



25th Legislative District



Democratic Focus



25TH LDD E-BOARD PIERCE COUNTY REP ERIC HERDE VISITS WITH GUEST SPEAKER AT THE FEBUARY MEETING, PIERCE COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER RICK TALBERT

The 2014 25th Legislative District Caucus will be held Sunday March 9th at 1:00pm at the Canyon Terrace Estates Club House, 9312 Canyon Rd E, Puyallup, WA 98371 The Club House is the first building as you drive into the community on 93rd St Ct E.

The speaker at our March 3rd meeting (Puyallup Library at 7 PM) will be Dave Heinemann of the Pierce County Auditor's Elections Department. He will be speaking on voter registration, and answering questions related to balloting and elections.

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

Chair: Ed Herde
Tel: (253) 531-9067
Email: eherde@earthlink.net

Vice Chair:
Rebecca Gallogly
Tel: (253) 431-1003
Email: rdgallogly01@gmail.com

Treasurer: Luanne Green
Tel: (253) 848-0289
Email: luannegreen9@msn.com

Ass't Treasurer
Kathryn Wright
Tel: (253) 535-2053
Email: sugapye@comcast.net

Secretary: Eric Renz
Tel: (253) 302-1698
Email: ijcerenz@gmail.com

**Parliamentarian and Web-
ster: Cliff Allo**
Tel: (253) 208-8167
Email: pco@cliffallo.us

Sergeant-At-Arms:
Bryan Yambe
Tel: (206) 383-7499
Email: bryanyambe@gmail.com

**Membership Chair: Blaine
Pearman**
Tel: 253-840-1516
Email:
b.pearman@comcast.net

State Committeeman:
David Henry
Tel: (253) 770-6158
Email: birddog64@comcast.net

State Committeewoman:
Ellen Zulauf
Tel: (253) 845-9370
Email: eazul@comcast.net

**25TH DISTRICT
DEMOCRATIC
ELECTED
OFFICIALS**

REPRESENTATIVE
DAWN MORRELL



(253) 786-7948

Email:

morrell.dawn@leg.wa.gov

For all other elected officials:
Legislative Hotline:
1-800-562-6000

**DEMOCRATS
CONTACT INFO**

DNC: www.democrats.org

WA State Dem Party
www.wa-democrats.org

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

POS 1: Eric Herde
Tel: (253) 531-9067
Email: epwh@earthlink.net
POS 2: Rebecca Gallogly
Tel: (253) 431-1003
Email:
rdgallogly01@gmail.com
POS 3: Mervin Swanson
Tel: (253) 845-0194
Email:
mswa658080@aol.com

FOCUS EDITOR: Joan Cronk
Tel: (253) 845-5389
Email: JoanCronk@comcast.net

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

MEETINGS

3 Mar Mon 25 LDD Gen Meet
will be at the Puyallup Library
at 7PM.

9 Mar Sun 25 LLD Caucus
will be at 1PM at Canyon
Terrace Estates Club House,
9312 Canyon Rd. See details
on Page 3.



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

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

7 Apr Mon 25 LDD Gen Meet
will be at the Puyallup Library
at 7 PM.



**12 Apr Sat DEAD-
LINE FOR FOCUS**
articles, pictures, etc.

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

5 May Mon 25 LDD General
Meeting will be at the Puyallup
Library at 7PM



**17 May Sat DEAD-
LINE FOR FOCUS**
articles, pictures, etc.

Chair's Message

Ed Herde

We will be holding the 25th Legislative District Caucus on Sunday March 9th at 1:00pm. The main business of the caucus will be to elect delegates and alternates to the 2014 Democratic State Convention in Spokane Saturday June 21st, 2014. The caucus will be held at Canyon Terrace Estates Club House at 9312 Canyon Rd E, Puyallup, WA 98371. The Club House is the first building as you drive into the community from Canyon Road onto 93rd St Ct E. This location was selected because it is very close to the geographical center of the 25th Legislative District and therefore most convenient overall for residents of the 25th LD.

There will be 400 delegates and 200 alternates to the state convention. The 25th Legislative District is able to send 7 elected delegates and 3 alternates to the state convention. In addition to the elected delegates the following are automatic delegates to the state convention: All state committee members, all DNC members residing in Washington State, county chairs, legislative district chairs, Democratic Members of Congress from Washington State, Democratic Statewide Elected Officials, and Democratic State Senators and Representatives.

