

KITSAP DEMOCRAT



Volume 8, Issue 1

Winter 2006

It's Caucus Time Again!

Jim Sharpe

Every two years, Washington Democrats gather for a long, wide-ranging discussion of political issues. The result is approval of a party platform and resolutions defining the party position on various issues (and in presidential primary years the nomination of a candidate for President). The process begins with the Precinct Caucuses on March 4th at 2:00 p.m., proceeds through the County Convention (April 8) and Legislative District Caucuses (April 8 or April 22), and culminates with the State Convention (June 3, in Yakima).

Caucuses are a great chance to meet fellow Democrats and the beginning of an interesting civic process that can be fun. Most of the elected officials in Washington State first became politically active by attending a precinct caucus. Caucuses are public meetings and anyone may attend. Democrats who are registered voters and will be old enough to vote in the 2006 general

Senator Maria Cantwell presented the Purple Heart Award to Sgt. Bill Campbell, who was injured by in Iraq. He was accompanied at the ceremony by his family, including brother Brian Campbell (left), Chief Warrant Officer, U.S. Army. The presentation highlighted the December 23rd meeting of the 35th LD Democrats. (See 35th LD News article by Fran Moyer.)

election (will be 18 by Nov. 7, 2006) may vote in the caucus and be elected as delegates.

At each caucus meeting, Democrats define positions that reflect their views and elect delegates to represent them at the next level. The big topic this year is bound to be foreign policy and Iraq, but positions on education, environment, health care and human rights will all be up for debate. There could be a resolution regarding NASCAR, Growth Management or land-use issues.

The results from the precinct caucuses form the basis for action at the next level - putting together a platform, passing resolutions and electing delegates at the County Convention and Legislative District level. Delegates go from there to the State Convention, where the State Platform is assembled. In Presidential years, delegates from the State travel to the National convention to represent Washington in the selection of a Presidential Nominee.

Howard Dean To Speak At Crab Feed

National Party Chairman Howard Dean will be the featured speaker at the Washington State Democratic Crab Feed on Presidents' Day, Monday, February 20, on the campus of St. Martin's College in Lacey.

He will also conduct a segment of the Precinct Committee Officer (PCO) training from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (\$10 with lunch). The crab feed is at 5:30 p.m. (\$40 per person).

Special guests also include Governor Christine Gregoire, along with many legislative members.

St. Martin's College Pavilion
5300 Pacific Ave SE
Lacey, WA 98503

To sign up for PCO training or the Crab Feed, contact Shawna Ousse at 206-583-0664 or email shawna@wa-democrats.org



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Meetings and Events

Jan. 28 (Sat.) – State Democratic Committee meets in Renton to elect new Chair for State Democratic Party.

Feb. 4 (Sat) – 35th LD Fundraiser at the Colonial Mansion in Shelton; 5:30-10:00 p.m.; invited speakers: Senator Patty Murray, Senator Maria Cantwell and Representative Norm Dicks.

Feb. 6 (Mon) - KCDCC Executive Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Machinests Hall, Bremerton.

Feb. 7, (Tues) - 26th LD General Meeting, dinner 6 p.m., meeting 7 p.m., South Kitsap High School., Port Orchard.

Feb 8-9 - Emily's List Training Event, Tacoma, for pro-choice candidates

Feb. 18 – Jefferson Jackson Dinner: 6 – 10 p.m.; Olympic College Bremer Center; invited speakers: Sen. Maria Cantwell, Rep. Jay Inslee and Rep Norm Dicks; \$40 per person.

Feb. 20 (Presidents' Day) - State Democratic Party annual Crab Fest and PCO Training, St. Martin's College in Lacey. Speakers: DNC Chair Howard Dean and Governor Christine Gregoire.

Feb. 21 (Tues) - Kitsap Democrats General Meeting; 6 p.m. buffet; 7 p.m. meeting. Events Center at Fairgrounds.

Feb. 22 – Kitsap Democratic Women, Angel's Buffet, 11:30 a.m. luncheon

Feb. 23 – Young Democrats, 7 p.m., LanWerx Café, 10600 Silverdale Way (across from Kitsap Mall); kitsap@ydwa.org

March 4 (Sat) – Democratic Precinct Caucus Meetings; 2 p.m.; check location for your precinct

March 6 (Mon) - KCDCC Executive Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Machinests Hall, Bremerton

March 7 (Tues.)- 26th LD General Meeting, 7 p.m., South Kitsap High School

March 11 (Sat.) - 35th LD General Meeting, 1 p.m., place to be determined

March 20 (Mon) – Kitsap Democrats General Meeting; 6 p.m. buffet; 7 p.m. meeting. Events Center, Kitsap Fairgrounds.

