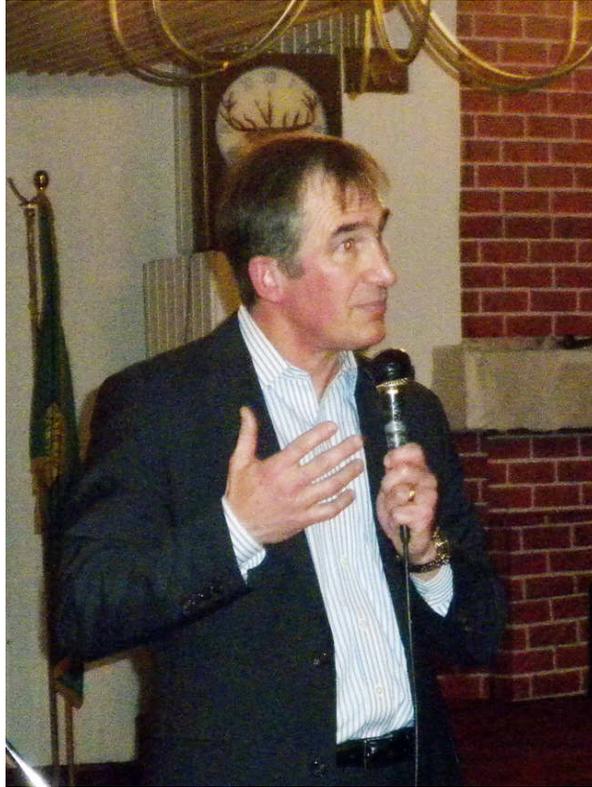




25th Legislative District



Democratic Focus



**SENATOR JIM KASTAMA, HONOREE
AT JANUARY DINNER MEETING
SPEAKS TO THE ATTENDEES
AFTER RECEIVING AWARDS AND
COMPLIMENTS**

**READ ALL ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING , WHAT DID HAPPEN, MINUTES
PLUS UPCOMINGS ON PAGE 2
AND - - - - DUES CAN BE PAID NOW FOR 2012!**

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

President/Chair: Louis Tibbs
Tel: (253) 848-5496
Email: LTibbs3@comcast.net

Vice Chair: Luanne Green
Tel: (253) 848-0289
Email: raygre@msn.com

Treasurer: Harold (Al) Gray
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halgray@rainierconnect.com

Asst't Treasurer
Luanne Green
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Secretary: Melissa Thompson
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State Committeewoman:
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**25TH DISTRICT
DEMOCRATIC
ELECTED
OFFICIALS**



**Senator
Jim Kastama**
(253) 840-4701

email:
kastama.jim@leg.wa.gov

For all other elected officials:
Legislative Hotline:

**DEMOCRATS
CONTACT INFO**

*DNC: www.democrats.org
WA State Dem Party
www.wa-democrats.org
Pierce Co. Dem Party
www.piercecountydems.org*

**25TH LDD E-BOARD
PIERCE COUNTY
REPRESENTATIVES**

POS 1: Eric Herde
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Email: epwh@earthlink.net

POS 2: Melissa Thompson
Tel: (253) 970-7339
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POS 3: Mervin Swanson
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FOR THE LATEST INFO
AND/OR COPIES OF THE
FOCUS CHECK OUT THE 25TH
LDD WEBSITE AT:
www.25dems.org

MEETINGS

30 Jan Mon E-Board meets at
7PM at Fire Station 66

**FEB MEETING NOTE:
CHANGE OF DATE TO
13 FEB**

13 Feb Mon 6 PM Legislative
Action Committee will meet.

13 Feb 7 PM 25 LDD monthly
general meeting at the Library
in Puyallup. Main speaker will
be **Denny Heck**.



18 Feb Sat DEAD-
LINE for FOCUS
articles, pictures, etc.

27 Feb Mon E-Board meets at
7PM at Fire Station 66.

5 Mar Mon 25 LDD monthly
general meeting at the Puyallup
Library



17 Mar Sat DEAD-
LINE for FOCUS arti-
cles, pictures, etc.

26 Mar Mon E-Board meets at
7 PM at Fire Station 66

2 Apr Mon 25 LDD monthly
general meeting at the Puyallup
Library

**SPECIAL NIGHT FOR SEMATPR KASTAMA
AND 25th DISTRICT DEMOCRATS**

Friday, January 6th was a special night at the Puyallup Elks Club for a dinner honoring Senator Jim Kastama. A group of about 60 friends, family, and colleagues of the Senator gathered for an enjoyable evening. A number of current and former legislative colleagues came to share stories—among them Rep. Mark Miloscia, Denny Heck, Dan Grimm, Dawn Morrell, Legislative Aide Mary Sherman, Session Aide Barbara Ruble and Senate Sergeant at Arms, Jim Ruble. Ernie Bay thanked the Senator for his active support of the trails system that has benefited Puyallup and Pierce County. Several of his interns and staff came to wish him well and share some of the “war” stories. County Councilman Tim Farrell acted as Emcee for the evening.

