



25th Legislative District



Democratic Focus



**GOVERNOR
GREGOIRE
TALKS TO A
PACKED HOUSE
AT THE IBEW
HALL IN
TACOMA ON
SATURDAY
MARCH 8TH**

IMPORTANT NOTICE! The April meeting will take place at the Puyallup Elks Club. The address is 314 27th Street NE. Puyallup 98372. Directions to Puyallup Elks... Proceed toward Sumner on E Main Avenue. Turn Left on 27th Street NE. There is a blinking yellow caution light where you need to turn left. The Puyallup Elks Club is about two miles from the Puyallup Library



For newsletter send all articles, pictures, committee report to Editor Joan Cronk
845-5389 or email: JoanCronk@comcast.net

**25TH LEGISLATIVE
DISTRICT
DEMOCRATIC
(LDD)OFFICERS**

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Board Representatives:
 Frank Blair, , Audrey Chase,
 Matt Hanbey

Immediate past chair:
 John Thompson
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 John.Thompson6@comcast.net

NOTE: 25TH LDD will soon have a web site. We will informed you of address as soon as it is up and running.

**25TH DISTRICT
DEMOCRATIC
ELECTED
OFFICIALS**



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 (253) 840-4701

email:
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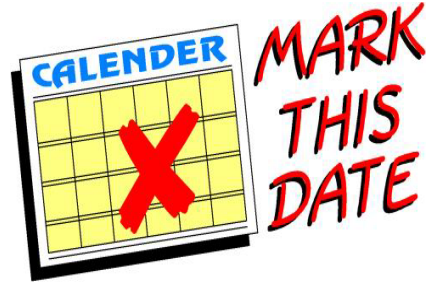
email:
 morrell.dawn@leg.wa.gov

For all other elected officials:
 Legislative Hotline:

**DEMOCRATS
CONTACT INFO**

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 WA State Dem Party
www.wa-democrats.org
 Pierce Co. Dem Party
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**NOTE CHANGE OF
MEETING PLACE !**

3 Apr Thu 25th LDD meets at Puyallup Elks club, 314 27th St, N.E. at 7 PM. (See front page for directions).

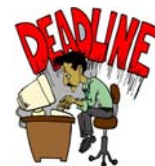
5 Apr Sat 25th LDD Caucus will meet at 1000 AM at Puyallup High School Auditorium, 105 7th St S.W. Registration begins @ 9:30 a.m., convenes at 10:45 a.m.

12 Apr Sat Democrat County Convention will meet at 0900 AM at the Greater Tacoma Convention Center, 1500 Broadway, Tacoma.



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

1 May Thu 25th LDD meets at 7 PM - Puyallup Library, 324 Meridian.



17 May Sat DEADLINE for FOCUS articles, pictures, et.

14 Jun Sat Democratic State Convention, Spokane, WA, 9 AM



Notes from the Chair

By Lauren Adler

First off, I have to apologize for not having a ‘message’ for you in our March newsletter. To preserve space for the by-laws to be printed in the March newsletter, I omitted my ‘message’. I realize that our March newsletter was fat full of information, and I hope that you found that information helpful in understanding what changes we are making to our by-laws regarding our endorsement procedure. In fact, at our April meeting, we will be voting on implementing the new procedures. We’ve held the necessary amount of readings prior to voting, and have printed the new procedure in the March issue of the newsletter, and copies were available at the March meeting. However, if you have specific questions about the endorsements procedure please do not hesitate to contact **Cliff Allo**, Parliamentarian by email at cliffallo@blarg.com.

Secondly, can you believe that 2,500 people came out and caucused for Democrats in the 25th legislative district?! That’s **UNBELIEVABLE!** We have definitely broken all of the records in precinct caucuses prior, and the number of folks who came out to take the first step in becoming involved with our organization shows that **it is a great year to be a Democrat!!** I am excited to reach out to these 2,500 individuals to invite them to our meetings, events, etc. and to start to get them involved. I hope that you will work with me in welcoming these enthusiastic, excited, and energized folks to our organization!

