



**Meeting Agenda**

March 21, 2006  
 7:30 pm—9:00 pm  
 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

- Precinct Caucuses
- District Caucus April 22
- County Convention May 6
- County Chair

7:50 Election of new District  
 Chair

- Candidates' nominations, statements
- Questions and answers
- Written ballot-elected and appointed PCO's may vote

8:30 Report on the Legisla-  
 tive Session (as Legis-  
 lators' schedules al-  
 low)

- Sen. Pat Thibadeau
- Rep. Frank Chopp
- Rep. Ed Murray

8:55 Resolutions  
 Good of the Order

9:00 Adjourn

**43<sup>RD</sup> DEMOCRATS TRY  
 “OPEN SOURCE PLATFORM WRITING”  
 IN PRECINCT CAUCUSES**

In an experiment in grassroots democracy, the 43<sup>rd</sup> District Democrats last week used the Precinct Caucuses to expand the usual 6 or 8 person Platform Committee to include every Democrat who wanted to participate.

In three Platform Caucus meetings leading up to the March 4 delegate election Caucuses, 140 Democrats spent a total of 15 breakout session hours writing the 2006 draft amendments for the 43<sup>rd</sup> District Platform. Their draft, without intervening changes, will go to the District Caucus on April 22 for debate, amendment and adoption.

The breakout session structure allowed Democrats with expertise or interest in a particular area of the Platform to work carefully with a small group to craft platform language.

On Saturday, March 4, Democrats from all precincts in the 43<sup>rd</sup> caucused at the Washington Convention and Trade Center to elect delegates to the District Caucus and County Convention, and to vote as a body on resolutions.

The platform amendments drafted and the resolutions adopted are being consolidated now, and will be posted on the District website, [www.43rddems.org](http://www.43rddems.org).

**Save the Date!**  
**43rd District Democrats Annual Spring Party**  
 Saturday, May 20, 2006  
 7:00 pm  
 Washington Pioneer Hall  
 Madison Park in Seattle  
 1642 43rd Avenue East

For more information or to volunteer, call Julian Wheeler,  
 Vice Chair for Events, at [julianfwheeler@aol.com](mailto:julianfwheeler@aol.com).



## A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

### *DEMOCRATS MUST LEAD*

BY RICHARD KELLEY

This is my last column as your District Chair, so I want to give you my take on where the Party is and where it needs to go.

The events of the last 12 years, beginning with Newt Gingrich's Contract with America in 1994, have made it more clear to most Americans which party is which. Elected representatives of both parties are more consistent now than in the past about supporting their party's legislative goals. Most Americans now consider the Republican Party to be more conservative and the Democratic Party more liberal. That much information is helpful for people in casting a rational vote, but there are still many voters who don't identify with either party.

The Republican Party has lost the confidence of the country, but the Democrats have not won it. We have been timid, and we have allowed ourselves to be tainted with some of the same corruption that is destroying the Republicans in the public's estimation.

Citizen activism is much more important in the Democratic Party now than it ever was in the past. We have written a new chapter in the loose-leaf notebook of democracy, and we should not let anyone tear it out.

I think the Democratic Party has the potential to become a majority party nationally once again. To do so, we need to speak to some of the basic things people now need from their government. There are many important issues which we need to pursue once in control again, but in addressing the country, I see three issues which could unite us with a majority of Americans:

1. **Security in an insecure world.** We would be better off living as a strong and wary equal in a world at peace than we ever could be as the strongest country in a world at war. The tangled web of oil and exploitive multinational commercial interests which we fight to protect is something we should

be fighting to extricate ourselves from. Iraq has made more and more voters view foreign military adventures with suspicion; we should seize that opportunity to reform our foreign policy, and not just oppose Bush's war.

2. **Health care for all.** Tens of millions have no insurance, so those of us who do have it pay for them, too, through the uncompensated care they receive in hospital emergency rooms. The system is confusing and frustrating.

