

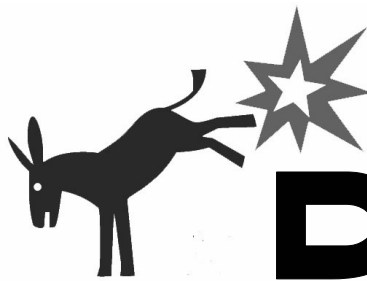
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# 34th District Democrats

All the Democracy You Can Handle ★ www.34dems.org ★ November 2009

Dear Members,

A year ago was the pinnacle of an incredible effort that pushed a grassroots movement to election victory that many thought was impossible. The work of millions across the country for months and even years led to the election of President Barack Obama. We were elated and we celebrated. But, we knew more battles were ahead.

They said 2009 was an off year. They said there was nowhere to go but down. Yet, this year has been huge. We banded together with Democrats across King County on the campaign to elect Dow Constantine for King County Executive. We worked tirelessly to protect the rights of families across Washington and approve Referendum 71. We fought to preserve critical funding for programs across the state and send Tim Eyman packing with a No on I-1033. This proved to be a critical year and the 34<sup>th</sup> District rose to the challenge. As November 3 comes and passes, we should be proud of the contribution we have made to progress.

Thank you for everything you did. Together, we've stood up for the values that we share. The 34<sup>th</sup> District had one of the most successful years in King County, and maybe across the state. More members, more PCOs, and more money raised. We leveraged it all for civil rights, transportation options, social services and all the core values that make us Democrats. Thank you.

Yet, our work continues. In November, Chris Endresen, Senator Maria Cantwell's State Director, will be joining us to discuss the heated debates on Capitol Hill. We'll get updates on her work to increase competition, drive down prices, and provide access to health care through a public option; about the debate surrounding climate change, the cost of doing nothing, and efforts to reduce our emissions and gain energy independence; and about banking reform critical to preventing another economic meltdown.

Last month we heard from Seattle School Board Director Steve Sundquist on issues such as passing grades, performance measurement, and student assignment. The conversation on education will continue as we invite representatives from the Highline and Vashon School Districts.

Of course, after all our hard work we'll also celebrate our victories on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Candidates and issues that earned our support will be invited to continue efforts with the 34<sup>th</sup> District and raise a toast to our 2009 victories.

There will be no regularly scheduled members meeting in December. Instead, we'll host the annual Holiday Party and reconnect and enjoy each other's company. More details will be provided soon.

The 2010 Members Drive is just around the corner. As newly elected President, Barack Obama said our victory was just the beginning and our work for change must continue. Now, as much as ever, we need your commitment and your help. As the holidays come and pass, I ask you to renew your membership with the 34<sup>th</sup> and find a neighbor or family member that can join the movement with us. Together, we are paving the way to a brighter future.

Sincerely,

## Meeting Notice November 11, 2009

6:30 Social, 7:00 Meeting  
The Hall at Fautleroy  
9131 California Ave SW  
Across from the YMCA

### Program

Victory Celebration!

Chris Endresen, Maria Cantwell's Washington State Director, Update on health care reform, climate change, and banking reform

Representatives from Vashon, and Highline School Districts

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## Dr. Lisa Plymate Meets with Obama in the Rose Garden

On October 5, 2009, I had the honor of joining a group of doctors from all fifty states to meet with President Obama in the Rose Garden. This was an historic occasion, as we left busy practices and our families to show that this time round, those of us on the front-lines are deeply committed to health care reform. We went to the Capital as members of Doctors for America, a grassroots activist group less than a year old that is already more than 15,000 members strong. We are not a fringe group. At this point physician organizations representing over half a million doctors, including the usually conservative American Medical Association, support significant changes in our health care delivery system. We feel an urgent sense of responsibility to bring our expertise into shaping comprehensive reform this year. As providers working in the trenches, we see the crisis in our health care system daily. Our main focus in this fight is to improve care for our patients and to see that everyone has access to high quality care.



