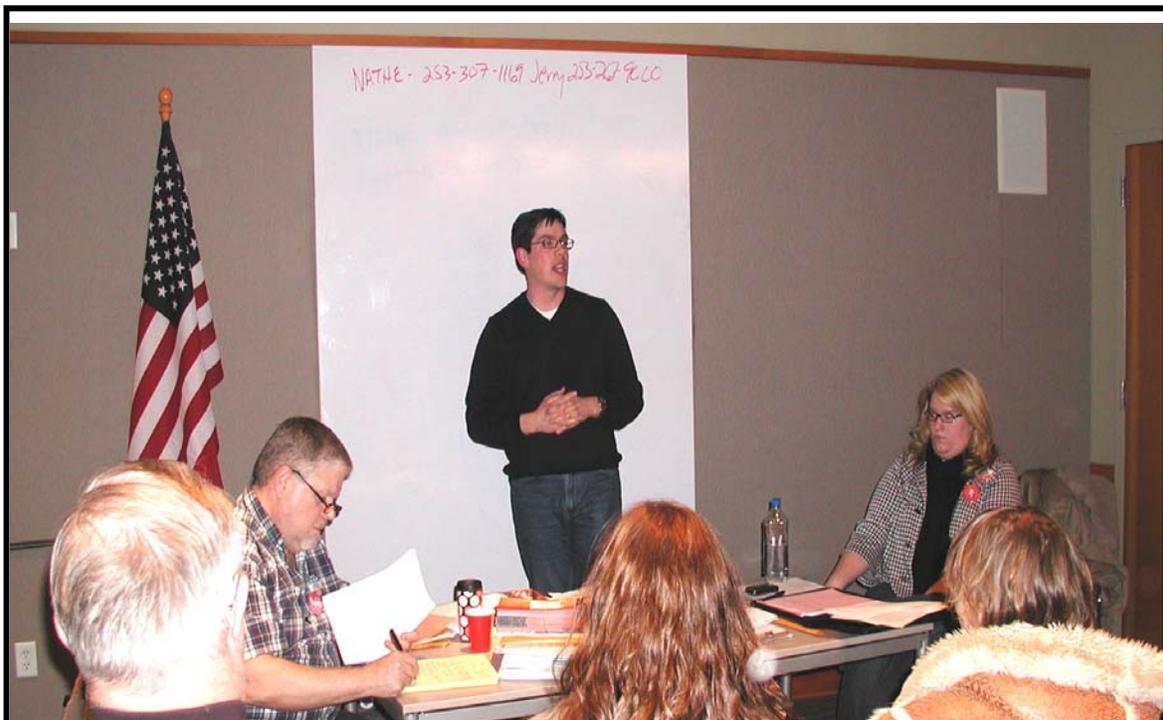




25th Legislative District



Democratic Focus



NATHE LAWVER, PIERCE COUNTY CHAIR EXPLAINS THE WHYS OF THE UPCOMING CAUCUSES WHILE ON THE LEFT CHARLE STOKES TAKES MINUTES AND ON THE RIGHT 25TH LDD CHAIR LAUREN ADLER LISTENS. OTHERS NOT IDENTIFIED.

READ ALL ABOUT IT: CAUCUSES, DRAFT ENDORSEMENT PROCEDURES, OTHER ARTICLES, MINUTES SUMMARY, CALENDAR AND MORE.



For newsletter send all articles, pictures, committee report to Editor Joan Cronk
845-5389 or email: JoanCronk@comcast.net

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**Building A
Better
Future**

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ELECTED
OFFICIALS**



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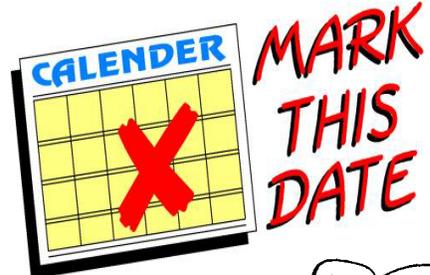
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**NEW
MEETING
PLACE FOR
MARCH AND
APRIL!**



6 Mar Thu 25th LDD Action
 Committee meets at 6PM at
 Summit Library, 5107 112th St,
 Puyallup.

6 Mar Thu 25th LDD meets at
 Summit Library, 5107 112th St,
 Puyallup at 7 PM.

DEADLINE **15 Mar Sat** DEAD-
 LINE for FOCUS
 articles, pictures,
 etc.

