

# 7<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Democratic Newsletter

February 2007 Vol. 1; No. 2

## State re-organization meeting results

All of the officers were re-elected: **Dwight Pelz**, Chair; Eileen **Macoll**, Vice Chair; **Luis Moscoso**, Secretary; **Habib Habib**, Treasurer.

**Andrew Brewer** (Spokane County) was elected as Second Vice Chair representing Eastern Washington on the Chairs Committee, and **Bob Esvelt** (Stevens County) was elected to represent the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District on the Executive Board.

## State Chair, Dwight Pelz's Message to Washington State Democrats -- Excerpts:

We know 2008 will be huge. Across America, Democrats know that in 2006 we only got half of the job done -- we took back Congress. Now we must hold Congress and take back the White House, if we want to restore America as a democracy.

My challenge to the 87 county and legislative district (LD) democratic parties in Washington is that we raise the bar in 2008 over the work we did in 2004.

Washington is a Presidential Caucus state. The Washington State Democratic Party has always chosen to elect our Presidential delegates by caucus, rather than by Primary Election. It has been our belief that a Primary is a beauty contest dominated by paid advertising, while the caucuses emphasize grassroots organizing and face-to-face communication.

Our goal must be to use the Caucuses as a tool to recruit volunteers, put them to work in the 2008 campaigns, then retain them as activists. People will get involved in our Party if they are asked to do specific tasks that are productive and build towards important goals.

They want to get work done. They do not want to attend meetings for the sake of attending meetings. They want to feel that the people who meet them at the door or call them on the phone know what they are doing. For the most part they want to start out with concrete, well defined tasks.

The counties are the political building blocks of this state. If I can continue to grow the fiscal resources of this party, I will establish a fund of \$100,000 to support county candidates in 2008.

In 2006 we made strides in our work in Eastern Washington. Maria Cantwell won Spokane County, and only lost the 5<sup>th</sup> CD by 500 votes. Peter Goldmark took 45%. We increased our number of Democratic legislators from 4 to 6 with the election of Chris Marr and Don Barlow in the 6<sup>th</sup> Legislative District. Bonnie Mager was elected to the County Council in Spokane.

We know we have much work to do in Eastern Washington.

Eastern Washington is part of the Great American West. Western Washington is part of the Great American West Coast. Democrats have been making great strides throughout the Great American West – in Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Arizona.

Our Eastern Washington Organizing Conference this year will look to the successes by Democrats in the West, such as in Montana, to guide us in our organizing and our candidate recruitment in Eastern Washington in the years ahead.

Let me close by saying that our Number One goal over the next two years will be the re-election of Governor Chris Gregoire. We started six months ago working on the Gregoire Campaign. We are currently raising funds and assigning staff to this effort. In the end we will work for 28 months, hire dozens of organizers, and spend millions of dollars to insure that Chris Gregoire remains as our Governor for another four years!

Thank you again for the honor of choosing me to serve as your State Party Chair for the next two years. Now let's roll up our sleeves. We have work to do!

### **7th LD Activities:**

Most of our energies this past month were focused on creating an effective organizational structure. We have scheduled our first Executive Board meeting for February 24<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. at the Deer Park Library. We will review the draft of the by-laws in preparation for sending it out to the active Precinct Committee Officers and others on our mailing list; project a budget for the year; review a fundraising letter that we plan on sending out by the end of the month; identify activities and events that we will be participating in during the year; and discuss the best ways to meet the goal of getting strong Democratic candidates elected.

I will be attending a training session offered by the State for Chairs of Counties and Legislative Districts in Ellensburg the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of March. I am hoping that there will be concrete information that will be of assistance to us in establishing a strong foundation that we can use to build our Party here in Eastern Washington.

### **State Commissions and Boards:**

If you are interested in serving on a State Commission or a Board to assure that our interests in Eastern Washington are represented check out this web site. This is another very important way to serve our communities.

<http://www.governor.wa.gov/actions/appointments/boards/>

### **State Convention:**

Tradition indicates that the 2008 State Convention should be held in Spokane. For us to have the Convention in Eastern Washington we need to be able to demonstrate that we have an organized, effective, committed, energized Democratic presence on this side of the State. Since the Convention would be held in Spokane, the Spokane County Democratic Central Committee is taking the lead in demonstrating that "We can do this!" I will keep you informed as the plans progress, but right now it is more important that ever to have all Democrats pulling together and showing what we can accomplish.

### **PCO's (Precinct Committee Officers):**

I have been asked what a PCO is and why are they important. I can't say it any better than the PCO training manual. "They are the foundation of the Democratic Party and the ultimate grassroots organizing base of all our activities. The entire structure of the party rests upon their shoulders."

Getting the crucial Democratic vote to the polls in every precinct begins long before Election Day. It requires planning and preparation. The first step is to get to know your

neighbors and determine if they are Democrats, Republicans, or Independents. It is surprising as you talk to your neighbors about the issues that concern you, the number of people who share your same values. Sometimes just talking to someone helps them to understand that party labels are not the most important part of the political process. Knowing what a Party believes in and why is more important. Through one on one dialog that understanding can be communicated in a manner that is trusted.

Our goal in the 7<sup>th</sup> is to have a cohesive group that recognizes itself as having shared interests; as willing to work together on events and communication; and as a team committed to having good Democratic candidates elected at all levels of government. To this end, I am encouraging the County Chairs to identify and appoint PCO's to help spread the word. Please pass along the name of someone who you think would be a good PCO to either your County Chair or to me. We will contact them and help them to get set up.

**Share your values with your neighbors – be a PCO!**

### **Congratulations to Ferry County!**

The committed Democrats in Ferry County have organized electing Sarah Sparks, Chair and Bryan Bremner, Vice Chair. We are looking forward to working closely with them and our other five counties in the 7<sup>th</sup> LD (Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens).

### **Dates to Remember:**

**February 24<sup>th</sup>** – 7<sup>th</sup> LD Executive Board meeting, Deer Park Library, 208 Forest Ave., 10 a.m.

**April 21<sup>st</sup>** – 7<sup>th</sup> LD General Meeting, Reardan Community Center, hosted by Lincoln County, 12 noon lunch, 1 p.m. meeting

**July 29** at Old Kettle Falls Park hosted by Stevens County

**October 20** at the Okanogan Grange Hall hosted by Okanogan County

### **Contact Us: Your 7<sup>th</sup> LD representatives**

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