

30th Legislative District Democratic Organization

Regular General
Monthly Meeting
May 5, 2010

First Wednesday of
each month 7 – 9 P.M.
4016 S 352 St. 98001
½ mile west of
Military Rd

Sen. Tracey Eide & Rep. Mark Miloscia spoke at the April meeting. Larry Jackson was acting Chair.

Speakers scheduled for the May meeting are: Mayor Linda Kochmar of Federal Way who will speak on the state of the city, and South King County Fire Chief Church.

OFFICERS

Chair: Beth Zubitis
253 941 4515
Vice-Chair: Tim Burns
253 874 6292
Secretary: Martin
Moore 253 653 3825
Treasurer: Patricia
Vanderlinde 253 939
9436
WA State Committeeman:
Ron Simosky 253 815
1891
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Committeewoman:
Donna Cirincione
253 529 3815
KC Male Delegate: Jeff
Holden 253 709 2624
Alternate: TBD
KC Female Delegate:
Jean Matthew
253 661 2836
Alternate: TBD
Legislative Action
Committee (LAC):
Jean Matthew
Keith Tyler
Acting Parliamentarian:
Kurt Peppard
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Website:
www.30thDemswa.org
PCO/Membership Chair:
Jeff Holden 253 709 2624
Tim Burns
Kurt Peppard
Hospitality/Activities/
& Ph. Tree: Jem Wear
253 838 0182
Fundraising: Pat Artz
253 941 0113
"Cumbler" Deanna Beth

*****REMEMBER TO BRING ITEMS FOR THE RAFFLE AND ESPECIALLY FOR THE SENIOR CENTER FOOD PANTRY.*****

Save the date!

Our Picnic this year is scheduled for Sat. July 17 in PACIFIC at the City Park!
More info' later.

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Bold Progressives has a petition: PETITION: The U.S. Dept. of Justice should launch a criminal investigation of Goldman Sachs & other Wall Street companies who may have acted illegally while devastating millions of lives. Nobody on Wall Street is too big for jail.

Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) & others in Congress are boldly urging the Justice Dept. to launch a criminal investigation of Goldman & others who may have broken the law as they devastated our economy...Goldman Sachs is accused of selling mortgages they knew were toxic, hiding that fact from the public, and allowing a key investor to make billions by betting against those investments. Goldman made big money as well. "Morally bankrupt" is how Britain's Prime Minister describes it. "Criminal fraud on a historic scale" is what Rep. Kaptur's letter says. (from Boldprogressives.org) From Don McNay at Huffington Post: The Securities and Exchange Commission is receiving media kudos after filing a lawsuit that accuses Goldman Sachs of fraud. A LA Times headline trumpeted, "Goldman Sachs case could help Obama shift voter anger." A McClatchy news service headline blares, "Message to Wall Street: SEC is back on the job." Before I join the chorus of media cheerleaders, I ask the Peggy Lee question, "Is that all there is?" I'm not a lawyer but my understanding is this, the SEC filed a civil lawsuit. It's a lawsuit, not a criminal action! No one is going to jail. No one is going to be dragged off in handcuffs. Just because the SEC filed a lawsuit, it doesn't mean they will win. Goldman Sachs could easily prevail. The Wall Street Journal noted how the government might have a difficult time at trial.

... The SEC went from doing absolutely nothing to doing something. A good first step. The agency had gotten so bad under Bush appointee Christopher Cox that they look like a public relations committee for Wall Street. After missing the financial meltdown and screwing up big time on the Bernie Mad off scandal, we knew the SEC was going to make an example out of someone. To their credit, they didn't hit a bunch of "easy to catch" small timers. They went after the biggest and baddest firm on Wall Street. ... (from http://www.huffingtonpost.com/don-mcnay/goldman-sachs-too-big-for_b_542160.html)

"I'd like to see our congressman Adam Smith support Kaptur in pushing for a criminal investigation of Goldman Sachs." (The above thanks to Karen Backman.)

