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State Committeeman

James Zanetti 253-661-6606

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King County Male Delegate

Keith Tyler 253-653-6319

King County Female Delegate

Jodi Riker-Yap 253-249-7188

Pierce County Delegate

Kim Dixon 253-922-6242

Leg. Action Comm. Chair

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(vacant)

Outreach Committee Chair

Paul Mallary 253-833-4085

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Jodi & Jerry Yap 253-249-7188

Communications/Technology

Dan Turley 206-819-7397

30th District Democrats'
Website:

<http://www.30thdems.org>

General Membership Meeting: **January 6, 2016**

First Wednesday of each month, **7:00 to 9:00 P.M.**

NEW LOCATION! Belmor Park Clubhouse, 2101 S 324th St

From The Chair

Tim Burns

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

January 6 Meeting

We are scheduled to have a presentation by Senator Bob Hasegawa (11th LD D) regarding the establishment of a State Investment Trust (State Bank). Senator Hasegawa is the prime sponsor of this legislation and has been promoting it for several years in both the State House and State Senate. The 30th LD Democrats have approved a resolution in support of legislative action to create the Trust. There will be a resolution regarding Social Security offices to be considered (printed elsewhere in this newsletter).

2016 Preview

Plans are under way for a year of monumental importance. The election cycle of 2016 will see a new President, elections of all state-wide offices (Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, etc), US Senator, US Congressional Representatives and both of the 30th LD Representatives, as well as Precinct Committee Officers (in August). The Presidential election requires caucuses and conventions in March, April and May leading up to the National Convention in Philadelphia in July. We plan to again have significant presence in the annual parades and booths in Federal Way, Auburn, Pacific, Algona and Milton and the Democrats' booth at the Puyallup Fair. The South King County Dinner and Auction and 30th LD picnic are in the early stages of preparation.

2015 Year in Review

The 30th LD Democrats had a very busy year. Some of the highlights included:

- **January:** The year started with the bi-annual reorganization meeting when the membership elects officers for the next 2 year cycle.
- **February:** Our annual lobby day in Olympia followed by the State Party's Crab Feed in Lacey.
- **March:** Began the endorsement process of identifying the candidates and issues, questionnaires and interview scheduling for the reports to the members for their action.

- April: Soliciting contributions to the LD for the election cycle.
- May: We co-hosted the 5th annual South King County Dinner and Auction.
- June: Preparation for the 2015 Election Cycle by negotiating for a campaign office for use by our endorsed candidates and issues.
- July: Opened the campaign office. Parades and information booths in Federal Way, Auburn, Pacific and Algona.
- August: Primary Election. Parade and info booth in Milton. Annual 30th LD picnic.
- September: Hard at work to elect our endorsed candidates and issues that survived the primary election and working the Democrats' booth at the Washington State Fair in Puyallup.
- October: Moved to our new meeting location at Belmor Park. Intensified election efforts. Endorsement mailer and Federal Way Mirror ad in support of our endorsed candidates.
- November: General Election—and a bit of rest.
- December: Our annual Holiday Party at Belmor Park.

Overall, the 30th had a good year. Yes there were setbacks (losing the elections of several of our endorsed candidates and issues) but we ended the year with 131 paid members (25 more than recent previous high), 57 PCOs after starting the year with 36, electing 9 of our 15 endorsements, 12 members ran for elective office. At the Puyallup Fair, the 30th LD accounted for about 20% of the shifts worked. And, thanks to individuals and organizations we contributed a lot of money and effort to our endorsed candidates, yet finished the year with a positive treasury balance.

