



25th Legislative District



Democratic Focus



**ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL SPEAKERS AT MAY MEETING
CLAIRE SUSSMAN
CANDIDATE FOR DISTRICT JUDGE**

**READ ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING , AND OTHER NOTES
PLUS UPCOMINGS (PAGE 2)
AND - - - - - PAY YOUR DUES TODAY!**

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

President/Chair: Louis Tibbs
Tel: (253) 848-5496
Email: LTibbs3@comcast.net

Vice Chair: Michelle Donaldson
Tel: (253) 341-8345
Email: chellewriter@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Luanne Green
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Ass't Treas: Harold (Al) Gray
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Email:
halgray@rainierconnect.com

Secretary: Melissa Thompson
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Parliamentarian: Cliff Allo
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Membership Chair:
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email: JerryB62@comcast.net

State Committeewoman:
Ellen Zulauf
Tel: (253) 845-9370
email: eazul@msn.com

Pierce County E-Board Reps:
Pos. 1: Charley Stokes
Tel: (253) 848-8431
Email: cwstokes@earthlink.net

**25TH DISTRICT
DEMOCRATIC
ELECTED
OFFICIALS**



Senator
Jim Kastama
(253) 840-4701

email:
kastama.jim@leg.wa.gov



Representative
Dawn Morrell
(253) 840-4604

email:
morrell.dawn@leg.wa.gov

For all other elected officials:
Legislative Hotline:

**DEMOCRATS
CONTACT INFO**

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

**PIERCE COUNTY E-BOARD
REPS:**

Pos 2: Carolyn Merrival
Tel: (253) 845-3195
Email: lakotalegends@comcast.net

Pos 3: Melissa Thompson
Tel: (253) 970-7339
Email: MelissaThomp-
son@yahoo.com

FOR THE LATEST INFO
AND/OR COPIES OF THE
FOCUS CHECK OUT THE 25TH
LDD WEBSITE
AT:::www.25dems.org

MEETINGS



31 May Mon E-Board meets at
7 PM at Fire Station 66, 9813
28th St E, Puyallup

NOTE: CHANGE OF VENUE

3 Jun Thu 25th LDD meets
back at the **Puyallup Library.**
Bring a friend.



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

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

1 Jul Thu 25 LDD Meets at
Puyallup



17 Jul Sat DEADLINE
for FOCUS articles, pic-
tures, etc.

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

WHAT'S UP?

Apparently nothing so if you know
something is happening please notify
us so we can tell the world.

From the Chair

We are approaching the upcoming election season. It may seem a long time until our November ballot, but there are important events between now and then. The 25th LD Democrats have an Endorsement process that candidates must follow in order to obtain our endorsement in either the primary or general election. June 11th is the deadline for candidates to file. On June 12th candidates appearing on our ballot will receive an email with a letter from me along with a questionnaire to complete. Primary candidates that are seeking our endorsement must complete the questionnaire & submit it to me electronically by June 25th. On June 26th we will post all the completed questionnaires on our website for the membership to read. I would encourage all our members to take the time to read up on each candidate. At our July 1st meeting we will have our Primary Candidate Forum. Each candidate will have the opportunity to speak to our membership and seek an endorsement. For an endorsement, there must be a motion on each candidate. Our membership will then vote. At our September 2nd meeting, we will have our General Election Candidate Forum. The same process will be followed.

I encourage all our members to take an active role in our endorsement process. Over the next several months you will have the opportunity to hear from many candidates seeking your vote and the endorsement of the 25th LD Democrats. I will see you at our next 25th LD Meeting on Thursday, June 3rd, at the Puyallup Library.

Louis

WANT TO BE A PRECINCT COMMITTEE OFFICER (PCO)?

The registration period for filing for election to become a precinct committee officer is June 7 – 11, 2010. The term of office is for two years. This year there is no filing fee and you may register on-line by going to www.piercecountyauditor and then click on Elections.

What is a PCO? As a PCO you represent the Democratic party to residents of your precinct. At a time when Democrats are being attacked by the Republicans and other groups, you should have a **burning desire** to see that our district, state and nation continue to be represented by Democrats.

As a PCO, what can you do? First, you should become a member of our 25th Legislative District Democratic organization, and attend monthly meetings. During campaign season you can help those running for office by distributing literature, putting up and delivering yard signs, or calling for sign locations, and/or hosting a coffee hour for candidates. Be sure that you are receiving our 25th Legislative District newsletter, The FOCUS, either by e-mail or mail.

If you have a strong desire to combat the Republican and other onslaughts, your **time is now!** Don't forget to file between June 7TH and 11TH, 2010. Contact Mike Steele, PCO Chair at mrmikesteele@yahoo.com or Ray Green at (253)848-0289 if you have any questions.

