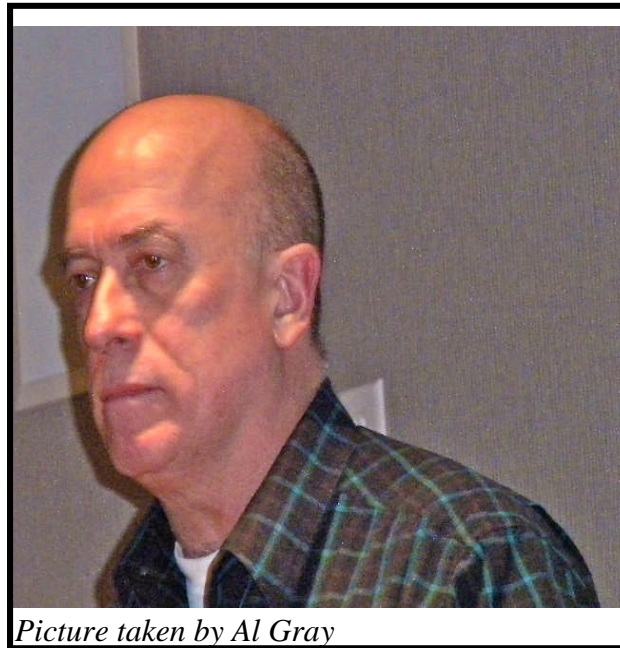




25th Legislative District



Democratic Focus



Picture taken by Al Gray

**DWIGHT PELZ,
WASHINGTON STATE CHAIR
DEMOCRATIC PARTY
SPOKE AT THE GENERAL MEETING
(SEE PAGE 4 FOR REMARKS)**

**READ ALL ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING , WHAT DID HAPPEN, MINUTES
PLUS UPCOMINGS ON PAGE 2
AND - - - - PAY YOUR 2011 DUES !**

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

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

Vice Chair: Luanne Green
Tel: (253) 848-0289
Email: raygre@msn.com

Treasurer: Harold (Al) Gray
Tel: (253) 539-8352
Email:
halgray@rainierconnect.com

Asst't Treasurer
Luanne Green
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Email: raygre@msn.com

Secretary: Melissa Thompson
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Email: cliffallo@blarg.com

Sergeant-At-Arm: Eric Renz
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Membership Chair:
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Email: raygre@msn.com

State Committeeman:
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Tel: (253) 208-8167
Email: cliffallo@blarg.com

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

**25TH DISTRICT
DEMOCRATIC
ELECTED
OFFICIALS**



**Senator
Jim Kastama**
(253) 840-4701

email:
kastama.jim@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.piercemydems.org

**25TH LDD E-BOARD
PIERCE COUNTY
REPRESENTATIVES**

POS 1: Eric Herde
Tel: (253) 441-5760
Email: epwh@earthlink.net

POS 2: Melissa Thompson
Tel: (253) 970-7339
Email: MelissaThompson@yahoo.com

POS 3: Mervin Swanson
Tel: (253) 845-0194
Email: mswa658080@aol.com

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

MEETINGS

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

2 May Mon 7 PM 25 LDD
monthly general meeting at the
Library in Puyallup. Speaker:

Cindy Poysnick, Puy-
allup School board
President. And after
Cindy's presentation
will be Becky Lewis,
8th Congressional Caucus Rep
and Zach Smith, 9th Congres-
sional Caucus Rep who will
talk about plans for the Cau-
cuses.



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



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

6 Jun Mon 7PM monthly gen-
eral meeting at Puyallup Library

11 Jun Sat DEADLINE for
FOCUS articles, pictures, etc.

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

NOTE DATE CHANGE:

11 Jul Mon 7PM monthly gen-
eral meeting at Puyallup Library

FROM THE CHAIR

I wanted to make everyone aware of a special event that will take place in Pierce County on Saturday, May 21st. The Pierce County Democrats will be holding their 2011 "Keep Pierce Blue Dinner and Awards Ceremony" at the Chamber's Bay Golf Course in University Place. This year's theme is "Celebrating Excellence". An important part of this event is to honor past legislators including our own **Representative Dawn Morrell**. In addition to Dawn we will be honoring: Senator Marilyn Rasmussen (2nd LD); Representative Dennis Flannigan (27th LD); and Senator Rosa Franklin (29th LD).