There were two presentations of awards for the evening. Jerry Beckendorf was honored as the outstanding volunteer of the year 2011, with remarks by Cliff Allo, 25th District Parliamentarian. The second was an award presented by former Rep. Dawn Morrell to Senator Kastama in appreciation for his sixteen years of service to our legislative district. Cliff Allo also spoke of the Senator’s service and a shared appreciation for bicycling and other sports.

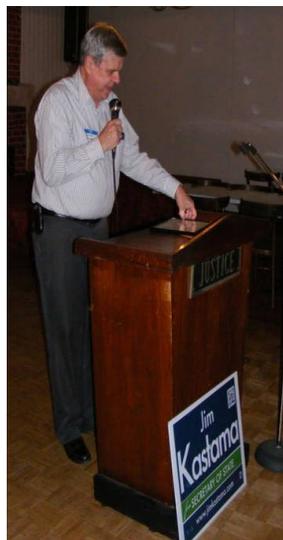
Senator Kastama spoke of his journey to the Legislature, his goals, and his adventures world-wide before finding his niche in the legislative world. He spoke of his work in the Legislature on election and voting law issues, plus an interest in promotion of economic development. Because of that involvement and interest he is seeking the office of Secretary of State.

One of his former interns spoke of Senator Kastama’s help with Shared Parenthood legislation, also of his integrity as a legislator who stood firm on issues and could be depended upon to do his due diligence on legislation.

Luanne Green



**TIM FARRELL
EMCEE**



**JERRY BECKENDORF
2011 OUTSTANDING
VOLUNTEER**



CLIFF ALLO



**DAWN MORRELL
PRESENTED
SERVICE AWARD
TO SEN KASTAMA**



**SEN KASTAMA
WITH AWARD
FOR HIS SERVICE**

FORMER 25TH SENATOR CALVIN GOINGS MOVES UP

Calvin W. Goings is the new Assistant Associate Administrator for the United States Small Business Administration (SBA), helping to direct SBA's national field operations as a key member of the Agency's leadership team.

As a primary focus of this position, Goings will be leading a nationwide effort to increase small business outreach and entrepreneurial training by strengthening the services provided at SBA's 68 field offices, 1,000 Small Business Development Centers, 350 SCORE counseling chapters, and 100 Women's Business Centers.

This effort will ensure that SBA's field offices and resource partner centers are working in a coordinated manner to share and adopt best practices, reinvigorate marketing and outreach efforts, and increase small business job creation and competitiveness in the global marketplace.

Prior to serving as Assistant Associate Administrator at SBA's headquarters in Washington DC, Goings served as a Regional Administrator for SBA leading the Obama Administration's small business programs and initiatives in the four state northwest region of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. In this capacity Goings promoted nearly \$2 Billion in SBA loans and facilitated the awarding of over \$9 Billion in federal procurement contracts.

Unfortunately because of federal regulations Calvin cannot attend political meetings such as ours.

FEBRUARY NOTES by *Jerry Beckendorf*

25th LD Democrats Senator's Club moves to Cattin's

The 25th Legislative District Democrats Senator's Club breakfast has been moved from Mrs. Turners's Plantation because we have outgrown the space. The new meeting spot will be Cattin's Restaurant located just north of the Puyallup Fairgrounds on Meridian. Normal meeting is the 1st Monday of the month at 7 am. If the 1st Monday falls on a holiday or is inconvenient for members for some other reason, it will be moved to the 2nd Monday of the Month. We will meet in the large meeting room in the back of the restaurant. We hope to have as many members and be able to fill the room.

Members qualify for meeting Senator Kastama for these breakfasts by paying \$100 annual dues to the club. It is a unique opportunity to discuss important legislation or other state business with the Senator. For more information, contact Jerry Beckendorf at 253.845.7702 or Al Gray, Treasurer, at 253.538.8352.

