

Kitsap Democrat



Kitsap County Democratic Central Committee

October - December 2009

Thoughts From the Chair—Carl Olson

Having sat through Congressman Norm Dicks' recent town hall meeting in Bremerton, I recall how agitated I had become by the end of that evening. Never in my adult life have I witnessed such a contentious gathering. We have important issues that must be addressed and a vocal minority must not deter us. Now, more than ever, we must redouble our efforts to bring about progressive change.

Given the unfounded rancor that has been displayed around the country, I was particularly taken by a piece shared at the 26th LD September 1st meeting. Hopefully you will as well.

Wish I'd said this!

I want all these anti-socialism Republicans to stop using my



socialized resources. I want them to STOP using my Medicare, my Social Security, and my VA Healthcare. I want them to get off my highways, get off my bridges, and stay out of my forests, parks, and museums. I want them to stop fishing MY socialized fish planted there by fish and game wardens,

and I want them to stop sending their children to MY socialized schools and public universities. I don't want to see them putting their dirty little hands all over my books in my fine, socialized libraries. While they're at it, they can just turn off their water, electricity, and gas, and take down those mailboxes, too. And stop calling my police officers and firefighters! We pay our taxes proudly in this house; and we don't take kindly to dragging a bunch of whining, ungrateful babies along behind us.

-- Unknown

A final note: as good Democrats we know that if we quit, the other side wins. We must stay in this fight for the long haul.



Sen. Phil Rockefeller is one of many Democrats who credit Jim Sharpe with having played an important part in their election to public office.

Endorsed Candidates

The following candidates for nonpartisan positions have been endorsed by the Kitsap County Democrats:

Kathryn Quade for Poulsbo Mayor

Roger Zabinski for Bremerton Port Commissioner, District 1

James Docter for Bremerton Municipal Court Judge

Adam Brockus for Bremerton City Council, District 3

Carol Arends for Bremerton City Council, District 7

Fred Chang for Port Orchard City Council, Position 6

Carolyn Powers for Port Orchard City Council, Position 2

Ed Stern for Poulsbo City Council, Position 5

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Meetings and Events

Oct. 6 (1st Tues.)—26th LD Democrats, General Meeting, Kitsap Room,
Givens Community Center, Port Orchard. 7 p.m.Oct. 19 (3rd Mon.)—Kitsap Democratic General Meeting, Fairgrounds Events
Center. Dessert and coffee at 6 p.m.; meeting at 7 p.m.

Oct. 19—General Election ballots available.

Oct. 24 (Sat.)—35th LD Democrats, General Meeting, 1 - 3 p.m., Shelton
Library..Oct. 28 (4th Wed.) —Kitsap County Democratic Women, 11:30 lunch, 12:30
meeting; AA China Buffet, 3583 Wheaton Way, East Bremerton.Nov. 2 (1st Mon.)—KCDCC Board Meeting, Machinist Hall, Bremerton,
6:30 p.m.

Nov. 3 (Tues.)—Election Day - Ballots due

Nov. 3 (1st Tues.)—26th LD Democrats, General Meeting, Kitsap Room,
Givens Community Center, Port Orchard. 7 p.m.Nov. 16 (3rd Mon.)—Kitsap Democratic General Meeting, 6 p.m. dessert &
coffee; 7 p.m. meeting, Fairgrounds Events Center.Nov. 18—Kitsap County Democratic Women, 11:30 lunch, 12:30 meeting;
AA China Buffet, 3583 Wheaton Way, East Bremerton.Dec. 1 (1st Tues.)—26th LD Democrats, General Meeting, Kitsap Room,
Givens Community Center, Port Orchard. 7 p.m.Dec. 5 (Sat.)—Kitsap County Democratic Women, Holiday Luncheon; 11:00
a.m. Ambrosia Catering. \$20. Contact Martha Lynn-Johnson, 360-204-5257.Dec. 9 (Wed.)—Kitsap Democrats Holiday Party, Silverdale Beach Hotel.
Reservations required (see details below).

