



25th Legislative District



Democratic Focus



**CONGRESSMAN DENNY HECK
GAVE OUTSTANDING TALK AT 25TH
LDD MONTHLY MEETING
ON
HIS INITIATION INTO
WASHINGTON POLITICS**

READ ALL ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING:

OTHER UPCOMINGS ON PAGE 2

AND - - - - DUES SHOULD BE PAID NOW FOR 2013!

Speaker: Lori Province, Field Director , AFL-CIO

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LDD Website at: 25dems.org
www.25dems.org


MEETINGS

29 Apr Mon E-Board meets at
7 PM at Fire Station 66

6 May Mon 25 LDD meeting
at 7 PM at Puyallup Library.

Speaker: Lori Province
Field Director
Wa. St. Labor Council
AFL-CIO

**18 May Sat DEADLINE FOR
FOCUS**

articles, pictures, etc.


May 12



27 May, Mon E-Board
Meets 7 PM at Fire Station 66

Chair's Comment

Ed Herde

Well here we are, in the clutches of another Republican framed crisis. While the Republicans ran on jobs and economy in the last election they have not done a thing to help job growth in this country. We instead are all fretting about the national debt. The national debt was doubled by the Bush wars, the Bush tax cuts, and the Medicare prescription drug benefit for which the Republicans made sure we will pay full retail price. Not a peep came from Republican's mouths while they rang up the bills during the George W. Bush administration. The national debt was definitely expanded by the Bush wars, the Bush tax cuts, and un-negotiated Medicare prescription drug prices. The national debt definitely did not increase because of Social Security, but we are continually being hit with myths about Social Security.

Myth: Social Security is partly to blame for our national debt.

Truth: Social Security had 2.7 Trillion dollars in the Social Security Trust Fund at the end of 2012. Social Security is not drawing from the general revenue to pay retirees.

Myth: The Social Security Trust Fund isn't worth anything because the rest of the U.S. is in debt.

Truth: The Social Security Trust Fund is invested in US Treasury Securities, the same treasury that Japan, China, Brazil, and other countries and many private investors invest in because US Treasury bills are still considered the safest investment in the world.

Myth: The Social Security Trust Fund is broke.

Truth: The Social Security Trust Fund will have the funds to cover 100% of retirement benefit obligations until 2033. From that point on Social Security will be able to pay 75% of retirement obligations with Social Security payroll tax receipts. 75% in years 2034 and beyond is not an ideal situation, but it is a far cry from "bankrupt" as the right wing likes to claim. Small adjustments could be made to fix the long term shortage if the Republicans wanted it to be fixed.

Myth: If Social Security was privatized retirees would build a larger nest egg.

Truth: The first priority for Wall Street investment corporations is always to maximize the profits of their corporation. Fees under private management would always be higher than the 1% operating cost of the Social Security system. We can see from our current economic situation that privatized retirement gives us a much more volatile outcome because of our loosely regulated financial markets.

Myth: Moving to the Chained CPI would make a very minor change in retirement benefits.

Truth: The Chained CPI would reduce cost of living adjustments by 0.3% per year on average. That is a 3% annual reduction in benefits after 10 years, and a 6% annual reduction after 20 years. As economist Dean Baker of The Center for Tax Policy and Research says, 6% is a bigger change than the income tax increase levied on the wealthy in the recent budget deal – and Washington thought that was significant enough to battle over it for years.

(continued on page 4)

Chair's Comment (continued from page 3)

When you hear someone spreading right wing think tank myths please correct them. That person may not have ever heard the truth. You may make them curious enough to investigate for themselves. You can visit www.socialsecurity.gov for easy information on many aspects of Social Security, and you can get a copy of Your Social Security Statement that until 2011 everyone received in the mail annually. If we all still got our statements mailed to us annually we would be better informed about Social Security.

COAL TRAIN UPDATE

It has been a quiet month concerning the coal trains. Don Rahm will be making a short presentation at this month's Pierce County Executive Board meeting. Cliff Allo will be making a presentation to UPS on April 15.

Cliff has www.helpbnsf.org running at full speed. He will periodically be updating the site with new information from outside sources.

Jennifer Cash from Denny Heck's office called to verify our position. She is going to be a very helpful resource.

The Coal Committee is still requesting assistance with posters to be placed in local businesses. Anyone having local pictures of freight trains they can share, they will be appreciated.

