



## Meeting Agenda

February 15, 2005  
7:30pm—9:00pm  
University Baptist Church  
NE 47th and 12th NE

- 7:30 Call to order —  
Richard Kelley, Chair  
Minutes —  
Will Affleck-Asch,  
Secretary  
Finance Report —  
Lynn Chadsey,  
Treasurer
- 7:40 Chair's Report
- 7:45 State Committee  
report —  
David Kunselman,  
Lisa Stuebing,  
Javier Valdez
- 7:55 Vice Chairs' Reports  
Events:  
Julian Wheeler  
Membership:  
Derek Stanford  
Communications:  
Elva Gonzalez
- 8:10 Program —  
Neal Traven,  
Vice Chair  
County Councilman  
Larry Gossett  
  
KCDCC Chair  
Susan Sheary
- 8:45 Resolutions  
8:55 Good of the Order  
9:00 Adjournment

## WASHINGTON DEMOCRATS RESTORE SALES TAX DEDUCTION

For the first time in 18 years, Washington residents will again be able to deduct their state and local sales and use taxes in completing their federal income taxes. Washingtonians should applaud the leadership and hard work of Congressman Brian Baird (D-Vancouver) and Senator Maria Cantwell in restoring some basic fairness to the federal income tax code. Democrats should take pride in the unusual combination of good policy and smart politics.

The Washington Department of Revenue has estimated the restoration of the sales tax deduction will save the one million Washington families who itemize their income tax deductions an average of between \$300 and \$500 per year. Although the deduction will most directly benefit middle and upper-middle class Washingtonians who itemize their tax deductions, the deduction will benefit the state as a whole by injecting an estimated \$430,000,000 per year into the Washington economy. In addition to the economic benefit to Washing-

ton, the restoration of the sales tax deduction ends (at least for two years) an injustice inflicted on Washington residents by the Tax Reform Act of 1986. In 1986, Congress eliminated the deduction for state and local sales taxes, while retaining the deduction for state and local income and property taxes. Not coincidentally, the chief architect of the 1986 repeal was Republican Senator Bob Packwood of Oregon (a state with property and income taxes, but no sales tax). As a result, Washingtonians have been paying nearly half a billion dollars of additional income tax each year to effectively subsidize the 43 states that impose personal income taxes. Whatever our concerns about Washington's over-reliance on the sales tax, there is no policy justification for permitting residents of Oregon and other states to deduct all or most of their state and local taxes, while denying similar treatment to Washington residents.

Brain Baird made the restoration of the sales tax deduction his signature issue when running for Congress in 1998. Thanks to Baird's leadership, the issue eventually ultimately captured widespread bipartisan support.

(As an aside, the 43rd's Meade Emory and Bob Mahon played small but important roles in assisting Congressman Baird with this issue during his election and first term). On the Senate side, Senator Cantwell sponsored legislation restoring the sales tax deduction and was instrumental in gathering key Senate support. Much to the credit of Congressman Baird and Senator Cantwell, the Republican leadership became late believers in the merits of their proposal and included a two year restoration of the sales tax deduction in the otherwise monstrous American Jobs Creation Act of 2004. Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

As we work to re-elect Senator Cantwell and Congressman Baird and appeal to moderate and independent voters, Democrats need to trumpet important policy victories like the restoration of the sales tax deduction. We also need to support Senator Cantwell and Congressman Baird's efforts to make the two year restoration of the sales tax deduction permanent.

*By Bob Mahon*



## A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

# ***TO KNOW THEM IS TO FEAR THEM***

BY RICHARD KELLEY

The current debates over sex offender notification, felons' voting rights, and homeless encampments, each of which displays our community in its nastiest colors, have more than that in common. Each one is also an example of public policies and community attitudes in which we as a community choose not to face the truth about our world.

Our laws now require that the neighborhood be notified when a former sex offender moves in. Seems reasonable. It doesn't work, of course, for the simple reason that no one — *no one* — wants a sex offender, rehabilitated or not, to move into their neighborhood. We all wish they would live.. somewhere else. In the old days, before notification laws, there were just as many sex offenders living in our neighborhoods, but we didn't know it, at least not specifically. We didn't think about sex offenders, so we could believe our neighborhoods to be safe places for our children.

In earlier times yet, all strangers were suspect, and those who were permanently transient, like carnies and bindle stiffs, were permanently suspect. Poverty was no defense. If anything, it was an aggravating factor

in the community's fear of all persons unknown. When a grisly crime was committed, it was not only convenient for the police to grab a transient, it was essential that they do so, because to search through the resident community for a monster would destroy the illusion of safety and the trust among neighbors so essential to community.

