



September 2011 Chair's Report

Rosemary Quesenberry and Emily Willoughby did a wonderful job purchasing and preparing the food for our August picnic. The music by Gary Kanter and friends was really good as well. He has unfortunately not formally recorded my favorite, the one about making America what we tell our kids it is, but he has a rough version up on YouTube. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QcnOAccPk8U> To engage his group, contact www.garykanter.com or gary@garykanter.com

I'm sorry to inform all of you that long-time PCO recruiter Larry Grubb is struggling with inoperable brain cancer. There may be treatments available. He is at the Queen Anne Health Care Center, 2717 Dexter Ave N, 98109. Visits from friends are most welcome between 2-4pm daily. The front desk number is 206-284-7012, and his personal phone is 206-301-3984. The bus trip to the Elwha Dam restoration that Larry was organizing is obviously off, but Jim Flynn will keep the room at the Red Lion for a hospitality Suite on September 16-17. Contact him at james.flynn@comcast.net for more information.

The WSDCC quarterly meeting will be in Bellingham on September 16-17. Those of us who are participate in the Fiestas Patrias parade in South Park, and that is being held on the 17th also. Our former chair Suzie Sheary has volunteered to organize those of us still in town to participate. Contact her at shearystc@gmail.com to participate in this very festive and colorful event. The following will be our introduction to Senator Prentice.

"And, now the 11th District Democrats who participate in many festivals and fairs around the sound, proudly present their great State Senator, Margarita Prentice, in SeaMar's Fiestas Patrias. She is accompanied by 2012 Legislative Candidate Bobby Virk and several volunteers. For over twenty years, Senator Prentice has served the people in this district with honor and pride. She is there for you – she is there for me. Please join us in celebrating the life and times of our great lady, Margarita!

Upcoming programs

*****11th Legislative District Democrats General Membership meeting September 20, 2011 – 7:00pm at Carpenters Hall, 231 Burnett Ave N, Renton, WA 98057. DINNER SERVED AT 6:30PM. Stir fry beef with noodles for just \$6.00!**

We will consider more endorsements for initiatives and candidates. <http://11thliddems.org/blog/2011/06/2011-endorsements/> We rely on the King County Democrats questionnaire. Candidate responses can be found on the King County Democrats website <http://wa-demchairs.org/kcdems/2011/endorsements.php>

The executive board has recommended that we use the Click and Pledge system for online donations. A big advantage will be that membership can be paid with monthly donations (minimum \$5). Managing membership this way would require that we change the definition of "member" in our bylaws to allow dues payment over an extended period of time. This was introduced and discussed in July, and we will be taking a final vote.

Meeting after the meeting

Does the break seem too short to finish conversations with people you meet? People who don't have to get up early and don't have other places to be right away adjourn to The Rock Restaurant at the Renton Landing to knock back a few. To get to 830 N 10th St, just go north on Burnett Ave, turn left on 4th St and then right onto Logan Ave. Turn right at 10th St and the restaurant is on the left side of the street.

Martha Koester
Chair, 11th Legislative District Democrat

GO DEMS!!

**Welcome to the
11th Legislative Democratic Organization**

**You are Invited to attend the
Monthly Meetings and engage in democracy in action!
Your dues enable you to receive the district newsletter,
help us defer our meeting expenses, and support our efforts on
behalf of Democratic candidates. We provide or participate actively
in fun and informative opportunities to reach out to
Democrats and other voters in the 11th District.**

**Your volunteer efforts will further our goal
of active members in all of the
11th District precincts.**

We welcome you!

2011— 2013 11th Legislative District Democratic Organization Executive Board

Officers				
Chair	Martha	Koester	206-762-6417	chair@11thliddems.org
Vice-Chair	Marvin	Rosete	425-255-2009	vicechair@11thliddems.org
Treasurer	Shirley	Gaunt-Smith	425-255-1303	treasurer@11thliddems.org
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WSDCC - Female	Kate	Kruller	206-853-9330	wsdccscw@11thliddems.org
KCDCC – Male	James	Flynn	425-221-0883	jim.flynn@bensenville.com
KCDCC - Female	Rosemary	Quesenberry	425-271-4396	running4renton@msn.com
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KCDCC - LAC	Don	Bennett	206-242-9113	bennettdonebe@aol.com
Appointments				
Programs				
Parliamentarian	Vacant			bwdonckers@gmail.com
Raffle	Azziem	Underwood	425-430-2652	meizza@yahoo.com
Membership Retention	George	Summers	206-244-0632	g.e.summers@worldnet.att.net
Webmaster	Robert	Kangas	206-554-1691	webmaster@11thliddems.org
PCO Activities	Grubb	Larry	206-243-3199	pcoevents@11thliddems.org
Newsletter Editor	Young	Virginia	206-650-0240	newsletter@11thliddems.org