*Our best is yet to come.*

Somewhere around 25% of our "healthcare" dollar ends up going only to insurance companies and the care providers' costs for dealing with insurance companies. More and more employers, not just WalMart, push their employees' health care costs off on the taxpayers. The cure for all of these problems

is the same: a national single-payer health insurance system. Jim McDermott and others in the Congress have been working on this for years. It would only work financially if everyone were covered, so more people are paying in and there is very little uncompensated care to jack up premiums. And it would only work politically if everyone were covered, because people are confused and frustrated now and would be suspicious if the explanation of the new system were not simple. Voters could understand a straightforward system, and would reward us for dealing with the problem.

3. **Protection for our privacy.** Voters do not want a government that spies on them, lets businesses sell personal information about them, and intrudes into the most private corners of their lives and personal relationships. If we took a consistent, principled position against all the symptoms of this social dis-

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# 43rd Chair Dick Kelley Resigns

## New Chair Election March 21: Candidates' Statements

The Chair of the 43<sup>rd</sup> District Democrats, Dick Kelley, has submitted his resignation.

In a February 21 letter to the PCO's who must choose his successor, Kelley wrote, "I am writing to tell you that I am resigning my position as Chair of the 43<sup>rd</sup> District Democrats, effective upon the election of my successor... That election will be held at our regular district meeting on March 21, at University Baptist, NE 47<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> NE, at 7:30 PM. Elected and Appointed PCO's (not Acting) will have a vote in that election. I am staying as Chair until that meeting so that I can continue to help with organizing our Precinct Caucuses on February 26 and 28 and March 1 and 4.

"The reason for my resignation is that it appears the 43<sup>rd</sup> will have an open seat in the State House of Representatives this year, and I will be a candidate for that seat.

"There is no law or party rule that would require me to step down as Chair when I become a candidate for public office. I believe, though, that the party is better served by having a Chair who can give the job his or her undivided attention. This is one of the toughest unpaid political positions in the state. The 43rd has a lot of members (700-1,400, depending on the election cycle) and raises and spends a lot of money from small contributors (up to \$60,000 in a year). Whoever you choose as your next Chair can expect to receive 150 calls and emails a day, and will have to respond sensibly to at least 40 or 50 of them.

"We have accomplished a lot together in the past four years. We have built the party in the 43<sup>rd</sup> and campaigned effectively for progressive issues and candidates. The 53,000 vote margin we produced for John Kerry was more than any district in the state has ever produced for any Presidential candidate. We have also built a unique bond with the voters of the district: it stunned the press and political people in the state when we brought out 9,000 Democrats to participate in our 2004 Precinct Caucuses.

"I know how much all of you contribute to the party's success by your time and energy. I am very grateful for having had the privilege of serving as your Chair."

### Chair Candidates' Statements

As of press time, two candidates had announced their intention to seek the Chair at the March 21 meeting. Derek Stanford is now the First Vice Chair of the District, and has coordinated this year's precinct caucuses. Lisa Stuebing is now the District's State Committeewoman, and has assisted with the caucuses. Each has submitted a statement to the membership, which are printed below in alphabetical order.