Dr. Lisa Plymate, standing to the left of President Obama

It was a gorgeous fall day as we walked together across the White House grounds. As leaders in Doctors for America we had become e-mail and conference call friends. When we finally met in D.C., we found ourselves to be a highly diverse group in terms of our socioeconomic backgrounds, types of practice, stages of career and even our overall philosophies regarding ultimate outcomes of reform. But at this moment we came together, united for a common cause. We are urging Congress to pass, and the President to sign into law, a bill for significant overhaul of our medical system.

The battle in Congress is on. The reform we want must: 1) allow us to spend the time we need to see our patients; 2) protect patients from unfair insurance practices; 3) promote affordable care for all; 4) invest in primary care and prevention; 5) offer patients real insurance choices, including a strong public option; 6) improve Medicare for the long term; and 7) set up a national agency to compare the effectiveness of different tests, procedures, and treatments.

Opponents on one side argue we cannot afford such changes. In fact, we cannot afford NOT to change our course. Both the Senate and House versions of the bill carry high price tags, from \$800 billion to \$1 trillion. But remember, this is over ten years. We are currently spending \$2.5 trillion per year – 17% of our Gross National Product – on health care, and it is estimated this will rise to \$4 trillion per year – 20% of our GNP – by 2015. That is unsustainable.

On the other side, my friends argue we must push for a single payer system. While that would undeniably cut our administrative burden, it is simply not going to happen at this time. Picture the harassment by tea-baggers and cries of death panels and multiply by ten. The President has decided to let those who are happy with their present insurance keep it. We cannot let this opportunity for reform pass us by. Our bill will not be perfect; it will require modification over the years, but at least we will be starting a process that will help many people now.

As a primary care physician practicing in Washington state for thirty years, I have watched the gap in our two-tiered system widen, as our paperwork has grown to exceed our patient work. I stand a few years from retirement, and I want Natalie Hale, Alaska's representative at the White House this week, to have a great career as the primary care doctor she wants to be. Natalie is a first year medical student at the University of Washington Medical School participating in their Alaska WWAMI program. Already, barely eight weeks into medical school, she is being told she "should not even consider" going into primary care. This is why we are speaking out and why we are thrilled to have a President who has put health care as his #1 domestic policy priority. With all the powerful forces fighting against us, he is bold to take this on. For the sake of our patients, and for our country, "Failure is not an option." I urge other doctors to come forward and join us in this fight.

Lisa Plymate, M.D.  
Washington State Director, Doctors for America  
www.dr sforamerica.org

## In Memoriam Rich Medved

Many of us were gathered at a fundraiser for Dow Constantine on July 14 when word came in that Rich Medved, King County Acting Assessor, had suffered a stroke, leaving a stunned silence in the room. He was a member of



our district, an Alki resident, and had recently announced that he would seek the position of King County Assessor in the November election. We wished him well and hoped that he would pull through, but sadly he lost the battle for recovery and died on October 28. He was 56 years old. He is survived by his wife Theresa and four children and six grandchildren.

He was a lifelong Democrat who had campaigned for many candidates as far back as Scoop Jackson, and he had thoroughly enjoyed his time on the campaign trail for his own campaign.

Medved had served as Chief Deputy Assessor for six years and became Acting Assessor when Scott Noble resigned after being charged vehicular assault. Dow Constantine described him as a "steadying force within the office when he took over as interim assessor earlier this year. He was well-liked within the Assessor's Office and throughout county government and he will be greatly missed."

## Meeting Announcements

### First Thursday Democrats

The first Thursday Democrats will meet at Daystar, across from Westwood on SW Barton St, at 11:30 a.m. on November 5, two days after the election. There should be lots to talk about. Lunch is \$7.00 and includes coffee and dessert. Anyone is welcome to attend this discussion group.

### Evergreen Democratic Club

The regular meeting will be held on November 10 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Angelo's Restaurant, 601 SW 153rd St. in Burien. This month's agenda includes a review of this past election, bylaws changes affecting candidate support, planning for the December Holiday Buffet, and confirmation of Secretary and Treasurer appointments for 2010 unexpired terms.