To vote in the Legislative District Caucus an individual must be a resident, registered voter in the 25th Legislative District and sign a registration sheet stating the he or she is a Democrat, and agrees to public display of his or her attendance at the meeting. Registered Voters includes all registered voters and any 17 year old who will be eligible to vote on November 4, 2014. Registered voters also include any individuals who complete a voter registration form while signing in to attend the LD Caucus. Individuals who are not qualified to register to vote because of residence or citizenship shall be allowed to participate in discussions, but may not vote for the election of delegates or alternates, nor may they be elected as delegates or alternates.

We will need several people to help with the caucus preparation, set up, operation of the caucus, and clean up. Some of the duties needing volunteers are: the sign-in table, credentialing, information table, voter registration, nomination table, and beverage and snacks. Please contact me if you can help (eherde@earthlink.net 253-219-8975) Even though the official business that needs to get done is the election of delegates to the Washington State Democratic Convention the caucus is a time for Democrats to get together and talk about our values, visions, and beliefs. Invite other Democratic thinkers to come and take part, and lets build our party for 2014, 2016, and beyond.

Minutes of 25th Legislative District
Democratic Organization
DRAFT - Member Meeting, February 3, 2014 - DRAFT
Held at Puyallup Library

Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Chair Ed Herde. Ed Herde led the flag salute. Roll was called.

Officers present: Chair Ed Herde, Vice Chair and PC Dem Rep #1 Rebecca Gallogly, Treasurer Luanne Green, Secretary Eric Renz, Parliamentarian Cliff Allo, State Committeewoman Ellen Zulauf, PCO Chair and PC Dem Rep #2 Eric Herde, PC Dem Rep #3 Mervin Swanson, Focus editor Joan Cronk.

The Consent Agenda was approved as presented. (see website: <http://25dems.org>)

Guest: Pierce County Council Member Rick Talbert

- New budget is good. 2014 first January without a deficit in several years.
- Talbert is also on Pierce Transit Board, and they note that sales tax revenues are up 13% over 2013.
- Partisanship still strong at PC Council; 2 Dems, 5 Reps.
- Republicans stuck on “moral” issues like barista clothes.
- 80% of PC Budget goes to Justice services from Sheriff’s Office to courts and jail.
- 25th Dem members brought up particular concerns.

Legislation: Eric Herde presented HB2672, 3 yr increase in minimum wage.

WA Dems State Committee: Ellen Zulauf reported that Jackson Ravens was elected WA Democrats Chairman.

Legislative District Caucus: to be Sunday, March 9, 1pm, site to be determined.

Good of the Order:

Jerry Beckendorf offered applications for the Jerry Beckendorf college scholarships for youth from union families.

Peanut butter drive from now to May member meeting; Adams or Jiff (union made) or \$\$\$\$.

Eric Herde speaking as LDO PCO Chair: 25th has PCOs in 31 of 86 precincts. Non-residents can be appointed acting PCO and do the work, but not vote in restricted elections.

Adjourned: 8:27pm

You have to believe in happiness, or Happiness never comes.

What Bill Maher got wrong about spending on young vs old: Everything.

By Michael Hiltzik,

L.A. Times, February 10, 2014

Funny guy, Bill Maher. And he got lots of yuks on his HBO show Friday with a riff on government spending on our seniors vs. our children.

"In the battle for government giveaways," he said, "we have to stop thinking in terms of rich versus poor, or black versus white, and admit it's really a war between the young and the old. And the old are winning."

He cited these statistics about federal spending, citing Harper's Magazine as the source: "Federal yearly spending per child: \$3,822. Federal yearly spending per senior: \$25,455."

He continued: "Seniors keep asking, what kind of world are we leaving for our grandkids? Well, one where Head Start, nutrition assistance, and child welfare are being cut. These days, when Grandpa finds a quarter behind your ear, he keeps it." (Cue audience laughter.)

Close followers of fiscal policy will recognize these figures as familiar weapons in the "generational theft" argument. The implication, as Maher parroted it quite accurately, is that all that money the government spends on seniors is the reason child services -- Head Start, school lunches, etc. -- are being impoverished. We addressed this argument, and these statistics, a year ago. The time plainly has come for a refresher course, because the argument is a con job.

Bill Maher, pay attention.

