



# THE DEMOCRAT



Clark County Democratic Party Newsletter

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*Serving Democrats with News and Opinion*

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## Horton tapped for another term

Dena Horton was re-elected to another two-year term as chair of the Clark County Democratic Central Committee by acclamation at the organization's Dec. 8 session.

Vice Chair Charlie Mitchell declined re-election and was supplanted by Jim Martin. Marsha Manning was re-elected treasurer. Vicki Work was elected to a full term as secretary. Norman Banks and Jane Buchanan-Banks were re-elected to another term as the county's representatives to the Washington State Democratic Central Committee.

There was no opposition to any of the officers suggested by the nominating committee. All of the elections were by unanimous voice vote with no objection heard from the floor. Accordingly the committee did not have to deal immediately with the continuing question of whether Democratic Precinct Committee Officers who were not on the August ballot but received write-in votes are to be considered elected with full authority of the office or are limited to the authorities and duties available to appointed precinct committee officers.

Washington Secretary of State Sam Reed had suggested the former in correspondence prior to the election, asserting that earlier statutory rules requiring minimal percent-

ages of votes for committee officers were over-ridden by the state's move to a top-two primary in the aftermath of a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that the state's former open blanket primary was inconsistent with the free-assembly rights invested in the state Republican and Democratic Parties.

State leaders of both parties insisted otherwise, arguing that election of precinct committee officers continued to be regulated by a statute asserting that election in any given precinct required no fewer than 10 percent of the number of votes received by the party's leading candidate in that precinct. All of the PCO candidates whose names appeared on the ballot by virtue of their having formally filed by the deadline got way more than sufficient numbers of votes. None of the candidates who ran write-in campaigns appeared to have met the percentage requirement. In Clark County, all of the Democratic write-in PCOs who expressed an interest in serving have been appointed to that service by the Clark County Democratic Central Committee. Several persons who received one or more write-in votes have declined to serve despite invitations to do so by party functionaries.

## Pelz faces challenge for state party leadership

Mark Hintz, chair of the Snohomish County Democratic Central Committee, is campaigning to replace Dwight Pelz as chair of the Washington State Democratic Central Committee.

Pelz, who won the state party leadership in a tough contest in 2006, has mounted an aggressive campaign for re-election when the state committee meets for re-organization.

At this writing, no candidates have filed for challenges to the other members of the state executive committee, who are expected to be nominated for

re-election.

In his Dec. 4 email announcement of his intention to seek another term, Pelz noted that the party was \$500,000 in debt and still reeling from a tough recount battle over the election of Gov. Christine Gregoire. Now, he said, the party is \$200,000 in the black, having run highly successful campaigns up and down the ballot including a 54.7 percent state victory for President-elect Barack Obama, a much wider winning margin for Gregoire over her Republican challenger,

election of Peter Goldmark as state Lands Commissioner and continuing solid control of both houses of the Washington Legislature.

In his Dec. 10 candidacy announcement, Hintz acknowledged the party accomplishments but said, "We need to capture that energy and momentum to propel our Washington State Democratic Party into one that embraces transparency, honors and hears all viewpoints, and establishes an atmosphere where everyone can find their place to participate."

**Meetings scheduled for January 2009 by the Clark County Democratic Central Committee and other Democratic organizations. (Check for updates at the county party's website: [www.bluedonkeys.com](http://www.bluedonkeys.com)).**

Saturday, January 3	18th District Democrats meet at 9 a.m. in the clubhouse at Tri-Mountain Golf Course in Ridgefield.
Monday, January 5	Meeting of the Clark County Democratic Central Committee executive board, 7 p.m. at the Carpenters' Hall.
Saturday, January 10	8:30 a.m. meeting of 49th District Democrats in the sixth-floor training room at Clark County Citizen Service Building, 1400 Franklin Street.
Saturday, January 10	10 a.m. town hall sendoff for 49th District Legislators in the commissioners hearing room at Clark County Citizens Service Building.
Monday, January 12	7 p.m. meeting of the Clark County Democratic Central Committee at the Longshore Hall on Ingalls Street.
Tuesday, January 20	Noon, Washington, D.C., Barack Obama sworn in as President of United States.
Monday, January 26	7 p.m. meeting of 17th District Democrats at the Waterford at Fairway Village, 2911 SE Village Loop Drive.

