



25th Legislative District



Democratic Focus



LEGISLATIVE KICKOFF DINNER AND REUNION

BACK ROW: DAN GRIMM & SENATOR JIM KASTAMA

FRONT ROW: DON BENNETT, REPRESENTATIVE DAWN MORRELL, MARC GASPARD, GEORGE WALK, CALVIN GOINGS (Story on page 4.)

Picture by Al Gray

MEETINGS

NOTICE: SEE PAGE 2 FOR ALL THE UPCOMING MEETINGS.



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: JoanCronk@comcast.net

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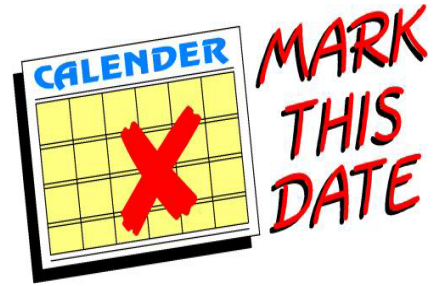
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30 Apr Mon E-Board meets at
7 PM at Fire Station 66, 9813
128TH St. E., Puyallup

3 May Thu 25th LDD meets at
the Puyallup Library, 324 Me-
ridian, at 6:30 for social time
and 7 PM official meeting.

5 May Sat Town Hall Meeting
with Calvin Goings at 10 AM at
South Park Community Cen,
4851 S. Tacoma Way.

12 May Sat Town Hall Meeting
with Calvin Goings at 10 AM at
Jason Lee Middle School, 602
N. Sprague

19 May Sat Town Hall Meeting
with Calvin Goings at 10 AM at
Lochburn Middle School, 5431
Steilacoom Blvd.

19 May Sat DEADLINE for
FOCUS articles, pictures, etc.

4 Jun Mon E-Board meets at 7
PM at Fire Station 66.

7 Jun Thu 25th LDD meets at
the Puyallup Library at 6:30 for
social time and 7 PM official
meeting.

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



JOHN THOMPSON AND DAUGHTER MELISSA THOMPSON WITH GOVERNOR GREGOIRE

GOVERNOR GREGOIRE COMES TO TACOMA

By Joan Cronk

On March 6 the Pierce County Democrats held a party-building fundraiser at the Tacoma Elks. Each District donated a basket to be auctioned off and the 25th District donated a flowerpot full of gardening items; it was a very popular item if I do say so myself, since I painted it and filled it myself!

Gov. Gregoire was the featured speaker and the crowd responded with enthusiasm and lots of clapping during her speech. Gov. Gregoire wandered through the crowd and greeted with a handshake almost all the attendees. It was a wonderful evening for all who attended.



VICE CHAIR LAUREN ADLER (AND CAMPAIGN MANAGER FOR CINDY) CHATS WITH GOVERNOR GREGOIRE AS CINDY POYSNICK (WHO IS RUNNING FOR THE PUYALLUP SCHOOL BOARD) LOOKS ON

SOUTH HILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

The South Hill Community Council held their election for the open positions on the Board. They elected Board members then elected officers. Newly elected Board members are: Pat Drake, Andy Anderson, Carl Vest, Larry Jones, Kathleen Wolf and Betsy Stubbs. New officers are: Betsy Stubbs, Chairman; Christine Wilson, Vice-Chair; Andy Anderson, Treasurer and Kathleen Wolf as Secretary.

The SHCC meets the second Wednesday of every month at the Central Pierce Fire Station, 17210 110th Avenue E. All are welcome.

LEGISLATIVE KICKOFF DINNER AND REUNION

By Joan Cronk

On January 4th over fifty 25th LLD and honored invited guests were treated to a wonderful meal by Anton's Catering at the Mid County Community Center. The event was a kickoff to send our representatives Dawn Morrell and Jim Kastama, back to Olympia for the start of the new legislative session.

Some of those in attendance included past representatives Don Bennett, Duane Kaiser, Marc Gaspard, George Walk and Dan Grimm. The past representatives entertained us all with their memories of service and along with good food, we all enjoyed a lot of laughs.