The next step, if you are a delegate or alternate for your Presidential Candidate, is to attend the **25th Legislative District Democratic Caucus on April 5th**. Our LD Caucus **will be held at Puyallup High School** (105 7th Street SW – Puyallup, 98371). Registration begins at 9:30am! There is **NO FEE** to participate in this caucus, but there is a suggested donation of \$5 to help offset the rental of the building. If you are a delegate or alternate, you will be receiving the Official Call, Tentative Agenda, and Rules for the LD Caucus by March 27th. This information will be sent to you via US Mail, so please be on the look out for this information to hit your mailbox. Additionally, Pierce County Democrats’ Chair Nathe Lawver will be speaking at our April 3rd meeting providing a ‘How To’ on LD Caucusing—this will be especially helpful for the 850+ delegates and alternates that are eligible to attend the LD Caucus. **Please note that we will be meeting at the Puyallup Elks Club in downtown Puyallup for our April 3rd meeting (314 27th Street NE – Puyallup, 98372).** If you have any questions regarding the April 5th LD Caucus, please contact **Ray Green** at (253) 848-0289.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that the 25th Legislative District Democrats, under the lead of Charley Stokes, 25th LDD Secretary, and Chad Lupkes with the Washington State Democrats Chair’s Association, are working on a brand new website! Our new website is promised to have ALL of the crucial information that you need to know about our organization, upcoming events, candidate events, photos, updated information, breaking news, etc. Charley is working extremely hard with Chad to produce a comprehensive and interactive website to better our organization and keeping our members constantly updated – whenever you want! The website won’t be published for about another month, so if you have ideas, suggestions, etc. for our new website please contact Charley Stokes by email at cwstokes@earthlink.net or by phone at (253) 861-8744.

As always, thanks for your dedication to the 25th Legislative District Democrats! There’s no doubt that the 25th Legislative District is going to be the district that carries the county this election cycle, and I am very excited to work with all of you in showing the rest of the county and the state that the 25th Legislative District Democrats have the energy, enthusiasm, and dedication to get democrats elected and to keep our democrats elected!

All my best, Lauren

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT CAUCUS

By Ray Green

Delegates elected at the February 9th caucuses will participate in the 25th Legislative District caucus to be held April 5th in the Puyallup High School auditorium. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. with the first credentials report coming at 10:45 a.m. Delegates arriving after alternates are seated will not be seated.

Any registered voter in the district who is not a delegate to the caucus or who is not present may become a candidate for the Congressional Caucus and State Convention, but must signify, in advance in writing, his/her presidential preference, that he/she will serve if elected and that he/she is a Democrat and is willing to be known as such. Also precinct number of residence is needed.

An individual elected as a delegate who may want to stand as a delegate to the National Convention must submit a statement of candidacy to the State Party no sooner than April 1st. and no later than May 5th at 5:00 p.m.

More information is available on the State Party web site at <http://www.wa-democrats.org/index.php?page=display&id=283>.

He who walks in another's tracks leaves no footprints.

25TH LDD THANKS YOU

Thank you to the following folks who will be representing the 25th LDD on 12 Apr at the County Convention in the Greater Tacoma Convention Center.

- Eric Renz, Rules Committee
- Betty Ogden, Platform Committee
- Melissa Thompson, Credentials Committee

The following will be representing the 25th LDD at the State Convention June 13-15 in Spokane:

- Charley Stokes, Rules Committee
- Louis Tibbs, Platform Committee
- Clif Allo, Credentials Committee

Chair Lauren Adler was most pleased with the way these people stepped up to the plate and volunteered for these slots.

Stress is when you wake up screaming and then you realize you haven't fallen asleep yet.

* * * * *

Remember the three R's: Respect for self; Respect for others; and Responsibility for all your actions.

* * * * *

Tension is who you think you should be.

Relaxation is who you are.

CHEHALIS RIVER VALLEY FARM FLOOD RELIEF

By Jerry Beckendorf

Labor Helping Neighbor on Saturday April 26, 2008 and Jerry Beckendorf urges all to help in this effort.

Labor Unions and Democrats are coming together to roll up their sleeves, pull on their boots and help local farmers reclaim farmland damaged by floods in the Chehalis River Valley. This will be a day of rewarding work and fun that will help local farmers prepare the fields for this year's crop. Bob Guenther, President of the Local AFL-CIO Labor Council said, "This disaster is one of the toughest cleanup jobs for farmers in our area ever. We can help keep these local farmers in business."

Please help this effort out on April 26, 2008. Be a part of a great community and a tremendous state! Sign up to volunteer at: www.wsdlaborcaucus.org or call (360) 280 7080.

FURNITURE FOR FLOOD VICTIMS LOST TO FIRE

Lewis County officials said they hope a devastating fire Tuesday hasn't set flood relief efforts back more than a few weeks. They said donations of money would be better than replacing the furniture that was destroyed in the fire at the Chehalis Eagles building.

