

Web News Update

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Time to Take the Gloves Off

By Lynn Norwood

We are a civilized society and a relatively educated group. We try to temper our thoughts before forging them into words so that they will survive the light of day. We like to think in positive terms, can't stomach an unfair fight, and don't want to become the enemy so we play fair, we dig in, and we work hard. We knock on doors. We invite our friends and neighbors to participate in the process and our faith in humanity skips upward. And then we lose. For complete article [click here](#).

General Meeting Guests

Judge Mary Ann Ottinger and **Frank LaSalata** will address our [meeting on September 6](#) . In the contested King County District Court race (District Court Northeast Electoral District Judge Position No. 2) there are three candidates: [Mary Ottinger](#) (NP), [Frank LaSalata](#) (NP) and Richard Pope (NP).

Follow links for information on Pope and his [chameleon-like allegiances](#) and [perennial candidacies](#) .

KCDCC endorsed Frank LaSalata. **45th LD has not yet made an endorsement**. We can endorse in this race if members wish to do so.

Letters to the editor

The letters to the editor committee has been in hiatus for a few months but it's time we got back to business. We must not only wipe the splatter of Republican spin from the news but counter them with a clear 'enough is enough' message. I have been contacted by the **Washington State Coordinating Committee** who is launching a Letters to the Editor effort (and was pleased to hear we had a committee in place) so I will forward talking points (for those who chose to use them) from her office. The DNC, who was also in hiatus for a bit, have now begun intermittently to send me talking points that are important on the national level. I will forward those as I receive them.

There will be a **Letters to the Editor meeting** September 6th at **6pm** just before the [general meeting](#) to discuss strategy.

Union Hill/Sammamish meeting

Joe Lane, PCO Weeks precinct, got a very big ball rolling last month when he organized a meeting of the Union Hill/Sammamish PCOs and Democrats. The idea was to create a supportive task force to find the best way to cover our own and neighboring precincts in

this important election year and to develop a technique and a network of local Democrats that will continue into future elections. For complete article [click here](#).

Candidates:

Darcy Burner was featured on KUOW in a radio interview just over a month ago on weekday. Dave Reichert was [interviewed](#) a few weeks ago. There were charges Darcy made while on the show that highlighted his ineptitude in moving legislation forward in his capacity as chair of the subcommittee for disaster preparedness and disaster response. He must have listened to her because after 16 months of doing nothing he took up her suggestion!

He must really be feeling the heat because he made repeated attempts to distance himself from the Bush administration and Republicans in general, calling himself an “independent guy”. His [photo op](#) with Bush says it all. One of the examples he used to distance himself from Bush was his vote on stem cell research. Last year he voted no on stem cell research and, surprise, in this election year he voted for it. (Are the Republicans going to accuse him of flip flopping? Hmmm).

Another embarrassment recently was the television ad produced by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce which claimed he voted for the prescription drug plan...[before he was in office](#)! Thanks to the diligence of the attorneys for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee they were forced to pull and modify the ads.

Concerning corruption scandals and accountability, Reichert sidestepped the issue of his retaining the \$20,000 he took [from Tom Delay](#) who was indicted for campaign finance schemes and is pending trial. He said if Delay was convicted he would donate the money to charity. (Anyone think that will be anytime soon? Before the election?) It is important to note that one of Reichert’s first votes in Congress was in support of the controversial changes to the House Ethics Committee rules that gutted the panel’s ability to investigate members.

Eric Oemig Campaign

Don’t forget every little bit helps. Monday night is phone bank night and Saturday morning is canvassing day with the Eric Oemig Campaign. [Click here](#) for more information.

Roger Goodman Campaign

You can help the [Goodman campaign](#) in multiple ways. Everything from addressing post cards, to spending the day driving the candidate door to door is needed.

In the National News

There have been some very interesting developments in the national news concerning the Democratic Party not least of which was the victory of Ned Lamont over incumbent Joe Lieberman in Connecticut. Many felt it wasn't simply his support of the war that lost him the primary but his support of the President in general. The blue state of Connecticut was beginning to wonder whether there was a Democrat in place or a Republican. (You know you are a Republican if....the President kisses you in public...., Karl Rove has you on his speed dial...., the Republicans are supporting you instead of their own candidate.....Get a grip Lieberman!)

Vice President Cheney (bless his patronizing soul) berated the Connecticut voters in a shame-on-you tone saying that their votes against Lieberman showed they were somehow "encouraging the Al Qaeda types". Indeed the voters were accused of "defeatism, isolationism, and blaming America first." by RNC chairman Ken Mehlman. William Kristol, editor of the Weekly Standard, said that voters didn't dump Lieberman because of his position on the war, but because, "he's unashamedly pro-American" once again attacking that anti-American perversion known as **the election process** and making anyone who participates a traitor.

What was a pleasure for me to see was that the latest spate of Republican spin that seems to (finally) be falling flat with the voters. Over the last two months polls about Bush's overall job rating: ABC 57% do not approve of the job he's doing; CNN 59%, Gallop 60%, and even the Fox poll is at 56%.

According to a new [Newsweek](#) poll, 53 percent of Americans say they want the Democrats to take control of Congress this year. Just 34 want to see the GOP retain control. Those results are right in line with what every other major poll has shown of late: When confronted with a choice between generic Democratic and Republican candidates for Congress, poll respondents are [consistently picking the Democrat](#) by double-digit margins.

Photo Gallery

Yes! We have a wonderful [photo gallery](#) implemented and maintained by **Melissa Waldie**. Attended an event lately? Inspire others by sharing the experience with photos.

To get your pictures posted on one of these galleries, send them to [feedback](#). Please tell us which gallery you want the photos to appear on, if you have a preference. Otherwise, we will choose for you.

If you have more than a few photos to submit, please send mail to [feedback](#) and we will give you instructions on how to submit them.

Previous meeting

After a long but productive meeting the 45th LD worked hard to add to our list of endorsements of candidates and initiatives. **Kudos to all who stayed until the last vote was completed.** This process is so important; understanding the candidates and issues critical in passing this information on to friends and family as well as during our canvassing efforts. The discussion by members was thoughtful, heartfelt, informative, and much appreciated and though we didn't all agree on all of the issues, we proved the ties that bind us are strong and growing stronger. We will need that strength and unity in the coming months through this critical election cycle and as we look ahead to the day we wipe all traces of Bush from office in 2008. For a complete list of endorsements, as well as links to more information about the candidates and initiatives [click here](#).

See you at the [General Meeting](#). Check the [agenda](#) for guest speakers and endorsements.

Lynn Herwood, Web News Editor.