



## GRASSROOTS

The Newsletter of the  
Whatcom County  
Democratic  
Central Committee

**No Meeting this Month**

**Holiday Party**

**December 10th**

**6-10pm**

**Elks Lodge**

**710 Samish Way**

Join us for a fantastic evening of fun, frivolity and excitement. Dashing desserts, lively speeches, back-patting and consoling will abound. See the year off with our end of the year awards and recognitions.

See article on page 2 for more details but here is the most important detail and I will put it in big bold print so you don't miss it. You ready? Here it is:

**Buy your tickets online at  
[www.whatcomdemocrats.com](http://www.whatcomdemocrats.com)**

You will not want to miss this so grab your ticket today. See you all there.

*December 2011*  
*Vol 7 Issue 12*  
*[info@whatcomdemocrats.com](mailto:info@whatcomdemocrats.com)*  
*[www.whatcomdemocrats.com](http://www.whatcomdemocrats.com)*  
*360-647-7661*

# Democrats Victorious



And guess who isn't too happy about that . . .

They said it couldn't be done, but we rolled up our sleeves and got to work. After hundreds of phone calls and doors knocked, we made huge strides forward in the County and continue our unbridled success in Bellingham. Need some examples?

**We handed Doug Ericksen his first defeat** ever after 13 years (see above).

**We elected elder statesman Pete Kremen** to the County Council and sent Tea Party darling Tony Larson packing.

**We elected Cathy Lehman**, our endorsed city council woman, by overwhelming margins.

**We protected our great County Treasurer Steve Oliver** from a scurrilous conservative challenge

**We beat back Tim Eyman's** state-wide initiative to gut our transportation funds

Sadly, Christina Maginnis came within inches of bumping off conservative activist Sam Crawford for County Council. While we did not win the seat, we sent a clear message. No conservative is safe so long as they continue to gut water protections, sell out our government with backroom deals, endanger our communities and refuse to create jobs. The Whatcom Democrats will be ready to make them answer to the voters.

And finally, the Whatcom Democrats congratulate Kelli Linville for being elected as the first woman mayor of Bellingham and thank Dan Pike for his years of service to the city.

## Special Session Message from Rep. Kristine Lytton

Dear friends and neighbors,

We are approaching the end of the first week of special session, and, while I wish I could be home with my family, it is important that my colleagues and I begin the difficult work of addressing our budget shortfall. This is a daunting task, and we face many difficult decisions including drastic cuts to programs we all value.

Rebalancing our state's operating budget is a huge challenge. The programs and services we decide to cut or keep will impact the children, families and seniors of our state. To give an idea of the challenge legislators are facing, the League of Education Voters have posted a budget calculator that lets you make those decisions. If you get a chance, try it out and let me know how it goes.

During Monday's Ways and Means Committee hearing, hundreds of people turned out to testify in support of a huge range of programs. This feedback on the Governor's budget proposal combined with the comments I have been receiving from constituents will help shape our discussions moving forward.

Whether you come to Olympia, call my office or send an email, I appreciate hearing from you about your priorities for our state, so please stay in touch.

Regards,  
Kristine



will need ticket sellers. We also will need people willing to help out as raffle basket item coordinators and solicitors. If you can help out any of these tasks please let me know at [volunteerwhatcom@gmail.com](mailto:volunteerwhatcom@gmail.com).

## Get Ready for our Annual Holiday Party

Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 10th, 6-10pm at The Elks Club, 710 Samish Way in Bellingham. This festive event is aimed at raising spirits and funds for our 2012 convention and caucuses.

Join us for a holiday potluck, volunteer awards, Dessert Dash PLUS live music and dancing - All for just \$15 (\$20 at the door). Go to [www.whatcomdemocrats.com](http://www.whatcomdemocrats.com) or call our office at 647-7661 for tickets today!

Volunteers will be needed on the day of the event for everything from event set up to clean up (and everything in between too!). Not available to volunteer that day, but you still want to help?

November 28 through December 8, we

## Remembering Dean Martin and Sharon Crozier

Whatcom County Democrats lost two fierce advocates this last month. Sharon Crozier and Dean Martin. Sharon Crozier's efforts on Lake Whatcom showed her intense passion for our natural bounty, and her voice will be dearly missed. Though she never held public office, she will continue to hold a place in our hearts.

Dean Martin, former County planning employee and vigorous volunteer was a voice of sanity on issues of conservation. A reasonable man in an unreasonable climate, he spoke out, with his soft calm demeanor, on protecting our community. His sudden passing is a loss to the community.