# Efforts paid off in big dividends

*By Dena Horton, Clark County Democratic Chair*

Yes We Did!

We are eagerly counting down the days until Barack Obama is officially sworn in as the President of the United States.

Accordingly I intend to be among the large crowd gathered in Washington, DC, to witness this historic event on Jan. 20. As are so many others, I am more excited than if I had tickets to a concert performed by one of my favorite music bands.

Despite the euphoria, it is important to remember that it took many people, many hours of phone calling, tabling at the farmers market, doorbelling, and talking to their neighbors and friends to bring about this change. To everyone who volunteered and to the campaign staff who worked very hard for months keeping things organized, thank you all so very much. And to all the candidates and campaign staff who braved months of fundraising, doorbelling and phonebanking, congratulations on a superb campaign effort!

We hope you understand no matter the outcome in your race, we truly appreciate your willingness to step up and run for office. It takes courage, sacrifice, and a lot of hard work and we wish you all the best in office and in future endeavors.

To all those who volunteered on the Obama and Gregoire campaigns or any of the other local campaigns, we can take pride in our accomplishments. We must recognize, however, that our work is not done. We have much to do in 2009 in order to be ready when Sen. Patty Murray, Commissioner Steve Stuart and the house races in the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 49<sup>th</sup> legislative districts are up for election in 2010.

Our next big events will be the Jefferson Jackson Dinner in June and the CCDCC booth at the Clark County Fair. While it seems like a long time until June and August, it takes many months of planning and preparation to pull off both of these events.



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Clark County, Washington

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# Jerry King left leadership legacy

Family, friends and admirers filled the large public room at Gaiser Hall on the Clark College campus on Dec. 12 to memorialize Jerry Franklin King as a leader of his community.

He was a public servant in the best sense of the term for his entire legal career. After graduation from the University of Washington Law School in 1959 he joined Seattle's office of corporation counsel. When the Vancouver City Council decided the community needed a fulltime lawyer in 1965, King was selected for the task of setting up a municipal legal department. By the time he retired in full honor 29 years later, he had six assistant city attorneys and a total staff of 11.

He was an active member of Michael Servetus Unitarian Universalist Fellowship for 43 years and served several times on its Board of Trustees and chaired several standing committees. He was honored by the Fellowship on October 5, 2008 with the establishment of the Jerry F. King Lifetime Community Service Award for his years of service to the community at large.

The Servetus congregation is known as a hotbed of political activism with a progressive bent and includes such Democratic luminaries as Dan and Val Ogden and King's close companion in recent years, Gretchen Starke. While King was always available for sage counsel to candidates and officials outside his municipal purview, his role as a party official was limited to several terms as Precinct 200 Democratic Committee Officer.

Among his many volunteer commitments were his twelve years on the board of the Fort Vancouver Regional Library District, five years on the Council for the Homeless, and his involvement in the local chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays from its establishment in the early 1990s. In 1994 the Washington State Bar Association awarded King its annual Affirmative Action Award. He was a life member of the NAACP.

He was born in Whatcom County and was graduated from Ferndale High School and Skagit Junior College before matriculation at the University of Washington. He met his wife-to-be, Dona Mae Parvey, on his 21st birthday in 1953 and married her two years later. They were together until she died in 1995. They had one son, Quentin, whose touching memorial to his father was published in the program for the memorial service.

Among his passions was Walt Whitman, and he was recognized as an expert on the poet. He delivered several presentations on Whitman's life and work and contributed several essays to "Walt Whitman: An Encyclopedia." He arranged for his large collection of Whitman materials to be left to the University of Iowa.

