

7th Legislative District Democratic Newsletter

March 2007

Vol. 1; No. 3

Eastern Washington Field Representative:

Erik Horeis has been hired as our Eastern Washington organizer. He will be coming to Spokane and should actually be here by the time you read this newsletter. He will be working out of an office there although by the nature of his position, he will be traveling throughout Eastern Washington. He has already made contact with LD chairs, county chairs, and others to introduce himself. He is energetic, is familiar with Eastern Washington, and exhibits a strong desire to help us meet the goals that the State has laid out for us in the coming two years (more about this in the information about the Ellensburg meeting below). I have invited him to our meeting on April 21st and hope that he is able to come so that he has a chance to meet us, and we have a chance to get to know him. Welcome, Erik!

State Chairs Training Session in Ellensburg:

The description of the March 3rd Democratic State Party Chairs Meeting that I have heard most frequently is "the best Party meeting ever." While I have not had the same length of experience as many of those in attendance, I too felt that it was both energizing and informative, presenting a cohesive plan for the 2008 elections.

There were approximately 120 people there who were engaged in problem-solving and developing strategies to build up the Democratic Party in every precinct following a master plan introduced by Dwight Pelz, Chair of the State Democratic Party.

The challenge from the Chair to the individual LD and County Party organizations is to make use of the thousands of folks who come to caucuses to recruit volunteers and then involve them as activists. **We can build the Party if we conduct highly organized, competent, calm and friendly caucuses.** He said we want to make a great first impression. We want to ask participants to perform concrete tasks coming out of those caucuses as a means of keeping them involved in the Party through the election and into the future.

The Goal that Dwight set for the 7th LD is to increase our caucus attendance by 20% over the 755 attendees that we had in 2004. That means that we need to find 121 additional people to attend our caucuses.

In addition, since the 7th is classified as "rural Eastern," our emphasis needs to be on Voter identification. **We have 40,152 registered voters for which we do not have any identification as to their party affiliation.** We have 6,018 identified Democrats; 10,352 identified Independents; and 11,806 identified Republicans. We need to know more about the 40,152 individuals prior to turning out the vote!

7th LD Activities:

The proposed By-laws for the 7th, were approved by the State this week so we will be presenting them at the April 21st general meeting for adoption. All elected and appointed PCO's are eligible to vote. If you have not already received a copy, I have included one at the end of the newsletter.

We do not yet have the fund raising letter out but hope to have it in the mail by the end of March.

The website is being developed and will be up prior to the meeting in April. We will use that to post news and to serve as a contact point for other resources.

State Convention:

Spokane County Democratic Central Committee is bidding to host the State Convention next year. The 7th LD Executive Board voted to support their bid. Hosting the State Convention on the East side of the State seems very appropriate when looking at the movement of Democratic successes in what had previously been considered safe Red areas.

They will be presenting their bid at the State meeting in Bellingham on April 28th. All counties in Eastern Washington are being asked to officially support this bid. This would be a great way to bring more attention and energy to the Democratic movement in Eastern Washington! Please contact Kristine Reeves kristinereeves@gmail.com, Chair, Spokane County Democratic Central Committee if you are interested in assisting in any way, or just to offer encouragement.

Candidates Needed:

It is time to be identifying good Democratic candidates for positions at all levels. Obviously our first priority is to find good, strong candidates for the three positions in the 7th: State Senator, State Representative position 1 and 2. The time is now! Please suggest names of people who you think would be great representatives of our Democratic values.

Agriculture and Rural Caucus Meeting in Sequim

The all day meeting was a wonderfully successful, sold-out event. The presentations were excellent and the opportunity to share information about the issues facing farmers in Western Washington that parallel issues here in Eastern Washington. Several people who attended the meeting are in the process of writing up notes and I will get them out to you soon.

5th Congressional District Organizational Meeting:

Bob Esvelt is calling a meeting of Democratic Party Leaders and Activists in the 5th Congressional District on Sat. April 14 beginning at 1:00 (sign in begins at 12:30) at the Carpenters Building Association of Spokane at 127 E. Augusta, Spokane. A donation to cover rent of the facilities and liability insurance is requested.

