



25th Legislative District



Democratic Focus



MELISSA THOMPSON
NEWLY ELECTED PIERCE COUNTY E-BD REPRESENTATIVE,
POSITION 3 (SEE STORY PAGE 3)

**READ ALL ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING , OFFICERS REPORTS, MINUTES
AND UPCOMINGS**

AND - -



PAY YOUR 2009 DUES TODAY!

25TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT DEMOCRATIC (LDD) OFFICERS

President/Chair: Lauren Adler
Tel: (253) 820-8843
 Email: AdlerLN@comcast.net

Vice Chair: Louis Tibbs
 Tel: (253) 848-5496
 Email: ltibbs3@comcast.net

Treasurer: Luanne Green
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Secretary: Liz Collier
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Parliamentarian: Cliff Allo
 Tel: (253) 208-8167
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Membership Chair: Michelle Donaldson
 Tel: (253) 341-8345
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State Committeeman: Jerry Beckendorf
Tel: (253) 845-7702
 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
Pos. 2: Carolyn Merrival
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 Pos. 3: Melissa Thompson
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25TH DISTRICT DEMOCRATIC ELECTED OFFICIALS



Senator
 Jim Kastama
 (253) 840-4701

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 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

25th District FOCUS Committee
 Jim Morrell, Chairperson
 Joan Cronk, Editor
 JoanCronk@comcast.net
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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 Mar Mon E-Board meets at 7PM at Fire Station 66. 9813 28th St, E., Puyallup. Speaker will be Nathe Lawver, Chair, Pierce County Democrats, talking about county issues.

5 Mar Thu - 6 PM One hour before regular meeting Legislative Act Comm meeting. 7PM -25 LDD meets at Puyallup Library.

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

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

2 Apr Thu 6PM before regular meeting Legislative Act Comm meeting. 7 PM - 25 LDD meets at Puyallup Library. Speaker will be David Johnson, Exec Sec, WA State Build & Const Trades Council, talking about const work, labor issues, outlook, apprenticeship and upcoming projects..

DEADLINE 18 Apr Sat DEADLINE for FOCUS articles, pictures, etc.

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

**MEET MELISSA THOMPSON,
ONE OF 25th LDD PIERCE COUNTY E-BOARD REPRESENTATIVES**

Melissa Thompson has a lot of irons in the fire. In addition to being a substitute para educator with the Puyallup School District, a member of the Young Democrats and Women's Political Caucus, Melissa will now serve as one of the three representatives from the 25th LDD to the Pierce County Democrat's Executive Board.

As such, she will attend the PC Dems Executive Board Meetings and report back to us at our monthly meetings, thus keeping us all in touch with what is going on at the county level.

Melissa enjoys hanging out with friends and reading. She is an avid reader, sometimes devouring two or three books a week.

Dad John was our Chair of the 25th District and her mom, Laurie, who died in 2006 of breast cancer, was a very active member of our group. The Democratic thread definitely runs through the family!

Melissa participated in the breast cancer Race for the Cure in Seattle. Her dad's office formed a team and she was a very active and passionate member. Research for breast cancer is near and dear to her heart.

Melissa is very involved in local politics. She was a paid canvasser for the Darcy Burner campaign and doorbelled her little heart out from August until the November election, going door to door and educating people about the Burner campaign. When asked if she would ever like to run for an office, Melissa declined, saying, "I like to work behind the scenes."

Her sister Adrienne and husband Lee are also involved in politics. Lee used to work for Maria Cantwell. Melissa enjoys spending time with her nephew, Carter, who will be three and in September the family will welcome another new addition when Adrienne and Lee have their second child.

Melissa loves the movies and has recently started reading comic books, an endeavor that was sparked by a three-year relationship with a male friend who lives in Mississippi. She said he isn't a registered Democrat, but Melissa is working on that!



**The March meeting will be held 5TH OF March,
Thursday back at the PUYALLUP
LIBRARY, 324 Meridian and our guest
speaker will be NATHE LAWVER,
Chair, Pierce County Democrats.**

Come Early And Socialize!

STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Olympia, Washington January 24, 2009

Ellen Zulauf, State Committeewoman

The Washington State Democratic Central Committee convened Saturday afternoon in Olympia with 166 delegates. Foremost on the agenda was election of officers. Mark Hinz was challenging Dwight Pelz for chair. When Mark lost 64 to 98, he generously asked that the delegates do a vote by acclamation for Pelz. Sharon Smith challenged Eileen Macoll for the position of vice chair. Sharon was elected. Both women are from eastern Washington. The State secretary, Luis Moscoso, and state Treasurer, Habib Habib, were both elected without any opposition.

Democratic National Committee members all gave interesting accounts of being at the inauguration. There was much praise from the National Committee for Howard Dean's work as National Chairman. With his 50 state strategy Democrats took 44 states in November. The Obama campaign has given all its names lists to the National Committee so there won't be a parallel organization competing for money and workers.

The speaker at lunch, Rep Brendan Williams, spoke about the negative influence by the BIAW on Washington politics. He gave numerous examples of how they put their extreme right-wing views and money to work to try to defeat Democratic candidates. Seven million was spent in an effort to defeat Governor Christine Gregoire. [The governor, at our Friday night reception was euphoric about winning reelection despite their efforts.] Rep. Williams also reminded us of their efforts to unseat Justice Gerry Alexander several years ago.

The next meeting of the Democratic Central Committee will be April 24 - 25 in Tacoma.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Jeannie Mitchell, Chair of the Pierce County Democrats Events and Service Committee, is planning many events in the upcoming year and during this time of planning is looking for good ideas. President Obama has called for us to do community service. Jeannie wonders: how do you see this coming about? Should we give support to the LDs, or do our own project? She said the committee is open to ideas of how things can be put into action.

The first event coming our way is the Washington State Democrats Central Committee meeting to be held in Tacoma April 24 and 25. Every other year the state party sponsors the Al Rosellini dinner and this year we have been given the opportunity of planning and running the dinner. It will be a big event and Jeannie could use all your help in getting it up and running. Volunteers are needed to set up, man the sign in tables and silent action and act as greeters.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Jeannie at jcmitchell@net-venture.com or Home: (253) 752 6455 or cell (253) 297 3171.

WASH STATE DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 24, 2009 in Olympia
Jerry Beckendorf, State Committeeman

Ellen's report has given you the highlights of the last Central Committee meeting in Olympia. I will also give you some insights into the Labor Caucus, some resolutions and some thoughts on whether or not to have a standing Communications committee.

The Labor Caucus of the WSDCC is composed of those organized labor activists who are also members of the State Central Committee. It is an open meeting to anyone who has an interest or is supportive of organized labor. One of the goals of our last meeting was gathering sufficient signatures to be able to bring up a resolution covering the Worker Privacy Act (HB1528, SB 5446). This act would make captive audience, non-work related meetings illegal and would future meetings involving union busting, religious and charitable giving would be optional. The signatures were obtained and the resolution supporting the Worker Privacy Bill along with resolutions supporting the Employee Free Choice Act in the National congress and three others were approved.

I am a member of the State Party's Communications Committee and we are currently struggling whether or not the committee will continue to exist. If any of you have a communications or marketing background I would love to talk with you.

Also announced were new Democratic National Committee (DNC) Chair Governor Tom Kaine of Virginia. Linda Chavez-Thompson, retired Executive VP of the AFL-CIO is a new DNC member and Donna Brazile is a returning member and Vice Chair of Voter Registration and Participation. Members of the DNC from our state shared their Inauguration Day experiences with the group.

Another interesting fact was that more people under the age of 30 voted than over the age of 60, which is a first. In addition, of the past 14 DNC party chairs, Howard Dean because of the success of his 50 state strategy was recognized as the best DNC Chair.

On Friday afternoon, I attended a presentation at the Olympia Red Lion on the upcoming 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage in Washington State, which will take place next year. There will be exhibits in the Washington State History Museum and events planned statewide. If you have an interest in this project contact www.washingtonwomenshistory.org for more information.

