

Yamhill County
DEMOCRATS

The Democrat Leader

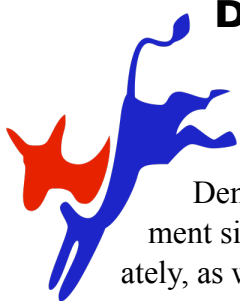
February 2007 Newsletter

Looking Forward — Strategy for 2008, 2010

As we look forward to the next elections, both will be very important. The next presidential is in 2008, and will obviously be highly motivating, but we will also have state-wide races for Secretary of State, and a number of other positions. 2010 is also important because it is a census year, meaning that redistricting will happen in 2011. In anticipation of redistricting, it is critical that Democrats hold key roles and that the Secretary of State be a fair-minded to ensure appropriate representation of citizens for the next 10-year cycle.

As interesting as many of those races will be, two races stand out for Yamhill County Democrats in 2008: County Commissioner #2 (currently held by Republican Leslie Lewis) and HD 24 (currently held by Republican Donna Nelson) — these are both seats that Yamhill County determines entirely. There is no other organization to depend on for these races.

Democrats Strong Out the Gate!



Both in the Oregon legislature and the national congress,

Democrats met their goals to implement significant ethics reform immediately, as well as other top items. It is a sad commentary on out-of-touch, Big Money Republican rule that these included things that often 70 - 80% of American's approve of, like increasing the minimum wage. Republicans let themselves be run by a "majority of the majority" — in other words a minority! Especially telling were the comments by

some Republican representatives that they were expecting to have more of a voice now that Democrats are in control than when their own party was in control!

But this should be a cautionary tale for Democrats that we must stay focused on the ends (bettering people lives) unlike Republicans who focused on the means (power to get and stay in office; letting problems fester).

Open Officer Position: Treasurer

Regrettably, for family reasons Stephanie had to resign as Treasurer. Nancy Wills has agreed to step up

as interim Treasurer — again! — while we look for a long-term replacement. She was elected by the Executive Committee acting in place of the Membership, per the bylaws because of the urgency of identifying a replacement to avoid filing fines from the State this month.

We are looking for a permanent Treasurer. The Treasurer is a member of the Executive Committee, and the job involves:

- **Keeping the books**, which is recording contributions and expenditures, using the online system provided by the Secretary of State's office.
- **Enjoys the detail work** of keeping an organization on track financially is what's necessary.
- Should be able to make a **two-year commitment**.
- Has authority to **write checks** up to \$xx, then requires a co-signer.
- **Attend meetings** of the Executive Committee (2nd Tuesday at 6pm) and the Monthly Meetings (1st Thursday, 6pm).

Open Officer Position: Secretary

After..., Vince Lowe has decided to step down as Secretary, which he has performed admirably for us. Per the bylaws, the Secretary shall:

- Record the **minutes** of all YCDCC and Executive Committee Meetings;
- **File records** of the YCDCC;
- Service as a **member** of the Committee on Rules and Organization.
- **Mail notices** of YCDCC meetings so that they are received six days before the next meeting;
- Perform "**courtesies and issue communications**" as directed by the YCDCC, including notice of resolutions passed, to the officials concerned.

New State Campaign Finance System

Will Neuhauser, Chair, and Nancy Wills, Treasurer, attended a campaign finance training session by the

Secretary of State's office to bring people up to speed on the new online campaign finance reporting system ([PDF](#)) — now being used by the Yamhill County Democrats — for political parties, PACs and candidates.

The system allows us to manage all elements of the contributions and expenses [online](#) in one system, with direct reporting to the state.

Search the campaign finance public records at: <https://secure.sos.state.or.us/eim/jsp/CEMainPage.jsp>

—Will Neuhauser, Chair

Website Update

Our website, <http://www.ycdemocrats.com> has had a minor update. You can now download the **bylaws**, recent **newsletters**, manage your **subscription** (postal/email newsletter, address and other contact info, etc., **contribute online** and see the draft **mission** statement.

Draft Mission Statement

A draft mission statement with roles, guiding principles, vision and candidate statement can be found online at

<http://www.ycdemocrats.org/files/YCD%20Mission.pdf>

The draft mission statement is:

Our mission is to better people's lives by having a responsible government that works in the common interest. We accomplish that by electing Democrats to offices that represent Yamhill County because we share values & principles about the roles of government.

Membership Management

You can now update/add your membership information online. Working with the Democratic Party of Oregon, we've put all our various databases together online. While it may take a while to get all the bugs (and duplicates!) out, this will simplify and centralize the information going forward. You can join or modify yours from <http://www.ycdemocrats.com>.

