

Oh, what a night!!! ... And a new day dawns....

By: Marsha Scutvick

The night...

November 4, 2008, 8:00 pm Pacific Time - one of those moments in history when an event is etched in our minds - one where we can forever answer the question, "what were you doing the moment Barack Obama was elected as the 44th President of the United States?".

My etched memory is being in a room with about 700 other people from around the County and 1st CD. Where at 7:59:45 pm, a spontaneous countdown began, as everyone understood that the west coast was going to seal the deal the moment our polls closed. There had been cheers and tears all evening as the results came in. But at 8:00 pm, there was an almost magic explosion of emotion that I have never experienced before. You could feel the outpouring of excitement, relief, pride, hope, and yes, patriotism. People were hugging loved ones, friends, and strangers. Tears flowed unashamedly as people were overwhelmed with the enormity and significance of the moment. As I looked around the room I was struck at how much this crowd reflected the America that Obama describes - young, old, gay, straight, and all of the ethnic and race diversity that makes up this country - all drawn together to work for him and celebrate achievement of a common goal, the values that Obama represents, and the certainty that a better future is within our reach. An amazing experience that words alone are just not sufficient to describe, but one that has left me with a renewed belief in our ability to change the world.

The new day...

November 5, 2008, somehow I feel that this is a new America today. One where there is new promise, but also new obligation, and that obligation belongs to you and me. President Elect Obama (don't you just love that!) has been clear - this has never been about just him- it is about "US". Each and every one of us now has an obligation to get and stay involved, and we have lots of opportunity. In December every two years, our Legislative Districts (LD) and County Democratic organizations go through the process to elect and appoint people to their executive boards to lead for the next two years. There are also opportunities for folks to volunteer for committees and focused activity groups. This is one of those years. Now is your time to step up. Become a member or more active if you are already a member. Let your LD know of your interest to play a role, and roll up your sleeves. We have a ton of work to do to help President Obama, Governor Gregoire, and our National and State Senators and Representatives deliver the kind of changes that demanded with our votes. As President Elect Obama told us in his victory speech, change happens "block by block, brick by brick, and callused hand by callused hand". It's up to us - stay involved, make a positive difference, be a creator of change, let's build that future together!