

# 7<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Democratic Newsletter

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## 7<sup>th</sup> LD re-organization meeting results

The re-organization meeting took place on January 6<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center in Usk and was hosted by the Pend Oreille County Democratic Central Committee. After a great potluck, Garry McKinney call the meeting to order and the election of officers for the next two years took place.

Results:

Ellen Miller (Spokane County), elected Chair [miller.elm@gmail.com](mailto:miller.elm@gmail.com)

Larry Ludwig (Stevens County), elected Vice Chair [panludwik@aol.com](mailto:panludwik@aol.com)

Bob Esvelt (Stevens County), re-elected State Committeeman [besvelt@centurytel.net](mailto:besvelt@centurytel.net)

Jackie Bradley (Okanogan County), re-elected State Committeewoman [jbradley3723@charter.net](mailto:jbradley3723@charter.net)

Ginny Moos (Lincoln County) appointed Recording Secretary

Pete Scooby (Pend Oreille County) appointed Communications Secretary

Kathy Zerbe (Stevens County) re-appointed Treasurer

Bette Grant (Lincoln County) appointed to head Fundraising

Please do not hesitate to contact your officers and representatives during the year to ask questions or to offer comments and suggestions. We are a team. Working together we **will** make a difference.

**Our goals** -- The primary goal of the district is to elect strong candidates who can be effective advocates for the values of our residents. To this end we will work to:

- Create a reliable and viable organizational structure;
- Create better communications and coordination between the counties in the 7<sup>th</sup>;
- Create an effective, active, on-going public relations program;
- Create an infrastructure for candidates to plug into so they do not have to start from scratch;
- Create an effective, inclusive mechanism to identify and recruit effective candidates.

For the past four years I have traveled with my husband, Jack Miller, as he has campaigned as a candidate for State Representative in the 7<sup>th</sup>. In these four years I have learned about the concerns of the people in our district; the sometimes significant difference in issues from one area to the next; the difficulty of organizing an area that covers 12,000 square miles and is known as the most Republican district in the State; and most importantly the frustration many Democrats express with their perception of a lack of organizational structure to which they can connect. I am committed to building on what I have learned; to creating an effective organizational structure; and to open, direct and honest communication.

The officers that have been elected are committed to providing leadership. We will serve as examples and work with all to develop an effective organizational structure for the 7<sup>th</sup> LD from which we can build in the years to come.

Thank you for your support. I look forward to working with you.

Ellen Miller, Chair [miller.elm@gmail.com](mailto:miller.elm@gmail.com)

## **State Committeepersons**

Several people have asked about the role of a State Committeeman or State Committeewoman. These positions are very important in our Democratic Party of the State of Washington. A brief explanation of the role and responsibilities of these positions is very timely since we have just elected two people to the positions in the 7<sup>th</sup> who have been long time committeepersons: Bob Esvelt (14 years) and Jackie Bradley (22 years).

The Washington State Democratic Central Committee is the governing body of the Democratic Party in the State of Washington. The WSCCC consists of the state committeewoman and the state committeeman elected from each legislative district and from each county of the State. These positions are elected at the biannual reorganizations of the county or legislative district that they will represent. There are 49 Legislative Districts and 39 Counties in the state so the State Meetings could have as many as 176 State Committee Members at any meeting, but often not everyone can make it. Every member has free access to the microphones to discuss the issue at hand.

The primary duties of the State Committee Members are to serve on their local Executive Boards, support the policies and candidates in their local districts and help the local Democratic Party organization in general. They seek out the opinions, issues and needs that are of concern to the local members of the Democratic Party in order to represent them to the state body.

Since these positions are legally considered to be publicly elected officials, it is very important that the role and responsibility of the position is taken seriously. It is also very important that information about action taken at State meetings is brought back and reported to the people who are represented. One of the longest and most involved tasks at these meetings is the consideration of resolutions that help define our state party goals and concerns. Garrie and Bette Grant are State Committeepersons from Lincoln County and have just been re-elected to these positions. Both of them comment on the importance of the positions in representing the issues of Eastern Washington and the time, effort and financial commitment it requires to do the job well and right.

