



25th Legislative District



Democratic Focus

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!



25TH LDD LEGISLATIVE SENDOFF DINNER PICTURE: LEFT TO RIGHT- CALVIN GOINGS, DAWN MORRELL, JIM KASTAMA, LAUREN ADLER

**READ ALL ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING . UPCOMINGS FEB MEETING
VENUE CHANGED SEE PAGE 2**

AND - - -  PAY YOUR 2009 DUES TODAY!

25TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT DEMOCRATIC (LDD) OFFICERS

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For all other elected officials:
 Legislative Hotline:

DEMOCRATS CONTACT INFO

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 WA State Dem Party
www.wa-democrats.org
 Pierce Co. Dem Party
www.piercecounty-dems.org

25th District FOCUS Committee
 Jim Morrell, Chairperson
 Joan Cronk, Editor
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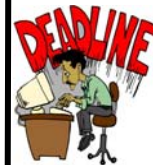
FOR THE LATEST INFO AND/OR COPIES OF THE FOCUS CHECK OUT THE 25TH LDD WEBSITE AT:
www.25dems.org



2 Feb Mon E-Board meets at 7PM at Fire Station 66. 9813 28th St, E., Puyallup



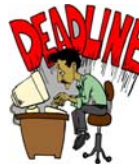
5 Feb Thu CHANGE OF VENUE - 25 LDD MEETS AT 7PM at PIERCE COUNTY LIBRARY, ROOM "A", 3005 112TH ST EAST, TACOMA



14 Feb Sat DEADLINE for FOCUS articles, pictures, etc.

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

5 Mar Thu 25 LDD meets at 7PM at Puyallup Library



14 Mar Sat DEADLINE for FOCUS articles, pictures, etc.

You are invited to submit your meetings/events to be included in the Upcoming Events.



SIGNS OF THE STARS!

25th LDD HONOR SENATOR KASTAMA AND REPRESENTATIVE MORRELL AT SENDOFF DINNER

By Joan Cronk

On January 9th, the 25th LDD held their annual send off dinner for Senator Jim Kastama and Representative Dawn Morrell at the Puyallup Elks.

About 40 people were in attendance, and they enjoyed a spaghetti dinner with all the trimmings.

Former Pierce County Councilman Calvin Goings and his wife Amy attended, and Goings addressed the group, as did Senator Kastama and Representative Morrell. They all expressed the challenges that all of our representatives will be facing in Olympia this year due to the present economy. Both Kastama and Morrell were hopeful, however, and said we could get through this tough time.

After speaking to the crowd, Kastama and Morrell took a number of questions from the audience, and a lively and interesting discussion took place. As usual, it was a friendly gathering where we celebrated our “wins” and talked about the challenges that the 2008 election presented.

25th LDD Chair Lauren Adler praised members for their hard work and dedication during the 2008 election, and credited the rental of our office space as one of the reasons we were able to be successful; having one place to gather and work out of was key in 2008.

And the great news is we netted \$600 on the dinner and silent auction.

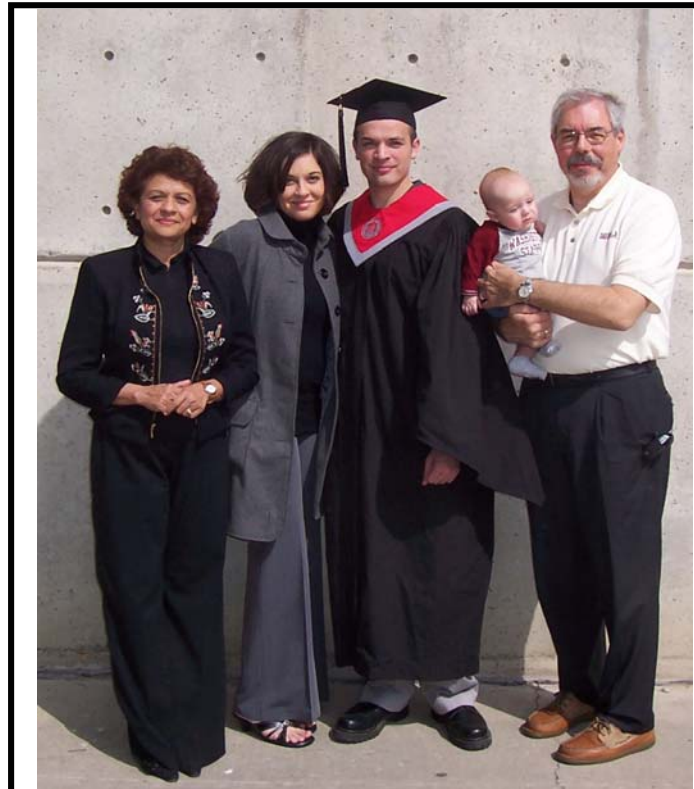
LOUIS TIBBS
25th LDD VICE CHAIR
By Joan Cronk

Louis Tibbs had a tough 2008, but he is looking forward to 2009 with renewed enthusiasm.

In June, Tibbs was diagnosed with prostate cancer and then when he had the biopsy, he developed a blood infection, e-coli and was confined to the hospital. On Father's Day a blood clot formed and so the surgery to take care of the prostate cancer was put off until December. "I'm a type A personality and that was the longest time in 36 years I've been off work," said Tibbs.