**MINE WORKERS PRESIDENT ROBERTS:
Massey's Blankenship Should Be Jailed**
By Mike Hall, 4/14/2010

Mine Workers (UMWA) President Cecil Roberts says that Massey Energy Co.'s continued inaction on safety violations at its Upper Big Branch Mine, where 29 West VA coal miners died in an April 5 explosion, should send Massey CEO Donald Blankenship to jail. He (said) the Mine Safety & Health Administration (MSHA) had "shut this mine down over & over & over again." ...Just last month, MSHA cited the mine for 57 safety violations that included repeatedly failing to develop and follow the ventilation plan.

Ventilation is vital to prevent the build-up of highly explosive methane gas, which is most likely the cause of the April blast. ...the mine was cited several times for "failure to abate." That means: they were told to do something by the U.S. gov't. They said here's a violation you are being cited for. I'll be back in 5 days this better be corrected." This inspector came back over & over again & they didn't correct the violations.

<http://blog.aflcio.org/2010/04/14/mine-workers-president-roberts-masseys-blankenship-should-be-jailed/>

Some people, Roberts said, say mining is inherently dangerous and these things will happen and "there's nothing we can do about it."

They are damn sure wrong. We need good laws, we need those laws to be obeyed and we need those laws to be enforced and those who fail to obey those laws should be punished.

One of the miners killed, 25-year-old Josh Napper, was concerned about safety, especially ventilation problems at the Upper Big Branch Mine, his mother told CNN reporters after the blast. Roberts said he left a letter for his family before he went to the mine April 5. Napper "left it with his mother and fiancé and his baby fearing he was not going to survive working in this coal mine."

There is something wrong with this picture. When young men go off to war, they write these kinds of letters, saying how much we love our mothers, our fathers, our wives and our kids. But in America, you're not supposed to write that letter when you're going off to work.

Meanwhile, Art Levine at the [Huffington Post](#) explores coal field union-busting campaigns, especially Massey's attacks on workers, and the relation between nonunion mines and disasters like the one at Upper Big Branch.

With the union weakened by [closed mines](#) and the rise of [untrammelled union-busting](#), unsafe, deadly conditions were allowed to continue unchallenged at the [growing percentage of non-union mines](#) that put [profits above safety](#).

In contrast, "what unions, particularly in a dangerous profession like mining, mean is that they give workers protection and the leverage of a working group with management to vocalize and bring forward concerns about safety without fear of retribution," says Kimberly Freeman Brown, executive director of [American Rights at Work](#). She adds, "In the absence of a union, in hard economic times, workers feel more vulnerable about losing their jobs and less confident about expressing their concerns about safety."

UMWA Communications director Phil Smith tells Levine that while three out of 10 coal miners are UMWA members, only "about one in every 10 fatalities is a **union** miner."

And he notes that the fatalities involving union miners generally involve individual accidents, not mine-wide disasters like fires and explosions that periodically shock the country and, it seems, are soon forgotten by the federal government's generally lackluster regulators.

Miners at Upper Big Branch tried to organize three times with the UMWA, the last time in 2005, Roberts told MSNBC's "The Ed Show" last week. But Blankenship launched a full-out attack:

This guy, making \$30-some million in 2005, went inside the coal mine and sat down with every single worker and said: "If you vote for the union, you're not going to have a job because I will close this mine down."

Roberts said the first election was a "tie vote," adding, "We lose on all ties. We had 65 percent to 70 percent of the workers signed cards and they wanted the union but they couldn't get a union."

[Here are the three parts to the 2010 Caucus and Convention Cycle.](#)

The first part was the Legislative District Caucuses where delegates and alternates were elected to the State Convention. This Caucus was concluded 3/14/2010. The second part was the County Convention. This was concluded 4/10/2010. Platforms were drafted and resolutions addressed. Because there was no precinct caucus, all voters, (not just Precinct Committee Officers), who declared to be Democrats, had voice and vote. The third part will be the State Convention. The delegates and alternates elected at the Legislative District Caucuses will meet to craft a State Party platform, address resolutions and vote on other important issues before the party.