School Board Member Lloyd Freudenstein spoke passionately about the importance of the upcoming school bond election. Cal Goings talked about his upcoming campaign for Pierce County Executive.

A suggestion was made and accepted to have a discussion at each of our regular meetings on a current issue. Energy independence will be one of the subjects to be discussed in the future.

SUMMARY OF UPDATE FROM REPRESENTATIVE MORRELL

March 23, 2007

I am pleased to report the House is ahead of schedule, working to build a budget that reflects our values for stronger, more secure families and communities across the state. This week we released the House version of the Operating, Transportation and Capital Construction Budgets. This is a brief outline of the House version of the Operating Budget.

EDUCATING OUR KIDS

Early Learning - Our budget funds ECEAP expansion in home assistance, and the Reading Initiative.

K-12 Education - The proposed budget fully funds Initiative 728 - approved in 2000 by voters to reduce class size. It also phases in full-day kindergarten, and bolsters Special Education funding.

Math and Science Initiative - Our kids need targeted help learning Math and Science.

Recruiting and Retaining Good Teachers - We fully fund Initiative 732 approved in 2000 which provides a cost of living adjustment for teachers, and increase their health benefit rates as well.

Achieving A Prosperous Future - We target investments to businesses to match workforce training to the high-demand jobs already available in our state.

Access To Higher Education - We provide new programs and innovative research funding at our state

schools including new agriculture, health research and science degrees.

Helping Make College Affordable - We increase the amounts of Opportunity Grants.

KEEPING OUR FAMILIES HEALTHY

Children's Health - We expand children's health enrollments, access to children's mental health and increase vaccinations.

Seniors and Families - We offer additional funding for nursing homes, home care, and a long-term care ombudsman to oversee that our services are functioning properly.

Reducing Costs & Reforming the System - The budget funds the recommendations made in order to lower costs and offer more citizens coverage.

Protecting Our Vulnerable Family Members - Our budget helps foster kids get a start in college, provides medical and housing assistance and expanding Kinship foster care placements.

Enhancing Our Environment - The budget proposal coordinates Puget Sound Cleanup efforts, shellfish research, renewable energy incentives, and keeps our state parks accessible.

Building Safe Neighborhoods - We have invested to reduce overcrowding in our correctional facilities and addressing recidivism with an offender reentry program. We also enacted tough, new penalties for auto theft.

Saving For Future Needs - We also recognize that unexpected things can happen,

**25th LD Democrats
Resolution to Support Adding
an Assistant Treasurer
to the By-Laws**

Where as, from time to time, the Treasurer may want to take a vacation or may not be able to attend events or other activities of the 25th LD Democrats, and Where as, the Executive Board of the 25th LD Democrats find it to be desirable to have an Assistant Treasurer, and Where as, there are many and more burdens placed on the Treasurer, therefore be it Resolved, that the 25th LD Democrats Executive Board suggests the following changes to the By-Laws;

Article VIII, Section 8. Add - In the absence of the Treasurer, and upon notice either by the Chair or the Treasurer the Assistant Treasurer shall assume the duties of the Treasurer until the Treasurer notifies the Assistant Treasurer of their return.

Article V, Section 2. F. Add - Assistant Treasurer

Article V, Section 3. These twelve thirteen officers....

Article VI, Section 3 Add - Following the election of the Sergeant of Arms and in consultation with the Treasurer, the Chair shall appoint an Assistant Treasurer.

And be it finally,
Resolved, that this resolution follow the process as described in the By-Laws and be read and published in the newsletter and then voted on at the meeting in May 2007.



**PUYALLUP TOWN HALL MEETING
WITH REPRESENTATIVE DAWN MORRELL**

By Jerry Beckendorf
At the Town Hall Meeting held on March 17, 40 to 50 Puyallup residents heard Representative Dawn Morrell discuss many of her sponsored bills. Among those she talked about were:

- HB 1251, Addressing the issue of stolen metal property.
- HB 1126, Changing late renewal penalty provisions for concealed pistol licenses.
- HB 1964, Studying Adult Family Homes.
- HB 1461, Addressing manufactured/ mobile home community registrations and dispute resolution.
- HB 1689, Improving the cardiac delivery system in the State of Washington by creating a new statutory certificate of need category for adult nonemergent interventional cardiology for hospitals without on-site open heart surgery program.

