

7th Legislative District Democratic Newsletter

November 2007

www.7ld.newa-democrats.org

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7th LD Quarterly Meeting: The quarterly meeting was held at the home of Jackie Bradley and was preceded by a training session on VoteBuilder offered by Jack Miller. The training session was well attended with representatives from Lincoln, Okanogan and Spokane Counties. We have several individuals who are willing to present training sessions to groups in the 7th LD as we prepare to win the Challenge from the State. Contact me if you have a group who is interested in a training session. We will make it happen. Having our people well-trained and comfortable with the basics of the on-line voter file is very important both for the February caucuses as well as next November's elections.

The business meeting was short. The minutes from the July 29th quarterly meeting were distributed as was the treasurer's report. A letter from Representative Cathy McMorris Rogers responding to our letter concerning request for initiation of impeachment proceedings for President Bush and Vice President Cheney, was read. She states that she will "oppose any efforts to impeach him and am eager to continue my work on behalf of Eastern Washington."

We reviewed the WSDCC recommendations on the state-wide initiatives on the ballot as well as the endorsements that the 7th LD had already passed. We discussed who we would select to be the Affirmative Action representative for the 7th with the State. Ellen Miller was granted the authority to approach several people and to offer the position to them.

Reports from the counties in attendance were given. The program, presented by Jack Miller, was a discussion of the role of VoteBuilder and the Caucus process in helping us to get more Democratic votes from Eastern Washington. Once again it was strongly encouraged that we get precinct committee officers trained both in how to use the resources of VoteBuilder and in the importance of the Caucus process.

With the adjournment of the meeting a birthday cake was unveiled honoring Jack Miller's 60th birthday uniquely decorated including a donkey! Thank you very much Jackie Bradley.

Challenge from the State: What it will take to win in Eastern Washington...

The Challenge from the State for the 7th LD is to get 500 new Gregoire votes in 2008. This breaks down for each of our counties to:

- **Ferry** needs 36
- **Lincoln** needs 37
- **Okanogan** needs 92
- **Pend Oreille** needs 51
- **Spokane** needs 121
- **Stevens** needs 162

We can do this! We must do this! Now is the time to volunteer to help. Please attend a training session. Contact me to schedule a training session. (miller.elm@gmail.com)

December 1st – Colville, WSU Extension Center, 985 S Elm St. (10 am-noon)

December 8th – Davenport, Community Center, 728 Morgan (10 am-noon)

#1 – Governor Gregoire: “Negotiator-in-Chief”

Governing Magazine named Governor Christine Gregoire the Public Official of the Year. Go to the on-line article and read the complete text <http://www.governing.com/poy/2007/gregoire.htm>

They document her year-by-year increased approval rating and her list of accomplishments that they characterize as “being the envy of any governor, ranging from budget surpluses to ambitions education and economic development initiatives to the resolution of some of the state’s longest running legislative battles.” This is a great article. Pass it along to people who may not have this information about how fortunate we are to have her as our governor.

As the article states, “she also runs one of the most open state governments in the country” holding meetings discussing the performance of state agencies that are open to the public and the press. What a refreshing approach!

There are also quotes from several Republicans included in the article including one that states “...she’s a good manager” and “she’s doing a good job of running the state.” Christine Gregoire – a governor that everyone can be proud of, and she is ours!

FCC and the Crisis in Radio Broadcasting:

I forwarded the press release from Senator Cantwell concerning the issue with the Federal Communications Commission and the move toward media consolidation. This issue has not caught the public attention to the extent that it should. Jan Baker, Spokane County State Committeewoman says it eloquently, “This FCC abuse is a huge threat to the foundation of Democracy in America.”

Several of you have commented to me that your experiences in Eastern Washington have been less than satisfactory when expecting balanced reporting from your local newspapers and radio stations. Rob Meyer has expressed his concerns to the local radio station in Colville (KCVL/KCRK) which include “the constant political misuse of ‘newscasts’ without equal-time provision for opposing viewpoints” and has reported his concerns to the FCC as well. As he says, “nothing has changed.”

For those of us new to this issue, the FCC was created in 1934 to provide a central technical and oversight authority over the airwaves and interstate communications. It is necessary because there is only a limited spectrum to carry electronic signals, and signals from one broadcast can interfere with other broadcasts. Ian Graham, Spokane County State Committeeman and very knowledgeable on this topic reports, “In the beginning spectrum and broadcast licenses were viewed as being held as a public trust” with responsibilities for serving the public interest. For almost sixty years the FCC was a smoothly functioning expert agency managed by people with technical knowledge and expertise. This changed in the early 90’s with more management by lawyers and the “public interest” clause was removed

from license requirements, making the losers the very public identified as the purpose for the agency.

