
The DemoChat

The Official 33rd Legislative District Democrats Newsletter
Volume 4, Issue 5, June 2008

May General Meeting

Monday, May 19th, 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. Congressional Candidate for 8th District Darcy Burner
Judicial Candidates
- 8:15 p.m. Caucus reports for 8th and 9th Congressional districts
Campaign updates from legislative candidates
Nomination Convention

From the Chair

by Tim Clark

As a legislative district, I have always maintained that our function is to support good Democratic candidates at all levels, federal, state and local. But we have a special function in the state legislature. We need to foster upcoming candidates and support those we endorse using the procedures in our bylaws.

One vital role of new candidates for office is to bring loyal supporters who become active members of the party. As one party veteran mentioned to me as an observation of the current Presidential race, "In the 60's we were brought into party activism with the inspiration of John Kennedy. Perhaps our new long term party activists are among those now actively supporting Obama and Clinton." The point was well taken.

We may view a particular candidate as someone who closely represents our own political views, and we all have specific issues that drive us to sacrifice time and money. But the struggle is greater than the race of the moment. In the end, we are best served by looking at the long haul, because success is not achieved by individual effort but collective effort. We may have to submerge our passion for the individual we supported in the caucus cycle in order to succeed in electing a Democrat in November.

If that is true at the national level, it is also true at the local level. So let us be spirited in supporting our chosen candidate, but protective of the process and respectful of other opinions so we can jointly be successful come November. Let us not get so consumed with favoring one of our local candidates that we alienate our colleagues in the quest to elect someone to the open house seat in the 33rd. Other elections will come with other choices. It takes broad campaigns with many helping hands to be elected successfully. The strength and unity of the 33rd Legislative District lies with each of us.

When the Process is the Point

I first became active in politics when I was a teenager. I helped my best friend with her mother's campaign for state senator in Florida; her father was an elected official too. I was a supporter of President Jimmy Carter, and backed Bill Clinton, even though I didn't actively work on Clinton's campaign. And though in the interim years between the Carter campaign and 2004, I wasn't actively working on campaigns, I still kept myself informed, wrote letters to representatives and newspapers, etc.

But the past few year's worth of active work has reminded me of how focused we can become on our goals. Our goal of electing a democratic president. Our goal of keeping Governor Gregoire in Olympia. Our goal of universal health care. Our goal of immigration reform.

Sometimes, we are so focused on the goal, we forget about the process. I have a joke that I say sometimes that, as Democrats, we have to vote to decide to use the bathroom! But, all jesting aside, the process is what makes the democratic system so important. The right to be heard, and to make sure others hear you. The right to debate opinions. The right to vote. All of these are the process by which we reach our goals.

And so, I just want to remind everyone that, as we rush towards our goals, let's not stomp on our process. Because, sometimes the process is the point.

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

General Membership Meeting Minutes

April 21, 2008

Meeting Opening

Outgoing Chair Tina Orwall and Incoming Chair Tim Clark opened with the Flag salute at 7:00 pm. Tina opened with a thank you to Jessica Nunn regarding the Obama Food Drive at the LD caucus. 554 pounds of food were collected.

Legislative District news:

- The 33rd has two more young Democrats. One of the members just gave birth to twins!
- Tina thanked all who were instrumental in the success of the LD caucus: credentials, rules, tally, sub-caucus chairs, alternates and delegates.
- Tina announced she is stepping down as our Chair to run for Shay's seat. Tim Clark was introduced as her replacement. Tim has been active for many years as a member of the 33rd Democrats and also serves on the Kent City council. He is a member of several Kent Council committees and chairs the Operations committee. He recently retired with 30 years service with the Washington public school system.

Councilmember Julia Patterson



Julia Patterson has provided a report on two initiatives passed by the King County Council. Julia has been working to implement a ground breaking rule to post nutritional information on food sold in restaurants. The Board of Health passed this resolution unanimously but the Washington Restaurant Association attempted to get it overturned with support from state officials. This is noteworthy since it is not normal for the state to override local laws.

The King County Council worked on a compromise of the law originally passed July 19, 2007. The new rule adopted March 12, 2008 requires restaurants that have 15 or more locations nationwide to have nutrition labeling available for foods that have been on the menu for 90 days. Seasonal items would be exempt. For food establishments with a menu board (overhead menu), calories must be provided in one of the following ways: on the menu board next to each standard menu item, on an easy-to-read sign posted next to the menu board, or on a sign located at eye level while in line. Calories must be displayed in a typeface similar to other information about each menu item and no smaller than nine-point font. Since menu boards provide calorie information only, information for the other nutrients must be available in a clear and visible format at the point of ordering.