Please Mark Your 2016 Calendar

- January 6 (Wednesday): Monthly membership meeting at Belmor Park Clubhouse
- February 3 (Wednesday) : Monthly membership meeting at Belmor Park Clubhouse
- February 15 (Monday [Presidents Day]) : Legislative Action Day in Olympia and Crab Feed in Lacey.
- February: annual membership dues are due. Please contribute.
- March 2 (Wednesday) : Monthly membership meeting at Belmor Park Clubhouse
- March 26 (Saturday) : Precinct Caucuses

Our new meeting place is the clubhouse at Belmor Park (2101 S. 324th St., Federal Way), located behind Commons Mall. Thanks to Jay and Peg Altman who have made the arrangements for the use of the clubhouse.



DEMOCRAT-FRIENDLY BUSINESSES

Our monthly list of businesses* that we consider to be Democrat-friendly. We want to know about any businesses, churches, etc. in the 30th LD that would like to be known as Democrat-Friendly. Contact Tim Burns with details so that we may promote them here.

Poverty Bay Café 1108a S. 322nd Pl. Federal Way

Deli Smith 33626 9th Ave. S. Federal Way

Joe's Deli 1230 S. 336th St. Federal Way

**No monetary considerations are received in exchange for these listings.*

Drinking liberally Federal Way

**Socialize with your fellow
progressives over drinks!
Meet, Eat and Drink Liberally**

**7 PM, Tue. January 12th
Billy McHale's Restaurant
1320 S. 324th St., Federal Way
(Formerly P.J. Pockets)**

Info: Pat A. @ (253) 941-0113

Get Big Money Out Of Elections

Gregory Baruso

Corporations are not mentioned in the United States Constitution. Because of this they have no rights in the Constitution but over the years and through numerous court cases, corporations have successfully claimed constitutional rights. The Citizens United vs. FEC, (Federal Election Commission), decision in 2010 held that the First Amendment prohibited government from restricting independent political expenditures by corporations. But who exactly are Citizens United?

Citizens United is a conservative non-profit organization in the United States founded in 1988. Their stated mission is to *restore the United States government to what they call "citizens' control," seeking to reassert the traditional American values of limited government, freedom of enterprise, strong families, and national sovereignty and security.*

Hmm..., have you heard that ideology before? They dedicate themselves to informing U.S. citizens about public policy issues related to strong national defense, constitutionally limited government, free market economics, and belief in God and Judeo-Christian values. They also believe in the recognition of the family as the basic social unit of society. Citizens United is known for its support of conservatives in politics. They became best known for the U.S. Supreme Court case on campaign finance against the FEC.

Initiative 735, I-735, sponsored by WAmend, Washington Coalition to Amend the Constitution a coalition of citizen groups working to overturn the 2010 decision, will urge our state Congressional delegation and all members of Congress to propose a federal Constitutional amendment. If voted yes in November, Washington State will become the 17th state to urge Congress to put a constitutional amendment back to the states to overturn the corporate Citizens United decision. This amendment will clarify that:

- Constitutional rights belong only to individuals, not corporations;
- Spending money is not free speech under the First Amendment;
- Governments are empowered to regulate political contributions and expenditures to prevent undue

influence; and

- Political contributions and expenditures must be promptly disclosed to the public.

I-735 is in response to the big money in our election process. Big money doesn't just come from corporations. It can come from wealthy individuals and other special interest groups. A great example of that are the Koch brothers. Look how much their money has influenced politics. This has to stop! With the upcoming 2016 political races take some time to look at the candidates Washington State Public Disclosure Commission, PDC, records. You'll find it very interesting as to whom and what large local, state, and even national institutions put money into our State races to protect their special interests. Large insurance companies, utility companies from both the West and East side of Washington State, and large banks donate political monies to their candidates so that they can keep them in their pocketbooks to vote in favor of corporate interests. Hopefully I-735 will help curtail some of this covert activity.

On December 30, 2015, WAmend supporters turned in to the Washington Secretary of State over 325,000, closer to 327,000, signatures supporting putting I-735 on this year's November ballot. Over 100,000 signatures were collected in the month of December alone to put the measure over the top. The work has been done to get it there. Let's all do our part to get it voted in. We cannot let what happened to I-1366 happen again. It's our job as Democrats to inform the voting public. We can't fall short – do your part.

