



25th Legislative District



Democratic Focus

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



**DAVID HENRY, STATE COMMITTEEMAN
WON ELECTION AT DECEMBER
GENERAL MEETING**

**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
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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
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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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FOCUS NEWSLETTER

Send all articles and pictures
(please attach to email) for
FOCUS newsletter to
Editor Joan Cronk
JoanCronk@comcast.net

MEETINGS

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

**JAN 2012—NOTE CHANGE
OF MONTHLY MEETING
PLACE AND DATE:**

6 Jan 2012 Fri 7PM monthly
general meeting will be
**Send-Off and Celebration
Dinner for Jim Kastama at
Elks Club, Puyallup.** (See
page 7 for details, cost, time,
who to send event money to if
you are going, etc.

 **14 Jan Sat** Deadline for
FOCUS articles, pic-
tures (please attach pic-
tures to email), etc.

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

NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

13 Feb Mon 7 PM 25th LDD
monthly general meeting at the
Library in Puyallup

 **18 Feb Sat** Deadline
for FOCUS articles,
pictures (please attach
pictures to email), etc.

FOR THE LATEST INFO
AND/OR COPIES OF THE
FOCUS CHECK OUT THE 25TH
LDD WEBSITE AT:
www.25dems.org

WHY

By Frank Blair

For those of you who remember me (long time 25LDD member) and wonder why I haven't been attending meetings in the 25th District, I want to tell you why. As most of you know our daughter was killed by a drunk driver on February 26th, 2010. After a few months the shock wore off and Carol and I determined that we have a moral obligation to stop others from getting that horrid knock on the door in the middle of the night. To that end, we have been VERY active in DUI issues. We are trying to change sentencing guidelines for first time DUI and Vehicular homicide. We also do what we can to share our story so that people understand the actual consequences of driving drunk.

So that's what we have been doing the last year. Here is a website we built so that people can keep track of our activities. sheenablairdui.org We do all this to move Sheena's spirit forward..

Please don't drink and drive.

WHY I AM A DEMOCRAT

By Ken Peach

Simple. I was born in Texas during the depression and no one cared where you were born so I don't know where my birthplace is. However, they did care about the political party and you either belonged to the wrong one or the Democrat Party. When we voted if your first vote was for a certain party then the rest of your votes would be for that party – democracy at its finest. The US Congress changed that law so that you could vote for different parties. But in Texas that was the way it was and the majority of the voters were right in being in the Democrat party. I was born to a poor mother; adopted by a poor family so knew which party represented and helped us poor folk. As I moved from place to place around the world I found out things – some I didn't even want to know. But I did know I wanted to be with the party that was for the common folk, regardless of race, religion or money. So for years and years (add a few to that and you will guess my age) I have worked hard to help our party by volunteering to do whatever. Now as the years go by my poor, old body will only let me volunteer for less strenuous work but I do volunteer. So in order for us to get back to the good old days we need you able bodied members to volunteer. Volunteering is good for the soul, good for the body and good for the mind so stay healthy and wise and join me in volunteering.

THINGS THAT CAN DRIVE YOU CRAZY

The tiny red string on the Band-Aid that never works.

You open a can of soup and the lid falls in.

There's a dog in the neighborhood that barks at everything.

You can never put anything back in the original box the way it came.

The elevator stops on every floor but nobody gets on or off.

There are always one or two ice cubes that won't pop out of the tray.

There's always a car riding your tail when you're slowing down to find an address.

**WASHINGTON'S SELECTION PROCESS
FOR
DELEGATES TO THE 2012 NATIONAL
PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATING CONVENTION**
by Cliff Allo

The National Convention will be in Charlotte, NC Monday, September 3, 2012 through Thursday, September 6, 2012.

Our Democratic Governor, our two Democratic Senators, our five Democratic members of Congress, our members of the Democratic National Committee, and former Speaker Foley are all eligible to be delegates by virtue of the offices they hold or have held. Washington's Democrats will select their remaining delegates to that convention in two processes: (1) a system of caucuses will select our Congressional District delegates and alternates and (2) the members of the state central committee that represent legislative districts will select (a) pledged party leaders and elected officials and (b) at large delegates as well as alternates for both groups.