Representative Morrell

discussed many other important issues.

Dave Tate, Rogers high school teacher, thanked Dawn for walking around Rogers High School. There was some discussion about how to fix the math WASL test and to bring a focus on the gaps that exist therein.

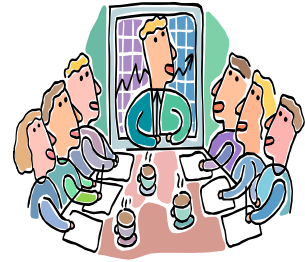
A wealth of information on Rep. Morrell's sponsored bills can be accessed at:

<http://housedemocrats.wa.gov/members/morrell/>

HINT FROM NEW MEMBER

I see you at the meetings,
But you never say, "Hello."
You're busy all the time you're there
With those you already know.
Why can't you nod or return my smile?
Will you stop to shake my hand?
Then, go and sit among your friends.
Now, that, I'd understand.
I'll be at your next meeting;
I already plan to attend.
Please introduce yourself to me;
I'm looking for a friend.

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES
OF MEETING 1 Mar 2007**
By Charley Stokes and Joan Cronk



Meeting was called to order at 7:04 with the flag salute. Roll call of officers and adoption of agenda and minutes followed.

Chair John Thompson gave a brief description of his attendance at the St. Martin's Crab-Feed attended by Gov. Gregoire and Bryan Sweitzer.

Vice Chair Lauren Adler reminded the membership of the Pierce County Democrats dinner 3/6 at the Tacoma Elks. Gov Gregoire will speak at the event.

Treasurer Jon Bristol gave the treasurer's report. Victory fund balance \$5,971.24, General Fund balance \$991.23 and all PDC documents are filed and up to date.

Jim Morrell spoke for Dawn and Christine Wilson spoke for Calvin Goings.

Jerry Beckendorf reported for the State Committee and presented a brochure prepared by the state office in August 2005. Jerry continued on to report for the Legislative Action Committee and discussed progress on U. S. House HR800, Employees Free Choice Act.

Under New Business the Chair read two Resolutions as recommended by E Board.

Resolution "A" to support changing bank signers, removing Audrey Chase and Jim Morrell (outgoing Chair and V-Chair) and adding John Thompson (incoming chair) and keeping Jon Bristol who continues as Treasurer. Moved, seconded and passed.

Resolution "B" was to support the addition of an Assistant Treasurer to the organization By-Laws, being necessary for the continuation of organization banking if the Treasurer is unavailable. The Resolution to follow the process as described in the By Laws and be read and published in the newsletter and voted on at the May meeting.

Paul Haak of Washington Public Campaigns presented a PBS video detailing the success of publicly funded campaigns.

Christine Wilson, Co-Chair and Membership Coordinator for the South Hill Community Council extended an invitation to the 25th LDD membership to join SHCC and to attend the annual meeting on March 14.

Cindy Poysnick announced her campaign for Pos. #2 of the Puyallup School Board.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

DWIGHT PELTZ

By Joan Cronk

Washington Democratic Chair Dwight Peltz comes from a long line of politicians and has been involved in politics for 31 years, 14 as an organizer.

Peltz has a high regard for our caucus system but would like Democrats to more fully take advantage of them. He has made challenging the party to utilize the caucuses more fully his personal goal.

Washington is a presidential caucus state and we need to use that opportunity to build our party.

2004 was a banner year for caucus attendance because it was a Presidential year and the Democrats were hopeful of retaking the Presidency. Caucuses will be held in 2008 on Feb. 9. Peltz predicts that Washington will have 100,00 attending caucuses on that day. After caucuses, however, attendance wanes and Peltz wants to change that. He feels we must use the caucuses as party building opportunities. Peltz said,



**GUEST SPEAKER
DWIGHT PELTZ , CHAIR
OF WASHINGTON STATE
DEMOCRATS WITH 25TH
LDD SECRETARY
CHARLEY STOKES.**

“We can build our party if we conduct really strong caucuses, and ask participants to volunteer to perform concrete tasks. We know first impressions matter.” The caucus experience will be the first for many Washington State Democrats. First impressions count!

