



## GRASSROOTS

The Newsletter of the  
Whatcom County  
Democratic  
Central Committee

### Monthly Membership meeting

Wednesday, Jan 14th  
7 – 9 pm

Shuksan Middle School

2713 Alderwood Avenue, Bellingham  
(on Northwest Ave,  
half-mile south of I-5 exit)

All Democrats Welcome

**Agenda:** 2009 Budget, see Page 2  
Plans for supporting the Obama  
agenda, see Lead article

### Legislative District Dems to Elect Leadership Jan 10th

Elected Precinct Committee Officers  
in the 42nd and 40th Legislative  
District will elect officers on January  
10th, a separate locations.

The 42nd will meet at the Machinist  
Hall - 2064 Vista Dr. Ferndale, from  
10 am to noon. They will meet with  
the State Party Chair candidates  
following, at noon.

The 40th District Democrats will meet  
starting at 1 pm at the USW Union  
Hall, 902 5th Street, Anacortes.

Both meetings are open to all Demo-  
crats, but only elected PCOs may  
vote in the officer election.

January 2009

Vol 5, Issue 1

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[www.whatcomdemocrats.com](http://www.whatcomdemocrats.com)

647-7661

## Let's Work Together For Change

### Yes We Can!

by Natalie McClendon

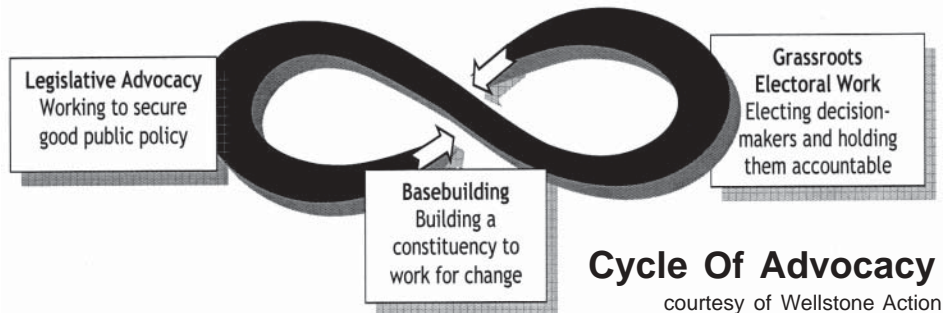
Where do we go from here? It reminds  
me of the movie "The Candidate" when  
the long-shot candidate won the  
election, and asks, "now what do we  
do?" Fortunately, Obama is on top of it.

Obama's popularity can be accurately  
described as a movement. But just  
because he was the Democratic  
Party nominee, doesn't mean this  
movement is transferable to the  
Democratic Party. This election has  
energized many ordinary citizens to  
get involved in politics for the first  
time. They are not party partisans,  
necessarily. The Democratic Party,  
both nationally and locally, must think

carefully how we fit into this new  
landscape – Obamaland.

Social change doesn't have a begin-  
ning and end – it is a continuous  
cycle. In the graphic below, we see  
the Grassroots Electoral Work that  
we just finished. Political parties  
specialize in this type of work. But  
once our candidates are elected, it's  
time to shift gears to the Legislative  
Advocacy, where we should take a  
supportive role. There are many fine  
issue-advocacy organizations here in  
Whatcom County made up of amaz-  
ing, knowledgeable citizen activists.  
Individuals can and do move back and  
forth between groups depending on

*continued on Page 2*



## ObamaBall Inauguration Party!

Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2009, 6-11 p.m.

**Leopold Hotel Crystal Ballroom,  
1224 Cornwall Avenue,  
Bellingham**

Festive attire is encouraged.

6 p.m. live television viewing of  
Inauguration events from Washington  
D.C., and interactive group activities.

8 p.m. Live entertainment with the  
Happy Valley Sluggers and a DJ  
spinning tunes. KGMI Radio Host Joe  
Teehan and Lummi Musician Swil  
Kanim will be Masters of Ceremonies.