The Whatcom Democrats offer our sympathy and compassion to their families. Dean and Sharon will be missed.

### Whatcom Democrats Executive Board

			email: add @whatcomdemocrats.com
Chair	Natalie McClendon	671-6851	demchair
1st Vice Chair	Mark Lowry	223-3986	demvchair
2nd Vice Chair	Mike Estes	220-1100	
Treasurer	Peggy Borgens	384-0861	treas
Secretary			recsec
State Committeewoman	Stephanie Kountouros	734-7340	staterwoman
State Committeeman	Richard May	671-5597	stateman
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Campaign	Temp. Chair Riley Sweeney(360)	649-1801	
Candidates	John McGarrity	738-9695	
Communications	Riley Sweeney	360-649-1801	
Finance	Roni Lenore	510-435-4747	
Issues and Resolutions	Acting Chair Mike Estes		
Membership	Steve Schuck	733-1063	
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Young Democrats	Mary Bell		whatcom@ydwa.org
40 <sup>th</sup> LD Representative	David Narsico	441-2293	
42 <sup>nd</sup> LD Representative	Sherry Zeilstra	380-1438	

## Elections Over: Now What?

by Riley Sweeney

So that was crazy, what do we do now? There are still lots of opportunities to be involved in the party. Believe me, 2012 has already started. Here is an example of some of the many ways you can help:

**1) Help recruit, vet and develop candidates** over at the Candidate's Committee. Please contact Dan Raas, chair of the candidate's committee, for more information. Call the office to get his contact info.

**2) We need a PCO coordinator.** Someone who helps corral the PCO's into the grassroots organizing team we all know they can be. This would not be a huge time commitment and would be very helpful.

**3) Special projects.** This year we had the ever-fabulous Jeremy Mohn coordinate the Lynden Fair booth. There are 3-4 different projects like this each year that require one person to take the lead in organizing them. Usually these projects last a month or two and involve little chunks of time leading up to the event. Examples are the Yard Sale, the Plant Sale, things like that. Contact Natalie McClendon if you are interested in tackling one of these smaller projects. Her email is [demchair@whatcomdemocrats.com](mailto:demchair@whatcomdemocrats.com)

**4) Looking for something with a little more responsibility?** Right now, we need an Affirmative Action Chair (responsible for reaching out to specific sub-groups), we need an Issues and Resolutions chair (responsible for handling our program for the membership meeting, and discussing resolutions from the body), we need a Finance chair to help plan our fundraisers and we need a more permanent campaign chair.

With all of these roles come an added bonus, you become a member of the Executive Board of the Whatcom Democrats, and get to sit in our secret smoke-filled backrooms where we scheme and plot. If you are

## Thank you to our Election Volunteers

### Election Observers

Marian Beddill, Jim Fox, Ronalee Kincaid, Judy Mullenix, Artemis OakGrove, Steve Schuck, Carol Quimby, Lynn Evich.

### Campaign Literature Drop

Abe Jacobson, Aileen Satushek, Andrew Zvilna, Artemis OakGrove, Betsy Pernotto, Bob Marshall, Carole Jacobson, Catherine George, Cheryl Hockett-Prelle, David Blair, Daydre Phillips, Dianne Foster, Elizabeth Kilanowski, Ellen McDermott, Emily Highleyman, Emily Flynn, James Gunsolus, Jean Brechan, Jennifer Richmond, Jeremy Mohn, John Palmer, Judy Mullenix, Laurel Cook, M'Lyn Avera, Maggie Hanson, Michael Shepard, Mike Estes, Nancy Steele, Raymond Wilson, Riley Sweeney, Rodd Pemble, Sharon Alford, Simon Daugert, Stephen Schultz, Steve Schuck, Susan Anderson, Tim Douglas, Wendy Borgesen, and many more who did work directly for a candidate campaign.

