

GRASSROOTS

The Newsletter of the
Whatcom County
Democratic
Central Committee

Membership Meeting

Thursday, July 16
7:00 – 9:00 pm
Norway Hall

1419 N. Forest St, Bellingham
(between Champion & Magnolia)

All Democrats Welcome

PROGRAM: School Board Candidates:
With the budget crunch, neighborhood
schools and other issues, their
comments will mean even more this
year. Endorsement in these races will
be considered in AUGUST.

Also: possibly some resolutions on
state party policies.

42nd Legislative District Democrats Meeting

Saturday, July 11, 10am-Noon
Machinists Hall, 2064 Vista Dr. Ferndale

PROGRAM: endorsements for County-
wide candidates and election of a new
vice-chair and State Committeewoman.

40th Legislative District Democrats Meeting

Saturday, July 11, 10am-Noon
Skagit PUD, 1415 Freeway Drive, Mount
Vernon

PROGRAM: endorsement process review

July 2009

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360-647-7661

Port Commission Could Be Key Player In Whatcom County's Economic Recovery

by *Tim Douglas*

If the recession is affecting you at all, pay attention to the two Port of Bellingham Commissioner races in the August Primary and November General Election. The outcome will decide who holds the majority on the Commission. The Port of Bellingham is the one government entity whose focus is economic development and job production. It enjoys unique powers under the State Constitution, including the sale of industrial revenue bonds and the authority to impose property taxes. Fully 3.67%

of all property taxes levied in our County go to the Port.

The Port operates Bellingham International Airport, a marina in Blaine, and Squalicum Harbor in Bellingham. Its properties near the Airport are home to the world's leading producer of wood-burning stoves for restaurants. The Port created an industrial manufacturing zone in Sumas and the all-weather, heavy load highway that connects it with lower B.C. for trans-shipment of goods. In fact, the Port says that 10% of all employment in Whatcom County is directly or indirectly Port related.

The redevelopment of the Bellingham waterfront is one of the largest projects of its kind in the nation. While the State Department of Ecology determines the level of cleanup required, the Port is responsible for conducting it. The new WIZ (Waterfront Innovation Zone) is one of only 7 in the state. Opening in September, it will house an unusual partnership between WWU, Bellingham Technical College and private businesses to create new technologies, designs and materials to make our area a leader in maritime trades.

In short, there is a lot at stake for Whatcom residents and taxpayers. How we lift ourselves out of this recession can be decided this year. Be sure to evaluate Port Commissioner candidates and cast your ballots in August and November. Primary ballots are mailed on July 29th!

Democrats Endorse Candidates

Members came out in force to participate in the endorsement vote at our June membership meeting. Candidates needed a two-thirds majority to receive the endorsement. No endorsement was made in the Bellingham City Council Ward 6, because no candidate garnered the 2/3 majority.

Candidates Endorsed:

Bham City Council Ward 4: Stan Snapp

Bham City Council Ward 2: Gene
Knutson.

Bham City Council At-Large: Seth
Fleetwood

County Council Dist 3: Carl Weimer

County Council Dist 2: Ken Mann

County Council Dist 1: Dan McShane

County Council At-Large: Laurie
Caskey-Schrieber

Port of Bellingham District 1: John
Blethen (See page 3)

Port of Bellingham District 2: Michael
McAuley (See page 3)

Find contact information for these candidates at our website or call 647-7661. They need your support to win!

League of Women Voters

Candidate Forum

Friday, July 17
7 – 9 pm

City Council Chambers
210 Lottie St, Bellingham

State Women Elect Chambers to Lead

Catherine Chambers, President of the Whatcom County Democratic Women's Club, and candidate for Bellingham City Council, 6th Ward, was elected President of the Washington State Federation of Democratic Women at its state convention June 21. Chambers, a long time Bellingham community organizer, said "I am honored and grateful to the women of this state for this opportunity."

The Washington State Federation of Democratic Women was formed in 1971 and is dedicated to encouraging full participation of women at every level of the Democratic Party. Noting the increase in the number of women now holding office, Chambers stressed the work of the Democratic Party in striving for gender diversity.

As Federation President, Catherine Chambers is urging Senate Majority Leader, Lisa Brown and Majority Leader of the House Frank Chopp to form a Select Committee on the Status of Women in the State of Washington. "We need to assess how women in Washington are doing as a whole," Chambers said, "in honor of the 100 year anniversary of women obtaining the right to vote in Washington State."

Also elected at the recent meeting were Lynn Evich, state treasurer, and Saliha Miller, vice-president for the state Central Area, both active members of the Whatcom County Democratic Women's Club.

Your 2¢ Needed on Caucus & Primary

Your input is needed on ways to improve our state party's process for selecting delegates for the Presidential nomination process. The caucuses in 2008 were a phenomenal success in many ways, but there was also room for improvement as well as calls by some to move to a Presidential Primary.

There will be a 2nd Congressional District hearing on the '08 Caucus System on Saturday July 11 at 12:30pm, (following the 40th LD general membership meeting), at the Skagit PUD, 1415 Freeway Drive, Mount Vernon.