I hope many of you will plan to attend the next WSDCC meeting, which will be held in Tacoma on April 24 and 25. You can attend as a guest and participate in the many activities that occur both the night before and the day of the meeting. Details will follow soon.

REPORT TO THE 25TH LDDO MEMBERSHIP ON
THE PIERCE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY
CENTRAL COMMITTEE EMERGENCY E-BOARD
MEETING 01-17-2009

By Charley Stokes

The Chair (Nathe Lawver) called this emergency meeting of the PCDCC E-Board by phone and email on 1-15-09, to discuss an appropriate response by the PCDCC to the appointment of J. Shabro (R) by the Pierce Co Council, to fill the open office of Auditor.

The 25th LDD was fully represented at the meeting by all three E-Board Reps and the 25th LD Chair.

Nathe gave a quick background review.

Pat McCarthy won the election for Pierce Co Executive and resigned from the office of Auditor. By law, the Pierce Co Council is required to select an interim replacement until a special election can be held to fill the position. Pat McCarthy was elected to office as a Democrat in a partisan race. While the Pierce Co Charter was revised, by ballot to change the office of Auditor from a partisan to non-partisan position after Pat was elected, it is the position of the PCDCC that the interim replacement should be a Democrat. To that end, a list of three Democratic nominees was submitted to the Council, as provided for under Section 4.70 of the Pierce Co Charter.

The response of the Council was to issue an "Emergency Resolution" to change the process. Under this resolution, all interested parties could apply to fill the position. From an initial twenty-three, thirteen were initially selected as qualified. In closed-door Executive Sessions, this group was further reduced, producing a short list of two Republicans and one Democrat. Shabro was ultimately declared the winner.

A 'Writ of Mandamus' (sp?) was filed on Jan 11 in Superior Court asking that the 'emergency' resolution (No.2008-186) issued by the Council to change the process allowed for under the PC Charter be rescinded. (This action was done using internal resources; further action will require the expertise of a real attorney.)

The question: Should the PCDCC hire an attorney and assume the associated expenses that could be incurred?

The discussion was orderly and wide ranging. It was noted that a lawsuit could stir up voters against Democrats over expenses incurred by the county in what could look like a 'partisan political squabble'. Counter arguments were that this could be the first of many 'power-grabs' by the Council to erode protections established under the Charter and that we can not allow them to establish a precedent. (Sidebar: What prompted the support of Shabro by Tim Farrell?)

It was moved and seconded to pursue a lawsuit. In discussion, the question of how much money it could cost was raised. The motion was amended to authorize a max of \$8K for legal fees and also authorizing all necessary fund-raisers to meet this expense; vote carried.

It was moved and seconded to authorize Nathe to discuss and ask support of LD's statewide during the Chairs meeting in Olympia; vote carried.

It was noted that a PR effort be mounted to educate the public and present a consistent message for publication and discussion with all Pierce Co voters. The message should focus on the illegal actions of the Council to change the Charter process. Gerry Baldwin penned a Resolution to create a PR Committee. It was move and seconded to appoint Becky Summers as PR Chair, vote carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Note: This report to the 25th LDD membership is presented as my personal, Subjective recollection of PCDCC E-Board meeting discussions and actions. For the official record of the meeting, I defer to the PCDCC Secretary and official minutes as adopted by the body. CS

**25TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT DEMOCRATS
2009 OPERATING/GENERAL PROPOSED BUDGET**

Office Exp. & Postage: \$200.00

Newsletter Postage: \$550. 25th LDD
PrinterInkExpenses: \$350.00
Party Building & Organization: \$150.00
Hospitality Expenses: \$250.00
Fundraising: \$2,500.00
Charity/Civic Donations: \$250.00
Young Democrats Grants: \$200.00
Unallocated: \$200.00

2009 BUDGET PROPOSED TOTAL: \$4,650.00

Balance in General Fund as of 2/5/09: \$8,231.82

LAST OFF YEAR (2007)
PROPOSED BUDGET:

