



25th Legislative District



Democratic Focus



**NEWLY ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE
DAWN MORRELL WITH SENATOR JIM KASTAMA
AT THE 2013 PRE-SESSION KICK-OFF DINNER JANUARY 4, 2013
PUYALLUP ELKS LODGE**

**READ ALL ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING:
GENERAL MEETING ON 4 FEB WILL HAVE AS SPEAKER BRIAN FOX,
EXEC. DIR. COMMUNITY INFO., PUYALLUP SCHOOL DIST.
OTHER UPCOMINGS ON PAGE 2
AND - - - - DUES SHOULD BE PAID NOW FOR 2013!**

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

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**25TH DISTRICT
DEMOCRATIC
ELECTED
OFFICIALS**



**REPRESENTATIVE
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For all other elected officials:
Legislative Hotline:
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**DEMOCRATS
CONTACT INFO**

DNC: www.democrats.org
WA State Dem Party
www.wa-democrats.org

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Website. For latest info or copies of FOCUS check out 25th LDD Website at: 25dems.org
www.25dems.org

MEETINGS

NOTE CHANGE:

28 Jan Mon E-Board meets at 7PM at Puyallup Library (Fire Station meeting room not available.)


4 Feb Mon 25 LDD meeting at 7 PM at Puyallup Library. Speaker will be Brian Fox, Exec. Dir. Community Info/ Arts Ed, Puyallup School Dist.

 **16 Feb Sat DEADLINE FOR FOCUS** articles, pictures, etc.

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

NOTICE-NOTICE-NOTICE

4 Mar Mon 25 LDD Meeting at 7 PM at Canyon Terrace Estates Club House, 9314 Canyon Rd. E., Puyallup

 **16 Mar Sat DEADLINE FOR FOCUS** articles, pictures, etc.

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

1 Apr Mon 25 LDD Meeting at 7PM at Puyallup Library.

SUMMARY 2013 PRE-SESSION KICK-OFF DINNER

By Joan Cronk

The January 4 send off dinner in honor of newly elected State Representative Dawn Morrell was held at the Puyallup Elks on January 4.

A good sized and enthusiastic crowd gathered to wish Representative Morrell the very best and listen to her speak about the next legislative session.

Morrell thanked the 25th LDD and particularly Bill Hilton, who she referred to as her “campaign buddy”. Hilton ran for the other State of Representatives house seat against Hans Zeiger and between Dawn and Bill and their volunteers, over 25,000 homes were door belled during the election season.

Morrell said that Mary Sherman will serve as her Legislative Assistant.

Outgoing Senate member Jim Kastama spoke about his accomplishments in the legislature over the 16 years of his service. Kastama is proud of the election reform that took place under his leadership, as well as economic development and the On-line University.

Speaking of serving in the legislature, Kastama said, “It takes tremendous courage to go there and face what we face today. If we come together, we can find common ground.”

Ellen Zulauf read a TNT report about Norm Dicks Retirement and Denny Heck’s Political Director, Toni Stinnet, thanked the 25th for their support of the candidate. “Denny is ready to go to work,” she said.



TRACKING OBAMACARE IN WASHINGTON STATE

By Dixie Gatchel

They say that fools rush in where angels fear to tread, so I qualify big time – as a fool that is. I volunteered to write an article for Focus on Obamacare. My interest in Medicare stems from my career as a claims representative with the Social Security Administration where I worked extensively with Medicare and Medicaid. The Patient Protection & Affordable Healthcare Act (PPACA) became the law of the land on March 23, 2010. President Obama deserves much credit for enactment of major healthcare legislation in face of unprecedented opposition from a 10% approval-rated Congress. I wish success for the PPACA otherwise known as Obamacare, and have been tracking progress in Washington State. To be up front with you, I hoped for single-payer Medicare for all, which would have been so much easier to implement.

Fortunately, our beloved healthcare expert Dawn Morrell, newly-reelected 25 LD Representative, saved my cookies when she turned me on to the excellent Commonwealth Fund at <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/>. Everything you ever wanted to know about Obamacare in this lifetime or the next is covered in an easy, user-friendly format. Please add this web site to your favorites and voice your opinion on the blog. This is a much better source of information than I am capable of writing about.

Two other sources I am tracking include: Washington State Health Care Authority web site at <http://www.hca.wa.gov/hcr/exchange/meetings.html/>; and US Department of Health & Human Services at www.hhs.gov/.

Obamacare is a complex federal-state partnership program that requires expert technical coordination on many levels between federal and state computer programs. The state-run health insurance exchanges must be ready to go in January 2014 so time is short. The task is daunting and we, as the people most affected, must be alert to what is happening or we may very well be stuck with a big keg of worms.

THIS STUPID WORLD

Why is abbreviated such a long word?

If con is the opposite of Pro, is Congress the opposite of progress?

Why are they called Apartments when they are all stuck together?

If flying is so safe, why do they call the airport the TERMINAL?

Why is it that Doctors call what they do “practice”?



Wednesday 16 January 2013 was the BIG day as Jay Inslee was sworn in as the 23rd governor of Washington.

It happened because of the hard work of volunteers, supporters, and donors like you. Against the odds, we elected Jay against a tough candidate in a tough election environment. But the fight isn't over—it's just beginning.

