

31st Democrats Newsletter

Meetings are held at the Marion Grange, 27725 Sumner-Buckley Hwy E, Buckley
www.31stdistrictdemocrats.org

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!!

The New Year means new membership dues. This year is an election year so there is a caucus and other events to occur over the year. Please fill out the form on the last page and mail it or bring it to a monthly meeting.

(Organized by R. Craig Sanders-email: z1n45rgiarc@netscape.com and Patricia Szot)

ONGOING FOOD DRIVE-We are collecting for local food banks

Monthly Meeting-January 20th

6-7 pm Social Hour; 7 pm General Business Meeting

This months meeting features: Linda Frank

---Linda is a native New Yorker who was moved by the events of 9/11. Linda has sought to understand the global unrest that devastated NYC and our nation. She has been to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories in her efforts to understand this long and tenuous conflict. Because of her activity in this area, Linda was nominated for the Greater Tacoma Peace Prize.

Linda will talk about her experiences in Israel and GAZA and will take questions.

---**Plus**, because this is an election year (yes, I know it seems only yesterday we voted) the Executive board has been working on a fair endorsement process for the candidates that will come before the 31st LD membership over the next few months for our endorsement. Therefore, we will also present the changes to the endorsement process in the By-laws to be voted on at next month's monthly meeting (Feb 17th).

Are you still yelling at your TV or radio concerning what Republicans say or do, or for that matter what Democrats say and do - well we have a release for that anger!! Come to our -

PROGRESSIVES ON THE PLATEAU

WHEN: February 27, 2010 (Saturday)

WHERE: Lakeland Hills Community Center (5801 Lakeland Hills Way SE, Auburn, WA 98092)

TIME: 7 pm- 10pm

COST: \$25 single or \$40 couple

We will have a jazz band and lots of food and drink (beer and wine). Come and discuss your thoughts/feelings concerning the present political system with fellow individuals that have similar thoughts, plus enjoy good music and food.

For tickets call Patti Szot (253-939-7829), leave your name and a phone number to call back (I will return your call) OR

Email at szot.patricia@gmail.com or send a check to the 31st LD (20825 SR 410 E #130, Bonney Lake, WA 98391) OR pick up tickets at the January 20th/February 17th monthly meeting.

2010 Democratic Caucus

When: March 14, 2010 (Sunday)

Where: Enumclaw Library (1700 First St, Enumclaw, WA 98022)

Time: 1 pm

Yes, it is an election year. At this function delegates will be chosen to attend the Democratic Convention in November 2010 to discuss the party platform and resolutions. For more details see website (www.31stdistrictdemocrats.org)

Health Care Around The World

Perhaps the reason that people in the United States are reluctant to change our health care system is fear. Fear of the unknown is a very powerful emotion. It seems that all we are hearing is that there is no point trying to change the system because change won't work or that the system is working fine. But the truth is the system has been getting worse for years now and will continue to get worse if we don't take some measures to fix it. At the present time some 45 million Americans and growing don't have healthcare. When these people get sick, they have to go to the Emergency Room. It ends up being a lot more expensive and taxpayers end up paying for it anyway. If I have to pay for it anyway, I'd just as soon have it be more economical. Presently, Americans spend about 17% of the GDP on healthcare.

Did you know that all other developed nations in the world have decided to make sure that their citizens have access to affordable healthcare and that they still pay about half or less of their GDP than the U.S. pays? These countries made the conscientious decision that it would be immoral if they didn't insure that everyone was covered. In other words, they believe that health care is a right, not a privilege. How a nation cares for its citizens is a statement of how that nation values its citizens.

Information presented here is largely taken verbatim from "THE HEALING OF AMERICA" by T.R. Reid. I've tried to summarize the information into short snippets out of the book. This is an excellent book discussing the various healthcare systems around the world (both advantages and disadvantages). **T.R. Reid has suggested that all the US needs to do is decide which system works best and then adopt it and perhaps, even improve upon it.** It isn't as though the U.S. has to totally invent a new health care system.

This month we will discuss the health care system in the **UNITED KINGDOM (BRITAIN)**

The single sentence that most describes health care in Britain is “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure”. Health care in Britain is administered by the National Health Service (NHS), which has been active for 60 years. The main idea behind the British health care system is that nobody should ever have to pay a medical bill.

