



25th Legislative District



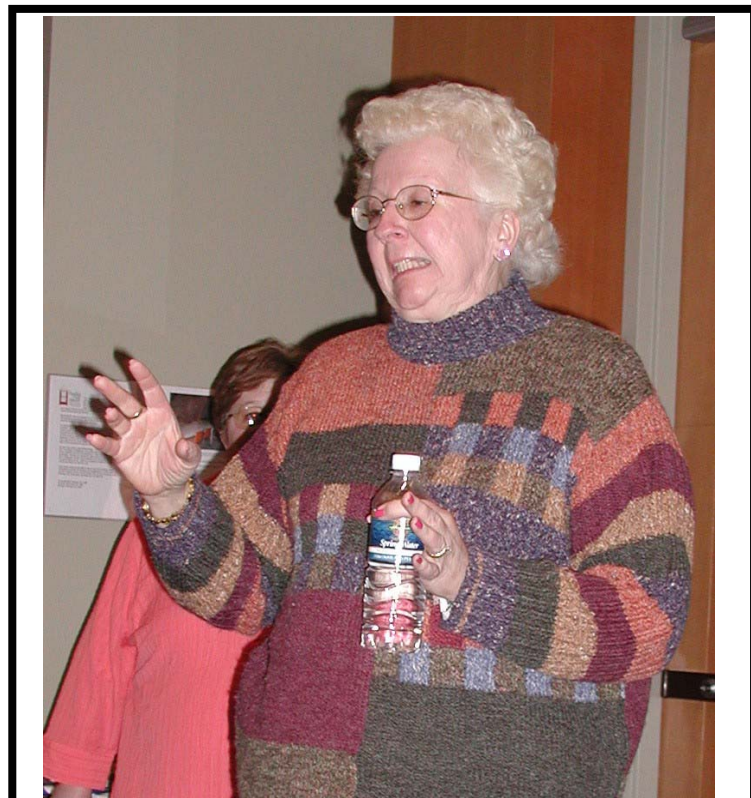
Democratic Focus



MEETINGS

NOTICE: New E-Board Meeting Place -
3 Apr Mon E-Board meets the Monday before the regular meeting at 6:30PM at **Fire Station 66, 9813 128th St. E., Puyallup.**

6 Apr Thu 7PM 25th LDD will meet at Puyallup Library, 324 S. Meridian.



BETSY STUBBS
Speaker at March Meeting
(See story on page 3)



Check out our web site, <http://25thdemocrats.org> built and hosted by Lauren Adler. You will find news and meetings and pictures. For newsletter send all articles, pictures, committee report to Editor Joan Cronk 845-5389 or email: cjejoan30@msn.com

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ELECTED
OFFICIALS**



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**DEMOCRATS
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**Note: E-Board Meeting
Place Changed!!!!!!!!!!**
3 Apr Mon E-Board meets at
6:30 PM at Fire Station 66,
9813 128th St.E., Puyallup
6 Apr Thu 7 PM 25th LDD
meets in Puyallup Library.

15 Apr Sat **DEADLINE** for
FOCUS Items, articles and
pictures.
1 May Mon E-Board meets at
6:30 PM at Fire Station 66,
9813 128th St. E., Puyallup.

4 May Thu 7 PM 25th LDD
meets in Puyallup Library.

DATES TO REMEMBER!

21 April Volunteer Dinner

**22 April County and Legis-
lative District Caucuses at
IBEW Hall**

20 May Clean up in Orting

**9 - 11 June Meeker's Day
We need volunteers to cover
booth.**

**To volunteer for any of the
above or get further infor-
mation call (253) 531-2239**

You are invited to submit your
meetings/events to be included in
the Upcoming Events.

BETSY STUBBS IS LEADING THE WAY!

By Joan Cronk

Betsy Stubbs, Co-President of the South Hill Community Council, is passionate about Puyallup's school children and is doing her best to see the issue of overcrowding in our District's schools is alleviated – as soon as possible.