Tent cities for the homeless are another case in point. Their organizing themselves into an encampment community does not increase the number of homeless persons. The tent city does not create sanitation problems- these exist anywhere people are sleeping rough. Chasing away tent cities is no different from running gypsies out of town. It is a refusal to share a good and safe life, coupled with a fear and hatred of everything foreign to that life. Perhaps the best analogy is to the way Irish communities have always treated Travelers. Townspeople call them Tinkers, because repairing household goods was low-status work; safely out of earshot, they call them Knackers, because the lowest thing an Irishman could say about someone is that he would eat a horse. But the Travelers are not ethni-

cally or religiously different. They are, in every way, Irishmen. Their only crime is transience itself, and even two or three generations of living in a town can't rub out the stain.

Our laws regarding former felons institutionalize the same fear of strangers, coupled with our desire to punish them forever. We don't let them vote in prison, despite the fact that the Constitution nowhere says that felons

**Poverty is the  
greatest sin one  
can commit in  
America.**

lose this right. After they get out, Washington, like most states, makes it difficult for them to regain their voting rights. The fact that voting would strengthen their connection with the community and perhaps ease their reentry into straight life is not enough to get average citizens to accept the pollution of their electoral pool and give up the power to stigmatize former offenders.

A more powerful weapon to continue to punish former offenders is to deny them access to the most basic requirements of life- a job and a place to live.

Very few employers will knowingly hire an ex-convict, and many public employers are now barred by law from doing so. Very few private landlords will knowingly rent to an ex-convict, and public housing authorities are discouraged and in some cases barred by Federal laws from doing so. So former felons become homeless, unemployed, angry people, unable to effect a transition to contributing citizenship.

In earlier, simpler times, a felon who had paid his debt to society could move away to start a new life somewhere where he was not known. With care and luck, his past might never catch up with him. Many of us have ancestors who immigrated or moved west for reasons that would embarrass their descendants, but who then changed their lives, raised their families, and built their communities. In our time, the tightening web of computerized data files, social security numbers, fingerprints, credit reports and now homeland security makes it nearly impossible for anyone to leave his past behind. Living off the grid becomes harder every year. And so one's crimes and lesser failings become more and more indelible, and more and more known to his neighbors and to the people who refuse to be his neighbors: refuse to hire him, refuse to rent to him, refuse to let him up off the mat. *Con't page 3*

## Resolution in Opposition to Privatizing Social Security

Whereas Social Security is a covenant among generations that we shall not break;

Whereas Social Security has been one of the most effective social programs in the history of representative government;

Whereas current projections demonstrate that Social Security will be solvent well into the next two generations;

Whereas President Bush and the Republican Party are determined to dismantle Social Security;

Whereas it will take a resolute and united Democratic Party to stop the Republicans' efforts;

Whereas there is indication that at least one recently re-elected Democratic Senator from the Northwest has not expressed a public position on the Republican plan;

Be it resolved: That we, the members of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District Democrats, do call upon our Representative and Senators in Congress to stand with us - early, proud, and resolute - in opposition to any effort to privatize Social Security in any form.

*Submitted by Bill Sherman, PCO, 43-2254*

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## A CALL TO ACTION

On January 30, Congressmen Jim McDermott and Dennis Kucinich were the featured speakers at "A Call To Action", sponsored by the Progressive Democratic Caucuses of Washington (PDCW, <http://pdcw.org/>), 46<sup>th</sup> District.

An overflow crowd heard speakers offer broad overviews, then broke out into action/strategy groups on the topics of Social Security, Taxes, and Elections. A detailed report is on the web (<http://pdcw.org/jan30followup.php>), and the event will be rebroadcast on

KEXP-FM 90.3 and public access cable channel 77.

PDCW has created a website to help progressive groups across the state. KCDCC Alternate Charlie Bendock and I are working with them to spearhead the 43<sup>rd</sup>'s place in these efforts. One step is the creation of an email list. Please join us by signing up through the link on the PDCW site or directly at <http://lists.riseup.net/www/info/pdcw43>.

*By Neal Traven,  
Vice Chair for Programs*

## 43<sup>rd</sup> District Officers

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Past Chair  
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## TO KNOW THEM IS TO FEAR THEM CON'T

Perhaps the saddest thing of all about this column is that the homeless poor could be so glibly lumped together with felons and sex offenders. Poverty is the greatest sin one can commit in America. We fear the homeless poor every bit as much as we fear criminals- perhaps more, because many of us know that we are not much more than one missed paycheck, one uninsured illness, one broken relationship away from being homeless ourselves. We fear the poor because we fear they are us.