The British system is dedicated to equal care for all. It began in the 1940’s when the country was rebuilding during and after WWII. Britain began a government-run NHS which was open to everyone. Health care was free to all both at doctor’s offices and at hospitals. It was sold as a utopian idea during the war and was a huge success from the beginning.

With NHS, there is no insurance premium, no co-payment, no fee at all. Private insurance plans do exist, but most people don’t have them; nine out of 10 people solely use NHS. To pay for this the sales tax is 15-17.5% and the income and social security taxes are higher than in the U.S. One way to keep costs down in Britain is that most people forego treatments and medications that are not covered (i.e. they learn to live with it). Another is to wait in line. Another cost effective measure to NHS is that there is minimal paperwork. However, NHS provides quality health care for **everybody**. The British system covers the equivalent of 1/5th the U.S. population, but spends only 1/15th of what we spend on health care. In spite of this, Britain covers everyone and has lower child mortality, longer healthy life spans and better recovery from most major diseases than the U.S. In Britain, both the providers and the recipients seem to be relatively happy and proud of their system. Doctors even still make house calls. NHS owns the hospitals, pays the doctors, buys the medications and pays all of the bills. It is one of the most “socialized medicine” systems in the world. It is similar to the system that the U.S. has for Native Americans and the military (including dependents and veterans).

NHS has been in business for more than 60 years, has more than a million staff members (biggest employer in Europe), and 2000 hospitals (which is 10 times more than the world’s biggest private hospital group). When health care is free, people do tend to use it more. Over the years NHS has had to add a \$10 co-pay, although there are so many exceptions (including children, over 60 years, pregnancy and the chronically ill), that only about 15% of the population pays this charge. NHS does not cover eye glasses, false teeth, and some dental bills. The concept of free medical care is so ingrained in the population that a recently-proposed fee of \$15 per office visit for **everyone** was met with outraged protests and the idea was quickly dismissed.

The British health care system is recognized as one of the world’s most cost-efficient systems because administration costs are low (about 1/5th of the U.S.). There are no bills to mail to patients, no billing offices and no filing/reviewing of insurance claims bureaucracy. The way it works is that each person registers with a general practitioner (GP) who serves as a gatekeeper (decides whether or not you need to see a specialist). British physicians are independent businesspeople and not government employees. Each GP gets a set fee each year for each person registered with them (capitation). In other words, the GP’s get paid a set fee whether the people come in or not. Thus, one of the main incentives of British health care is the heavy focus on preventative medicine. The healthier a GP’s patient population is, the less work she has to do for the same pay. This explains why doctor’s offices have NHS posters that push preventative care by educating the public. The physician makes money by keeping patients healthy.

The most notorious method of cost-containment in Britain is “The Queue”. The Queue can mean waiting weeks to months. Until recently, there have been reports of patients in hospital hallways for days because of the lack of available rooms. To address this embarrassment, large sums of money have been allocated to decrease the length of The Queue. Some people still have to wait, though; especially cases that are considered “elective”. Waiting times for non-urgent care can be long. The medical literature has found that “38% of patients wait more than four months for elective surgeries” (*Understanding Health Policy: A Clinical Approach, 2005, page 151*). A typical wait for a repair of a painless hernia can be 3 months. Varicose vein surgery typically is a six month wait. This may seem long, but it is really no longer than one would have to wait in the U.S. If it’s a medical emergency, though, the response is much quicker. If the GP suspects cancer, the patient will be seen by a specialist within 2 weeks. If heart problems, you’ll be seen that day. Chest pain, within an hour.

NHS controls costs by controlling the range of medications, tests and procedures. This “rationing” is done in every health care system, including the U.S. In Britain, “rationing” is done publicly and transparently (compared to backroom private rationing by health insurance executives). NHS has a committee to make these difficult decisions, but it’s a public, transparent committee. Although some decisions are harsh, the public supports the system. They generally see it as the money saved on one patient can be spent on another, i.e. we’re all in this together for the common good. The money that isn’t spent on a hip repair for a 90 year-old can be spent on a 25 year-old patient with a treatable cancer.

The British health care system seems to always be stretched for funds. To help pay for all of this, the sales tax is 17.5% on all purchases, buildings tend to be old and plain-looking, and rationing is practiced. The physicians of the NHS are much less likely to order tests and x-rays. They don’t do annual physicals for healthy patients. Many of the routine physical testing is done whenever patients visit the doctor. If people want excluded procedures they can always pay for them out of pocket.

