

7th Legislative District Democratic Newsletter

August 2007

www.7ld.newa-democrats.org

Vol. 1; No. 8

7th LD Quarterly Meeting :

Our quarterly meeting on July 29th was hosted by the Stevens County Democrats at the Old Kettle Falls Park. There were 54 people there, at least at the point that we ended the meeting and began the picnic! It was a wonderful turn out. The business meeting included a brief report on the activities that have been going on in the 7th.

Our treasurer's report stated that we had \$926.66 and with the fundraising at the meeting we have now topped \$1000. This will really be helpful as we work with candidates for next year's election cycle and as we use some of the funds to help spread the word that Democrats are alive and well in Northeastern Washington. We know we still have a ways to go, but what a great start.

There were four action items during the meeting:

- A vote in support of **People for our Public School's Campaign** which is requesting a simple majority vote for bond issues for schools - passed.
- A vote in support of the **Police Certification Expense Resolution** that would require the State to pay for the certification expense for police officers in small communities relieving small rural communities from this requirement - passed.
- A vote in opposition to **Initiative 960** as being too rigid, poorly worded, and would result in cuts to priority services like health care, education, transportation, environmental protection and services for the elderly unless costly bureaucratic measures were implemented - passed.
- A vote to write a letter to the Chair of the Judiciary Committee in support of **impeachment proceedings** against President Bush and Vice President Cheney for their actions – passed.

Erik Horeis, Eastern Washington Field Representative, gave a report on his experiences and contacts in the past several months. He also reported that he will be working with us to develop strong caucus training that will work for rural Eastern Washington.

Reports were also given by representatives from each of the six counties in the 7th (Ferry, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Spokane and Stevens), the newly created 5th CD organization and the Agricultural and Rural Caucus. It is very obvious that everyone is working very hard in this off-year election cycle in preparation for 2008. The number of events and plans that are in place are impressive. Now we just need some more people who are willing to volunteer to help make all of the activities successful and to lay the foundation for a strong, successful year next year!

The special speaker for the event was **Dwight Pelz, Chair of the Washington State Democratic Central Committee**. The theme of his message is that voters in Eastern Washington can "come home to the Democratic Party". It is our job to get that message out to the residents in Northeastern Washington. We need to reach out, share our values, and demonstrate that we have constructive plans for what needs to be done to help our residents.

"Guns, God, Gays" are not the issues. This is an invention of the Republicans under Bush's leadership. In reality it is the Republican Party that is the radical party, while the Democratic Party is the "big tent" party. As Democrats we need to accept that concept and welcome

people who may not share all of our beliefs, but who do share the basic values of providing a network of basic support that allows all of our people to succeed – access to affordable quality health care and education, and an economic foundation that allows people to earn a living wage. The values that our country was founded on must be restored. Civil rights as defined in our Constitution and the Bill of Rights define us as a nation. We can not let them be eroded.

He also shared his vision that the caucus process in February 2008 matters if we are to be successful in 2008. We must bring the residents of Eastern Washington back to the party that they supported for many years. The time is right. It is now up to us!

Colville Roundtable and Reception with Senator Patty Murray: by Walt Kloefkorn

Sen. Murray has wasted no time in using the August congressional recess to reach out to her constituents. On August 8 she hosted a roundtable of local business and community leaders, and then was guest of honor at a reception hosted by the Stevens County Democrats.

During both events, the Senator demonstrated why she has risen to a leadership position in the U.S Senate. Displaying a thorough knowledge of the issues raised and the workings of the government, she left no doubt that all the people of Washington have an effective advocate in the Senate.

She was particularly passionate when speaking to veterans issues. Many in the audience learned for the first time that her father was wounded in WWII and that she worked for returning Vietnam veterans during her college years. Several veterans turned out to thank her for her support and to point out the extremely high ratings that she and Senator Cantwell both receive from groups such as the Disabled Veterans of America.

A recent, and rare, invitation to the White House had allowed her to approach the President directly about the inadequate care our troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan are receiving. He remained stone faced, but “At least I said it to him.”

The roundtable covered a wide range of issues, from a strong plea for support for local food systems to advocacy for increased “treatment” of our forests. Local schools were united in pointing out problems with “No Child Left Behind.” Republican County Commissioner Merrill Ott pushed for funds to build a four lane highway to transport “Free Trade” goods through the county and said we should build ports like Rotterdam, completely automated. “No jobs at all for Americans,” was one comment from the audience in response.

The audience did get to participate for the last 20 minutes. Immediately issues such as the Iraq war, health care, clean elections, good jobs, and environmental safety were introduced. Hillary Ohm, head of Citizens for a Clean Columbia, made a plea for action concerning the recent revelation that Canadian smelter operator, Teck Cominco, is now discharging mercury into the Columbia River.

The young reporter for the Colville Statesman-Examiner, Sophia Aldous, raised the issue of the murderous debt most college students graduate with. Senator Murray pointed out that the GOP controlled Congress had not passed a higher education bill for over three years. Bills increasing student aid have already passed both the House and Senate, and they will go into conference right after recess.

