

# *The 11th District Journal*



August 2011 Volume 9, Issue 8

**11th LD Democratic Organization Chair**

**Martha Koester**

## **August 2011 Chair's Report**

Thanks so much to our Rosemary Quesenberry for organizing out participation in the Renton River Days Parade in July, and for arranging for out festival booth as well.

A big shout out to Marvin Rosete and Ethel Hood for joining me in managing our table at the AM 1090 forum. The 33rd LD also participated.

Jim Flynn, Larry Grubb and Marvin Rosete are still working to organize our visit to the Elwha Dam demolition on the weekend of September 16-17. Labor groups have pointed out that the Park Service is not using local labor, so we will be including educational material about that issue to reach the large number of people anticipated. Jim presented a strong argument against a boycott at the WA State Labor Council convention last week, but was unable to sway the body. We will very likely have an educational event anyway—stay tuned.

Party officers will be in Bellingham on September 16-17. We are having really bad luck with conflicting events next month. We generally participate in the Fiestas Patrias parade in South Park, and that is being held on the 17th also. Our former chair Suzie Sheary has volunteered to organize those of us still in town to participate. Contact her at shearysc@gmail.com to participate in this very festive and colorful event.

## **Upcoming programs**

## **NO REGULAR MEETING IN AUGUST!!**

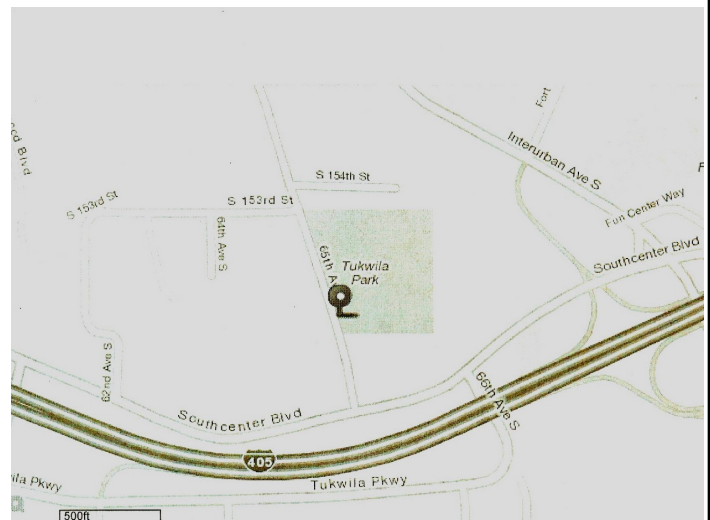
We usually have a picnic instead of a meeting in August. Join us for hot dogs and hamburgers on August 28th at noon at the Tukwila Park Gazebo, 154600 65th Ave S, Tukwila. \$10.00 suggested donation. Want to help set up? We'll start setting up at 11am—contact Rosemary Quesenberry at 425 -271-4396 or running4renton@msn.com to help.

We will be back to our regular meeting schedule on September 20th at Carpenters Hall. Details in our next newsletter.

Meanwhile, work hard for your favorite local candidates and start thinking about what you can do for our very critical election next year. I am attempting to collect as much realistic information about what each of our PCOs and members can do, so that we are not tripping all over the feet of national campaign people and vice versa. 2008 was the best organized coordinated campaign I have seen—let's try to do as well in 2012.

Martha Koester  
Chair, 11<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Democrat

**GO DEMS!!**



**Welcome to the  
11th Legislative Democratic Organization**

**You are Invited to attend the  
Monthly Meetings and engage in democracy in action!  
Your dues enable you to receive the district newsletter,  
help us defer our meeting expenses, and support our efforts on  
behalf of Democratic candidates. We provide or participate actively  
in fun and informative opportunities to reach out to  
Democrats and other voters in the 11th District.**