The topics to be covered at the meeting include discussion of ways to improve communication of issues, events and campaigns throughout the various areas in the 5th Congressional District. Area wide support for Democratic Candidates at all levels and the upcoming Congressional Campaign will be considered.

We will also discuss the possible formation of a more organized 5th CD Democratic Party structure with a Charter, officers, and treasury. After consideration of voting rules, a vote will be taken on whether or not the group would like to proceed with such a plan.

Please contact Bob if you plan on attending or would like additional information:

509-738-6530; besvelt@centurytel.net

Veterans and Military Caucus:

This message is from the new Washington State Veterans and Military Caucus:

The Veterans and Military Families Caucus is a new caucus inside the Washington State Democratic Party. Our mission is to advocate for Veterans, active duty servicemen and women, and their families, and to provide support for democratic candidates and officials in their efforts to provide appropriate legislation and funding for veterans and military families. In other words, it works two ways: we use our politicians to support our issues, and we use our issues to support our politicians.

Membership is open to all who support our mission. Voluntary dues are \$10.00 per year. Inform your members that anyone who wishes may join our Google mail group by emailing us at wa-vets@googlegroups.com

I strongly believe that veteran's issues are potentially a source of great strength to the Democratic Party. Most Americans feel an obligation to our servicemen and women, and are shocked at the callous disregard shown them by the Republican Party under George W. Bush. When you help our new caucus, you will be directly supporting our party.

Frank H. Logan (1st Infantry Division—1963-66) Chair, Veterans and Military Families Caucus

In support of this Caucus we will put a link to their web site on ours as soon as we get ours up. At our general meeting on April 21st, we will be asking for a person from the 7th LD to serve as our representative to this Caucus; we will ask for your permission for a one time contribution of \$25 to help their Caucus get organized.

Dates to Remember:

April 14th – 5th CD organizational meeting, Carpenters Building Association of Spokane at 127 E. Augusta, Spokane, 12:30 sign-in, 1:00 meeting

April 21st – 7th 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 7th LD representatives

Ellen Miller (Spokane County), Chair miller.elm@gmail.com

Larry Ludwig (Stevens County), Vice Chair panludwik@aol.com

Bob Esvelt (Stevens County), State Committeeman besvelt@centurytel.net

Jackie Bradley (Okanogan County), State Committeewoman jbradley3723@charter.net

Ginny Moos (Lincoln County), Recording Secretary gmoos@icehouse.net

Pete Scooby (Pend Oreille County), Communications Secretary scobby@povn.com

Kathy Zerbe (Stevens County), Treasurer kzerbe@gotsky.com

Bette Grant (Lincoln County), Fundraising blgghg@aol.com

PROPOSED
Washington State

7TH Legislative District Democratic Central Committee

MISSION STATEMENT: To build and maintain an effective grassroots party organization that can help win local elections and maximize the Democratic vote in all elections

By-Laws
Adopted:

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization shall be: 7th Legislative District Democratic Central Committee

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be:

- To serve as the administrative body of the Democratic Party for the 7th Legislative District of Washington State;
- To operate as statutorily authorized and as permitted pursuant to the charter of the State and National Democratic Party organizations.

ARTICLE III – OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this organization shall be:

- To actively foster and promote the principals of the Democratic Party;
- To actively seek out qualified candidates for elective offices to represent the residents in the District;
- To actively support the campaigns of Democratic candidates of the District;
- To prioritize financial support for candidates representing the District;
- To gather and disseminate information concerning Democratic beliefs, values, and goals;
- To provide accurate, factual information that will assist the public in becoming better informed about issues that most directly affect their life and standard of living.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall consist of:

- Democratic Precinct Committee Officers, both elected and appointed;
- Elected Democratic officials representing residents of the District;
- Any person declaring their status as a Democrat residing in the District.

ARTICLE V – OFFICERS, DUTIES AND ELECTIONS

OFFICERS

The officers are Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.

The Chair and Vice Chair are elected by Precinct Committee Officers who have been elected to their position in the last general election. The Chair and Vice Chair will be of opposite sex and from different counties in the District.

The Chair will appoint a Secretary and Treasurer and any other positions that are considered necessary.