# WASHINGTON STATE DEMOCRATS REORGANIZE

The re-organizational meeting of the Washington State Democratic Central Committee was held in Olympia on January 28 and 29. Democrats from around the state kicked off the meeting with a reception at the Governor's mansion and a moving speech by Governor Gregoire.

The primary order of business for the meeting on Saturday was the election of officers. With three of the four positions contested, democracy was alive and well with many good ideas being posed by many well qualified candidates.

The following were elected to lead the Washington State Democrats for the next two years:

Paul Berendt, State Chair

Eileen Macoll, State Vice Chair  
Luis Moscoso, State Secretary  
Habib Habib, State Treasurer

Congressman Dennis Kucinich made a surprise visit to the meeting and gave a rousing and energetic speech against Mr. Bush's proposal to privatize social security. Congressman Jim McDermott also received a warm welcome when he addressed the body and unveiled his strategy to counter the continued republican assault on the freedom of speech.

Other areas of interest discussed at the meeting included a move to hold the State's primary election earlier in the summer in order to allow the counties more time to conduct the election and prepare for the general election. The selection of the next

DNC chair was also a hot topic.

A straw poll among the elected state committee people revealed overwhelming support for Howard Dean. Reports were also given to update the delegates on the recount litigation and primary election reform.

The 43<sup>rd</sup> District was well represented at the meeting. In attendance were State Committeeman, David Kunselman and State Committeewoman, Lisa Stuebing as well as Chair, Dick Kelley, Vice Chairs Derek Stanford, Elva Gonzalez, Neal Traven and Julian Wheeler. Past Chair Javier Valdez was re-elected to the Executive Board as the representative of the 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.

*By David Kunselman,  
State Committeeman*

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## NEW YEAR .... JOIN TODAY

Please take a moment to look at your name as it is printed on this newsletter's Address Label. If "2005" appears after your name, Thank You! You are a dues paying member of the 43<sup>rd</sup> District Democrats. If "2005" does not appear, we hope you will send in your Membership Dues today. We need your dues to support this newsletter and our activities as we strengthen our operations.

Sign up today by clipping this form and mailing a check, payable to the 43<sup>rd</sup> District Democrats, c/o Lynn Chadsey, 2135 N. 51st Street, Seattle, WA 98103

Name\* \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Please list all household names joining if membership is for a Family, Sponsor, or Donor Membership)*

Contribution Levels (Dues are for the period Jan—December 2005)

\_\_\_\_\_ Regular Membership (\$25)

\_\_\_\_\_ Family Membership (\$40)

\_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor Membership (\$43)

\_\_\_\_\_ Family Sponsor Membership (\$43)

\_\_\_\_\_ Donor Membership (\$100)

\_\_\_\_\_ Family Donor Membership (\$100)

\_\_\_\_\_ Limited Income Membership (\$5)

\_\_\_\_\_ Family Limited Income (\$10)

Opt in for an electronic newsletter.

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## TREASURER'S CONSERVATIVE CORNER

Thank you to the 250 members of the 43<sup>rd</sup> District Democrats who have renewed to date! (In December, 2004, fourteen members had already renewed for a total of \$483.00. You have brought us almost 37% of the way toward reaching your Membership Dues Income budget amount of \$17,000 for 2005. (\$6,266 collected as of February 1, 2005).

The funds we collect in dues "pay the rent" when we meet every month and cover the Newsletter printing and posting costs. What about this EXPANDED Newsletter format!? It does cost us a little more to prepare, so please send your renewal dues today! Don't miss one new issue! The 43<sup>rd</sup> LD donated significant funds to important political races in our State in 2004 (Contributions). Thank you for your generous support!

<b>Receipts</b>	<b>2004 Actual</b>	<b>2004 Budget</b>	<b>2005 Budget</b>
Membership Dues	31,392.00	29,000.00	17,000.00
Fundraiser — Spring	7,476.00	6,500.00	5,000.00
Fundraiser — Winter	4,825.00	4,500.00	4,500.00
Nominating Meeting			5,000.00
Caucus	14,016.41	14,000.00	
Other	996.25	1,000.00	800.00
<i>Total</i>	58,705.66	55,000.00	32,300.0