Feb. 6, 2010 (Sat.)—Jefferson-Jackson Dinner

Kitsap County Democrats

Annual Holiday Party

Silverdale Beach Hotel

Wednesday, December 9th, 2009

5:30 p.m. Reception (no-host bar)

6:45 p.m. - Sumptuous Buffet

Fresh King Salmon, Baron of Beef
Salad, Potatoes, Fresh Fruit, Dessert
Coffee, Tea, Egg Nog**\$40 per person, Reservations required by Dec. 4th****Mail checks to****KCDCC, P.O. Box 27, Silverdale WA 98383**For information, contact: Ginny Duff at
gabby.duff@gmail.com; 360-509-7544

Vote NO on Initiative 1033

Initiative 1033 is a misleading initiative that will have thousands of unintended consequences - and it's an idea that's already been proven a failure in other states.

I-1033 would slow economic recovery and leave us in a permanent recession. This year Washington faced a devastating budget deficit. Unfortunately, I-1033 would lock in this year's budget as our baseline. The worst of times in Washington would become the best we can hope for.

I-1033 threatens education and health care. Unemployment is still on the rise, families are being kicked

off health care, teachers across the state are being laid off, and nursing homes and hospitals are being forced to reduce their care. As the economy recovers, we could restore funding to these services - but under I-1033 the current situation would become permanent.

I-1033 is a proven failure. A similar initiative passed in Colorado in 1992. Since then, Colorado's economy has been devastated and funding for services ranging from education, to the judicial system, to health care, and libraries has plummeted. The situation was so critical that in 2005 voters put the law on hold so their state could

recover.

Similar initiatives have been defeated at the ballot in Maine, Nebraska, Oregon and most recently California—and they've been kept from the ballot in Ohio, Missouri, Oklahoma, Montana, and Michigan. Between 2005 and 2009, TABOR (Taxpayer Bill of Rights) was introduced legislatively in 28 states (AL, AZ, CA, FL, GA, ID, KS, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MS, MT, NC, ND, NH, NM, NV, OH, OK, OR, PH, SC, TN, TX, VA, WI). Colorado remains the only state to have adopted this terrible idea.

APPROVE Referendum 71

Protect All Washington Families

Did you know?

Washington families may lose their rights? Registered domestic partners may lose over 200 rights and responsibilities contained in the domestic partnership expansion bill of 2009 if voters repeal the bill through Referendum 71.

What is the Domestic Partnership Law - SB 5688?

This law was passed by the Legislature in 2009 to ensure that all Washington families are treated the same, with the same protections, the same rights and the same obligations as their neighbors. Under this law, registered domestic partners (same-sex couples and opposite-sex couples where at least one partner is over age 62), and married couples, are treated equally under state law throughout Washington.

What is included in the new law?

Key rights and obligations in the law include:

- Death benefits for the partners of police and firefighters killed in the line of duty.
- Pension benefits for the partners of

teachers and other public employees.

- Victims' rights, including the right to receive notifications and benefits allowances.
- The right to use sick leave to care for a seriously ill partner.
- The right to workers' compensation benefits if a partner is killed in the course of employment.
- The right to receive unemployment benefits if an employee must leave a job to care for a seriously ill partner.
- The right to adopt a partner's child without paying for a home study.
- The areas covered by the law include labor and employment law, pensions, survivor, and other public employee benefits, family law, insurance rights, higher education, banks, financial institutions and loan agencies, creditors' rights and business licenses.

What is Referendum 71?

Opponents of the domestic partnership law are seeking to repeal it. Referendum 71 would ask voters whether the law should be approved or rejected. A vote to "APPROVE" keeps the law so that all families will have these protections in all parts of the state.

How can you help?

Go to WAFST.org

1. Pledge to Approve Referendum 71!

Talk to your friends, family, co-workers and houses of worship and ask them to do the same.

2. Sign the online Pledge. Sign and forward the online pledge. Forward it to friends and family, and distribute fliers like this one at community events!

3. Post a link on your Facebook page. Spread the word in the virtual world by posting a link to the WAFST.org webpage on your Facebook or other social networking site.

4. Ask Your Organizations to get involved.

5. Donate to Washington Families Standing Together, which includes *ACLU, Equal Rights Washington, FUSE, GSBA, Human Rights Campaign, Join the Impact, Jewish Federation of Seattle, Legal Voice, PFLAG, Planned Parenthood Votes, Pride at Work, Pride Foundation, RCE, ROAR, Local 775 SEIU, Task Force, UFWC Local 21, WSPA, Anti-Defamation League, and One America*

Call to Action — Michael Arnold

I've been noticing that the Republican Right Wing and their Media Elite are not simply disagreeing with President Obama's initiatives, but have declared all out total war on this Black President. It certainly makes me believe that these hacks are up to a great deal more than politics as normal.