Sixty percent of the physicians in Britain are GPs (only 35% are GPs in the U.S.). This is probably because the GPs’ make more money than the specialists (as much as two times more). Vacations and other gifts from medical companies are considered the equivalent of bribes in Britain. In Britain, they pay a doctor more if he keeps his patients healthy or if his patient’s health improves (pay for performance). In the U.S. doctors are paid the same whether the patient gets better or not (fee for service). Ultimately, British physicians make more than American physicians because malpractice insurance is so much less. If the physician can show that they were following treatment guidelines, they can’t be sued. Because of this, British physicians are also much less inclined to practice costly “defensive medicine”. Tuition fees for British medical schools are low and many local governments will pay the tuition fees for medical students from their own community.

In summary, the “socialist” British system is primarily aimed at preventative medicine to keep costs down. They have a much higher sales tax, and more income/social security tax than Americans. However, everyone is covered and almost nobody has to pay. An emergency is treated as an emergency, but non-urgent issues are subject to waiting lines. The General Practitioners are well-respected in their community and are also paid well. Because of low education costs and low malpractice fees, they tend to enjoy a better standard of living than doctors in the U.S.

Editorial by John S. Mayers

While pursuing my degree in economics, I took a class titled “Economics of Public Finance.” In other words, taxation and tax policy. It was rather more interesting than the subject title suggested, largely due to a great professor. One section covered five principles necessary for appropriate taxation and tax policy. After so many years, I forget the exact wording, but three of the principles are: **fairness/equity; transparency; and ease of collection/payment.**

The principle of fairness/equity is difficult to quantify and achieve, but is vital. For example, many people, including me, believe that former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher ended her political career by pressing for a poll tax on her majesty’s subjects. I’m not sure what she was smoking at the time, but most people everywhere, regardless of political bent, strongly oppose a tax where every person must pay the same fixed amount per year, regardless of income, wealth, health and other factors. Some people want a flat percentage income tax for everybody, while others want a graduated income tax. We’ve all seen and heard arguments about the fairness and equity of both of these income tax variations, which points out the difficulty in defining what is fair and equitable. Nonetheless, we can clearly see that a poll tax is inherently unjust. A gross violation of this fairness/equity is requiring some people or businesses to pay taxes while exempting others simply because they have more political influence and power.

Transparency means that taxes are well understood and not hidden. For example when you pay your landline telephone bill each month, you probably don’t realize that a tax upon a tax is part of it. This is a hidden tax, which violates transparency, in addition to making it difficult to verify if Qwest or any other service provider has correctly billed your taxes. Long ago, when I had too much time, I actually figured out

the “hidden formula” for tax on the tax. You should always be able to know what taxes you pay and how much, without resorting to such efforts.

In terms of ease of collection/payment principles, a sales tax is easier than an income tax. But in states such as Washington, the sales tax rate varies from one municipality to another. Some Washington cities now have four sales tax rates, depending on what item or service is being purchased. The simplicity of the sales tax quickly diminishes.

So, how are we doing in the State of Washington? For starters, our state is the most regressively taxed of all 50, and has been for decades. When my family moved here in 1971, the total sales tax rate was around 4.5%, depending on locality, and food was taxed. In the late 1970’s, taxation of food ended, but the tax rate increased to a level much lower than today’s rate. As the deep and long recession of the early 1980’s took its toll on revenues, the legislature and Republican Governor John Spellman reinstated the sales tax on food, but “failed” to return the rate to its lower levels. At the same time, the legislature decided that illegal, insane, and unsafe fireworks were no longer so categorized, in order to collect sales tax on them. Ultimately, the economy recovered and these temporary, unjust taxes were repealed. Republican Governor John Spellman did not recover; however, and was defeated by Pierce County Executive Booth Gardner in November 1984. We haven’t had a Republican governor in the quarter century since. Today the sales tax rate ranges from 8.6% to 10.0% for most of King and Pierce Counties, but is around 18% for auto rentals and lodging in King County.

