

# Kitsap Democrat



Kitsap County Democratic Central Committee

April - June 2011

## *Can You Hear Me Now?—Michael Arnold, Chair*

As Democrats, we tend to think about events in the context of our own lives. Today there are children who will never know a time without the memory of September 11<sup>th</sup>. I have never known a time without Social Security and Medicare. I can't imagine a time without the memory of World War II. And even though we are familiar with the basic events of our times, few of us actually remember the vital historical events of these things.

Our opponents count on these *Information Lapses* in order to perpetrate rewritten history and similar efforts. For example, if we consider Social Security, how many of us remember that it is an insurance program that we pay into. Social Security gets no income from taxes! Which begs the question, If Social Security gets no income from taxes, why are Republicans dragging Social Security into the tax debate? The answer is that they are relying on Info Lapse and rewritten history in order to promote their agenda. Our opponents are betting that Americans will never realize the mental change in our concept of Social Security.

Of course, the Republican objective for all Social Programs is to completely privatize them. Can you imagine the state of Social Security if Republicans had been successful under Bush in having all Social Security



money invested in Wall Street? I have friends who lost more than 50% of the value of their investments. Does that sound like a good idea for your Social Security dollars? How would your retirement look on 50% less income for the rest of your life?

Consider Medicare on vouchers. Paul Ryan and the Republican budget promote a plan to change Medicare for persons 54 and younger. Ryan says his change is not a voucher program; but a rose by any other name is still a rose – and believe me, this is no rose! If your voucher doesn't cover your medical requirement then you're on your own!

But it doesn't end there.  
Republican plans eliminate funding

for public education, from K through post-graduate programs; infrastructure such as highways, waterways, and dams; fire and police departments will go private; child work laws will go away, along with all unions and safety programs.

In fact, government as we have come to know and count on will be completely gone. Only a shell of government would remain. Businesses will be allowed to police themselves as if they actually have the best interest of consumers and America at heart.

I am not exaggerating the Republican agenda or plan. If these things frighten you as much as they frighten me, then it is time to roll up your sleeves and join us as we fight to preserve the America we know.

Now is the time. We are the people.

We are holding a Training Day on May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., ending with a Spaghetti Dinner (\$10 per person, \$5 kids 12 and under). This training is for Activists (new and old) as well as Precinct Committee Officers. RSVP today at 360-698-6833. We'll hold a place for you.

Join us at the Silverdale Community Center in the Evergreen Room as we prepare ourselves for the coming battle. Get tools you can use in today's climate of the Undoing of America.

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# **Meetings and Events**

**May 16 (3<sup>rd</sup> Mon.)—Kitsap County Democrats general meeting, Fairgrounds Events Center; 6 p.m. dessert and coffee, 7 p.m. meeting.**

**May 19 (Thurs.)—Campaign kick-off for Commissioner Rob Gelder; Filipino American Hall, Bainbridge Island; 5:30-7:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Linda Gabriel: 360-697-2378 or *linda@robertgelder.com*.**

**May 22 (Sun.)—Training Day for activists and PCOs, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Evergreen Room, Silverdale Community Center. Spaghetti dinner \$10 per person; \$5 kids 12 and under. RSVP to *kitsapchair@yahoo.com* or call 360-698-8833.**

**May 24 (4<sup>th</sup> Wed.)—Kitsap County Democratic Women; luncheon at 11:30 and meeting at 12:30; Red Barn at Country Meadows in Silverdale.**

**May 25 (Wed.)—Meet Your County Commissioners – public forum sponsored by Kitsap Conservation Voters; 7 – 9 p.m., Island Lake Community Center.**

**May 26 (Thurs.)—23<sup>rd</sup> LD Democratic general meeting; 6:30 p.m., coffee and conversation; 7 p.m., meeting, Poulsbo Fire Hall. Special guests: 23<sup>rd</sup> legislators and county commissioners.**

**June 6 (1<sup>st</sup> Mon.)—Kitsap County Democrats Executive Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Machinist Hall, Bremerton.**