To volunteer to help plan the event,

including bringing food, contact Marie  
Marchand, Whatcom Peace & Justice  
Center, (360) 734-0217, or email her  
at [WhatcomPJC@fidalgo.net](mailto:WhatcomPJC@fidalgo.net)

Tickets are \$10 and are be available  
at the Co-Op and Village Books, and  
online at [brownpapertickets.com/  
event/51687](http://brownpapertickets.com/event/51687).

Sponsored by the Whatcom Democratic  
Women's Club, MoveOn.org, 42nd Legislative  
District Democrats, Democracy for America,  
Veterans for Peace, Community to Community  
Development, Whatcom Peace & Justice  
Center, Jobs with Justice, Whatcom Human  
Rights Task Force, and United for National  
Healthcare.

## New Officers Elected

Democratic Precinct Committee Officers in Whatcom County met Dec 10th to elect new officers for 2009-2010. New to the Board are Bill Newmon, Carole Jacobson, and Stephanie Kountouros. All three have been very active in the 2008 campaign effort, and we are glad that they will be carrying their experience forward in a leadership role.

Stephanie Kountouros won the position held by long-time State Committeewoman Maggie Hanson. Maggie received a standing ovation thanking her for her hard work on the state party level. Later in the month, Maggie served as an elector, casting her vote in the Electoral College to officially elect Barack Obama as president.

The Board will be filled out with Committee Chairs who will be appointed by Chair Natalie McClendon and confirmed by the seated board members. The current Board, as of Jan. 1, is listed below.

## Welcome New PCOs

The following people were appointed at the December 10 Central Committee Meeting:

102-Vicki McClure, 108-Brandon Eneyart, 126-Lyn Greenleaf James, 141-James Hardin, 144-Steve Powers, 209-Ira Hyman, 219-Michael Shepard, 222-Jodith Allen, 231-Heather Gurley

Do come and welcome these people who will be appointed at the January 14 Central Committee Meeting:

121-Michael Vendiola, 124--Charles Salisbury, 142-PCO James Wells and captain Sara Wells, 139-Bill Newmon, 148-Roni Beall, 224-Corinne Gimbel-Levine, 303-PCO John Greenough and captain Mary Greenough, 604-Bill Jennings

The Steering Committee is currently made up of Carole Jacobson, Katherine Hanowell, Vicki McClure, Kathy Hopkins, and Abe Jacobson.

We regard all PCOs members of this committee. Anyone interested in working on it, contact Carole at [carolejacobson@comcast.net](mailto:carolejacobson@comcast.net) or call 734-5019.

## Members To Adopt 2009 Budget

Being a presidential election year, 2008 income for the Whatcom Democrats was about \$97,000. This was huge. 2009 will be a more modest year, and considering the state of the economy, more challenging.

While most of our regular expenses remain the same, or even are reduced, our rent jumps up in 2009.

Last year we took the plunge and committed to a part-time paid office manager, and the Board would like to continue this position. We already have commitments from donors to help with this expense. With the level of activity we want to have, and our members and local Democrats expect

from us, it is a burden on volunteer officers without staff support.

### Proposed Revenue

Member Dues & Donations	33,920
Fundraising less Expenses	15,600
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>49,520</b>

### Proposed Expenses

Basic Operations	2,124
Payroll and Taxes	17,160
Physical Office	12,868
Newsletter	3,861
Party Building	9,350
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>45,363</b>

Campaign Fund, averages about \$8,000 per year.

Members will vote on the budget at the January 14th meeting.

## continued from Page 1 – Let's Work Together

where we are in the cycle.

For the Party, we now must be supporting the non-partisan issue groups and building relationships with both their leaders and rank-and-file. We will also continue our precinct-level organizing, which is the ultimate "base-building." When the cycle turns back to the electoral work, we will be in an even better position to mobilize voters for our candidates.

One of the Obama campaign's strengths was the way they empowered the grassroots to create their own local events, email networks, and gave direct access to campaign tools. The transition team has continued this practice by encouraging *Change is Coming* house meetings in December to discuss issues, how the group can make their voices heard on these issues, and get started right away by planning a local service project.

House meetings were held in Whatcom County around environment, health care, and gay/lesbian/transgender issues.