April Meeting Minutes: What You Missed by Not Coming

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chair Ed Herde. Ed Herde led the flag salute. Roll was called.

Officers present: Chair Ed Herde, Treasurer Luanne Green, Secretary Eric Renz, Parliamentarian Cliff Allo, Sgt-at-Arms Brian Yambe, Membership Chair Ray Green, State Committeeman David Henry, State Committeewoman Ellen Zulauf, PC Dem Rep #2 Eric Herde, PC Dem Rep #3 Mervin Swanson

The consent agenda was approved as presented.

Elected Officials: 10th CD U.S. Representative Denny Heck was recognized and presented a very informative and impassioned review of his first 3 months in office. His introduction to service in DC was educational for the 25th LD. Rep. Heck serves on the [House Financial Services Committee](#) and some caucuses. His rules of engagement are always seek common ground and always be civil.

New PCO candidate Kevin Lee was presented, to be voted on by the LD .

The committee for a booth at the Washington State Fair (Formerly The Puyallup) was presented by Ed Herde: Chair, Ed Herde; Fundraising, Jeannie Mitchell; Business Manager, Carolyn Merrival; Volunteer Recruiting and Scheduling, Blaine Pearman; Fair Booth Treasurer (to be recruited by E. Renz); Booth Operations Manager, Eric Renz; Young Dem protégé, Candidate and Issue Coordinator: to be recruited by Linda Isenson; and Union Contact for booth to be recruited by Jeannie Mitchell.

Cliff Allo presented the status of our campaign for access and safety mitigation for the coal and oil train increases.

Good of the Order:

Gerry Beckendorf requested Jif or Adams peanut butter donations for the Union Foodbank drive.

Open seats in upcoming municipal elections were presented with a plea for Progressive candidates.

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Ed Herde at 8:22 pm. Eric Renz, Secretary

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Representative Dawn Morrell

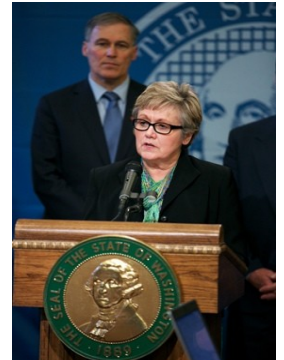
With regular session wrapping up, there is still much work to do before we can head back home. At the top of that list is agreeing on a two-year operating budget. House Democrats approved our budget a few weeks ago.

The House proposal is a responsible budget that funds our state's priorities. It fully funds K-12 education, expands health care to over 300,000 people, and protects care for vulnerable seniors, the disabled and at-risk kids. Our budget also makes critical investments that will create jobs and promote economic opportunity.

It sets the high-water mark for education spending, adding \$1.3 billion over predicted spending on public schools. If you compared total education spending to the current budget, the House proposal spends \$1.9 billion more than the status quo.

In contrast, Governor Jay Inslee proposed putting \$1.2 billion more toward education, while Senate Republican budget writers put forth a budget that adds only \$760 million to meet our McCleary obligations.

Now it is up to the budget writers from the House and Senate to negotiate a final budget that both chambers can agree on. I'll be fighting for the values we share – ample education funding, quality health care, and the safety net – in the final budget that Governor Inslee signs into law.



Governor Inslee
Rep. Morrell

While budget negotiations will take up much of the coming days, I'll also be working to get my bill to combat chronic drunk driving to Governor Inslee's desk. House Bill 2030 streamlines complicated DUI laws in our state.

Among the reforms in the bill:

- A new driver's license for the most persistent offenders would prevent them from purchasing alcohol for ten years.
- Ignition interlocks would be installed whenever a drunk driver is arrested and their car impounded -- a common sense change that will help prevent tragedies.
- Dedicated funds would support highly-effective DUI emphasis patrols and help counties hire enough prosecutors to go after chronic drunk drivers.

These changes are targeted towards repeat offenders. There are drunk drivers that get chance after chance. All too often, victims and their families don't get this luxury.

Frank and Carol Blair joined me at the press conference introducing the bill last week. Puyallup residents will remember when their daughter Sheena was killed by a drunk driver a few years ago. I'm fighting for these changes so that no parent has to experience the tragedy that Frank and Carol have lived through.

The bill was heard in the House Public Safety Committee last week. It's a great start and I'm hopeful we can get something done to make our roadways safer.