You can also send your comments to Richard May at electionproof@aol.com, or in care of the Whatcom Democrats at PO Box 3095, Bham 98227.

Douglas and McLeod Honored

Tim Douglas and Darlene McLeod were honored for the long and dedicated service to the Democratic Party at the Eleanor Roosevelt Luncheon in May, as "Honored Democrats." Both received framed certificates, their names on to our Honored Democrats plaque which hangs in our office, and a lifetime membership in the Whatcom Democrats.

Tim Douglas has been active with the Whatcom County Democrats for decades, taking intermittent breaks to serve as Bellingham's Mayor. Through the years, Tim served with distinction on numerous local and regional boards and commissions. He is a past party chair, a past platform committee chair, and is currently our issues and resolutions chair. Tim has also always been very involved in our campaigns, and is active in candidate identification and recruitment.

Darlene McLeod has been active with the Whatcom County Democratic party for over 30 years. She served as our State Committeewoman for 8 years, and has also served on a number of key committees, including bylaws. She is also an ever-faithful volunteer, and is a long-term member of the Whatcom County Democratic Women's Club.

Roosevelt Lunch a Success

Well over 100 loyal Democrats gathered at the Northwood Hall in late May for our annual Eleanor Roosevelt fundraiser.

Thanks go to event sponsors Louise



State Rep. Kelli Linville, left, presents the Honored Democrats award to Tim Douglas and Darlene McLeod on May 30, 2009.

Bjornson, John Blethen, Barry Buchanan, Seth Fleetwood, Kathryn Hanowell, Carol and Abe Jacobson, Richard May, Dan Pike, Denise Bois, Peggy Borgens, Laurie Caskey-Schreiber, Janice Claussen, Tim and JoAnn Douglas, MaryLou Eastham, Diane Foster, Cindy Franklin, Maggie Hanson, Cheryl and William Hockett-Prelle, Michael Jay, Michele Kammerer, Ruth Ann LeBeau, Diane Lookman, Janet Lutz-Smith, Ken Mann, and Kevin Ranker.

And many thanks to the volunteers who made it happen: Co-Chairs Roni Beall and Catherine Chambers, Democratic Women's Club, Sharon Alford, Margaret Hashmi, Maggie Hansen, Sarann Donegan, Sheila McCandlish, Judy Mullinex, Hue Beattie, Bob Burr, Steve Schuck, Peggy Borgens, Lynn Evich, Diane Foster, Rebekah Lee and Richard May.

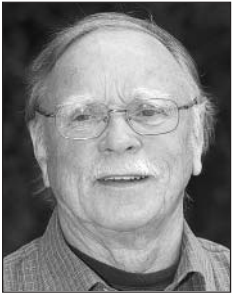
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email: add @whatcomdemocrats.com

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42 nd LD Representative	Steve Lydolph	384-5414	

Endorsed Port of Bellingham Candidates

District 1 – John Blethen



John Blethen owns and operates New Whatcom Interiors, a successful cabinetmaking business started in 1979 and several commercial buildings including a new 'Live-Work'

facility. He has worked in shipyards, schools and construction.

John has been a community leader for 40 years. He built trails and a community gardens. Then he expanded that effort and was instrumental in the creation of the Greenways which he currently chairs.

Our community has honored his efforts with the Dietrich Award for Outstanding Leadership, ReSources Environmental Hero award, and Bellingham Business Journal's Mover and Shaker of 2008.

John has once again stepped up to the plate and is running for Port Commission in District 1. *"The Port has forgotten that it is supposed to be representing the people of Whatcom County. I intend to change the culture of the Port of Bellingham to reflect OUR goals, not special interests. I want to broaden representation by increasing the commission from 3 to 5 members, schedule meetings for times that encourage public participation and honor public process."*

Due to his commitment for a healthy environment, John was drafted to lead the Environmental Component of The Waterfront Futures group. He currently serves on the Waterfront Advisory Group. *"When the Port's consultants failed to develop a waterfront redevelopment plan that reflected the community vision, I hired Dave Christensen to help develop the "Blethen Plan" that did."*

John will bring a balanced approach to the Port Commission. He will seek the type of economic development that will produce more living wage jobs for our community. *"The Port must support existing businesses to grow what we have. I will make decisions that support a viable working waterfront, expand opportunities for farmers to process their products, and foster new business development. The focus must be long-term economic development,"* Blethen states.

District 2 – Michael McAuley



With my background as a community leader and my academic resume in urban studies and environmental policy, I am uniquely suited to address the challenges facing

the Port today. I am a green builder, and former US Marine with a solid record of working with the City of Bellingham as a citizen and as a representative of the Lettered Streets Neighborhood. I have served the Bellingham Lettered Streets Neighborhood Association since 2002, first as Representative to Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission and currently as Vice Chairman. Also, I have been the Neighborhood representative on Bellingham's Planning Academy. I received my BS in Environmental Policy from Evergreen State College and my MS in Geography from Huxley College at Western Washington University, where I published a thesis on growth management in Whatcom County.

