

# 31<sup>st</sup> Democrats Newsletter

IF YOU'RE NOT OUTRAGED, YOU HAVEN'T BEEN PAYING ATTENTION  
(Organized by R. Craig Sanders-email: [zln45rgjarc@netscape.com](mailto:zln45rgjarc@netscape.com) and Patricia Szot)

The 31<sup>st</sup> L.D. Democrats will meet on Wednesday:

March 18, 2009 At:

Marion Grange

27725 Buckley-Sumner Hwy E, Buckley

Coffee Hour 6 PM

Meeting 7 PM

Committee Meetings 6:30-7pm

**TOPICS: Craig Salins, Director of Washington Public Campaigns, will give us an update on the progress to get Public Financing to our state.**

## What's New At Our Meetings

We are trying something new at our monthly meetings and we NEED YOU to get involved. There are several committees that had chairs elected to them in January (Newsletter, Programs and Issues, PCO Recruitment, Membership, Voter Registration and Outreach) and we need you, the members of 31<sup>st</sup>, to bring your passion and interest to these committees. In the best interest of your time, we will have the committee chairs meet with you from 6:30-7:00, just prior to our monthly business meeting. Bring your ideas and help to make the 31<sup>st</sup> Dems a part of our community!!! The following people were elected to chair the following committees: Newsletter-Craig Sanders, Programs and Issues-Mark Boswell, PCO Recruitment-Brian Gunn, Membership-Diane Kerlin, Voter Registration-Jaime Trejo and Outreach-Patti Szot.

## Topic for the Month- Public Financing

Craig Salins, Director of Washington State Public Financing, has been down to the 31<sup>st</sup> a couple of times to give us information concerning the progress of getting our legislature and our Justices to run with Public Funds. If you don't know about this organization please go to their website ([www.washclean.org](http://www.washclean.org)), but in a nut shell this is a means of getting BIG Business money out of the election process. We all know that to run for office one needs a LOT of money. Candidates get their money mainly from businesses, corporations, and unions (Republicans love to remove this influence-making it a non-partisan issue); and to a small degree from "we the people". Once in office, decisions made by these elected officials could be influenced by these outside groups that gave LARGE contributions. These decisions made by the elected official may not be in the best interest of the people they represent, but will do a great deal for fundraising for the candidate in the future. Obama is talking about reducing the influence of Big money or at least making it more transparent, but the best way to stop it completely is to have candidates run on Public Funds (or clean elections). This way when the candidate gets elected, the only group they are required to satisfy is the people they represent. The way it should be!

## Kudos to Chris Hurst

Chris Hurst, our Democratic House of Representative in the 31<sup>st</sup>, is a sponsor of HR 1528. This bill is Labors Number one priority bill this session. This bill would allow workers in Washington state to choose whether or not to participate in employer communication on issues of individual conscience, including politics, religion, charitable giving, and unionization. Give our state representatives a call concerning this bill (how to get hold of our state reps is further on in the newsletter).

## Upcoming Events

(If anyone has upcoming events that they would like to have posted, please email me.)

Democrats Work will be meeting March 14 and 21<sup>st</sup> at South Prairie Creek from 9am to noon. Considered one of the most vital salmon streams in the Puyallup River watershed, South Prairie Creek will benefit from several acres of habitat restoration. Invasive plants such as knotweed, blackberries and reed canary grass have been removed from this property over the last 1-2 years and the area will be replanted with native trees and shrubs. **If you want to help** please let Brian Gunn know (email: [gunnbl@comcast.net](mailto:gunnbl@comcast.net)).

## How to Rebut the Republican Talking Points

By Tom Cramer

A couple of weeks ago CPAC, a Conservative organization of the Republican Party was held in Washington DC. There were many comments made concerning the views of Democrats and Obama's administration. Tom Cramer (31<sup>st</sup> District Secretary) wrote a wonderful rebuttal to the 4 major issues that the ditto heads had. Use these around the water cooler as needed.