Office Exp & Postage: N/A
Newsletter Postage: \$1,025.00
Newsletter Printing: \$436.00
Party Building & Organization: \$200.00
Hospitality Expenses: N/A
Rent: \$500.00
Candidate Contribution: N/A
Fundraising: \$2,000.00
Charity/Civic Donations: \$500.00
Young Democrats Grants: \$280.00
Unallocated: \$10,000.00
2007 Budget Proposal Total: \$5,041.00

2007 ACTUAL EXPENDITURES

Office Exp. & Postage: \$119.28
Newsletter Postage: \$495.73
Newsletter Printing: \$226.63
Party Building & Organization: \$89.79
Hospitality Expenses: \$222.84
Rent: \$100.00
Candidate Contribution: \$800.00
Fundraising: \$1,032.12
Charity/Civic Donations: \$147.00
Young Democrats Grants: \$111.75
Unallocated: \$0.00
Total expenditures in 2007: \$3,345.14



MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

On Saturday, March 14, from 9 am to 12 noon, Democrats Work volunteers will be helping Stream Team restore wildlife habitat alongside South Prairie Creek in Orting. The address is 16224 Pioneer Way E., Orting. Pioneer Way E. is also known as State Route 162. The property is roughly halfway between South Prairie and Orting.

The goal of the project is to improve the riparian ecosystem by removing invasive weeds and planting a healthy mix of native trees, shrubs, and groundcover to encourage the natural processes needed to sustain salmon and other aquatic organisms. Over time, streamside vegetation provides: shade to keep water temperatures cool, cover for wildlife refuge, large woody debris for channel variation, leaf and needle litter for the food chain, habitat for terrestrial fauna, erosion control, stormwater/flooding mitigation, and groundwater retention, to name a few.

The Stream Team program is a part of the Pierce Conservation District. Begun as a one-year grant funded project in 1994, Stream Team has grown into a countywide, multi-activity program that has worked with thousands of volunteers to improve local water quality and stream habitat.

The mission of Democrats Work is to mobilize grassroots Democrats to perform community service projects . . . as Democrats. DW connects Democratic volunteers with visible, tangible service projects in their communities by cleaning up neighborhoods and parks, supporting schools and teachers, planting trees, sponsoring soccer clinics, and working at food banks.

Volunteers should dress warmly, in layers, and wear boots and work gloves. If you want to bring your favorite shovel or trowel, remember to mark them with your name. Drinking water, coffee and snacks will be available at the site.

Directions: Take Highway 167 south to WA-410. Head East on WA-410 toward Sumner/Bonney Lake. Turn Right at South Prairie Rd. E. Turn Right on Pioneer Way E (SR-162). The property will be on the left.

Volunteers are strongly urged to indicate their willingness to participate by signing up at the Democrats Work website (<http://democratswork.org/> <<http://democratswork.org/>>), or by emailing or calling Brian Gunn (gunnbl@comcast.net <<mailto:gunnbl@comcast.net>> , 253-334-8614). We need to be able to let Stream Team know how many volunteers are planning to attend.

**25TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
FINANCIAL REPORT
February 5, 2009**

Period Reported: January 1 - January 31, 2009

Balance Club Account: (Closed April 1, 2008) 0.00

Beginning Balance January 1, 2009 \$ 7,420.08

Expenses:

Ken Peach - Newsletter Mailings \$ 65.50

Puyallup Elks #1450 - Send Off Dinner 347.76

Reimburse Luanne Green - portion floral arrg't 40.00

Total Expenses: (453.26)

Income

Dues & Donations \$ 565.00

Kick Off Dinner Receipts (Jan. only) 655.00

Auction Items - Miscellaneous 45.00

Total Incomes \$1,265.00

Balance as of January 31, 2009 \$8,231.82

C-3 and C-4 Reports are filed as of Feb. 2, 2009, Checking A'C Balanced.

MINUTES OF MEETING
25TH LDD, February 5, 2009

Minutes of Meeting of 25th LDD, February 5, 2009

Meeting opened at 7 p.m. by Chair Lauren Adler with a flag salute.