The issues that face us now include:

- a threat to ethnic and cultural diversity both on the staff of media companies as well as the programs for minority populations in a community;
- significant changes in oversight including suppression of reports if they did not agree with the FCC's move to increase the number of television stations a company could own in a single market;
- refusal to take a strong stand on network neutrality or to do its own investigations of suspected violations;
- failure to fund expansion of wireless service to rural communities which greatly limits effective responsiveness in a national emergency;
- failure to support high speed internet access resulting in the U.S. lagging far behind many other developed countries;
- 80% of TV program production is controlled by conglomerates resulting in only 2 independent program suppliers (Sony and Warner Bros.) now while there were 23 in the early 90's.

The market forces are driving this movement and it will take concerted effort and leadership to change course. We need leaders who understand that communications regardless of format are the backbone of our economy today and as such it needs to be viewed as a critical part of our national infrastructure.

Our job is to keep the spotlight on these issues, and to demand accountability from the FCC and the companies they regulate. Please stay informed on this issue. As Senator Cantwell said "Our democracy is strengthened when diverse voices have access to the airwaves, print, television and the Internet."

Clean Elections:

You have been hearing about public campaign financing and how it brings appropriate financial support to candidates without the mega-dollars that can bring either the reality or the perception of "favors owed" along with the dollars. Washington State has an organization that supports this approach to financing of elections. I am including an introductory message from their campaign. If you want additional information about this movement here in Washington State please use the links in the article.

For all of you who have commented on the influence of big money on issues and candidates, this is a movement that is committed to doing something about it.

Please help us to spread the word that Public Financing of Campaigns (a.k.a. Clean Elections, or Clean Campaigns) is working in several states, and we need to do it here. The current system - where large sums flow in and political favors flow out - must be changed. When campaigns are funded publicly instead of through private donors, lawmakers can quit dialing for dollars, they will no longer be beholden to anyone but the voters, and everyone's voice will be heard.

But Clean Elections won't be handed to us on a silver platter. We need to organize a powerful grassroots movement to work for the changes we seek - and we need your active support. We are organizing local chapters in many areas, to carry out public education and to organize citizen lobbying. By email, we will keep you updated on our progress, and we will let you in on the many ways you can help.

For instance, we need membership donations (<http://www.washclean.org/donate.htm>) to pay costs of organizing, and we welcome volunteers (<http://www.washclean.org/volunteer.htm>) to do easy, part-time tasks such as letter-writing, data entry, and public outreach.

Please encourage friends and co-workers to learn about Clean Elections and to become involved. There is plenty of information on our website, <http://www.washclean.org>. Check our calendar regularly for events and activities by going to <http://www.my.calendars.net/wpcevents>. For local chapter information, visit <http://www.washclean.org/localchapters.htm>.

Anyone is welcome to attend one of our monthly board meetings - check with WPC President Marcee Stone at marcee@washclean.org for the next date and location. We also conduct workshops for advocates from time to time, for people who want to help spread the word. Contact Annie Phillips, our Speakers Bureau Coordinator, at annie@washclean.org to find out about the next session. General questions or suggestions are welcome, directed to WPC Executive Director Craig Salins, craig@washclean.org, or call 206-784-9695.

Thank you in advance for your time, money, energy, and ideas!

Sincerely, WPC Membership Team

Water Resources Development Act: Excerpts from U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell's press release:

U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA) applauded the Senate's 79-14 vote to override President Bush's veto of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), which authorizes America's essential flood control, navigation, and ecosystem restoration projects in a way that is fiscally responsible and technically sound.

“In overriding the president’s veto, Congress is making sure that help gets to Washington State’s waterways, ports, and Northwest ecosystems,” said Cantwell. **“Washington’s farmers, in particular, need the help contained in this bill because they depend on easy transportation of their crops along the Columbia River. The much-needed improvements to vital infrastructure and projects contained in this bill will grow our economy and strengthen our environment.”**

14th Annual WSDCC Maggie Awards: This was an amazing event and I was very pleased and honored to attend and represent the 7th LD. From the WSDCC web site:

Monday night (Oct. 22nd), Washington State Democrats celebrated the hard work of our grassroots volunteers at the 14th Annual Warren G. Magnuson awards. **With well over 1,200 people in attendance and over \$170,000 raised for the State Democratic Party, the event proved to be the most successful fundraiser in the history of the Washington State Democrats.**

Senator Hillary Clinton brought Benaroya Hall to its feet on several occasions, outlining her plans to get us out of Iraq, expand health coverage to the millions of uninsured kids, lift George Bush's absurd ban on embryonic stem cell research and provide America with a true path to

energy independence. Many thanks go to Senator Clinton for making the Maggie Awards her first campaign event in Washington State.