Governor Inslee will face a State Senate that has been hijacked by Senate Republicans and two pretend Democrats. He needs your support as he works to move our state forward. You can send a note of congratulations to Jay and tell him you stand with him by going to the Washington State Democrat website at www.wa-democrats.org and going to the right side where it says Sign Petitions.

One thing is clear—Washington voters have Democratic values and want Democrats to lead our state but instead, a Republican coalition is leading the State Senate. Our state is facing another budget shortfall and an underfunded education system. We need to stand to tackle the huge challenges our state faces.

Last year showed what can happen when we all work together to move our state and country forward with leaders that make that vision a reality.

Sincerely, Jaxon Ravens, Executive Director, Washington State Democrats

THIS STUPID WORLD

**Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?
Why isn't there mouse-flavored cat food?
Why isn't there cat flavored dog food?
Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes?**

**Why does the sun lighten our hair but darken our skin?
Why don't you ever see the Headline Psychic Wins lottery?
Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavor and dishwashing liquid
made with real lemons?**

A Month in DC

By Eric Herde

I am currently in DC for a college class that will last for three weeks. After the first week, it is clear that this is an excellent opportunity. We have met with various groups that are involved with the political process, and have many more meetings scheduled. This is a non-traditional class, where most of our class time involves meeting with people who influence the government rather than lecture from our professors.

One group that we met with last week was Public Citizen. Founded in 1971 by Ralph Nader, Public Citizen works to protect and expand the framework of representative government. One of the projects that they are currently focusing on is reacting to the *Citizens United* Supreme Court decision that allowed unlimited corporate spending in our elections. The staff member with Public Citizen that we spoke with said that when the *Citizens United* decision was handed down he did not believe that we would be able to get a constitutional amendment stating that corporations do not have the rights guaranteed to people by the Constitution. However, in the past few years momentum has built to the point where an amendment is actually a possibility. I agree with his assessment of the situation, and am looking forward to working to get such an amendment passed.

We also met with a representative from the Center for Economic and Policy Research, or CEPR. This group investigates the connections between public policy and how the economy works (or doesn't work) for the working class. The bulk of his presentation centered on a graph showing the percentage of total annual income earned by the top 1%. This figure decreased from the 1930s to the 1970s, before beginning to increase leading into the '80s. Despite being essentially unchanged through the '90s, it is now accelerating upward faster than at any other time in the last century. While there were many government policies that affect this figure in one way or another, the representative from CEPR pointed out that the percentage of income going to the top 1% is can be explained almost entirely by the power of the labor movement: when labor is strong, working people make more money, but when labor is weak, working people make less money. The only way to put our country back in a safe financial position is to strengthen the labor movement because the working person is the backbone of America.



LAUREN ADLER SPEAKS IN OLYMPIA LAST YEAR AT THE STUDENT LEGISLATIVE RALLY FOR WASHINGTON STATE COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE STUDENTS



Lauren Adler, former Chair of the 25th LDD and campaign manager for Bill Hilton in his run for State of Representative’s seat in the last election, has been selected to participate in the Institute for a Democratic Future (IDF).

Lauren said, “This is a highly respected program that is extremely competitive to get accepted into. I am one of four Pierce County fellows as the majority of the fellows come from King County”

Their website states the IDF is a six month leadership and civics program for Democrats ages 21 to 36. Beginning in January, the program involves classroom instruction, field trips and tours across Washington State. During the ten sessions, instruction will focus on three core areas: the legislative process, campaigns and elections and public policy.

Congratulations to Lauren!

THIS STUPID WORLD

You know that indestructible black box that is used to record everything that happens on an airplane? Why don’t they make the whole plane out of that stuff?

Why do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and put our useless junk in the garage?

**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 MAY BE PAID NOW FOR 2013!
Use this form to recruit friends and neighbors to join you
in helping our Democratic party.

Name(s): _____ Address: _____
City _____ Zip: _____ Phone _____
Email _____

Dues: Evergreen (includes Senior, student, 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, PO Box 73594, Puyallup, WA 98373

TO PAY ON THE WEB. PRESS CONTROL AND CLICK HERE [Donate Now](#)



IS ANYONE
OUT THERE
LISTENING?

Well, you should be if you want the truth about politics by
Frank Blair and **Tracy Kelly** on their radiotalk show Fridays
at 12:00 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

Other informative and progressive talk shows on KLAY radio include **Thom Hartman** M-F 4:00 to 7:00 pm
(probably the smartest talk show host on the air and knowledgeable about American constitutional history) and
Stephanie Miller M-F 9:00 AM. TO 12:00 noon. We thank KLAY for their offering these programs

PIERCE COUNTY DEMOCRATS ELECT NEW OFFICERS

At the biennial reorganization meeting the Pierce County Democrats selected new officers who will run the organization for the next two years. The newly elected officers are **Jeannie Mitchell**, Chairwoman, **Ben Lawver**, Vice Chairman, **John Laakso**, Treasurer, **Clare Bungay**, Assistant Treasurer/Membership, **Carolyn Merrival**, Secretary, **Linda Isenson**, State Committee Woman, **Robert Satiacum**, State Committee Man, **Patricia Dailey**, Seargeant-at-Arms, and **Nic Van Puytin**.