He is survived by his only son, Quentin King and his partner, Glen Kriekenbeck, both of Seattle; his sisters, Belle King Weninger of Vancouver and Ilene King Cummings of Toronto; and his companion of recent years, Gretchen Starke of Vancouver.

## Legislative districts change a few functionaries

Legislative district Democratic Central Committee reorganization meetings during December were evolutionary, not revolutionary.

The most substantial change was in the 18th Legislative District, where Al Swindell decided to give up his party role to consider other activities. The committee elected its vice chair, Kathleen Arthur, to lead the group for the next two years. As vice chair, the committee elected William Allman, discussed in a brief biographical note on Page 4. Doris Holmes will serve as treasurer and Sharon Watts will continue as secre-

tary. The 18th elected Ralph Schmidt as state committeeman and Amanda Nelson as state committeewoman.

In the 17th Legislative District, Peter Aller was elected to another term as chair. Carla Camp will serve as vice chair. Monica Stonier, who only became active this year as a national delegate for Barack Obama, was elected Secretary. Tom Iberle will be treasurer. Marsha Manning will serve another term as state committeewoman, and Gary Akizuki will be state committeeman.

In the 49th Legislative District, a nominating committee comprising

present and former legislators suggested no change in the incumbent leadership. Mike Heywood was elected to a third two-year term as chair. Catherine Rich-Daniels will continue as vice chair. Sandra Hoyt, appointed earlier in the year to succeed Sue Ballard as secretary, was elected to serve through 2010. Marian Joyce Bryce, who earlier in the year succeeded Ralph Drake as treasurer, was elected to a full term. Continuing as state committeeman will be Clark County Commissioner Steve Stuart. Kathleen Lawrence will continue as state committeewoman.

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## Bill Allman aims high for 18th LD in future

**This is the forty-seventh in a series of introductions to some local Democrats. Send suggestions for subjects of future columns to [mikewrit@hotmail.com](mailto:mikewrit@hotmail.com).**

Although he didn't become particularly active in local Democratic affairs until the Precinct 446 caucus last February, William Allman, the new vice chair of the 18th Legislative District Democratic Central Committee, has been seriously engaged in party politics since he was a lad growing up in Western Pennsylvania more than 40 years ago. He worked for Bobby Kennedy until the assassination squelched his enthusiasm for politics, but he got excited again after hearing John Kerry speak. He eventually served as Kerry's main man in Southwest Washington until the combined campaign took over. In this cycle he joined the Obama cause early on and was an avid advocate for the Illinois senator when the winning process came to Washington last February.

At that caucus, the elected 446 PCO noticed that Allman seemed to know what he was talking about, and she turned the whole business over to him. When the incumbent didn't file for election in August, Allman picked up the baton and was elected 446 PCO. His style, grace and leadership were recognized when the 18th LDDCC reorganized last month.

He says the 18th leadership role is the most challenging

political job he's ever taken. "We've had some great candidates in recent years but didn't get them elected," he said. "We've got to get new people involved, particularly the youngsters who were brought in by Obama."

After four years as a yeoman in the U.S. Navy including a Vietnam-era tour aboard USS Oriskany, Allman used the new GI bill to get an education at Allegheny College before moving to Portland and Mount Hood Community College. He had a hot career as a disc jockey (DeeJay of the year per Billboard Magazine in 1979 and 1980) before his new wife, Traci, convinced him that was not a life for a family man. He signed up with a temp agency and got a job as a doorman at Pacific Power and Light's Lloyd Center headquarters. The gig was supposed to last until an automatic door opener was repaired, but the folks liked him so much that the utility kept him on for seven months. The company fixed the door when the WPPSS debacle whacked the worker roster. But a glowing letter of reference got him a shot at a post with Washington's Department of Social and Health Services, where he has served ever since, in recent years as a veterans service advocate. He commutes to Olympia two days a week and works in Vancouver two days a week in the state offices on Mill Plain Boulevard at what used to be Tower Mall.