In the 1970's a Republican hack wrote a piece describing in complete detail how to establish a Right Wing attack to ensure a **complete takeover** of the American Government from the local level to the national.

This multi-level attack includes the following:

- Think Tanks that promote the Republican agenda.
- Policy foundations and organizations that promote the Republican agenda.
- Create a Republican media machine to promote and advance the Republican agenda.
- Train grass roots organizations to act as foot soldiers for the Republican agenda.
- Use public relations firms, acting as PACs, foundations and institutes to advance the Republican agenda.
- Create mass media organs to preach the Republican agenda (Fox News, Rush, Glenn Beck, etc.).
- Establish a database of people, organizations and businesses to fund the Republican agenda.

This multi-level attack has been in effect for **more than 30 years!** And it has done untold damage to the American people, especially the poor and middle class.

What is the agenda? It's also multi-leveled and multi-faceted and includes:

Personal Responsibility—In other words, don't count on the government for social programs such as Medicare.

Social Security—They don't want to pay for these programs.

Less Government—If folks have to take care of their needs on their own,

then we don't need a government to handle social programs, ensure education, ensure equality among the peoples, ensure equality among the sexes, ensure no oversight of American airwaves, and on and on.

Deregulate Business—Republicans argue that businesses will regulate themselves through competition; however, history tells us that businesses are complicit in their crimes against the people. It's been so long since we had usury laws that young people have never heard of them. Yet these laws were established to protect people from the abuse of business. Of course it costs money to oversee these laws, money Republicans don't want to invest.

Under the thumb of a Republican Congress, those laws were done away with because "businesses will regulate themselves so there is no need for these laws." What we have seen since is a collapse of the American Economic System and a "bail-out of companies that are too large to fail." I say if the company is too large to fail, then it is a monopoly and must go the way of Old Ma Bell – split it up to manageable sized businesses. Companies this large are a sign of business without competition and therefore no regulation through competition.

Lower Taxes—If you're not paying for social programs and oversight programs then you have reduced the size of government and you can lower taxes – especially for the wealthy.

Flat Tax—This idea sounds fair, but it is not. When you break it down you can see that it lays an unfair burden upon the poor. If a person pays 15% of \$12,000.00 per year that leaves only \$10,200.00. If a person pays 15% of \$1,000,000.00. That leaves \$850,000.00. Who is more able to pay for things of necessity such as food, housing and medical care for themselves – not to mention a family too.

Preemptive Wars—In 2003 the Bush Administration spent \$2,500,000.00 creating fake news stories and articles to promote the war in Iraq. Remember that Iraqi on television emphatically thanking America for bringing regime change? It was a fake. And so were \$2,500,000.00 worth of more fake news. When the Government Accountability Office reported this crime the White House instructed its people to ignore the report. This shows without a doubt that some in the Republican party will stop at nothing to achieve their own agenda, no matter how twisted that agenda may be or how detrimental that agenda may be for our country.

If there is accountability of the White House, there can be no preemptive wars lest we repeat the crime we perpetrated against Iraq. War crimes must be punished, but absolutely nothing has been done about them to the shame of the Obama Administration, the US Congress and the Judicial Branch (Supreme Court).

These things are just the tip of the iceberg. There are thousands of people in the Republican Agenda Machine, spending hundreds of millions of dollars per year during normal years and more when they are out of power and willing to do anything to get back in power.

We the people have seen smears, lies, misrepresentation, implanted news people in the White House Press Corps (to ask planted questions), fake news, trumped-up charges of WMD in order to go to war, deregulation of business that nearly collapsed the American economy and cost everyday people millions in retirement monies leaving some with **nothing**.

How can we be Personally Responsible when business is not required to be responsible? How can we be Personally Responsible when our elected officials are not required to be responsible? How can

we be Personally Responsible when even our President is not required to be responsible? How can we? And how dare they ask for personal responsibility when they have stacked the deck against us?

But Personal Responsibility is exactly what we must ask of ourselves.

We must meet the challenge of holding our government responsible to the people. We must take action in any way we can. Every citizen must do their part, as much as they can, to ensure that our government does what it is supposed to do. We must ensure that our government is accountable to the people. We must demand that the three branches of government do what they are charged to do by our Constitution or we no longer have a “government of the people, by the people, for the people.” Instead, we have a government *of, by and for the wealthy and the well connected.*

We cannot afford that kind of government.