The Senator left to tour a local hospital and the room was transformed with Democratic signs, banners and bunting. Susan Durnell, Stevens County Vice Chair, emceed the dessert

reception for local Democrats. The Senator appreciated the decor, commenting on the "Keep Washington Blue," poster. Democrats traveled from as far as Sprague to attend. Lincoln and Spokane County were both represented.

Okanogan County Democrat's Annual Picnic:

The August meeting of the Okanogan County Democrats is traditionally a picnic at Conconully State Park and this year was no exception. Even with the unusual rain, there was a good turnout. We heard from Peter Goldmark who talked about his view of the state of politics in our country and here in Eastern Washington. As candidate for the position of Commissioner for Public Lands, he also provided information on exactly what the responsibilities of that position are and why it is so valuable to have a person who represents the interests of the public instead of business or special vested interests in the position of making decisions about use of public lands.

Erik Horeis, our Eastern Washington Field Representative, also gave a report on organizing to reach more voters. He and Jack Miller both talked about the new voter file and how it is much easier to use and should be a very helpful tool for us as we identify voters.

Chris Zaferes talked about the contacts that he and Jackie Bradley are making with the small towns in Eastern Washington talking to them about the Police Certification Expense Resolution. The support they are receiving is very positive. This is another example of an issue that reaches across party lines and is an easy one to talk about to city officials who may not be Democrats.

Resolution passed by the Washington State Democrats: by Dwight Pelz, Chair, Washington State Democratic Central Committee

At its recent meeting in Pasco, the Washington State Democratic Central Committee approved a resolution that merits your attention.

Resolution on Campaign Finance Reform – Resolution 346 stating that the Washington State Democratic Central Committee commits itself to the public financing of campaigns.

The WSDCC calls on all local Democrats to join Washington Public Campaigns. To also support Governor Gregoire's proposal for public financing for judicial campaigns and request that she also consider supporting public campaign financing for legislative and statewide campaigns. The WSDCC also urges all state legislators to further educate themselves on public campaign financing for legislative, executive, and judicial campaigns at the state level, and to consider supporting legislation to accomplish such reforms.

Your hard work and commitment to these efforts would be greatly appreciated.

Eastern Washington Conference: October 12th and 13th – Spokane

Hot off the presses! This is what has been confirmed so far.

Friday, October 12, 2007; 5 pm – 9 pm; activities at the Red Lion Hotel • At the Park, 303 W. North River Drive, Spokane, WA 99201

Saturday, October 13, 2007; 9:15 am – 8:30 pm; activities at the Spokane Convention Center, 334 West Spokane Falls Boulevard, Spokane, WA 99201

HOST HOTEL:

Red Lion Hotel At the Park
303 W. North River Drive, Spokane, WA 99201
Phone Number: 1-800-733-5466 or (509) 326-8000
Must reserve room by: September 12, 2007

Washington State Democrats Rate:

Single/Double Occupancy Rate \$105.95
Triple Occupancy Rate \$115.95
Quad Occupancy Rate \$125.95

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION COSTS:

\$35 Conference Only (Includes Friday welcome reception and trainings)

\$15 Saturday Breakfast

\$20 Saturday Lunch

\$40 Saturday Banquet Reception and Dinner

\$75 Package Deal: Conference & All Meals

SPEAKERS:

Saturday BREAKFAST SPEAKER: **Gloria Totten**, President of Progressive Majority

Saturday LUNCH SPEAKER: **Kalyn Free**, President of INDN's List

Saturday DINNER SPEAKER: **Congressman Pat Williams**, Nine-term congressman and one of the founders of Democrats for the West.

Some of the confirmed training sessions include the following:

How to build coalitions and talk to our allies about "Investing in our quality-of-life." Funding our schools, libraries, fire and health care in the rural west. **Christy Margeli**, WA Tax fairness Coalition

"Supporting Agriculture and Protecting our Environment"

Organizing voters to act in their interest of an agricultural economy and environmental sustainability. **Kurt Fritz**, WA Conservation Voters Political Director

"Recruiting Volunteers and Developing Precinct/Area Leaders in Rural Areas" **Brad Martin**, Northwest Political Director, DNC

Lobbying 101 – "Moving our friends and "the other side" to support and act on our issues." **Ezra Eickmeyer**, Eickmeyer & Associates

The New Vote Builder – Tools to build our relationships with neighbors and voters for more Democratic Victories. **Wes Beal**, Technology Director, WSDCC

Winning in Spokane, Lessons and challenges for Democrats

Senate Majority Speaker Lisa Brown

State Representative Timm Ormsby

For more information please contact co-chairs Jackie Bradley jbradley3723@charter.net and Jackie Branz waybehind@hotmail.com or check the 7th LD web site on the Calendar for these dates. I will update the information as I receive it!