Washington’s B&O tax is another worst in the nation. Businesses pay the tax as a percentage of gross receipts/revenue, rather than on net income/profit. This nasty tax adds to the burden of struggling businesses, particularly during trying economic times as we face today. Even during a boom economy, the B&O tax discourages the creation of new businesses. It’s difficult enough to start a business, with many being unprofitable for the first one to three years. Yet entrepreneurs in Washington must pay B&O taxes even when suffering a loss. On top of the state B&O tax, some Washington cities also impose their own B&O tax. If you ever wonder why so many auto dealers moved from Tacoma to Fife, the Tacoma B&O tax is partially to blame. Fife does not impose a B&O tax. Since autos have high dollar value, regardless of profit margin, a B&O tax amounts to significant overhead regardless of business profit or loss.

In recent years I became aware of the shocking quantity and towering dollar value of the corporate welfare bestowed by the legislature, primarily during the 1990’s. Unfortunately, I failed to copy the article or write down the amounts, but wished I had. These legislative actions amounted to numerous tax holidays, tax reductions, and other tax breaks, granted to specific business categories or industries. *[Note: It is illegal to grant tax breaks to individual businesses or individuals.]* While tax regressivity continued and worsened, powerful business organizations and groups that lobbied effectively did very well at the feeding trough. Those without influence in Olympia didn’t fare so well, whether small businesses or individuals. Additionally, states, counties, and cities enter into “bidding wars” with other states, counties, and cities, in order to attract or retain businesses that effectively play the game. Indeed, when corporate welfare is doled out, other businesses and individuals must pay more in order to make up for the largesse. Preferential tax breaks need to be eliminated, except to aid in times of disaster for affected businesses, such as in the aftermath of 9/11. Otherwise taxes should be equitable and as low as possible while preserving services.

By the late 1990’s, Tim Eyman surfaced amid widespread frustration among the electorate. Despite a boom economy at the time, Tim Eyman had a major victory with I-695 in 1999. There’s no denying the fact that this frustration has provided Eyman’s momentum for more than a decade now. In addition to worsening the regressivity, Eyman’s victories have also further fragmented the nation’s most broken tax system. Yet, he is filing another initiative today, with a strong prospect of winning in November.

Despite the tax revolts, I still hear individuals and conservative talk radio hosts state that “Washington is the second highest taxed state, per capita.” This is untrue, but the myth persists, mostly due to repetition of extremely misleading “facts”. In fact, they are including federal income taxes in their “calculations”. Given that several of the world’s richest individuals and families are Washington residents, combined with Washington’s relatively small population, the federal income tax per capita is very high. No state has any control over federal taxes. So, Washington actually ranks between 20 and 25 for highest state and local tax burden, depending on year.

The “simple” sales tax has become rather complicated and steep. As consumers, we just pay what the register calculates. But for businesses, whether large or small, the varying, multiple, and frequently adjusted rates amount to no small administrative burden. I worked in finance and administration, for a large telecommunications company in Seattle during the early 1990’s. I was shocked and appalled at how much time, energy, and money was consumed and wasted by the collection and payment of sales taxes. We now have multiple sales tax rates within one locality, further complicating collection and payment of sales taxes.

As I write this, the 2010 legislative session begins today, 11 January. Our state faces another \$2.6 billion shortfall, on top of last year’s \$8.9 billion that was largely “filled” with one-time federal stimulus funds. We are told draconian budget cuts are in order, unless the sales tax is raised across the board, or taxes are raised on specific items, such as tobacco products, candy and gum, bottled water, and/or pastries. I have yet to hear a word about eliminating the numerous tax breaks that were given to special interests. Perhaps Washington’s corporate welfare is granted without specific parameters and requirements. In other states, local and state governments have already begun take backs on corporate tax breaks. While the tax breaks have not been eliminated, corporations that received them are being held, at long last, to the terms of the agreements, which frequently include employment levels. Here’s a link to a recent Associated Press article, “*Cities, counties take back corporate tax breaks*” that goes into some detail:
http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/us_tax_fights