Know What is Going On!

Frank Blair

Democrats in YOUR district do something THIS big, and NOBODY has ANY idea?? REALLY??? I gotta tell ya Ray. I am pretty disappointed, disillusioned and frankly rather pissed off that Democrats in my district aren't playing this thing to the hilt, much not even being aware of it. That's ONE of the reasons I haven't been around much. We HAND you guys something this big and we're met with a yawn. I don't much care about US, (Carol and I) but I am offended that DAWN doesn't have the support of her district OR its Chair. DAMMIT. They say a picture is worth a thousand words. Here's one. Frank



Pictured l. to r: Frank Blair, Carol Blair, Gov. Jay Inslee, Rep. Dawn Morrell

Legislative Update

HJM 4001 *Requesting an amendment to the United States Constitution to return the authority to regulate election contributions to congress and state legislatures* (an attempt by State legislatures to repeal Supreme Court' *Citizens United* ruling) seems to have died in the Senate Government committee chaired by Senator Pam Roach.

In all probability, the Legislature will require a special session to finish their work.



By Joan Cronk

When Congressman Denny Heck spoke to the 25th LDD at their April meeting, he said he was most proud of the fact that he was a co-sponsor on the Violence Against Women Act.

“That was the biggest victory in the first 90 days,” he said proudly.

Heck explained that new Congressmen and women had four things to do right off the bat: get an apartment, get an office, hire a staff and get a committee appointment.

When asked what it was like to work with the Republicans, Heck said he always tries to look for common ground and always be civil. “I know it can happen, but there are far too many tea party members and we are in for some real battles,” he said.

The Washington State Fair Committee was announced:

Fair Chair is Ed Herde, **Fundraising** is Jeannie Mitchell; **Business Manager** is Carolyn Merrival; **Volunteer Recruiting and Scheduling** is Blaine Pearman; **Booth Operations Manager** is Eric Renz; **Fair Booth Treasurer** position is yet to be filled; and **Candidate and Issues Coordinator** is Linda Isenson.

Bring Jif Peanut Butter to the Next Meeting

The Pierce County Central Labor Council is collecting **JIF peanut butter** to distribute to local food banks. Peanut butter is an excellent source of protein. It has a good shelf life and is a food product that is easy for food banks to store and distribute.

Our 25th members have agreed to participate in this worthwhile endeavor. Buy your peanut butter contribution when you are shopping for your family this weekend so that you can bring it to our May 6th meeting.

Jif is Union-made by members of the **United Food and Commercial Workers**.

Here's how you can help local families and hungry children in need: bring a jar (or more) of JIF peanut butter to the IBEW Hall in Tacoma (3049 S. 36th Ave.) by May 8!

Ask your co-workers to donate JIF peanut butter and remind them to buy it at a union store like Fred Meyer or Safeway!

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES ?
DUES SHOULD BE PAID NOW FOR 2013!
Use this form to recruit friends and neighbors to join you
in helping our Democratic party.

Name: _____ Address: _____
City/ _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ 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, PO Box 73594, Puyallup, WA 98373 or
Pay by credit card: click on <https://secureform.cloud.clickandpledge.com/20184/1/>



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 tune out.

Why You Should Care Who is Buying America's Democracy
By Luanne Green

We've all been reading more about the growing realization that we should push to get the *Citizens United* decision overturned. There are many organizations that have come together in order to lobby for some relief from the large corporations and private concerns that are steadily advancing on our voting rights, and representation, by simply pouring millions of dollars into the campaign system. This effort didn't just stop after our recent elections, it continues full bore.

The *Hightower Lowdown*, April, 2013 issue, spotlights more of the donors in this struggle. Their listing of donors is broken down into brand name providers and their products that most or all of us purchase –more detailed than the mention of the Koch Brothers, or Adelson, etc. that usually don't ring a bell with a lot of folks.

The publication mentions three on-line resources that can be accessed for those who would like to “follow the money”: Open Secrets www.opensecrets.org; Sunlight Foundation www.sunlightfoundation.com; and Public Campaigns www.publiccampaign.org This report listed the percentage of support to the Republicans (mainly), but also listed about 20 major contributors to the Democrats.

This is just one more major issue faced by all of the citizens of the United States—right along with health-care, insurance, drunk and under-the-influence driving, education, jobs, transportation issues—all urgent and all important