

The Mason County Democrat

"Neighbors Working Together"

Notes from the Chair

by John Piety

The speaker this month at the 6pm discussion on the 8th is Dean Foster. He will be explaining the redistricting process. After all this time, that process is done. See the new map in the office at 7th and Franklin. You may want to get to the PUD #3 conference room early as this could be a standing room only event!

Speaking of the office, there is a need for help on Sat, Mon, Wed and Fri. You will not be wasting your time. The list of tasks is long and will give everyone the ability to work to your strengths. Compared to the other party we have a bit of catching up—one of our opponents has been out door belling since the last election. A good working computer is ready, but bring your own if you have one, also good working phone lines. Plans for using all the latest techniques for keeping folks informed are being developed, and some of the old tried and true methods as well.

The plea above is a shout out that time is short! Right now all three Mason County Commissioner races are open. In District 2 our party, or irregulars, can have up to 4 candidates, in District 1 there is one declared and a couple of potentials and in District 3 I know two who have indicated they will run. The race for the really modified 35th Legislative District, where it includes Grand Mound and leaves out Grays Harbor, has at least three people who need our help and this

year different Mason County Citizens will have two individuals to help elect to the 6th and 10th Congressional Districts. If you come to the office we have photos of all the state wide candidates starting to fill one wall. Jay needs all our help as I believe there is no way his bank account will match his opponent's; I sure would like to be proven wrong. What this means is our party will only win if we get the people power going early like we did last year!

That means just in our party for commissioner we could have up to 8 possible candidates, and that's not counting the independents or the other folks. I have heard some of the Occupy people are beginning to understand that by electing good individuals it is possible to create effective changes. I invite any persons reading this note who have not attended party meetings to please come check us out. Bring your energy and ideas!

A card has been sent to our current list of active members about dues, due the end of this month; the Kennedy Dinner, 1st of April, 3 pm at Little Creek; and the caucus elections on the 15th of April at a school near you. If you did not receive this card please let me or Michael know as you may not be on our official

list. If not, we certainly want to include you and any active supporters you can bring as well.

I am calling all PCOs to get their input and I and others will be working through the current list we have of Democrats asking for your ideas about the party and what we all can do to get good people elected next year. Please help us with this survey. Also I would be very pleased to receive any communications, by snail mail or otherwise. If someone calls from the party please take the time to give them your thoughts about how to improve what the party has been trying to develop.

The process of collecting auction items for the 1st of April Kennedy Dinner will be ongoing until the event day. If you have items to donate please let someone from the party know so we can come and collect them.

Another request was for individuals to help prepare for the fast approaching caucuses. I think we now have school coordinators to run this event at each school. A PCO is the best individual for this as each PCO will be responsible for their precinct. We have made arrangements to reserve schools to house this event. It is just a matter selecting the best locations and then getting PCOs trained for running each caucus event. Please check the web site for details as we have them.

We are now asking members to pay dues for 2012. They are still \$25 for the year and are due by the end of February. It was recommended at the last meeting that we might bill for dues, so a card has been sent making this plea. Since the 2012 has begun, I would like to poll you readers for your comments on the subject of how we can get everyone to contribute to their party, with both money and time.

Upcoming Events

Wed, Feb 8, 7:00 pm—MCDCC regular meeting at Shelton's PUD3. Preceded by an open discussion at 6:00 pm.

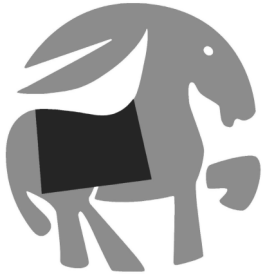
Wed, Feb 15, 11:30 am—Mason County Democratic Women's Club at El Sarape Restaurant in Shelton.

Mon, Feb 20, 6:30 pm—DemoChat at MCDCC's office at 7th and Franklin in Shelton. (Mason County Chapter of Drinking Liberally - NOT affiliated with MCDCC).



Deadline for articles, news, letters and photos for the February 2012 issue of the MCDCC Newsletter is 5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb 22.





News from Around the Region

By Jane Roush

County and City:

The annual meeting of city and county officials with representatives of the congressional delegation and state legislature took place on January 5th at the county public works office. The discussions centered on the priority of funding and other issues for the 2012 sessions. The three city commissioners, county commissioner Steve Bloomfield, Rep Kathy Haigh (35th LD) and representatives of Senators Murray and Cantwell, Rep Norm Dicks and the Governor were present.