Ron Sims has taken aim at long-standing and persistent local inequities and social injustices. Regardless of a person's ethnicity or social status there should be equal access to education, parks, and all other social services. The benefits to this equal access are multifold: residents will be more engaged in the democratic process; it will reduce the number of school drop outs, and reduce recidivism in prison populations. Visit the following website for more information: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/exec/equity.aspx>

Councilmember Dow Constantine

Dow Constantine updated us on the legislation introduced to create a long term plan to change King County's policy concerning our animal shelters. He opened with this quote: "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated" ~Gandhi (1869-1948). Veterinarians have said our county shelters are not providing quality care to the animals in their care due to overcrowding and outdated facilities. Healthy animals are euthanized because we don't have adequate programs to place them in loving homes. The Burien Town Hall meeting on this legislation was attended by 700 people. The new initiative will provide funding and a standard of working toward alternatives to controlling pet populations other than euthanizing healthy animals.



Dow invited everyone to attend Tina's kick-off event at Mick Kelly's.

Legislative Campaign Updates

Bob Loeliger reminded the members about the Legislative Action Committee meeting at the Foster Library April 27. Tim explained the new primary rules: if you win 50% or more of the vote in the primary, you run unopposed in the General Election.

John Langdonburg

Current Pierce County Executive running for State Attorney General against incumbent Rob McKenna. John is an experienced prosecuting attorney and has represented blue collar workers in south Tacoma since 1974. His philosophy is that the function of government is to serve all, but exists above all to provide social services and protection to those who are not connected through wealth and influence to these benefits. For more on his qualifications and background: <http://www.piercecountywa.org/pc/abtus/ourorg/exec/execbio.htm>.

District Judicial Endorsements

The Candidates for Judicial positions who presented their case for endorsements from the 33rd Democrats were:

Suzanne Parisien – Pos 1

Susan Amini – Pos 1

Susan Craighead – Pos 18 (unopposed).

Holly Hill – Pos 22

Rebecca Graham – Pos 22

Jean Rietschel – Pos 37

Barbara Mack – Pos 37

Marian Spearman – Pos 53 (unopposed).

Tim Clark explained the importance of endorsements and made a motion to endorse unopposed candidates. Seconded and passed. He also asked the committee to refrain from dual endorsements since these defeats the purpose of endorsements because the end result can only be one candidate to one position.

The endorsement committee (Elizabeth Brandt -Chair, Bailey Stober, and Bob Loeliger) met individually with the candidates and moved to endorse the following: S. Craighead and M. Spearman (the unopposed candidates), Rebecca Graham, Susan Amini, and Jean Rietschel. Seconded and passed.

May Nominating Convention

The bid for a democratic successor to representative Shay Schual-Berke's position will be conducted next month during the May general meeting. Only elected and appointed PCO's will be able to vote for the democratic nominee.

The nominees are:

- Tina Orwall - We all know and admire her outstanding work with and for the 33rd Legislative District. Tina hopes to continue her dedication to causes of the homeless, health issues, and education. Tina holds a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Washington. Through her 20-year career in human services and housing, she has built a reputation as a hardworking and passionate advocate.
- Elizabeth Albertson - Debbie Batchelor spoke eloquently for Elizabeth who was absent due to a family emergency. Elizabeth has the endorsement of Ron Sims and knows the importance of giving back to the community. She is a valuable member of the 33rd Executive Board and is currently serving on the Kent City council. She has over 20 years experience working to improve our schools, environment and communities and has the vision to continue the legacy of Shay's record.

Resolutions

- Lift the Cuba embargo. Fidel Castro, Cuba's President has stepped down after 50 long years. Yet the United States will continue its long 46-year trade embargo. We trade with China. We trade with Vietnam. But we don't with Cuba. Our official policy **"is to promote a peaceful transition to a stable, democratic form of government (by) maintaining pressure on the Cuban government for change through the embargo and the Libertad Act...We oppose consideration of Cuba's return to the Organization of American States or inclusion in the Summit of the Americas' process until there is a democratic government."** It is time to face reality. It is time for those Cuban exiles in Florida to face the truth. This trade embargo has gone long enough. Castro has survived through 10 American presidents. Motioned to adopt. Contact Bob Loeliger for full text and additional information.
- No Child Left Behind Act Resolution: Submitted by Alan Sutliff, PCO of Kent 33-0601. Resolves that the Democratic Party of Washington opposes the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act unless all provisions that are not fully funded are removed. Motion was to made to pass and seconded.
- School funding Resolution: Submitted by Alan Sutliff, PCO of Kent 33-0601. Resolves that the Democratic Party of Washington will direct the state legislature to create and fully fund a new funding formula for public schools that will enable those schools to succeed with the goals of Washington State's education reform program. Motion was to made to pass and seconded.

