

The Mason County Democrat

"Neighbors Working Together"

Notes from the Chair

by Andrew Graham

State Democratic Convention

Eleven delegates from Mason Democrats attended the State Convention in Vancouver last weekend. Friday had several seminars scheduled, on VoteBuilder training, the Coordinated Campaign, and PCD training. In the evening we met and spoke with Rep. Norm Dicks and his aides in his hospitality suite, and talked politics in the Labor Caucus suite hosted by Cathi and Dale Bright.

DNC Chair Gov. Tim Kaine gave a fine keynote address, explaining that in midterm elections the party in power usually loses about 28 House seats and 4 Senate seats. In this terrible recession many voters are tempted to "throw the bums out" and start fresh. It's our job as Democrats to show voters the progress our incumbent candidates have been making to dig us out of the economic hole we're in. We can choose progress, and keep climbing out of our hole, or be reactionary and go backwards.

What is Progress? Have a look at the State Democratic Platform (<http://www.wa-democrats.org/content/>)

platform) that we passed at the convention and you'll find one of the finest statements of political values I have seen. Mike Mosbarger and Larry King deserve our thanks for their hard work on the Platform Committee.

What is Reactionary? Have a look, if you dare, at the Texas Republican Platform (<http://bit.ly/9zD2GR>) which advocates eliminating the Endangered Species Act, Depts. of Education and Energy, the IRS, and the minimum wage, among other giant leaps backward.

Office

If you haven't stopped by our new office yet, come to 218 West Cota St. and pay us a visit! You can pick up campaign materials and yard signs, and more importantly, help with the campaigns. Those of you who use VoteBuilder have discovered that some of the information in it is inaccurate or out-of-date. Now, before the campaigns heat up, is the time to correct that. We have two computers at the

office for you to use to help clean up that data and identify voters. Marcia Hamilton and I will have calling scripts for your use if you would rather work from paper than the computer. If you have a few hours a week to work in the office, email Sheri Staley at staleyagate@peoplepc.com to volunteer.

Elections

Now that filing week is over we finally who know who's running for election in the primary. You'll find a complete list at the auditor's website, linked to from our website (<http://www.masoncountymocrats.com/news/150-2010-filings.html>), and candidate information at our candidate page (<http://www.masoncountymocrats.com/endorsements/candidates.html>). One election, County Commissioner, has attracted six candidates including three fine Democrats, Ross Gallagher, Brenda Hirschi, and Laura Ann Lewis. I predict a lively debate in the next weeks as we decide whom to endorse!

Next Meetings

The next Executive Committee meeting is 6pm July 6th; call for location. The next regular meeting is 7pm Wednesday, July 14th, at the PUD 3 meeting room. I'll see you there!

Andrew Graham
MCDCC Chair

Upcoming Events

Wed, July 14th, 7:00 pm—MCDCC Meeting at PUD3, Shelton.

Mon, July 19th, 6:30 pm—DemoChat (No Host) at Grove Street Brewhouse (1st and Grove, Shelton) (Mason County Chapter of Drinking Liberally - NOT affiliated with MCDCC).

Wed, July 21st, 11:30 am—Mason County Democratic Women's Club at El Sarapé Restaurant in Gateway Center. No host lunch. Meeting begins at noon.

Sun, August 1, 1:00 p.m., Hawk Hill Calvinball Invitational.

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Deadline for articles, news, letters and photos for the August 2010 issue of the MCDCC Newsletter is 5 p.m. Friday, July 23rd.

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Jane Roush: Lifetime Achievement Award Winner

By Linda Thomson

Jane Roush of Shelton came to the Mason County Democrats after retiring from the State Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) where she helped many a political campaign figure out the complexities of the public disclosure laws – “laws which still remain a mystery to many us,” according to attorney Janis Snoey.

Jane was in the MCDCC campaign office at 218 W Cota recently, and indicated that she is excited about this campaign season. There are some positions with Democrats having challengers from within the party. Although she has her favorites, she says she can support any of them if her pick doesn't come through the Primary. At the recent Mason County Democrats' 2010 Kennedy Dinner, Jane was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award, a high honor, indeed.

Andrew Graham, who has been chair less than one year, considers Jane to be one of his role-models. “I've learned a great deal from her and learned to rely on her judgment,” he said recently. Andrew described the award-winner as a “tremendous asset with a depth and breadth of knowledge of the party.” He praised her for her values and determination to share those values, in particular by helping Democrats get elected.

Jane has taken on a number of responsibilities for the Democrats during her years of involvement. She was finance and fundraising chair, coordinated volunteers to do county park cleanup work.

