

The DemoChat

The Official 33rd Legislative District Democrats Newsletter
Volume 4, Issue 7, July 2008

July General Meeting

Monday, July 21, 2008

Normandy Park Congregational Church
19247 First Avenue South
Normandy Park, Washington

AGENDA

- 7:00 p.m. Call to order, approval of agenda and minutes
7:15 p.m. PCO Training, featuring Dave Upthegrove, Karen Keiser, Matt Arnold of the Darcy Burner Campaign, Evan Miller from the Obama Campaign, and Lionel Ford.

PCO Training on July 21

On Monday, July 21st, the 33rd District Democrats will host a PCO Training for all PCOs of the 33rd District.

State Representative Dave Upthegrove will run the event, discussing how PCO's can utilize the voter file and "Beyond the doorbelling".

Karen Keiser (confirmation still pending) will be on hand to talk about doorbelling techniques.

Matt Arnold, Field Director for the Darcy Burner campaign, will speak on "Lessons from the campaign trail".

Evan Miller, from the Obama Campaign and Coordinated Campaign, will speak about "How to get involved in the coordinated campaign".

Lionel Forde will be available to provide voter file passwords for those PCOs who do not yet have one.

PCO handbooks, tips and tricks, and munchies will be available. So don't miss out!

Thoughts From Our Next President

(I'm taking the month off from the editorial column. In the meantime, here are some excerpts from *The Audacity of Hope*, which I'm currently reading. I hope that they provide some food for thought, hope, and inspiration, as they have done already for me.)

**Omaha Sternberg, DemoChat Editor
33rd District Democrats**

"Still, when I ponder the work of a George Kennan or a George Marshall, when I read the speeches of a Bobby Kennedy or an Everett Dirksen, I can't help feeling that the politics of today suffers from a case of arrested development. For these men, the issues America faced were never abstract and hence never simple. War might be hell and still the right thing to do. Economies could collapse despite the best-laid plans. People could work hard all their lives and still lose everything."

"But for those of us who believe that government has a role to play in promoting opportunity and prosperity for all Americans, a polarized electorate isn't good enough... What's needed is a broad majority of Americans—Democrats, Republicans, and independents of goodwill—who are reengaged in the project of national renewal, and who see their own self-interest as inextricably linked to the interests of others."

"The first time I saw the White House was in 1984... Standing on Pennsylvania Avenue, a few feet away from the Marine guard station at the main entrance, with pedestrians weaving along the sidewalk and traffic whizzing behind us, I marveled... at the fact that it was so exposed to the hustle and bustle of the city; that we were allowed to stand so close to the gate... The openness of the White House said something about our confidence as a democracy, I thought. It embodied the notion that our leaders were not so different from us; that they remained subject to laws and our collective consent.

"Twenty years later, getting close to the White House wasn't so simple. Checkpoints, armed guards, vans, mirrors, dogs, and retractable barricades now sealed off a two-block perimeter around the White House. On a cold January afternoon, the day before my swearing in to the Senate... I felt a glancing sadness at what had been lost."

from *The Audacity of Hope*
By Barack Obama

General Membership Meeting

Minutes
June 16, 2008

Meeting Opening

Chair Tim Clark called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. Tim called on Marge Henry to lead us in the Flag salute. Minutes of last month's meeting were approved. Omaha had a correction to add in regard to a new member's name: the correct spelling is John Corr.

Endorsement Committee

Candidates wishing to obtain the endorsement of 33rd Democrats were given the floor.

Superior Court Judges:

Laura Gene Middaugh – Position 26

Jean Bouffard – Position 10

Les Ponomarchuk – Position 10

Nic Corning – Position 37

State Treasurer Candidate Jim McIntire

Jim McIntire has a PHD in economics and has a private economic consulting practice with a national company. He has been on the faculty of the UW's Evans School of Public Affairs since 1983, where he teaches economics, government and budgeting.

Secretary of State Candidate Jason Osgood

Jason Osgood oversaw Washington's very own election meltdown in 2004. In 2005, Sam Reed certified the Diebold touch screens and other secret vote counting computers. These machines are flawed. Jason is a professional software developer and a self described geek. At the certification hearing, Jason testified against using black box voting systems in Washington State but was ignored.

Superintendent of Public Instruction Terry Bergeson

Terry Bergeson shared her goals and passion to improve the lives of children in Washington State. She is working toward reducing the drop-out rate and improving math competence. Questions from the members included concerns about the lack of career and technical/trade instruction and how the 'No child left behind' program seems to more about ruining publicly funded education than insuring that children receive a quality education. Terry agreed that "No child left behind' needs to be fixed and that she also wants to provide quality education to students who are not on a path to college.

Endorsements Passed by the Body

After evaluating the candidates requesting endorsements, the committee made these recommendations: The 33rd Democrats endorse Jim McIntire, Jason Osgood, Laura Gene Middaugh (endorsed before), dual for Pos 10: Jean Bouffard and Regina Cahan (who spoke last week), and Nic Corning for Pos 37. Endorsement of Terry Bergeson was tabled until the members had a chance to review the other candidates, especially Randy Dorn.