County: Steve led off by introducing Charlie Butros, director of Public Works. Charlie talked about the proposed Hwy 3 changes including the Johns Prairie interchange and public records requests. John Keats, Tom Moore and John Cunningham of Utilities and Parks then talked about the Belfair Waste Water System project, wetland problems and other similar projects. Debbie Riley of Public Health discussed the need for permanent funding for community and family health services and surface water quality issues. Sheriff Casey Salisbury also talked about public records requests, early release of offenders into the community with no supervision, and the rising cost of medical treatment for offenders. The priority list for the county was: **Environmental Health, Public Records and Safety.**

City: Gary Cronce, the mayor of Shelton, introduced Steve Goins, the Community and Economic Development and Public Works director. He in turn introduced Mike Michael, the City Engineer. Mike talked about several projects including the Franklin Street Improvement project and the proposed K St Project. Mike also discussed the issue of local entities having to match grant funds when the city/county are in such financial binds. He suggested either the state/federal temporarily ease or cancel the requirements of matching funds for selected projects. Steve presented a slide show on the Shelton Heights project. There are still problems to be worked on for this project including cleaning up Goose Lake and the opposition of the port to the

project. The city's priorities were: **public records, sales tax and the large increase number of court cases for indigent people increasing the court costs.**

The city officials did not address the problem of the sales tax or court costs until this point in the meeting. Last year the city residents passed a sales tax earmarked for safety. The Dept of Revenue has collected the tax but will not give the funds to the city. It was not explained why the state will not turn over the funds. It was also not made clear why the costs for the court for indigent residents are increasing (I must assume it is the economic decline).

Two port officials were present – Jay Hupp and Dick Taylor. Jay said the port gave the city/PUD3 (I couldn't hear very well) \$160,000 in 16" pipe for the Johns Prairie water main. Jay said the port also gave another \$10,000 in pipe to put the water into MCRA softball fields. The port wants the federal government to give them \$500,000. The port will use the fund to buy pipe to hook up the businesses on port property in the John Prairie area.

Anyway, Kathy, Sara Crum and the other representatives all said the same thing – **THERE IS NO MONEY THIS YEAR.** With the end of this exchange I left.

Citizens United (again)

The decision by the US Supreme Court in 2010 has spawned lawsuits. Here is a summary of a couple of them.

In August 2011, the US District Court for the District of Columbia dismissed a case brought by two foreign nationals (Canadians) in the US on temporary work visas. One person wanted to contribute to a political party, print flyers in support of a candidate and pass them out in Central Park NYC. The other person wanted to make contributions to the conservative "Club for Growth."* Legal representatives for the two men argued that the law forbidding foreign nationals to give political contributions was similar to the Citizens United decision - the First Amendment rights were violated. The district court said

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MCDCC Executive Committee

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there was a line between lawful permanent resident and other foreigners and that foreign citizens did not have a right to make contributions to influence American elections. The US Supreme Court in late December quietly upheld the decision.

*Club for Growth – “The primary tactic of the separate Club for Growth PAC is to provide financial support from Club members to viable candidates to Congress who believe in pro-growth policies, limited government, low taxes and economic freedom, both in Republican primaries and general elections.” Source: www.clubforgrowth.org

Source: *New York Times*, January 9, 2012, “Supreme Court Retains Ban on Foreign Campaign Contributions,” by John H Cushman Jr.

The most interesting lawsuit is the decision by the Montana State Supreme Court that Montana election laws limiting contributions and expenditures in statewide and local initiatives, ballot measure and candidate races were still valid. The Montana Supreme Court said the Citizens United decision is limited in its application to Presidential and congressional races in Montana. The election law was passed in Montana in 1912. Prior to that time the state had a long history of big business buying elections and candidates. In late December 2011 five of the seven justices on the Montana Supreme Court voted to keep the election law intact saying the long history of corporations buying power in the state elections was still important to the citizens of Montana. They said that Montana is a small state and a successful candidate for a US Senate seat only spent \$17,000 in a recent election. A sixth justice said clearly a corporation is not a person, but felt the decision of the US Supreme Court should be upheld until overturned. The justice wrote an eight page report outlining why he thought the Citizens United decision was bad. The American Tradition Partnership brought the lawsuit, which is expected to be appealed to the US Supreme Court. Hurray for the Montana Supreme Court.

Sources: *The National Law Journal*, January 5, 2012, “Montana Supreme

Court Defies Citizens United Ruling, by Amanda Bronstad”; *Seattle Times*, January 6, 2012, “Montana puts Supreme Court’s corporate-cash ruling on notice,” by Kim Murphy.