Our task in the coming weeks is to figure out how to preserve and strengthen the grassroots empowerment, become a strong partner with the non-partisan issue-oriented activists, and build our Democratic base for future elections. It's a bit of a balancing act – we can't just assume we are "in charge" because a Democrat is in the White House. Communication locally will be key to multiplying our effectiveness on the legislative front, as well in future elections. The opportunities are amazing, and there is much to do. This is a good place to plug the Communications Committee which will be meeting every Monday, 5-7 pm, at the office. If you like to write, edit, research, and network, please come on down.

### Whatcom Democrats Executive Board

Chair	Natalie McClendon	671-6851	email: <a href="mailto:add@whatcomdemocrats.com">add@whatcomdemocrats.com</a>
Vice Chair	Bill Newmon	733-5386	demchair
Treasurer	Peggy Borgens	384-0861	demvchair
Recording Sec.	Michele Kammerer	398-2878	treas
Corresponding Sec.	Carole Jacobson	734-5019	recsec
State Cmtewoman	Stephanie Kountouros	734-7340	corsec
State Cmteman	Hue Beattie	671-5597	staterwoman
Women's Club	Catherine Chambers	756-6759	stateman
Young Democrats	Andrew Lamb (425)	374-9686	
42 <sup>nd</sup> LD Rep.	Richard May	332-5425	
40 <sup>th</sup> LD Rep.	Roni Beall	756-1405	

# Two Vie For State Party Chair

State party officers are elected by the State Committee people, two each, from each county and legislative district in Washington. The Election will take place at the state meeting, January 24th, in Olympia.

The following candidate statements were edited for length.

## MEET THE CANDIDATES

**Saturday Jan 10th, 12noon -1 pm  
Machinists Hall, 2065 Vista Dr,  
Ferndale. All Democrats welcome.**

### Mark Hintz

We have just experienced an historical election season. We need to capture that energy and momentum to propel our Washington State Democratic Party into one that embraces transparency, honors and hears all viewpoints, and establishes an atmosphere where everyone can find their place to participate.

Let's develop a "Dynamic 88" strategy that would include all thirty-nine counties and forty-nine legislative districts, working together, in partnership with the state party.

Now is the time to change how we do business in the Democratic Party. Instead of starting a few months before the election, we will work hard all twelve months of the year so everyone understands what the Democratic Party stands for; it stands for each of us through inclusion, openness and empowerment.

I've had the honor of serving as Chair of the Snohomish County Democrats for the past 4 years. In Snohomish County, we worked tirelessly for Governor Gregoire. She lost our county in 2004 and we helped her turn that into a strong win this past November.

Embracing the grassroots has given our party a source of strength. These are the people who drive the party, the voters who realize their vote counts in a way they never envisioned before. The way to make our voice heard and our vote count is to become active.

Through empowerment, we will move the State Democratic Party forward as

we have the Snohomish County Democratic party. It is you making the difference. With you, there is an opportunity to develop our party as we have never done before. Please allow me stand with you as we lead our party into the future.

### Dwight Pelz

I have served as Chair of WA Democratic Party for three years, and for three years our Party has experienced growth and victory.

We are all aware of the impressive victories in 2008. This happened in no small measure by the organization of the State Party. We opened 20 offices, hired 80 staff, recruited 10,000 volunteers, made 1.5 million phone calls, registered 37,000 new voters, knocked on 500,000 doors, and sent out 1.6 million pieces of GOTV mail. The State Party donated around \$3 million to the Governor's re-election.

In 2008 we expanded our Latino Vote Project to five staff working in Franklin, Yakima, and King counties. In Yakima County the LVP reduced the gap in turnout between Hispanics and non-Hispanics from 29 points to 17%.

When I took office in 2006 we were \$500,000 in debt because of the Governor's recount. Ten months later we had \$300,000 in the bank, and today we are \$200,000 in the black.

We have built an impressive website, and an e-mail list of over 100,000 Democrats. Our voter file has become far more accessible and efficient through the application of Vote Builder. Today the staff of our state party has a solid reputation as professional and accessible.