The caucus process begins at the precinct caucuses Sunday, April 15 at 1 pm. The 25th LDD plans to cluster those caucuses at a limited number of locations including the Boilermakers' Hall on South Hill, a location within Puyallup, and one or two others, but as of this writing, we have not completed those arrangements. We expect to announce the locations, precinct by precinct, at our March meeting. Precincts will generally elect one precinct delegate for every 75 votes the precinct cast for Obama-Biden in 2008. Those delegates will be allocated among the contending candidates and "no preference" in proportion to their support among the Democrats attending each precinct's caucus. Each preference's group in each precinct will elect their allocation of precinct delegates and alternates.

The elected precinct delegates and alternates will convene in Legislative District Caucuses thirteen days later at 10 am on Saturday, April 28, 2012. The relative preferences of the precinct delegates in attendance will control the allocation of the legislative district delegates. In other words, the 25th LDD's delegation will depend both upon who shows up at the precincts and who of the elected precinct delegates and alternates show up at the LDD caucus. Again, each preference will choose its slate of legislative district delegates.

The legislative district delegates—preference by preference—will then select national delegates at the congressional district caucuses on Sunday, May 24, 2012.

A person need not be a delegate at one caucus level to run to be a delegate at the next caucus level, but any person that wishes to be a national delegate or alternate must file a Declaration of Candidacy and be accepted by the campaign the person supports. The deadline for filing for congressional district delegates and alternates is May 4, 2012. The deadline for filing for Party Leaders, Elected Officials, and at large delegates and alternates is Friday May 25th.

The Rules Committee of the State Central Committee recommended and the State Central Committee initially concurred in using the precinct, legislative district, and congressional district boundaries in effect on November 8, 2011 because those boundaries are known and on-going organizations exist in the districts to set up and support the caucuses. Subsequently—and with no certainty that the redistricting process would yield timely, new maps of district boundaries—the State Central Committee reversed itself and called for the caucus process to use the new, yet-to-be-issued boundaries for legislative and congressional districts.

As of this writing on December 19, the Washington State Redistricting Commission has not issued new maps for either legislative districts or congressional districts. Because Pierce County will not have new precinct boundaries in time for the April precinct caucuses, the 25th LDD will use existing precinct boundaries for the caucuses. If the legislature adopts new maps before the caucuses, it is likely that the 25th will lose some territory because its population has grown so much. We will then need to work out arrangements for the precincts affected by the new boundaries. To that end, we have already written our neighboring LDs to suggest that we all take care of our current precincts through the precinct caucuses and then address the new boundaries. So far, we have received neither agreement nor rejection of this suggestion.

Regardless of which LD supports a precinct's caucus, the precinct level delegates elected at each precinct caucus will attend the LD caucus for the District in which they live according to the latest boundaries. In other words, if the legislature does adopt new district boundaries and if some but not all of a precinct, say Precinct 25-999, moves to the 29th, then the elected delegates that live in the new 29th will go to the 29th District's caucus and the others that still live in the 25th will go to ours, just as some of the 25th LDD's district level delegates went to the 6th CD, some to the 8th CD, and most to the 9th CD in 2008.

BY-LAW RECOMMENDED CHANGES

By Cliff Allo

Every two years, the E-Board reviews the 25th LDD's By-Laws to recommend changes for adoption by the members. To ensure adequate notice to the members, these changes must be mentioned on the agenda twice before coming up for a vote. You can review these proposals on our website.

The By-Laws set deadlines for submissions to the Chair to give the Chair and the E-Board time to consider them. The change in meeting night from Thursday to Monday showed that those deadlines implicitly assumed Thursdays and didn't work as well for Mondays. The suggested change in X.L. on page 9 should work better regardless of which night the Library is available.

We use the agenda to make sure that members can know what will and won't be up for action at any given meeting. This assures members the opportunity to participate in decisions they feel important and protects everyone from surprises. New language in X.C. emphasizes this point.

There are also some bigger issues the proposals seek to address.

Recent litigation has found the way the state has conducted elections for PCOs unconstitutional because non-Democrats could easily participate in the election of Democratic PCOs. Additionally the legislature has voted not to have a presidential primary in 2012. The combination means that unless the legislature provides a new process and that process meets the constitutional requirements, we'll have no way to elect new PCOs or even re-elect the ones we currently have. New language in IV.E-F. sets out a process for the 25th to elect PCOs and make appointments when vacancies arise. This language yields to the legislature for elections if the legislature does its job but provides a "Plan B" if they aren't able to agree.