Ring around the District

By Linda Ring Erickson

On October 1st, I announced that instead of running for a third term as Mason County Commissioner, I will be running for State Representative in the 35th District to fill the seat that Rep. Fred Finn is vacating.

I’m proud of what we’ve been able to accomplish since being elected as your County Commissioner in 2004. We’ve worked very hard to streamline the delivery of government services, to improve public safety, upgrade county infrastructure, grow a healthy reserve balance and foster a positive environment for job creation and business growth.

As state representative, my top priority will be jobs, jobs and jobs. With dwindling revenue into state coffers, the only way to turn things around is to grow our way out through business development and job creation. This requires leaders who can set priorities, make tough decisions and find new ways of solving problems. That’s the same thing we’ve done here in Mason County.

It has been a privilege to work with Rep. Finn on many of the transportation issues in the 35th. His work on the Belfair Bypass has meant that the project has been kept in the forefront. I will work to make sure this project continues to move forward. Projects like this ensure the economic stability and viability of our region.

We face increasing pressures to keep our water clean, provide adequate transportation and fund our educational system. I will work for positive change, sensible priorities, balance and fairness.

I will see many of you throughout this campaign and hope we have the opportunity to talk about the issues. In the mean time, please visit my website at www.ringfor35th.com for more information, and remember the 35th District is my Special Interest.

Dean Foster, February Speaker

By Pat Kevin

This month we are pleased to have Dean Foster House Democratic appointee to the State Redistricting Commission. He will speak to the state redistricting. He graduated from the University of Washington and during high school and college worked for the State Senate and participated in redistricting. He has served as Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives (1973 to 1984); Co-Chief Clerk (1979 to 1981 and 1999) and chief of staff for Governor Booth Gardner (1984 to 1993). He has had active career in our state government and his background and current participation in redistricting. Don’t miss this speaker it will be an interesting experience. He will speak at 6 PM at the February 8th MCDCC meeting at PUD #3.

Mason County Democratic Women's Club Update

by Marilyn Sayan

Democratic Women's Club President / PCO 122 Miller



The next meeting of the Democratic Women's Club is set for Wednesday, February 15, 2012 at El Sarape Restaurant. As you probably know, we cancelled our January meeting because of all the beautiful white stuff on the ground. So we're going to try again to hear from Terri Shaw of our local Mason County Senior Activities Center about the Center's current activities and the organization's capital campaign for a new facility at the old PUD complex. Lunch begins at 11:30 am with the program following a short business meeting at noon.

I don't have a lot to report this month because the weather seems to have put so many activities on hold. I do want to remind everyone about Turning Pointe's upcoming Honest Abe Brewhouse Bash Fundraiser scheduled for Friday, February 17th from 5-9 pm at the Grove Street Brewhouse. As in years past, there will be silent and

live auctions, raffle prizes and live music. Proceeds will go to help Turning Pointe continue with the critical services provided by our local domestic violence shelter. Your support of these efforts is both needed and appreciated.

Hope to see you at lunch on February 15th as well as at the Brewhouse on February 17th!

Peace,
Marilyn Sayan

JEFF DAVIS CAMPAIGN REPORT

By Jeff Davis

What a month it has been on the campaign trail! I've been busy from Bremerton to Tumwater and Lake Cushman to Harstine Island meeting with many wonderful folks and talking about issues. From business owners to wage earners, educators and those who work in natural resources, I've heard the concerns of many, as well as solutions to some of the great challenges we are facing. I want to tell you, I'm working hard to be able to bring these solutions to life in the legislature.

Our campaign received some big endorsements this past month, two of which I will highlight here. I am truly honored that former State Representative Bill "Ike" Eickmeyer has endorsed my campaign. Eickmeyer stated, "After looking at the candidates for State Representative in the 35th District, I believe Jeff Davis is by far the most qualified person for the job and will be

a good Representative for this very diverse district. His common sense approach to problem solving and his genuine interest in hearing what people have to say will serve the citizens of this district well."

Mark Biggs, current Chair of the 35th District Democrats, has joined Representative Eickmeyer in supporting my campaign. I am doubly honored to have both of them on board as we move forward.

I look forward to an invigorating year of working with all of you to advance our goals and our future for the 35th District.