Once you are in and your address is correct, you can use the system to find out all of your state and federal elected officials are.

2008 Seats

Following are seats up for election in 2008, with incumbent noted unless term-limited out.

Yamhill County:

County Commissioner #2 — Leslie Lewis

State:

Secretary of State — open

SD 5..... *Area west of Willamina; coast south past Coos Bay* ([map](#))

Joanne Verger (D)

SD 12..... *Most of Yamhill County, except for noted portions of Districts 05 and 13* ([map](#))

Gary George (R)

HD 24..... *Yamhill County excl. Newberg, Sheridan, Willamina and points west* ([map](#))

Donna Nelson (R)

HD 23.... *Polk County plus Sheridan and Willamina* ([map](#))

Brian Boquist (R)

HD 25..... *Keizer up through Newberg* ([map](#))

Kim Thatcher (R)

HD 10.... *Coast and western Yamhill County* ([map](#))

Jean Cowan (D)

Federal:

Congressional District 1 — David Wu (D)

Senate — Gordon Smith (R)

President — open

State Party Notes

Frank Nelson and Will Neuhauser attended the State Central Committee meeting December 2, 2006 in Portland. After some discussion, new bylaws were adopted that streamlined a number of things and cre-

ated a mechanism for the SCC to take action on resolutions involving lobbying, etc. Some good recaps of the last election and very positive statistics on the increased ability to get “drop-offs” — Democrats that “drop off” from voting in between presidential election years — to vote in 2006.

The next Democratic State Central Committee meeting is March 10 in Salem, to elect new officers.

Delegates to the committee are Will Neuhauser, Frank Nelson and Debbie Groff; alternate delegates are Tim Duerfeldt, Debbie Runciman and Jill Poyer.

Senator Wyden’s Yamhill Townhall

Senator Ron Wyden held a townhall in Newberg on Saturday, January 6. He took questions, covering Iraq, immigration, healthcare, taxes, trade and more.

A few highlights: **On Iraq**, he was clear that he still opposes the war and thinks that escalation will only make things worse, that giving the Iraqis withdrawal pressure may cause them to stand up but escalation won’t help. **On healthcare** he touched on his plan, which would bring congressional-style healthcare to all. **On immigration**, he noted we have to enforce the borders, enforce the law (including employers that knowingly hire illegals) and work with the economic reality that, especially in agriculture the works aren’t available at an economic price except for immigrants.

Book Review: *All Together Now, Common Sense for a Fair Economy*



In “[Crashing the Gate](#)”, Jerome Armstrong and Markos Moulisas Zuniga have written an energizing book that puts the cultural and strategic shift of progressives and the Democratic party into nice perspective: as a group that is moving in the right directions to act like an out-of-power group hungry to recapture its voice and political power by renewing itself.

One key to this is the transition (well underway) from a political-majority party consisting of a coalition of single-issue groups to a more coherent multi-issue philosophy. As they point out, almost all new progressive organizations in the last decade were multi-issue organizations, not special-interest -- Center for American Progress, Progressive Majority, Democracy for America, American's Coming Together, MoveOn, etc.

They give good coverage to the changing landscape:

- ★ **things that have changed:** new donors, new organizations, the building of a (multi-issue) progressive movement outside the Democratic Party
- ★ **things that need more change:** accountability from the Washington-based consultancy culture, beltway demos, renewed thinking about reaching all America not just segments, of understanding and reaching people at their belief level not just their demographics

They also did a good job encapsulating some of the big transitions for the right:

1964 — **Goldwater**, fueling the right-wing anger at Republicans that were “Democrat-lite” and motivating action to build think-tanks, leadership institutes, etc.

1980 — **Reagan**, an appealing message vehicle for core principles, leading to a right-wing hunger for and hope to also capture the congress and courts

1994 — **Gingrich**, the first “affirmative vision” of what could be done, by selecting from a huge menu of actions from the right-wing think-tanks

2000 — **Bush** (this is my own), pathological extreme of the party leading to overreach

— *Review by Will Neuhauser*

What would be your list of the defining transitions for progressives? (We'll give our rundown of the last six Democratic President's in the next newslet-

ter when we roll out our “Presidents Circle” of contribution levels.)

Remarks by Steve and Karen Packer, at the January Meeting

At the January meeting, Steve and Karen Packer gave a stimulating and encouraging overview of how the Washington County Democrats revitalized and grew their party in the last two years. Steve is Vice Chair and Karen is Finance Director of the Washington County Democrats.