Congressman Adam Smith

Alex from Adam Smith's campaign provided information on volunteer opportunities.

State Representative Dave Upthegrove

Dave Upthegrove has a republican opponent this election cycle but he will also be spending his time and resources campaigning for Tina and Christine Gregoire. Because of this, Dave needs volunteers to help with administrative tasks. Please volunteer! Speaking of campaigning, Dave actively campaigned to be one of the delegates for Obama. He succeeded in his mission and will be at the convention in Denver this August. Congratulations!

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State Representative Candidate Tina Orwall

Tina Orwall also has a republican opponent. Tina invited us to a fund raiser being held for her at Helen Kludt's house. Get a Tina Orwall button and wear it proudly!

Evan Miller of the Coordinated Campaigns

Evan Miller represents the coordinated campaigns of our democratic candidates and is organizing voter registration drives.

Puget Sound Partnership

Recent legislation created a new state agency with the help of Dave Upthegrove. The new agency is a community effort of citizens, governments, tribes, scientists and businesses working together to restore and protect Puget Sound.

Despite its size, Puget Sound is ecologically delicate; and while its symptoms of trouble are not easily visible, they are undeniable and getting worse. One major cause of current pollution is Stormwater runoff. Stormwater poses a high risk to the health of Puget Sound by causing two major problems. First, stormwater transports a mixture of pollutants such as petroleum products, heavy metals, animal waste and sediments from construction sites, roads, highways, parking lots, lawns and other developed lands. Second, during the wet, winter months, high stormwater flows, especially long-lasting high flows, can cause flooding, damage property, and harm fish and wildlife habitat.

The charge given to the Puget Sound Partnership by Governor Gregoire and the Legislature is to create a real Action Agenda that creates solutions to known problems and leads to a healthy Puget Sound. As with other initiatives, funding is a real issue. Policy decisions and budget considerations will be the main drivers. This agency will work with charitable organizations so that resources are used wisely.

Legislative News

Bob Loeliger read the preamble to the democratic values and gave a brief update on the legislative platform.

Chair's Report/Announcements

Registrar's Report:

Paulette reported that there were 43 members present. New members accepted today were James Langston, Karen Smith and Don Cone. Accepted as a new PCO was Mary Ann Schwarz.

Treasurer's Report:

No Treasurer's Report was presented.

Good of the order

Paulette made an announcement inviting everyone to the International Festival Parade in SeaTac on Saturday, June 28th, at 10:30 am. Also, the Burien Strawberry and Arts Festival is the weekend of June 28th to 29th. Kent Cornucopia days are from July 11th to 13th.

Florence presented the raffle prizes.

Tim adjourned the meeting at 9:30. Next month's meeting will be on July 21st at 7:00 PM

Making Change Happen, Part II

Evidently, as we look forward to the election of 2008, global climate change is now a reality even for the Republican, er, GOP party. But just as evident is the importance of voting Democratic this year. Case in point: a *non-existent*

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environmental program cloaked in language to disguise its assault on fuel alternatives, cleaner air, forest preservation, greenhouse gas reduction, and the value of human health and life.

The old mainstay cry, “We **must** drill for oil in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge!” is heard again as gas prices rise. McCain now favors drilling along the coastal shorelines, whereas he voted in the past against opening ANWR. But leave that to the energy discussion. The Bush “Blue Skies” initiative to amend the Clean Air Act would have allowed 125% more sulfur dioxide, 68% more nitrogen oxide, and 420 % more mercury than current law. And sadly, civil environmental penalties are down almost 50%, the number of pounds of pollution to be cleaned up is down 20%, as the EPA is conducting 3000 fewer inspections each year. Remember the Superfund which was supposed to make major polluters pay for the cleanup. That fund is now basically broke given the number of discovered sites yet to be serviced. Could this be related to the actions of the Republican Congress, in the year following the 2000 election, to reduce the budget for EPA inspectors by 25% making maintaining existing investigations difficult, and launching new ones difficult to even entertain?

The Clinton administration worked hard to establish a middle ground for timber lands, finally passing the “Roadless Rule” to protect 60 million acres of national forest from additional road-building and development. Bush painted this as an environmental land grab and tried to overturn it. Sued by environmental groups, Bush lost in 2002 to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. So, he reinstated it with footnotes exempting millions of acres of undeveloped forest in Alaska’s Tongass National Forest and announced that no environmental impact statement would be necessary because “there would be no significant environmental impact.” He also encouraged requests from state governors to further relax the restrictions on road building and logging in those states’ national forest lands. This was followed by his “Healthy Forests Initiative” for fire-prevention. The centerpiece of the plan would allow logging companies to cut large-diameter trees from the middle of forest in exchange for thinning trees and brush near residential areas.

Yet another example of the war on the environment is the recent devaluation of the value of a human life by the EPA. This is a formula figure to determine the cost benefit analysis of the effects of a new regulation which lowered the \$7.8 million figure to \$6.9 million. In effect, it made it more difficult for the agency, whose mission is to protect the environment, to do its job.