As Port Commissioner, I will: create a collaborative environment between the Port, City, County and citizens in waterfront planning, promote a technology park on the waterfront and promote green energy industries, improve profitability of current Port operations to free up tax dollars for new ideas that align with Whatcom County values and pursue emerging technologies with job creation potential, modernize Port leadership by improving collaboration, access, and accountability, and implement a renewed focus on the Port's core obligations to Whatcom County.

It is critical that my campaign get off to a fast start in order for me to defeat the long term incumbent, Doug Smith. I am asking for your help and support now. If you want to see a new future for the Port, please consider hosting a coffee, volunteering for doorbelling or making phone calls, writing letters to the editor, or donating to my campaign. These early dollars will go to desperately needed supplies like campaign signs and doorbell literature. Email to Elect@mikeforport.com. Please write a check or donate on my website, MikeForPort.com, today!

More Endorsements Considered August 20

At the June membership meeting, no candidate in the Bellingham Council Ward 6 race garnered the required two-thirds majority for endorsement. We have set aside our August membership meeting, August 20th, two days after the Primary Election, to reconsider the Ward 6 candidates.

At least three of four candidates for Bellingham School Board are also seeking endorsement, and will be considered at this meeting. Any ballot measures that are expected to be on the General Election ballot will be considered as well, either to support or oppose.

As always, must be a paid member or a PCO to vote on endorsements.

Caskey-Schreiber Needs Your Support

Incumbent County Council member Laurie Caskey-Schreiber has the only County Council race with a Primary, and must run county-wide. "What I most need help with is support letters to the editor for our local newspapers, and any campaign donations (no amount is too small) are much appreciated, as mailing to the entire county is very expensive!" Laurie says. "Thanks for any assistance that fellow Dems are able to offer!"

INFO: laurie-caskey-schreiber.org

Campaign Chair Named

The Executive Board of the Whatcom Democrats has appointed Adam Day chair of the Campaign Committee. Adam is a senior at Western Washington University, majoring in Political Science. He served as Deputy Field Organizer for the Gregoire Campaign in 2008 in the Bellingham office.

You can contact Adam at 206-914-2170 to volunteer for committee work that will help all our endorsed candidates.

Democrats at the Fair

Again this year we will have a booth at the NW WA Fair in Lynden, as well as booths at the Old Settlers and Raspberry Festival sponsored by the 42nd LD Dems and the Lynden Dems, respectively.

Volunteers are needed to staff the booths and be ambassadors for the Democratic Party. Please call the office at 647-7661 to sign up.

**Collecting
Now
for Fall Sale!**



Household Goods, Working Electronics, Smaller Pieces of Furniture, Clothing in Good Condition, Collectibles

Drop off at 215 W. Holly Street, Suite B-27 (enter on Bay)
M-F, 10 am to 2 pm

For details call 647-7661 or email office@whatcomdemocrats.com



Whatcom County Democrats

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For weekly updates of Democratic Party and community events, subscribe to our Announcement list, at whatcomdemocrats.com, menu item "Get Involved".

JULY 2009 Check whatcomdemocrats.com for details

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
5 6 pm – MoveOn meeting, 100 E. Maple, Bham	6 6:30 pm – Progressive Network, 13 Prospect St, Bham	7 7 pm – Candidate Forum, Sudden Valley Adult Center 8 pm – Young Dems, Rudy's Pizza, 1232 N. State, Bham	8	9	10	11 10 am – 40 th LD Dems, P. 1 10 am – 42 nd LD Dems, P. 1 12:30 pm – Caucus Task Force, P. 2
12	13 7-9 pm – Finance Cmte mtg, office	14 7 pm – Drinking Liberally, Horseshoe Cafe	15 7:30 pm – Blethen meet & Greet, Sudden Valley rotunda	16 7 pm – Whatcom Dems Member Mtg, SEE PAGE 1	17 Lynden Dems @ Raspberry Fest 7 pm – LWV Candidate Forum, Bham Council Hall	18 9 am – Lynden Democrats, Dutch Mother's, Lynden Lynden Dems @ Raspberry Fest
19	20	21 8 pm – Young Dems, Rudy's Pizza, 1232 N. State, Bham	22 12n – City Club, Northwood Hall, Bham	23	24 42 nd LD Dems @ Old Settlers	25 42 nd LD Dems @ Old Settlers
26 42 nd LD Dems @ Old Settlers	27	28 7 pm – Drinking Liberally, Horseshoe Cafe	29 PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOTS MAILED 7 pm – Whatcom Dems E-Board Mtg, Office.	30	31	Aug 1
2 12n – 40 th LD Chili Cook-off, Bow 6 pm – MoveOn meeting, 100 E. Maple, Bham	3 6:30 pm – Progressive Network, 13 Prospect St, Bham	4 8 pm – Young Dems, Rudy's Pizza, 1232 N. State, Bham	5 5 pm – Green Drinks	6	7	8 10 am – 42 nd LD Dems