**Your volunteer efforts will further our goal  
of active members in all of the  
11th District precincts.**

**We welcome you!**

**2011— 2013 11th Legislative District Democratic Organization Executive Board**

<b>Officers</b>				
<b>Chair</b>	Martha	Koester	206-762-6417	<a href="mailto:chair@11thliddems.org">chair@11thliddems.org</a>
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<b>WSDCC - Female</b>	Kate	Kruller	206-853-9330	<a href="mailto:wsdccscw@11thliddems.org">wsdccscw@11thliddems.org</a>
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<b>KCDCC - F Alt</b>	Eimly	Willoughby	206-241-5885	<a href="mailto:emilya57@comcast.net">emilya57@comcast.net</a>
<b>KCDCC - LAC</b>	Don	Bennett	206-242-9113	<a href="mailto:bennettdonebe@aol.com">bennettdonebe@aol.com</a>
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<b>Programs</b>				
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<b>Raffle</b>	Azziem	Underwood	425-430-2652	<a href="mailto:meizza@yahoo.com">meizza@yahoo.com</a>
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<b>PCO Activities</b>	Grubb	Larry	206-243-3199	<a href="mailto:pcoevents@11thliddems.org">pcoevents@11thliddems.org</a>
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Young	Virginia	206-650-0240	<a href="mailto:newsletter@11thliddems.org">newsletter@11thliddems.org</a>

## TREASURER



**Please Send in Your 2011 Membership Dues Now**  
(Make checks payable to the 11<sup>th</sup> District Democrats)

*11th District Democrats*  
*PO BOX 1133*  
*Renton, WA. 98057-1133*



## Memberships:

___ Regular Membership \$15.00	___ Family Membership	\$27.00
___ Captain Membership \$50.00	___ Living Lightly	\$6.00
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(Please list all household names joining if membership is for Family or Sponsor)

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City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

We now have online payment with Click and Pledge. You can make one-time only payments or pledge a minimum of \$5/month. See our website for details. <http://www.11thlddems.org/blog/>

Send to: 11<sup>th</sup> District Democrats c/o Treasurer:

PO BOX 1133, Renton, WA. 98057-1133

**Statement by Labor Delegate Jim Flynn against Boycotting the Elwha River Festival**

We of the 11th LD think that the labor movement is missing a major opportunity to educate the public about the labor issues involved in river restoration. The following statement by our Recording Secretary Jim Flynn covers the issue very well. Interested in participating in the September 16th-17th event? Bus rental for 40 people will be \$1000. If we get 30 people at \$25 each, we can charter a bus. Contact Larry Grubb for arrangements—if we don't have enough people, you get your check back.

We have reserved a hospitality suite at the Red Lion  
221 N Lincoln St  
Port Angeles, WA 98362

Friday afternoon September 16  
All day Saturday September 17

More information and RSVP to  
Jim Flynn: james.flynn@comcast.net or  
Larry Grubb: larbeag@hotmail.com

**Jim Flynn IBEW local 46**

I rise to speak in opposition to Resolution #18 Amended

***Boycott all Elwha River Restoration Celebrations***

Expressing the thoughts of Legislative leaders, Washington State Democratic Party Chairman Dwight Pelz, speaking of the resolution said, "we are not planning on taking any action on this." Adding that the dam removal marked "a wonderful day for Washington State."

The Elwha River restoration celebration is the culmination of the efforts of grassroots organizations, over a 35 year period, to influence the legislative process, restore the environment to its natural state for future generations and to correct a great injustice to the Indigenous People of North America.

The city of Port Angeles expects 15,000 people to attend the celebration on Saturday September 17. So many people will attend, the Park service limits access to the dam site, where the removal will begin, to ticketed dignitaries.

The Olympic Peninsula, Building and Construction Trades Council is asking us to boycott the event because the Park service didn't create a Project Labor Agreement, guaranteeing prevailing wage and benefits for work, and a local work force.

This resolution is well intended but the effort of organized labor should take a different direction.

The Olympic Peninsula Building and Construction Trades Council has spent years developing relationships with political leaders and legislators in Washington state. They have strong, loyal, well trained work force, ready and willing to do the work.

Organized labor strives to disseminate our information through organized rallies, picket lines, and mainly making ourselves be seen and heard. This boycott is a complete reversal of our usual way of doing things. It is not the time to surrender to emotions, but rather depend on our collective strength and intelligence.

Instead of facing this disappointment with bitter disillusionment and regret, let us instead stand together with pride and dignity.

Barnhart construction (the LOW BIDDER) companies' project manager Brian Kromer said the Barnhart workforce "will be sub-contracted to many local contractors." There will only be forty workers on the site at maximum production. Most of the sub-contractors are signatory to union contracts including Laborers 252, Operation Engineers 302, Teamsters 589 and IBEW Local 46 to name a few. Davis-Bacon applies in all respects.

