

The Mason County Democrat

"Neighbors Working Together"

Notes from the Chair

by John Piety

Welcome to the Mason County Democratic Party Newsletter. If you could provide some feedback on what you read or hear it would help us organize for future articles and comments.

For interested Democratic readers we plan to increase the number of opportunities for you to help support all your local Democrats, and some like Jay Inslee, immediately!

I think we have located some good space that can be our new office. It will be a good place to make calls and organize to help our Democratic candidates! It is time to look at your calendars and begin planning for the time we will need folks to staff at the office.

A process has been developed to have outside speakers at our 6pm discussion sessions. This will give everyone an opportunity to participate during the hour before our regular meetings. Last month we had an excellent presentation on school boards by Sue McCausland, Chair of Shelton School Board. Those present had some excellent questions. Next month, on the 12th the speaker will be

from the League of Women Voters.

I continue to ask Democrats reading this newsletter to attend the general meeting. It is hard for me to believe most of you do not understand why attendance is important. So few actually participate. The only way we can effectively change the system is to be part of an organization. I would like to see our party become one of the most effective change agents in the county. There are other groups trying to do good work in the county, but I believe with your help we can do the best job.

The possibility of providing day care for parents wanting to attend meetings with their kids is becoming very real. The space is available; it is now necessary to work out the logistics and any potential legal issues.

I hope most readers are keeping up with the redistricting. The *Tacoma News Tribune* has had some good discussion about this issue. In fact the editorial today

was a plea for why Norm should not be redistricted out of Tacoma. I think this entire process is extremely interesting and it will impact all of us. One possible outcome is to put both leaders of the 35th Legislative District out of the area they are currently responsible for. Another possibility is to extend the 35th all the way out to Ocean Shores. That is a two hour drive just to start door belling. These changes will have a big impact.

The selection of future PCO's is still under discussion by the state party. Once the issue has been decided I will be contacting all our current members to discuss the status of this issue to make sure everyone understands what will be expected in the future.

It will be necessary to elect three county commissioners in 2012. That alone is a task for which your current party needs a great deal of support to insure those elected are Democrats. With your support and contributions this is a task we can accomplish.

I ask you read the note asking for office contributions and if you can help in some way please do so!

We are still collecting our \$25 dues if you have not had a chance yet.



Upcoming Events

Wed, Oct 12, 7:00 pm—MCDCC regular meeting at Shelton's PUD3. Preceded by an open discussion at 6:00 pm.

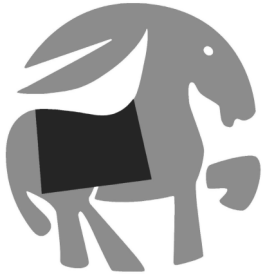
Mon, Oct 17th, 6:30 pm—DemoChat at El Sarape in Shelton. (Mason County Chapter of Drinking Liberally - NOT affiliated with MCDCC).

Wed, Oct 19, 11:30 am—Mason County Democratic Women's Club at El Sarape in Shelton



Deadline for articles, news, letters and photos for the November 2011 issue of the MCDCC Newsletter is 5 p.m. Friday, Oct 21.





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

**Mason County Commissioner
Lynda Ring-Erickson An-
nounces Run for 35th District
State House Seat**

Mason County – Mason County Commissioner Lynda Ring-Erickson announced today that she will not seek a third term as County Commissioner, but rather will run as a Democrat for the 35th District State Representative seat being vacated by Fred Finn.

Ring-Erickson said that she is proud of what she's accomplished as County Commissioner. "It has been such an honor to serve the citizens of Mason County and I am proud of what we've been able to accomplish." She points to efforts to reinvent and streamline the delivery of vital government services, improve public safety, upgrade county infrastructure, and generate a positive environment for job creation and business growth as some of her biggest accomplishments. "Tough economic times require leaders to set priorities, innovate, and just say no to the things we can't afford. We've been able to do that here in Mason County without shifting the burden to taxpayers."

Looking to her race for State Representative, Ring-Erickson praised the work of Fred Finn. "I want to thank Representative Finn for his hard work and service to the people of the 35th District. He has served us with honor and distinction and I hope to carry on that tradition."

"As State Representative, my top three issues will be jobs, jobs, and jobs," said Ring-Erickson. "With dwindling revenue into the state coffers, the only way to turn things around is to grow our way out through business growth and job creation. The answer is not to over burden taxpayers who are already struggling to make ends meet. The solution requires lead-

ers 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." She said her other priorities include education and technical training, the sound stewardship of our natural resources, transportation improvements including long-term stability to our ferry system, and standing up for senior citizens and veterans.