**June 6 - 10—Filing week for candidates.**

**June 7 (1<sup>st</sup> Tues.)—26<sup>th</sup> LD Democrats general meeting, Givens Community Center, Port Orchard. Coffee at 6:30 p.m. Meeting at 7:00.**

**June 11 (Sat.)—Kitsap Democratic Women picnic at the home of Jo Fox Burr. Contact Jo at 360-613-4042; *foxburr@comcast.net***

**June 20 (3<sup>rd</sup> Mon.)—Kitsap County Democrats general meeting, Fairgrounds Events Center; 6 p.m. dessert and coffee, 7 p.m. meeting.**

**July 4<sup>th</sup> (Mon.)—Parades in Kingston and Bainbridge Island.**

**July 5 (Tues)—Kitsap County Democrats Executive Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Machinist Hall, Bremerton.**

**July 18 (3<sup>rd</sup> Mon.)—Kitsap County Democrats general meeting, Fairgrounds Events Center; 6 p.m. dessert and coffee, 7 p.m. meeting.**

**Aug. 2 (1<sup>st</sup> Tues.)—26<sup>th</sup> LD Democrats general meeting, Givens Community Center, Port Orchard. Coffee 6:30 p.m. Meeting at 7:00.**

**Aug. 14 (Sun.)—Kitsap Democrats annual picnic and dessert auction, Jarsted Park - Gorst Creek Fishway, 12 to 3 p.m. Contact Marilyn Boynton: 360-297-2776 or *marilynboynton@centurytel.net***

**Aug. 16 (Tues.)—Primary Election**

**Aug. 24- 28—Kitsap County Fair**

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# Democratic State Central Committee Meeting

Jim & Ginger Sommerhauser

One of the principal functions for the April State Central Committee (SCC) meeting was to approve the Delegate Selection Plan to be used in the 2012 Presidential nominating process. The Rules Committee, on which Jim S. serves, had met back in March to develop the draft plan. This draft was then posted on the State Democratic Party web site for review and comment.

The Rules Committee met Saturday morning and reviewed the 15 comments that had been received. We voted to change the precinct caucus and LD/County caucus dates to avoid a conflict with the start of Jewish Passover. Saturday afternoon the full State Central Committee voted to approve the draft delegate selection plan.

The purpose of the Caucus process is to determine the number of National Convention delegates each presidential candidate will receive and to elect those delegates. The final results of this process will allocate 63 delegates elected at the Congressional District level and 21 at-large delegates and 8 at-large alternates.

At Precinct Caucuses, Democrats determine the percentage of our allocated national convention delegates for each presidential candidate. They then elect delegates to the next step in the process. The Precinct Caucuses will be held on Sunday, April 15, 2012, starting at 1:00 p.m.

At the Legislative District Caucuses, delegates and alternates to both the Democratic State convention and the congressional district caucuses are elected. The LD Caucuses (if not held in conjunction with County Convention) will be held on Saturday, April 28, 2012, starting at 10:00 a.m.

In our County Conventions we adopt platforms, resolutions, and make nominations for partisan offices. County Conventions (and Legislative



District Caucuses held at County Conventions) will be held on Sunday, April 29, 2012, starting at 10:00 a.m.

The Congressional District Caucuses are where we elect the actual delegates and alternates to the Democratic National Convention. The CD Caucuses will be held on Sunday, May 20, 2012.

The State Convention will be held on Saturday, June 2, 2012, starting at 9:00 a.m. in Seattle, Washington.

The Democratic National Convention will be held the week of September 3, 2012, in Charlotte, North Carolina.

SCC Finances: The 2011 budget was proposed and approved. The chair did receive a salary increase, but it seemed within reason for these economic times. We received a statement regarding the first quarter finances for 2011. To date, the SCC has a net loss of \$145K for 2011; however, we started the year with a positive balance, which has covered this net loss. During floor discussion

prior to approval of the budget there were multiple comments critical of the budgeting process. The Chair and Treasurer promised to present budget information in a more easily understood manner in the future.