This boycott will only destroy the fragile relationships organized labor has built with political, business and tribal leaders on the Olympic Peninsula.

Should we approach this problem with the selfish indulgence of thinking people would hear our voice or know what we are thinking if we don't speak out, if we are invisible?

A union leader once told me, "Jim, a leader is one who is willing to take the shot." The history of labor in Western Washington is full of such people. People who were willing and often did take the shot, not only metaphorically, to advance the principles of Organized Labor. The Woodworkers of America in Centralia, and Wobblies in Everett in the early part of the 20th century, Varness and Domingo of the Alaska Cannery Workers in our era, did take the shot while fighting the "War on Workers." If we're going to advance the principles of organized labor, we need "feet of the on the street." Let our voice be heard, show up, speak out. Vote nay on this resolution.

# 11<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Democratic Organization Monthly Meeting

Tuesday July 19th, 2011

7:00 p.m. Call to Order, Flag Salute

M/S/A June Minutes

M/S/A- Agenda

## CREDENTIALS REPORT

### SPEAKER

Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn cancelled

David Graves, National Parks Conservation Association on Elwha River restoration project

### BREAK

### NEW BUSINESS

#### RESOLUTIONS

M/S/A Click and Pledge on Website 9/12

M/S/A Election of new Treasurer Roxanne Kangas 17/0

M/S/A New PCO Abshir Mahamed TUK 11 3127 17/0

M/S/A Referendum 1 17/0

M/S/A Endorse Dr. Mary Alice Heuschel Hospital District 1 Commissioner

M/S/A Tukwila Park for 11<sup>th</sup> LD Dem Org Annual Picnic

### SPEAKER

Dave Christie – Resolution to Reinstate Banking Act of 1933 (Glass-Steagall Act)

M/S/A Resolution to Reinstate Banking Act of 1933 15/0

### OLD BUSINESS

#### SPEAKER

Marvin Rosette explained current status of King County Redistricting

### GOOD OF ORDER

Chair Martha Koester – Showare Center Saturday July 23<sup>rd</sup>

Chair Martha Koester – Renton River Days

11<sup>th</sup> LD Representative Zack Hudgins New District Office in South Park, keep eye open for open house

M/S/A ADJOURN

Official Minutes – James Flynn, Secretary

## Upcoming events

**August 18, 2011**

**Save Our Life Line**

Defending Medicare, Medicaid & Social Security

Moderated by Seattle City Councilmember Nick Licata

7-9pm

Labor Temple

2800 1st Ave, Seattle

**August 23, 2011**

King County Democratic Central Committee

7:00PM at Renton Carpenters Hall



**Don't let Congress Eliminate Medicare!**  
**[www.saveourmedicare.org](http://www.saveourmedicare.org)**

## The U.S. Public School System Needs Reform---But What Kind of Reform?

By Marlene Allbright, 11<sup>th</sup> LD Democrats member and experienced teacher

*You've all heard the latest reform mantras.... "The teachers' unions are holding back our students and protecting bad teaching."*

*"We must get rid of seniority, and base teacher's salaries on their evaluations and student test scores. Charter schools will save our public education system."*

*"Recruiting non-teaching college students and placing them in classrooms as teachers will make our students more successful in passing tests."*

Imagine that you're a 14 year old student walking into a classroom for the first time. Not only is it your first experience in a classroom, but you don't speak English, you can't read, and you can't do math. Sounds unbelievable, I know. But it happens every day in classrooms around this country. Students from Somalia, Eritrea, and Ethiopia often are unable to go to school in their countries of origin, either because they have to help their families with chores such as carrying water for great distances or in most cases the schools are private, and their families can't afford to send them. Schools are not public in these countries, and often the critical window for learning is closed by the time these children arrive in our schools. The same is true for children from Mexico and Central America. To make matters worse, if a family can afford to send their child to a private school, and that child has special needs, in most cases there is no special education at all.

Public schools are not the same as they were twenty and thirty years ago. When you step into an urban classroom today in many areas of King County, the teacher will probably have multi-ethnic students, and there will be at least three or four languages other than English spoken at home. What do you do when you need to call the parent of one of these students when in most cases an interpreter isn't available? How do you send home a report card, an open house invitation, or a suspension notice? These are daily frustrations that every teacher I know experiences.