Currently, when a new homeowner drops a chunk of dough to buy a home in Puyallup's South Hill, the portion going toward school impact fees is much lower than could be collected. As a result of this Puyallup's youngest citizens are jam packed into classrooms that are made for 25 students, not the 35 that are there; some are housed in portables that are either overheated or too cold and special needs students are steadily losing ground.

As grim as this sounds, there is a solution. Stubbs and other members of the South Hill Community Council are partnering with Friends of Pierce County and working to put pressure on the Pierce County Council to get the ball rolling and begin to collect more responsible impact fees.

Proper enforcement of impact fees means less crowding and better learning conditions.

PRESIDENT ' S REPORT

By Audrey Chase

Thank you to all of you that took part in the caucuses. It was a very poor showing for the 25th and I can only hope we have a better turn out in the future. An extra thank you to those that conducted the caucuses for all your hard work.

We will be having our volunteer's appreciation dinner on April 21. This year we want to let all those that have helped to make the 25th the best district know how much their time means to us all. Please make a point of attending the dinner.

In May we will again be going out to the Orting Old Soldier's Cemetery to clean stones. Those that took part last year left with a feeling of such good will.

To the Best District in Pierce County

Audrey Chase
Chair of the 25th LDD

25th District Democrats Legislative Committee meets Thursday, April 6 at 6 pm

We are inviting Jim and Dawn to attend our Legislative Action Committee meeting to debrief on the session and help us set the direction for the next few months prior to the election. We have a new member Dixie Gatchel who attended the Democratic PCO Training and Crab feed at St. Martins on February 20. We welcome her participation.

Some of the bills which passed :

- Revised Unemployment Insurance to utilize 2 rather than 4 quarter averaging
 - Non-discrimination bill granting civil rights to gays and lesbians
 - Moving up the State's Primary to August
 - Protecting the Family and Medical Leave Act from cuts by Congress.
 - An agreement brokered by the Governor between doctors and lawyers!!
 - Collective Bargaining for child care workers
 - Running Start for the Apprentice trades
 - Requirement by hospitals to begin using mechanical lifting devices-1st in nation
 - Small Employer Health Insurance Assistance Program
 - Some of these await the Governor's Signature.
- Putting more funding into the State Pension system and many more

Bills that didn't pass:

- Fair Share Health Care bill-setting a health-care standard among large employers including Wal-Mart
 - Some L & I bills which provide warrants for WISHA Inspections
- A number of other small bills didn't get through

Even Republicans agree it was a productive session. . **If you'd like to be a part of the Legislative Committee, come early to the meeting on April 6 at 6 pm at the Puyallup Library. Jerry Beckendorf, Chair, Legislative Action Committee**

HELP!

By Joan Cronk

I'll bet you use toilet paper all year long, and not just during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

Toilet paper, paper towels, toiletries, dish soap, baby food, diapers and feminine hygiene products are just a few of the products not covered by food stamps.

These items, along with food, are in short supply at your local food bank. And we all know how our pets enrich our lives – and pet food and litter are not covered either.

Donations drop off dramatically after the holidays and, this year, also after the rush to donate to the Katrina disaster.

In March our membership voted to support our local food bank by bringing donations to our monthly meetings – every single month. Donations of money and food to help the Puyallup FISH Food Bank is important as people access this food because of job loss or other problems. While food is more than acceptable, donated cash will buy 3 to 5 times the dollar value we can buy.

When you are pushing that grocery cart around, toss in some extra for the less fortunate or just bring money to the next meeting. Thank you. We are so lucky – let's spread it around!



**YOU are cordially
invited to the
25th District Democrat
Mary Bryan Awards Dinner**



**Friday, April 21st, 2006
Midland-Summit Senior Center
10205 44th Ave South, Tacoma.
Hospitality 6:00 pm
Dinner 6:30 pm**

Special invited guests include Governor Christine Gregoire and Senator Maria Cantwell

The District's Democrat of the year and outstanding volunteers will be announced.