Chair's Report/Announcements

Treasurer's Report: Cass reported a balance of \$8,000 at the beginning today's business.

Registrar's Report: Paulette reported that there were 56 members present. New PCO candidates were announced and a motion was made to accept these PCO's as elected. Contested PCO positions were resolved: Glenda Berg with Kevin Jordon conceding. Tara Jo over Carlinda Wilcox (not present). Theresa Ahearn with Ann Price conceding.

Good of the order

- James A. Fossos moved that Tina Orwall should be recognized for her outstanding leadership, devotion to duty, and for her honest and loyal service to the members of the 33rd Legislative District Chair and of the great Democratic Organization. Motion was to made to pass and seconded.
- Acknowledge The Mark Restaurant and Dave Upthegrove for the successful fundraiser for AIDS Alliance held April 24, 2008.

Meeting adjourned: 9:00 pm

Competition and Unity

The May meeting promises to be historical, as we will be using part of our regular monthly meeting to run a Nominating Convention. The state party has issued rules which govern this new process, made necessary by changes to voting laws which go into effect for the first time. Naturally this will bring with it some confusion for both new and "old-timer" 33rd members. Here are some terms and outcomes leading up to the November election which you may not be familiar with. I am listing them by the month in which they will occur.

May - The Democratic Party Primary Nominating Convention: The Nominating Convention was created by the State Democratic Party following the decision of the Washington State Supreme court. The process allows only elected and appointed Precinct Committee Officers (PCO's) to vote at the Nominating Convention. There are three categories of PCO's: Elected (voted in on the ballot in a general election), Appointed (voted in by the 33rd district membership to fill a vacancy in the precinct where the PCO lives), and Acting appointed (voted in by the 33rd district membership to fill a vacancy in a precinct other than where the PCO lives.)

Elected and Appointed PCO's must be present at the Convention and sign their ballots, as no proxies are allowed. **No membership dues are required to vote at this nominating convention.** PCO votes are weighted for each precinct, and will reflect the number who participated in the precinct caucus this year. Therefore one person's vote may count as 8, and another person's vote may count as 3, depending on the size and participation level of the precinct. Currently there are two active state legislative candidates for the open seat (Position 1), and the incumbent in position 2 has no challengers. The problem we face is that it will take more time to count the weighted ballots than to hear the preceding nomination speeches!

June and /or July - The endorsement process: The state party has been very clear that the nominating convention is a special process which does not supersede our endorsement process. Under our bylaws, we may not endorse until after the official filing date closes in June. Therefore, we'll reconsider interested candidates in June to make endorsements.

August - Primary Election: The August primary is the "real deal" that will determine who goes on to the final November ballot. The voters pamphlet issued by the state does not recognize our nominating convention results or endorsements, and will not automatically designate candidates by party. However, individual candidates can declare a party and list their endorsements and nominations in their personal statements. Any voter, regardless of party affiliation, may vote for any name on the ballot. The two candidates who receive the most votes in the August primary will go on to be listed on the November ballot. Therefore it's possible that both names on the November ballot may be from the same party – or none! We are not alone in the process. The 33rd Republican Party is also at work. They currently are fostering two house candidates. All of this adds up to a challenge both to the voters and for those of us who are active Democrats.

Nomination Convention Rules

The following rules will be used for the May 19th Nomination Convention:

1. Chair will be chair of the legislative district
2. Chair will name tally committee
3. Registrar will confirm eligible voter list (Must be elected or appointed PCO, as of previous meeting)
4. No proxies allowed
5. No membership dues are required to vote
6. Nomination speech may be from multiple speakers, but total time may not exceed 2 minutes for each candidates side.
7. If only one candidate, will simply be voice vote.
8. If more than two candidates, chair will use voice vote to reduce field to two candidates.
9. Any candidate must meet the "Threshold of Eligibility" for nomination as defined by the State Party rule, Section VI, attesting to the following:
 - a. Support of the Democratic Party and candidate desire to be known as a Democrat
 - b. Must be otherwise eligible under state law for election to the office sought
 - c. Must not have been registered as a member of any political party other than the Democratic Party for a least one year immediately preceding filing for office
10. When there are only two candidates, weighted ballots by precinct and signed by PCO will be used.
11. Weighting of ballots shall be based on precinct totals from this year's caucus as determined by state party. Ballot must be signed to count.
12. Tally committee will collect and add totals based on weighted strength.
13. No substitute motions will be accepted.
14. Roberts' Rules of Order shall prevail at the convention.
15. Ballots will be kept to deal with any challenges.
16. Chair will notify state party of vote of Nominating Convention.
17. The district newsletter will report the restricted nature of the nomination convention and the outcome of the vote.