Many districts in King County and throughout the U.S. are now requiring inclusion for all special education students. This means that your calculus whiz student will be sitting next to a student with an IQ of 30 or a student whose ADD is so out of control that fights are about to break out in advanced chemistry. Inclusion is not a bad idea, but there is no funding or training to provide a successful educational environment for the blending of all educational populations. This is an example of the kinds of challenges that are presented in traditional public school classrooms.

There is a great need for reform. The question is what kind of reform is best? Let's look at the first item on the reform agenda.....teacher's unions. According to Governor Scott Walker, teacher's unions should have no place in negotiating fair working conditions. Do unions protect bad teachers? In all honesty, it does protect a very small percentage of the total teaching ranks. What if hiring and firing were left up to administrators without any checks and balances? The argument for this option suggests that administrators are above cronyism and favoritism, and will base all of their decisions objectively. As we learned from the Pottergate scandal in the Seattle School District, the state auditor Brian Sonntag determined that the administrators created an "atmosphere of fear, intimidation and reprisal," and higher-ups failed to act when approached by other concerned district staff. As we now know, this district was rife with a culture of cronyism among the administrators.

What's very interesting about how the conversation seems to be about lack of accountability for teachers, when you really examine the issue, there is currently a ton of accountability placed on teachers, and very little on administrators. The unions have been working to make huge compromises with the districts in areas such as multi-tiered evaluation systems and participation in professional learning communities. As a result of these agreements, principals will be able to fire ineffective teachers much more easily. In the last five years, the U.S. Department of Education has mandated that every teacher reach Highly Qualified status. To do this, every teacher must complete a rigorous four year teaching program in college, as well as take a national exam known as the Praxis for every endorsement attained.

The issue of seniority is particularly problematic for some people who will argue that a younger teacher with two years of teaching experience is a better teacher than someone with fifteen years of experience. This argument is also used in defense of hiring Teach For America recruits. If that same person had to make a decision about which doctor he would rather have operate on him, a surgeon with two years of experience, or a surgeon with fifteen years' experience, which person do you think he would choose?

(continued on Page 7)



(continued from page 6)

Teachers *usually* go into the profession because they love teaching and they want to make it their career. I doubt if the quality of the teaching candidate would be as high if they knew that each pay increment would be given based upon the opinion of an administrator, who may or may not like them, or be objective. When you're basing teacher pay on test scores, that gets even trickier and even President Obama is beginning to acknowledge that. Where would you rather teach, at a school that's in an affluent, low-crime, area, where there is lots of parent involvement, or in a school in a high-crime/poverty area with mostly new immigrant families who don't speak English? I'd probably pick the high poverty area because I find it more interesting, but I'd bet that most teachers would pick the affluent school. Teachers who do accept positions in the high poverty schools, are faced with almost insurmountable challenges in attempting to successfully get those kids to pass the state assessments. All you have to do is look at the Free/Reduced breakfast and lunch statistics on the OSPI website and you will see an almost perfect correlation between income and test scores. Obviously, the wealthier students will score higher than their poorer counterparts. So do we just fire all of the teachers at poorer schools, because their students are not making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) on their assessments?

#### References

<http://district.seattleschools.org/modules/groups/homepagefiles/cms/1583136/File/Departmental%20Content/ell/TRANSLATION%20AND%20INTERPRETATION%20SERVICES%203-9-11.pdf?sessionid=7e873be249109a6f4811338aa04cedcb>

<http://idea.ed.gov/explore/view/p/.root.statute.I.B.612.a.5>,

[http://o.seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2014325959\\_audit25m.html](http://o.seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2014325959_audit25m.html)

<http://www.bellevueschools.net/income-and-test-scores-in-the-bellevue-schools/>

To be continued next issue---

#### Community Outreach—July 2011



Forum panelists Norman Goldman, Mike Pappantonio, Dennis Kucinich, Stephanie Miller, Randi Rhodes and Mike Malloy with young fan.