25th LD MEETING MINUTES FROM MAY 6th
By Melissa Thompson

We had our Nominating Convention at 6p.m. before our regular meeting. We nominated John Thompson for Position 1 and Dawn Morrell for Position 2. The PCOs were the only ones who could vote. Carolyn Merrival nominated John Thompson and Charley Stokes seconded. Charley Stokes nominated Dawn Morrell for Position 2 and Michelle Donaldson seconded.

We started our regular meeting at 7 p.m. and had the roll call, which all of our Executive Board members were present and then we adopted Agenda & Minutes from the last meeting.

We had a Guest Speaker- Claire Sussman who's running for County District Court Judge. It is an open seat and there are several people running. She thinks that she has the experience and integrity to win. She has been an attorney for 17 years. She spent some time in the prosecutor's office, she has a private practice, and she has served as a pro-tem judge. She has worked on a wide variety of cases. She is a Puyallup resident and has gotten the endorsement from the 2nd Legislative District.

Then we had our Senator Jim Kastama speak and give us a Legislative Wrap-up. He announced a few people who aren't running for re-election. He said that the legislature had to deal with a 2.5 to 6 billion deficit. He started a group that will look into restructuring the government that will foresee how the revenues will be 6 years out. He was also a big promoter of having the Lotto proceeds bill getting passed that will allow the money going to higher education starting by July 1st.

Representative Dawn Morrell also gave us her wrap-up. She works on Health & Human Services Committee. She said they had to dig back through the budget which caused them to have a special session to discuss revenue & raise taxes and also to close some tax loopholes. They had to come up with 600 million cuts to the budget. She said that we need transparency in Health Care now. We need to straighten our act together on all surgeries and have it cost the same at any hospital you go to and have all fully insured procedures.

We then announced our results from the Nominating Convention. Both John Thompson and Dawn Morrell got the nomination. John Thompson spoke for a couple minutes and was pleased with the nomination. His e-mail is JohnT@electJohnThompson.com. His website is electJohnThompson.com He is going to try and out-doorbell his opponent.

Stacie Anderson from Adam Smith's office introduced to us a new field organizer for Pierce & Thurston Counties. Luke Baron. They are sharing an office with Norm Dicks and Patty Murray at 717 Tacoma Ave. Monday June 7th at 5 p.m. there is going to be a Campaign Kick-off at The Washington State History Museum.

We got a space for the Puyallup Fair under the Grandstand. Each LD is to take a 2 Day shift. Meeker Days is coming up the weekend of June 18-20th. (-2 hour shifts)

We are sending 11 people to the State Convention June 25 & 26th to Vancouver Washington.

Legislative Action Committee will not meet until the fall.

Adjourned at 9 p.m.



By Joan Cronk

June 1st meeting of the 25th LDD will be held at the Puyallup Public Library. Speaker for the evening will be announced later.

At the May 6th 25th LDD meeting, Candidate for District Court Judge Claire Sussman addressed the group. Sussman, who is a local attorney, was a Deputy Prosecutor for six years and now serves as a Pro-Tem Judge for Pierce County and has done so for the last seven years.

Senator Jim Kastama spoke to the group and addressed the budget deficit and said he feels it is even money as to whether a income tax will pass and added that we are facing a very difficult time.

Kastama refers to himself as a moderate legislator and said he is a big fan of public financing.

Education is very important to Kastama as well and he is concerned when he hears statistics like the fact that only 19% of our 9th graders in Washington State go on to earn a four year degree. The unemployment rate is huge for people with only a high school diploma, Kastama said. He is in favor of promoting lottery ticket revenue to help fund education, and added that the global economy speaks to the issue of the importance of higher education.

Questions from the audience included one on the immigration issue. Kastama answered that legislators really don't want to get into the immigration issue and a lot of discussion followed.

Representative Dawn Morrell said the session "was really awful" and she felt badly when health care was cut for 60,000 folks.

Morrell said "it was a tough session, but we worked with our values in mind. We had to act like grownups," adding that it was not a perfect budget but, "I thought we did an admirable job in 60 days." She is proud that they were able to balance the state budget and did so without doing drastic damage to the public schools, health care or the criminal justice system.



Morrell's 2010 Legislative Wrap Up flyer said that thanks to the support of military families and Major General Timothy J. Lowenberg, Washington State's Adjutant General, her proposal to protect military leave rights for public employees passed unanimously.

Morrell's campaign will be hosting a fundraiser in August – date and place yet to be determined. We will keep members and the community advised of that information just as soon as we get it.

Adding to her many list of accomplishments this year, are the Technical/Community College Legislator of the year award and a recent appointment to the Governor's Task Force on coordinating health care reform with the federal laws.

