



25th Legislative District



Democratic Focus



25TH CHAIR ED HERDE, PARLIAMENTARIAN AND WEBSTER CLIFF ALLO AND MEMBERSHIP CHAIR BLAINE PEARMAN CHAT WITH ASS'T TREASURER KATHRYN WRIGHT BEFORE THE MAY MEETING.

**AT THE 25TH LDD GENERAL MEETING
WE WILL BE BACK AT THE PUYALLUP LIBRARY
AT 7 PM JUNE 2, 2014 AND WILL BE DISCUSSING
JUDICIAL ENDORSEMENTS**

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DEMOCRATIC
ELECTED
OFFICIALS**

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For all other elected officials:
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**DEMOCRATS
CONTACT INFO**

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WA State Dem Party
www.wa-democrats.org

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

MEETINGS

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

2 Jun Mon 25 LDD General
Meeting will be at the Puyallup
Library at 7 PM.



**14 Jun Sat DEAD-
LINE** for FOCUS
articles, pictures, etc.

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

7 Jul Mon 25 LDD General
Meeting will be at the Puyallup
Library at 7 PM.



12 Jul Sat DEADLINE
for FOCUS articles,
pictures, etc.

28 Jul Mon E-Board meets at 7
PM at Fire Station 66.

4 Aug Mon 25 LDD General
Meeting will be at the Puyallup
Library at 7 PM.



**16 Aug Sat DEAD-
LINE** for FOCUS
articles, pictures, etc.

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

Why Democrats Need Bernie Sanders to Run for President

May 19, 2014

By Michael Kazin

Bernie Sanders may actually run for president. The feisty Senator from Vermont is giving dinner speeches in Iowa, telling journalists he's "prepared" to campaign, and is deciding whether he wants to compete for the Democratic nomination or take the "radical" step of heading an independent ticket. Assuming he rejects the Naderish option, which would upset many of his admirers who recall the 2000 debacle, a Sanders run could be excellent news for Democrats--in the next presidential race and beyond.

At a minimum, it would make the Democratic primary about more than the deeds and personality of Hillary the inevitable. Sanders, as eloquent a voice of left-wing populism as exists in the land, would press Clinton to support doubling the current minimum wage, imposing higher taxes on the wealthy, and increasing entitlement payments instead of reducing them in a "grand bargain" with Republicans. He would also push her to explain how she would end the dominion of big money in politics, long one of his signature issues. Sanders has introduced a constitutional amendment that would overturn the Supreme Court's decision in the Citizens United case. According to multiple polls, these are all popular positions--among independents as well as Democrats. But without a shove from the left, Clinton is likely to stick to a mushy moderation, hoping a lengthy battle inside the GOP will result in a nominee too right-wing for the majority of the electorate to stomach.

A Sanders campaign could also excite and mobilize some of the young people who have grown disenchanted with Obama's achievements, yet still hold strongly progressive views. Many who supported the president in 2012 in order to defeat Mitt Romney are now cynical and disengaged. Since Occupy faded away, progressive activists have lacked a big, unified cause to fight for; they would probably flock to the white-haired senator who has been known to call himself a democratic socialist. So might other millennials, and their younger siblings who, after Obama was elected in 2008, mistook him for a movement leader rather than a new president who faced the dual challenges of a deep recession and an opposition party determined for him to fail.

Since his days as a civil rights organizer half-a-century ago, Sanders has always been the antithesis of a deal-making, ideologically fickle politician. In December 2010, he held the Senate floor for eight-and-a-half hours with a speech denouncing the bipartisan tax bill that Obama had just signed, which kept in place cuts for top earners passed while George W. Bush was in the White House. Sanders blasted "the crooks on Wall Street whose actions resulted in the severe recession we are in right now; the people whose illegal, reckless actions have resulted in millions of Americans losing their jobs, their homes, [and] their savings."

His tough consistency on economic issues might also persuade some of the white working-class voters who now vote Republican, without much enthusiasm, to take a fresh look at the party that established Social Security, Medicare, and the National Labor Relations Act. **(Continued on Page 4)**

(Continued from Page 3)

Sanders, after all, did not score landslide victories in 2006 and 2012 (with 65 percent and then 71 percent of the vote) by appealing just to the one-third of the adults in his overwhelmingly white state who earned a college degree.

There is, of course, a danger that an aggressive campaign against Hillary Clinton in 2016 would expose divisions between Democrats--of gender as well as ideology--and weaken her for the main contest that fall. Historians and political scientists generally agree that a party that undergoes a long primary season finds it more difficult to win the general election. But that's generally true only for those incumbent presidents--like Jimmy Carter in 1980 and George H.W. Bush in 1992--whose political woes already made them vulnerable to competitors. In contrast, vigorous debates and a series of close primaries and caucuses helped Ronald Reagan in 1980 shed his image as a dogmatic right-winger. Twelve years later, they gave Bill Clinton a chance to show off his political skills as "the comeback kid" after the revelation of a past affair almost drove him from the race. If there had been no long, tense battle among Democrats in 2008, Barack Obama would not have become president at all.

