The Patriot

Summer 2009 Volume 1 Issue 1

Poll Workers of Okaloosa County

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PATRIOT SUPPORT TEAM:

Poll Worker Coordinator
Jane Linihan

Election Services Manager
Karen Nennig

Election IS Manager
Darrell Tate

Voter Ed & PR Coordinator
Tiffany C. Rivera

From Paul Lux, Okaloosa County Supervisor of Elections

Greetings Friends!

First, let me thank each and every one of you for all of your hard work and help with the elections in 2008. Everyone trained hard and worked hard and it showed! There is no doubt in my mind that we still have the best crew of poll workers in the state and the nation!

It has been a busy first six months in office for me and the staff. Our first order of business was the March elections in Crestview, Fort Walton Beach, Laurel Hill, and the North Okaloosa Fire District; all of which went off without a hitch. All of you who worked made it look so easy!

We just completed a reorganization recently, but most of you who worked in March's Municipal elections already know that I've brought Jane Linihan back to join Karen Nennig in managing the poll worker program. We've changed the office logo to "Vote Okaloosa," so it ties in better with our website among other things. We've also come up with a new name and logo for the poll worker program—Patriot Poll Worker—that I hope you will take great pride in as we move forward with the process.

We've also been busy working with our voting system vendor to make new releases of our software and voting equipment more poll worker and voter friendly. Okaloosa County was chosen as one of two sites in Florida to participate in a week-long beta test of new hardware and software before it goes to the State of Florida for certification. We submitted our 11-page report to the vendor as well as to the Division of Elections in Tallahassee in late June.

Of course we've been keeping an eye on things in Tallahassee as well. We don't take our eyes off the legislature for one second during session. There are many Administrative Rules hearings on a variety of topics we'll be attending in the near future.

And in case you think I'm just sitting back and relaxing, I have been hard at work with projects for the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) as part of their Voting System Risk Assessment task force and with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) on guidelines for internet voting standards.

I look forward to working with all of you in the years to come. My door is always open to you if you have any problems or concerns and I'm only a phone call away if you can't make it in to see me! Thank you again for the hard work and dedication you have shown to Okaloosa County elections!

2008 General Election : Job Well Done!

CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

March 3, 2009

Mr. Paul A. Lux
Okaloosa County Supervisor of Elections
302 Wilson St North, Suite 102
Crestview, Florida 32536

Dear Okaloosa County Election Workers:

Thank you for your work on behalf of the People of Florida. During the 2008 Election Cycle, our state experienced record registration and historic voter turnout. As Governor, I was proud that our state conducted a fair, sound, and smooth, election. As a result of your hard work, the voters of Okaloosa County received quick and courteous service and we are confident in the results recorded.

It is because of the commitment of citizens like you, our democracy can continue to thrive. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

Charlie Crist

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Thank You!

A very special thanks is extended to the Poll Workers who volunteered their time to help with filing and audits in recent elections.

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT of STATE

CHARLIE CRIST
Governor

KURT S. BROWNING
Secretary of State

March 10, 2009

Okaloosa County Elections Office
302 Wilson Street N., Suite 102
Crestview, FL 32536

Dear Okaloosa County Election Workers:

On behalf of the residents of the State of Florida, I say "Thank You." The 2008 Elections saw record turnouts, and because of your hard work, the voters of Okaloosa County have a high level of confidence in their election process.

As an Election Worker, you were asked to deal with often-unpredictable situations that would be overwhelming to many people--you excelled. You were asked to work long hours with little rest--you did. You were asked to resolve problems and be the face of the election--you surpassed expectations. You were asked to make sure that each person who walked through the door was confident that his or her vote would count, and you succeeded with flying colors. No matter the task, you rose to the challenge and for that, you should be proud. I most certainly am.