Eric Renz announced that the 25th LDD will have a booth at Meeker Days on June 18, 19 and 20th and passed around a sheet for folks to sign up to volunteer in that booth. We will also have a booth at the Puyallup Fair in a prime spot. Volunteers will be needed!

Stacie M. Anderson, Political Director for Adam Smith, said their campaign is gearing up and Smith will be holding a couple of town halls. Campaign kickoff is June 7 at the Washington State History Museum from 5:30 to 7:30. Anderson said this is a tough race this year and that Smith is getting "a lot of flack for his health care vote."

The 25th LDD's John Thompson (picture on the right side) is running for the 25th District Representative seat against Brian Dammeier. Thompson said he plans to beat Dammeier by aggressive doorbelling.



THINGS TO THINK ABOUT BEFORE YOU ACT ON THEM!

Life isn't fair; but it is still good. When in doubt, take the next step.

Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.

You don't have to win every argument; agree to disagree.

Burn the candles, use the nice sheets, wear the fancy lingerie. Don't save for a special occasion. Today is special.

When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile.

Modern Day “Pretty Boy Floyd”
By Jerry Beckendorf

You folk music lovers will remember a singer named Joan Baez and a song she used to sing about an outlaw “Pretty Boy Floyd”. A line from the song goes “Some rob you with a six-gun and some with a fountain pen”. Although the fountain pen is long gone it appears the act of robbing us with a pen remains.

Witness the recent loss of 30 miners at the non-union Upper Big Branch mine in West Virginia, and the more recent BP Oil spill in the gulf. I believe these two firms cut safety corners to maximize profits at the expense of human life. Space prevents discussion of the big Wall Street firms and mega-banks.

Brazil and Norway, countries which have been engaged in off-shore drilling for years rarely have a major spill while BP has a history of U.S. major violations including prior loss of life.

We need to call our Senators and member of Congress and hold these offending individuals and companies accountable and if they are indeed guilty of major violations which resulted in loss of life or securities for average families, they should suffer the consequences. It appears the executive version of “Pretty Boy Floyd” is still ripping us off.

REP. ADAM SMITH TOWN MEETING
April 7, 2010
Steilacoom City Hall

At the only town meeting in his district during the Easter Recess, Rep. Adam Smith fended off criticism by many people who opposed the newly passed federal health care reform bill. He explained some of the bill’s provisions in order to educate the crowd of more than 200 people, some of whom had heard false information about it. To an audience of many military families, Smith said his first priority is to protect the troops on the battlefield by making sure they have the best equipment.

Rep. Smith’s next priority is the economy and getting people back to work. People change jobs often now. A high school or college degree is not adequate anymore, he said. Therefore job training is necessary. The deficit is a problem for us, so he said we must aim for savings in the future.

During the question period several people expressed gratitude for his vote on the health care bill, but were disappointed that the bill didn’t include a public option, or wasn’t a single payer plan. Rep. Smith said he believes in competition, but he is willing to allow government subsidies for a time to see how it will work. Some people who objected to the health care bill thought Rep. Smith should vote the way his phone calls and e-mail messages ran. Other people didn’t like being told they had to buy insurance from a private company.

With respect to Afghanistan, Rep. Smith believes we still have a national interest there to keep al-Qaida under control. We can’t be there much longer, but we can’t leave just yet. Our effort there must be to organize and strengthen the local groups there. The cost and burden on our troops is a significant problem. No country likes to be occupied. It breeds resentment and eventually contempt, he explained.

Reported by Ellen Zulauf, state committeewoman

**25TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
FINANCIAL REPORT**

May 17, 2010

By Luanne Green, Treasurer

Period reported: April 1 – 30, 2010

Beginning Balance:

\$ 10,888.26

Expenses:

Cart Doc (Xerox 8160 Refill)

38.26

Total Expenses:

(\$ 38.26)

Income:

0.00

Balance as of April 30, 2010

\$10,850.00

Checking A/C Balanced, C-3's filed, C-4 filed

DEEP THINKING

I plan to be spontaneous tomorrow.

I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize!

Half the people you know are below average.

Monday is an awful way to spend 1/7th of
your life.

No one is listening until you say something incredibly stupid.

Success always occurs in private. but failure takes place in full view.

For every action, there is an equal and opposite criticism.

A clear conscience is usually the sign of a poor memory.

Borrow money from pessimists, they don't expect to get it back.

A fool and his money are soon parting.

The problem with the gene pool is that there is no lifeguard.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES ?
IF SO, THANK YOU - IF NOT 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.)
Please send dues to: 25th LDD, POBox 73594, Puyallup, WA 98373



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.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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