### 1. Respect for the Constitution

All Americans know the problems that Bush Republicans had with the Constitution, but it goes much deeper into the Republican DNA. Ever since the Nixon administration the Republicans for the past 40 years have devoted themselves to undermining our system of checks and balances in favor of an imperial presidency. Whether it was Nixon using the power of the presidency to spy and harass Americans who disagree, like at Watergate, or Reagan making an illegal deal to give American weapons to Iran in violation of a Congressional order in Iran-contra, the Republicans have made it a full generation where they made it a point of principal to ignore the sacred rules of our nation whenever it suited their purposes.

But you can really tell the parties' true colors when things got tough. After the attacks in 2001 the Republicans stood up and demanded that America had to ignore our Constitution and grant virtually unlimited power to the president and vice-president in the name of homeland Security. They wanted the ability to imprison American citizens forever without ever bringing charges, they wanted to spy on Americans every letter, email, phone call and library access without having to go to court, and they even wanted to be able to physically torture. The Constitution made it through two World Wars under the Democrats but one attack on New York under a Republican and the Constitution protection guaranteed to every American citizen goes out the window and is derided as a "suicide pact".

When Democrats lead the drive to protect the Constitution they were derided and mocked for believing in freedom of speech, protections against illegal search and seizure, and opposing cruel and unusual punishment. Who was it who stood up against the Republican administrations' efforts to spy on all Americans? Standing up for the Constitution and the American values which it contains is a Democratic value.

### 2. Love of life

When Republicans say love of life, they are only talking about abortion. Now abortion is a very controversial subject in world history and it has been for at least 2000 years so we are unlikely to solve it now. By all accounts, the majority of Americans want individuals and not the government to make these

kinds of personal choices and the Democratic Party stands committed to allowing all citizens to make the choice that is best for their family. The Republicans support having the government take away your ability to choose and force a minority position on all Americans and that just is not right. The Democratic Party supports a position that attempts to make abortion safe, legal, and **as rare as possible**, but this is where the difference in the parties really stands out.

Ask yourself, which party supports children's health care, early childhood education, and family services? If your religious beliefs compel you to take a principled stand against capital punishment, which party's candidates are you likely to support? If you want to protect our nation's commitment to our elderly and your own parents' and grandparents Social Security, which party has your back? When it comes to caring for all our citizens in cleaning up the horrible health care mess, who do you trust more? We all know the answer to these questions. It is the Democrats who look after life from the cradle to the grave.

### **3. Less government**

Do we really need to do anything but laugh at this one? Through my entire life - I am 35 years old - every single Republican administration has increased the size of government and every single Democratic administration has decreased it. It's not even close. The Republicans have great PR on this one but it just simply is not true. Under Ronald Reagan, the great Republican the size of the government grew 2/3rds and never even proposed a single budget to Congress that would have reduced the size of government by one iota. Clinton by contrast reduced the size of government to its lowest level since John F. Kennedy. And we all know what happened under George Bush to the size and scope of government. Clinton turned over the national economy to the next administration with a government that lived within its means and had a \$237 billion surplus. After eight years of the Bush Republicans we ended with a deficit of \$407 billion and a national debt of almost \$11 trillion dollars.

But money and size of government are not everything. For all the crazy Republican talk in the 90's about the United Nations taking over and black helicopters swooping out of the sky to steal our children, the Bush Republicans did more than anyone to make it a reality. The Republicans wanted the government to have the power to lock up and torture American citizens on the president's whim.

If you believe in less government, you shouldn't be a Republican.

### **4. Personal responsibility**

One of the central principles and one of the keys to the success of the entire Obama campaign was personal responsibility. Obama would not talk about what he would do in the campaign, but rather what "we" needed to do. Obama called on every American to take responsibility to do what is right not just for themselves, but for the country as well. If your kid is failing in school, don't blame the teacher. Throw out the video games and sit down and help with the homework. Just last week Obama stood up in a national address and called on each individual American to go out and get the advanced training America needs to compete in a knowledge-based economy. By contrast, Bush's call after 9/11 was for all Americans to "Get *down* to Disney World in Florida" and "go shopping."

As a whole, Democrats have stood up in an effort to allow Americans the opportunity to make the right choice. It was the Democrats who passed a bill that allowed new mothers and fathers time off to spend with their new-born child. Republicans opposed it. It is Democrats who support programs that get people back on their feet and train for new jobs and find personal dignity.