18. Quorum: Upon a call for a quorum, a minimum of 40% of the weighted votes shall be required to conduct further business.
19. No vote for district endorsement will be accepted.

Call to Congressional Caucuses!!

The Congressional 8th and 9th District Caucuses will be held on Saturday, May 17th, at the following locations and times:

8th Congressional Caucus	9th Congressional Caucus
10:00 AM	10:00 AM
Tahoma High School	North Thurston High School
18200 SE 240th	600 Sleater-Kinney Rd. NE
Covington, Washington 98042	Lacey, WA 98506

The following delegates and alternates will be attending the Congressional Caucuses. Let's congratulate them on their work!

For Clinton:

8th Congressional Caucus

Delegates	Alternates
Timothy Michael Link	None

9th Congressional Caucus

Delegates	Delegates	Alternates
Anne Price Mills	Kathleen Betts	Zean Rivera
Michael Derrow	James Kenney	Elizabeth Brant
Jessica Graney	Diana Villaflor-Camgon	Roy Brewer
Tim Clark	Richard Omlid	Elora Smith
Iolanda DeRuiter	Norleen Koponen	John Kugler
Geoffrey McAnallo		Paula Benson

For Obama:

8th Congressional Caucus

Delegates	Alternates
Sylvia Cooper	Jose Saura

9th Congressional Caucus

Delegates	Delegates	Alternates
Kyle Forar	Sean Goode	Harleynda Wilcox
Debbie Batchelor	Meg Tapucol-Provo	Nick Burns
Carol Sivetz	Michelle Stanley	Tiffany McGuyer
Rosie Everson	Carla Jones	Robert Montgomery
Ali Scego	Tyrone Holloway	Stephanie Jurado-Smith
Alex Perlman	Dale Smith	Rob Frishholz
Carolyn Clayton	Kimberly Walker	Cythnia Burns
Jessica Nunn	Jacqueline Walker	Ethan Pasternack
Marshall Dunlap	Thad Stevens	Helen Edwards
Sakara Remmu	Kevin Jordan	Tom Gray
John Donnelly	Juan Rangel	

Important Note!!

The Congressional Nomination Conventions will occur at the Congressional Caucuses as well, so PCOs should expect to attend. If you are a PCO and have not received a card in the mail already, contact the 33rd LD for more information.



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

-2008 Meeting Schedule-

- Monday- **June 16th**, 2008
- Monday- **July 21st**, 2008
- Monday- **September 15th**, 2008
- Monday- **October 20th**, 2008
- Monday- **November 17th**, 2008
- Monday- **December 15th**, 2008

**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	Vacant	
	Michael Miele	253-854-6349
KCDCC LAC	Carol Anne Maiers	206-779-4798
	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

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The DemoChat

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

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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, May 19, 2008, 7 p.m.
33rd LD General Meeting
Normandy Park Congregational Church
19247 First Avenue South, Normandy Park
Information: Tim Clark, 253-854-1895

Tuesday, May 27, 2008, 7 p.m.
King County Democrats General Meeting
Renton Carpenters Hall
231 Burnett Ave North, Renton
Information: Susan Sheary, 425-228-4729

Tuesday, June 10, 2008, 7 p.m.
33rd LD Executive Board Meeting
Kent Carpenters Hall
25120 Pacific Hwy S, Kent
Information: Tim Clark, 253-854-1895

Monday, June 16, 2008, 7 p.m.
33rd LD General Meeting
Normandy Park Congregational Church
19247 First Avenue South, Normandy Park
Information: Tim Clark, 253-854-1895

9th Congressional Caucus and Congressional Nomination Convention, Saturday, May 17, 2008, time 10:00 am
North Thurston High School, 600 Sleater-Kinney Rd. NE, Lacey. Info: zachhome@comcast.net

Larry Phillips Salmon Bake, Saturday, May 31, 2008, time 1:00 pm
Daybreak Start Center, Discovery Park, Seattle. Info: larryphillipsinfo@mac.com

Washington State Democratic State Convention, Saturday, June 14, 2008, time 9:00 am
Spokane Convention Center, Spokane. Info: <http://www.kcdems.org>