On Gun Control

Paula Joneli

I am as disgusted as the President and most Americans with the frequency and violence of mass shootings in our Country. Following each event, we hear calls for restrictions on buyers, sellers, dealers, and gun show operators -- calls which are quickly met with cries of "Second Amendment", "Right to Bear Arms", shows of punks parading with weapons strapped to all extremities, and the NRA pontificating that this particular killer could not have been stopped by any proposed legislation.

So --- Here's my proposal: Let's pass legislation requiring registration and insurance on all weapons – just like our vehicles. Registration and insurance have

not taken people's cars away (and cars are not even "protected" by the Constitution!). Vehicle owners are simply legislated into being responsible in their ownership and operation of motor vehicles. Under this proposed legislation, the Seller (or gifter) owns the weapon until Title is transferred; requiring the seller (no matter where the transaction takes place) to take responsibility for transferring Title, or be held liable for any crimes committed with the "sold" weapon.

And -- here's the best part -- Insurance companies get to be the "bad guys", by underwriting who they will and will not insure, and pricing policies to the risk presented by each gun owner. We can call our organization Friends of Responsible Gun Ownership (FORGO), because we need to be friends of the responsible gun owners in order to take on the NRA.

- It will be the insurance companies that require safe, secure storage of weapons in homes.
- It will be the insurance companies that require no loaded weapons in the passenger compartment of a vehicle.
- It will be the insurance companies that pay claims for wrongful death.
- It will be the insurance companies that cancel coverage or increase the premiums for violations of Safe and Sane Gun Ownership.

So, there you have it -- Insurance companies are already the subject of public wrath -- Let them take the heat for limiting gun ownership to responsible citizens only.

It's not perfect -- It's a start, because we have to start somewhere.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITY-BASED SSA SERVICE DELIVERY

Submitted by American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) Local 3937, AFL-CIO

WHEREAS record numbers of clients are visiting and calling Social Security Administration (SSA) offices to receive the services and benefits that they have earned over a lifetime of work, and facing record waiting times before finally having the chance to speak to an SSA employee trained to assist in navigating the Agency's complex programs, and,

WHEREAS SSA has cut hours and is eliminating certain services at field offices in these times of greatest need, while aggressively steering the public to Internet self-disservice both inside and outside of those offices, and,

WHEREAS identity thieves have had an easy time filing fraudulent Internet retirement applications that rob the Trust Funds, because there is no authentication of applicant identities, and,

WHEREAS the monthly payments of an estimated 120,000 beneficiaries have so far been redirected to the bank accounts of thieves because MySSA is neither safe nor secure, and,

WHEREAS the Social Security Administration (SSA) has closed over 70 field offices and 1500 contact stations in recent years, and placed many of the remaining offices in locations that are costly and difficult for elderly, disabled, and low-income clients to reach, and,

WHEREAS SSA Acting Commissioner Carolyn Colvin now says she will consider additional office closures on a case-by-case-basis, following an 18-month moratorium on closures due to adverse public and Congressional reaction, and,

WHEREAS SSA claims to be responding to growing public demand for Internet self-service, but a November 2014 Public Policy Polling survey revealed that only 11% to 13% of respondents wanted to file for retirement benefits or for replacement Social Security Cards online rather than at a field office, with only 3% to 4% of those under 30 years of age wanting that option, and,

WHEREAS over 1 million Americans, many of them veterans, are waiting for decisions on their disability benefit application appeals, many enduring years of delay from the date of filing to receive a final decision, and,

