Chair’s Message for November, 2015

The 2015 general election is days away. On November 4th, the day after the election, will you wake up and ask yourself what more you could have done to elect our endorsed candidates? Seriously ask yourself the question because on November 9th in 2016, when you wake up, there will be national consequences to deal with if we haven’t done everything we can to elect a Democratic President. It’s time for a gut check, 34th District Democrats. You can’t elect a President by staying home and watching Rachel Maddow. You’ve heard the term before: Democracy is a Contact Sport. We need to make contact with the folks out there who don’t know we exist.

Let me run a few names by you: Carol Gregory, Austin Bell, Holli Giffin, Jon Scherer, Leslie Harris, and Lloyd Hara. Retaining Carol Gregory* to the State House of Representatives to preserve the Democratic majority in the house is paramount. The other candidates were overwhelmingly endorsed by us. Voter turnout is again low. Did you make a contribution? Make a phone call? Knock on a door? Especially, if you’re a PCO: why not?

We need new volunteers. We particularly need help entering data, cleaning up data, and producing helpful lists. We need PCO recruitment and additions to our Diversity and Outreach committees. Burnout of volunteers is our enemy. Believe me this organization needs more hands and new party leaders to emerge. Please contact me to let me know how you can help. Or stop by Drinking Liberally at Pizzeria 22 in Admiral on Election Night to chat with me then.

Marcee Stone-Vekich, Chair

(206) 465-1963
Senator Sharon Nelson named 2015 Champion for Children

Our State Senator Sharon Nelson was named the 2015 Champion for children for her work restoring funding for essential food and family assistance in the 2015 Budget. She fought to increase Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding and supported an amendment that would have restored the 15% that was cut during the recession. The final budget restored 9% of what was lost in the recession years.

The Children’s Alliance cited Senator Nelson’s tireless efforts to ensure food assistance be restored: “Her impassioned speech on [on TANF restoration] signaled her strong support for the food assistance program, which she described as critically important to her district and to the state.”

34th District Republicans Endorse Goodspaceguy for Port of Seattle Position 2

This is the first year the 34th District Republicans have endorsed candidates, and maybe they just haven’t gotten the hang of it yet. Although if you consider their choices of candidates for President of the United States: Donald Trump who wants to build a wall between the US and Mexico, because nobody builds bigger walls than he does, and he’ll make Mexico pay for it; Ben Carson, a brilliant surgeon, but not so brilliant a politician, thinks Obamacare is the worst thing since slavery; Carly Fiorina, a failed executive who was fired from HP, and these are the forerunners.

Goodspaceguy fits right in.

Chuck Rangel, chairman of the 34th District Republicans, explained that his legislative district voted to endorse Goodspaceguy because his opponent, Democratic incumbent Courtney Gregoire, didn’t fill out the 34th District Republicans’ questionnaire. "There were some good economic and conservative-type responses in his letter, so we thought, 'That's pretty good,'" Rangel said. Besides that, he's against the minimum wage.
34th District Democrats Meetings
All meetings of the 34th District Democrats are open to any of our members.

Executive Board
Wednesday, November 25, 7:00 p.m.
Puget Ridge Co-Housing Common House
7020 - 18th Ave SW

Other Meetings or Events
West Seattle Drinking Liberally
Tuesday Tuesday, November 3, 7:00 p.m.
Pizzeria 22, 4213 SW College St.

Evergreen Democratic Club
Tuesday, November 11, 11:00 a.m.
Angelo’s Italian Restaurant 601 SW 153rd in Burien

West Seattle Democratic Women
See westseattledemocraticwomen.org for meeting and program information. The fourth Thursday, the WSDW’s usual meeting day, falls on Thanksgiving. In past years the meeting has been held on the third Thursday in November, but do check their website first if you plan to attend.

Metropolitan Democratic Club
12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month
Plaza 600 Building

Burien Drinking Liberally
Wednesday, November 25, 7:00 p.m.
Mark Restaurant, 918 SW 152nd in Old Burien

King County Democrats Meeting
Tuesday, November 24, 7:00 p.m.
Renton Carpenters Hall, 231 Burnett Ave North

34th District Democrats’ Volunteer Day at the
White Center Food Bank], November 25

West Seattle Meaningful Movies
Saturday, November 7, 7:00 p.m.
Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for snacks and time to visit. The film is 90 minutes long.