### West Seattle Democratic Women

Because the usual fourth Thursday meeting time is Thanksgiving, the WSDW will meet a week early, November 19, at the West Seattle Golf Course at 11:30 a.m., registration at 11:15 a.m. Lunch is \$10 for members, \$12 for non-members. The program will be the election of officers for 2010. Please bring non-perishable food items or grocery receipts from the Morgan Street Thriftway and the Metropolitan Market to benefit the West Seattle Food Bank. You may contact the WSDW at 935-3216 or [wsdwomen@yahoo.com](mailto:wsdwomen@yahoo.com) for more information or to make reservations.

## October 28 KCDCC Meeting

The meeting began at 7:00 pm after a rally for candidates, including sign waving outside the Carpenters Hall. Chair Susan Sheary started us off with a moment of silence over Boeing's decision to move some of its 787 operations to South Carolina.

During the program, we heard from two campaigns: Approve Referendum 71 and No on I-1033. There is encouraging polling on R-71 with some reporting 50 to 56% approval, depending on whether the sample is likely voters or registered voters. The opponents have lost 9 to 10 points. But often, actual voting underperforms the polls, with some people not wanting to admit their homophobia. It's looking good for No on I-1033 as they have raised nearly \$3 million with support from labor, hospitals, Microsoft, and even Chris Vance. Bill Gates contributed \$100,000 alone. Even so, there is every reason not to become complacent on either of these ballot measures.

The Legislative Action Committee is inviting all to come to their November 15 meeting at 2:00 p.m. at the Renton Carpenters Hall. The guest speaker will be Frank Chopp. You should come and ask the speaker about the upcoming session and voice your opinions and concerns. Be sure to save the date for that evening for the KC Dems' Victory Party. Details coming soon.

Chad Lupkes is taking nominations for awards at the holiday party in January. Chad was a recipient himself of an award at the Maggie's last week when he accepted the award for WSDCC 2009 Male Volunteer of the Year (He exclaimed: engage, educate and empower).

Three resolutions were passed unanimously: a resolution in support of public financing of campaigns for the Washington State Supreme Court; a resolution in support of S482 requiring electronic filing of campaign disclosure information by U.S. Senate candidates; and a resolution to recover overpayments owed by retro agencies.

An aide from Representative Adam Smith's office gave us the good news that there would be a revised bill HR 3200 coming out the next day, and then, there was!

There was a lively discussion regarding the issue of Democratic elected officials endorsing Republican opponents of Democratic candidates who have been endorsed by the elected officials' home districts. Something has got to change there. Some districts have bylaws that state that there will be no endorsement of a Democratic candidate who has given money to or endorsed a Republican candidate.

And finally, kudos to Ms. Sheary for filing her PDC complaint against the Hutchison campaign. The Chair said it was the most fun she had had all year. Congratulations to Representative Maralyn Chase on her selection to the National Coalition of State Leaders on Energy and Climate Change. Join Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles at a fundraiser for the 36<sup>th</sup> LD at Hale's on November 19<sup>th</sup>.

*Marcee Stone*

## In Case You Missed Our Last Meeting. . .

The meeting was called to order a little after 7:00 p.m. The agenda was revised to allow Michael Taylor-Judd and Olivia Robinson to speak about the Institute for a Democratic Future in place of First Vice Chair Kim Becklund's report.

Tim Nuse commended 34th District members who are leading in other parts of their lives: Lisa Plymate and other members of Doctors for America met with President Obama to discuss health care reform. Bill Schrier was recently elected President of the Metropolitan Information Exchange, a group representing Chief Information Officers of large governments.

Michael Taylor Judd and Olivia Robinson spoke about the program offered by the Institute for Democratic Future for young people, ages 21-36, who want to learn more about politics, government, public policy, and issues in the state of Washington. The Institute for a Democratic Future, while not a Democratic Party organization, is supported by many Democratic Party and elected officials.

Seattle School Board member Steve Sundquist provided an update on School Board issues. One of these issues is the proposed new student assignment plan and the mistake made in the mapping for Denny Middle School and Chief Sealth High School. The original maps showed different attendance boundaries for these two new or renovated schools that will soon be sharing a campus. The maps are incorrect and the maps will be redrawn so that they will have the same attendance boundaries. This change will also affect some of the elementary schools.