But sometimes, you can do everything right and make all the right choices and things still go wrong. The leading cause of bankruptcies in the nation is not from extravagant spending, but from medical bills. We should not let America be a place where getting sick forces you into bankruptcy. Democrats believe in a society where individuals take care of their responsibilities, but also where the government takes care of its end in a competent manner. The government should set the rules so that corporations play fair and where sickness or natural disaster do not end

your family's chances of a good life. We are the kind of people who look after our own family, but are always willing to help our neighbor in need as well.

## Editorial-As I See It

By Craig Sanders

A Democrat is finally back in the White House and many are breathing a collective sigh of relief. However, if we are to avoid abuses of the presidential office in the future, we need to address the abuses of the past. This may be a painful and costly process (both to Republicans and Democrats alike), but I believe that it is necessary if this country is to mature and learn from its mistakes. I believe that the most recent abuses of the presidency are the direct result of the lack of investigation of the Nixon-Watergate scandal. Republican president Gerald Ford pardoned Republican Richard Nixon and all investigation into Watergate essentially ceased. Ford said that he pardoned Nixon to benefit the country by relieving the United States of the pain of an investigation. However, I contend that if Ford had not pardoned Nixon and the investigations had continued even after he resigned, Reagan would not have produced Iran-Contra and the prolific abuses of the Bush administration would not have occurred (interestingly, Cheney and Rumsfeld were part of Nixon's White House team).

I carry around, in my wallet, a cartoon that I cut out to remind myself of some of the major abuses that George Bush and company were responsible for during their eight years inside the White House. Each of these issues needs to be investigated by Congress so that these abuses do not continue in the future. If President Obama merely ignores these new abuses of power or negates them by executive order, there is nothing to keep subsequent presidents, be they Democratic or Republican, from using executive orders to activate them yet again. What truly surprises me is that the Republicans are not first in line demanding that Congress investigate. Surely they don't want to see a Democratic president brandishing such awesome powers. Personally, I don't want to see any president with these powers (along with a totally inconsequential congress). I want to see both a strong president and a strong Congress.

Alleged Bush crimes to be investigated:

1. Lying the country into the Iraq war by speaking of mushroom clouds.
2. Failing to heed warnings of imminent attack by Al Queda
3. Cheney's secret Energy meetings with people like Enron executives.
4. The torture memo which allowed CIA personnel to conduct questionable methods (see Guantanamo, Abu Ghraib and others).
5. Warrantless wiretapping/eavesdropping.
6. Response to Hurricane Katrina
7. Rendition (kidnapping).
8. Osama (I don't really think about him anymore) bin Laden.
9. Voter disenfranchisement (phone jamming, caging, etc.)
10. Walter Reed Hospital.
11. The questionable handling of the death of Pat Tillman.
12. Treasonous outing of CIA operative Valerie Plame.
13. Loss of Habeus Corpus.
14. Firing of Federal Prosecutors that refused to pursue questionable cases against Democrats.
15. Governor Don Siegelman.
16. Arnold Schwarzenegger meeting with Enron executives (Ken Lay) months prior to California's rolling blackouts which led to the recall of Governor Gray Davis.
17. No-bid contracts Halliburton.
18. Losing billions of American dollars in cash in Iraq.
19. Using the National Guard to fight wars instead of defending the country.
20. Nullifying Posse Comitatus-using the military against American citizens.
21. Raids without a search warrant (probable cause)-4<sup>th</sup> Amendment.
22. Subverting Free Speech-(free-speech zones) 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment.

23. Jack Abramoff.
24. Governmental terrorism- if they can torture someone else, they can torture you for speaking out.
25. Having fake White House reporters in reporter pool.
26. Blackwater.
27. John Bolton and the United Nations.

This list is not all-inclusive. It's just what I could think of off the top of my head. Any one of these items is cause for astonishment and outrage. Together these have lowered the United States in the eyes of the world. No longer is America that shining beacon on a hill. The respect that the United States used to have with some countries is irretrievably lost. We the People can only regain some of America's status in the world by investigating and bringing the people involved to justice. If we don't pursue this course, then we are collectively no better than any of the other nations that we like to ridicule. In other words, we are condoning what happened.