June 25 & 26 (Fri & Sat) - State Convention- Vancouver, WA at the Hilton (301 W 6th St, Vancouver, 98660). The Friday events will take place at the Hilton and the Saturday events will occur at the Clark County Events Center, 17402 NE Delfel Road, Ridgefield, WA 98642. If you want to attend, you must fill out a registration form and return it to the State party as soon as possible. Any questions, call Shawna Ousse at 206 583 0664 or email her at Shawna@wa-democrats.org.

*** SAVE THE INTERNET ***

**Julius Genachowski FCC Chair,
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Email fccinfo@fcc.gov

Fax 1 866 418 0232

or write to: FCC 445 12 St. SW, Washington D.C. 20554

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES ? IF SO, THANK YOU – IF NOT, PLEASE DO!

Dues are due in February of each year. PCOs are encouraged to pay dues. (If your name is not on this list, please check with the treasurer.)
President's Club: Peg/Jay Altman, Frank/Beverly Warnke, Art/Dee Fluharty, Jeff/Kaori Holden, Greg/Shelley Markley, Jean Matthew, Sterling Smith, Jem Wear

Senator's Club: Elbert/Linda Gage, Rick Hoffman, Mark/Meschel Miloscia, LeeAnn Prielip, Ron/Mary Simosky, Jeff Snow

Members: Pat Artz, Karen Backman, Jeff Bergeron, Carmi & Melissa Brooks, Tim Burns, Marguerite Condon, Howard/Vernita Christianson, Donna Cirincione, Larry/Hideko Coghill, Bob Dickinson, Michael/Sue Dillard, Hope Elder, James/Madalyn Grayson, Carol/Gil Gregory, John Haynes, Jerome Holmes, Larry Jackson, Sue Johannsen, Patricia Johnson, Pat Kemp, Ray/Nancy Krueger, Michael/Mary Kun Norman/Lois Kutcha, Virginia Leach, Gayle Mahler, Paul Mallary, Jean Noe, Kurt Peppard, Linnea Peterson, Edward (Ned) Raymond, Barbara Reid, Gerry Roach, Bob Robinson, Jacqueline Russo, Steve Sandberg, Ed Sedlak, Paul Schlossman, Jim/Nancy Siburg, Keith Tyler, Patricia Vanderlinde, Inez Walker, Beth Zubitis

**The White House: 202 456 1111
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**WA STATE Legislative toll-free
Hotline: 1 800 562 6000**

**King County Elections:
206 296 VOTE**

Track WA Bills & Votes Here

<http://www.leg.wa.gov/legislature>

30th District Democrats

**Website: www.30thdems.wa.org
PARTNERS**

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**** Progressive Talk Radio ****

AM1090 on your radio dial

Thom Hartmann 9 to noon M-Fri

Ring of Fire, Sat noon - 3 , Sunday

1 p.m. OR go to: www.goleft.tv

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30th DISTRICT DEMOCRATS
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Membership Levels:

Voting Member: \$20 Family (2 voting members) \$ 25 Associate/Non Voting Member: \$10
Senator's Club: \$50 President's Club \$100

Any registered voter residing within the 30th Legislative District who hereby declares him/herself to be a Democrat may become a voting member upon payment of Annual Dues. *Dues are payable at time of joining and renewable in February each year.*

CALENDAR

- Wed 05/5 30th District Democrats *Regular General meeting*, 4016 S 352 St 98001 (1/2 mile west of Military) 1st Wed of each month 7-9 PM
Doors open 6:30 P.M.
REMEMBER TO BRING ITEMS FOR THE RAFFLE AND THE SENIOR CENTER FOOD PANTRY
- Wed 05/12 Exec Board Meeting, Meridian Court, 31420 23 Ave S, 7:00 P.M.
This meeting is held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Some of us get there at 6:30. This meeting is open to all.
- Sat 07/17 30 LD PICNIC! Will be held this year at PACIFIC City Park.
Come one, come all! More info' later!

IF YOU HAVE suggestions/input for newsletter, or to receive newsletter by email, contact kd7jpu@arri1.net or 253 838 8618 not later than 18th of month.