In addition to honoring our past legislators, the Pierce County Democrats will be giving awards in the following categories: **Elected Official of the Year**—this person has worked tirelessly to insure that the interests and goals of the Party and its members are served; **PCO of the Year**—this person works in their neighborhoods to educate voters, identify voters, and turn out the vote for Democratic candidates and issues; **LD Chair of the Year**—this person leads their LD to be relevant to issues specific to their area and represents the Party to their neighborhood; **Volunteer of the Year**—this person is crucial to the machinery of the Party and the local LD; **Rising Star of the Year**—this person is the fresh new face to the Party whose ideas & enthusiasm are new and innovative; and the **Lifetime Achievement**—this is the most prestigious award and is presented to four Democrats (two male and two female) who have dedicated a major portion of their lives to the Party.

Any paid member or PCO is eligible to nominate in every category. I would encourage our members to submit nominees to the county. **The nomination form has to be returned no later than April 30th.** The nomination form is available on our website at www.25dems.org. Please mail the form to Pierce County Democrats, PO Box 112168, Tacoma, WA 98411. The 25th LD would like to purchase tables for this event. We are hoping to have enough members from our 25th LD to fill several tables! We are able to purchase a table that seats 10 for \$750 (the regular cost from the County is \$1000). Our LD will subsidize \$250 of the cost, which will bring the amount per person to \$50. The cost includes both the reception and dinner. **We have to purchase the tables no later than May 10th.** There will be no tickets sold at the door and seats will be given on a first paid first served basis. If you are interested in purchasing tickets to this event for \$50 each, please let me know prior to May 10th. I will compile a list of people to determine how many tables the 25th LD will need. If interested, you should email me at **LTibbs3@comcast.net**.

Louis

25th LD MEETING MINUTES

April 4th

By: *Melissa Thompson*

We started the meeting at 7:06 pm had a flag salute. Then we did a roll call of officers which Merv Swanson was absent and Ellen Zuluaf arrived late.

We went over the proposed 2011 Budget. The Budget categories were the same categories over the last 4 years and we took the average of those 4 years and came up with the totals for the 2011 Budget. There was a motion to approve the Budget which passed unanimously.

There was a short report of the recall of Dale Washam campaign by Jerry Beckendorf. There is a recall booth at the Spring Fair. The Pierce County Library system does not mind if people are standing outside getting signatures outside their buildings. He also talked about at the luncheon club where Bill Baarsma was the speaker and talked about recall efforts that have taken place in the past. Jerry announced that there was going to be a Union rally on the 8th on the capitol steps and he also talked about SB 5566 Worker Comp Bill and its progress in the legislature.

State Committeeman Cliff Allo gave a report about what happened at the State Rules Committee meeting. He reported that there was a stronger feeling for going with the caucus. The whole caucus process should be based on the precincts on Election Day 2011. They will be asking for us to report Affirmative Action results from the caucuses. The State Central Committee meeting will be in Wenatchee at the end of April where they will vote on the process. At this time, Washington State has 84 National Delegate slots to the National Convention. 21 at large spots and 63 spots will be picked at the Congressional level. It is possible that we could pick up more spots if we hold our caucuses in April at the same time as other states in our Region which are Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, and maybe Wyoming. The people who make the choices of the At Large Delegates will be the 98 LD State Committee people. Precinct and LD Caucuses will be in April 2012, the Congressional District Caucuses will be in May 2012, and the State Convention will be the end of June 2012.

State Party Chair Dwight Pelz was our Guest Speaker. He gave a great speech about Congressional Republicans trying to get their agenda through Congress. His main aspects were about eliminating Retirement and how they don't want people to retire until age 70 or if at all. He also talked about how the Republicans want permanent tax cuts for the rich. He also talked about giving out vouchers for Medicare to people at age 69 ½. He also said that our country is 70% retail driven and that we must raise taxes, especially for the rich to actually stimulate the economy and to reduce the deficit. Republicans are for the Supply concept and Democrats are for the Demand concept. The last thing he talked about was about Precinct Committee Officers (PCOs), and how we should still have the right to elect them.

25TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT FINANCIAL REPORT April 15, 2011

By Al Gray, Treasurer

Period Reported March 15 to April 15 2011

Beginning Balance 7,709.85

Balance as of April 15, 2011 7,628.68

Checking A/C balanced, C3's filed and C4 filed

The people are watching

We want good jobs, effective government



Last Friday, depending on whose estimates you believe, 7,500 to 10,000-plus people came to Olympia to urge legislators to stop the attacks on working people and their unions, to focus on creating good jobs, and to "Put People First" as they deal with the \$5 billion revenue shortfall. Sign after sign and speaker after speaker, urged lawmakers to close certain tax loopholes to mitigate the devastation that would be caused by another all-cuts budget.

Reporters were impressed by the turnout, but wondered aloud, "What difference will it make?" Will legislators suddenly reverse course, go back to the drawing board, and find ways to properly fund our schools, health care, public safety, and other critical public services? Probably not, given the House-approved all-cuts budget and the Senate's all-cuts budget proposal unveiled Tuesday. These proposals, like Gov. Gregoire's, deliberately avoid closing special-interest tax preferences as lawmakers point to the voters' "loud and clear" message against taxes (as opposed to their messages against liquor privatization and dismantling our workers' compensation system).

