



Donkey Tales

44th Legislative
District Democrats of
Washington State
PO Box 13632
Mill Creek, WA 98082-1632

APRIL 2002

APRIL MEETING 7:00 PM WEDNESDAY APRIL 10TH AT SNOHOMISH COUNTY FIRE DIST. #4 1525 AVE. D IN SNOHOMISH—REORGANIZATION OF NEW 44TH LD DEMOCRATS AND ELECTIONS

SNOHOMISH COUNTY LABOR PRESIDENT SPEAKS TO 44TH

Darrell Chapman, life-long Democrat and Vice-Chair of the 21st as well as President of the Snohomish County Labor Council, shared his enthusiasm and ideas with the 44th LD Democrats at our March meeting.

Darrell said the combined work of Labor and the Democratic Party defeated Joe Marine who was running for Representative in the 21st. Brian Sullivan's win "made all the difference" in the House and gave us "movement instead of deadlock," he stated.

Darrell explained the worker to worker program used successfully by labor organizations. Identifying labor voters, one to one contact, identifying voter issues, and registering those who were pro-labor has helped defeat anti-labor propositions and candidates.

The vast majority of Labor votes are Democratic, and 73% of Labor absentee voters actually voted in the off-year election. Darrell encouraged doorbelling with talking and listening, not just dropping literature.

Darrell called our Rep. John Lovick "one of the best in the State" and predicted a "Sen. Lovick" in the future. He also praised Poppy Han-

son, "a tremendous worker in labor programs here."

Democrats need to talk about the basics, Darrell recommended. The Democratic Party is the one that supports decent jobs with good wages and health care. People are FOR these things! With campaign finance reform we will have to adjust to Labor workers instead of Labor money. "Get them involved and give them a job," he advised.

THANK YOU JONNEE

Our 44th LD Chair, Jonnee Denton, has been moved to the 1st LD by the redistricting process. Jonnee has been an excellent leader, quick to give encouragement and responsibility as well as her time and hard work.. The 44th Democrats will miss her!

REP. LOVICK

My thanks to those of you who sent encouraging messages during the final, hectic weeks of session. I'm sorry I wasn't able to make the precinct caucuses on March 5th, but legislative business kept me tied to my desk in Olympia. Legislators had to make a number of tough, unpopular choices this year. We were faced with a \$1.6 billion shortfall, but managed to pass a budget within the regular, 60-day session. We did our very best to protect the state's most vulnerable citizens and to keep our public schools strong. And we did it without raising general taxes. (More from John on our web site— address on back pg.)



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CONTACT YOUR SNOHOMISH CO. COUNCIL
call
(425) 388-3494

John Koster—Dist. 1
Jon.Koster@co.shohomish.wa.us

Kirk Sievers—Dist. 2
Sievers.Council@co.snohomish.wa.us

Gary Nelson—Dist. 3
Gary.Nelson@co.snohomish.wa.us

Dave Gossett—Dist. 4
Dave.Gossett@co.snohomish.wa.us

Jeff Sax—Dist. 5
Jeff.Sax@co.snohomish.wa.us



44TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
ELECTED OFFICERS:
44th L.D. DEMOCRATS

Elected Officers:

- Jonnee Denton—CHAIR
(425) 481-8436
- Jim Kenny—FIRST VICE
CHAIR
- Mary Ellen Thompson—SECOND
VICE CHAIR
- Secretary
- Mike Plumb—Treasurer
- Dave Salsman—State Central
Committee
- Norma Plumb—State Central
Committee
- John Patchamatla—County
Executive Board
- Lynn Neuhardt—County
Executive Board

Appointed Positions:

- Jim Kenny—Parliamentarian and
By-Laws
- GiGi Orchard-Levesque -- Sergeant-at-
Arms, Credentials, Scheduling
- Norma Plumb—Newsletter Editor
26-145th St. SE Lynnwood WA. 98037
normaplumb@hotmail.com
- Cliff Wells— Organization
Program— Jim Kenny
- Mary Ellen Thompson—Affirmative
Action
- Phyllis Fiege—Telephone Tree

**MEETINGS HELD AT 7 PM ON THE
SECOND WEDNESDAYS OF
EACH MONTH—EXECUTIVE BOARD
MEETINGS HELD ON THE
FOURTH WEDNESDAYS
ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND**

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your donations. We want to keep you
informed on local issues!
\$10-15 would help if you can't
afford the \$24 per year
membership. Thanks!*

FROM THE CHAIR

GREETINGS!!

This is my last letter as Chair of the 44th District. We will all be settling into our new groups in the next few weeks. The 38th LD has already reorganized (congratulations to the new Chair, Marion Harrison). The 1st LD will be reorganized by the time this is mailed. The 44th LD reorganizes on April 10th and the 21st LD on April 16th. By the time we gather on April 20th for the County Convention we will know who the new leadership teams are. The Redistricting Commission really stirred us up.