Although its power to do so might be disputed, the State Central Committee has directed legislative district organizations to begin meeting within their new, 2012, redistricted, geographic boundaries within 30 days of adoption of the boundaries by the legislature. As boundaries change, we are likely to gain and lose territory and with it gain and lose PCOs. During 2012, some PCOs will have dual identities. The proposed language in IV.D. provides that during 2012, a PCO joining the 25th will be welcome and that a PCO eventually leaving the 25th can finish his or her term before departing. It only applies in years in which redistricting changes boundaries.

Finally, new language emphasizes that the 25th LDD is a means for us to exercise our own first amendment rights and not merely a franchise we obtain from the county or state party. The language is meant to give us a greater ability to say "No, thank you" if the state or county party passes something foolish or dangerous.

Please review the language on the website and email me (pco@cliffallo.us) if you have questions.



**. WRAP UP OF DECEMBER
25th LDD MEETING DEC 5TH**

By Joan Cronk

Cliff Allo, caucus coordinator for the 25th LDD, gave members an update about the upcoming Caucus season.

Precinct caucus will be April 15 at 1:00 and LD Caucus will be Saturday, April 28. Locations to be announced at a later time.

Allo gave us a report of what to expect for the 2012 caucus with the new maps and redistricting making this process a confusing one. However, Allo said it should run efficiently and volunteers are needed.

Allo also discussed our By Law change regarding changing our meeting nights from Thursday to Monday due to the Library closing early now on Thursday evenings. He also discussed the way we elect our PCOs.

Our new State Committeeman is David Henry, who is a member of the Machinists Union and works at Boeing.

The February meeting will take place on the 13th of February at the Library.

25th LDD members brought generous gifts for the children's toy drive, and Jerry Beckendorf will deliver them.

HELP!!!!

By Cliff Allo

I'd yell "Hot Chocolate!" but I'm not sure how many members recall the Smothers Brothers.

Nonetheless, we do need help at the April Precinct Caucuses. Every precinct needs and deserves someone to chair that caucus that has the information and material to make the process run smoothly. Generally that person should be the PCO, but not every precinct has one.

Here's the deal: I'll list the precincts that need coordinators. If a volunteer steps forward for a precinct, we'll provide the training, the useful materials, and on-site technical assistance to make coordinating a precinct caucus not only painless but successful and even fun.

Please email me your name, contact information, and the precinct you're willing to coordinate at pco@cliffallo.us.

Here's the list of precincts that need coordinators:

25-101, 25-104, 25-105, 25-107 to 25-110, 25-114 to 25-117, 25-121 to 25-130, 25-132 to 25-138, 25-140 to 25-149, 25-151 to 25-160, 25-162 to 25-167, 25-169, 25-173 to 25-179, and 25-181.

Please help make this list shorter for the next issue of the *Focus*.

**PCO TRAINING
SUNDAY JANUARY 29TH**

PDC training will be available following the State Committee meeting at Little Creek Casino in Shelton, WA—training to be held Sunday, January 29th from 9 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Training would include: “Compliance Training: Candidate & Political Committee” and “ORCA training: Candidate & Political Committee”.

The State Central Committee meeting hotel room rate of \$70 + tax would still be available on Saturday night if you were staying at the casino.

Please contact Greg Haffner at greg@wa-democrats.org and a space can be held for you.

ANNUAL SESSION KICK-OFF DINNER 25TH DISTRICT

The 25th Legislative District Democrats' Kick-Off dinner will be held at the Puyallup Elks (314 27th St NE off of Main St) on **January 6, 2012**. Gathering will be at 6:30 p.m., dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. Senator Kastama will be our speaker. We will be honoring his sixteen years of service to our community.

Cost of the dinner will be:
\$20.00 per person or \$35.00 per couple in advance of dinner.
At door: \$25.00 per person, \$45.00 per couple.

Please send checks to **Al Gray, 25th LDD Treasurer at
PO Box 73594, Puyallup, WA 98373**

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

*The 25th Legislative District Democratic Officers wish all members a very
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*

May you always have love to share, health to spare and friends that care.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES ?

DUES CAN 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.**

Memo to E-Mail Recipients:

We hope you find the **Focus** to be interesting and informative and that you will consider becoming a paid up member. Membership dues for 2012 are now due. I encourage everyone who receives our **Focus** to become paid-up members. Join today.

Please join us at our January pre-session kick-off dinner January 6th at the Puyallup Elks. See the article on page 7 for complete details. Make your reservations early to get the lower dinner price.

Ray Green, Membership Chair