3 Apr Thu 25th LDD meets at
To Be Determined(?) at 7 PM.

5 Apr Sat Democrat Legislative
 District Caucus will meet at
 1000 am at the Puyallup High
 School Auditorium, 105 7th
 Ave., S.W..

19 Apr Sat Democrat County
 Convention

DEADLINE Also DEADLINE
 for FOCUS articles,
 pictures, etc.

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



CAUCUS - WHAT-WHEN-WHY?

By Joan Cronk

Websters defines "caucus" as: "a private meeting of leaders or a committee of a political party". The 25th District is prepared and ready for their caucus process, thanks to Nathe Lawver, Pierce County Democrat Chair, and his sidekick, Jerry Abbott, who put on one heck of a good presentation at the February 7th meeting telling the group what you could expect, how you could find out where they were and why we have them.

An overflow crowd of 114 rose to their feet to salute the flag at the Puyallup Library to begin the 25th District regular meeting. There was a standing room only crowd.

Lawver said that Pierce County Democrat's office is receiving over 300 phone calls a day about the caucus event and over 10,000 are expected to attend their local caucus. Abbott and Lawver led the group in a lively discussion of the caucus process and took many questions from the audience.

The meeting was a huge success. 2008 looks like a very interesting year with more people than ever taking part in our political process.

CAUCUS LOOK

By Joan Cronk

Anne Jacobson whispered to me at the caucus on Saturday, February 9, that she remembers a time when she held her precinct caucus in her living room. Not this time!

The standing room only crowd crushed together in the Puyallup Elks. People were parked all the way to Spooner's Strawberry stand on the main road. The place was jam packed with Hillary and Obama and undecided voters, and I'm sure other venues were as well.

Matt Hanby took the microphone a number of times to keep folks up to date on what to do and when to do it. Eric Renz explained the process to our group and did a stand up job. It was awesome. **This is an exciting time to be a Democrat!**

Publisher Note: Caucus at Collins School was also standing room only; and tables so close you heard the next PCO also but overall meeting run by Ken Blair and assisted by Audrey Chase. We got to meet lots of new people. But where are they on meeting nights?



DRAFT ENDORSEMENT PROCEDURE FOR THE 25TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT DEMOCRATS

I. Purpose.

The 25th LDD endorsement procedure seeks to establish an orderly process that both treats candidates fairly and provides its membership adequate information before taking action.

II. In General.

A. The purpose of the 25th LDD is to support the election of Democratic candidates and to further the policies and principles of the Democratic Party. The 25th LDD shall not endorse or support a partisan candidate other than the Democratic nominee. No candidate may claim the endorsement or the preference of the 25th LDD without a formal endorsement adopted pursuant to this policy and recorded at an official meeting of the 25th LDD.

B. The District Chairperson shall appoint (a) the Chair and members of the 25th LDD Endorsement Committee and (b) the Chair and members of the 25th LDD Resolutions Committee. These chairs and members may hold other offices within the 25th LDD.

III. Candidate Questionnaires.

A. For each office other than Precinct Committee Officer that will appear on the ballot within the 25th Legislative District, the Endorsement Committee shall draft a candidate questionnaire for review by the 25th LDD Executive Board, publication in the 25th LDD newsletter, and adoption by the 25th LDD before the deadline for candidates to file for each office.

B. The questionnaire for each office shall strive to explore topics relevant to the duties of the office as well as the candidate's more general qualifications.

C. In addition to topics specifically relevant to the office sought and the candidate's general qualifications, the questionnaires for nonpartisan contests shall explore each candidate's understanding of the Democratic Party's policies and platform, the extent of the candidate's previous participation, if any, in Democratic party activities, and the candidate's prior performance in office, if any, as measured by the Democratic Party's principles.

IV. Candidate Forums.

A. No later than three days after the deadline for filing for each office other than Precinct Committee Officer that will appear on the ballot within the 25th Legislative District, the District Chairperson shall schedule a candidate forum to be held before its election. If a race has both a primary and a general election, the District Chairperson shall schedule the forum for the general election as soon after the primary as possible. In scheduling candidate forums, the District Chairperson shall consider both the number of candidates likely to appear and the similarities or other relationships of the offices up for election.

B. No later than one week after the deadline for candidates to file for an office other than Precinct Committee Officer that will appear on the ballot within the 25th Legislative District, the 25th LDD Endorsement Chair shall send to each such candidate: (a) the relevant candidate questionnaire, (b) instructions for its completion and submission, and (c) an invitation to speak at the candidate forum scheduled by the District Chairperson for that office.