Washington State Legislative and Congressional boundaries all but set

Because the state of Washington's population grew more than the national average, we qualified for a new seat in Congress, the 10th District. The boundary lines as well as all the other Congressional and Legislative District lines are available by checking the following website:

http://www.redistricting.wa.gov/maps_final_2011.asp

Hopefully, you can click on this in your electronic copy of the Focus and go directly to the bottom section which says not necessary to download maps. Zoom in to see street detail to determine which District you actually live in. Many of us now live in the new 10th CD.

Washington State Legislature now in session

There are many important bills before the Legislative session this year. If you are interested in the bills supported by organized labor you can visit: www.wslc.org and click on Legislative Issues

YOUR VOTE AND HELP ARE IMPORTANT

By Ray Green

The elections of 2012 are not the time for people to sit on their hands and rely on someone else to elect Democrats. Too often I have heard people say they won't vote because all politicians are crooks. Not so! Here in Washington our Democratic office holders are working hard for us.

Every Democrat in our district can play an important role helping to elect our candidates. We must retain our majority in the Legislature. Since the Republicans are in control in the U.S House in D.C very little has been accomplished. Actually their goal is to cause the Obama administration to fail.

If you want to be involved and can devote an occasional week end day please call me so that I can develop a list of volunteers. Ways you can help include 1) telephoning, 2) leaflet distribution, 3) wave signs. 4) Put up signs, 5) remove signs after the November election, 6) post signs in your yard, 7) drive for a candidate, 8) hold a coffee hour, 9) help with the caucuses as an appointed PCO. Please let me know how you can help. Ray Green 848-0289 or raygre@msn.com

When election time arrives don't sit on your hands, get up off it and get busy.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION RECOMMENDS KEEPING FIFE IN THE 25th LDD

The redistricting commission met its deadline and the Legislature will have a modest opportunity to tinker with the commission's work. Most observers predict few significant adjustments to the commission's recommendations..

The big news is that the 25th LDD not only does not lose its Fife constituents, but it actually seems to gain the parts of Fife north of I 5 that were not in the 25th. The other big change is the loss of the 25th's portions of Edgewood and Milton. Otherwise there are adjustments but the populations are relatively small. The 25th gains a little bit on the west, loses on the south, and gains a little bit on the east. Most of the changes involve the entities of current precincts. While all the precincts are likely to be redrawn in April, we can still use the current map and precinct numbering to understand the commission's recommendations.

In the southeast corner, we gain 02-059 and 02-060 from the 2nd to align the legislative district boundaries with the school district boundaries and bring the remaining Sunrise and Rebecca Ridge communities into the 25th.

On the southern boundary, we lose 25-162, 25-164, and 25-165 to the 2nd and 25-155, 25-156, 25-157, and 25-159 as well as tiny parts of 25-151 and 25-158 to the 29th.

On the western boundary, we gain 29-551, 29-552, 29-553, 29-556, 29-559, and 29-560.

In the northwest, we lose our parts of Milton and Edgewood, 25-121, 25-122, 25-123, 25-124, 25-131, 25-132, and 25-135 but gain 27-352, 27-358, and 27-360 in Fife.

North of the River, we lose 25-128, 25-129, 25-180, and 25-181.

In the northeast, we gain 31-643 and 31-644.

Near Military Road, we lose 25-175, 25-176, and 25-177.

Cliff Allo pco@cliffallo.us PCO 25-168

PRECINCT CAUCUS PLANNING CONTINUES

by *Cliff Allo*

The delegate selection process for the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina begins in Washington with our precinct caucuses on Sunday, April 15th at 1 pm.

While each precinct will have a separate caucus, we'll be holding those caucuses at three locations: Puyallup Elks, The Boilermakers' Hall, and Franklin Pierce High School.

Even though the boundaries of the 25th will change for November's general election, we have recommended to our neighboring legislative districts that we each retain responsibility for hosting the caucuses in the precincts that belonged to each legislative district in November of 2011. As of this writing we have received neither agreement nor disagreement. Regardless, most precincts won't have moved.

We'll have specific details available well before April 15th but the rough allocation of locations is to have everyone north of the Puyallup River and everyone within the city of Puyallup caucus at the Elks, to have South Hill's precincts caucus at the Boilermakers' and to have everything west of South Hill and south of the River caucus at Franklin Pierce High School.