The Washington State Democrats would also like to congratulate our ten Maggie Award Winners for 2007. Each of them has shown a dedication to the Democratic Party and its values that we are all proud of.

Our 2007 Maggie Award Winners are as follows:

- *Male Lifetime Achievement Award:* Governor Booth Gardner
- *Female Lifetime Achievement Award:* Senator Mary Margaret Haugen (10th LD)
- *Male Rising Star of the Year:* Rob Holland (Chair, 37th LD Democrats)
- *Female Rising Star of the Year:* Rose Ehart (28th LD State Committeewoman)
- *Male Volunteer of the Year:* Jerry Beckendorf (25th LD Democrats)
- *Female Volunteer of the Year:* Michelle Pin (Snohomish County)
- *State Committeeman of the Year:* Todd Nichols (Snohomish County)
- *State Committeewoman of the Year:* Cathi Bailey (Mason County)
- *Elected Official of the Year:* Senator Chris Marr (6th LD)
- *Chair of the Year:* Ellen Miller (7th LD Democrats)

In addition, the Washington State Democrats wish to thank the 1,200 attendees, as well as our Awards Presenters:

King County Executive Ron Sims, Governor Gary Locke, Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels, Former State Party Chair Paul Berendt, Pierce County Executive John Ladenburg, Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon, 8th Congressional District Candidate Darcy Burner, State Party Vice Chair Eileen McColl, Speaker Frank Chopp and Public Lands Commissioner Candidate Peter Goldmark.

Affirmative Action Representative:

It is with pleasure that I can announce that Lindy Scott from precinct 7012 in Spokane County has agreed to be the representative for the 7th LD to the State Affirmative Action Committee. While new to the area, Lindy has had extensive experience working with minority groups. He is a professor at Whitworth University, teaches Spanish, and has run for the U.S. Congress in Illinois. He is a valuable new addition to the 7th.

Democrats.org page: <http://www.democrats.org/page/group/7thLDWashingtonState>

I have created a page for the 7th LD on Democrats.org. If you are interested in connecting with more people on-line, this might be a place for you to start. You can stay local if you want, or you can branch out not only throughout the State, but throughout the country as well, finding others that share your interests and views.

Give it a try and see if it is something that you find helpful.

Report from Walter Kloefkorn on the 5th CD:

With a busy and largely positive election behind us, ahead of us looms November 4, 2008. Not having at present an announced Democratic candidate for 5th CD Representative (maybe some

good news in a few weeks-no promises) the 5th CD organization will be focusing on party building and organization building.

We plan to conduct phone canvassing to identify Democrats throughout the district. Some surveying will also be conducted. These activities will lead to a more effective campaign, as well as feeding into the State Party Challenge and boosting caucus attendance. We will need volunteers who wish to do some calling. There are some identified areas we'd like to target, but will support calls anywhere in the district. You can do as little or as much as you wish. Contact me directly at wkloefkorn@yahoo.com .

Rep. McMorris-Rodgers has filed a declaration of candidacy and is raising money. Her Q3 totals were not high. There continue to be rumors of her deciding not to run, but new bumper stickers have been spotted. She (for once) acted honorably and voted for SCHIP and to override. She voted against the Peru Free Trade Agreement. She probably got permission to vote her district from GOP leadership on that one, it passed by a large margin. That is the extent of her positive actions. She actually tried to hold out for the Mining Law of 1872, even after the mining industry decided paying royalties would be a politic thing to do with a Democratic administration imminent.

Please join the 5th CD listserv by going to www.5thcdcc.org and clicking on the link.

Walt Kloefkorn, Chairman, 5th CD Democrats

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.

December 1: VoteBuilder training, Stevens County, WSU Extension Center, 985 S Elm St., Colville (10am-noon)

December 8: VoteBuilder training, Lincoln County, 728 Morgan, Davenport (10 am-noon)

December 8: Stevens County Holiday Dinner, American Legion, 111 S. Park, Chewelah (6 pm)

January 12: Pend Oreille County quarterly meeting, (TBA; 10am-12noon)

January 12: **7th LD quarterly meeting**, Spokane County, Carpenter's Hall, 127 E Augusta, Spokane (1pm-3pm)

January 21: Stevens County monthly meeting, Pizza Factory, Colville (6pm-8pm)

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