C. Upon receipt of candidate questionnaires, the 25th LDD shall make the completed questionnaires available to the membership.

V. Motions to Endorse.

A. Before a Primary Election. For each primary race in which at least one candidate has accepted the 25th LDD's invitation to speak, a motion for an endorsement in that primary shall be in order as soon as all the candidates that accepted the 25th LDD's invitation to appear at the candidates' forum have

completed their presentations.

1. Only members of record by July 30th of the current year or PCOs as of July 30th of the current year will be eligible to vote for pre-primary endorsements of partisan or non-partisan candidates

2. A motion for an endorsement in a primary race must have two-thirds of the votes cast, including abstentions.

B. After a Primary Election or in the Absence of a Primary Election. For each race in which at least one candidate has accepted the 25th LDD's invitation to speak, a motion for an endorsement in that race shall be in order as soon as all the candidates that accepted the 25th LDD's invitation to appear at the candidates' forum have completed their presentations.

1. Only members of record by August 30th of the current year or appointed PCOs as of August 30th of the current year will be eligible to vote for post-primary endorsements of partisan or non-partisan candidates.

2. A motion for an endorsement after a primary or in the absence of a primary election must have a majority of the votes cast, including abstentions.

C. Ranked Choice or Instant Run-Off Elections. For each Ranked Choice or Instant Run-Off race in which at least one candidate has accepted the 25th LDD's invitation to speak, a motion for an endorsement in that race shall be in order as soon as all the candidates that accepted the 25th LDD's invitation have completed their presentations.

1. The 25th LDD may endorse more than one Democrat in a Ranked Choice or Instant Run-Off Election.

2. Only members of record by July 30th of the current year or PCOs as of July 30th of the current year will be eligible to vote for endorsements in Ranked Choice or Instant Run-Off Elections.

3. A motion for an endorsement in Ranked Choice or Instant Run-Off Election must have a majority of the votes cast, including abstentions.

VI. Resolutions and Endorsements of Organizations.

A. Any member or PCO may submit a proposed resolution—including a resolution to endorse or oppose a ballot measure—to the Resolutions Committee.

1. The proposed resolution must comply with the following format:

a. The title must be clear, concise, and appear at the top of the resolution.

b. The resolution must contain at least one "WHEREAS" clause stating the situation to be addressed by the resolution.

c. The resolution must contain at least one "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT" clause stating the action or actions to be taken if the resolution is adopted.

d. The resolution must contain the name(s) of the member(s) proposing the resolution and the date of the proposed resolution's submission to the Resolutions Committee.

2. If the subject of the proposed resolution is outside the political process or if the action proposed appears unconstitutional, then the Resolutions Committee shall return the submission with its findings.

3. If the Resolution Committee accepts the proposed resolution, then the Committee may

a. Revise the proposed resolution for style,

b. Draft an alternative resolution,

c. Or both.

4. No later than the third regular meeting after submission of a proposed resolution, the Resolutions Committee shall either

(a) forward the proposed resolution to the membership via the 25th LDD newsletter or

(b) return it to the person(s) that submitted it with the reason(s) for its return.

5. If the Resolutions Committee forwards an alternative proposed resolution and does not return the original resolution for a reason required by ¶2 immediately above, then the proposer(s) may require the Resolutions Committee also to forward the original, proposed resolution as modified for style.

6. A motion to approve a proposed resolution shall require a majority of those voting including abstentions.

B. While the 25th LDD approves specific resolutions, it does not grant blanket endorsement to organizations. Members that seek to add the 25th LDD's support to the goals of other organizations may propose specific resolutions under the process immediately above.

more than one Democrat in a Ranked Choice or Instant Run-Off Election.

4 The new procedure makes clear that initiatives and other ballot measures are to be treated through the resolution process rather than the candidate process.

PRESIDENTIAL CAUCUS HAD HISTORIC PARTICIPATION

By Ray Green

The February 9th presidential caucuses had a historic attendance. Over 2,600 voters signed in to vote for their preferred presidential candidate and to elect delegates who will go on to attend the Legislative District Caucus and the County Convention. Elected delegates favoring Barack Obama totaled 329, favoring Hillary Clinton were 239, with five uncommitted. A total of 2,496 voters participated in the caucus.

Despite the large crowds at our six caucus sites, the attendees seemed to be enjoying the experience. One big problem was that many people came to the caucus not knowing their precinct number. They didn't have their voter card with the number on it or had out-dated cards from the 1990's.

