

The Demo-Chat 2005

Volume 1, Issue 3 of the 33rd District Democrats Newsletter.

Cathy Doser, Editor March 2005

33rd LD DEMOCRATS

Executive Board for 2004-05 (*elected)

Chair*:	Tara Jo Heinecke	206-870-8819
Vice-Chair*:	Tim Clark	253-854-1895
Secretary*:	Tina Shamseldin	206-409-3038
Treasurer*:	Cass Prindle	360-280-6661
WSDCC Reps*:	Wendy Morgan	206-246-2165
	Jack Arends	206-592-1302
KCDCC Reps*:	Elizabeth Brant	206-870-1759
	Lionel Forde	253-850-3187
KCDCC Alts*:	D. Omaha Sternberg	206-242-1680
	Bob Polwarth	206-824-0206
KCDCC LAC Reps*:	Kerry Wade	253-529-4297
	Bob Loeliger	206-870-1939
KCDCC LAC Alt*:	Lisa Plymate	206-824-4666
Parliamentarian:	Bob Stephens#	206-824-2699
Registrar:	Jean Hueston#	206-878-8706
Admin. Officer:	Diane Odegard#	206-870-7090
Sgt.-at-Arms:	Jim Fossos#	206-824-8537
KCYD Reps:	Audry Cohen#	206-212-0769
	Shaun Miller#	253-872-9973

= Appointed in 2003-04; 2004-05 appointees to be confirmed by Chair Tara Jo Heinecke



These Democrats represent the 33rd Legislative District in Olympia. Representative Shay Schual-Berke, Senator Karen Keiser, and Representative Dave Uptegrove 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 Uptegrove	360-786-7868/ FAX 360-786-7317
Legislative Hotline	1-800-562-6000

The First Step in Democratic Activism: Pay Your Dues for 2005

It's easy to join the 33rd District Democrats. If you live in the district and wish to be active with friends who share your interest in the Democratic Party, our annual dues of \$20 per person will enable you to receive the Demo-Chat in your mailbox (postal or electronic), help us defer our meeting expenses, and support our efforts on behalf of Democratic candidates. To submit your dues payment by mail, send your check made out to 33rd District Democrats to: Cass Prindle, Treasurer, 33rd District Democrats, P.O. Box 98823, Des Moines, WA 98198. For more information, visit the district web site:

<http://www.33rdDems.org>

Congrats to the Loys!

Chair Tara Jo Heinecke congratulates Geoffrey and Devin Loy, who have just become foster parents to twin 13-month-old boys. Geoffrey was elected in September as a precinct committee officer, succeeding Ellen Fawcett.

February General Meeting Monday, March 21, 2005

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

(Additions may be made to this agenda)

- 7 p.m. Call to order
- 7:15 p.m. Program: King County Executive Ron Sims and King County Councilmember Dow Constantine
- 8:15 p.m. Reports and district business
- 9 p.m. Adjourn

General Membership Meeting

Minutes

February 21, 2005

Meeting Opening

Chair Tara Jo Heinecke called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Genevieve Nuss led the flag salute. Tara Jo asked the group if there were any corrections to the minutes. Jim Fossos made a motion to accept the January minutes as written; it was seconded by Bob Fithian; and the motion passed. Tara Jo reviewed the agenda items. Most of the meeting items were legislative and subcommittee updates. Cass made a motion to accept the agenda; Florence seconded the motion; and the motion carried.

Legislative Action Day



Today five members of the 33rd LD attended the first King County Legislative Action Day in Olympia. This event was organized by Toni Lysen, chair of the KC Legislative Action Committee.

Kerry Wade presented to the group on the event that included participation by Lisa Plymate, Bob Loelinger, Bob Stephens and Tina Shamseldin. The day consisted of meetings with legislators, attending public hearings on pending bills, watching the House in session, and a lunch meeting with many presentations from legislators including Rep. Shay Schual-Berke and Rep. Dave Upthegrove (Sen. Karen Keiser was unable to attend due to a committee hearing conflict). The group watched the House in session and observed the passage of "Simple Majority" legislation that would allow the passage of school levies by a simple majority (see more details below).

Pending Bills Sponsored by Our Legislators

Tina noted that this session of the Legislature has many progressive bills on various subjects, from expanding health care to supporting renewable energy. Many of these bills have been sponsored by our legislators.