Fortunately the surgery was successful and Tibbs is back in action! He is excited about 2009, but concerned about the budget cuts that the field of education is facing. Tibbs is the Elementary Literacy Instruction Coach for the Puyallup School District and works with all 22 elementary schools and principals in the district.

He thinks 2009 is a great opportunity for the 25th LDD to reach out to people. "There were so many new voters in this election. People that were not politically inclined, but excited for ei-



**FAMILY PORTAIT AT WSU GRADUATION
LEFT TO RIGHT: WIFE NUZHAT,
DAUGHTER TARA, GRADUATE SON
LOUIS, GRANDSON AND LOUIS TIBBS.**

ther Obama or Clinton. This would be a lost opportunity if we do not, within the first six months of this year, reach out, contact people, send them newsletters, link them to our website, and get the word out. We need to get the new voters to understand it isn't something just every four years to get involved in."

He said we have a new batch of voters who used to feel disenfranchised, and now feel involved and we need to keep that going.

Tibbs organized Puyallup for Obama long before many had jumped on the bandwagon. "I started with small groups of people meeting for coffee and then at the Summer and Puyallup library, bringing new voters in and getting voters registered to vote. That group of people are the ones we need to keep active, before they disappear into the woodwork," said Tibbs.

The 25th LDD is lucky to have such a smart and involved Vice-Chair!

**Report to the 25th LDDO Membership on the
Pierce County Democratic Party Central Committee
General Meeting 01-08-2009
By Charley Stokes**

Jan 12, 2009

A major portion of the meeting was an interview of the two candidates for State Party Chair, challenger Mark Hintz and current Chair, Dwight Pelz.

The candidate interview was conducted as follows. Each candidate was given five minutes for an opening statement. Each candidate was then given two minutes to respond to questions previously submitted by members, with a twenty second rebuttal allowed, if needed.

Mark is the Chair of the Snohomish Co Dem's and past chair of the 39th and 44th LD's. Dwight is the current State Party Chair. Dwight won the coin toss and went first. PCDCC Chair Nathe Lawver then asked a series of questions.

I will leave it to the PCDCC Sec to report on the individual questions and answers in the meeting minutes. Here are my personal impressions of the candidates.

Mark is a consensus builder who believes in setting goals to produce achievements. He will seek 'committee-style' input and then try to coordinate a response to deal with a 'top-three' list of identified issues/problems such as disenfranchised voters or RCV.

Mark's platform is "Accountability, Transparency and Inclusivity". He would call on strong party members to help train less effective members and expand year round staff at the state level to be used as a core for the coordinated campaigns. (He did not address where the money for this expanded staff would come from.)

Dwight sees politics as a 'secular church' consisting of layers of participants. In this vision, the state party is the icing on the layer cake of elected Democrats, Labor and Activist groups, on-line Dem's, donors, the coordinated campaign and core legal support. He sees the next two years as a critical period for the state party as the economy declines and revenues fall. Dwight noted the Obama campaign has plans to hire several hundred staff to be a shared resource as part of the DNC, so the state should focus on retaining Internet support and Vote-Builder resources. Core legal support would be reserved for issues that held the potential for statewide impact.

Dwight sees the next big national issue as the Obama health care initiative. At the state level, we need to address the Red-Swing-Blue voter issues to increase Democratic voter turnout. As for RCV, "I hate it! Party politics make it easier for the average voter to decide on candidates and issues."

Dwight made an interesting observation, noting the average age of members at the LD level was the early 60's while fund raisers drew an audience in their mid-40's and the coordinated campaign volunteers were in their mid-20's; so the Dem's offer a task for everyone, regardless of age.

Our State Committee Man and Woman (Jerry Beckendorf and Ellen Zulauf) will cast their votes on January 24th. I would urge they support our current Chair, Dwight Pelz. Dwight admits he has stepped on some toes over the past couple of years, but he has also produced strong results.

We face lean times and strong leadership will be an asset for all Democrats.

The following YouTube links record the Q&A session at the PCDCC meeting on Jan 8 by State Chair candidates Dwight Peltz and Mark Hintz.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WRniAabLOrM&feature=related	Part 1 of 4.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gk3QdDTb6Nc&feature=related	Part 2 of 4.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YiupmlzX_U&feature=related	Part 3 of 4.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X7FJXquQpLE&feature=related	Part 4 of 4.

This YouTube link is of Sharon Smith, current Spokane Co Chair, who is running for State Vice-Chair. She also addressed the members at the PCDCC meeting on Jan 8.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YDHJzENmq8w>

Thanks to whomever recorded and posted these for the benefit of the members. Charley.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

**HAVE YOU PAID YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2009?
IF SO, THANK YOU - IF NOT, PLEASE DO!
Use this form to recruit friends and neighbors to join you
in helping our Democratic party.**

Name: _____ Address: _____
Phone: () _____
Zip: _____ City/ _____
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.)



IS ANYONE
OUT THERE
LISTENING?

**Well, you should be if you want the truth about politics
by Audrey and Frank 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
<http://www.liberaltopia.org>. There is a link on the right hand side of
the screen that says: Frank and Audrey. Tune in or be tuned out.**

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