The April 5th Legislative Caucus will be held at 10:00 a.m. at the Puyallup High School Auditorium. At that time the attendees will select delegates who will attend the Congressional Caucus and State Convention .

BACKGROUND FOR NEW ENDORSEMENT PROCEDURE

By Cliff Allo

1. The 25th Legislative Democrats will reach out to all the candidates in any election that appears on the ballot in any part of the 25th Legislative District. Previously, the initiative was left to the candidates. We think this change will ensure more timely participation by candidates, give the 25th LDD more control of its process, and provide more convenient consideration of candidates by our members. It will also make it easier to have all the candidates for any particular office at the same candidates' forum.

2. The new procedure requires the 25th LDD to issue each candidate our questionnaire and to publish the answers in the newsletter to give the members more information before the candidate forums. Previously the candidates had complete control of their presentations and we had not assurance that they would address our concerns. Under the new procedure, the candidates must first address our concerns in writing.

3. Consistent with the vote of the County Central Committee, the 25th LDD may endorse

WASHINGTON PUBLIC CAMPAIGNS INFO

By Betty Ogden

Grass roots power has wrought a miracle, thanks to your e-mails and calls to your legislators: Bills to remove the ban on our right to decide how we can vote locally has been approved by both the House and the Senate, clearing the way for public campaign funding as one of the choices. As of this writing, there are still two yards to go before the bill can go to the governor for signature into law. It is hoped that by Focus publication time, goal will have been reached.

For Washington Public Campaigns information contact WPC 25th LD Volunteer Betty Ogden 253-539-2720 .

At any event, the people whose seats are furthest from the aisle arrive last.

There are no new sins - the old ones just get more publicity.

Early morning cheerfulness can be extremely obnoxious.

**WASHINGTON STATE
DEMOCRATIC CENTER
COMMITTEE**

By Ellen Zulauf

The WSDCC winter meeting in Vancouver, WA was called to order by chair Dwight Pelz at 2:35 pm, Saturday, January 26. The main agenda item that day was to elect 2 men and 2 women to the Democratic National Committee. The three men nominated were Ed Cote, David McDonald, and Joe McGincy. Three women nominated were Lona Wilber, Sharon Mast and Jackie Bradley. The assembly chose David McDonald, Ed Cote, Lona Wilber, and Sharon Mast. These people will begin their terms in August after the Democratic National Convention concludes.

David McDonald covered events at the last DNC meeting explaining why both Michigan and Florida did not have any Democratic delegates chosen. They had broken the agreed upon rules on timing their primaries and set them earlier, thus losing their ability to have delegates to the national convention. The DNC realizes it needs new rules for the next presidential election in four years. An idea circulating is to have small population stated first,

mid-size next and large states last. That will cause presidential candidates to campaign in more states, and especially in small ones.

Ed Cote, also a member of the DNC executive committee, spoke of the significance of having the national Convention in Denver, Colorado. This is an acknowledgement of the increasing Democratic influence in the West, mostly red states in past elections, except for the Pacific Coast. Attorneys are surveying nationally how elections are conducted in states. Use of voting machines is being scrutinized, especially when there are too few in low income precincts.

Chairman Pelz said he expects record turnouts at the caucuses. He is heavily focused on moving more Democrats into office this year. A top priority is the re-election of Governor Gregoire. The presidential primary, will be February 19. Unfortunately it is costing the state \$10 million and no Democratic delegates will be chosen. All delegates will be picked at our caucuses.

INFORMATION

The full text of the draft Endorsement Procedures will be available at our March 6th meeting at the Summit Library.



**25th LEGISLATIVE
DISTRICT CAUCUSES**
will be held on April 5th,
2008 at 10:00 AM at the
Puyallup High School Audi-
torium, 105 7th St SW,
Puyallup, WA 98371

Politicians should remember that they have the right to be silent but anything they say will be misquoted and used against them.

He who hesitates is probably right.

I love politics but what idiot decided to begin the Presidential race two years before the present idiot leaves office?

Reason can answer questions, but imagination has to ask them!

**WASHINGTON STATE
DEMOCRATIC CEN-
TRAL COMMITTEE
REPORT**

By Jerry Beckendorf

As usual, Ellen did a great job with her State Committee report so I will fill in with some other details.

First our Labor Caucus met and we discussed several resolutions regarding workplace bullying and a Burger King boycott. Also the delegates from the Chehalis area discussed the continued need for volunteers as folks try to pull their lives together after the terrible floods this winter. One of the delegates is on the United Way of Lewis County board and that organization has done amazing things to help residents and businesses to recover. Please consider volunteering with a group to help.