So what did Friday's rally accomplish? It reminded legislators that the people are watching. And it reminded all of us the lesson of Plato, Sir Thomas More, Martin Luther King Jr., and many others: **silence equals consent**.

Last week's rally also reminded Washington's labor movement that there is true power in their solidarity. Its festive atmosphere belied the carnage happening inside the Capitol. That's because it's always a pleasant surprise to realize that there are so many people --

from ferry workers to fire fighters, from machinists to musicians (and firefighters who are musicians!) – who care about the same things that you do.

We have more power than they know. And it is organized labor's mission to harness that power between now and the next opportunity we have to decide who gets the keys to this state government. Organized labor will be identifying which legislators are voting to "Put People First" and which are putting powerful corporate interests ahead of effective government.

Thanks to David Groves, WSLC, for some of these comments.

Jerry Beckendorf



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FROM SEN. JIM KASTAMA

This legislative session has not been a time for the meek. We began with a deficit of more than \$5 billion, with declining revenues forecasted. I've backed legislation I believe will move Washington forward, some of it controversial. Here's a quick update:

Establishing Washington's First Virtual University

During this global recession, we've been shedding jobs and industries that aren't coming back. We have many state residents working in dying professions who need to be educated for jobs in new fields. Senate Bill 5136 (companion HB 1822) will give them that option. This bill calls for the state to partner with Western Governors University, a non-profit online institution that is accredited nationally and regionally and whose credits would be accepted by other Washington colleges. Six months of tuition through Western Governors University would cost only \$2,800 while offering students unlimited access to the institution's accredited courses. For folks unable to attend a brick-and-mortar school because they're still holding down jobs to pay the mortgage, this is a way of getting the education essential to their economic future. Enrollment is expected to reach 4,000 students within six months *(The bill has passed the Senate and the House.)*

Creating a New State Agency to Help Businesses Create New Industries

Senate Bill 5764 creates "Innovate Washington," a state agency that helps small businesses and entrepreneurs turn their ideas into new products. It combines the Washington Technology Center and the Spokane Intercollegiate Research and Technology Institute into a statewide agency. This new agency will help businesses gain access to our universities' intellectual property and federal grants and offer lab space for the development of new technologies. My hope is this will lead to the next Microsoft, Boeing or Amazon.com. *(The bill has passed the Senate and awaits passage in the House.)*

Retaining School Teachers Based on Merit

Unfortunately the budget necessitates laying off state employees, including teachers. In making the decision as to which teachers are laid off, I recently supported an effort (HB 1443) to make the decision based on merit, not seniority. This is a significant demarcation from past practices and I have been heavily criticized for this decision. I believe, however, we are at the point when difficult decisions need to be made. It only makes sense to keep the most effective teachers in front of our students. This measure leads us in that direction. *(The bill has passed the Senate and awaits final passage in the House.)*

Making Sure Our System to Help Injured Workers Remains Solvent

The state auditor projects that the system set up to help injured workers will be insolvent within five years. To avoid that, a group of moderate senators approved Senate Bill 5544 to allow injured workers to voluntarily choose one-time settlements instead of lifetime pensions. Forty-four other states, including Oregon, which has not raised its workers' comp premium in more than 20 years, have benefits similar to this. My hope is that before the session (or special session) is complete, we will have a compromise between business and labor that protects workers while also ensuring financial solvency. *(This bill passed the Senate and awaits passage in the House.)*

Controlling the escalating costs of State Employee Pensions

One of the most difficult decisions I have made this session is to eliminate the automatic cost-of-living increases (COLAs) for PERS 1 and TERS 1 retirees. It's important to remember that COLAs were never part of the retirement contract. During the stock market boom of the 1990s, the Legislature decided to put the COLAs in place. Times have changed since then, however, and we need to take a realistic approach to what's reasonable given our current economy.

A Responsible, Sustainable State Budget

This session the Senate passed a bipartisan budget on a 34-13 vote. The unusual level of bipartisanship was no accident. I was part of a group of more moderate senators who insisted on a strongly bipartisan process. We also insisted that the budget: Had to be sustainable; Did not shift money from dedicated funds; Did not tap capital accounts to fund operating costs; Did not securitize or encumber future revenues; and Did not use gimmicks such as "25th month" accounting practices (the last time we did this it took more than a decade to pay it back).

**HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2011 MEMBERSHIP DUES ?
IF SO, THANK YOU - IF NOT PLEASE PAY AND
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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