Jeff Davis, candidate for State Representative, 35th District, Pos. 2 (D)

Seeking Resolutions and Platform Changes

By Linda Thomson

Resolutions call for action based on something that we perceive needs to be changed, and is fairly timely. A **Platform** plank is a statement of principles, and is somewhat more enduring.

A proposed Resolution should include the current situation ("Whereas" clauses, 1-5 reasons for proposed action), to whom addressed (who should take action?), and action proposed (a single "Therefore" clause). You may or may not give a title, and please put your name and phone number at the bottom for committee use.

Prior to the Precinct Caucuses (4/15/12), please send your resolution and/or platform ideas via email to the Resolutions Committee through the committee chair (Linda.thomson7201@gmail.com). Each caucus group may discuss and vote, but it is only necessary for one precinct to approve something for it to go forward.

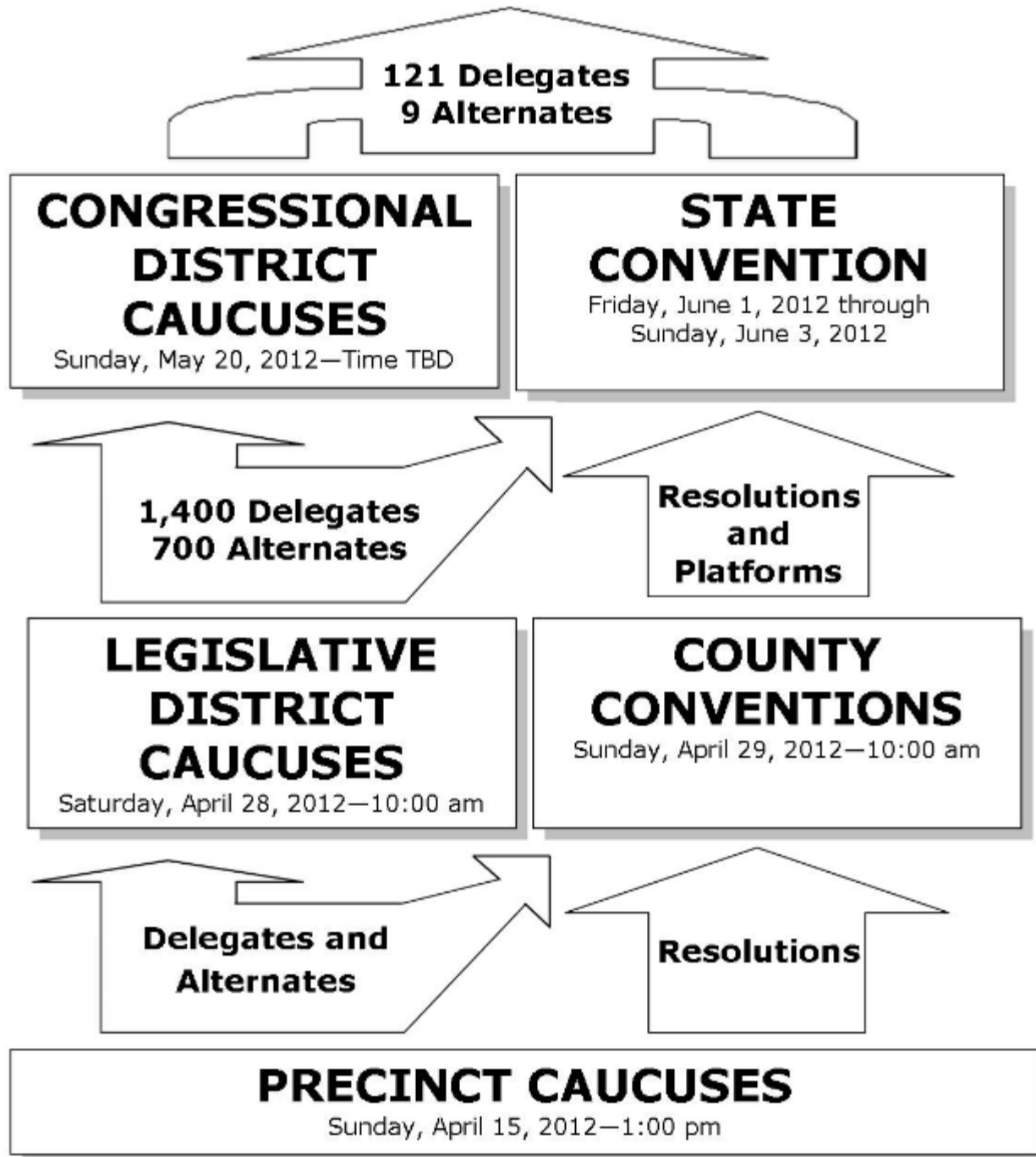
After caucuses, the Resolutions & Platform Committee will meet and may combine similar ideas, alter wording, will recommend "do pass" or "do not pass," and may also put together a new Platform proposal.