Also as a member of the Communications Committee, we discussed a Booth kit for generalized materials for smaller local fairs and our own Puyallup Fair. We will be doing research to assess needs and try to report back at the next meeting with recommendations on how the State Democratic party can provide

maximum communica-
tions and materials to lo-
cal events.

The next meeting will be in Seattle after our State Convention in Spokane in June. I hope that all Democratic delegates take the opportunity to join our 25th District Democrats and sign on as a campaign volunteer.

**DARCY BURNER
CAMPAIGN REPORT**

Darcy Burner has achieved the \$1 million dollar fundraising mark and continues to raise funds. She has more cash on hand than Dave Reichert and has consistently surpassed him the last 3 quarters. Unfortunately for Dave Reichert he was denied a seat on the House Appropriations Committee causing Robert Novak to classify Reichert as the most vulnerable incumbent Republican congressman in the country!

Please go to www.darcyburner.com and volunteer to help, donate money or attend upcoming events. With your help we can send Reichert home to spend

**CHANGING
ADDRESSES.**



Please let us know when you do change home addresses or email addresses. We have been getting many of our newsletters and emails back lately. We do want to keep you informed so keep us informed!

more time with his grandkids and add an outstanding Member of Congress in Darcy Burner!

Jerry Beckendorf, Labor Li-
aision, Darcy Burner for Con-
gress

CALENDAR

March 6, 6 pm. **25th district Democrats Legislative Action Committee** meeting at the Summit Library. Please visit or call Dawn or Jim and express your views on pending legislation.

*On the whole human beings
want to be good, but not too
good, and not quite all the
time!*

*The biggest troublemaker
you'll probably ever have to
deal with, watches you from
the mirror every morning!*

**SUMMARY OF
MINUTES OF MEETING
7 February 2008**

Minutes By Charley Stokes
Since it was a work session for the caucuses there was no official meeting therefore no minutes.

**OUR 25TH LDD CHAIR,
LAUREN ADLER WAS
ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE
TACOMA TRIBUNE
NEWSPAPER BLOG**

Political Buzz

A place where people go to talk about politics.

Saturday, February 9th, 2008

Meet Lauren Adler

Posted by **Niki Sullivan** @
06:25:59 pm

This is Lauren:



She's 19 years old, and chairwoman of the 25th District Democrats. To her knowledge, that makes her the youngest Democrat in the state to hold a chairperson position. In the last

three years, she's also managed a handful of campaigns.

Adler was at the Puyallup Elks Lodge today, where the 25th District Democrats (and Republicans) were caucusing. She told me she wants to inspire young people.

"Politics isn't a spectator sport and it's not an 'old people's' sport," she said.

She went to the Barack Obama rally in Seattle yesterday and was "blown away" by how young the audience was.

She said she'd promised her district that she'd party-build and help caucus until she lost her voice, and around 2 p.m. she was well on her way.

Comments are not allowed from anonymous visitors. Please login or register to comment.

http://blogs.thenewstribune.com/politics/2008/02/09/meet_lauren_adler

**EQUAL TIME TACKLES
THE TOUGH ISSUES**

By Joan Cronk

On Friday's "Equal Time" Frank Blair, Audrey Chase and Tracy Kelly had as a guest Skip Dreps, Government Relations Director of the NW Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America. Dreps had some alarming statistics regarding the suicide rate of all veterans. Dreps referred to this issue as a "very painful issue in the veteran community," and acknowledged most are unwill-

ing to discuss it. Dreps said the suicide rate has reached epidemic proportions and must be dealt with.

He said that CBS did an in depth report and found the rate of suicides in all veterans in 2005 was 6,256 who committed suicide - 433 of them in Washington State.

Since a hot line has been established, the VA has received over 15,000 calls and 4900 of those are from veterans, 684 from active duty folks and 700 from family members. He said that 120 veterans are committing suicide every single week, which is the same statistic as during the height of the Viet Nam conflict.

Anyone who feels they know a veteran or family member who is in crisis should call 1-800-562-2308. That is the number for the Washington State Department of Veteran Affairs.

Dreps was so pleased with his welcome on "Equal Time" that he has nominated the show for special recognition.

Hats off to "Equal Time" for again tackling those tough issues!

**HAVE YOU PAID YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2008?
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.)

Please send dues to: 25th LDD, POBox 73594, Puyallup, WA 98373



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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