Each State Committeeman or State Committeewoman is appointed to a committee to assist in the operation of the State Democratic Party organization. Included are Resolutions, Elections, Rules, Communications, Finance, Technology, Affirmative Action and now the Eastern WA Conference Committee. The State Committee Person can request to serve on these committees, but in the end the State organization assigns positions to ensure broad support. By serving on committees they assure that their areas are represented fairly in all decisions and discussions. Larry Ludwig, State Committeeman for Stevens County states that he deliberately serves on the resolutions and platform committees to make sure that Stevens County and Eastern Washington concerns are addressed in areas such as gun control, rural transportation, healthcare, and technology needs.

There are also a number of Caucuses that meet at state meetings and elsewhere. Any active Democrat can serve on these caucuses. One of the caucuses of local interest is the Agricultural and Rural Caucus.

As Bob Esvelt reiterates, "It is a time consuming but rewarding job." Bob should know. He has been a State Committeeman for the 7<sup>th</sup> LD for almost 14 years and received the Washington State Democrats 2006 Warren G. Magnuson Award for State Committeeman of the Year. Congratulations Bob, for your diligence over the years.

## **Bill of Rights Essay Contest**

The Stevens County Democrats are hosting a Bill of Rights Essay contest. The contest will officially be under the sponsorship of the Stevens County Lady Democrats. They have selected a judging committee which will use the same criteria as the Journalism Club and English Department at CCS-Colville.

They plan on announcing this in the schools in the County and will be asking the newspapers in the area to publicize it as well. Prizes will be given to the winners.

This seems like a great idea to get young people involved in the meaning of the foundations of our government and a very positive way to get the name of the Democratic Party out in our communities. In case any other County is interested in pursuing a similar activity, this is a copy of the announcement. Feel free to use and adapt it to your situation.

The Stevens County Lady Democrats are sponsoring an  
ESSAY COMPETITION  
For Students Grades 9 Through 12  
Attending Schools in Stevens County

The Bill of Rights 2007

Purpose: To instill in students an awareness and understanding of the Constitution and its Bill of Rights, and how the Bill of Rights impacts the government and the everyday life of Americans  
Instructions

1. Write an essay describing the importance of the Bill of Rights to the United States in 2007, explaining what the Bill of Rights means to you and how the Bill of Rights affects and impacts your daily life.
2. The essay should be approximately 800 to 1000 words in length.
3. Attach a bibliography to the essay listing at least five books, speeches, films, articles or other sources which helped you prepare the essay.
4. Mail four copies of each essay to the Stevens County Lady Democrats care of P.O. Box 20, Rice, WA 99167-0020. Include a cover sheet with your name, age, grade and school, along with your address and telephone number (and email address if available). All essays must be postmarked by May 15, 2007

The winner of the competition will receive a \$300 prize. Two runners-up will each receive a \$100 prize. The awards will be presented at the annual Stevens County & 7<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Democrats picnic on July 29, 2007 in the Old Kettle Picnic Area of Kettle Falls.

Winners of the completion will be notified by June 15, and invited to the July 29 picnic where the first prize winner will be invited to read his/her essay.

The essays will be judged by a panel of judges on the following criteria:  
content, organization, style/voice, diction/word choice, and mechanics.

The essays will not be returned to you. The three winning essays will be submitted to the Statesman-Examiner and The Chewellah Independent newspapers for possible publication.

Questions should be addressed to Larry Ludwig, 738-4987

**Goodbye from Autumn Sample** -- (Job announcements have gone out already with the intent of filling this position quickly.)

Dear Party Leaders and Friends:

I hope this letter finds you refreshed from the holiday season and eager to embark on another exciting year for the Democrats! I am writing you today to let you know that I am moving on from my position with the Washington State Democrats at the end of this month to live closer to my family in Maryland.

It has been an incredible journey we've had over the past two years. I want to express my sincere gratitude for the support and trust you have bestowed on me. I am thankful to have had the opportunity to meet and work with each of you and proud that together we've moved Democrats in Eastern Washington forward. I also feel so fortunate to have worked for two dynamic leaders: Chairman Paul Berendt and Chairman Dwight Pelz. I am eager to see the progress our Party will continue to make in Eastern Washington in the coming years!