This is a challenge to broaden our horizons and make new friends. It doesn't seem that long ago that we were going through this the last time, but who would change the bonds we have forged in the last ten years? Now we need to move ahead and elect/re-elect Democrats in November. There are plenty of opportunities in every district for productive activity. Candidates and the party are already fund raising and will soon be looking for volunteers. Instead of just grumbling, we can write a letter to the editor about the things that raise our blood pressure - or to point out what one of our Democrats is doing right.

This is the last issue of Donkey Tales which will be edited by Norma Plumb, who took over "temporarily", and has done an outstanding job. Our thanks to Norma. And my thanks to all of you who have made my tenure as Chair a really rewarding experience.

Jonnee

*Note— Pages 4 and 5 are on the web-site http://www.geocities.com/44th_ld_wa_dem (To \$ave money!)

Contact Your Senators and Representatives:

- Sen. Patty Murray (425) 259-6515
(206)553-5545 DC- (202) 224-2621
- Sen. Maria Cantwell (206) 220-6400 DC- (202) 224-3441
- Rep. Jay Inslee (425) 640-0233 DC- (202) 225-6311
- Rep. Rick Larsen (425) 252-3188 DC- (202) 225-2605

Official call...

Jonnee Denton, Chair, calls all Precinct Committee Officers of the 44th Legislative District to the reorganization meeting Wednesday April 10 at 7pm at the Snohomish County Fire District #4 (1525 Ave. D in Snohomish).

All "new" 44th LD members are encouraged to attend, but only the PCOs may vote for the officers. Any member may run for an office.



RETIRED TEACHER REFLECTS ON NOBLE PROFESSION BY BETTY HURTIG (44th member and retired teacher)

Last year the *Bank of America* ran a striking series of black and white TV commercials. In one of these, a beautiful young boy clad in a white smock says he wants to become a teacher. As throngs of people ascend a staircase leading to a brilliant light above, a voice asks: "But would you not rather become a doctor? It is a noble profession, and you could become wealthy." The boy answers as he looks down from a further distance up the stairs: "But if there are no teachers, who then will teach the doctors?"

Teaching is also a noble profession, but teachers will not become wealthy. They will be paid pensions by the state. Is it right that these pensions should be shaved and kept constant at the lowest possible levels which, in many cases, can reduce retired teachers to near penury?

Teachers need a share in pension governance! This sharing role in pension decision-making was once in place, but no longer.

Quoting directly from the Washington State School Retirees Assn. Bulletin *Legislative Insight*: "When the Teachers Retirement System was established in 1947, it had a governing Board of Trustees. The Board had representation of active and retired employees and had significant autonomy over the management of the TRS. In a series of amendments from 1975-82, the Legislature abolished the Board of Trustees. The Board's authority was distributed to the Department of Retirement Systems, State Investment Board, and the Legislature."

Of course this issue was brought before the legislature early in the current session under HB2917. Our own John Lovick was one of the bill's 13 sponsors. So we must ask then: "How did the matter of governance fare in Olympia?" The answer? It died.

HB2917 evolved into SHB3010 which created a Select Committee on Pension Policy which increased the involvement of Retirement System members. But alas, at midnight March 14th when the Senate was to reconsider and return the Bill to the House the next day for concurrence, a debate about transportation improvement pre-empted this action, time ran out, and the issue became a leftover for further consideration.

It is disheartening to find that of the 50 state retirement systems, 46 states have retired and/or active members as trustees, but Washington does not. In spite of all this, I believe there is room for optimism following this legislative session. The issue seems to have been taken seriously— no longer simply dismissed out-of-hand.

Betty

P.S. After having taught English at Everett's Cascade High School for 15 years, I retired in 1979. At that point my pension was about \$480 per month. In these intervening 23 years it has grown to \$580. (Editor's note : *The State continues to "borrow" from the retirement fund by not fully matching current retirement contributions*)



REPRESENTATIVE LOVICK REPORTS FROM OLYMPIA

Dear Friends:

My thanks to those of you who sent encouraging messages during the final, hectic weeks of session. I'm sorry I wasn't able to make the precinct caucuses on March 5th, but legislative business kept me tied to my desk in Olympia.

Legislators had to make a number of tough, unpopular choices this year. We were faced with a \$1.6 billion shortfall, but managed to pass a budget within the regular, 60-day session. We did our very best to protect the state's most vulnerable citizens and to keep our public schools strong. And we did it without raising general taxes.

Legislators also worked hard to bring relief to our congested highways. Two proposals were passed: one to address statewide transportation problems, and another designed to bring improvements to the Puget Sound region.