To begin with, almost all the government dollars spent on children comes from state and local governments, mostly for education. State and local per capita spending on kids swamps the federal government's spending 8 to 1. And there are twice as many children 18 and under as seniors 65 and over (this 2008 figure comes from the Urban Institute, the source of the federal spending comparison).

Add up everything, and spending by governments at all levels in 2008 came to about \$1 trillion on seniors and \$936 billion on children. In other words, virtually 1 to 1.

Henry Aaron, a leading expert on social insurance at the Brookings Institution, demolished the argument about generational theft here, and Monique Morrissey of the Economic Policy Institute took a credulous Washington press corps to task here.

The more important thing Maher missed in his quest for jokes -- most of his routine was devoted to some salacious cracks about sexuality among seniors (warning: Not safe to be overheard at work) -- is that spending on seniors has nothing to do with how much we spend on children.

For one thing, most of that spending is in Social Security and Medicare, for which most seniors paid for during their entire working lives. To the extent it's out of line, that's because America's overall healthcare costs are out of line. In general, seniors require more medical care than kids, so inevitably their healthcare will cost more, even though the federal government does in fact fund a very comprehensive healthcare program for children -- CHIP, the Children's Health Insurance Program.

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The reason that public spending on children is lower than it should be isn't because seniors suck up all that cash, but because the wealthy suck it up. They receive most of the interest payments on U.S. treasury debt. While their share of all income in the U.S. has been rising inexorably, their income tax burden has been coming down almost steadily since the 1960, especially in relation to that of the middle class. As Thomas Piketty and Emanuel Saez have documented, the overall progressivity of the U.S. tax system has plummeted over the last four decades.

In other words, despite what Maher said, it really is about "rich versus poor." And the rich are winning.

The old versus young idea is pushed most vigorously by front groups for the wealthy, many of them backed by the hedge fund billionaire Peter G. Peterson, whose quest is to eviscerate Social Security and Medicare, as we described here. Their tactics include driving a wedge between old and young, and nothing's more effective for that than implying that grandma and grandpa are picking their grandkids' pockets.

Maher has made a career about being not just funny, but brainy and funny. This time around the problem isn't that he took a cheap shot for cheap laughs -- even cheap laughs are funny -- but that his cheap shot was brainless.

<http://www.latimes.com/business/hiltzik/la-fi-mh-bill-maher-20140210,0,1569408.story#ixzz2tkVDgObr>



**25TH CHAIR ED HERDE AND VICE CHAIR REBECCA GALLOGLY
TALK BEFORE THE FEBRUARY MEETING**



By Joan Cronk

25th LDD members are encouraged to bring Jiff or Adams peanut butter to our next meeting scheduled for March 3 at the Puyallup Public Library. These donations will be delivered by Jerry Beckendorf for the Pierce County Labor Council Peanut Butter Food Drive.

Our speaker at the February meeting was Rick Talbert, Pierce County Council member.

He reported that the county government is doing a lot better than they were four or five years ago, and that is the good news. Retail sales look good and they have a conservative budget. He said the sales tax revenues were better than what was projected. Permits are picking up as well and roads and utility systems are in good shape. The US Open golf tournament next year at Chambers Bay is expected to draw 270,000 people to the area.

Washington State Democratic Central Committee Meeting
January 31 to February 1, 2014, Hilton Hotel, Vancouver, Wa
Report by Ellen Zulauf, State Committeewoman 25th LDD

The campaign for the position of State Democrat Chair was one of the most vigorous I can remember.

Four talented people, all veterans of years of local, state and national campaigns and who had worked with the State party, vied for the position. The contenders were Jim Kainber, Jackson Ravens, Dana Laurent and Jay Clough.

Dwight Pelz, previous Chair of the Democratic Party resigned in September. During his eight years in office he helped Democrats win all but one of the State offices, plus control six of the ten U.S. House seats and both U.S. Senators.

One hundred sixty-six State Central Committee members were eligible to vote. In the first round of balloting both Kainber and Clough were eliminated. On the second ballot, Jackson Ravens was chosen as the new Washington State Democratic Chair. He previously served as Executive Director under Dwight Pelz for more than eight years.

The remainder of the meeting included short reports from the four National Committee members and reports from the committees, which met earlier in the morning. The Resolutions Committee, which met twice during the weekend, had their resolutions passed, passed as amended or failed during their report.

**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