



# 25th Legislative District



## Democratic Focus



**REP DAWN MORRELL  
SPEAKER AT APR MEETING  
GIVES MEMBERS A  
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

**NEXT 25TH LDD GENERAL MEETING NOTE  
WE WILL BE BACK AT THE PUYALLUP LIBRARY  
AT 7 PM JUNE 2, 2014**

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

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

**Vice Chair:**  
**Laura Groves**  
Tel: (253) 223-6187  
Email: groveslm@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](http://www.democrats.org)

WA State Dem Party  
[www.wa-democrats.org](http://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: Karen Edwards**  
Tel: (253) 376-0109  
Email:  
karefedards@comcast.net  
**POS 3: Mervin Swanson**  
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**FOCUS EDITOR: Joan Cronk**  
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Email: JoanCronk@comcast.net

**Website.** For latest info or cop-  
ies of FOCUS check out 25th  
LDD Website at: [25dems.org](http://25dems.org)  
[www.25dems.org](http://www.25dems.org)

**MEETINGS**

**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 7 PM.



**17 May Sat DEAD-  
LINE** for FOCUS arti-  
cles, pictures, etc.

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

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



**14 Jun Sat DEADLINE**  
for FOCUS articles, pic-  
tures, etc.

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

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



**12 Jul Sat DEAD-  
LINE** for FOCUS arti-  
cles,  
pictures, etc.

# Chair's Message

Ed Herde

Our upcoming meeting on May 5<sup>th</sup> will be our candidate forum and endorsement meeting. I would like to see a big crowd attend, 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. The offices for which we will be making endorsements are: U.S. Congressional districts 8 and 10, State Legislative House positions 1 and 2 for the 25<sup>th</sup> district, Pierce County Council position 5, Pierce County Auditor, and Pierce County Prosecutor. Endorsements for judicial seats will be held at a future meeting.

There is the opportunity to return the state legislature to the control of the Democrats this election year, thereby breaking the logjam in the state senate that occurred this past session with the control of the senate under the Republicans. Pierce County will be very influential in returning the senate to Democratic hands and maintaining a Democratic majority in the house. We need Democrats and Democrat leaning independents to show up to vote to do this. Keep the well-being of the state in mind between now and November by talking to your Democratic voting friends about the election's importance and the need for them to vote.

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On Thursday April 24<sup>th</sup> Congressman Denny Heck had a showing of the new Robert Reich movie "Inequality for All" at the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma. It does a great job of laying out the unequal wealth distribution in the United States. The film shows how we got to this extreme unequal state after having had the strongest middle class in history from the end of WWII up until the late 1970's. The film gives solutions for returning to a country that is prosperous for the vast majority of Americans, not just a few hundred families as it is now. This film is a very useful tool in dealing with the misinformation that we are bombarded with daily from the right end of the political spectrum and from corporate media. I highly recommend this film as it is entertaining as well as informative.

**25<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Democratic Organization**  
**Member Meeting, April 7, 2014**  
Held at Puyallup Library

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 7:05 p.m. by Chair Ed Herde. Ed Herde led the flag salute. Roll was called.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Chair Ed Herde, Treasurer Luanne Green, Assistant Treasurer Kathryn Wright, Secretary Eric Renz, Membership Chair Blaine Pearman, State Committeeman David Henry, PC Dem Rep #1 Eric Herde, Focus Editor Joan Cronk.

Approximate total attendance: 28

Chairman Ed Herde declared the following 25<sup>th</sup> LDO offices to be vacant:

Vice Chair

Pierce County Democratic Central Committee Representative #2

The consent agenda was approved as presented.

MEMORIAL: Eric Renz spoke about the service and commitment of the late Anne Jacobsen. The LDO observed a moment of silence in her honor. A sympathy card was circulated.

ELECTED OFFICIALS recognized: State Representative Dawn Morrell. (Pierce County Prosecuting Attorney Mark Lindquist arrived later.)

**ELECTIONS**

Conner Bronson spoke about Jason Ritchie as an opponent for State Representative Dave Reichart, 8<sup>th</sup> CD.

Mark Lindquist arrived and was given the floor, with daughter "Queen Elsa". Eric Renz invited Lindquist and his campaign to access the Democratic Party Fair Booth.

GUEST SPEAKER: State Representative Dawn Morrell. Rep. Morrell reviewed successful and unsuccessful legislation as the State Senate voted down the majority of presented legislation.

Matthew (Matt) Pedro was introduced as a candidate for State Representative challenging Hans Zeiger. Matt spoke about his life and vision.

**ELECTION OF 25<sup>TH</sup> LDO OFFICERS**

Laura Groves was elected as Vice Chair until the post-election re-org meeting.

Karen Edwards was elected as Pierce County Democratic Central Committee Representative #2 until the post-election re-org meeting

MARY BRYANT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD was awarded to Blaine Pearman for his outstanding work on the fair booth staffing and PCO connections.

GOOD of the ORDER.

Announcements were shared.

ADJOURNED at 8:56pm

## DEMOCRATS ARE ON THEIR WAY TO THE 2014 FAIR

A committee of Pierce County Dems met April 22 and began planning for a booth at the Washington State Fair, “the Fair”. The 2013 booth was a success so the planning is about improvements on that model. We are applying to use the same space under the grandstand. This is an election year, and the priority for the booth will be electing Democrats. We need candidates and campaign managers to see the booth as “reverse doorbelling” with voters coming to our door. We need a yard sign without a stake and 40-60 campaign pieces for every candidate.