### **Expenditures**

Contributions	14,100.00	4,700.00	3,000.00
Dues	500.00	500.00	1,000.00
Fundraiser Expenses	2,374.36	2,800.00	2,600.00
Membership Recruitment	7,158.53	6,200.00	4,000.00
Newsletter	13,043.78	16,000.00	7,000.00
Meeting Expenses	1,530	1,215.00	1,500.00
Volunteer Appreciation		85.00	
Nominating Meeting			5,000.00
Caucus Expenses	9,031.92	9,100.00	
Sample Ballot/Campaign	11,868.57	9,300.00	6,000.00
Supplies	615.56	500.00	700.00
Other Expenses	1,096.26	600.00	1,500.00
Reserve		4,000.00	
<i>Total</i>	61,318.98	55,000.00	32,300.00

Beginning Balance (01/01/05)	8,364.09
Receipts	5,828.00
<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>(1,290.80)</u>
Current Balance (02/01/05)	12,901.29

By Lynn Chadsey

## THE LEFT PAGE

The latest two presidential elections were stunning and devastating. Much has been said about how results could have been improved: a different candidate, more focused campaigning, more effective party activity, fairer and more accurate election procedures. These are all valid points, but lost in preoccupation with details of the recent past has been recognition of some profound long-term trends.

We are often reminded that the last three Democratic presidents were all from the South and that all three were perceived as conservative Democrats. So was JFK in 1960 and so was FDR in 1932. Their liberal traits emerged only after inauguration.

**The right has been shrewd in mobilizing religious fundamentalists against liberal society.**

The South was solidly Democratic until about 1950 because they hated Republicans, particularly Lincoln and Grant. An early crack appeared in 1948 when the young mayor of Minneapolis (HHH) made an impassioned speech for civil rights on the floor of the national convention and Strom Thurmond walked out. The shift of the South of the Republicans has continued steadily down to today, when they have an enormous lead. Even in the LBJ landslide of 1964, Barry Goldwater carried five southern states. So did George Wallace, as a third party candidate, in 1968. Nixon's southern strategy formalized the shift. Replacement by Re-

publicans of five Democrats retiring from the US Senate in 2004 has nearly sealed the region.

Before the French Revolution the upper classes there paid no taxes, and before the Russian Revolution the upper classes there didn't either. In just a few years, the right has taken us well back toward that situation here. The recent massive tax cuts in the US are not a novelty: the right has opposed the income tax since its inception. The current attack on social security and on Medicare is not a new idea, as the right has opposed both of those programs since enactment.

Attacks on separation of church and state are not new. Main line religions—Catholic, Protestant, Jewish—are in decline, but newer denominations are burgeoning. The creationism movement was set back for a couple of generations after the 1925 Scopes trial but has resurged the past few decades. Not only is the doctrine of separation at risk, but so is the entire secular institution. The right has been shrewd in mobilizing religious fundamentalists against liberal society. Be it GOP conviction or case of "mine enemy's enemy is my friend," it has been effective.

The trend toward globalization is nothing but neocolonialism in the guise of free trade. Its central goal is to undermine public sovereignty in favor of corporate power. NAFTA and WTO are only recent measures in this continuing assault. IMF and the World Bank explicitly make weakening the public sector abroad a necessary condition of receiving aid. Excessive jury awards in medical malpractice suits is an easily comprehended issue eliciting some popular concerns but the attack on trial lawyers is much wider than that, as part of the ongoing effort to tip balance away from the people and

them from litigation.

Gains of past centuries are under concerted attack. Cooperative, egalitarian societies have always been the target of advocates of a competitive, hierarchical society. They take dead aim on the public sector: education, transportation, medical care, power generation.

Defense against terrorism provides convenient cover for acting on longstanding antipathy for many provisions of the Constitution. They would rescind the Enlightenment.

It is not only events of the past few years we must reverse but we must contend with these long-term trends. Ideas on how to stem the tide are in short supply, but an essential first step in solving any problem is recognizing what the problem is.

*By Al Rasmussen*

### Attention Contributors

We have expanded our newsletter in order to focus on more substantive and topical articles. We urge the contribution of articles from any member on a topic of general interest. Editing will be done only because of space and/or page constraints.

**Articles:** We welcome articles reporting on events and news. All items should be typed and spell-checked and submitted in an email, in Word or text format.