Every precinct needs and deserves either a PCO or at least a temporary chair to run its caucus. When you see me with my precinct coordinator notebook, please check whether your precinct will have a leader on caucus day. If the page is blank, please consider volunteering. It won't take many hours and it's really important. So far we have 102, 103, 104, 108, 111, 112, 118, 132, 139, 150, 168, 170, 171, 172, and 180 covered. If your precinct is not in this group, please volunteer.

SINGIN' THE BLUES

by Cliff Allo

We have some amendments to our by-laws up for a vote in February. I urge your support for them. The two major issues they address are the transitions required by new district boundaries and the election of PCOs. For a tongue-in-cheek account of why we need to do something about the election of PCOs, please keep reading. Caution, the imagery may be PG-16.

Lotsa folks agree that PCOs are important, but despite that consensus, PCOs are an endangered species.

PCOs---and with them the foundation of our modern major political parties---face two serious threats. First there is a chronic shortage of people willing to serve. Underpopulation or what Strother Martin's character in *Cool Hand Luke* might have described as "a failure to propagate" leaves us seriously short-handed. Whereas the distinguished Pennsylvania Presidential Candidate Rick Santorum was willing to visit all ninety-nine counties in Iowa, more than a thousand miles from his home in Virginia, with his views on procreation, we have trouble recruiting folks willing to visit their neighbors within, in most precincts, not much more than a mile. Sadly, neither Santorum nor, for that matter, Herman Cain has inspired more PCOs to be fruitful and multiply.

Now, in addition to the chronic shortage of warm bodies, the very process of electing even willing PCOs is threatened. In a dazzling display of bipartisanship, both major parties in Washington challenged the process by which we elected PCOs. The flaw they cited was the possibility that non-Democrats might intrude in our process to make mischief in the selection of our party leadership. And vice-versa. Any process that allowed such outside agitators to monkey with the internal affairs of the venerable parties would threaten their undeniable first amendment rights of association, here understood to imply a right to exclude as well as include.

Well, fair enough: how do we know who is *us* if we cannot decide who is *them* and exclude 'em too.

The Judge was persuaded and ruled the existing process unconstitutional. He then could have been one of those officious judicial activists and provided a new, constitutional method to elect PCOs, but no, he exercised restraint and left it to the political process to agree on a new, improved or at least constitutional method.

At that point, the County Auditors supported by the Secretary of State saw their opportunity. They really don't like PCO elections and regularly remind us that most of the contests lack candidates. Even less, they like PCO races with actual candidates because they must then print ballots with the offending candidates' names whether or not there is opposition. To them it's a waste, even an abuse to spend scarce public funds to help private associations---even as high-minded as the Republicans---organize their recruitment, pledging, and hazing.

The Legislature is aware of this crisis despite the distractions provided by fiscal matters and other trivia, but the hearing this fall did not celebrate a new agreement. Instead those pesky statistics about how few PCO races actually had one candidate let alone two seemed to make an impression. The new year therefore brought forth new litigation. Again modeling bipartisanship, our intrepid leaders on both sides of the ideological divide have sued the state to compel the creation of a constitutional elections process for PCOs.

The public response has been underwhelming. *The Tacoma New-Tribune* ran a strong editorial recently. It did not endorse the litigation.

It may be that the Legislature will find a solution the parties and the Auditors can accept, but we cannot assume that. That is why your EBoard has drafted and recommended amendments to our by-laws that would create a stand-by process to elect PCOs if the Legislature does not. Those amendments will be up for adoption at our February meeting. They can be found on our website. Please give them every consideration as a local solution to a problem we did not create.

**25th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
FINANCIAL REPORT
WILL NOW BE AVAILABLE EACH MONTH UPON REQUEST BY
A MEMBER INSTEAD OF BEING ON THE WEBSITE.**

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES ?

DUES SHOULD BE PAID NOW FOR 2012!

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 Frank Blair and Traci Kelly 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 equaltimeradio.net.
Tune in or be tuned out.

Benefits of Membership

1. A strong local Democratic Party ready to support Democratic candidates every year.
2. Vote on party endorsement of candidates and issues. These party decisions direct our resources and energy to the candidates we care most about.
3. Shape the future of the party by serving on any number of committees.
4. Vote on resolutions on emerging issues of the day, directing party resources to what's most important to local Democrats.

MEMO TO E-MAIL RECIPIENTS: Your 2012 membership dues are now due.

Join or renew your membership today