Success Story in Northeastern Washington:

Tim Coleman who is with Conservation Northwest forwarded this article from the Seattle Post-Intelligencer shortly after the July Newsletter was sent out. Because it demonstrates so clearly what can be accomplished when we work together in Eastern Washington to accomplish shared goals, I thought it was worth including an excerpt from the article this month. If you want the complete article use this link

http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/connelly/325392_joel27.html

Corner of state sets pace to save forests *Last updated July 26, 2007 10:02 p.m. PT By*
JOEL CONNELLY P-I COLUMNIST

REPUBLIC -- Just over 100,000 of our state's 6.5 million residents live in four wide-open northeast Washington counties that extend from the Cascade Crest to the Idaho border. They've endured city

dwellers' jokes, fueled by county commissioners' malapropisms and the tiny minority of militia activists who watch for black helicopters and United Nations infiltrators.

Lately, however, locals here have become examples for us all and are national pacesetters in laying aside feuds, putting heads together and figuring how forest preservation can live alongside a forest economy. As he sat down in the Vaagen Bros. boardroom on Monday, veteran Republic-based environmental activist Tim Coleman noted that he was due back twice for meetings later in the week. It wasn't so long ago, in 2002, when Vaagen Bros. closed its mill in Republic and Coleman was fielding death threats over the phone. A local restaurant put a sign in its window that he was not welcome on the premises.

A little more than five years later, a Northeast Washington Forestry Coalition -- composed of historic foes -- has come up with a blueprint for the 1.1 million-acre Colville National Forest. It would set aside more than 300,000 acres as designated wilderness, protecting dry, old-growth forests of Ponderosa pine and interior rain forests of Western red cedar ... and the rich wildlife habitat of rounded 7,000-foot peaks dotted with small lakes.

A slightly larger chunk of the national forest, closer to towns, would be "responsible management areas" producing a sustainable flow of timber with thinning that would reduce the risk of out-of-control wildfires.

The coalition plan still faces hurdles. Congress must eventually give its approval. Motorcycle groups don't like the wilderness provisions. County commissioners are suspicious. The Forest Service sees its management authority being supplanted. Still, the plan is a model for moving on, and moving forward.

Community Events:

This coming Saturday we have options for everyone wanting to do something Democratic and show their Blue colors! You can start the day in Colville at the Tri-County Parade and join up with a large contingent of Democrats who enjoy the wearing of the blue publicly and to great applause. This was probably our biggest parade last year and we are planning on making it even bigger this year. Join with Democrats from throughout Eastern Washington as we show people that they are really not "the only Democrat in Eastern Washington." We were so successful a couple of weeks ago at the Deer Park parade that we had an elderly gentleman join us for a block of marching. He was proud and pleased. It was great!

After the parade, you can work an hour or two in the Democratic booth at the Fair before heading off to one of two excellent evening events: a BBQ with Governor Christine Gregoire in Pend Oreille County or a show-stopping salmon feed hosted by the Spokane County Democrats at Riverfront Park in downtown Spokane. Your only problem is that you need to select which event you want to attend!

We have many more activities coming up in the next couple of months. Please check the calendar on our website for what is going on and join with other like minded people. There are more of us than anyone thinks -- and it is showing.

As I said last month, the applause, smiles, and thumbs-up are really impressive. Comparing the same parade to last year and the year before that, it is difficult to recognize the community. Five years ago when we started attending these parades, it was common to have no smiles, no eye contact, and only rarely a very subtle thumbs up. What a difference a couple of years make. Come see what I mean!

If you are interested in participating in any of the events, check out the calendar on our website www.7ld.newa-democrats.org or send Brian Sayrs bsayrs@msn.com or me

emiller@gmail.com an email and we will provide you details. Bring friends and family – dogs are also great attention getters!

Fundraising:

We have posted a donation form on the website www.7ld.newa-democrats.org We are hoping that as people use our website more, they will be willing to contribute to help spread the word in Eastern Washington that there are strong, active Democrats who are willing to work hard to make a difference.

Newsletter:

A great suggestion was mentioned to me after the last newsletter. If you found the information at all interesting, please make a print copy and give it to a friend who does not have email. And if you have a friend who has email, ask them if they are getting this newsletter. If they aren't, I would be very happy to add them to the list. Either pass along their contact information, or give them my email. Let's keep spreading the word. There are now 230 people on our email list!

Dates to Remember: for details including a map go to our web site www.7ld.newa-democrats.org and select the Calendar option, then select the date of the event.

August 25 9:30 a.m. Tri-County Parade, Colville

August 25 4:00 p.m. BBQ for Governor Gregoire, Pend Oreille County

August 25 5:00 p.m. Salmon Feed, Riverfront Park, Spokane

September 14-15 Agricultural and Rural Caucus Conference, Moses Lake

September 15 Odessa Deutschesfest Parade, Odessa

October 12-13 Eastern Washington Convention, Convention Center, Spokane

October 20 1:00 p.m. 7th LD meeting at the Okanogan Grange Hall hosted by Okanogan County

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