Menu includes: Chicken, rice, salads, dessert, coffee

Cost is: Couple \$45.00, Single \$25.00, Students \$15.00, Children under 12 free

Please make advance reservation so that we may know how many to expect, (Advance reservations not required but appreciated)

RESPONSE FORM

Name (s) _____

Address _____

Phone () _____

Please mail this response form and check to:
25th LDD, P.O. Box 372, Puyallup, WA, 98371

FRANKLY SPEAKING

By Frank Blair

During the good of the order period of last months 25th district meeting I stood and said "George Bush is polling at 34%, Dick Cheney is polling at 18%, CASTRO polls at 20%. If we Democrats can't make something out of that this year we are truly in big trouble". A lot of folks, especially right-wing talk show hosts insist that Democrats don't have a "plan". I admit that I have felt a certain amount of frustration that the DNC hasn't been a bit more vocal in the defense of our party and what we Democrats stand for. Considering the state of our country, we could probably just say "You know what the GOP has done for the last decade or two? We won't do that". It's hard to interrupt when the enemy is shooting themselves in the foot. In fact at this time, the GOP is having repetitive motion syndrome reloading after shooting themselves in the foot so many times. It's been a pleasant but jaw-dropping experience observing them in action lately. What with the "Dukester" on his way into stir, "hot tub" Tom Delay being indicted, Scooter Libby indicted and "turd blossom" Rove about to be, I can't wait to turn on CNN every day. I realize we can't sit on our behinds and wait for them to lose; we have to work hard to win. I sense the strategy of the DNC (assuming they HAVE one) is to come out in mid to late summer with our message. No sense in giving the yap-ping heads something to jabber about and rip apart too early. One thing I mention to friends is that there is a reason the GOP was out of power for sixty years, and we are seeing a heapin' helpin' of why that is now.

Getting back to Bush's 34% polling. (34% ha ha ha ha) It proves Lincoln was right. You CAN fool some of the people all of the time. We can't concern ourselves with that crowd. They would support these rats no matter what. There is one thing that has been proven of late. Bush doesn't CARE about polls OR his legacy. He is getting 99% of what he wants. Judges, tax cuts, insane cuts in social spending, corporate payoffs, stealing elections, a civil war in Iraq, all at his fingertips. The people of this country smell a rat. JEEZE! It's about time. Relax, but get busy.

What's our "message"? Make your own. Just remember, no more than three words, and preferably no more than three syllables. Here's a few to get you started. Domestic economic terrorists= corporations. Money-sucking thieves=oil companies. Dark satanic cloud=GOP. Deadeye Dick= Dick Cheney. Glassy-eyed moron= George Bush. It's fun, easy and true. OK, let's get at it. November could be a good month for us.

If we work at it.



FRIDAYS - 12 NOON TO 1 PM
LISTEN TO KLAY 1180 AM

(And if for some unknown reason you miss it you can go to <http://www.liberaltopia.org>
There is a link on the right hand side of the screen that says Frank and Audrey.)

25th Legislative District Democratic (LDD) Membership Form -

Use this form to recruit friends and neighbors to join you in helping our Democratic party.

Name: _____ **Address:** _____

Phone: () _____ **City/Zip:** _____

Precinct: _____ **Email:** _____

New Dues now in effect: Evergreen (includes Senior, outside district, etc) \$10 per member; Rainier \$25; Chair's Voice \$50; Senators Club \$100 (can be paid in installments). If you already paid dues they are good for this year.

I've enclosed \$ _____ for LDD Dues, \$ _____ for the Victory Fund. Please write checks dues to 25th LDD and Victory Fund Checks to 25th District Victory Fund (donations to both require separate checks).

Mail to 25thLDD, PO Box 372, Puyallup, WA 98371



As of January 1st, membership dues have started to trickle in to the treasury. The 25th District desperately needs these funds to continue to operate and to support Democratic candidates.

PLEASE -

get your dues in as soon as possible!

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #569
TACOMA, WA

25th Legislative District
Democratic
(LDD)
PO Box 372
Puyallup, WA 98371