TREASURER



Please Send in Your 2011 Membership Dues Now
(Make checks payable to the 11th District Democrats)

11th District Democrats
PO BOX 1133
Renton, WA. 98057-1133



Memberships:

___ Regular Membership \$15.00	___ Family Membership	\$27.00
___ Captain Membership \$50.00	___ Living Lightly	\$6.00
___ Liberty Membership \$100.00	___ Silver Membership	\$250.00
___ Family Sponsorship \$100.00	___ Platinum Membership	\$1,000.00
___ Gold Membership \$500.00		

NAME _____

(Please list all household names joining if membership is for Family or Sponsor)

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Employer _____

City: _____ State: _____

Occupation _____

We now have online payment with Click and Pledge. You can make one-time only payments or pledge a minimum of \$5/month. See our website for details. <http://www.11thlddems.org/blog/>

Send to: 11th District Democrats c/o Treasurer:

PO BOX 1133, Renton, WA. 98057-1133

The U.S. Public School System Needs Reform---But What Kind of Reform?

By Marlene Allbright, 11th LD Democrats member and experienced teacher
(continued from last month)

CHARTER SCHOOLS

Since “No Child Left Behind” (NCLB) was passed by Congress in 2001, charter schools have been sprouting up all over. The idea behind charter schools is a good one. The charter school gets public funding, and the people who run the charter school can use the public funding any way they choose, they can pay teachers what they want, hire and fire at their discretion without unions interfering, and teach whatever curriculum they want. Here’s the problem: Charter schools are not being run by altruistic, educational visionaries, they are being run by hedge fund managers. It’s big business. If they can increase their bottom line, they can invest in more charter schools, make a bigger profit, and then create a documentary like “Waiting for Superman,” that extols the virtues of “designer” charter schools that have been heavily financed by the hedge fund managers to look good. Most of the charter schools don’t make it past five years. The turnover is high because the staff isn’t paid enough, and in many cases, they are not as well organized as most public schools. Charter schools are being pushed by the League of Education Voters (LEV), Eli Broad, (The Broad Foundation), Bill Gates, Wendy Kopp (Teach for America), and of course Arne Duncan, our Secretary of Education—who by the way, never taught school. As time goes on, the evidence is showing that the luster is starting to wear off the popularity of charter schools. Here’s an article from the Orlando Sentinel with results from data taken from Florida charter schools.

http://blogs.orlandosentinel.com/news_politics/2011/07/charter-schools-getting-more-fs-than-public-peers.html

TEACH FOR AMERICA

Wendy Kopp started Teach For America (TFA) in 1990. After an initial grant from Exxon Mobil, TFA started recruiting new Ivy League college graduates to “teach” in rural and urban schools with teaching shortages. These graduates were not teaching majors, but mostly liberal arts majors that fit the profile for what TFA was looking for; young, eager and positive individuals with limitless energy. The problem is, they had no training to be teachers. Today, TFA has an operating budget of over \$100 million dollars. There is also an army of corporate missionaries ready and willing to support the cause. We seem to see the same names over and over again, Eli Broad, Bill Gates, Richard Barth (Kipp Charter Schools), The Walton Family, and Goldman Sachs, to name a few corporate missionaries who have given millions to TFA and charter schools.

Secretary of Education Arne Duncan’s Race to the Top initiative approaches student underachievement with the same methods as George W Bush’s No Child Left Behind but in a more creatively financed, high-stakes game for school districts. The \$4.5 billion program entices cash-strapped localities to compete for federal monies by placing test scores, teachers, principals and superintendents in the crosshairs, tying student achievement to cash.

