

7th Legislative District Democratic Newsletter

June 2007

www.7ld.newa-democrats.org

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7th LD Quarterly Meeting Reminder:

If you haven't already done so, save the date July 29th for the next quarterly meeting of the 7th LD at Old Kettle Falls Park. Dwight Pelz, Chair of the Washington State Democratic Central Committee will be our guest speaker. Other items on the agenda include a report on the status of the 5th Congressional District formation. An agenda will be coming in the next couple of weeks. The meeting starts at 10 a.m. with the annual Stevens County 7th LD picnic at 12 noon. The picnic is a potluck. Please remember to bring food items for the Stevens County Food Bank. This is a tradition that we have started as a way to recognize the support of the county hosting the 7th LD meetings.

Candidates:

We are actively looking for good Democratic candidates for both 7th LD positions #1 and #2. With Bob Sump's announcement that he will not be seeking re-election, position #1 will be an open seat. Several Republican names have been mentioned as interested candidates. Sue Lani Madsen, a Republican who ran four years ago from Lincoln County has officially announced and there are several others who may also run.

We need to be sure that we have a candidate in each position. Jack Miller who ran the past two times will not be running in 2008. He has offered to share contacts and information from his two campaigns with Democratic candidates who are planning on running. These resources will help a person who does not have a great deal of experience in running a campaign.

Please spread the word. Talk to people who you think would be good candidates. Pass their names along or have them contact Jack Miller directly (509) 954-3669 or miller.jrm@gmail.com

Washington State Democratic Central Committee meeting:

The next meeting of the WSDCC will be June 29th and 30th in the Tri-Cities. In addition to a special training session for the Chairs on the presidential caucus process next February, there will be caucus meetings for the interest groups, a presentation by Dwight Pelz on his Challenge from the Chair program, along with voter file training and committee meetings. It promises to be a full agenda.

The July newsletter will have a summary of what happened for those who will not be attending.

Caucus Process 2008:

At the Washington State Democratic Central Committee meeting in Bellingham on April 28, by an overwhelming vote (119-42), it was decided to use caucuses to select our next Presidential Nominee. Washington's Precinct Caucus will be held on February 9th, 2008. The caucuses are a grassroots process where Democrats meet together and decide which candidate should lead us through the election. By choosing the caucuses Washington State Democrats made a statement that we are a Party driven by grassroots activism.

Perhaps, State Party Chair Dwight Pelz says it best when he states that **“Our state will continue to be a place where Presidential candidates must win support through grassroots organizing rather than through expensive television ads.”**

With the publicity about the newly announced February 19th Washington State presidential primary and the fact that the Republican Party will select half of their presidential delegates through the election while the other half will be selected at their Republican caucuses, there is bound to be confusion this time around.

More information will be coming out about how to hold a caucus and the importance of the caucus process to the foundation of the party. A change to the caucus process will be the fact that platform recommendations will not be formally discussed at the caucus. Instead any recommendations will be turned in at the caucus and will be reviewed, combined, and polished before being voted on at a later date. More information on this process will be forthcoming also.

Summer Events:

We have a very active group attending as many public events this summer to show the Democratic colors. Our first parade was at Creston on May 26th with 12 people marching behind Northeastern Washington Democrats, Stevens County Democrats, Spokane County Democrats, and Lincoln County Democrats banners. Lincoln County also had a decorated float. We made quite an impact. The next weekend was Reardan’s Mule Days Parade with 17 people, respective banners and the Lincoln County float. That event was even more successful with lots of applause from the spectators when they saw all of us.

There are parades every weekend this summer throughout Northeastern Washington. We have multiple events on some weekends, so there will be lots of opportunities for who those of us who find it fun to get together, enjoy the down-home community events, and spread the word that there are many Democrats in Eastern Washington. The applause and smiles that greet us is really invigorating.

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 me an email and I will provide you any details. Bring friends and family – dogs are also great attention getters!

Democratic Legacy Dinner:

The dinner held in Spokane was a time to recognize the successes of the past year and a time to recognize the significant contribution of both new and returning legislators from a very productive legislative session. Thanks to the skill and expertise of Don Hamilton there were videos of acknowledgement from Governors Gregoire and Switzer and our Senators, as well as live speeches from our local State Senators Lisa Brown and Chris Marr and Representative Barlow.

The 7th LD’s gift basket was the hit of the silent auction table. Thank you to everyone who made this basket possible. We had wine from both Lincoln and Stevens Counties along with two wine glasses; four different kinds of honey from Lincoln, Spokane and Stevens Counties; coffee from Lincoln County and two mugs; an autographed copy of The Columbia Highlands by Craig Romano; and a huge variety of local “goodies” to round out the basket.

Fundraising:

We have received three donations from residents in the 7th LD totaling \$150 and our gift basket earned us almost as much. It is wonderful to see the bottom line rising as we

look toward attempting to do a mail newsletter and to raise funds for our Democratic candidates.

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.

Conservation Northwest:

I had the opportunity to attend a presentation by Tim Coleman on the coalition that is bringing the possibility of a Columbia Highlands wilderness area much closer to reality. The example that he presents, of bringing seemingly disparate interests (timber and conservationists) together to work for shared goals, is a positive example in our northeastern Washington area. What at first seemed to be barriers, turned into shared interests: economic vitality for the area, safeguarding wildlife, clean water, and recreational opportunities. The success of this collaboration should serve as an example to all of us working toward the same goals for our communities and our people here in the 7th. If you have an opportunity to talk to Tim about how this program came about, it is well worth hearing about a local successful example of what we can do when we focus on our shared interests. This is proof that we can work together to accomplish our goals.

Dates to Remember:

July 29 at Old Kettle Falls Park hosted by Stevens County, 10 am

October 20 at the Okanogan Grange Hall hosted by Okanogan County

Contact Us: Your 7th LD representatives

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