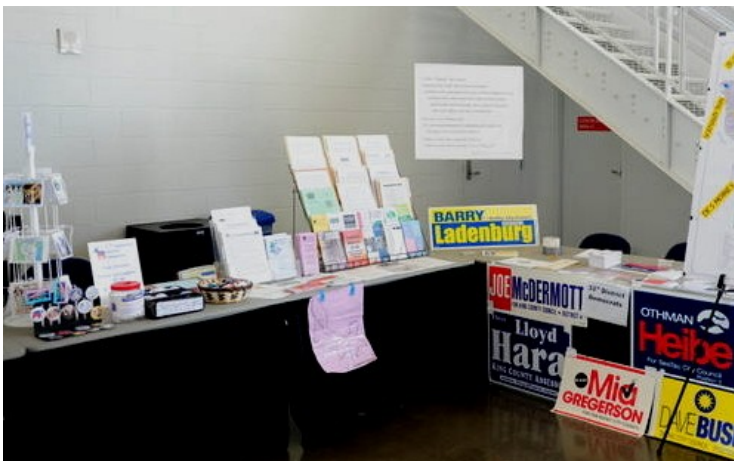
The one thing that stuck with me from the forum was Norman Goldman's anecdote about an encounter with Bill Richardson after one of the 2007 debates. Goldman asked Richardson what the Democratic Party stood for. Richardson just stood there, and couldn't think of an answer. I find this highly disturbing. Democrats have traditionally stood for the little guy and for public goods.

As George Lakoff very eloquently put it—*Public refers to people, acting together to provide what we all depend on: roads and bridges, public buildings and parks, a system of education, a strong economic system, a system of law and order with a fair and effective judiciary, dams, sewers, and a power grid, agencies to monitor disease, weather, food safety, clean air and water, and on and on. That is what we, as a people who care about each other, have given to each other.*

*We are now faced with a nontraditional, radical view of "democracy" coming from the Republican party. It says that "democracy" means that nobody should care about anybody else, that "democracy" means only personal responsibility, not responsibility for anyone else, and it means no trust. crucial things that you and your family and your friends have taken for granted: gone.*

*The "democracy" of no care, no shared responsibility, and no trust has produced the American Nightmare that so many of our citizens are living through.*

<http://www.readersupportednews.org/opinion2/277-75/6804-why-democracy-is-public>



11th and 33rd LD information tables



## Community Outreach—July 2011

July 23rd was a very busy day, with the Renton River Days parade and booth during the day and the AM 1090 forum in the evening.



Our next governor Jay Inslee



George Summers and Suzie Sheary with Jay Inslee



Senator Prentice with Sharon Mast and convertible.



The plastic butt makes a reappearance at Medicare's 46th birthday party



Emily Willoughby, Billy Prentice and Larry Grubb at the festival booth

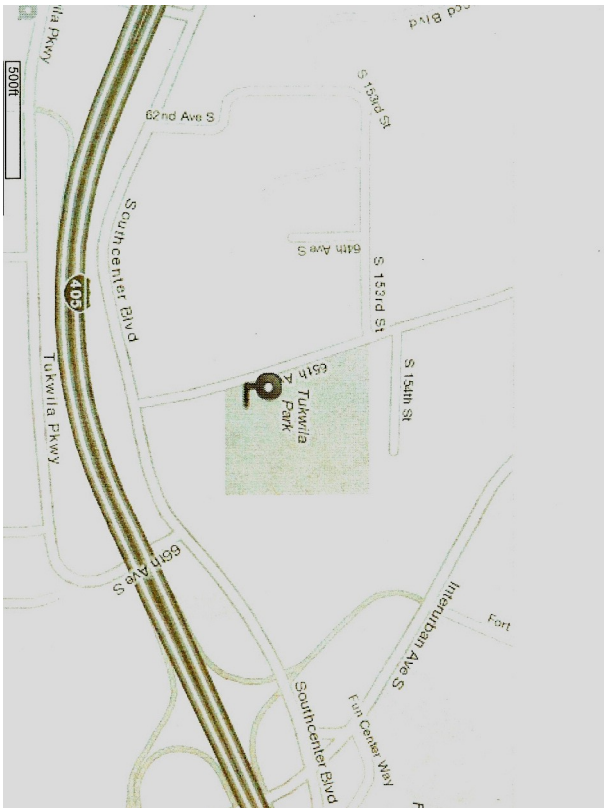


Official Call

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We will be back to our regular meeting schedule on September 20th at Carpenters Hall. Details in our next newsletter.



*The 11th District Journal is published on a monthly basis as a means of notice of general membership meetings. It is published and distributed 10 days preceding general meetings pursuant to District Bylaws.*

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