We have several basic organizing terms that need to be put into use...goals, strategy and tactics. Our goal for the Washington Democratic Party for Nov. 4th 2008 is

to produce 100,000 additional votes for Christine Gregoire. Peltz challenges the party to go out and raise those 100,000 additional votes. The strategy is to recruit volunteers to perform specific tasks and the goal is to produce those 100,000 extra votes.

Peltz wants the PCOs to walk their precincts until they have made face to face contact with every person, and to register all unregistered voters. Peltz made thousands of phone calls before the 2004 Presidential election..he knows it can be done. If everyone does their share, it is only about 30 calls per person..that is doable.

Peltz said we need to be prepared at the caucuses..and organized. If people walk in and see chaos, they will lose interest.

GEMS OF ADVICE

Character is much easier kept than recovered.

Greatness lies not in being strong, but in the right use of strength.

Good advice is something a man gives when he is too old to set a bad example.

SUMMARY OF MINUTES OF MEETING

5 April 2007

By Charley Stokes and Joan Cronk

Call To Order 7:07 PM by John Thompson, Chair. Adoption of Agenda Adoption was moved and seconded & passed without objection (PWO).

Adoption of Minutes (for March 1, 2007) Adoption was moved and seconded. PWO.

Chairs Report John gave a very brief mention of his attendance at the Chairs meeting in Ellensburg, deferring to guest speaker Dwight Pelz for details during his presentation. John also noted the requirement for representation from the 25th for participation with the County on the Elections Committee chaired by Carolyn Merrival; Betty Ogden volunteered and was appointed by the chair. John also announced a need for a participant on the IRV sub-committee; Jim Morrell volunteered and was appointed by the chair. There is also a need for participation with the County Tech committee; no volunteers were identified and the position remains open. John relayed, from E-board discussions, a requirement for a "By-Laws & Procedures Committee to streamline and rewrite our endorsement procedure to reflect the time line changes caused by the revised preliminary dates and IRV for county candidates. The following members were appointed to the Committee: Ken Blair, Luanne Green, Cliff Allo and Betty Ogden. John Thompson will chair the committee.

Vice-Chairs Report None tonight.

Treasures Report Jon submitted the financial report noting the outstanding balance with Midland Community Center has been paid. The Victory Fund has a balance of \$6346.24. The Club Fund has a balance of \$910.96. All PDC documents are filled and up to date. The books can be reviewed at Jon's home by contacting him at 253-770-1246. Adoption was moved and seconded. PWO.

Elected-Official Reports **Calvin Goings** again offered his apologies for a conflict of schedule with three other LD's meetings that keep him from attending the 25th's meeting. Calvin gave a brief campaign report noting sizable campaign funds accumulated from over 600 contributors with endorsements continuing to come in. Calvin reminded the members of his second annual BBQ scheduled for Saturday, July 21st beginning at 5:30 PM.

Ken Blair talked briefly about the ongoing difficulties of establishing a Skills Center in the county. He also described an up-coming joint venture with the Tacoma Orchestra and the Sr. and Jr. high school music students in the Bethel SD.

Dawn Morrell gave an amusing and energetic description of life in Olympia during session with a detailed description of a shouting match that erupted on the chamber floor between legislators, as well as giving an update on a selection of bills.

State Committee Reports None. (Quarterly meeting in Bellingham at the end of April.)

Committee Reports Legislative Action Committee (LAC) chair Jerry Beckendorf reviewed a list of bills that have made it out of committee by the latest cut off date and a review of President Bushes actions over the Congressional break.

Old Business Second reading of Resolution 'B' for the addition of an Assistant Treasurer to the 25th LD organization and By-Laws. Final vote on the resolution will be at the May meeting.

New Business John relayed a recommendation from the E-board to authorize payment of registration fees up to (3) Young Democrats to the State Convention in Ellensburg. E-board also authorized payment of up to \$.25/mile for one vehicle for transportation. Motion was moved and seconded and PWO.

Community Announcements, Candidates and Member Comments Dave Lovell, candidate for Port Commissioner addressed the membership following an introduction by Joan Cronk.