<http://bobsidethoughtsandmusings.wordpress.com/2011/07/07/the-atlanta-cheating-scandal-the-broad-foundation-nclb-and-the-peril-of-attaching-cash-to-student-test-scores/>

The League for Education Voters, [LEV](#), that same Broad-backed, [Gates’ funded organization](#) that brought us Kevin Johnson, a big proponent of charter schools who spoke to a mostly African-American audience in an African-American church in Seattle and by the way, the only event that was not held at the MOHAI Museum, Steve Barth with KIPP, and my personal favorite, [Ben Austin](#) with the Parent Trigger, is now sponsoring an evening with Wendy Kopp, the founder of Teach for America, Inc. (TFA), to extol the virtues of her organization.

Sue and I have written on this blog about Teach for America, Inc. and how recruits recently graduated from college are used to populate charter schools with cheap labor after five weeks of training to work specifically in low-poverty schools for two years before continuing on in their chosen professions which is usually not in the field of education. The privatizers call this the panacea that will cure all that ails the educational system in our country, that and charter schools.

Note from Martha: If you would like to work against the harmful trends that Marlene has described for us in the last two issues of the newsletter, check out Parents Across America at www.parentsacrossamerica.org

Upcoming events

September 12, 2011

Mary Alice Heuschel General Election Kickoff

So-sponsored by State Senator Margarita Prentice and Renton Mayor Denis Law

Torero's Mexican Restaurant
10707 SE Carr Rd
Renton, WA 98055
5:30-7:30 pm

September 13, 2011

Evergreen Democratic Club meets at Angelo's Restaurant
Burien, WA

11:30am-1:00pm

Discussion of ballot initiatives.

September 19, 2011

Infrastructure Financing Task Force
Chaired by Representative Bob Hasegawa
Olympia, 9:00am

For more information contact
Legislative Aide Marissa Chavez
360-786-7862

September 21, 2011



Physicians for a National Health Program meets from 7:00PM-9:00PM at Swedish/Cherry Hill Campus Conference Center Auditorium
<http://www.pnhpwesternwashington.org/>
pnhp.westernwashington@comcast.net

September 27, 2011

King County Democratic Central Committee
7:00PM at Renton Carpenters Hall



Don't let Congress Eliminate Medicare!
www.saveourmedicare.org

Support your local city council candidates by donating and volunteering

Kate Kruller for Tukwila City Council
<http://www.kate4tukwila.com/>

Robin Jones for Renton City Council
<http://www.robinjonesforrentoncitycouncil.com/>

Abshir Mahamed for Tukwila City Council
(no website donations yet—send checks made out to Friends of Abshir Mahamed
14440 International Blvd bldg # 2
Tukwila, WA 98168

(Not to slight our Seattle endorsed candidates, but most are incumbents with plenty of money. Those of you in Seattle please check our website for endorsements and candidate information.)

Representative Bob Hasegawa Honored by the Washington State Labor Council as a Legislator of the Year

<http://www.thestand.org/2011/08/wslc-posts-convention-videos-resolutions/>

At the convention, the WSLC honored three lawmakers with its 2011 Legislators of the Year Awards: Sen. Steve Conway (D-Tacoma), and Reps. Mike Sells (D-Everett) and Bob Hasegawa (D-Seattle). It also presented special legislative awards to eight freshman Democratic state representatives who stood united in support of working families' issues and earned 100% voting records from the council: Andy Billig of Spokane, Joe Fitzgibbon of Seattle, Connie Ladenburg of Tacoma, Kris Lytton of Bellingham, Luis Moscoso of Everett, Chris Reykdal of Olympia, Cindy Ryu of Shoreline, and Derek Stanford of Everett.

Tell the SuperCongress NO CUTS to Medicare, Medicaid or Social Security!