March 29 (Wed) – Kitsap Democratic Women, Angel's Buffet, 11:30 a.m. luncheon

March 30 (Thurs) – Young Democrats, 7 p.m., LanWerx Café, 10600 Silverdale Way (across from Kitsap Mall); kitsap@ydwa.org

April 8, (Sat.) – Kitsap County Democratic Convention

June 2-3 - State Democratic Convention in Yakima

Aug. 20 - Annual KCDCC Picnic, Jarstad Park in Gorst.



One picture captures the festive mood of the Holiday Party: (left to right) Remo Barr, Jim Sommerhauser and Sharon Peterson. Our thanks to organizer Ginger Sommerhauser.

*You are
Cordially invited to the*

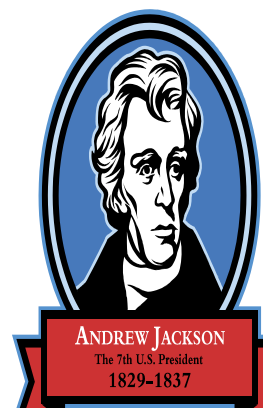
ANNUAL JEFFERSON-JACKSON DINNER AND AUCTION

Olympic College Bremer Center

Saturday, February 18th, 6:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Cost: \$40 per person

**Invited Speakers: Senator Maria Cantwell,
Representative Jay Inslee, Representative
Norm Dicks**



The Jefferson-Jackson Dinner and Auction is our principal fund-raiser for Democratic Party candidates. It cannot be stressed enough how important this event is for supporting our elected officials and candidates.

We urge you to save this date. Encourage your Democratic friends and neighbors to come and enjoy a wonderful dinner with good friends. It's an enjoyable way to support Democratic candidates and meet city, county, state and federal public officials. The dinner is always well attended by leading Democrats at all levels.

The Olympic College culinary arts students serve an outstanding dinner. You'll also have a chance to bid on many fabulous items (cash, checks only; a cash machine is on site). Donations of auction items are, of course, most welcome.

Please make reservations by February 12th. Send your check, with full names and addresses, to: KCDCC, PO Box 27, Silverdale, WA 98383. Call **Marilyn Boynton** for more information at 360-297-2776 or email her at mimib@donobi.net

We need auction items! To donate, call Jean Charneski at 360-373-7194 (Fax: 360-373-4733).

Help is available for people who cannot afford the J.J. Dinner. Contact Sharon Peterson at 360-698-6833 if you know someone who needs a free or reduced price ticket.



**State Party
Chair
Candidates**

Five candidates for State Democratic Party chair presented their visions for the future of the State Democratic Party at the January 17th meeting of the Kitsap County Democrats. A new chair will be elected on January 28 to replace Paul Berendt, who recently resigned.

Photo left: Laura Ruderman, Mark Hintz, Sharon Peterson (not a candidate), Jean Brooks and Bill Harrington. On the far right (righthand photo) is Dwight Pelz.

2006 Democratic Precinct Caucus Locations

Saturday, March 4, 2006; 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Here are revised locations for the 2006 Democratic Precinct Caucuses. Locations are listed geographically from north to south: North Kitsap, Bainbridge Island, Central Kitsap, Bremerton, and South Kitsap. Each includes the name of the facility, street address, and the number and name for each precinct meeting at that site. Signs will be posted at each location where to assemble for convening instructions. After convening, participants will be directed to each precinct location. All caucuses start at 2:00 p.m. and finish by 5:00 p.m.

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

“A little patience, and we shall see the reign of witches pass over, their spells dissolve, and the people, recovering their true sight, restore their government to its true principles. It is true that in the meantime we are suffering deeply in spirit, and incurring the horrors of a war and long oppressions of enormous public debt. If the game runs sometimes against us at home we must have patience till luck turns, and then we shall have an opportunity of winning back the principles we have lost, for this is a game where principles are at stake.”

— Thomas Jefferson

2006: A Year for Democrats - Barry Peters

Welcome to 2006 -- the year we can help Democrats take back Capitol Hill!

Let's count the ways George Bush and the right-wing lost the confidence of the country in 2005.

- **Social Security:** Bush tried to privatize and dismantle Social Security. Democrats, along with the vast majority of Americans, just said "No!" and Bush retreated.
- **Hurricane Katrina:** For days, Bush ignored the impending crisis that disproportionately threatened the poor and people of color. Instead, he attended a GOP fundraising event in California while Hurricane Katrina took more than a thousand lives and left hundreds of thousands homeless. The crony who headed FEMA resigned after initially being complimented by Bush for a nice job.
- **Corruption:** Tom Delay was indicted, but only after his GOP followers tried to hide corruption by changing a House ethics rule to allow indicted leaders to stay in power. Democrats shamed the GOP into restoring higher ethical standards.
- **More Corruption:** GOP Congressman Duke Cunningham resigned when his acceptance of multi-million dollar bribes from defense contractors came to light.
- **Yet More Corruption:** GOP lobbyist Jack Abramoff was indicted (and later pled guilty) to three federal crimes, and for defrauding four Native American tribes out of tens of millions of dollars. He is now likely to finger many elected officials (nearly all Republican), in what is likely to become the biggest political scandal in decades.
- **NPR and Public TV:** GOP crony Kenneth Tomlinson, who used public broadcasting funds without authorization to spy on courageous journalist Bill Moyers, was forced to resign from his position as head of public broadcasting.

