

31st District Democrat's Newsletter

31st District Democrats

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MEETING NOTICE
31ST DISTRICT DEMOCRATS
WILL MEET from 7-9PM
Friday February 25th
SUMNER PUBLIC LIBRARY
1116 Fryar Ave.
Sumner, WA 98390



A Message from Chairman Dean

The Republicans' biggest victory has been to convince many Democrats that we can only win by abandoning our values and doing what they say.

It's one of their favorite tactics -- just watch how right-wing pundits talk endlessly about the internal politics of our party. They try to divide Democrats by ideology just as they divide all Americans by race or gender or faith.

But there is no crisis of ideology in the Democratic Party, only a crisis of confidence. Bill Clinton once described the Democratic Party's problems in the era of George W. Bush, saying that in uncertain times people would rather have a leader who is strong and wrong than weak and right.

Dean letter con'd..

He's exactly right. And we become both weak and wrong when we abandon our core values for short-term political gain. But when we Democrats talk straight and stand up for ourselves, we have a huge advantage: We are both strong and right. We will only turn that advantage into victory if we make a concrete plan and work hard to execute it. Declare your support and offer feedback now on the plan to build an organization that will help us win everywhere, and win with pride. This isn't my chairmanship -- it is ours. So let's get to work together.

Read the plan, sign the pledge at
<http://www.democrats.org/plan>

STANDING OFFER

I will fax letters to our Senators and Representatives, state or federal, for you. Just bring them to the District meeting and I'll send them within 24 hours. Please, include name, address and signature. It only takes a few minutes to show support and express your opinion. Our legislators need to hear from you! (MJ McGalliard newsletter editor.)

2005 State Reorganization

by Sharon Hodgins, State Committee Woman

Each quarter, the State Committee Men and Women meet to determine policy and pass on issues and business that keeps the State Party running. Every two years, after an even-numbered general election, a new slate of officers to the State Executive Board is elected. This year, Paul Berendt, Chair of the State Democratic Party for the last 8 years was reelected. I supported Greg Rodriguez, but his challenge did not succeed. However, Greg's platform of inclusiveness, especially to extend our party's presence in Eastern Washington, and attention to bettering our technology and voter file did!

We elected a new slate of officers for the State Democratic Committee. Many of the officers elected are new to the State Executive Board: Eileen McCall is from E. WA, and I feel will bring a much-needed voice for that part of our state; Luis Moscoso, also new, was elected Secretary; Luis is from the Everett area.

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2005 reorganization con'd.

Treasurer remains Habib Habib, who has done a terrific job, and ran unopposed. Each Congressional District also votes a member to the State Executive Board; our representative, from the 8th, James Arima, was re-elected; John Thompson was elected to serve the 9th.

I attended a new caucus group, the Progressive Caucus. Officers were elected; Jim Kalb from the Bellingham area, is President; Nathaniel Lawver, (he is the head of the Pierce County Dean Group: Democracy for America) was elected Vice-Chair. We decided to elect a Vice-Chair from E. WA. Caucuses can, after a number of years of proving viability, petition and if passed by the State Committee, can have a permanent member on the State Executive Board. I also attended a seminar on Technology, chaired by Jeremy Sher. A lot of it was over my head, as people into computer programming etc. debated the merits of this or that system. Paul Berendt started the meeting by saying that WA State was one of the few who even had a voter registration file. If I understand it correctly, as part of election reform, our

2005 reorganization con'd.

state may be moving to having a Statewide Voter Registration File. According to Jeremy Sher, voter files are updated several times a year from what information the counties have. A common complaint is how outdated they seem to be. Of particular interest to PCO's is that it takes three inputs before any voter's "Party Grade" is changed; such input not only comes from what a PCO may say, but also what campaigns or surveys say. Another item that is not automatically changed with PCO input are addresses/death/a person moving – the point being that the State Party doesn't want to completely lose that person on just the input of the PCO. Also, there is no way at present to enter new addresses for new housing. These issues will be discussed and hopefully solved.

(Editor's note-The 31st L.D. State Committee Woman is Sharon Hodgins and Committee Man is Mark Boswell they are our representatives to the State Party. MJM)



Sharon Hodgins

31ST District Democrats
State Committee Woman
Born to a "Democratic" family in Aberdeen, WA, 1945; married to Bob, retired salesman from Sunset Chevrolet, Sumner; we have two daughters. Active in White River Education Association; taught French and Social Studies at White River High School, 1967-97; Retired Plan I teacher. Active in 31st Democrats since early 2000.

GET YOUR NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL! Send your request to Tamara Guinn at dguinn@tx3.net .