Twenty-nine resolutions were presented for SCC's consideration. Five resolutions were passed as received. Eleven resolutions were amended and then passed. Three resolutions were consolidated into respective resolutions of the eleven resolutions identified above. Six resolutions did not pass, while one resolution was referred to the Rules Committee and one resolution was returned to the originator for clarification. Finally, two resolutions were tabled.

The next SCC meeting is September 16-17, 2011 in Bellingham.

**Note: Ginger Sommerhauser is State Committeewoman for the Kitsap County Democrats. Jim is State Committeeman for the 23rd LD Democrats.**

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## **23rd LD Democrats—Kol Medina, Chair**

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District Democrats are working hard to ensure that the 2012 election is a success for good Democrats from the top to the bottom of the ticket! While our focus is on retaining and electing Democrats to the 23<sup>rd</sup> legislative district partisan offices, we want to make sure that the 23<sup>rd</sup> legislative district votes blue for each candidate on the ballot.

Our Membership Committee, Chaired by Drew Hansen, is well underway, with a plan in place to substantially grow the party's membership this year and into 2012 so that we have the strongest base of supporters (members, donors, and volunteers) that we've ever had.

Also I'm pleased to report that our Strategic Planning Committee is hard at work on a comprehensive strategic plan for the 23<sup>rd</sup> LD Democrats. This effort is being lead by Mark Hufford, who worked for the



Democratic National Committee in North Carolina prior to moving to our

area. We've enlisted a group of nearly 30 people to work on creating the draft strategic plan. We hope to have the plan finished and underway by July. It's important to lay the groundwork now, in 2011, to make sure the 2012 election is successful.

The Executive Board of the 23<sup>rd</sup> LD Democrats is dedicated to doing everything it can to make sure that the anti-community, anti-truth, anti-labor, anti-environment Republican agenda is strongly rejected in the 23<sup>rd</sup> legislative district. We need everyone's help, though! So please contact me if you'd like to get involved. [chair@kitsap23rd.com](mailto:chair@kitsap23rd.com).

## **26th LD Democrats—Isaac Delgado, Chair**



In the 26<sup>th</sup> Legislative district we are steadily growing our base in 2011 while looking ahead into 2012. We are continuing to focus on sharing our core Democratic values as we reach out to people in the community in an effort to bring them into the people's party. We keep working to keep the best Democrats for the job in office



and win a new one or two in 2012!

Like the rest of the state we've had health care on our minds. Unfortunately Secretary Jack Arends had to step down due to health issues affecting his ability to travel. We thank Jack and wish him well as he makes his full recovery, we'll be here to welcome him back as soon as he

recovers! We have recently elected a new member to our executive board; Secretary Tony Otto has stepped in to serve. In a wonderful turn of events, River Curtis-Stanley received the life-saving gift of a kidney transplant, which we have all been praying for. She is doing great and coming along strong!

The 26<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Democrats meet the first Tuesday of every month in the Kitsap Room of the Givens Community Center, 1026 Sidney Road, Port Orchard 98366. Come at 6:00 p.m. for desserts and coffee. The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. Come see what we are up to!

**Photo left: Isaac Delgado.**

**Photo right: Tony Otto.**

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## **35th LD Democrats—Mark Biggs, Chair**

My Vice-Chair, Ginny Duff, and I continue to attend all County Central Committee Meetings in Kitsap, Mason, Grays Harbor, and Thurston Counties. It's been a great experience so far, and I am really enjoying seeing how all of the counties do things. We are learning something from every meeting and every group, and it's exciting to be associated with such quality organizations.

The 35<sup>th</sup> LD has upgraded our website to a new format which will enable authorized users to publish content. Contributors are encouraged – we need to share our ideas and encourage one another. The webmaster can't do it all. We also have a Facebook group. If you are on Facebook and you would like to be a member, contact me.

The 35<sup>th</sup> LD Strategic Plan was



finalized by the Executive Board and was presented at our May 7<sup>th</sup> General Meeting. Our Buy Blue Directory is started, but we need a lot of input from everyone. Where do you go to eat and shop? We are looking for locally-owned, Democrat-owned businesses that we can all patronize.