Lynda Ring-Erickson grew up in Grays Harbor County and has had a diverse professional career including working as a police and probation officer, a Senior Policy Analyst for the City of Olympia, the Director of Community Relations for the Shelton School District, and Executive Director of the Suburban Cities Association of King County. She has been active in many civic organizations including Mason Matters, Mason County Literacy, Mason County Law and Justice Working Team, Shelton Rotary, and the League of Women Voters. Lynda has also served on numerous boards and commissions including the Washington Sentencing Guidelines Commission, the Washington Sex Offender Policy Board, the Washington Forensic Advisory Council, and the Washington Association of Counties.

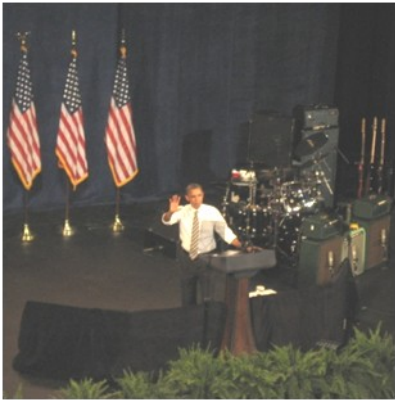
The 35th Legislative District includes all of Mason and portions of Kitsap, Thurston, and Grays Harbor Counties. Lynda and her husband, Dr. Gerry Ring-Erickson, have one daughter and live in unincorporated Mason County.

For Interviews

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OFA Appreciates its Volunteers

By Marcia Hamilton



When I found out at the last minute that three OFA volunteers would have a chance to see the President speak in Seattle at the Paramount theater, I didn't miss a beat to suggest Jane Roush and Larry and Laurel King....and then I found out there were ten more tickets and even families could come (so I invited Denny and Elizabeth)! I called and emailed and invited the bunch of us who do canvasses, phone-banking, and other OFA-ish sorts of things. We got a great group together. But there were some real disappointments! At the top of the list of those who couldn't make it were Jane, Adrienne, Linda, Andi, Guyla, Elizabeth, Mary Walton, Jeff Gislason and Jill Sheehan. It took the rest of the week to organize the final list!

A large contingent could and did get to it and we were quite excited. The day before, I ended up going to the theater to pick up a pile tickets to distribute to our folks and some for those invited from Kitsap, Pierce, Clark Thurston counties. Each person's name had been certified and double-checked and each ticket picked up was verified and checked on two different lists at the box office as I stood there. These tickets were like gold!

Our crew from Mason and Kitsap met on the ferry in the cafeteria. We were in a festive mood, all dressed up. The Obama fans, sporting our Obama buttons and little American flags (thanks Larry) shared the cafeteria with SEAHAWK fans, sporting their wild SEAHAWK attire. As both groups slurped coffee and talked about chances, opponents and victory down the line, OFA volunteers arrived. I handed out tickets and checked them off our list.

WHEW, only ten more to meet in line at the theater.

Once in line (which ultimately stretched down Pine Street more blocks than I could see—the theater seats over 2800), with a silly blue silk rose stuck in my hair as the clue to who I was, I waited and texted and received calls from the folks still on their way. And except for saying that I was on PIKE street instead of PINE street, which of course caused them a bit of confusion and delay, all went well. Priscilla was everywhere, solving problems, putting stars on priority tickets (ours!) and troubleshooting. Finally, after only a little more than an hour of waiting, the line began to move. There had been sunshine on our shoulders, and then the clouds rolled in. Of course, it began to POUR just as we were about to reach the shelter of the theater's canopy. Denny used his jacket to shield three of us and Sheri found a delightful man from Vashon who shared his umbrella. We didn't mind. We were going to see the President of the United States, *in person!*

Upstairs at last, Jeremy directed us to some very very good seats in the middle of the first balcony. What a lovely theater. I looked around but could not pick out everyone from our team in the sea of faces. We had lost Libby, Brian, Mark, Michael and all the Thurston folks. JFK went to get coffee. Downstairs folks who had paid 1000 bucks for lunch sat at round tables. We could see our Representatives—Jay Inslee, Norm Dicks. Finally Amy (the new OFA Northwest Regional Director) came on stage and got the ball rolling with a presentation about OFA as an organization and activities planned for the campaign. I think it was she who asked everyone to find and sign the 2012 I'M IN! card on their seat. (We're calling it the Supporter card, because IM IN sounds too much like, you guessed it...that Tim Eyman guy!)

