the Trumbull Career & Technical Center, 528 Educational Highway, Warren, OH 44483, which I understand is just north of Route 82 off Route 45 next to the Kent State Trumbull campus.

The intricacy of the delegate selection process is a marvel. Persons wishing to be considered for candidate for delegate file a Declaration of Candidacy with the Ohio Democratic Party by January 1, indicating which Presidential candidate they support. On January 3, all Democrats in the 17th District are invited to meet at the TC&TC, doors open 6:00 PM, kickoff at 7 PM or thereabouts. Each person attending declares which Presidential candidate he or she supports, and a representative of ODP divides the attendees by Presidential preference. Each Presidential candidate's organization is supposed to have designated a "caucus chair" to run that candidate's group of supporters. Each group will then select four women and three men from among those who had filed a Declaration of Candidacy, to be the candidates for delegate pledged to that Presidential candidate in the March 4 Primary election. Those slates of delegate candidates then go to the ODP and are filed with the Secretary of State on January 4.

The actual Delegates to the Democratic National Convention will be awarded to the Presidential candidates based on their percentage of the March 4 primary vote in the 17th District. Each Presidential candidate getting at least 15% of the vote will get at least one Delegate. You are invited to contact me if you would like additional details, as I am working with one of the Presidential campaigns and have unlimited details to share. 330.628-7011 PortaDem@aol.com.

With sadness it is found that the Democratic majority in Congress found it necessary to again drop the demand for a peace timetable from the federal appropriation bill in order to keep the federal government functioning. On a lighter note, it was refreshing to see the Winter Solstice observed with a bonfire in Vice President Cheney's office, coincidentally occurring the day after the House Intelligence Committee ordered the CIA to turn over all materials related to the destruction of the notorious "interrogation videos", and the day before the CIA announced that it would "voluntarily" comply.

I would like to honor the President and the Vice President with this quote from the premiere Christian Fundamentalist preacher of American history, Dr. Jonathan Edwards, July 8, 1741: *" 'Tis true, that judgment against your evil work has not been executed hitherto; the floods of God's vengeance have been withheld; but your guilt in the meantime is constantly increasing, and you are every day treasuring up more wrath; the waters are continually rising and waxing more and more mighty; and there is nothing but the mere pleasure of God that holds the waters back."*

Twelve more months to go. Happy New Year.

- Christopher J. Mallin, Old Country Lawyer