The Packers gave a coherent description of what's worked — and what hasn't — in Washington County. Their recent Democratic victories “up north” were impressive: both *holding* and *gaining* seats. Still outnumbered by registered Republicans, they feel they win with their more progressive “Independents.” They felt much of their success centered on innovative fundraising. As Karen described their most successful ventures, Steve told us what they did with the proceeds.

They, as we, made their top fundraising goal a **permanent office** (and I'm told ours has got quite a collection of political cartoons on the window ... some of which floated from table to table during our meeting). One was a list of bumper stickers. I recall two: "Bad President, No Banana!" And, "Is it Vietnam yet?" ... As I sat wearing my, "Don't blame me, I voted for Kerry" button!

As our speakers emphasized the importance of raising money, they also suggested how to spend it. Beyond their party headquarters, Steve described how expensive all runs for office have become; and that there's no way the hard-earned county party contributions can fund any one. But, he said they've used their funds as “**seed money**,” to help get promising new candidates started and to help launch their candidacy. With that, larger donors will begin to kick in.

It was somewhat reassuring to hear they've had the same difficulty we do maintaining those enthusiastic individuals who arrive to, for instance, “Get rid of

Bush!” only to fade away with the election results, good or bad.

After applauding Karen and Steve's down-to-earth presentation of the realities of party building, Will opened the floor for discussion and announcements (often my favorite part).

— *Viron Fessler*

Karen's Five Fundraising Principles:

1. **Have a goal** — (to open an office, fund candidates, etc.) and then be innovative!
2. **Involve the stakeholders first** (Executive board, candidates, elected officials)
3. Have a **variety of giving levels** (member, sponsor, patron) and a variety of fundraisers that reflect those giving levels — pasta party, summer picnic, Neuberger Banquest
4. The better your event committee, the better your event — **don't try to do it all yourself!**
5. **Don't be afraid to ask for money** and then to **ask for more money!** — your cause is worth every dollar you ask for!

February Meeting Note — An Open Presidential Field

We covered two main areas: a presidential straw poll and a brainstorming about what motivates the attendees to participate in the Yamhill County Democrats and topics for future meetings.

The Yamhill County Democrats conducted what may be the nation's first Democratic straw poll for the 2008 Presidential race. Results from attendees and four mailed-in ballots were:

- Barack Obama: 10
- Hillary Clinton: 9
- John Edwards: 6
- Al Gore: 5
- Bill Richardson: 5
- Chris Dodd: 1.

The results show an open field of interest in leading Democratic candidates for the 2008 Presidential election.

Redistricting in 2011 — A Primer

The short story is that Oregon requires redistricting by December 15 of the year following the national census. The next census is 2010, so the next redistricting will take place in 2011.

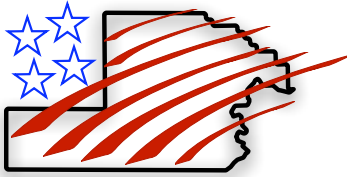
Redistricting uses the normal legislative process — the Oregon House and Senate agree on a bill which is sent for signature by the Governor, who may veto it and the legislature may override the veto. If a bill fails to go into law in a timely manner, the Secretary of State's office draws up a plan. This has happened each of the last two redistricting times. Because of the necessity for allowing for challenges while meeting the December 15 deadline, this process generally needs to conclude in late summer.

For a complete primer on Oregon's system, see the League of Women Voters of Oregon's report, "Redistricting in Oregon" at

<http://www.lwvor.org/documents/Redistricting2007.htm>

Our Mission

Our mission is to better people's lives by having a responsible government that works in the common interest. We accomplish that by electing Democrats to offices that represent Yamhill County because we share values & principles about the roles of government.



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We work to create a positive environment for candidates, help them win, and are the voice for the county to the Democratic Party of Oregon.

Newsletter

Send information, book review or articles for the Yamhill County Democrats newsletter to newsletter@ycdemocrats.org.

Regular Meeting Summary

January 18, 2007. Steve and Karen Packer shared insights Washington County — build infrastructure, ask for money, seed promising candidates.

February 15, 2007. Presidential straw poll.

Executive Committee Summary

December 27, 2006. OKed mission statement for comments. Discussed Treasurer candidates. Discussed fundraising, events.

January 23, 2007. Elected Nancy Wills as interim Treasurer.

February 20, 2007. Hank Franzoni is Program Chair. Frank Nelson is Fundraising chair.

Next Meeting

March 15, 2007 from 7:00 - 8:30 PM with Mary Stern on the County Commission and Measure 37 at **Jake's Deli (1208 SW Baker St., McMinnville)**

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