WHEREAS austere administrative budgets and inadequate front-line staffing have crippled the SSA's ability to provide the prompt, equitable, accurate services that American workers have paid for and deserve, even though Trust Fund surpluses have grown to \$2.8 trillion, and administration of the Social Security program consumes less than 1% of annual program income,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 30th Legislative District of Washington State calls on our Congressional Representatives to urge that office hours should first be restored, and then expanded; that the SSA should take down the fraud-plagued Internet retirement application and MySSA systems until they can be made safe and secure; that closed offices be reopened, that offices with access problems be moved, and that the overall number of offices be expanded; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 30th LD calls for SSA's administrative accounts to be taken "off-budget" in order to shield the accounts from sequestration cuts and other fiscal attacks, since most SSA administrative costs are reimbursed from Trust Funds that are in surplus, and because some of the surplus is desperately needed now to fund front-line staffing increases for much-needed service improvements; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution be transmitted to Senators Murray and Cantwell and Representatives Smith, Reichert and Heck and to the Washington State, King and Pierce County Democratic Central Committees for their action.

Members

REMEMBER YOUR DUES NOW FOR 2016! DUES ARE DUE IN FEBRUARY!

President's Club

Liz & Miles Drake
Linda & Elbert Gage
Shari Song

Senator's Club

Larry & Hideko Coghill
Kim & Penni Dixon
Carol & Gil Gregory
Al & Teya Hillerman
Jeff & Kaori Holden
Ginny Leach
Geoffery & Devin McAnallo
Bonnie & Mark Thompson
Dan & Julie Turley
Keith Tyler
Jem Wear

Governor's Club

Jay & Peg Altman
Greg & Shawn Baruso
Hope Elder
James & Sharon Englund
Roger & Karla Flygare
John & Karolyn Hughey
Mike & Mary Kun

Jason Ludwig
Daniel & Alice Olmstead
Mike Pellicciotti
Jacqueline Russo
Paul Schlossman
Jodi & Jerry Yap

Members

Pat Artz
Karen Backman
Craig Bosworth
Walter & Carolyn Brooks
Keitha Bryson
Tim Burns
Nai-Jeanne Busick & Lou
Murkowski
Richard Champion
Jason Chan
Donna Cirincione
Cathy Cox-Shaffer
Bob Dickinson
Sharry & Owen Edwards
John Fairbanks
Jim Ferrell
Dan Fisher
Jerry & Linda Flynn

Jim & Madelyn Grayson
Joe & Mary Greene
Max Hedgecock
Miriam Helgeland
John-Michael Hicks
Patricia Johnson
Susan Johnson
Pauline Jones
Marta Kalve
Christina Kim
Bernie & Susan Knighton
Nancy LeMay
Keith & Susan Livingston
Paul Mallary
Kaethe McCoskery
Mary McLaughlin
Anthony Murrietta
Jean Noe
Catherine North
Stacy & Tyler Oliveira
Mildred Ollée
Lynn & Robert Ormsby
Terry & Delfa Quinn
Kristiné Reeves & Camron
Schwarmann
Barbara Reid & Liz Conner

John & Jackie Rickert
Margo Rolf
Valarie Santos
Monica & Wayne Smith
Randall Smith
Glen Steele
Jamila Taylor
Theresa Turner
Bev Webber
Wil Williamson
Jim & Naoma Zanetti

Associate Members

Hope Bixby
David Damm
Lloyd Hara
Eric Herde
Anita Latch
Ian Northrip
Jeremy Nutting
Susan Palmer
Sarajane Siegfriedt
Courtney Smith
Steve Zemke

Elected Officials and Party Resources

U.S. Senator Patty Murray
(206) 553-5545 / (202) 224-2621

murray@murray.senate.gov

U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell
(202) 224-3441 / (888) 648-7328

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U.S. Rep. Adam Smith
(202) 225-8901 / (888) 764-8409

www.house.gov/adamsmith

Governor Jay Inslee

(360) 902-4111

www.governor.wa.gov

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Linda Kochmar

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30th LD Senator (R)

Mark Miloscia

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King County Executive

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Federal Way Mayor Jim Ferrell

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Federal Way School Board President

Geoffery McAnallo

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WA State Legislative Hotline

(800) 562-6000

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Washington State Democrats

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www.piercecountydems.org