- **Public Opinion:** By Fall, polls show that Bush's approval rating has sunk to its lowest level. Barely 40% approve of his performance. About 60% believe that the Iraq war was not worth it.
- **Spying on Americans:** The press discovered that the President was spying on Americans without court approval, in violation of Federal law. He reportedly approved wiretaps on calls to and from American citizens, contrary to a Federal law that was passed to protect Constitutional rights after the Nixon era.
- **More Spying on Americans:** Bush pressed for renewal and expansion of Patriot Act provisions which encroach on American's privacy rights. A bi-partisan effort results in an end-of-year blocking of Patriot Act renewal.
- **Yet More Spying on Americans Expressing First Amendment Rights:** Press reports disclose that the FBI has been compiling dossiers on peaceful groups of American citizens who oppose the President's policies.
- **Blood for Oil:** Playing games with the dollars needed for our troops, a Republican senator saddled a military funding measure with a rider that would support oil company drilling in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge. Democratic Senator Maria Cantwell led a bipartisan effort to successfully defeat the oil company assault on a pristine wildlife sanctuary.
- **Global Gulag?** Evidence surfaced of US torture of detainees in Guantanamo, Iraq and elsewhere. The press reported a network of secret CIA prisons in former Soviet block countries. Bush claimed "we don't torture," but Dick Cheney personally worked to oppose John McCain's anti-torture measure. Bush threatened to veto military funding for our troops because the anti-torture rule was attached.



- **Leave My Child Alone:** Communities discovered that the President's "No Child Left Behind" legislation has a provision that results in children's names being delivered to military recruiters. A movement arose to "Leave My Child Alone."
- **Support Our Troops - Bring Them Home:** Throughout 2005, our troops kept giving their lives in Iraq. Troop deaths passed 2,000. Bumper stickers read: "Support our Troops - Bring Them Home." Democrats Jack Murtha and Norm Dicks, out of concern for the harm being done to our troops and military readiness, called for the beginnings of an orderly withdrawal from Iraq. The President and Dick Cheney, who prohibit the press from picturing the return of fallen heroes, had little to say except "stay the course."
- **Mothers Know Better:** Cindy Sheehan stood courageously on the road to the Crawford ranch, waiting to ask the President "what noble cause did my son die for." Across the country, including Bainbridge, Silverdale mall and elsewhere, Americans joined in vigils for Cindy and her son, Casey, who died in Iraq.

23rd LD Report - Remo Barr

Happy New Year from the 23rd
At our last monthly executive board meeting we began planning our 2006 calendar. Our first of four general membership meetings will be Sunday, January 22, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Poulsbo Fire Hall.

We have been highlighting the office of each of our Kitsap County Democratic office holders who will be on the fall ballot. County Clerk Dave Peterson will attend the January 22 meeting to speak about what his office entails. The rest of the agenda

is being planned.
*Just a reminder...*It is time to renew both your county and legislative district membership dues. (Yes, they are separate!) Your dollars help us support the election of our local Democrats and issues. The February 7 school levy elections are next.

As we view what is happening elsewhere in the world today we can feel overwhelmed. Responding to all the national organization requests with a click of a computer mouse to

send our name to a petition or letter, or money to help a cause does give a sense of helping bring about change.

However, the upcoming congressional, legislative and county elections are more important than ever this year. We ask that you please give generously of your time and money to help our endeavors locally during the next ten months.

Together we can make a difference!

35th LD News - Fran Moyer

On December 23rd, Senator Maria Cantwell arrived at the VFW Hall in Shelton to a standing ovation by 35th Legislative District Democrats. She was there to present the Purple Heart Award to Sgt. Bill Campbell, who was injured in Iraq.

We were there to not only honor Sgt. Campbell, but the Senator as well. It was just two days before that our Senator broke Senator Ted Steven's heart. Senator Cantwell led the filibuster against drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. She stayed and rounded up enough votes that led to the Republican's pulling the ANWAR drilling provision from the defense appropriations budget.

Only a month before this filibuster, Senator Cantwell had

requested Senator Stevens to swear in the oil company executives to encourage them to tell the truth. He barked at her that would not be necessary. Since then, we discover they were not as truthful as they would have been if they had been under oath.