If you, like me, are outraged at these and other abuses, please join me in signing the petition that Senator Pat Leahy is putting forward at <http://www.bushtruthcommission.com>. Only if we address the abuses of the past can we confidently move forward to democracy in the future.

## Comments from a Member of the 31<sup>st</sup> District

Democratic Party Elections: Some Information about Unique Positions  
By Sharon Hodgins, PCO 31-640, and State Committee Woman (2001-06).

Every two years, the January after a major election, local Democratic Party groups are mandated to have an election of officers/committee people. The 31st (refers to our State Legislative District, of which there are 49 in our state) did not have a Democratic Party group until 1999, but does have a strong Republican group. After the census in 2000, states have two years to redraw boundaries (National, State, local and precinct), as mandated by law, to try to even out population represented; for example, through 2002, I used to be the Precinct Committee Officer of 31-650, but boundaries were redrawn, and the precinct I then lived in became Precinct 640 (and grew much bigger in size, might I add, from representing 300-500 people to now nearly 900 or so). I wanted you to be aware that would happen again in 2012. A lot of what became the 31<sup>st</sup> District in 1992 used to be the 25th State Legislative District, so boundary changes could also happen in 2012. The 31st District is about 2/3 in the 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, and about 1/3 in the 9th Congressional District. So our local group has representatives to both King and Pierce County Democrats. After boundaries are redrawn and approved, every voter will receive a new Voter Registration Card, upon which new districts and precincts are given. As of now, the 31st State legislative District's boundaries are, approximately: Northern part ends down the middle of Main Street in Auburn; encompasses Enumclaw, Green River, Buckley, Sumner, part of Edgewood, a bit of Puyallup along the river toward, but not including McMillan. The 31st Democratic Party election of new officers (called by REORG) was great this year; it was really encouraging to see so many new people involved in the 31st. This is the first election since I became involved in 1999 where there were a lot of new people involved --the same group kind of ran the group from 1999 on until now --because we did not have the membership to spread out jobs. It is always great to have fresh new members with new ideas. But we have the continued leadership of MJ McGaillard, who is now our Chair for the next two years, and who has been involved since about 1999 -- that is good because it takes a while to understand the organization of the Democratic Party. Explanation of several officer's duties below:

The Vice Chair to King and Pierce County: Each county has a Democratic organization and people elected will represent the 31st at the monthly County Democratic meetings. State Committee Man and State Committee Woman: These people will attend the quarterly meetings of the State Democratic organization; these are business meetings, where the State Chair (who is now Dwight Pelz, but all new officers at the State Level will be elected at the State meeting the last week of this month, in January) presides. State Quarterly meeting are held in different parts of our state every three months. They generally start on a Friday afternoon, and end late Saturday afternoon. There are 3 or 4 Standing Committees which meet often on Friday evening/Saturday morning; I can only recall the name of two of these committees, as I served on

one: Resolutions, and I know Rules is another. All State Committee People are a member of one of the four standing committees, and can ask the State Chair to be placed on one of them. In addition, State Committee Men and Woman can join and become members of a caucus group, which often meet either Friday or Saturday morning; Caucuses are an interest group, and form around a common agenda -- for example, there is a Labor Caucus, a Gay/Lesbian Caucus, a Native American Caucus, an Asian Caucus, a Progressive Caucus; they have to exist for several years to become viable to eventually become recognized by the State Democratic Party.

Saturday lunch is a fundraiser where a speaker is featured -- often a candidate or elected government official one would pay to see. Saturday afternoon is devoted to a general business meeting -- to approve the treasurer's report, to hear from the Chair on major issues that need to be discussed. The latter part of the meeting is spent on hearing/debating resolutions which have been refined and then approved by the State Resolutions Committee. Resolutions must be written according to a set form, and may ask for action on any issue an individual/group wants to submit to the State Party's Resolution Committee prior to the Quarterly meeting. If a resolution is approved by State Resolution Committee members, it will be passed on to the appropriate

legislator/government official for action. Every two years, in June of an election year, the State Committee Man and Woman represent us at a Convention where the State Platform is debated and adopted. Other 31st people also attend the Convention, besides the State Committee Man and Woman, as allowed by State Party by-laws. Candidates running for state and national offices attend these conventions, and they are introduced and often speak at the Convention. King County and Pierce County Central Committee Man and Woman: These people also represent us at the County Democratic meetings. The rest of the officers/committee people, as listed below, have duties which are almost self-explanatory. But I wanted to share with you what the above people do, as these positions are unique to our organization.