Janis Snoey, who presented the award to Jane at our Kennedy Dinner, indicated Jane was “a special master at putting together wonderful silent auctions,” as she did for a number of our annual dinner events. However, Janis warned, when it came to tracking where gifts and money came from, all of which needed to be reported to the PDC, well, “try a little sloppy record keeping and you were dead meat!”

Jane served for a time as treasurer for the 35th Legislative District

Democrats, and has been treasurer for a number of local candidates' campaigns over the years. Now retired from State employment, she is in demand in such a position for her knowledge gained in years of work for the PDC, to which campaigns must send regular financial reports.

Janis concluded her speech this way: “Jane Roush has unselfishly given her time and many talents to Mason County Democrats for many years and we're so honored to present to her the Mason County Democrat's 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award!”

Ross Gallagher, Mason County Commissioner

By Ross Gallagher

Mason County has been my home for almost half a century. Four years ago when I ran for County Commissioner, I pushed aside special interests and brought back accountability in representing Mason County.

With your support I took office in January 2007. I got to work. I've worked with law enforcement to open a badly needed Belfair detachment for our Sheriff's office. I partnered with our state and congressional leaders to finally start construction on sewer projects around Hood Canal to protect the fragile ecosystem. I worked with business leaders to expand access to fiber optic connections to keep and create jobs in Mason County.

We've kept Mason Transit running smoothly to ensure transportation options for seniors are available. We worked together and got our citizens a new 911 organization to improve emergency responses across the county.

Over the past four years, we worked together and accomplished a lot of good things for Mason County

We've also seen a number of challenges along the way, first and foremost this global recession. We have had to make some of the biggest cuts to County government in history, but I've spent plenty of “midnight oil” in producing a balanced budget.

This year we've seen a large movement in the community about the proposed biomass power plant, and there's a tremendous amount of citizen participation unlike anything I've seen in quite some time. But I want to make myself

MCDCC Executive Committee

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
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Opinions expressed by our contributors do not necessarily represent the views of Mason County Democrats as a whole.

clear on this issue. I have been fighting to protect the unique and pristine water and air of Mason County every day I've been in office. I've served on the Olympic Region Clean Air Agency, I've fought for sewers in Belfair and along Hood Canal, and I've worked with our Democrats in the Legislature and in Congress to get the funding for these projects.

The point here is this: clean air isn't something I started working on four days ago, four weeks ago or even four months ago. For the past four years I've been working on behalf of all of Mason County—not for me, not for any special interest—so we can keep this place as special for our children as it has been for us.

Let me also say this: In my eleven years' service on the Shelton School Board and the past four years as county commissioner, I've never prejudged an issue before voting on it.

Our job is to always look at the facts and best information available and then make a decision in the best interest of the County. We have a process in place to ensure the health and safety of our community, and on this biomass issue the process is working. Questions are being asked, and that company is going to have to provide the answers. I don't think this issue is going to be settled by the August primary or even by November. This is a process that will continue for quite some time, so it's important to keep that in perspective.

It's important to remember that there is more to Mason County than just one issue. It takes experience to reach out to the different communities in all corners of the county, sound judgment to look at all the facts, and the ability to work together and get things done for Mason County.

When I asked for your vote four years ago, the stakes were high, and now I think the stakes are even higher. I'm asking for your support to keep Mason County moving forward, to say no to special interests, and to help Mason County stay on the right track.

Functions of the Assessor's Office

By Marcie Lohmeyer

Hello, my name is Marcie Lohmeyer and I am your candidate for Mason County Assessor. I would like to give you a better understanding of some of the mandated functions and duties of the Assessor's Office along with my qualifications for becoming your next Assessor.

It is the responsibility of the Assessor's Office to maintain a list of all real and personal property parcels in a county, including assessing parcels by determining the "market value" for the purpose of equitable distribution of tax liabilities within the boundaries of state law and maintain records of current ownership. The Assessor also calculates the taxing district's levies based on the various taxing district's budgets.

The Assessor must keep a detailed series of maps showing all parcel configurations for land within the county which includes divisions, combinations or boundary line adjustments filed with the county.

The Assessor applies the various property exemptions to parcels such as senior or disabled citizen exemptions, forest practice exemptions, historic properties, government owned properties and destroyed properties within the county.

As you can see there are many functions to the Assessor's Office. Our office maintains information for over 60,000 real and personal property parcels within Mason County.

Currently, the Assessor manages a staff of 15 employees. The Chief Appraiser oversees a staff of nine appraisers. The Assessor oversees a clerical staff of five which includes a levy clerk, data entry clerk, exemption clerk, land segregation deputy and a chief deputy.