Unless American politics takes a sudden, unprecedented lurch to the left, Bernie Sanders has little chance of winning the Democratic nomination. Progressive voters in both red and blue states may agree with his positions and appreciate the passion with which he states them. But most are unlikely to prefer a man in his mid-70s to the celebrity stateswoman whose election would "make history" and whose appeal extends beyond partisan lines.

But if Sanders does run, he could perform a vital political service to Democrats in need of revitalization and to the country at large. Except for a small minority of dogmatic conservatives, Americans don't like the fact that rich investors have profited handsomely while wages remain stagnant or are eager to balance the budget by cutting Social Security or believe that politicians who routinely lavish their favors on multi-millionaires can also serve the interests of people who worry about paying the mortgage. A left-wing candidate who bluntly and repeatedly points all this out could embolden Hillary Clinton and other timid Democrats to do the same. Winning control of the government with such rhetoric--and policies to match--might actually nudge us further toward becoming a more decent and truly democratic society.

Michael Kazin is a contributing editor of *The New Republic* and an editor of *Dissent*.

His most recent book is *American Dreamers: How the Left Changed a Nation*.

OLD FARMERS ADVICE

Life is simpler when you plow around the stump.
Words that soak into your ears are whispered - not yelled.
Forgive your enemies; it messes up their heads.
It don't take a big person to carry a grudge.
Every path has a few puddles.

25th Legislative District Democratic Organization Member Meeting, May 5, 2014

Held at Puyallup Library

Meeting called to order at 7:14 p.m. by Chair Ed Herde.
Ed Herde led the flag salute.

Roll was called. Officers Present:

- Chair Ed Herde, Vice Chair Laura Groves, Asst Treasurer Kathryn Wright, Secretary Eric Renz, Parliamentarian Cliff Allo, Sgt-at-Arms Bryan Yambe, Membership Chair Blaine Pearman, PCO Chair Eric Herde, State Committeeman David Henry, State Committeewoman Ellen Zulauf, PC Dem Rep #1 Eric Herde, PC Dem Rep #3 Mervin Swanson, Focus Editor Joan Cronk

Approximate total attendance: 35

The consent agenda was approved as presented.

Election of Mid-Year PCOs: Joan Cronk 25-202, Laura Groves 25-210, Kathryn Wright 25-253. All were unanimously elected by acclamation.

Presentation and introductions of candidates seeking endorsement.

- Jason Ritchie, Congressional District 8
- Jennifer Ferguson, Congressional District 10
- Denny Heck, Congressional District 10 represented by campaign manager
- Julie Anderson, Pierce County Auditor, in absentia
- Mark Lindquist, Pierce County Prosecutor, in absentia
- Rick Talbert, Pierce County Council District 5, in absentia
- Dawn Morrell, Legislative District Representative, Position 1, represented by campaign manager (Morrell appeared later)
- Matthew Pedro, Legislative District Representative, Position 2

After the above presentations, candidates were excused and discussion ensued. All except Heck and Ferguson were endorsed as one group by acclamation. Heck's campaign manager and Ferguson were asked additional position questions, excused again, and Heck was endorsed and Ferguson was not.

Good of the Order

- **PCOs need to file for re-election May 12-16.** May be done online at Pierce County Auditor.
- **This Sat. 5/10, Letter Carriers Food Drive**
- **Denny Heck at Public Employees Lunch 5/15.** Call Jerry Beckendorf, 253-845-7702
- **Election Observers needed for Primary.** See PC Auditor website.