## Our Representatives-how to get hold of them

### Senators: **Patty Murray (D)** and **Maria Cantwell**

Patty Murray- DC office phone: (202) 224-2621  
Seattle Office  
2988 Jackson Federal Bldg.  
915 2nd Avenue  
Seattle, Washington 98174  
Phone: (206) 553-5545  
Fax: (206) 553-0891

### Maria Cantwell- DC office phone (202) 224-3441

Seattle Office	Tacoma Office
915 Second Avenue	950 Pacific Avenue, Suite #615
Suite #3206	Tacoma, WA 98402
Seattle, WA 98174	253-572-2281
206-220-6400	253-572-5879 FAX
206-220-6404 – FAX	

### 8<sup>th</sup> CD Representative-Dave Reichert (R)

**Dave Reichert**- DC Office phone (202) 225-7761  
District Office  
2737 78th Avenue, S.E. Suite #202  
Island, WA 98040  
(206) 275-3438  
(206) 275-3437 Fax

### 9<sup>th</sup> CD Representative-Adam Smith (D)

**Adam Smith**-DC office phone (202) 225-8901  
District Office  
2209 Pacific Ave, Suite B  
Tacoma, WA 98402  
(253) 593-6600  
(253)593-6776

Mercer

### State Senator-31<sup>st</sup> LD

**Pam Roach (R)**  
POB 40431

Olympia, WA 98504  
Office: 360-786-7660  
Fax: 360-786-7173  
Email: Roach.Pam@leg.wa.gov

State Representatives-31<sup>st</sup> LD

Chris Hurst (D)  
POB 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504  
Office: 360-786-7866  
Fax: 360-786-7317  
Email: [Hurst.Christopher@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Hurst.Christopher@leg.wa.gov)

Dan Roach (R)  
POB 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504  
Office: 360-786-7846  
Email: [Roach.Dan@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Roach.Dan@leg.wa.gov)

Occupation Statistics (<http://www.antiwar.com>)

4257 US Military Deaths (Iraq)  
661 US Military Deaths (Afghanistan)  
31089 US Military Wounded (Iraq)  
151,000-1,311,696 Iraq Civilian Deaths

Ongoing Food Drive

**Please bring any food item (especially baby food) or toilet paper to the monthly grange for our ongoing food drive to help others in our hard economic times.**

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**MEMBERSHIP FOR THE 31<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT DEMOCRATS**

Auburn, Enumclaw, Buckley, South Prairie, Bonney Lake, Sumner, Edgewood, Lake Tapps  
(<http://31stDistrictDemocrats.org>)

We meet at the Marion Grange (27725 Sumner-Buckley Hwy E, Buckley, WA 98321) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month. Our meetings, which start at 7:00 pm (coffee hour at 6 pm), give us the opportunity to meet other Democrats in the area and discuss the current issues. You also have the ability to meet local politicians and ask them questions that pertain to you. We also bring in speakers to discuss different issues that impact us in our communities and personal lives. At these meetings we also plan our volunteer efforts to make sure that the correct people are elected and the correct issues succeed in Olympia.

**DO YOU WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR LOCAL POLITICAL SYSTEM?**

**YES!! Join us**

Fill out the form below (questions are required by the state Public Disclosure Commission) and hand it in to one of our volunteers or mail it in (31<sup>st</sup> District Democrats, 20825 SR 410 E #130, Bonney Lake, WA 98391). You can pay dues now or later by check (made out to 31<sup>st</sup> District Democrats). Dues are \$31 per year (January-December), but members can pay what they can afford with a minimum of \$5.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address, City, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address (if different from above) \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Occupation \_\_\_\_\_  
Employer \_\_\_\_\_