Sundquist also spoke of new computerized testing to help teachers assess student learning in their classrooms, plans to better align curriculum across the District, realigning high school graduation requirements to make sure that they match up with requirements for college entrance, and changes to the grading scale. These changes, which would include bringing back "+" and "-" grades, and weighting credits for Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate classes. These changes are meant to encourage students to work harder.

Sundquist reminded everyone that the District's Operations and Capital Improvement levies will be up for renewal in February, so don't forget to vote.

Dow Constantine was in the middle of a debate with Susan Hutchison on Mercer Island and was unable to attend our meeting. Senator Joe McDermott spoke on his behalf and passed clipboards around for members to sign up for phone banking. Joe reminded us that Dow has represented our District for a good many years and has been an organizational leader in a number of capacities, so the more

### Editorial Policy

The opinions expressed in submitted articles and letters to the editor are those of the author and not necessarily those of the 34th District Democrats or the Executive Board. All letters are subject to editing for space and content. Please keep to 300 words or less. Photos and notices of upcoming events are strongly encouraged. Mail to Jackie Dupras, 1920 46th Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98116 or [jdupras@quidnunc.net](mailto:jdupras@quidnunc.net).

we can volunteer and talk to people about him the better. Max Vekich, candidate for Port Commission also spoke and encouraged everyone to get out and vote.

Marcee Stone and Chris Porter reported on the WSDCC meeting in Walla Walla. The 34th District was well represented: in addition to Marcee and Chris, Lisa Plymate, Karl DeJong, and King County State Committeewoman Ann Martin attended the meeting. The biggest news of the meeting was that the membership voted not to schedule precinct caucuses in 2010. Some WSDCC members felt that precinct caucuses were needed for party building, but for others, the cost and the low turnout in a non-presidential year would yield too little in return. Instead, districts are encouraged to work toward meetings and platforms as they see fit for 2010. Legislative district caucuses will be held on March 14, 2010; county conventions will be held on April 10, 2010; and the 2010 Washington State Convention will be held in Vancouver, Washington in June of 2010. Candidates for Congressional office will be voted on by Congressional Caucus at the January 29-30, 2010 State Committee meeting in Sea-Tac. That vote will then be ratified by the State Committee as a whole.

Two committee chairs were appointed by Tim Nuse and approved by the body: Tara Jo Heinecke, Diversity Committee; and Justin Anderson, Communications Committee.

As announced in last month's newsletter, the position of King County Committeeman Alternate was open. There were two candidates for this position: Dorsol Plants, former City Council candidate; and Michael Heavey, a Field Organizer for Dow Constantine. Only PCOs were eligible to vote for this position. When the votes were counted, Dorsol Plants received the most votes and is our new King County Committeeman Alternate. Congratulations, Dorsol.

In Good of the order Stewart Wechsler called on all members to contact Senator Cantwell to ask her to lobby Harry Reid in support of a strong public option in the health care reform bill.

Chris Porter informed us that Warm 106.9 FM has been running Reject 71 ads and urged members to contact the station and let them know what you think.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47.

**King County Democrats  
Victory Celebration  
November 15, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

**Renton Carpenters Hall  
231 Burnett Ave N**

**Champagne Buffet  
Awards and Prizes  
Silent Auction  
\$25 per person**



# Town Hall Seattle Events: Discussions and Lectures

## Nan Aron, Alliance for Justice President and Founder, Bringing Justice to Torturers

**Monday, November 9, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.; Downstairs at Town Hall; \$5.00**

Nan Aron supports a criminal investigation into the mistreatment of detainees by CIA interrogators. "While a full-scale investigation of the use of torture by the United States government will stir up passions on both sides, it is our only hope for reaching some national consensus on the torture issue."

## Seattle Speaks - Preventing Youth Violence

**Tuesday, November 10, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.; Downstairs at Town Hall; Free**

Broadcast live and online at the Seattle Channel, this 90 minute interactive forum will lay out the extent of Seattle's youth-violence problem, offer updates on and analysis of the initiative, explore innovative anti-violence strategies, and share experience from other cities. C.R. Douglas will moderate the conversation "in the round" to offer you a chance to share your opinions and suggestions. Electronic polling during the event will gauge responses from both the live and online audiences.