Our Kitsap County Fundraiser, the Champagne Brunch was held Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, at the Bremerton Airport Diner, at 11:00 a.m., followed by our General Meeting at 1:00 p.m.

The 35<sup>th</sup> LD Democrats have only two other upcoming General Meetings in 2011: Our main fundraiser, the Summer Picnic is at the Allyn Waterfront Park on August 13<sup>th</sup>, and a Holiday Party/Potluck Meeting scheduled for Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. In 2012, the 35<sup>th</sup> LD Democrats will meet six times: on the first Saturday of even-numbered months, at locations in Belfair or Shelton.

***Photo: 35th LD Representative Fred Finn with Ginny Duff, Vice-Chair of the 35th LD Democrats.***

## **Kitsap Democratic Women—Jo Fox Burr, President**

Because of the Republican economy left to the whole country by the Bush Administration, our legislature is being forced to make some draconian budget cuts. When I watch what is happening in places like Wisconsin, and New Jersey and Michigan, I am so grateful that our State government is still controlled by Democrats. I know that the cuts being made are done with a fine tuned carving knife and not an ax. I know that as much as possible is being done to protect the most vulnerable and to protect those programs and institutions that we need to make our economy grow in the future. Still these cuts are going to hurt and it is important that we fully understand why they had to be made. So at our May 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, we have asked Senators Derek Kilmer (26<sup>th</sup> LD) and Phil Rockefeller (23<sup>rd</sup> LD) to come talk with us about these very difficult decisions from their perspectives.

This meeting will be held in the Red Barn at Country Meadows – which is about 1.5 miles north of the



Kitsap Mall, just off Silverdale Way. Turn at the Country Meadows sign onto NW Schold Place and follow the signs. Parking is somewhat limited, so if you have no difficulty walking, please park on Schold Place. We will gather at 11:30 a.m. to eat and chat. The meeting itself will start at 12:30. If you are planning to attend, please contact me at 360-613-4042; foxburr@comcast.net. We need to get a count to insure we have sufficient food.

Our summer picnic is going to be on June 11<sup>th</sup> and will again be held at

my place just north of the Brownsville Marina. Our newly selected Kitsap County Commissioner Rob Gelder, who will be running for election this fall, will speak. More information about this will be on our website later, but save the date.

We encourage all to attend any of our gatherings. As I've said before, while we are a women dominated organization, we do not discriminate against men.

***Photo: Snapshot from last year's KCDW picnic.***

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*Natalie Bryson was presented the Kitsap Democratic Lifetime Achievement Award for 2011 at the annual Kitsap Democrat Jefferson Jackson Dinner.*



*U.S. Representative Jay Inslee was keynote speaker for the 2011 Kitsap Democratic Jefferson-Jackson Dinner. Here, he and wife Trudee pose with Michael and Diane Arnold.*



*Following his swearing in as Kitsap County Commissioner for District 1, Rob Gelder posed with Kitsap County Commissioners Charlotte Garrido and Josh Brown.*





*The Kitsap County and 23rd LD Democrats cosponsored a bus-load of supporters for the “Put People First” rally on the Washington State Capitol steps. Organized by the State Labor Council, the rally drew an estimated 7,000 to 10,000 labor union members and supporters from all over Washington. Solidarity week included demonstrations throughout the week in support of the right to collective bargaining on behalf of union workers and their families.*



*Demonstrators at the “Put People First” rally included (in this photo, from the left) Carolyn Kempkes, Bob Vermeers, Carl and Bobbette Olson, Doug MacKenzie, Bobbie Morgan, Roth Hafer, Sandy Bullock, Jo Fox-Burr, Sharon Brown and many others.*



*The Kitsap Democratic delegation to the annual State Democratic Party Crab Feed and PCO/activist training included (clockwise from left) Michael Arnold, Gene and Sandy Bullock, Diane Arnold, Sharon Brown, Ginny Duff, Jo Fox-Burr, Patsy Byam and Remo Barr.*

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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 the Editor to receive our newsletter via email.** This will help us to communicate more effectively, efficiently, ecologically and economically. Thank you!

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