Amy then introduced the Governor who received a standing ovation. She spoke about how she had been one of the first to endorse Barack Obama for President and how the Federal and State governments had worked hand-in-hand on

recovery. She then went into detail about how Washington State had benefited from the economic stimulus. She gave some statistics: 70,000 jobs were created or saved; \$2.7 billion were invested in clean energy through the Recovery Act; 3; 158,563 people in Washington continued on unemployment; 70,000 loans were issued to small business through the SBA; 3,000,000 residents with pre-existing conditions could apply for coverage under ACA (and one of them, my Elizabeth, was given coverage); and \$523,337,845 had been invested in higher education. The list went on! She described the agony of the State budget-cutting process and said how the stimulus money had given Washington State time to prepare for the cuts to come. The audience was stirred by her speech and clapped whole heartedly when she mentioned Jay Inslee as her successor!

Then the very very good Robert Cray band came on and played four bluesy songs. And then we waited—and waited and waited for the President. We knew he was in the building. In fact we knew he was back stage because all of the people who had paid for the fundraiser lunch were lined up to pass back stage and get a photo with him. (Katherine actually suggested that there be a video or slide show in readiness to show during hiatuses like that and I passed the idea on to Dustin who thought it was a great idea!) People were chatting and enjoying the atmosphere. Most of the audience was patient, although hungry, as the food for sale had run out early. We were very well behaved, given that we were starving!

Two men then came out. Had I been a basketball fan I would have recognized them. Denny did immediately. They were two Hall of Famers, Lenny Wilkens and Bill Russell, who Denny said was one of the greatest players of all time. They talked about their continued support and the need for ours. They introduced the President as one of the guys on their team! And as he came up to the podium, he was dwarfed by Russell. The metaphor of the day was basketball. We were a team and we were going to win. The audience stood and yelled, "Yes we can, Yes we can! Yes, we can!"

The president motioned for us to sit down. We wouldn't comply. Finally,

(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 Democratic Women's Club is set for Wednesday, October 19, 2011 at El Sarape Restaurant; the no-host luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m. and the program immediately follows a short business meeting at noon. Superior Court Judge Amber Finlay will speak to us about the judicial system within Mason County. I'm looking forward to an informative session.

In addition to hearing from Judge Finlay, I'm sure there will be some talk about the activity we're hearing about regarding the 2012 elections. I'd like to suggest that we take a few minutes later in the meeting to

look into how the Women Demos can be the most helpful to our candidates. I believe it's imperative that we keep President Obama in office and I'm sure there are things we can do to help those efforts as well as keeping like-minded Democrats in our state and local offices. So give some thought to what you might be able to do toward that goal.

Hope to see you on October 19th!

Peace,
Marilyn

(Continued from page 3)

we did. He began to speak—in his shirt sleeves, in full campaign mode—to us, his team. He thanked Bill and Lenny and talked about his deep admiration for them and spoke about basketball, the meaning of a team. He briefly summarized what we had accomplished nationally, and noted the obstructive posture of that other party—to the detriment of the country. He focused on the Jobs Bill and what it could do to help our country and State. He reiterated again and again that we were *Americans*, and that as *Americans* we *care* about each other. He added that we are not Republicans and Democrats without jobs, we are *Americans* without jobs. When he brought up the Buffett millionaire tax plan, the audience stood, whistled and roared with approval. Without even returning to the tax levels of the early nineties, rich individuals and corporations can pay for the new jobs. He asked for our help to win. He asked us to join the team and get to work. We applauded wildly as he left the stage.

On the way to the parking lot John K was interviewed by Channel 13 FOX news...and Greg Case said his spot had been aired! Then, in the car on the drive home, Teri said the message the President left with us was, "we all need to contribute our fair share," and Jill added, "we're not done yet." We found out on the Radio that the SEAHAWKS had been victorious that day! A portent of things to come. Go TEAM! GO-BAMA.

PS. We need folks to register voters, make calls. Volunteer to reelect the President! Call me at 360-275-6701 or email me at marciahamilton@msn.com. Come to our next OFA meeting at the Grove Street Brewery on October 12 at 5:00 and check out www.mybarackobama.com.