### Officers

**Richard Kelley**  
Chair  
richardkelley@w-link.net (206)  
522-2735

**Will Affleck-Asch**  
Secretary  
waffleck-asch@qwest.net  
(206) 632-3010

**Tara Gallagher**  
Treasurer  
fruitbat@speakeasy.net

**Derek Stanford**  
1st Vice Chair for Membership  
derekstanford@comcast.net  
(206) 524-1737

**Elva Gonzalez**  
Vice Chair for Communications  
egonzalez@perkinscoie.com  
(206) 335-7376

**Julian Wheeler**  
Vice Chair for Events  
julianfwheeler@aol.com  
(206) 522-9495

**Neal Traven**  
Vice Chair for Programs  
beisbol@alumni.pitt.edu  
(206) 632-0093

**Vince Houmes**  
Tech Coordinator/Web Guy  
unclevinny@gmail.com  
(206) 817-2995

**David Kunselman**  
State Committee Man  
dkunselman@yahoo.com  
(206) 545-6867

**Lisa Stuebing**  
State Committee Woman  
tulera@aol.com  
(206) 523-3644

**Bill Sherman**  
King County Committeeman  
mail@billsherman.org  
(206) 985-7336

**Charlie Bendock**  
King County Committeeman Alt  
cbendock@hotmail.com  
(206) 525-3431

**Linda Clifton**  
King County Committeewoman  
lclifton1@mindspring.com  
(206) 633-1090

**Katie Evans**  
King County Committeewoman Alt  
Katie@lighten-up.com  
(206) 323-1161

**Javier Valdez**  
Past Chair  
airjav@msn.com  
(206) 548-9510

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# CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS

## DEREK STANFORD

I am currently the First Vice-Chair of the 43rd District Democrats, and I am running for Chair because I want to amplify our Democratic voice in the district, continue our exemplary record of getting out the vote for Democrats, and create a more efficient and effective organization.

We need to connect better with our community - both with the people we already know, and with new friends. This district has a wealth of talented and motivated people who are involved in progressive groups; we need to find ways to help them in their efforts and encourage them to get involved with us. We also need to reach out to other parts of the 43rd District community, such as businesses and religious groups. We are an important part of this community - as we reach out to listen to more people, more people will listen to us.

My experience building the 43rd District's PCO organization and working as a PCO myself has taught me what works for getting out the vote in our district. Different precincts require different approaches; we need to provide a more flexible variety of tools for PCOs and other volunteers to use, with better coordination between mailings, doorbelling, email, and phone-banking. Our district is a Democratic stronghold, but it is also very mobile, so we need an ongoing voter registration plan. Our efforts in the past few years have produced some record margins for Democrats in our district. We have to keep working and improving to make sure Cantwell stays in and Eyman stays out.

The nuts and bolts work of running our party organization is the main responsibility of the Chair. As an all-volunteer group, it is especially important for our Chair to keep our operations running smoothly so that our efforts can be focused and productive. I have the experience to do this. As First Vice-Chair, I chaired district meetings, assisted with organizing caucuses, recruited PCOs and area coordinators, led PCO training sessions (even drawing attendees from the 45th and 48th districts), and worked to get more young people involved by reaching out to Young Democrats groups at the state, county, and local level.

I hope you will be able to attend the March 21 meeting, and I hope you will support me. Please contact me if you have any questions or comments: [derekstanford@comcast.net](mailto:derekstanford@comcast.net) or (206) 524-1737.

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### *Con't from page 2....Democrats Must Lead*

ease, and framed it in terms of getting the government out of our private lives, voters would understand that we are standing up for them, and they would applaud us.

These three policies, if consistently articulated and pursued, would give us something real to offer the millions of working class voters who now vote Republican. Even a jingoistic preacher can only control his flock for so long if a clear, sensible alternative to their present troubles is available in the here and now. The Democratic Party must offer that alternative.

The time we have spent together in this Party over the last four years has been time well spent. Our task is not yet done, but we have just begun. Our best is yet to come.

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# CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS

## LISA STUEBING

I would like to serve as the Chair for the 43<sup>rd</sup> District because I am jazzed about the organization that Dick Kelley has built over the last four years. It is a strong and respected organization. To take us to the next level we must work on: community, outreach and communications.

### COMMUNITY

Together, we are a powerhouse of know-how and experience. We have organized, demonstrated, lobbied, recruited, leafleted, entered data, run for office and written letters. Now we need to provide time and space for sharing these stories, discussing our ideas, and strategizing for success. I believe focusing on the 43<sup>rd</sup> as a community will enliven our passions and spark our actions. I believe that tasks, like GOTV, will regain energy and meaning. As a community, we will be able to concentrate on the next generation and passing on our hard-gained knowledge. To do that, we need to invite more people in through the front door.