Program-Guest Speaker Dwight Pelz, Chair of Washington State Democrats presented 'Goal/Strategy/Task', a plan for the 2008 caucus meetings.

Good-Of-The-Order (None, due to lack of time.)

Adjournment M/S and PWO at 8:56 PM.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION ON WEB

By Ray Green

The Washington State Legislature has passed its mid-session point. Bills that have not passed out of house of origin are now dead, except for bills that can be included in the budget or transportation bills.

Information about legislative action is available on the web at <http://access.wa.gov>, then put bill information in the search box. This will give choices of various reports and a great deal of information. Especially helpful are the daily status reports.

THANKS 25TH OFFICERS

By Betty Ogden

I'd like to give a belated thanks to our outgoing officers for their hard work for the 25th. Headed by Chair Audrey Chase they helped me regain my sagging belief that one individual could make a difference, however small, in our district. I came to love and have faith in the Democratic party, at least in the 25th District. I loved coming to the meetings and seeing the democratic process in action. I enjoyed our fun gatherings and getting to know the vital people who are working to improve our community.

So thanks, Audrey and Jim and Luanne, for the atmosphere you helped create. It is my hope that the new crew and those of the former crew who still remain will keep that spirit going, that our organization will continue to grow and draw in new young people and middle aged people and old people - all of those whose faith in the political process has needed some reviving.

25th LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE REPORT

By Jerry Beckendorf

National Issues Worth Noting-Eight Federal Prosecutors fired in Mid-term generates discussion of political retaliation by the White House. Prosecutor John McKay was asked to intervene in the 2004 gubernatorial race.

Walter Reed Hospital apparently has been taken over by the contractors which has generated another Republican failure? Iraqi War and Katrina are among other Contracting out failures.

Will the Congress start addressing the apparently real issue of global warming?

We are having continuing problems with the Iraqi War as it enters its fifth year and hundreds of thousands of Iraqi citizens and thousands of American soldiers and contractors killed and injured. Write your Member of Congress and your two U.S. Senators and express your outrage over these and other issues of concern. Also thank them for raising the Federal Minimum wage and thank the house members for supporting the Employee Free Choice Act.

Washington State Legislature enters 10th week as of March 19.

Dawn and Jim are getting bills through the process and I'll tell them tell you about their achievements. You can check the progress of a bill if you know the bill number by visiting www.leg.wa.gov. Plus you can always call their Olympia offices and register support or disapproval of a particular measure. Senator Jim Kastama's office is (360) 786-7648 (Mary or Barb) and Rep. Dawn Morrell's office is (360) 786-7968 (Annie).

Bills worthy of support include the Clean Elections bill, SB5659, a bill granting Medical Leave insurance payments of up to \$250 a week for five weeks; SB 5675 and 5676 bills improving Unemployment Insurance and Workers' Compensation issues; SB 5926, HB 1244 and 2010 bills involving Building Trades hour banks and public works contracts,

A bill to address inequities in large corporations utilizing Basic Health Care for a substantial percentage of their workers and a bill which would tie tax breaks for Aerospace subcontractors to neutrality if their workforce is being organized both failed. In fact a worker who testified in favor of the latter bill returned to work and discovered he had been fired.

JOKE (?)

A little girl was watching her parents dress for a party. When she saw her dad donning his tuxedo, she warned, "Daddy, you shouldn't wear that suit." He said, "Why not darling?" She said, "You know it always gives you a headache the next morning."

25th 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:** _____

:Dues: Evergreen (includes Senior, outside district, etc) \$10 per member; Rainier \$25; Chair's Voice \$50; Senators Club \$100 (can be paid in installments).

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

NOTE CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Mail to: 25th LDD, PO Box 73594, Puyallup, WA 98373



IS ANYONE
OUT THERE
LISTENING?

**Well, you should be, if you want the truth about politics
by Audrey and Frank on their radio show
Fridays at 1200 to 1 PM on KLAY 1180 AM!**

**And if for some reason or other you miss it then go to
<http://www.liberaltopia.org>. There is a link on the right hand side of
the screen that says: Frank and Audrey. Tune in or be tuned out.**

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