The statewide transportation package proposes to raise the gas tax 9 cents per gallon. It will be placed on the November ballot for voter approval. If passed it would provide:

- \$5.6 billion for road projects;
- \$330 million to city and county road programs;
- \$681 million to the ferry system for new vessels, terminal improvements and passenger-only boats;
- \$294 million for rail programs;
- \$820 million for various public transportation projects, including \$450 million in direct distribution to transit systems.

The regional package will allow Puget Sound voters to raise their own taxes and levy tolls for highway improvement projects in our area. With voter approval, King, Pierce and Snohomish counties could collect up to \$8.7 billion in new taxes and fees, including an annual vehicle registration renewal fee of up to \$100 per car; a sales tax increase of up to 0.5 percent and \$1 highway tolls. The three county councils must craft the ballot proposal, which will likely be completed next year.

I'm back home in the 44th District now, and look forward to seeing more of all of you. As always, feel free to call me if you want to discuss the transportation packages or any other issue that interests you.

John

Rep. John Lovick (360)786-7892

lovick_jo@leg.wa.gov

DAVE SOMERS WRITES E-NEWS SNOHOMISH CO. SENTINEL

Dave Somers, former President of the Snohomish County Council, has been writing an excellent on-line newspaper *The Snohomish County Sentinel*. As he said in Vol. 1 No 3 :

Local newspapers focus on either local community events or issues, neglecting county issues to a large degree. Our county newspaper must compete with Seattle media and therefore does not provide an in depth and focused look at Snohomish County issues and events. Our country and democratic government were formed based on the assumption of a well-informed public. This is our mission - to better inform the citizens of Snohomish County so that they may be more effective in participating in our community as we move into the 21st Century. Our quality of life depends on it.

If you would like to read Dave's *Sentinel*, e-mail him at dsomers@seanet.com and tell him.



ISSUES IMPORTANT TO THE 44TH LD DEMOCRATS

(v are ones we have had as a meeting topic or discussed as part of a meeting. Italics are areas we may not have discussed.)

vGOVERNMENT FUNDING / TAXES -*New tax funding system/ Funding State and local government/ Sales tax remittance fraud*

vEDUCATION- *Teachers' Salaries/ School Funding/ Causes of student failure in schools not recognized*

vGROWTH MANAGEMENT- *Overcrowding/Development in Snohomish County/ Environmental protection/ Water management*

vCOMMUNICATION – *Effective communication of Democratic ideals to the public/ Media bias*

vTRANSPORTATION- *Traffic congestion/ Fuel economy/ Transportation planning (North End, East Side, across State)/ New major airport*

vHEALTH CARE-*Single payer health care/ Prescription drug plan/ Mental Health coverage*

vPEACE/WAR-*National policy on nuclear war (Star Wars/National missile defense)/ Current war and loss of rights and personal liberties*

vECONOMY/ UNEMPLOYMENT/LABOR- *Federal Gov. help recovery by investing in infrastructure, not inappropriate tax cuts / Repeal tax cuts*

vCIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS – *Diversity awareness / Equal rights / Racial profiling*

IMMIGRATION-*Abuse of immigration system*

vSOCIAL SERVICES- *Need for "safety net"/ Protection from sexual predators/ Don't privatize Social Security*

Also - *Airline safety, Daycare regulation, Energy planning, Campaign Finance*

- Items with a check have been subjects of past meetings

(For the Platform of the Snohomish County Democrats and other information : <http://www.wa-democrats.org>)



44th Legislative District
Democrats of Washington State
PO Box 13632
Mill Creek, WA 98082-1632

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

(44th LD DEMS REGULAR MEETINGS on SECOND WEDNESDAYS)

TOTEM FALLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
14211 SNOHOMISH—CASCADE DR. SE

April 10th—7pm-Reorganization of the "NEW" 44th LD— at the Snohomish County Fire Dist. 4 in **Snohomish**.

April 16—21st LD Reorganization—**Lynnwood** City Council Bldg.

April 20—9am—County Convention—Labor Temple 2810
Lombard, Everett

April 27—LD Caucus

June 8—State Convention/Congressional District Caucuses -
Bellingham

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APRIL 10TH AT SNOHOMISH COUNTY
FIRE DIST. #4 1525 AVE. D IN
SNOHOMISH—REORGANIZATION OF
NEW 44TH LD DEMOCRATS AND
ELECTIONS**

44th web site http://www.geocities.com/44th_ld_wa_dem
<http://www.wa-democrats.org>
<http://snowa-democrats.org>

Do you know your new Legislative District? Are you in the 44th, or the 1st, or 21st or the 38th . . ? Call Jonnee at 425-481-8436 and she'll look it up for you.

Do you feel "NEW" ...

If you are still in the 44th LD after redistricting you are now a member of the new 44th. The reorganization meeting for you is April 10 at 7pm (same time as the regular meeting but NOT the same place). It will be in Snohomish (Fire Dist. #4 at 1525 Ave.D) which is more centrally located.