The committee of 12 who are charged with coming up with a deficit cutting plan by November 23, 2011 consists of six Democrats and six Republicans. Although the attacks on our lifelines are the work of Republicans, Democrats have at best mounted a very wobbly compromise-laden defense to date. (However, while not all Democrats are reliable defenders, the **ONLY** representatives who have been defenders of our lifelines so far) have been Democrats.) Still, assume **that damaging cuts will indeed happen unless you make the every one of the following 12 people aware of your opinions—as often as possible!**

Rep. Jim Clyburn (D-SC)
2135 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202)225-3315
Fax: (202)225-2313

Rep. Xavier Becerra (D-CA)
1226 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: 202-225-6235
Fax: 202-225-2202

Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MA)
1707 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: (202) 225-5341
Fax: (202) 225-0375

Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT)
511 Hart Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-2651
Fax: (202) 224-9412

Sen. John Kerry (D-MA)
218 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington D.C. 20510
(202) 224-2742
No fax number

Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA)
448 Russell Senate Office Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: (202) 224-2621
Fax: (202) 224-0238

Rep. Jeb Hensarling (R-TX)
129 Cannon House Office Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: (202) 225-3484
Fax: (202) 226-4888

Rep. Dave Camp (R-MI)
341 Cannon House Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-3561
Fax: 202-225-9679

Rep. Fred Upton (R-MI)
2183 Rayburn House Office Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: (202) 225-3761
Fax: (202) 225-4986

Sen. Jon Kyl (R-AZ)
730 Hart Senate Office Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: (202) 224-4521
Fax: (202) 224-2207

Sen. Pat Toomey (R-PA)
502 Hart Senate Office Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: (202) 224-4254
Fax: (202) 228-0284

Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH)
338 Russell Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: 202-224-3353
No fax number

Free faxes!

<http://faxzero.com/> <http://www.gotfreefax.com/>

Email, for obvious reasons, is restricted to constituents. Phones and faxes are not. For critical issues, consider adding faxes to your activist arsenal. Sometimes staff will ask your address when you call. If you are not in the district of the representative you call, explain that you are calling about his/her role in the SuperCongress, not as a member of the particular district.

A note on free faxes: they must be from a valid email address. When you send a fax, they send it first to your email address and give you a link to click on. Only clicking the link you got by email will send the fax. **Limit 2 per day, no more than 3 pages.** For \$10/month you can send more faxes and more pages. If you want to ramp up your activities as an online activist, and can afford it, this would be a good investment.

Talking points

Do NOT raise the Medicare eligibility age from 65 to 67. This would be a **de facto death sentence** for all too many people, and it won't even save money. That's because people will postpone medical care, and when they finally become eligible, they will be sicker and more expensive to treat.

Do NOT raise the Social Security retirement age to 69 or 70, or the age at which one can collect benefits from 62 to 64. All too many people over age 55 have been forced from the labor market involuntarily, and are spending their retirement savings on survival in the hope of hanging on until they reach 62.

Do NOT cut Medicaid. This will require the states to cut people from the program and reduce provider payment rates. 70% of people in nursing homes are now on Medicaid. What will happen to them if they can no longer get it?

Do NOT make existing inadequate Social Security cost of living increases even more inadequate by using the chained CPI calculation method. This works like compound interest, only in reverse. Instead of getting richer over time, you get poorer.

Currently, those earning more than \$106,500/year pay no Social Security taxes (FICA) on income above that level. **DO raise or eliminate the FICA cap.** This will make Social Security solvent for 75 years.

DO eliminate the Bush tax cuts, a primary cause of the deficit. Raise taxes further on the wealthiest. Eliminate the capital gains tax break.

DO enact a policy for Medicare Part D which allows the government to negotiate drug prices.

Will you commit to a weekly phone or fax to members of the SuperCongress? Please contact Martha Koester at fomalhaut@yahoo.com for more information.

11th LD Democrats Picnic—August 28, 2011

Rosemary marinated the steaks, and Robert kept busy broiling them along with hot dogs



Robert and Roxanne with Kate Kruller.



Bob Hasegawa, Suzie Sheary and the 33rd LD Democrats PCO organizer. There has been some seriously nasty stuff from Tea Party candidates for the SeaTac City Council.

Endorsed candidate Othman Heibe, a young man whose parents immigrated from Somalia, had his campaign posters defaced with pictures of the burning World Trade Center. He did not make it through the primary.

This viciousness needs to be nipped in the bud. If you can help out with Democratic city council campaigns in SeaTac, please contact the 33rd Legislative District Democrats.

<http://33rddistrictdemocrats.org/category/political-action/>



Azziem, Kate, Pam Carter, a guest, and Marvin.