The citizens of Okaloosa County can honestly say that their election officials and workers are among the best in the state. I hope that you will continue your service to the people of Okaloosa County and the State of Florida. Without citizens like you, our democracy cannot continue to thrive. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

Kurt S. Browning
Secretary of State

KSB/aw

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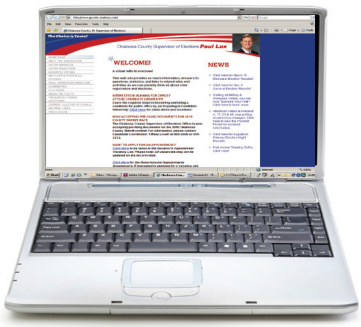
www.dos.state.fl.us

We are Expanding Poll Worker Information Online!

In an effort to better serve you, we are adding more features to the Poll Worker section of our website. No matter the time of day, ***www.govote-okaloosa.com*** is your one-stop source for Poll Worker information.

Within the Poll Worker section of the website, you will find overviews of orientation and training classes offered, workshop information and, of course, answers to just about every Poll Worker question you can think of!



The new features and resources will be released in phases. The end goal is to have all of the following information available on the website:

- How to Become a Poll Worker
- Orientation Classes
- Training Classes
- Training Locations
- Training DVD's (Accu-Vote, Touch Screen, Warehouse Tour & Election Day)
- Newsletters (Current & Archived)
- Workshops (Accu-Vote, Touch Screen, Laptop and Cell Phones)
- Patriotic Provisions Cookbook
- Photo Gallery

WWW.GOVOTE-OKALOOSA.COM

A Message from Jane!

I'm happy to be back working with the best poll workers ever. We started off the new year with a full agenda. The first trainers' meeting was in January. Committee members started working on the poll worker manual in February. March brought a very smooth election due to great poll workers. In April, we had a tour of the warehouse and a text messaging workshop for Clerks and Assistant Clerks. Two orientation classes were held in May as well as a workshop for poll worker coordinators that Karen and I attended in Bartow. We plan to stay in contact with poll workers through emails, website updates, workshops, and small group meetings. It's an ambitious schedule, but we're more than happy to offer any assistance that keeps us the best and makes us even better!

Jane

Patriotic Snapshots

Poll Workers pose with Paul following his swearing-in ceremony.

A large group attended the Experienced Poll Worker class in preparation for the March Municipal Elections.

Poll Worker Program Gets New Identity

Patriot Poll Worker
Supervisor of Elections
Okaloosa County Florida

The Okaloosa County Supervisor of Elections' Poll Worker program is getting a new look! As part of our attempt to make our program more identifiable, we will move forward under the name "Patriot Poll Worker." And nothing goes better with a fresh name than a fresh face. In this case, we think there is no better image representing patriotism than our dear "Uncle Sam."

As Poll Workers, you each embody the true meaning of patriotism. It is with this new image, identity and logo that we honor the work you do. The goal of the new look is to unify all Poll Workers and create a symbol representing the fine elections conducted here in Okaloosa County. Be sure to keep an eye out for the new look as it will make its debut very soon.

Warehouse Tour & Training Workshops a Huge Success!

A fantastic group of about 75 Clerks, Assistant Clerks and guests attended the April Warehouse Tour & Training at the Agricultural Building in Crestview. The tour and training offered an opportunity to better understand what is involved in maintaining, upgrading, and delivering necessary supplies to polling places. Sandy Butler along with the Clerks and Assistant Clerks of the north county graciously hosted and provided lunch for the event. The delightful spread included fried fish, hush puppies, macaroni salad, baked beans and several other yummy dishes.

Above: Alan hosts warehouse tour.

Marie Johnson, Clerk at Precinct 18, participated in the training and had very positive feedback about her experience. "The warehouse tour was interesting and informative. It gave me an appreciation of the work Alan and his crew do," Marie said. "The organizing and storing of the supplies used for elections was very efficient. I have a much better understanding of the preparation and distribution of the precinct's supplies for Election Day."

Left: Cell phone texting workshop.