High Point Neighborhood House
6400 Sylvan Way SW

Accessible by Metro routes 21 and 128

What if confronting the climate crisis is the best chance we’ll ever get to build a better world?

“This Changes Everything”
This movie is based on a best selling book of the same name, written by Naomi Klein. By featuring seven communities on the front lines, including Montana’s Powder River Basin to the Alberta Tar Sands, and from the coast of South India to Beijing, this movie connects the carbon in the air with the economic system that put it there. It shows how we can seize the climate crisis to transform our failed economic system into something radically better.
Report from the October Meeting of the King County Democrats

The meeting was presided over by Chair Rich Erwin. We were updated on fall campaigns by Tim Burns for Carol Gregory, 30th District Representative, who asked for more GOTV help in the final days of the campaign. Claudia Balducci King County Council Pos. 6 thanked us for our support. A spokesperson for the NO on I-1366 campaign, reported that the NO position has swept all major papers in the state, and requested that we promote the cause with personal emails.

Maria Leininger, Congressman Adam Smith’s campaign director, reported that support for the Ex-Im Bank was renewed, and that he will hold a town hall the second Monday in November.

Rolando Avila from the Statewide Poverty Action network (SPAN) described the priorities of their racial equity team. Reform Legal Financial Obligations (LFOs). These financial penalties assessed as part of a criminal sentence, and begin accruing 12% interest at the beginning of a prison sentence. People just out of prison are usually low income, and have problems paying, which can lead to wage garnishment, driver’s license suspension and re-incarceration, making it very difficult to reintegrate into society. Very little of the money goes to victim restitution. SPAN advocates the reduction or elimination of non-restitution LFO debt.

Make Certificates of Restoration of Opportunity (CROP) available. After demonstrating rehabilitation, former inmates would receive CROPs, which would make them eligible for more than 90 occupations now closed to them.

Pass the Washington Fair Chance Act (“Ban the Box”). This would make it illegal to ask job applicants about arrests or convictions before determining whether the applicant is otherwise qualified.

SPAN’s Lobby Day will be January 18, 2016.

Dean Fournier and Joel Ware announced that they needed one volunteer from each LD to work on the county platform. There will be weekly meetings from 2/15/2016 to 3/15/2016.

James McNeal sought an endorsement for Bothell City Council Position 4, which passed 36 to 4.

Noel Renggli of the Elections Committee requested volunteer observers for ballot processing. There is one more training session 10/30/15 at the Elections Center, 911 SW Grady Way in Renton.

Submitted by Steve Butts and Martha Koester
Democratic Debate Schedule
Most of these can be seen on your TV set without cable, unlike the first one. Fortunately, there were many bars with TVs showing the debate. If you were on a campaign’s list, you may have received a list of those bars and house parties where complete strangers were invited.

It appears that all of the Republican debates are on cable only, though.

Saturday, November 14, 2015
Aired On: CBS
Location: Des Moines, Iowa
Moderator: John Dickerson

Saturday, December 19, 2015
Aired on ABC News
Location: Manchester, New Hampshire

Sunday, January 17, 2016
Aired on NBC News
Location: Charleston, South Carolina
Sponsor: Congressional Black Caucus Institute

February or March, 2016
Location: Miami
Univision,
The Washington Post

February or March, 2016
PBS Democratic Primary Debate
Location: Wisconsin
Sponsors: PBS

And for those of you who are gluttons for punishment, or just enjoy a good train wreck:

Next Republican Debate

Tuesday, November 10, 2015
Fox Business/WSJ Republican Debate
Aired On: Fox Business Network (Channel finder)

Letter to the 34th District Democrats
Concerning Highline School District
This summer the Highline District announced their graduation rate at 69% and the rate of college attendance post high school at 56%. This rate is one of the lowest in Washington State. We can improve these numbers but we need our legislators to respond. First, we need a highly skilled and experienced teacher in every classroom. Right now 40% of Highline teachers have less than 5 years experience.

We need modern and safe buildings. 3 out of 4 of our main high school campuses are in need of replacement. The average age of these three high schools is 66 years.

We need teachers that are given the freedom to teach to the needs of their students, instead of following top down mandates and test prep

We need to end high stakes testing and test prep instruction.

We need more access to quality post high school career training programs.