Our representative Zach Hudgins brought pictures of the supercute newborn Sebastian Guintana Hudgins. Congratulations to mom and dad!

Keep Valley Medical Center Public Elect Dr. Mary Alice Heuschel as Commissioner of Public Hospital District #1

What is a Public Hospital District?

Public hospital districts are governmental entities established by Washington State statute. The legislature granted local communities the authority to create hospital districts in 1945. Today, nearly one-half of Washington's 90 hospitals are part of public hospital districts. **Valley Medical Center—Public Hospital District No. 1—is the oldest and largest in Washington**, encompassing the cities of Kent, Renton, two-thirds of Tukwila, and portions of Auburn, Black Diamond, Covington, Federal Way, Maple Valley, Newcastle and Seattle. The oldest and largest of the 56 hospital districts in the state of Washington, it operates Valley Medical Center, serving greater South King County.

Public hospital districts fulfill a vital role in the state's healthcare system. Without them many people would be unable to receive healthcare in their own communities. Hospital districts are authorized not only to operate a hospital, but to deliver any service to help people stay healthy—physically, socially, and mentally. Because they're owned and governed by local citizens, hospital districts tailor their services to meet the unique needs of their individual communities. It is this community-based mission that defines and distinguishes hospital districts from other healthcare entities.

South King County has some of the most medically vulnerable people in the county, and healthcare already is a luxury for many of them. They need responsive leadership taking their best interests to heart, even if their decisions aren't the most profitable ones. 40% of emergency room patients at Valley are not insured.

Dr. Heuschel stands for

- **Keeping Valley Medical public and open to all. Her opponents are comfortable with or explicit advocates of selling off this critical public asset in bits and pieces.**
- **Effective development of the recent strategic alliance with UW Medicine, which will provide greater access to many types of specialty care. Her opponents are lukewarm about or actively opposed to this alliance.**
- **Responsible, transparent accounting of the Valley Medical Center budget, including the South King County taxpayer dollars which provide 2% of that budget.**

This election is not about who has the cutest kids, or who has put in the most hours of public service, though Dr. Heuschel's family is lovely and she has an extensive history of exemplary public involvement, as indicated by her recent naming by public school superintendents as the 2011 Washington State Superintendent of the Year.

This election is about keeping a critically important public asset public, and strengthening and improving it.

The candidate who has pledged to keep the hospital public is behind the candidate who wants to sell off the assets of Public hospital district #1. In order to win in the general election in a low-turnout odd-numbered year, Dr. Heuschel needs financial support and volunteers to doorbell and phone bank.

electmaryalice@yahoo.com

<http://www.electmaryalice.com/contribute.aspx>

Elect Mary Alice
PO Box 1185
Renton, WA 98057

Official Call
11th Legislative District Monthly Meeting
Tuesday July 19th, 2011 - 7:00 p.m.
Renton Carpenters Hall- 231 Burnett Avenue North
Proposed Agenda

Stir fried beef with noodles
6:30 P.M.— just \$6.00

- 7:00 pm
Call to Order
Flag Salute
- 7:05 p.m.
Approve Past Minutes
Approve Agenda
- 7:10 pm
Vote on bylaws amendment to change membership requirements to reflect monthly online donations via Click and Pledge. We discussed this at the July meeting. Approval of board recommended candidate donations.
- 7:20 pm
Brief report on Elwha River by Jim Flynn
- 7:30
Resolution on biofuels presented by Toby Thaler, policy director for the 46th LD Democrats
- 8:00 p.m. Break
- 8:10 p.m.
Presentation by Yes on 1163 campaign, which would provide training and FBI background checks for home care workers. More information at www.yes1163.com. Endorsement vote.
Liz Giba for North Highline Fire Commissioner
- 8:20 p.m.
Brief Officer and Committee Reports
- 8:45 p.m. - Raffle Prizes
8:50 p.m. - Good of the Order
9:00 p.m. - Adjourn

The 11th District Journal is published on a monthly basis as a means of notice of general membership meetings. It is published and distributed 10 days preceding general meetings pursuant to District Bylaws.

11th District Democrats
PO BOX 1133
Renton, WA. 98057-1133

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