DUTIES

The duties are:

- The Chair shall preside at all meetings; and shall assure that the business of the organization takes place through active development and support of an effective organizational structure; maintaining a good and timely communication system; and encouraging active involvement in Democratic activities.
- The Vice Chair shall assume the duties of the Chair if the Chair is not able to attend a meeting, and shall be assigned duties commensurate with the purpose of the organization as determined by the Chair such as coordinating communications and information dissemination.
- The Secretary shall maintain an active record of the proceedings of the organization. This includes, but is not limited to, the recording of meeting minutes and accepting correspondence directed to the organization.
- The Treasurer shall receive all monies and deposit same in one bank, pay bills, and keep required financial accounts; and work closely with any fundraising activities.

The Executive Board of the District shall consist of the officers and State Committeepersons. The duties of the Executive Board are to conduct the business of the District as necessary between regularly scheduled general meetings.

A State Committeeman and State Committeewoman will be elected at the re-organization meeting at the same time as the Chair and Vice Chair and under the same rules.

ELECTIONS

The elections for Chair, Vice Chair and the State Committeeman and State Committeewoman will be held at the reorganization meeting. The reorganization meeting shall take place once every two years. It will be prior to the WSDCC bi-annual reorganization meeting and within six weeks of that meeting.

An attempt will be made to have representation of officers and State Committeepersons from throughout the District.

TERM OF OFFICE

The term of office is two years.

VACANCIES

Vacancies in the position of Chair, Vice Chair, State Committeewoman, State Committeeman or any representative the legislative district organization is authorized to send to other Party organizations will be filled at the first regular meeting following the vacancy, as provided in Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised. Only elected Precinct Committee Officers, and Precinct Committee Officers appointed after the reorganization meeting, shall vote in an election for these positions.

REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

An officer or State Committeeperson can be removed from office for failure to perform the duties of the office or failure to abide by the By-laws of the organization upon a vote of the majority of elected Precinct Committee Officers.

ARTICLE VI -- VOTING RIGHTS

All members of the 7th Legislative District shall have equal voice and vote. The only exceptions are:

- The re-organization meeting for the election of Chair, Vice Chair, State Committeeman and State Committeewoman. In this case only elected Precinct Committee Officers from the 7th LD can vote for these positions.
- The vote for filling a vacancy in the position of Chair, Vice Chair, State Committeewoman, State Committeeman or any representative the legislative district organization is authorized to send to other Party organizations. Only elected Precinct Committee Officers and Precinct Committee Officers appointed after the reorganization meeting shall vote in an election for these positions.
- The vote for removal of an elected officer from office for failure to perform the duties of the position. In this case only elected Precinct Committee Officers from the 7th LD can vote.

ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS

There shall be at least four scheduled meetings of the membership each year. Every two years there will be a reorganization meeting prior to the State reorganization meeting.

The regularly scheduled meetings for the year are to be announced no later than at the first meeting of the year.

Care is to be taken to coordinate meeting dates with other county and State meetings and events to avoid conflicts as much as possible.

An effort shall be made to rotate the regular meeting places throughout the District.

Written notification of the meetings and the agenda for the meeting will be sent to all Precinct Committee Officers so it will be received two weeks prior to each meeting. Electronic notification with acknowledgement of receipt may serve in lieu of written notification. Without acknowledgement of receipt a written notice must be sent.

ARTICLE VIII – FINANCE

Options for annual financial support of the organization include:

- Contributions from each county organization within the District
- Fundraising activities identified during the year
- Donations from membership

ARTICLE IX – PARLIMENTARY AUTHORITY

The Rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern this Club in all cases in which they are applicable and are not in conflict with these Bylaws or the Bylaws of the Washington State Democratic Central Committee.

ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS

Only elected Precinct Committee Officers and Precinct Committee Officers appointed after the re-organizational meeting shall vote on the adoption or amendment of Bylaws.

Changes to the by-laws will be recommended by a By-laws committee. The Chair of the District will serve as chair of this committee. An attempt will be made to have representation from each county on the committee.

Prior notice must be given in writing to the elected Precinct Committee Officers and Precinct Committee officers appointed after the re-organizational meeting by the Chair at least one month prior to the meeting.