Republicans, whether politicians, talk show hosts, or everyday citizens *correctly* point out that Democrats have been able to pass whatever they want these past few years, owing to control of the legislature with a super majority along with a Democrat governor. Likewise, Republicans *correctly* state that Democrats failed to deal with underlying budget issues when times were better, which added to the devastation of the Great Recession’s effects. While none of us would sanely expect a major overhaul of Washington’s taxation system in this year’s 60-day session, we do expect far better over the long run than we have witnessed. Yet, ideas offered by the governor and legislators amount to a Candy and Cookie Assessment (CACA). It is a slippery slope from CACA to taxing all food. Will potato chips, crackers, sugary cereals, and cheese be up for grabs in the 2011 session? Additionally, repeated increases of taxes on alcohol and tobacco have not reduced consumption. Reducing rates of obesity and Type 2 diabetes are worthy goals, but CACA is not the answer. As with efforts to reduce alcohol and tobacco consumption, raising awareness through education is a far better tactic. Unless the governor and legislators first address the preferential corporate welfare grants, there is no justification for worsening the shamefully regressive tax policies of Washington State. We don’t need CACA.

Ron Weigelt’s Editorial on Bank Reform

In the 1980s and 1990s a total of 747 savings and loan (S&L) associations failed as their real estate investments crashed, costing taxpayers \$125 billion in bailout money. The latest financial crisis suggests we missed an important lesson about the “moral hazard” of insuring already troubled institutions with public dollars. By insuring risk, we encouraged desperate S&L owners to engage in ever more risky investments, knowing that if they were successful, the institution would be saved, and if unsuccessful, their depositors would still be bailed out.

In October 2008, the Bush administration and the republican controlled congress passed the \$700 billion bailout for our large banks. The bailout was the result of ever more risky and speculative real estate investments. While \$700 billion is a huge number, the speculation in real estate which caused this bailout is miniscule compared to the speculation in derivatives. In November 2009, Senator Maria Cantwell (TNT November 29th) expressed concern about the \$600 trillion derivatives market. This is an unparalleled financial threat. Derivative investments were described as investor side bets on a wide range of items including whether people will default on subprime mortgages or whether oil prices will go up or down.

I recently read that the five largest US banks (the ones we bailed out) have over \$200 trillion invested in the derivatives market. We cannot afford a bailout of that magnitude. We need to identify and determine the real

value of derivatives before we give banks and institutions more tax dollars. With banks pumping hundreds of millions of dollars into congress to keep real bank and credit card reforms from going into place, it is critical that everyone tell their congressional leaders that real financial reforms must take place despite the lobbying money.

"We view them as time bombs both for the parties that deal in them and the economic system ... In our view ... derivatives are financial weapons of mass destruction, carrying dangers that, while now latent, are potentially lethal." - Warren Buffett

As I See It—VOTED FOR FDR, GOT CLINTON

By Craig Sanders

This is a plea for President Obama to reject the Clinton policies of the 90's and return the Democratic Party to the role of championing "We the People". For the last 30 years, we have had conservative rule that is killing the Middle-Class. Now, the United States is headed for multiple crises and I feel that if we don't reverse course soon (it may already be too late), we're going to end up being a third world country.

When Bill Clinton was president, he changed the course of the Democratic Party from looking out for "We the People" to a party that would be viewed as not as bad as the Republican Party. Clinton's dubious achievements include getting the Republican-backed NAFTA passed (thanks, in part, to Clinton-Administration-era Rahm Emanuel), passing the Telecommunications Act, which allowed corporations to own more television and radio stations in the same area and also gutting the Welfare program (remember the end of big government as we know it?). As every Democrat knows, the Republican Party is the party of Big Business and the wealthy elites. They have never, to my knowledge, enacted any legislation of which "We the People" were the primary beneficiaries. Name one social program that the Republicans sponsored that benefitted "We the People". Sure, they passed small benefits to the people while simultaneously cutting taxes in a huge way for the wealthy, but that's not what I'm talking about. Anyway, the Democratic Party became Republican-lite, paying lip-service to the progressive/liberal wing of the party, while sucking-up to Big Business for donations. I can understand why they did it. After all running an (re-)election campaign when publicly-financed elections are not available can be a very expensive undertaking. So, why not tell the left wing of the Democratic Party what they want to hear while courting the moneyed interests for campaign donations. After all, where are the liberals/progressives going to go? In a predominantly two-party system, their only choice is to vote Democratic (the lesser of two evils).