Now - more than ever sign up to volunteer April 26. Be united - stand together and help.

GOVERNOR GREGOIRE VISITS TACOMA

By Joan Cronk

On Saturday, March 8th, Governor Gregoire greeted a packed house of over 150 labor folks at the IBEW hall in Tacoma. The crowd rose to their feet time after time, clapping and cheering for the Governor, who spoke passionately about several key issues.

Addressing labor directly, the Governor said she feels apprenticeship programs are important and there should be a running start program for the trades. "We need more labor in the workforce," she said.

She told the crowd that there were 77 billion dollars worth of exports from the State of Washington and that we have the "best workforce in the world right here in our back yard."

She said Bush's stimulus package will give folks a \$600 check once, but they need a job. "Put people to work!" said the Governor. She continued by telling

the crowd that last week she proposed the issue of more jobs to President Bush and he said he was "not interested." The Governor said, "I say, get George Bush out of office and make room for a Democrat!" The crowd cheered! "Let's get it done in November," she chanted

Her goal is that every Washingtonian will have access to health coverage by 2010.

Before she walked off the stage, she took several questions from the crowd and ended by saying that the last campaign had been tough and she thinks this one will include a lot of smear tactics from the other side. "From all that was said about me in Eastern Washington in the last campaign," she concluded, "I'm not sure I would have voted for myself!"

After her talk, the crowd lined up for photo opportunities with the Governor.



WPC PIERCE CHAPTER MEETING

By Betty Ogden

The Pierce County Chapter of Washington Public Campaigns will meet on Saturday, March 29th at 10:00 AM at the Commencement Bay Coffee and Cafe, 2354 Jefferson Ave. S, in Tacoma. A new feature of our meetings will be "ToastBusters", a mini speakers' forum held at the close of the meeting. Designed for WPC supporters who want to become skillful and at ease spreading the word about public campaign funding, ToastBusters will provide an informal atmosphere for practicing answering cogent FAQ's.

Paul Haak, Master ToastBuster, will lead and coach the attendees. All are cordially invited to attend the meeting (10:00) and/or the Toastbusters session (around noon), either just to observe or to practice. Much fun is promised.

Betty Ogden, Pierce County WPC Chapter Meeting Convener
253-539-2720
elizoden@rainierconnect.com

COURT RULES IN FAVOR OF WASHINGTON PRIMARY

By MARK SHERMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON -- The Supreme Court has upheld the state of Washington's open primary election system.

By a 7-2 vote, the court says the state may use a primary system that allows the top two vote-getters to advance to the general election, even if they are from the same party. Washington never held a primary under the new system because of legal challenges.

Writing for the majority, Justice Clarence Thomas said that overturning Washington's plan would have been an "extraordinary and precipitous nullification of the will of the people."

In dissent, Justice Antonin Scalia said Washington's system would cause a political party to be associated with candidates who may not represent its views. Scalia was joined by Justice Anthony Kennedy.

Lawyers for the political parties said David Duke has identified himself as a Republican, despite GOP repudiation of his racial views, while perennial presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche has called himself a Democrat, despite wide disagreement with Democratic leaders.

Under Washington's system, all candidates for a particular office may list their political party preference after their names.

The top-two plan was created after state voters approved a law in 2004 allowing them to pick their favorite candidate for each office. The top two vote-getters would advance to the November general election, even if they are from the same party.

The major parties challenged the law in federal court, asserting a First Amendment right to select their own nominees without outside interference.

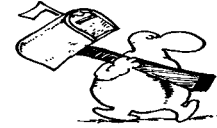
A federal judge and the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco struck down the election plan.

Washington state Attorney General Rob McKenna argued there was no evidence that the parties would be harmed, since they can publicize through advertising and other means which candidates they support.

Tuesday's decision is the second of two this year on the rights of political parties. In New York, the justices said the state's method of electing trial judges, which gives party bosses effective control of the process, does not violate the Constitution.

http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/national/1154ap_scotus_primary_lawsuit.html

**CHANGING
ADDRESSES.**



Please let us know when you do change home addresses or email addresses. We have been getting many of our newsletters and emails back lately. We do want to keep you informed so keep us informed!

FIVE YEAR ANNIVERSARY FACING THE COST OF WAR

160,000

Current US troops in Iraq.

1.5 Million

Soldiers deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan one or more times since 2001.