I am calling for all persons of good conscience to do their part. To those who are given much, much is required. To those who are given less,

less is required. But I’m not talking about just money. If you have great intelligence, share that intelligence. If you have a lot of free time, give of that free time as you are able. If you are a writer, write. If you are a teacher, teach. If you are a marketing expert, market Democratic and Progressive ideas. If you do Public Relations, share that talent. If you can drive and have a car, help folks get to meetings or appointments.

I think you get the idea. We all have something to give, and must be personally responsible for using it to help the cause.

To do nothing is not an option. To do nothing means the end of America as we know it. Those responsible for putting the country in this mess (Republicans and complicit Democrats) are the *real death squads* because to do nothing means the end of the middle class and the *death of the poor.* We must be committed to replacing those in power who have demonstrated they do not have the best interest of the country at heart.

Don’t “Just do it!” Do something for the American cause. Do something for yourself!

Class Warfare

The backlash against the Civil Rights Bill of 1964 turned much of rural America from populist Democrats into rancorous Republicans. Class warfare has been a mainstay of the Republican right ever since.

It’s also a dependable strategy for blocking reform. The sophisticated marketing tools used to whip consumers into buying frenzies have proved just as effective at pitting groups against each other. Lies repeated often enough take root and become “facts.” Skillfully scripted propaganda finds fertile ground among those who feel victimized by forces beyond their control. With propaganda wrapped in patriotism and appeals to religious fervor, special interests can orchestrate self-righteous anger and turn it against those who stand in their way.

Sinclair Lewis once warned that, *“when fascism comes to America it will be waving the flag and carrying a cross.”*

As noted in the preceding article, there is also a hidden agenda. Powerful interests are working to pack our courts with right-wing ideologues and extend their ownership of the media. A shadow elite seems intent on replacing government “of the people, by the people and for the people” with one controlled by a wealthy few. With limitless campaign spending and media ownership comes the ability to control the outcome of elections. The “godfathers” of lawless cabals can make offers our political leaders can’t refuse.

Gene Bullock

Town meetings led by U.S. Congressmen Jay Inslee and Norm Dicks gave the public a chance to ask questions about health care reform. The meetings attracted large crowds, including many who came only to shout and disrupt. Irrational anger has been deliberately spurred by misinformation coming from special interests with questionable motives.



23rd LD News—Rob Gelder, Chair

With Kathy Brown's departure, the vacancy for Vice-Chair has been filled by the election of Linda Gabriel at our September 13th meeting. I welcome the opportunity to work more closely with Linda. She has a wealth of experience upon which to draw and a can-do willingness to step up and get involved. Thanks Linda and welcome aboard.

We are in the process of recruiting another executive board member from individuals living within the Central Kitsap School District. This is the position that Jim Sharpe held. Given the gender

balance of the board, we can entertain interest from individuals of both genders. Should someone have an interest, please contact me directly to discuss the opportunity. I can be reached at rgelder@msn.com.

In recognition of all that Jim has done for the 23rd LD Democrats, we officially renamed the event ***The Jim Sharpe Salmon Dinner***. The executive board felt that it was a fitting tribute to a man who in many ways built our local party organization. As we shared with Jim that evening, he will forever be connected to us.

Lastly, the 23rd LD Democrats are looking for a webmaster for our website. Our previous webmaster had to step away from the obligation and the site has become seriously out of date. Michael Arnold has agreed to help us temporarily to bring us current, but is unable to do it on a long-term basis. Therefore, if you have this skill set and would like to support the work of the 23rd LD Dems, please contact me as soon as possible at rgelder@msn.com.

Thanks for the read.

26th LD News—Mark Brown, Chair

August was another busy month for the 26 LD Democrats. Rep. Larry Seaquist and Sen. Derek Kilmer both held fundraisers this month to get a jump on the opposition in 2010. Both accumulated a considerable amount of cash.

Health care of course was a major issue for our district, and many participated in many events. 26ers doorbelled for President Obama and sold the Public Option to the uninformed. We also went visiting the offices of Patty, Maria and Norm. Of course many attended the town hall meetings held by Representative Dicks, lending him our support against the crazy right wing wackos who also showed up. It seems that the right will lie, cheat and steal to keep the money train rolling into the Giant Mega Health Insurance Companies.