Thus far, President Obama appears to be taking the same direction as Bill Clinton. I feel that, at this critical time in our nation's history, we need a statesman and not a politician. A statesman will do whatever is best for the whole of the country, with no regard for their personal political career. Several members of Congress come to mind: congressman Anthony Weiner, Alan Grayson and Henry Waxman, Senators Bernie Sanders, Feingold and Joe Lieberman (just kidding), just to name a few. I feel that these people would give anything for this country to be saved. A politician, on the other hand, makes the easy choices of status quo and is only interested in re-election. I don't see President Obama making the hard, uncomfortable choices, for which he would receive great criticism from the Right. Unfortunately, it looks as though he's going to be criticized by the Right regardless of what he does. It's beginning to look like, as Gore Vidal says, the Democrats and the Republicans are just two wings of the same party. Both parties seem to be serving at the pleasure of multinational corporations. I liken the Democrats and the Republicans as Good cop, Bad Cop. The Republican Party (Bad Cops) uses their wealth and power to obtain more wealth and power. When they get too arrogant or have too many scandals, they are voted out by the people and the Democrats (Good Cops) are voted in. But the Democrats have the same agenda; by currying favor with the multinational corporations, they, too, will ignore the will of "We the People" to provide more wealth and power for the elites.

Take health care, for instance. When the debate about health care began, Senator Max Baucus (millions from health care industry) would not even acknowledge the existence of single-payer health care. Single-payer health care would have saved the United States billions (with a b) of dollars each year. Yet, because of this Democrat in name only (DINO), the public never heard about its great advantages. So now, at

the end of the debate, we have a bill that will enrich the already rich medical industries, while harming the general public. And this bill will forever be tied to the Democrats.

Maybe other people are right; President Obama is playing chess, not checkers. I sure hope they're right. I see nothing that indicates to me that he's playing anything at all. President Obama seems to only be worried about re-election. I find this ironic when, if he would only start talking about and doing things for "We the People", I feel that he would be re-elected in another landslide.

One of the first things that he should have done is to talk about stemming the flow of jobs overseas. I find it ironic that people seemed to be okay with off-shoring blue-collar jobs until it became obvious that the next jobs to go overseas were going to be massive white-collar jobs. Suddenly, when it was the upper middle-class that was being destroyed, people finally understood what others were already concerned about.

With very few exceptions, every other country has installed barriers to imports. The United States needs to put up barriers. We need to keep the money that we spend here in the United States. If we don't, eventually nobody will have any money to buy anything because nobody will have a job and the economy will collapse. The only groups that will complain will be the multinational corporations and the very poor (because Wal-Mart is the only place that they can afford now). Because of the very poor, this process would have to be implemented gradually. I have not heard of anything that President Obama has done to return jobs to the United States. The stimulus was just a band-aid for job loss (and it also had tax breaks for the rich). People on the right call this protectionism. I call it survival.

We need bold action and we need it soon. Maintaining the status quo is just postponing disaster. I believe that bold action is just what the public has been waiting for. This chance may never come again. The Democrats control both the House and the Senate. This may change in 2010. Unfortunately, I'm afraid that President Obama has spent or lost much of his political capital. If it does, then the opportunity is lost. I'm afraid that the democrats are going to pay for the direction that President Obama is headed.

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	

8th CD Representative-Dave Reichert (R)

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

9th CD Representative-Adam Smith (D)

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

State Senator-31st LD

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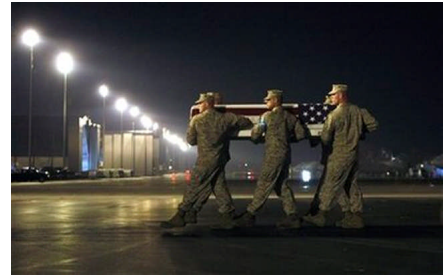
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Occupation Statistics (<http://www.antiwar.com/casualties>)

4,373 US Military Deaths (Iraq)
956 US Military Deaths (Afghanistan)
31,613 US Military Wounded (Iraq)
151,000-1,366,350 Iraq Civilian Deaths



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 at our monthly meeting or mail it in (31st District Democrats, 20825 SR 410 E #130, Bonney Lake, WA 98391). You can pay 2010 dues now or later by check (made out to 31st District Democrats) or on-line by credit card. Dues are \$31 per year (January-December), but members can pay what they can afford with a minimum of \$5.

NAME _____
Street Address _____
Mailing Address (if different from above) _____
Telephone # _____
Email _____
Occupation _____
Employer _____