### Campaign Phone Calling

Artemis OakGrove, Barbara Bessire, Barbara Davenport, Barbara Ryan, Bernell Walz, Burnice Moore, Catherine Chambers, Celia Kadushin, Cheryl Hockett-Prelle, Danene Park, David Stalheim, Daydre Phillips, Diane Weiss, Don Knutzen, Betty Kipp, Ellen McDermott, George Harell, Gretchen McFarland, Jim Sawyer, Jayne Freudenberger, Jeanne Chadwick, Joan Casey, Jodell Chapman, John Poggi, Joseph Knight, Joyce Schiffler, Judith Green, Katie Humes, Kirsti Charlton, Larry Dutton, Lee Seaman, Lorene Hofstrand, Marilyn Brown, Martha Hammer, Mary-Margaret Remkiewicz, Milt Krieger, Nancy Steele, Noreen Morris, Peg Stewart, Penny Hinkel, Raymond Straka, Robert Miller, Robert Davis, Roni Lenore, Rosemary Hostetler, Saliha Miller, Sandy Zagars, Simon Daugert, Steven Harper, Teresa Taylor-Oliver, Wendy Harris, Winn Adams, and many more who worked through a candidate campaign.

### Office Help throughout the year, including mailings

Alita Walton, Barbara Bessire, Sky Hedman, Betty McClendon, Catherine Sheedy, Don Alford, Eleanor Hogan, Marion Heath, Martha Hammer, Martha Burns, Naomi Murphy, Pat Pierson, Rosemary Woodyard, Ruth Norman, Ellen Packer, Emily Flynn

### Core Office Staff, keeping the office open 50 weeks of the year

Judy Mullenix, Sharon Alford, Ronalee Kincaid, Laurel Cook, Emma Conlee, Jean Brechan, Marilyn Brown, Kathryn Hanowell, Florence Shepard, Saliha Miller, Naomi Murphy, Rosanna Page

### A Note from your Newsletter Writer

Hello everyone, this is Riley Sweeney, your Communications Chair and newsletter writer for the last two years. I hope that you have enjoyed the delightful muddled mess that has been this publication through the pandemonium of the Tea Party to the thrills of the mayoral race. Next issue, I will be handing this baton off to the talented John Flancher who will be our new Communications chair. I can already tell that he is going to do a fantastic job. Don't worry, I'm not leaving the party or anything, I'm staying on as the Campaign Chair, and if you are a fan of my writing, you can find my political blog online at [www.sweeneypolitics.com](http://www.sweeneypolitics.com). Thank you for reading!

### What Happens Next (continued from sidebar)

interested in any of these roles, please email Natalie (see above), as she is the one who will appoint you.

As we move into 2012, I will continue to serve as temporary campaign chair until someone (ANYONE!) relieves me. With Vincent Buys and Jason Overstreet up for re-election, there is plenty of work to be done. Come join me in the trenches.

**OCCUPY BELLINGHAM**

Our friends and allies in the Occupy Bellingham movement have been making themselves seen and heard. They have set up camp in Marine Heritage Park in downtown Bellingham and as of printing, the Bellingham police have pledged to work with the campers in a safe, flexible and measured manner. The Whatcom Democrats stand in solidarity with the Occupy movement in the efforts promote economic justice and reign in the excesses and greed of Wall Street. You can find out more through the "Occupy Bellingham" Facebook page.

**Regulators Discuss Cherry Point**

Members of the regulatory team assigned to the EIS scoping for the project have been invited to discuss the scoping process and timeline. The MRC will meet at 6 pm on Thursday, January 5 in the Garden Level Conference Room at the Civic Center Annex, 322 N. Commercial St., B'ham. Meetings are open and public participation is encouraged.



**Whatcom County Democrats**

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 P.O. Box 3095  
 Bellingham, WA 98227

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**December 2011**

Check [whatcomdemocrats.com](http://whatcomdemocrats.com) for details

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4	5	6 6pm- Jobs with Justice, Labor Temple, 1700 N. State St, Bham. 7pm- Young Dems Social, Chuckanut Brewery, 601 W. Holly, Bham.	7 Green Drinks	8 Noon- Whatcom Fair Voting Meeting, RE Sources, 2309 Meridian St, Bham.	9 4pm- Occupy Bellingham Rally, Downtown Bham.	10 6pm- Annual Holiday Party, 710 Samish Way, Bham. See inside for details
11	12 Noon-Democratic Women's Holiday Mtg. Super Buffet 4151 Meridian St, Bham.	13 7pm - Drinking Liberally, Beaver Inn, Bham.	14	15 9:30am- Citizen's Elections Advisory Committee, County Courthouse, Bham.	16 4pm- Occupy Bellingham Rally, Downtown Bham	17
18	19	20 1pm- Great Decisions, 2401 Cornwall, Bham. 7pm- Young Dems Social, Chuckanut Brewery, 601 W. Holly, Bham.	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31