We need small class sizes so teachers can work with the hard to reach student. This will only happen when the state legislature fully funds McCleary. Classes should shrink under the class size initiative. We also need the state legislature to fully fund school facility construction. The cost to remedy this situation is too much for our local district to bear. Now that our State Democratic caucus officially opposes Common Core, we need to exit from this program and give instruction back to our teachers. Our community and our students deserve nothing less.

Meg Van Wyck, Burien

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<td>Balance as of October 2      $21,505.76</td>
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<td>Add Revenues                 3,615.00</td>
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<td>Less Expenses                3,370.09</td>
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<td>Balance as of October 30     $21,750.67</td>
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In Case You Missed Our Last Meeting

Our “not so usual meeting” was called to order at 7:03 by Chair Marcee Stone-Vekich. The chair announced that regular business agenda items will be discussed at our November meeting. Planning committee members for tonight’s meeting were acknowledged. The Chair welcomed elected officials in attendance. Chris Porter gave a general overview of local nonprofits. There were representatives from West Seattle Food Bank, White Center Food Bank, White Center Community Development Association, Westside Baby, Southwest Youth and Family Services, Environmental Science Center, West Seattle Helpline, and Sustainable West Seattle. Each agency got a couple of minutes to talk about their services in the West Seattle community. We thank all the organizations that came to join us so that we can get to know them better and support them.

Debate between District City Council Candidates Lisa Herbold and Shannon Braddock.

After a brief introduction of each candidate, the panel discussion started with moderator Velma Veloria, former State Representative. Rep. Veloria asked candidates to speak about social justice and equity, class differences within District 1, and redlining (whether or not it exists in Seattle).

Moderator Stu Hennessy, executive director of Sustainable West Seattle asked questions on the environment related to Seattle’s reputation as an environmentally-aware city, divestment of city funds in fossil fuel stocks in the employee pension fund, Move Seattle Proposition 1, whether vacated substations from Seattle City Light land banked by the City, and incentives for businesses with zero waste going to the landfill.

Moderator Tracy Record, editor of WS Blog, asked questions on transportation and development. Ms. Record asked each candidate to differentiate how they differ from their opponent on the topic of transportation. She also asked what early actions they will take, if elected, re-channelization of 35th Ave SW, and the West Seattle Bridge-Duwamish Way Action report. On the topic of development, the candidates were asked to highlight their differences in development, whether single family zoning is racist, and micro-housing.

The chair asked questions that were collected from the audience.

There were no new PCO Appointments.

The floor was opened for the good of the order.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39.
Our Christmas Tradition - Gifts for the Residents of Navos

I know, it’s only November, but the Holiday Party is just a little more than a month away. As in past years we will be collecting gifts for the people, mostly children, at Navos. At our November meeting we will have gift tags for the residents of Navos at our November meeting.

If you are wondering what Navos is, Navos' is a Behavioral Healthcare Center for Children, Youth & Families. It provides services for vulnerable children, youth and their families by bringing together programs provided by Navos and their partners, Ruth Dykeman Children's Center and Seattle Children's Home, in a compelling natural setting on Lake Burien. The mergers with legacy organizations Ruth Dykeman Children's Center and Seattle Children's Home, in 2010 and 2012 respectfully, have enabled Navos to broaden and deepen their child and family services and accelerate progress toward a more integrated delivery model of child and family services in King County.

Don’t Forget the Food Banks

Christmas and Thanksgiving are hard on families who don’t have enough. Some years the stores have turkeys as loss leaders and are very cheap and some years free with a purchase. Consider donating one to your local food bank.
JOIN THE 34TH DISTRICT DEMOCRATS!

Sign up by filling out this form and mailing it with a check made payable to the 34th District Democrats, to Membership, 34th District Democrats, 6523 California Ave SW, Box 183, Seattle, WA 98136-1879

Name__________________________________________ Phone_________________________

Address ___________________________________________ Zip________________________

E-Mail__________________________________ Occupation___________________________

Employer__________________________________ Employer City____________________

*Required by voter approved Public Disclosure Act.

Contributions are not tax deductible.

Contribution Level **Per Person Per Calendar Year** (January – December):

- $15 Basic Dues
- $3 Living Lightly
- $34 Friend of the 34th
- $50 Sponsor
- $100 Benefactor
- $250 Sustaining
- $500 Underwriter
- $1,000 Endowment

You may add additional persons at same address for $10 per person at the **Basic** level:

Name(s)______________________________________________________________