I have strived to be accessible through e-mail, returned phone calls, and personal visits to Democratic party events across the state. I promise that I will seek to build the party over the next two years as we expand our majorities and re-elect our fantastic US Senator Patty Murray.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Chair of the Washington State Democratic Party.

## Goodby, Barney

Barney Goltz, a local "Honored Democrat," died Christmas night.

Barney worked for many years at WWU, and served the 42nd Legislative



District in both the House and State Senate. He will be remembered for his gentle wit and no-hard-feelings political style. He was 84.

A memorial service is set for Jan. 11th at WWU. Please check the Herald.

Donations to honor Barney may be made to the Barney Goltz Scholarship Fund, c/o WWU Foundation, 516 High St., MS 9034, Bham, WA 98225.

## Volunteers Recognized for Outstanding Work

At our year-end Holiday Party, the Whatcom Democrats recognized some exceptional volunteers from this campaign year.

**Phone caller of the Year – Sharon Alford** – for her calm, friendly phonework over many, many hours.

**PCO of the Year – Vicki McClure** – for her remarkable leadership of Precinct 102, marshalling over 20 volunteers to canvass the precinct in the Birch Bay/Semiahmoo area.

**New Volunteer of the Year – SueEllen Lawton** – for her steady, focused leadership of the Campaign.

**Staffperson of the Year – Rebekah Lee** – as our only paid staff, for working way more hours than she was paid for, and being there every day, keeping the chaos in check.

**Special Award "The Godfather" – John McGarrity** – for all the offers he's made that couldn't be refused, working behind the scenes to make innumerable things "happen."

As we noted last month, almost 3,000 volunteers were involved in some way this year in Whatcom County. Every volunteer has a story and made a difference. We only wish we had time and space to recognize them all.



# Whatcom County Democrats

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## Why am I getting this newsletter?

Because you are a paid member, or have volunteered with the campaign in recent months, and we want to keep you up to date.

## Can I get the newsletter via email?

YES. Sign up at [whatcomdemocrats.com/maillist/lists.php](http://whatcomdemocrats.com/maillist/lists.php)

You have a choice of a monthly newsletter plus a weekly update.

## How can I Join the Democrats?

You can pay your membership on our website ([whatcomdemocrats.com](http://whatcomdemocrats.com)) or call our office at 647-7661.

# January 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
We don't have room to give you lots of details on these community events, so go to our website calendar ( <a href="http://whatcomdemocrats.com">whatcomdemocrats.com</a> ) or call our office 647-7661 for more information.				1	2	3
4	5	6 8 pm – Young Dems, Rudy's Pizza, 1232 N. State, Bham	7	8	9	10 10am – 42 <sup>nd</sup> LD Dems Re-Org Mtg. PAGE 1 12n – State Chair Candidate Forum, P. 3 1 pm – 40 <sup>th</sup> LD Dems Re-Org Mtg PAGE 1
11	12 11:30-1pm – Women's Club, Panda Palace, Sunset Square 5-7pm – Communications Cmte Work Session, office	13	14 7 pm - WDems Membership Mtg, Shuksan MS, NW Ave at Alderwood. SEE PAGE 1	15	16	17 10am – Human Rights Conf., Whatcom Human Rights Task Force, WCC. 9:30a-12n – Workshop: Civil Discourse on Hot Button Topics, LWV, Bham Library
18	19 7-9 pm – MLK Poetry Reading, Food Coop, Bham 5-7pm – Comm. Cmte, office	20 6-11 pm – Obama Ball, Leopold Ballroom. SEE PAGE 1.	21 12n – Engaged Citizen Book Group, Village Books, Bham	22 7pm – United for National Health Care mtg, 1700 N. State St, Bham	23 Newsletter copy deadline	24 8am – WA Dem Re-Org Mtg, Olympia. SEE PAGE 3
25	26 6:45 pm – talk on immigration & globalization. Bham Unitarian Flwship 5-7pm – Comm. Cmte, office	27	28 7 pm – Whatcom Dems E-Board Mtg, Office.	29 9a-3p – Project Homeless Connect, Volunteer Center 734-3055	30	31