At the County Convention (4/29/12), we will be presenting and voting on Resolutions and an updated Platform.

--2012 Resolutions & Platform Committee (Linda Thomson, Adrienne Amar, Linda Amar, Andi Abruzzo)

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

September 3-6, 2012 - Charlotte, NC



For more information: <http://www.wa-democrats.org/caucuses>

State Meeting Report

By Adrienne Amar

Our state meeting at Little Creek Casino got off to a spirited start Friday evening with a welcome gathering hosted by the 35th Legislative District and the four counties that comprise it. The hospitality suites that followed provided folks with the opportunity to get to know more about candidates for state offices and some local elections.

Saturday started bright and early with caucuses for affinity groups and committee meetings. There was an excellent presentation at lunch which drew parallels between the economic downturn of 2007-2008 and the great depression of 1929. There are scary similarities between then and now, the lack of government oversight and regulation of banks and other financial institutions being chief among them.

The business meeting of the state party commenced after lunch and went very smoothly. We reelected our representatives to the national committee (DNC) by acclamation. We had an election of Congressional District Representatives to the executive board of the state party. I'm pleased to announce that Cathy Bright was reelected by acclamation in the 6th C.D. Caucus. We considered 13 Resolutions brought before the body by the Resolutions Committee. Four of the resolutions were tabled until our next meeting, The remaining resolutions addressed issues ranging from protection of the Integrated Water Resource Management Plan in Yakima to support for Same Sex Marriage and a motion to amend the U.S. Constitution limiting the definition of person to real, breathing humans as opposed to corporations.

If anyone has questions or wants more details about the state meeting. they can contact me at amar46@gmail.com for more details.

Caucus and Convention Cycle

By Cathi Bailey Bright

The caucus and convention cycle is about to get into full swing for the 2012 Presidential Election. If you haven't been to a caucus before, please consider attending this year. It is a fabulous opportunity for Democrats to meet their like-minded neighbors and not only show support for our candidate, but discuss issues that are important to us at the local, state, and federal level.

The Democratic National Convention will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina. As you may remember, winning North Carolina was a coup for President Obama in 2008 and is vital to his re-election this year. If you are interested in being a delegate to the national convention, you need to know that the first delegates will be selected at the Congressional District Caucuses on May 20. Delegates to the State Convention, elected at our County Convention, will vote to select them. The At Large delegates are elected by the members of the Washington State Democrats Central Committee who represent the legislative districts at the State Convention the first weekend in June in Seattle.

Confused? 27th LD State Committeeman Dean Ando is organizing a workshop called "The Road to Charlotte" to be held on March 31st in Tacoma. Details will follow as they become available. This is a perfect opportunity for Democrats to learn more about the caucus and convention cycle.

A link to the schedule of meetings is below. This is an exciting time to be a Democrat and we hope to see you at the Precinct Caucuses April 15th!

<http://www.wa-democrats.org/caucuses>



Elephant Limericks

By Denny Hamilton

Give it up for Rickie Santoram
Conservative views...he's all for them
He stands hard on the right
And puts up a fight
But, gladly, most people ignore him

And then there is Governor Rick Perry
Whose views on most things are scary
Education he'd close,
But not the death rows,
With him it is best to be wary

And let's not forget Congressman Paul
His way is to get rid of it all
If government faces his test
He'd argue NONE is the best
He'd set us all up for a fall.

Oh wonderful Minnesota Michelle
She's got quite a story to tell
She has risen to fame
Playing the Tea Party's game
"Raise a tax and you'll go to hell"

I know you are wondering about Newt
Just ask, he'll say he's a beaut
Freddie Mac? Fannie May?
He showed them the way
You lost your house and he walked with the loot.

Sometimes the frontrunner is Mitt
But there are some things that don't fit
His positions reverse
Now health care's is a curse
He may be a loser, but he is still in it

What a wonder was citizen Cain
For a while he was pulling the train
Not to worry was the code
But he was about to implode
For treating women with disdain

What about that fella named John
He's not in Iowa and...he's not gone
He's doing his show
In the New Hampshire snow
Just wait till he turns the heat on.

The unending debates dulled the senses
Each one trying to explain their offenses