A text messaging workshop was also presented by Shirley Young, Chief Deputy. Don Rogers, Clerk at Precinct 50, said, "Shirley conducted an excellent familiarization with the text messaging feature of the cell phones that have just begun to be sent out to the precincts. We needed this training badly because we are all over the age of 13. This technology has the potential to greatly improve efficiency of communication between the office and the precincts to the benefit of the voter." Poll Workers were also given the opportunity to practice voter look-ups on the laptop using the VR System.

Above: Laptop training using the VR (Voter Registration) System.

If you missed this innovative training experience, another session is being planned for the fall.

New Ways to Sign Up for Work: Visit Us Online!

To make it as easy as possible for your friends to volunteer as poll workers, we have placed our Poll Worker application on the website in a clickable format.

Your friends can fill it out on the computer, print it, sign it, and mail it to us. Be sure to refer all your friends to our website, ***www.govote-okaloosa.com***, to complete the application.

This new method is a great way to recruit even more of your friends to become Poll Workers!

Poll Worker Manual Updates Coming Soon!

A committee of eight began work in February to reorganize the Poll Worker Manual. Our goal is to organize the material so that once given a specific inspector's job, the poll worker will find all necessary information under the tab for that job. The first draft will be completed by the end of the year. The manual will be printed just before the 2010 fall elections to accommodate any changes the legislature may make.

Many thanks to the following committee members who have volunteered so much of their time: Marie Johnson (Committee Chair), Donna Brantley, Jann Coulson, Henry Gross, Nancy Johnson, Joe Reichal, Don Rogers, and Maureen Taylor.

New Patriotic Provisons Recipes from Fellow Poll Workers

FUDGE NUT BARS
- Kerrie Serpa, Pct 6

1 c. butter, softened
2 c. light brown sugar
2 eggs, beaten
2 t. vanilla
2½ c. flour, all-purpose
1 t. salt
1 t. baking soda
3 c. rolled oats
12 oz. semi-sweet chocolate chips
14 oz. sweetened condensed milk
2 T. butter
½ t. salt
1 c. pecans, chopped
2 t. vanilla

DOUGH
Cream together butter and brown sugar. Add eggs and vanilla to the mixture; set aside. Sift together: flour, salt, baking soda. Add this to the cream mixture, mix thoroughly, add oats. Spread 2/3 of cookie dough into greased 10 x 15 pan. (Note from Kerrie: "When spreading the cookie dough in the pan, it seems too thick if you don't go up the sides. Then, after spreading the filling over it, I curl the edge of the cookie dough over the topping a bit.")

FILLING
Melt chocolate chips until smooth, add remaining ingredients. Spread filling over cookie dough. Flatten remaining cookie dough (get your hands slightly wet) into small pieces and dot over filling. Continue until all dough is gone. Bake at 350° for 25-30 minutes or until lightly browned. Makes 24 servings.

PARADISE PUDDING
-Mary Barber, Pct 1

1 large can blueberry pie filling
1 large can crushed pineapple
1 c. coconut
1 box white or yellow cake mix (dry)

Layer the above ingredients in the order given in 9" x 13" dish.

½ c. coconut
1 c. chopped nuts
2 sticks margarine, melted

Sprinkle ½ c. coconut over first mixture. Sprinkle chopped nuts over coconut. Pour melted margarine over all. Bake at 350° for 40-45 minutes.

(If topping appears to brown too quickly, cover loosely with foil.)

Paul Lux, Supervisor of Elections
Okaloosa County
302 Wilson Street N, Ste 102
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NEWS YOU CAN USE!

On June 25, 2009, the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the Florida law banning solicitation within 100 feet of a polling place or Early Voting site.

For the Latest News & Updates Visit:
www.govote-okaloosa.com

Don't forget to check your email often!

Election Headquarters
302 Wilson Street N, Ste 102
Crestview, FL 32536
Phone: 850.689.5600
Fax: 850.689.5644

Vote Okaloosa
Paul Lux, Okaloosa County Supervisor of Elections

Branch Office
1804 Lewis Turner Blvd, Ste 404
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547
Phone: 850.651.7272
Fax: 850.651.7275