But they are going to lose, and we are going to see real health reform in this country.

At our last meeting Jon Abbot spoke about his trip to National Young Democrats in Chicago which we sponsored. He learned much and had a wonderful time. He will be an elected official for the 26th sometime in the future. University of Puget Sound Professor Rich Anderson-Connolly spoke on the *No on Pierce County Charter Amendment 3* campaign to prevent the repeal of ranked choice voting in Pierce County. This position gained approval with our organization. Roberta McNair, from Progressive Democrats of America, will be speaking on single-payer health care.

The featured speaker was potential 26th representative candidate

Dr. Sumner Schoenike. He spoke on *A Doctors perspective on National Health care*. He also spoke of Project Health for Pierce County, of which he is the leading organizer. All those without health care in Pierce County will receive free health care from more than 200 doctors, nurses and dentists for a 48 hour period. The project is being fully funded by donations from the medical community. The location will likely be the new hospital in Gig Harbor sometime in November.

On a personal note, my wife and I had the great pleasure of seeing our son Ryan married to Carly Boudreaux on the Isle of Maui on September the 5th. It was a wonderful wedding and reception. It was obviously true love. The groom's parents couldn't be happier for their son and his bride.



Photo left: Kitsap Democratic booth staffers at Kitsap County Fair included (left to right) Joe Chapman, Diane and Michael Arnold, and Sandy Bullock.

Photo right: Carl Olson, KCDCC Chair, in Kitsap Democrat booth at the Great Peninsula Future Festival, August 1-2, in Port Gamble.



35th LD News—Nancy Frank, Chair

To everyone who attended or helped with our August 8th picnic--Amazing job! Thanks to you, it turned out better than we ever expected. In fact, it was our best picnic fundraiser yet (by only a few dollars, but hey, it was still a record). And to Diane Arnold, the auctions and raffles made all the difference between good results and great results. Plus, at an average of nearly \$40 apiece, the dessert auction was a hit. And, of course the Moyer's

boat two rides added a huge boost to the total, too. Thanks again, everyone.

More exciting news—during the business our PCOs elected Mark Biggs as our new Vice Chair. Welcome Mark and we look forward to working with you. Our by-laws committee also submitted their recommendations for by-laws amendments for our review before the official vote at our October meeting.

Finally, our push to bring

previous members back on board as dues paying members and to encourage all nonmember PCOs to be aware that they also represent the 35th LD and that part of their duties include participation in our meetings and events, has been extremely successful. Starting with 54 paid members, we have gained 33 new members, for a new total of 87. That is an amazing increase of nearly 40% in only two months!

Kitsap Democratic Women—Jo Fox Burr, Chair

After taking a break over the summer, we have started up our regular meetings on the 4th Wednesday of each month. We gather at 11:30 am to eat and chat, and start our meeting at 12:30. Our meeting place is the AA China Buffet at 3583 Wheaton Way, in East Bremerton; in the same shopping center as “Pat’s Cookie Jar Restaurant.” Our September meeting focused on the upcoming election. We had a representative from Washington Families Standing Together which is working for the preservation of the

Domestic Partnership Law by getting out the vote to approve Referendum 71. As it is such a divisive issue, the success of this get-out-the-vote campaign could affect several other races and issues. Sherry Appleton represented Kathryn Quade’s campaign for re-election as Mayor of Poulsbo which is an important race in our area. Finally, Roger Zabinski who is running for the Port of Bremerton came to talk with us. Who serves on this Port Commission can have a serious impact on the economic health

of our community.

We will hold a regular meeting in both October and November, but will only have a holiday party in December. The date of this party has yet to be scheduled.

As we are no longer a member of the Washington State Federation of Democratic Women, we decided to set up our own website at <http://www.kitsapdemocraticwomen.org>. The page is still under construction, but we expect it to be functioning shortly.



Margaret Murdach, 96, and a few friends at the Kitsap County Democratic picnic. Left to right: Jo Fox-Burr, Dolores Doninger, U.S. Congressman Norm Dicks, Carl Olson (hidden), Martha Lynn Johnson, Bobbette Olson and Natalie Bryson.

Kitsap County Democratic Picnic Chair and chief organizer Marilyn Boynton and KCDCC Chair Carl Olson

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Please be sure to include the following:

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