### OUTREACH

I believe that the 43<sup>rd</sup> District organization should be the center of progressive activity in our legislative district. There are myriad of progressive organizations. Many of our members are dual members with these other organizations. It is time to invite people from those organizations into ours. It is time to forge stronger bonds with old friends. With the 43<sup>rd</sup> as the center, we can facilitate the sharing of information and talent. We can become a much more formidable force. Together, we can be the change agents that we want to be.

### COMMUNICATIONS

A visible organization is a powerful one. Over the last year or two, our website and newsletter have been re-created and look fabulous. We have a link to blogs that strengthens informal communication. However, internally, we struggle with keeping information timely and coordinated. We have had some spectacular panels and no media coverage. With better internal and external communications we will better support our community. We will provide a reliable pivot point for outreach.

I used to think that the true symbol of democracy was the folding chair. I felt that going to meetings and being informed was the essence of participation. I have come to feel deeply that it is not the meeting but the connection between people that make the party as strong as it is now and will build to ultimately what we can be. Our connection with each other our collective and individual passion for a brighter future in concert with coordinated and purposeful action -- creates the power of our District. I have already made arrangements to put all of my other volunteer commitments aside and focus solely on the successes of the 43<sup>rd</sup>. I am asking for your vote for Chair of the 43<sup>rd</sup> District. I appreciate your support.

Lisa Stuebing  
PCO 43-1277  
State Committeewoman  
Area Coordinator  
Member, WSDCC Technology Committee

## RESOLUTION RE SONICS FUNDING

WHEREAS holistic legislation which supports the entire Seattle Center makes sense and should not be tied to any specific entertainment venue nor sports franchise; and

WHEREAS Arts funding should not be tied to sports funding and certainly not to a particular franchise, in this case, the Sonics, but rather should be stand-alone funding; and

WHEREAS The City of Seattle must be given decision-making authority in any legislation addressing the needs of the Seattle Center and the Key Arena; and

WHEREAS to the question, "What if the Sonics Leave Town?" the "tough love" answer is--six-to-one--we just don't care; a majority lot of voters would just as soon watch the Huskies or high school basketball teams; and

WHEREAS the Sonics want to manage the entire Key Arena and all of its concessions and retain all the revenue from ALL the events, and this is Privatization of the Key Arena and this is WRONG; and

WHEREAS We are fiscally conservative Democrats who believe Taxes and levies scheduled to sunset must be allowed to sunset in order to retain the trust of the public; otherwise Tim Eyman gains traction; and

WHEREAS instead of a patchwork quilt of taxes for this and that project, Washington State's entire tax structure should be re-evaluated so as to be truly progressive and fair; and

WHEREAS Not a single newspaper article nor editorial endorses this legislation; from the major dailies to the alternative weeklies, no one sees the benefit; and

WHEREAS As PCOs and activist voters, we will not continue to elect and/or re-elect public officials who prioritize professional sports over other pressing public needs, and as PCOs and activist voters, we will work hard on this issue, especially in the primaries; and

WHEREAS the \$200-plus Million of taxpayer dollars needed to renovate Key Arena would provide 10-20% of the funds needed to rebuild the Viaduct, or 40 years of community health clinics like the Country Doctor, or so many homeless shelters in Seattle, it would end the downtown homeless problem as we know it; and

WHEREAS genuine public PRIORITIES include

- \* OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM
- \* Rebuilding decaying public infrastructure
- \* the Alaskan Way Viaduct
- \* Community health centers
- \* Providing homeless shelters; and

WHEREAS Two-thirds of the voters in King County/Seattle do not want any more funding for the Sonics;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that

We The Voters demand Washington State legislators to set a national example for responsible use of the public treasury and deny taxpayer subsidies for the Seattle SuperSonics sports franchise and venue, and all other for-profit professional sports franchises and venues.