**Events:** All announcements and/or calendar events should be emailed including available hyperlinks.

**Deadlines:** The deadline for submissions is the 1st of the month.

Please email Elva at  
editor43rddems@hotmail.com

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## FEBRUARY

- Everyday**  
**Progressive Talk Radio AM 1090**
- 11 Film: WMD—Weapons of Mass Deception** (86 min, Danny Schechter, 2004)  
Keystone Church  
5019 Keystone Place N. in Seattle (Wallingford) 7:00 pm  
FREE—Donations accepted.  
More info: [www.snowcoalition.org](http://www.snowcoalition.org)
- 12 DNC Chair Election**
- 14 Faith-based Rally for Marriage Equality & Equal Civil Rights for All**  
12:00 NOON  
Washington State Capitol Steps  
Olympia, WA  
9:00 to 11:00 Advocacy Workshops  
[www.religiouscoalition-wa.org](http://www.religiouscoalition-wa.org)
- 15 43<sup>rd</sup> District Membership Meeting**  
University Baptist Church Hall  
7:30 pm—9:30 pm,  
4554 12th Ave NE (47th and 12)  
Info: Richard Kelley, Chair, 949-7717  
**Film: Deadline**  
(90 min, Angela Tucker)  
Seattle Art Museum  
100 University St., Seattle  
7:00pm, [www.thewarrenreport.com](http://www.thewarrenreport.com)  
FREE, Membership required
- 18 Film: Bush's Brain** (80 min, Joseph Mealey, Michael Shoob, 2004)  
Keystone Church  
5019 Keystone Place N. in Seattle (Wallingford) 7:00 pm  
FREE—Donations accepted.  
More info: [www.snowcoalition.org](http://www.snowcoalition.org)
- 19 Dahr Jamail: independent embedded journalist in Iraq**  
Kirkland Congregational Church, 106 5th Ave. Admission \$5  
Visit his website at [www.dahrjamailiraq.com](http://www.dahrjamailiraq.com)
- 21 Washington State Democrats Annual Crab Feed & PCO Training**  
10:00 am PCO Training (\$15 / person)  
5:00 pm Crab Feed (\$40 / person \$10/kids)  
St. Martin's College, Lacey, WA  
5300 Pacific Ave SE  
Lacey, WA 98503  
Call Heather Woodruff 206-583-0664 or email [heather@wa-democrats.org](mailto:heather@wa-democrats.org) for more information.

## MARCH

- Everyday**  
**Progressive Talk Radio AM 1090**
- 1 Paul Rusesabagina**  
**The Real Life Hero portrayed in the film *Hotel Rwanda***  
Town Hall (8th & Seneca), Seattle  
7:30 pm  
\$20 General Admission  
\$15 Foolproof subscribers and members  
\$18 Groups of 15 or more  
[www.foolproof.org/2005/season](http://www.foolproof.org/2005/season)
- 6 International Women's Day**  
Creating A World Where Women Matter  
Noon to 5:00 pm,  
Seattle Center House
- Foolproof presents former Governor Howard Dean in Now What? The First Annual Benefit for American Voices**  
Dr. Dean and special guests Sherman Alexie, Rep. Jim McDermott and more to be announced will answer the question, Now What?  
Cost: Orchestra seating: \$75, 1st and 2nd Mezzanine: \$45, 3rd Mezzanine: \$25. Seating will be assigned based on the date your donation is received.  
[www.foolproof.org/2005/season](http://www.foolproof.org/2005/season)  
Foolproof is also offering a dinner to benefit American Voices prior to the even at the Grand Hyatt Seattle, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Please call 206- 325-3554 for details and sponsorship.
- 15 43<sup>rd</sup> District Membership Meeting**  
University Baptist Church Hall  
7:30 pm—9:30 pm,  
4554 12th Ave NE (47th and 12)  
Bring your old cell phone and receive a tax deduction slip. Elva will be collecting cell phone to donate to The Body Shop's Donate A Phone Program where all cell phones are refurbished and provided to women and families in need. (Cell phones are programmed with 2-3 numbers.) The Body Shop works with the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

## APRIL


- Everyday**  
**Progressive Talk Radio AM 1090**
- 2 All the News That's Fit to Own**  
Who Controls the Media and Why We Should Care  
Saturday, April 2, 2005  
8:00 pm  
The Paramount Theatre
- Panelists: Frank Blethen, Publisher, The Seattle Times  
Robert W. Chesney, author Rich Media, Poor Democracy; Our Media, Not Theirs  
Tickets: \$25 to \$75  
[www.foolproof.org/2005/season](http://www.foolproof.org/2005/season)
- 19 43<sup>rd</sup> District Membership Meeting**  
University Baptist Church Hall  
7:30 pm—9:30 pm,  
4554 12th Ave NE (47th and 12)
- 22 Bill Moyers**  
8:00 pm, The Paramount Theatre  
Tickets: \$20 to \$75  
[www.foolproof.org/2005/season](http://www.foolproof.org/2005/season)

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43<sup>rd</sup> District Democrats  
Richard Kelley, Chair  
6312 18th Avenue NE  
Seattle, WA 98115

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