Rep. Schual-Berke, who was unable to attend tonight because of the legislature still being in session, asked Tina to give some updates on a few of the bills she has sponsored. One of the huge successes of this session was Shay's reintroduction of mental-health parity legislation. It has passed the House and is expected to pass the Senate. (Editor's note: The bill subsequently passed in the Senate, and Gov. Christine Gregoire signed the bill into law.)

Following are descriptions of some bills that Shay has sponsored:

HB 1154/ MH Parity Bill

Insurance coverage parity for MH services, which means this coverage will be delivered under the same terms and conditions as medical and surgical services. With such high prevalence of mental-health disorders that are treatable conditions there are enormous benefits to improved access to mental-health services. There are also enormous human and economic costs in not treating these conditions, such as low productivity, job loss and increased use of emergency services such as emergency rooms. It is estimated that expanding mental-health benefits would increase premiums by less than .5 percent.

HB 1282/Regarding sexual health education

Would mandate that every school district must incorporate DSHS' January 2005 guidelines for sexual health and disease prevention and must emphasize abstinence but include other methods of preventing teenage age pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. This bill and its companion, Senate Bill 5306, will need strong advocacy from the community in order to pass this year.

HB 4205/Simple Majority

This bill proposes an amendment to the state Constitution to provide for a simple majority of voters voting to authorize a school levy.

Sen. Karen Keiser and was unable to attend, but Tara Jo provided some session updates. Karen has introduced many progressive bills to expand health care and has provided strong leadership as chair of the Health and Long-Term Care Committee. Here are a couple of the bills she has introduced:

SB 5637/Mandating Health Insurance Coverage

This bill would require employers with fifty or more employees to either pay for health care coverage for those employees who work at least eighty-six hours per month, or pay a monthly tax to the state in an amount equal to eighty-five percent of the cost of the state's Basic Health Plan. See Companion House Bill 1702.

SB 6018/Regarding the Small Business Program

This bill would create the small business assistance program that would offer affordable health-care coverage to small employers, their employees, and dependents if the employer has not provided health-care coverage for at least six months as of the time of application. See companion HB 2069.

Tara Jo also gave updates on legislation that Rep. Dave Upthegrove has introduced this session:

HB 2037/Regarding Academic Achievement for Immigrant Students

This bill would establish the forward start pilot program. This program would provide an integrated program of academic and English language skills development for students who both are eligible for the state's transitional bilingual program and have met all state and district graduation requirements with the exception of the acquisition

of a certificate of academic achievement. Instruction may be offered either in a community college or technical college.

HB 1605/Protecting Children from Area-Wide Soil Contamination

This bill is to protect children from area-wide soil contamination. The bill finds that emissions from metal smelters, the use of lead arsenate pesticides, the combustion of leaded gasoline, and other sources have contributed to the contamination of the soil in numerous areas around the state. A state-wide school soil safety certification program is created in an effort to protect children from these soils.

To look up these bills or other pending legislation go to washingtonvotes.org or www1.leg.wa.gov.

PCO Training Update



Balihar Lehal gave an animated overview on the PCO training that was held today in Olympia that emphasized the need for Democrats to frame issues in more powerful ways.

Several of the members attended the PCO training today in Olympia. Balihar gave the group an overview. He said there were two major themes:

- To do more “cross pollination” between PCOs and neighbors such as to create precinct committees that could share information from the grass-roots level up the party.
- That sometimes the truth is not enough, that we need to be more strategic on how we “frame” our issues. Members were encouraged to purchase copies of George Lakoff’s book, “Don’t Think of an Elephant.”

Next steps: Members were very interested in learning more about the “framing” of issues. The plan was to invite Suzie Sheary, the new King County chair, to a future meeting where we can have receive a brief overview along with some discussion.

Candidate Endorsements

The membership of the 33rd passed motions to endorse the following candidates: King County Executive Ron Sims; King County Councilwoman Julia Patterson; King County Councilman Dow Constantine; King County Councilman Larry Gossett; and King County Council President Larry Phillips.

KCDCC Updates

Lionel Forde and Omaha Sternberg gave presentations on the KCDCC meeting that took place earlier in the month. Ron Sims spoke at the meeting. They also had a presentation on “right-wing” radio and how we can effectively enter the dialog. This presentation was done by Noel Frame, who has created a list of these shows along with effective talking points. They also reminded the members about the King County Honors Banquet (for information see the back cover).