## Mark Danner, author of *Stripping Bare the Body*, Reports from the World's Hot Spots

**Wednesday, November 11, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.; Downstairs at Town Hall; \$5.00**

Danner has visited some of the world's most troubled regions, bringing back lessons on politics, violence, and war.

## Soundings from Island Press: Tony Barnosky: Nature in the Age of Global Warming

**Wednesday, November 18, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.; Downstairs at Town Hall; \$5.00**

Everywhere on Earth, global warming is fundamentally changing the natural world and its creatures and, Barnosky says, climate change is more likely to wipe out species than to create them.

## Tsunami Recovery; Jerry Anderson of the American Red Cross Tsunami Recovery Program

**Thursday, November 19, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.; Great Hall; Free**

To commemorate the Indian Ocean tsunami, one of the most devastating natural disasters in recent history, and to explain its impact on disaster relief and risk-reduction efforts locally and globally, Jerry Anderson will address lessons learned during the response and present a photo exhibit highlighting the recovery.

## Discussion: Climate Change and Justice; Panelists: Brian Tokar, Eric Holt Gimenez, Maude Barlow

**Sunday, November 29, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.; Great Hall; \$5 - \$10**

internationally known activists will join Northwest organizers to discuss current ecological and environmental crises as well as how social movements are responding with solutions.

Michele Thomas  
 Tim Treanor  
 George Valle  
 Michael Wald  
 Jane Walton  
 Lynne Wasson  
 Theresa Wasson  
 Don Wicklund  
 Jeanne Wicklund  
 Patrick Wicklund  
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 Wally Bulbelis  
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 Maroulitsa Buffington

William Buffington  
 Charles Burgess  
 Patti Burgess  
 Karen Butts  
 Steven Butts \*  
 Christopher Cain  
 Natalie Cannon  
 Libby Carr  
 Paul Carr  
 Dorene Carrel \*  
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 Karen Chilcutt  
 Orabelle Connolly  
 Dow Constantine  
 John Constantine \*  
 Cheryl Corbin  
 Nathaniel Cormier  
 Charles Cox  
 Nancy Craver

Walt Creekmore  
 Stephen Dagadakis \*  
 Ken Davis \*  
 Betty Davison  
 Gary Dawson  
 Karl Dejong  
 Roderick Dimoff  
 Greg Doss  
 Wanda Dray  
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 Joyce Killingsworth  
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Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Paul Leonardo  
 Paul Loeb  
 John Loftus  
 Gary Long  
 Jesse Lortz  
 Richard Lum  
 Cherisse Luxa  
 Margaret Mackey  
 Melvin Mackey  
 Andres Mantilla  
 Piper Marckx  
 Jill Marotta  
 Michael Marotta  
 Harrison Martin  
 Tony Martin  
 Heather Marx  
 Barbara Matson  
 Barbara Matthes  
 David Matthes  
 Matthew Mayne  
 Sandra McCloud  
 Theresa McCormick  
 Mary McEachern  
 Michael Meginn  
 Mark McLaughlin  
 Vivian McLean  
 Vickie Mercer \*  
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 David Miller  
 Roger Milnes  
 Priscilla Min  
 Nette Mitter  
 Joe Mitter \*  
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 Michael Morgan  
 Emily Morishima  
 Bob Murano  
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 John Nelson  
 Cass Nevada  
 Carey Nickels  
 Paul Nickels  
 Sharon Nickels  
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 Evelyn Norsen  
 Artemis OakGrove \*  
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 Vlad Oustimovitch  
 Ann Owchar  
 Kristen Parsons  
 David Pelton  
 Beverly Perry  
 Anne Phillips \*  
 Charlene Preston  
 David Preston  
 Bob Price  
 Pat Price  
 Robert Privett  
 Doris Rahmig  
 Maria Ramirez \*  
 Chas Redmond  
 Maurice Regnier  
 Ron Richardson  
 Sherry Richardson  
 Douglas Riseclorf  
 Dana Robb  
 Jody Rodgers \*  
 Gerod Rody  
 Lance Rosen  
 Robert Rosenberger  
 Robert Rosencrantz  
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 Alexia Roy  
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 Susanne Sabye  
 Bruce Saffery  
 Susan Saffery  
 Joan Schneider  
 Phil Schneider  
 Dan Schueler \*  
 Gay Schy  
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 Mike Shultz  
 James Silvers  
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 Forrest Smith  
 Kirsten Smith  
 Nicholas Smith  
 Tyler Smith  
 Susan Soller  
 Gayle Sommers \*  
 Amigo Soriano  
 Mildred Soriano  
 Daniel Spengler  
 Tamsen Spengler  
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 Robert Stewart  
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 Judy Townsend  
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 Wesley Walton  
 Stewart Wechsler  
 Keith Weir \*  
 Angie Weiss  
 Chris Weiss \*  
 Ivan Weiss \*  
 Rebecca Wells  
 Joyce White  
 David Whitting  
 Lori Whittaker  
 Dorothy Wicklund  
 Faye Wilkinson  
 Charles Williston  
 John Withers  
 Terry Wittman  
 Shelley Yamamoto  
 Phil Yates  
 Adel Youakim  
 Sandy Young \*  
 \*PCD