## MARCH

**Daily**

**Progressive Talk Radio AM 1090**

**Tuesdays—Drinking Liberally**  
8:00pm

Montlake Ale House  
2307 24th Avenue E.  
www.drinkingliberally.org

- 18 12th Annual “Celebrating Our Roots” Potato Festival**  
Congressman Jim McDermott’s annual Potato Festival at Town Hall, Seattle.  
Contact Barbara Lehav at 206-226-7205 or bjlhav@comcast.net

**Cantwell Brunch Reception**

Chef Tom Douglas welcomes Obama in honor of Cantwell  
10:00am  
Palace Ballroom, 2100 5th Ave  
Call 206-217-2006 or email Melissa@cantwell.com

**20 Call for Entries: Futurewave**

The Seattle International Film Festival is seeking original short films (20 minutes or less). Films must be made by filmmakers who are 18 or younger at the time of submission. For more information and links to the submission form, visit [www.seattlefilm.org](http://www.seattlefilm.org)

**21 43rd District Meeting**

7:30 pm—9:00 pm  
University Baptist Church  
NE 47th and 12th NE

**31 Tom Tomorrow**

*Hell in a Handbasket: Dispatches from the Country Formerly Known as America*  
6:00pm  
Elliott Bay Book Company  
101 South Main Street, Seattle

**31-April 2 Young Democrats Annual Convention**

Sheraton Hotel and Convention Center, Tacoma  
Online reservation at <http://data.ydwa.org>

Please visit [www.43rddems.org](http://www.43rddems.org) for additional listings.

Don’t see your event listed? Please send all event information to Elva at [editor43rddems@hotmail.com](mailto:editor43rddems@hotmail.com)

## APRIL

**Daily**

**Progressive Talk Radio AM 1090**

**Tuesdays—Drinking Liberally**  
8:00pm

Montlake Ale House  
2307 24th Avenue E.  
www.drinkingliberally.org

**1 Poll Worker Coordinator Training Class**

Gurine Nordby, KCDCC Elections Vice Chair will conduct a two hour training course to LD Election Coordinators.  
10:00 am  
Renton Carpenters Hall  
231 Burnett Avenue North, Renton

**1 Call for Entries: What You Got?**

Olympia Film Society is seeking short and feature-length narrative and documentary films, videos, websites, flash animation and computer art, comic books, and zines made by folks 21 years and younger. Please visit [www.olyfilm.org](http://www.olyfilm.org) for more information.

**8 PDC New Online Application Training**

Sally Parker from the PDC will be a special guest of the regional Council of Carpenters at their training center for online training class. Please RSVP to Chuck Laney, [laney06@attglobal.net](mailto:laney06@attglobal.net)  
9:00am  
20424 72nd Ave S., Kent

**10 11th Annual Golden Tennis Shoe Awards Luncheon**

12:00 pm  
Westin Hotel, Grand Ballroom, 1900 Fifth Ave., Seattle  
Featuring special guest Al Franken.  
RSVP to Amanda at 206-286-9199

**18 43rd District Meeting**

7:30 pm—9:00 pm  
University Baptist Church  
NE 47th and 12th NE

**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 because of space and/or page constraints. The editor reserves the right to reject any news item or article.

**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.

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

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**Next Meeting:**

**March 21**

**Program:  
Election of 43rd  
District Chair**

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## **NOTICE OF ELECTION FOR 43RD DISTRICT CHAIR**

At the regular 43rd district meeting, Tuesday, March 21, 7:30 PM, University Baptist Church, NE 47th and 12th NE, an election will be held for a new District Chair. Under the Bylaws of the Washington State Democratic Party, only Elected and Appointed PCOs may vote. Non-PCO members and Acting PCOs (i.e., not residing in the precinct served) may not. Any member wishing to be a candidate for Chair should contact Dick Kelley regarding election rules and publicity.