WSDCC Updates

Paul Berendt retained his position as state chair. He received 100/178 votes. The group spent a significant amount of time discussing whether the voting should include names on the ballots. In the end it was decided to keep names on them. The next meeting is scheduled in the Tri-Cities on April 1-2.

Chair's Report

The group discussed the impact of the 33rd having a meeting on the same day as the State Democrats' crab feed event. Members expressed the desire to attend this event. Members then had an in-depth discussion (of several motions) to address options for next year.



Prominent themes in the discussion were to ensure we do not schedule a meeting next year on the same date/time as the crab feed, to allow members to attend the crab feed, and to explore organizing a formal event in Olympia that day that would complement/support the activities. The motion to change the date and form a committee to plan a special event was tabled.

Tara Jo made a motion to nominate Jack Arends for the King County Democrats' volunteer of the year award. It was noted that Jack Arends has been a source of support to the 33rd legislative district as well as other LDs. He has worn many, and often multiple, hats within the 33rd, including being the former chair, secretary, Demo-Chat editor, organizer of the Yahoo! group, and his current post as representative to WSDCC. Jack volunteers to help in all major Democratic events and frequently helps neighboring campaigns by delivering yard signs or campaigning door to door for candidates. He is clearly a "Jack of all trades" and we are fortunate to have him in our district. Members unanimously voted to nominate him for volunteer of the year.

Announcements/Other Business

- Winnie Becker noted that Jim Higgins, a long-time Democrat and volunteer, had died on Sunday. Members shared some of their fond memories and the contributions he had made.
- New Demo-chat editors are Cathy Doser and Caryn Roberts, who have graciously agreed to job-share these large duties. They will be transitioning into this job with Jack's assistance.
- Omaha gave an update on the newly formed Communication Group that will work to improve the coordination of all 33rd communications. They group has held one meeting and will communicate mostly via email. The main focus will be on the web site at this time. Omaha's husband has also offered to help the group. He has 15 years of experience as a webmaster.

Jean Hueston gave the **registrar's report** and said 36 members were present, though after the second motion was voted on by the group, an additional member had joined the meeting, therefore making the total count 37. Jean made a motion to accept **Shirley Farley** as a new member; the motion was seconded by Bob Fithian; the motion was carried. Shirley was welcomed by the group as a new member. Cass Prindle gave the **treasurer's report**. The balance of the exempt account is \$151.76 and the balance of the non-exempt account is \$1,754.80. The exempt account will be closed after paying the balance of the postage cost for the newsletter, at which time there will be the non-exempt account to report on. If at some point the account exceeds \$5,000, then another account will need to be opened. Jim Fossos made a motion to accept the treasurer's report; John Chromy seconded the motion; the motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m. *Respectfully submitted, Tina Shamseldin, Secretary*

The Demo-Chat 2005

33rd Legislative District Democrats

2035 S. 223rd Street

Des Moines, WA 98198

E-mail: demochat@33rdDems.org

Message board: 33rdDistrictDemocrats@yahoo.com

Visit us on the World Wide Web:

<http://www.33rdDems.org>

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**For more Democratic Party
information, visit these web sites:**

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

<http://www.kcdems.org>

or call Tara Jo Heinecke, 206-870-8819

Upcoming Events ...

Thursday, March 17, 2005, 7 p.m.

33rd LD E-Board Meeting

Carpenters Specialties Training Center

20424 72nd Avenue South, Kent

Information: Tara Jo Heinecke, 206-870-8819

Monday, March 21, 2005, 7 p.m.

33rd LD General Meeting

Normandy Park Congregational Church

19247 First Avenue South, Normandy Park

Information: Tara Jo Heinecke, 206-870-8819

Friday, March 18, 2005, 6 p.m.

King County Democrats Honors Banquet

Hilton Hotel, Downtown Seattle

Sixth and University; Suggested donation: \$70

Information: Susan Sheary, 206-622-9157

Sunday, March 20, 2005, 2-5 p.m.

Tim Clark Re-Election Event

(parking at Scenic Hill School)

26121 Woodland Way S., Kent

Information: 253-854-1895

Tuesday, March 22, 2005, 7 p.m.

KCDCC Meeting

Seattle Labor Temple

2800 First Avenue

Information: Susan Sheary, 206-622-9157

Friday-Saturday, April 1-2

**Wash. State Democratic Central Cmte.
(Subcommittees and General Session)**

Red Lion Inn, Pasco

Info.: Heather Woodruff, 206-583-0664