The failure of the Bush administration to sign the Kyoto Treaty to begin addressing greenhouse gases has been examined endlessly. More recently the promise at the G-8 2008 conference still lacked any commitment in writing. To underscore the record, recall the change made by NASA in budget requests of 2006. NASA deleted a phrase concerning its mission, “To understand and protect our home planet...” which had previously been stated. This deletion was a complete surprise to NASA scientists, who noted it would now be more difficult to pursue projects to improve understanding of terrestrial problems like climate change caused by greenhouse gas emissions. Clearly, while the Bush administration now acknowledges climate change as real, agreeing to discover the cause and do something about it seems beyond their capability.

Policies on the use of resources, especially energy, puts a great deal of financial power in the hands of a very few. Those with vested interests in gas and oil extraction, production, refining, shipping and building view government regulation as a barrier to profit - and their world is dominated by profit. Their political extension was dominant in the original Bush election, and is already very evident this year around McCain.

If you want to be a part of deciding how our state and our nation need to change, now is the time to consider volunteering. The coordinated campaign will be present at each of our meetings through October. Our July meeting is aimed at educating PCO’s and all others about making broader contacts throughout our community. It requires investment and momentum to bring significant change. Learn about the issues and candidates. But don’t just listen, be an agent of change and get involved. Your political party needs you!

Tim Clark
Chair of 33rd LD Democrats



These Democrats represent the 33rd Legislative District in Olympia. Representative Shay Schual-berke, Senator Karen Keiser, and Representative Dave Upthegrove are there to serve you. Please contact them if you have an inquiry.

Senator Karen Keiser	360-786-7664/ FAX 360-786-1999
Rep. Shay Schual-berke	360-786-7834/ FAX 360-786-7317
Rep. Dave Upthegrove	360-786-7868/ FAX 360-786-7317
Legislative Hotline	1-800-562-6000



These Democrats represent the 33rd Legislative District in the King County Council. County Councilmembers Julia Patterson and Dow Constantine are there to serve you. Please contact them if you have an inquiry.

Councilmember Julia Patterson	206-296-1008/ FAX 206-205-5610
Councilmember Dow Constantine	360-786-7834/ FAX 360-786-7317

33rd LD DEMOCRATS Executive Board for 2007-08

Chair	Tim Clark	253-854-1895
Vice-Chair	Vacant	
Secretary	Cheryl Juneau	206-870-1994
Treasurer	Cass Prindle	206-403-6869
WSDCC Reps	Elizabeth Albertson	206-595-3627
	Lionel Forde	206-850-3187
KCDCC Reps	Elizabeth Brant	206-870-1759
	Bob Polwarth	206-824-0206
KCDCC Alts	Carol Anne Maiers	206-779-4798
	Michael Miele	253-854-6349
KCDCC LAC	Vacant	
	Bob Loeliger	206-870-1939
KCDCC LAC Alt	Steve Juneau	206-870-1994
Parliamentarian	Bob Stephens	206-824-2699
Registrar	Paulette Holcomb	206-433-0551
Admin. Officer	Debbie Batchelor	206-277-7860
Sgt.-at-Arms	Jim Fossos	206-824-8537
KCYD Reps	Bailey Stober	253-520-2469
	Tiffany McGuyer	206-878-2239
Newsletter Editor	Omaha Sternberg	206-388-4575

-2008 Meeting Schedule-

Monday- **September 15th**, 2008
 Monday- **October 20th**, 2008
 Monday- **November 17th**, 2008
 Monday- **December 15th**, 2008

The DemoChat

33rd Legislative District Democrats
26121 Woodland Way S
Kent, WA 98030
E-mail: chair@33rddistrictdemocrats.org
Email calendar notices:
webmaster@33rddistrictdemocrats.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

For more information, visit these web sites:
<http://www.33rddistrictdemocrats.org>
<http://www.kcdems.org>
or call Tim Clark, 253-854-1895



Upcoming Events ...

Monday, July 21, 2008, 7 p.m.
33rd LD PCO Training
Normandy Park Congregational Church
19247 First Avenue South, Normandy Park
Information: Tim Clark, 253-854-1895

Tuesday, July 22, 2008, 7 p.m.
King County Democrats Endorsement Meeting
Renton Carpenters Hall
231 Burnett Ave North, Renton
Information: Susan Sheary, 425-228-4729

Tuesday, August 18, 2008, 7 p.m.
33rd LD Executive Board Meeting
Kent Carpenters Hall
25120 Pacific Hwy S, Kent
Information: Tim Clark, 253-854-1895

Saturday, August 23, 2008, Noon
33rd LD Annual Picnic
Kent Memorial Park
850 Central Ave N, Kent
Information: Tim Clark, 253-854-1895

Jason Osgood Fundraiser, Wednesday, July, 23 2008
Home of Julie Goldberg, 1756 59th St, Unit B, Seattle. Info: <http://www.jasonosgood.com/>

Fundraiser for Peter Goldmark, Friday, July 25, 2008
Puget Ridge Co-Housing, 7020 18th Ave SW, Seattle. Info: les.treall@gmail.com

KCDCC Annual Picnic, Saturday, August 9, 2008, time 2:00 pm
Lower Woodland Park, Shelter 1, Seattle. Info: <http://www.kcdems.org/>