ADJOURNED 8:40pm

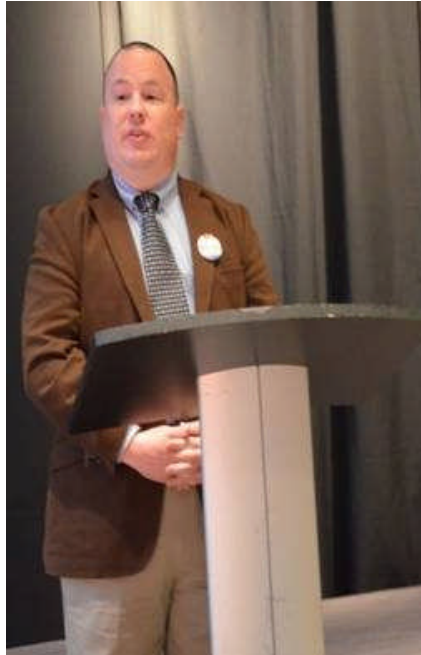
Chair's Message

Ed Herde

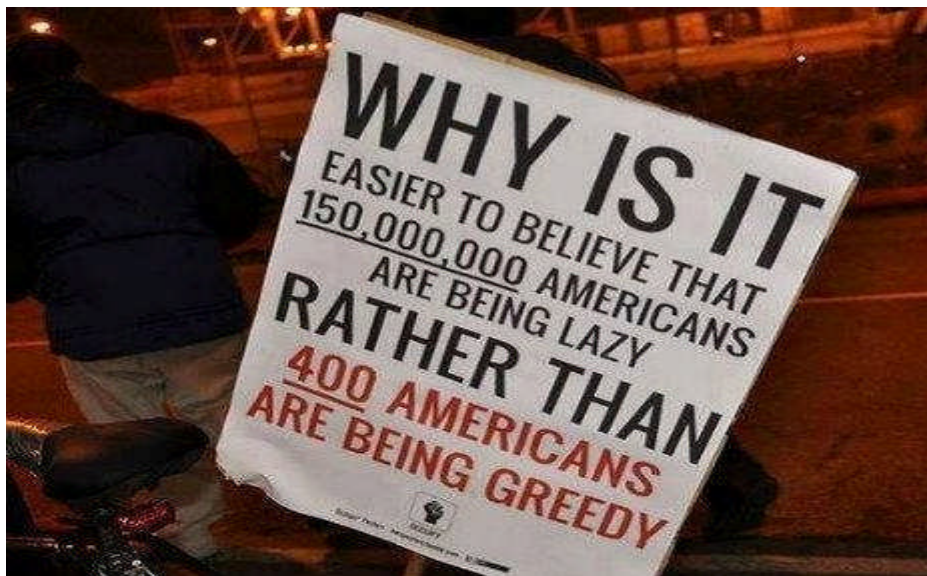
Our upcoming meeting on June 2nd will be our judicial candidate forum and endorsement meeting. Please come listen to the candidates, ask questions, and vote on endorsements. Precinct Committee Officers and anyone who has been a dues paying member for at least one month is eligible to vote on endorsements.

With the refusal of the Republicans to properly fund education one may get the impression that Republicans don't value education. Lately I keep getting hit with evidence to support this idea. Global Climate Change, the whipping boy of the political right, is becoming more and more difficult to ignore. The vast majority of Republican politicians and their mindless followers deny any human influence on the increase of carbon in the atmosphere that is leading to rise in sea level, acidification of the oceans, and changes in weather patterns. I was attending alumni and family weekend with my daughter at Western Washington University recently and attended a talk by Bill McKibben, the founder of 350.org. He showed slides of people on seven continents working to bring the message of the impending danger to the world's population. I attended my son's commencement ceremony from Pacific Lutheran University and listened to congressman Norm Dicks speak. Dicks emphasized that this generation will need to work fast to keep the planet an inhabitable place. Two weeks ago news came out about two scientific papers to be released that confirm a dramatic 10 foot rise in sea level in the next 100 to 200 years. The News Tribune dealt with this disaster of global proportions by putting the news in the bottom corner of the front page below local news about cable TV rates and a follow up on the 911 outage. This is evidence of either the News Tribune's Republican point of view or of how well Big Oil has convinced our media of the insignificance of the coming global climate disaster. Congratulations to the Republicons for dumbing down America. If Republicans and Big Oil can kill intellectual thought at the Universities they will be able to ruin the planet much faster.

Why is it that Republicans don't believe in climate science? They believe in the biology of cancer research, they believe in the physics that is used to build our bridges and keep airplanes in the sky, they believe in the chemistry used to formulate gasoline and chemicals we use daily, they even believe in the science of nuclear power. Why is it that the only science they don't believe is dependable is climate science?



**JASON RITCHIE, CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT 8 CANDIDATE REQUESTED
AND RECEIVED AN ENDORSEMENT
FROM THE 25TH LDD
AT THE MAY MEETING**



**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 2014!

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 be tuned out.**

NOT A 25TH LD MEMBER? YOU ARE NEEDED

Dear Democrat,

I am writing to ask you as a past member of the 25th Legislative District Democrats organization to consider renewing your membership for 2014. In the present political climate with organized attacks on voting rights, a vibrant media, the environment, labor laws, worker safety, Social Security, Medicare and more it is important that we have funds available to help candidates and issues even at a local level. The right wing and corporate interests that are now trying to take away the advances that have kept many Americans out of poverty over the past six decades are attacking us on a state and local level because it is easier to sneak past the people with our weak local media, than it is to change national policy.

Please join or renew your membership with the 25th Legislative Democrats to help stem the tide of attacks on democratic principles. It is more important than ever to become more involved.

Sincerely,

Ed Herde, District Chair