Ken and Sharon Bumgarner will be making and selling buttons. Let Ken know ( [bumken37@comcast.net](mailto:bumken37@comcast.net) ) if you have button ideas.

Ed Herde, 25<sup>th</sup> LDO Chair, is the booth committee chair. Without her presence, the committee elected Jeannie Mitchell as Connector, ( [jcmitchell@net-Venture.com](mailto:jcmitchell@net-Venture.com) ) getting us in touch with LDO’s and campaigns for contributions and volunteers. Blaine Pearman is the Volunteer Manager. Eric Renz ( [ijcerenz@gmail.com](mailto:ijcerenz@gmail.com) ) is the Booth Operations Manager.

The committee is looking for younger Dems to intern in each leadership role. Give your young Dems a chance to learn some organizing skills. We welcome and need volunteers and contributions from far and wide. Contact the noted managers to offer your share.



**LAURA GROVES IS THE NEW VICE CHAIR OF THE 25TH LDD**



**PIERCE COUNTY PROSECUTOR MARK LINDQIST AND DAUGHTER MALINA ADDRESS THE 25TH LDD**



**25TH LDD SECRETARY ERIC RENZ PRESENTED THE MARY BRYAN AWARD TO BLAINE PEARMAN**



This is the final Legislative E-Memo I will be sending you until December. Washington State is committed to separating legislative work from campaign work, and because 2014 is an election year, my communication with constituents is sharply limited. One of the things we do to prevent the “mixing” is to end legislative communications like this during re-election season.

However, you are able to contact my office at any time of year with questions or comments and I will do my best to always get back to you. The best way to reach us when the Legislature is not in session is through my District Office in Puyallup. That address is 323 North Meridian, Suite C, Puyallup, WA 98371 and the phone number is 253-840-4701.

### **The Civil Rights Act is 50**

50 years ago this summer, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the landmark [Civil Rights Act of 1964](#), outlawing discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. It made [racial segregation](#) in schools, at the workplace and in public accommodations – hotels, restaurants, restrooms, drinking fountains, etc. – illegal.

Half a century later, this legislation is considered as one of the most significant developments in our nation's long history of race relations. In fact, a recent [poll](#) shows that almost 8 in 10 adults believe its passage was a “very important” event in U.S. history, and another 17% think it was “somewhat important.”

### **Problem with your health care application? No problem at all.**

As expected, the Washington Healthplanfinder website experienced a heavy influx of activity in the days leading up to the March 31st deadline for open enrollment in health care plans. This high level of traffic, both on the website and at the call centers, caused a few technical problems that may have interfered with the ability to complete the application on-time. According to Healthplanfinder, about 11,000 Washingtonians began applications but didn't finalize them.

There's good news for these individuals and families – Washington Healthplanfinder is reviewing incomplete applications. If you didn't get to finish the enrollment process due to technical difficulties, you may still be able to sign up for health care. In order to have your application reviewed, [fill out the form available here](#).

The folks over at Healthplanfinder will take a look at your application and get back to you within 14 business days. As always, you can find more information at [www.wahealthplanfinder.org](http://www.wahealthplanfinder.org).

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### **No excuse for ignoring students with no address**

The [Washington State Constitution](#) emphasizes our "paramount duty" to see that every young person in our state receives a solid basic education. There's no equivocation in that constitutional mandate, either -- no hedging, such as, "... that is, **if** the young person has an address."

Thousands of students in our communities have no address. In fact, if the 30,600 homeless students got together and formed their own school district, it would be the second-largest of our state's 295 districts. Approved in the 2014 session, a [measure](#) promising stronger attention to these homeless students has been signed into law. Only six legislators – out of the 147 members of the two legislative chambers – opposed this bill.

In committee-testimony on SSB 6074, one youngster said she's homeless because the family's house burned down. Dad died when she was 16. Mom has substance-abuse issues. Her school's homeless liaison helped the girl find the right resources to make it through high school. Now she's in college. Also in committee, a Tukwila educator pointed out that 11 percent of his school district's students are homeless. He said the Tukwila district invests about \$350,000 a year out of local-levy funds toward services for homeless students.

Homelessness isn't an issue confined to large urban centers, as pointed out in the Tukwila educator's testimony cited above. Suburban schools in the relatively affluent Redmond area, too, report a significant number of homeless students seeking assistance. These youngsters, wherever they reside, are more likely to miss school (if they go at all), and to fall behind every time they move to new living quarters. Kids with no address are nine times more likely to repeat a grade.

### **From the “no surprise” file: Gas prices are up**

Just in time for the spring/summer driving season comes news that gas prices are up all across the land.

In fact, AAA reports that Washington's recent average pump price of \$3.71 a gallon makes us No. 9 on the national charts. Oregon ranks 10th at \$3.69 a gallon, and California's \$4.05 comes in as the No. 2 most-expensive gallon. The average price for gas nationwide that day was \$3.59 for a gallon of unleaded. Maintenance for refineries in Texas (where people are paying \$3.41 a gallon) was cited as the reason for rising prices.

This [AAA Daily Fuel Gauge Report](#) updates the state-by-state average prices every day, as its name suggests. Among other informative notes, the website tells you where to find the cheapest gas in your community. Here's another [website](#) (featuring the clever name "Gas.Buddy.com") also boasting a plethora of particulars -- including how much gas costs around the country, and locations in your region where you can obtain the cheapest gas.

That's all for now. I hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful northwest Spring. And Summer is right around the corner!

Dawn

**25<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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