**34th District  
 Democrats**  
 Newsletter Editor  
 1920 46th Ave SW  
 Seattle WA 98116

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# Calendar

Thursday, November 5, 11:30 a.m.  
**First Thursday Democrats**  
 Daystar, Across from Westwood on SW Barton St.

Friday, November 6, 6:00 p.m.  
**Patty Murray Luncheon with Joe Biden**  
 Seattle Westin Grand Ballroom, 1500 5th Ave

Tuesday, November 10, 7:00 p.m.  
**King County Young Democrats**  
 Renton Carpenters Hall, 231 Burnett Ave North

Tuesday, November 10, 11:30, a.m.  
**Evergreen Democratic Club**  
 Angelo's Italian Restaurant, 601 SW 153rd St

Wednesday, November 11, 7:00 p.m.  
**34th District Democrats Monthly Meeting**  
 The Hall at Fautleroy

Sunday, November 15, 2:00 p.m.  
**Legislative Action Committee with Frank Chopp**  
 Renton Carpenters Hall, 231 Burnett Ave North

Sunday November 15, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.  
**KCDCC Victory Party**  
 Renton Carpenters Hall, 231 Burnett Avenue North

Wednesday, November 18, 7:00 p.m.  
**Executive Board Meeting**  
 7020 18th Ave SW, Common Room

Thursday, November 19, 11:30 a.m.  
**West Seattle Democratic Women**  
 West Seattle Golf Course Clubhouse

Wednesday, November 25, 7:00 p.m.  
**Drinking Liberally in Burien**  
 Mick Kelly's Irish Pub, 435 SW 152nd

Sunday, December 6, Dinner 5:00, Reception 6:30 p.m.  
**Washington State Democrats Holiday Party**  
 Washington State Trade and Convention Center

Wednesday, December 9  
**34th District Democrats' Annual Holiday Party**  
 The Hall at Fautleroy

PCO (Not in above list)  
 Patricia Agostino  
 Christopher Arkills  
 Jonathon Bashford  
 Marcia Berenter  
 Rosemary Blackwell  
 Russ Brubaker  
 Shauna Causey  
 Kyle Craver  
 Don Fillus  
 Sam Foucault  
 Pat Francis  
 Shamah Gamrath  
 Gary Gardner  
 Bronwyn Jackson  
 Dan Jensen  
 John Kennedy  
 Andy Kleitsch  
 Vicki Martinez  
 Terri McDermott  
 Barbara Miller  
 Asha Mohamed  
 Michael Nibburg  
 Eileen Norton  
 Julia Peeler  
 Brian Peyton  
 Vinnie Kichichi  
 Deborah Rosen  
 Sharman Schubert  
 Pete Spalding  
 Brian Staplefon