Roll call of officers:

Chair, Lauren Adler, P	Sergeant At Arms, Eric Renz, P
Vice Chair, Louis Tibbs, P	Membership Chair, Michelle Donaldson, P
Treasurer, Luanne Green, P	Pierce County E Board Reps
Secretary, Liz Collier, E	Pos. 1 Charley Stokes, P
State Committee Woman, Ellen Zulauf, P	Pos. 2 Carolyn Merrival, P
State Committeeman, Jerry Beckendorf, P	Pos. 3 Melissa Thompson, P
Parliamentarian, Cliff Allo, P	

Motion made and passed to accept the agenda.

New Business: As per our By Laws, the Executive Board has unanimously approved the proposed 2009 operating budget; it is attached here to. Motion made by Charley Stokes, seconded by Ken Peach to accept the proposed budget as presented. Motion carried without objection.

An RCV Form Discussion to be held on Friday 2/6/09 at 6 p.m. at UPS Campus. Chair Adler encouraged all to attend.

Al Rose reported that at the Pierce County Council meeting next Tuesday there will be a discussion regarding the fact that RCV will be used for the Auditor's Election. Joyce McDonald thinks the RCV should be voted on but Rose wasn't sure about other members of the Council.

Charley Stokes reported the Pierce County Democrat Central Committee called an emergency Executive Board Meeting on January 17 to discuss the illegal action of the Pierce County Council to amend the Pierce County Charter so they could appoint a "non-partisan" replacement to the office of Auditor. The question discussed is: Should the Pierce County Democrats authorize the use of funds to fight this issue? Discussion followed and it was moved and seconded to authorize \$8,000 for a lawsuit against the Council's action; motion carried. Nathe Lawver has retained a legal firm, but the fee is \$10,00, so Nathe secured the additional \$2,000 from the State Democratic Party. The PCDCC has two weeks to raise the remaining monies (\$8,000). Charley said he would match dollar-to-dollar, up to \$100, if people would donate tonight at our meeting. With Charley's donation of \$100, the 25th LD members donated \$400 at the meeting.

Charley moved that the Club donate funds to the Pierce County Democrats to go toward support for the legal fight. Motion was seconded to donate a matching amount of \$400 to the PCDCC for this legal issue. Motion carried.

Louis Tibbs, Vice Chair said we would be meeting at the Puyallup Library next month. He said the Executive Board fine-tuned the presentations for the year. The goal is to have a guest speaker at each of our meetings and have regular reports typed published on our web site at www.25dems.org, leaving more time for a guest speaker and questions. The March guest speaker will be Nathe Lawver,

Chair of the Pierce County Democrats. Possibilities for future meetings: a representative from Senator Murray and Adam Smith's office.

Guest speakers at the meeting tonight were: Cindy Poysnick, Puyallup School Board Member, Dr. Tony Apostle, Superintendent of Puyallup Public Schools and Karen Hansen, Executive Director of Communications for Puyallup School District.

Dr. Apostle spoke about the upcoming bond and levy issue and presented an informative educational video.

Cindy Poysnick asked that the 25th LD endorse the issue of the bond and levy and took questions from the group.

It was noted by the Parliamentarian and supported by Carolyn Merrival that our endorsement process required all endorsements be referred to the Resolution Committee, a process that will not allow for a timely endorsement for this bond election.

Charley Stokes suggested we send the request to support the school levy to the Resolution Committee and if we favor endorsing it, send Letters to Editor in support of the issue because we are running out of time, as the election is March 10. The election is an all mail in ballot.

Good of the Order: Chair Adler thanked the group for their support after her father's death and the generous flower arrangement.

Jerry Beckendorf said there are a number of events coming up. Legislative Action Committee meeting was well attended. A group will be traveling to Olympia for a rally on February 16 and the annual Democratic Crab Feed. Political Outreach Forms, said Beckendorf, help keep folks involved and he asked all to fill one out.

Beckendorf said the State Democrats endorsed the Worker Privacy Act. He encouraged support of that as well.

Betty Ogden spoke on Public Campaign Funding bills that are in the house and thanked all who helped bills get passed this year.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Cronk sitting in for Liz Collier



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.)

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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