Please keep in touch and do not hesitate to contact me if there is a way I can support your continued success. My personal email is [sampleautumn@yahoo.com](mailto:sampleautumn@yahoo.com). I will be at the re-organization meeting for the State Democrats this weekend and hope that I have the opportunity to see some of you in Olympia. I plan to return to Washington State in the future, and I hope our paths continue to cross for many years and successes to come!

Sincerely,

*Autumn Sample* Regional Field Director, Eastern Washington, Washington State Democrats  
(206) 852-2046 cell

### **By-laws revision**

The by-laws for our the 7<sup>th</sup> LD are in the process of being revised and updated, making them consistent with the national and state requirements as well as making them supportive of our organization's needs. The draft proposal is in the hands of all of the county chairs to review and to report back with comments and suggestions by the end of February. That will allow enough time to integrate the comments and send them out to PCOs and others who are members, a minimum of one month prior to our meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup>. The approval of the by-law revision will be on the agenda for that meeting. Anyone wishing to have a copy of the draft by-laws please let me know.

Ellen Miller, Chair [miller.elm@gmail.com](mailto:miller.elm@gmail.com)

### **Agricultural and Rural Caucus meeting**

The State reorganization meeting was held in Olympia January 27<sup>th</sup>. Besides the election of new officers, there were also meetings for each of the recognized caucuses. The Agricultural and Rural Caucus is always well attended and is a group that is recognized at the State level for its activity during the year.

Eastern Washington is well represented with Chris Zaferes (Okanogan County) re-elected Chair; Carolyn Cress (Whitman County) re-elected co-Vice Chair; Larry Ludwig (Stevens County) re-elected Secretary; and Jackie Bradley (Okanogan County) re-elected Treasurer. The second co-chair position is open since there was not a

representative from the western part of the State in attendance who wished to be elected.

The speaker was Volaria Loveland, Director of Agriculture for the State of Washington. She reminded us that in Washington State agriculture is the number one employer and is only second to Boeing in the dollar value of its annual production. We have 300 different commercial crops in the State and one third of our production is exported to foreign markets especially Canada and Mexico with the Eastern Rim countries becoming increasingly interested in our high quality agricultural products.

It was also interesting to learn that organic farming is growing by 10-12% per year and is currently 7% of our agriculture in Washington State. We are one of the few states to have organic certification that meets the European Union requirements which positions us to be a leader in organic markets.

One of the emphases in the State articulated by Governor Gregoire and assigned to Director Loveland is to develop a strategic plan for agriculture for the State. The last time such a plan was developed was in 1984 and as we are all very aware there have been significant changes in markets and agricultural processes since then. This sounds like the important first step in determining the future of agriculture in Washington State.

Director Loveland expressed her concern with the direction on the part of federal government to equate economic growth in the United States on technology development and to deemphasize agriculture. She believes the direction has been to look to poorer countries to provide the food to feed us and to minimize the need to be self-sufficient when it comes to food production. The current federal structure of agricultural regulations serves to reduce support and separate agricultural types resulting in a divided agricultural community. Those of us in Eastern Washington were sensitive to this issue with the competing needs of wheat farmers and apple orchardists.

The other issue discussed was the State program to assist in identification of where food was grown with our Heart of Washington labels indicating that this product was grown in Washington State. Local grocery stores are beginning to use those labels – ask your store if you don't see them.

### **Meetings – Save the Dates!**

7<sup>th</sup> LD regular meetings (details to follow)

April 21 in Reardan hosted by Lincoln County

July 29 at Old Kettle Falls Park hosted by Stevens County

October 20 at the Okanogan Grange Hall hosted by Okanogan County

### **Newsletter – creating an identity for the 7<sup>th</sup> LD**

My goal is to send out a monthly newsletter to keep us aware of what is happening in the 7<sup>th</sup> LD and of issues that are of interest to Eastern Washington Democrats. If you have something to include, please send it to me. It is a forum that can help by responding to informational questions or topics of interest. I don't have a more specific intent at this time. We will see what you want. Ellen Miller