

DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Washington County



The Grass Roots

A Newsletter for Washington County Democrats

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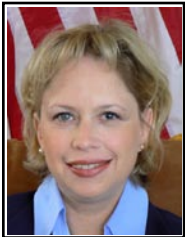
Third Quarter 2008

'This Is The Year of the Democrats'

By Lupita Maurer

Chair, Washington County Democrats

This is the Year of the Democrats. Everyone knows it. The opposition disarray is so obvious, even FOX News is having a hard time disguising it. We're ahead nationally, statewide and, for the first time in recent history, Democratic voter registrations have made Washington County blue.



With your help, the WashCoDems were able to hire our first-ever, full-time field organizer. Ron Morgan has been an energetic volunteer for us for some time.

But all our efforts and skills won't mean anything if we don't show up. Ron can't do it alone.

(See "LUPITA" on back page)

Democrats March in Hillsboro



Washington County Democrats turned out for the July 4th parade in Hillsboro. At top, parade marchers pose before stepping off. Above left, State Rep. Chuck Riley (left photo) and his supporters rally for his re-election campaign, and (right), Rep. David Edwards, also in a re-election battle, flashes a smile before the parade. At far right, County Chair Lupita Maurer and her husband, Steve, get ready for the parade. (Photos by Bill Kroger)

WashCoDems Hire Full-Time Field Organizer

Ron Morgan began his new duties in July as the Washington County Democrats' full-time field organizer. He will work out of the WashCoDems office until Nov. 18.

Lupita Maurer, chair of the county party, said Ron has an excellent background of

professional and volunteer experience and will do a great job for the party. He was hired via a vetting process that included a hiring committee.

Ron says he "wants to help build our base in the county, register more Democrats and make sure our candidates get elected and re-elected. We have lots of excitement about the (Barack) Obama campaign and need to build on that." He added: "My first task is to encourage people to volunteer at the office. We don't realize how lucky we are to have an office."

A native of California, Ron is married to Loren Hillman-Morgan, a scenic artist for Laika, which does animation movies. The couple has three daughters.

Ron attended school in California and earned a degree at Pasadena City



(See "NEW FIELD" on back page)

An Old-Fashioned Picnic

Come to the WashCoDems annual picnic, set for Sunday, Aug. 10, from 1-5 p.m. at Rood Bridge Park, Hillsboro. Great food, raffle prizes and meet the candidates. Pre-registration is required. Go to www.WashCoDems.org to sign up.

Karen Packer-- Finance Committee:

Meet Your Washington County Committee Chairs

In the mid 1980s, Karen Packer played an important role in announcing Microsoft Word to the world, creating the first press release on the now widely-used software product. At the time, Karen had her own freelance writing business and was doing work for Microsoft and several high tech firms.



Her hard-charging abilities and creativity since have transferred to the Democratic Party of Washington County, where she has served as chair of the Finance Committee for three and a half years. Active county Democrats, and many at the state level, know Karen has made a huge contribution to the party. She and her committee have raised more than \$120,000 to help re-elect Democrats and support new candidates.

She was a charter member of the county's Blue Horizon Fund (and creator) that allowed the WashCo Dems to open its first-ever permanent office, in Beaverton. And she was a force behind raising the necessary funds for the county to hire its first-ever, full-time field organizer this year.

So, who is Karen Packer?

Born in Manhattan, her parents moved to Alaska when she was three years old, and Karen grew up in the 49th state. She attended college in Bellingham, Washing-

ton and, on a blind date, met her future husband, Steve Packer (vice chair of the WashCo Dems). In her junior year, Karen transferred to the University of Washington and earned a degree in English. She and Steve were married in her senior year. The couple today has three children and four grandchildren.

Following college, Karen moved with her family to Minnesota and was a homemaker for the next few years. She got involved in politics during the Humphrey-McGovern battle for the presidential nomination and later lobbied at the state legislature for feminist issues. She also was finance chair for a state senator during his successful election bid.

In 1973, Karen and her family moved to California. During this time, Karen landed a job with a pharmaceutical firm, advanced to proofreader and, with her new skills, took another job as a copywriter for another medical company.

In 1981, Steve got a job with Intel in Hillsboro, and the family moved here. Karen had her own business, Word Craft, and in 1998 had just contracted with Portland Community College to teach a business course when their home burned down, destroying everything and all her files. She decided to retire and concentrate on rebuilding her home.

In 2003, Karen and Steve got involved in the 2004 presidential election, after which Karen was asked to be chair of the WashCo Dems Finance Committee. She earlier had been one of three founders of the Hillsboro Schools Foundation, which today has an endowment of \$3 million.

As to hobbies, Karen enjoys gardening, being a grandmother and reading. But, she says, she spends "80 percent of my time involved in politics. Both Steve and I think of the Washington County Democrats as our big, extended family, and we're gratified by its success."

Lupita: 'We've Got a Lot of Work to Do!'

(Continued from front page)

Besides the presidential race, we need to get Jeff Merkley elected and say "so long" to Sen. Gordon Smith, the Bush Republican who is pretending he's a Democrat. We also have a number of other statewide elections and legislative races to work on, several involving tough battles. Victory will not be ours without your help – please

be involved!

We've got a lot of work to do. We still can lose by winning "small," which means not winning enough seats in the Legislature or in the Congress to get progressive programs through without being decimated.

You can help by coming to our events. Please go to our web site and check them out. Thanks for all your efforts.

New Field Organizer Joins the Team

(Continued from front page)

College. He then moved to the San Francisco area and was a building contractor for a number of years. In 2001 he was hired as a full-time community organizer in the Bay Area for a not-for-profit affordable housing development corporation and, in 2006, became the campaign manager for a San Francisco county supervisor and guided the incumbent to re-election.

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County Dems Have a New Home: Kingstad Center



Democrats gather for the first time in their new monthly meeting home, the Kingstad Center on Millikan Way. Top left, County Commissioner Dick Schouten gets a cup of coffee. Top center, meeting speaker Sen. Ben Westlund, a candidate for State Treasurer, greets Democrat Nellie Fox Edwards. Top right, Jon and Marilyn McWilliams and Wendy Kroger (right) gather out front.