My duties as a land segregation deputy include processing recorded conveyance documents pertaining to property ownership, boundary line adjustments, parcels combinations & separations, road right-of-ways, short plats, large lot subdivisions, new plats, current use & forest programs which redistribute property values. I review and process court decrees, quiet title actions (property dispute judgments), road vacations and property surveys. I also assist the public and other county departments with property inquiries. I have implemented training for new segregation employees & cross training of other employees. I prepare a monthly land segregation report for the state. I also assist the Assessor and Chief Appraiser with research and provide opinion on difficult matters.

My previous management experience includes supervising a specialized department in a retail store while attending college. My college background in accounting will enable me to manage an office with a balanced budget. I have successfully managed several family owned rentals along with an antique

business and a family owned construction business. In addition, I have raised a family of five children whom I am proud to state are either attending school (college & high school) or have successful careers.

I hope this information has been helpful in your understanding of the functions of the Assessor's Office and my qualifications for becoming your next Mason County Assessor. Please feel free to contact me with any additional questions at:
marcielohmeyer@hotmail.com.

Marcie Lohmeyer,

Candidate for Mason County Assessor
www.marcielohmeyerforassessor.com

A Plethora of PCO Candidates

By Marcia Hamilton

One of the goals of any PCO coordinator is to see all 57 Mason County Democratic PCO positions filled with actively engaged precinct committee officers. The last election's "write in" fiasco almost filled the slots, but we all know what happened then! This year, we are coming close to meeting our objective! At our chair's urging, we managed a successful process to find people in key precincts who wanted to run for PCO and who would file on time. I personally called each PCO (leaving too many messages) to find out if she or he would run again or not and if so, urged him/her to file immediately. So, except for some last minute boundary surprises, the result was that we have Democrats running in 40 precincts and need PCOs only in 17! Go team!

What made this process easier than ever this year was that, thanks to our efficient Auditor's office, candidates can now file on line! (Karen Herr and her staff trained Andrew and me how to do this the week before filing.) So, even though we said goodbye to outgoing outstanding PCOs Constance Ibsen (Union), Cathi Bright (Northside) Peggy Johnson (Skokomish), Janis Snoey (Oakland), and Dan Roy (Belfair 1), we are happy to welcome Andrea Love, Dale Bright, Roslynne Reed, Michael O'Day and Diane O'Neal running to replace them (respectively).

Also, returning to the fold are Jane Roush, Shelton 14, Vern Rutter

(Continued on page 4)

Mason County Democratic Women's Club Update

by Marilyn Sayan

Democratic Women's Club President / PCO 122 Miller

The next meeting of the Mason County Democratic Women's Club is scheduled for Wednesday, July 21, 2010, at El Sarape Restaurant in Gateway Center. The no-host lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. with the program following a short business meeting at noon. The Democratic candidates for County Commissioner, incumbent Ross Gallagher and challengers Laura Lewis and Brenda Hirschi, have been invited to speak to the group about their respective candidacies.

Last month, County Assessor candidates Melody Peterson and Marcie Lohmeyer gave the group an update on their campaigns. Both answered questions on various issues

posed by the group, including preparing for annual property assessments, staffing within the Assessor's office and other operational issues. It was an informative session which gave insight into how they would administer the office.

Next month's program should provide some opportunity to have the Commissioner candidates respond to questions you may have for them. Hope to see you there on July 21st.



Peace,
Marilyn Sayan

(Continued from page 3)

(Tahuya) and Brian Avery (Shelton 4). OFA volunteers Andrea Abruzzo (Belfair 4), Don Emmons (Cushman), Mandy Wendell (Dewatto) also threw in their hat, as did Daniel Frishman (Harstene) and Darren Lohmeyer (Southside) Laura Lewis (Shelton 4), Matri Edwards (Shelton 12) and Lonnie Rickard (Airport). So many new faces; so many new ideas. We look forward to the conversation!

So, after the election, we will still need PCOs for Arcadia, Belfair 6, Matlock, Mill Creek, Mount View, Satsop, Shelton 1, Shelton 2, Shelton 3, Shelton 5, Shelton 6, Shelton 7, Shelton 8, Shelton 9, Shelton 10, Shelton 15, and Westside.

If you know of any good Democrat who lives in any of those precincts, please let me know.
(marciahamilton@msn.com, 360-275-6701)

**Mason County Democrats
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Save the Date!

MCDCC Meeting,
Wednesday, July
14th at 7:00 p.m.