So, it was with admitted relish that I watched her triumph against the man who enjoys his power and using/abusing it. Well done, Senator Cantwell.

We have a huge agenda for the 35th LD Democrats meeting on Saturday, January 14th at the Shelton Library from 1-3 pm. Candidates running for state party chair will be there. We need to elect members to the Resolution, Platform and

Rules Committees. We need to elect delegates to represent us at our LD convention. The names of those elected need to be in to the state party headquarters by Jan. 31. The new party chair will be elected at the state committee meeting January 28th. So, this is a very important meeting. Try to be there.

Our major fundraiser of the year will be at the elegant Colonial Mansion in Shelton on Saturday, February 4th, from 5:30-10:00 PM. Senator Patty Murray, Senator Maria Cantwell and Representative Norm Dicks are the invited guest speakers. Please go to our website, www.35thdemocrats.org for further information.

26th LD Report - Mark Brown

I hope this report finds you and your families having a pleasant and joyful Holiday Season. According to Rush Limbaugh and Shawn Hannity I am stealing Christmas from all good Christians (as a leader in the Democratic Party). Sorry Rush and Shawn, but I love Christmas and celebrate it with my whole heart with my friends and family. This stealing Christmas is another Trojan horse placed by the Republicans to distract the public from the real problems facing America.

Faith is something Democrats need to start talking about again. We shouldn't concede the spiritual playing field to the Republicans. I find that dealing with right-

wing religious people quoting the Constitution and Federal and State Law are not enough. They perceive God's law as greater than man's law. Meet them on the field of Christianity. Lincoln always used a few well-placed scriptures to emphasize his points (a house divided etc.).

I find speaking the words and philosophy of Jesus often freezes the Lois McMahons right in their tracks. They want to quote scripture to justify their positions. We can quote better scripture. Have no fear about coming off holier than thou. Like Martin Luther King, we should use the Gospels and their teachings to inspire the higher angels of others to

bring about the successful changes in America, as King did with civil rights.

Democrats ignore God and come off Godless. All the great 20th Century presidents, including TR, Woodrow Wilson, FDR, Truman, Eisenhower, and Kennedy, often seriously called on the help of the Almighty. I recommend reading Jim Wallace's recent book *God's Politics : Why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It*. It is a great book explaining how the Republicans have co-opted Christianity because the Democrats only want to operate from the secular point of view. All the great movements and changes in America have started with

(Continued from previous page) religion first, from the abolition of slavery, civil rights and the neocon takeover of the Federal Government. Remember, many moderate main stream protestant churches and the Roman Catholic Church stand against the war in Iraq. The Republican party doesn't own the Christian faith here in America.

Even if you're not a Christian, learn the philosophy and points of view of Jesus Christ. The Republicans speak of a Christ that does not exist in the Gospels. Know the Gospels and use it against them. Know the

red letters of the Gospels. They trump any other quotations and scriptures in the Bible quoted by the right wingers.

Jesus was a radical liberal who believed in taking care of the poor, the weak and the disenfranchised. Jesus hung out with the poor, the prostitutes and the tax collectors (lowest rung of society). They call Democrats the Godless Party. What Dobson's Prosperity Christians and the Republican say has nothing to do with the true teachings of Jesus Christ. They are merely hijackers of Christ's name and his churches.

Don't worry non-Christian faith system believers, agnostics and atheists. We value you as you are and wouldn't change you for the world. We embrace Christ's teaching of not judging. Every person has their own path that is appropriate to them and their culture and faith tradition. "Love one another as I have loved you."

I love a good religious rant. Don't you? I'll try to keep it down to once a year. But when Republicans want to go to the Bible for justification I am not backing down one little bit.

Holiday Parties



Holiday moments: Top left, State Senator Phil Rockefeller with Wanda Mosbarger at the Democratic Womens' holiday party. Other photos are from the KCDCC holiday party: Top right: Tobi Braverman with Mark Brown; lower left: Bob and Mel Deitz; lower right: Barbara Stephenson with Bob Burkholder. Ginger Sommerhauser did an outstanding job of organizing the event.

**THE KITSAP
DEMOCRAT**

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Membership Application

This is your newsletter. Please help us continue to bring you the voice of Democrats. Yearly dues are \$25.00 per person. Mail your check today to KCDCC, P. O. Box 27, Silverdale, WA 98383. Your contributions to KCDCC will make our party stronger, more active and more effective. Contact Sharon Peterson to receive our newsletter link via email. This will help us to communicate more effectively, efficiently, ecologically and economically. Thank you!

Please be sure to include the following:

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State:

Zip:

Phone Number:

Fax:

E-mail:

If your donation is over \$100.00, please provide the following information so we can adhere to PDC regulations:

Occupation:

Employer:

City of Employment:

Thank You

