



THE TAOS NEWS

In 2007 Voted Best Weekly Newspaper in the U.S. by the National Newspaper Assoc.

NM delegates heed Clinton's rallying cry

By Patricia Chambers

The Taos News, August 28, 2008

DENVER — U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton passionately rallied a convention filled to the rafters to work to elect Barack Obama. No one in the room, including her supporters from New Mexico, was surprised.

Every seat in the Pepsi Center was filled and there was no standing room left when the Senator from New York gave her Tuesday (Aug. 26) speech at the Democratic National Convention. Thomas “Chuby” Tafoya, a Clinton delegate and chairman of the Democratic Party of Taos County, was proud of the candidate who had won 23 primaries and caucuses, but failed to get enough del-egates to win the party's nomination.

“I think everybody understands, whether they support Hillary or Obama, that we are all looking for change,” Tafoya said. “We have to start investing in our own infrastructure and in energy.”

Hundreds of people who could not get into the main arena watched the speech from televisions mounted throughout the multiple floors of the sports complex.

Clinton's first words were: “I am honored to be here tonight. A proud mother. A proud Democrat. A proud American. And a proud sup-porter of Barack Obama.”

With only two months to the general election, Clinton asked her supporters if they were in this campaign “just for me,” or in it for the marine who had to wait for health care after he returned home injured from Iraq. Or the young mother with cancer who couldn't afford medical care for the two children she had adopted.

“It is time to take back the country that we love and to unite with a single purpose,” said Clinton. “None of us can afford to sit on the sidelines. This is a fight for the future and it's a fight we must win together.”

Some delegates will continue to feel that Sen. Clinton should have been the nominee, Tafoya said. “I'd have to say there are a few, but we have to have a change in the White House if we care about our children and our future,” he added.

Tafoya said the sea of “Hillary” signs held by nearly every delegate in the room showed the unity in the Democratic Party. “Everyone was waving a Hillary sign, both Clinton supporters and Obama supporters,” he said. Carla Arellanes, a delegate from Las Vegas,

N.M. thought Clinton delivered the perfect speech. “What a way to end the evening. It’s very exciting. We are going to be united,” she said.

Priscilla Chávez, a Clinton delegate from Las Cruces, said of Clinton’s speech, “I think she was great. It was a typical Hillary speech. It was inspiring.”

Clinton delivered her speech to the Democratic National Convention on the 88th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitutional Amendment that gave American women the right to vote.

“My mother was born before women got the vote. My daughter got the chance to vote for her mother as president,” Clinton told the crowd. “We can not afford to see another Republican in the White House squander our lives.”

She made her point with a quote from Harriet Tubman, who created the Underground Railroad to help slaves escape from the Southern plantations.

“If you hear the dogs, don’t ever stop. Keep going. If you want to a taste of freedom, keep going. Don’t ever give up,” Clinton said to loud applause and cheers.

Tafoya said the sea of “Hillary” signs held by nearly every delegate in the room showed the unity in the Democratic Party.