\$12 Billion

Cost of the war per month

3,990

US Troop deaths as of Tue 18 Mar

29,395

US troops wounded in action since start of war

39,172

Iraqi civilian deaths as of Mar 11.

260

Washington State soldiers killed in Iraq

805

Washington state soldiers wounded in Iraq

SUMMARY OF MINUTES OF MEETING 6 March 2008

Minutes By Charley Stokes

Meeting location Summit Library, Call To Order 7:10 PM

Adoption of Agenda It was moved and seconded (M&S) to adopt an amended agenda, allowing Councilman Goings to address during New Business and adding an action item to subsidize Young Democrats attending the YD Convention in March. Vote passed without objection (PWO).

New Business

- Pierce County Councilman Calvin Goings addressed the membership. First he thanked the Chair for amending the agenda to allow him to speak ahead of the normal Elected Officials Report, noting he had another meeting to attend. The Councilman gave a brief update of his campaign for County Executive and held a brief question and answer session.
- Carolyn Merrival, Committee Chair, conducted the second and final reading of the new endorsement procedure. Carolyn gave members background on issues prompting the need for a new procedure and held a brief question and answer session.
- Ray Green gave a brief review of the Precinct Caucuses that prompted a general discussion on the size of crowds with various members sharing their experiences. Ray announced he has copies of the caucus sign-in sheets for all PCO's. He has copies for all precincts. Discussion followed on the best way to use this resource for party building, event staffing, recruitment, etc.
- Jerry Beckendorf announced he has agreed to chair the Meeker Days activities this year. He requested authorization for \$90.00 to cover the registration fee. It was M&S and PWO. Jerry passed a volunteer sign up sheet; any members wishing to participate can contact Jerry at: 253-845-7702.
- Charley Stokes read a letter from Melissa Thompson requesting financial support to cover \$40.00 registration fee and travel expense to attend the Young Democrats Convention in Vancouver WA from March 28-30. Following discussion it was M&S to authorize up to (3) registration fees and gas expense for one vehicle; the motion PWO.

Officers Reports

- Chair (excused)
- Vice-Chair Louis gave a brief description of planning efforts on-going for the upcoming Legislative District Caucus to be held April 5 at Puyallup High School.
- Secretary Charley read from the ExBoard minutes: "Lauren discussed the creation of a web site for the 25th. She has been in communication with Chad Lupkes who is Webmaster for the Dem's Chairs website. He has pledged his services to the 25th for no charge, if we pay the \$33.00 per year web domain fee. After discussion, it was moved and seconded to authorize an initial expenditure of \$33.00. Motion passed 8-0-0."
- Treasurer Luanne presented the financial statement. Beginning balance for Feb '08: \$10,996.89. Income (dues \$415.00; Caucus donations \$1660.00) total: \$2075.00. Expenses (Caucus \$500.05; Mail permit \$175.00; Mailing \$53.70; Stamps \$41.00; Refreshments \$36.46) total: (\$806.21). Ending balance for Feb '08: \$12,265.68.
- State Committee Persons (deferred)
- Legislative Session Jerry gave a brief review of pending legislation, also an upcoming volunteer opportunity to assist flood victims in Centralia/Chehalis and status on the Burner campaign. Look for details in the April newsletter.
- Elected Officials Ken Blair, member Bethel School Board, shared information on an imminent domain claim being made by the Bethel School District on property proposed for use for a high school equivalency industrial 'skills center' and possible financial liability issues resulting from the action.

Good of the Order

Ivan Weiss, Chair of the 34th LD Democrats and good friend of the 25th LD was introduced to new members. (Look for Ivan's contact info in the April newsletter.) The 25th LD Dem's April meeting will be held at the Puyallup Elks, off E. Main in Puyallup. (Look for directions in the April newsletter.) Joan Cronk announced that Frank Blair and KLAY/1180 AM radio will be honored by the Paralyzed Veterans of America for continuing efforts to raise awareness of the plight of our veteran community. John Berry III announced a symposium on traumatic brain injury at the TCC Tacid Center, March 27, from 6-9 PM. Betty Ogden announced the passage of public campaign funding legislation. Ken Blair came forward with campaign material supporting Pat McCarthy's campaign for County Executive.

It was M&S to adjourn @ 8:45PM & (PWO).

**HAVE YOU PAID YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2008?
IF NOT, PLEASE DO!**

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

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: () _____

Zip: _____ City/ _____

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.)

Please send dues to: 25th LDD, POBox 73594, Puyallup, WA 98373



**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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