

250 Liberty St SE Salem, Oregon 97301
(across from the Phoenix Grand Hotel)
Office Phone: 503-363-8392.
Email: MCDCC1@gmail.com



Democratic Values

- Affordable Health Care
- Quality Education
- Fair & Equitable Taxation
- Healthy Air, Water, Land
- Family Wage Jobs
- Accountable & Fiscally Responsible Government

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Auction Proves a Big Hit

By Don Hudgins

Democrats from all over Oregon came together on March 24th at the Grand Ballroom in Salem for the Marion County Democrats Annual Auction. Marion County Chair Rick Hartwig hosted the evening with Oregon AFSCME Political Coordinator, former state legislator and former Clackamas County Commissioner, Ralph Groener, ably serving as auctioneer. Groener complimented the Auction Committee on their organization while reminiscing over the early days when the auction took place above Ralph's Grocery.

The special guest speaker for the evening was Carl Wolfson of KPOJ 620, which serves progressive thinkers with thought provoking programming throughout Oregon. "The biggest thing we can do in our lifetimes is get money out of politics", Carl Wolfson said. "Politics are about our values." This was the third time Wolfson has attended the annual event. "Every time I come, the auction gets better organized with greater enthusiasm", Wolfson remarked. "The event just gets better and better and more successful"



Carl Wolfson, of KPOJ 620

Furious bidding broke out over the offering of "Peter's Surprise", a package of items donated by Peter Courtney, President and State Senator for District 11. The package consisted of a Boston Red Sox License plate, tickets to Oregon Garden Resort and one of Peter's famous neckties. The package, offered entertainingly by Peter Courtney himself, was replete with anecdotes of his history in Boston as a Red Sox fan. The package brought a bid of \$225. Other notable items in the live auction included a will prepared by Mike Swain, former Salem City Mayor for \$250, cozy vacations in Bend and Oregon's Inn at Otter Crest bringing in as much as \$750, a week stay in Hawaii for \$800. Many party notables offered lunches including Brad Avakian, Oregon Labor Commissioner, Representative Betty Komp, Brian Clem, House District 21, and Susan Castillo, Oregon State Superintendent. Oregon State Treasurer Ted Wheeler provided an Oregon Treasury tour and picnic lunch.



Peter Courtney's Surprise
(story continues next page)

The combined live and silent auctions brought in around \$5,000 in support of the Marion County Democratic Party Headquarters located in downtown Salem. The Silent Auction included a wide variety of items ranging from delicious hot crossed buns and brownies to original works of art and antiques. Notable were the quilts donated by Ben Allen and the fabulous Democratic Donkey whiskey decanters. Senator Ron Wyden donated a flag flown over the US Capitol. Many area businesses provided Gift Certificates including Bentley's Grill, Willamette Sternwheeler Excursions, Busick Court Restaurant, Olson Florist, Gerry Frank's

Konditorei, Egan Gardens, Pietro's Pizza, Whitter, J's Plant Sales, Fitts Seafood, Ragin River Steak House, Cozumel Mexican Restaurant, Tea Party Bookshop (whose owner made it clear is NOT associated with the disjointed Tea Party movement) Gilbert's Discovery Village and Mission Mill Museum.

Event Sponsors included Paul Evans, Andy & Leann Bromeland, Rich & Lisa Harisay, Roger & Aileen Kaye, Bill & Pat Williams, Christine Lewis, Laura Tesler and Claudia Kyle. AFSCME Local, City of Salem, Claudia Kyle, Pat Dodge, Polk County Democrats, H.A.V.E. and Marion-Polk-Yamhill Labor Council purchased tables for the evening and table occupants were among the most active bidders. Bill Hughes Trio provided music for the event.

The MCDCC Annual Auction Benefit Committee is comprised of dedicated members including Claudia Baum, Wayne Baum, Ben Allen, Kasia Quillinan, Aileen Kaye, Andy Bromeland, Suzanne Devlin, Michael Miles, Rick Hartwig, Claudia Kyle, Trudy Margules, and Kathleen O'Daniels. Special thanks are offered to Bill Hughes Trio, Ralph Groener, Laurel Muller, Olsen Family Vineyards, of Monmouth, John Pulvers, SEIU, Carole Smith and Eric Kittleson, Widmer Brothers Brewing and Willamette Valley Vineyards.



Silent Auction Bidders

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Call to Action for the Chuck Bennett for Mayor campaign

How you can help elect Chuck Bennett Mayor of Salem:

- 1) take a lawn sign -- email your request to bennett4mayor@gmail.com
- 2) volunteer for phone banking
- 3) sign up to canvass -- this is the big one. We need bodies on the streets to deliver mail on 3 weekends: April 24-25, May 1-2 and May 8-9. Sign up for 1 day or all 6. WE NEED YOU
- 4) send money



Contact the campaign at bennett4mayor@gmail.com for all these great service opportunities. The next month is critical. Thank you!

MCDCC Meeting & Local Government Candidates Night

Night

By Andy Bromeland

You have the opportunity to meet and hear from candidates running for office in Marion County scheduled for April 19th.

This month's meeting of the Marion County Democratic Central Committee will feature appearances by several candidates running in the region. The program will feature local legislative candidates. Audience questions and discussion will follow remarks by candidates.

Marion County Democratic Central Committee (MCDCC) meeting time has changed from 7 PM to 6:30 PM. The new meeting time allows us to hold a ½ hour social time and refreshments time prior to the start of each meeting. Under the new format social time is 6:30 to 7 PM. Business meetings will run from 7 PM to 7:30 PM, and programs will be presented from 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM.

PCP? It's Not Too Late

By Rick Hartwig

Not a PCP (Precinct Committee Person)? Even though the filing date to run for the office has passed, you still can be at the true grassroots of American democracy. When you get your primary ballot in May, you will find a PCP slip of paper. Even if there is already a name on it you can write in your name. There can be multiple PCP's from the same district. All you need to do is have a total of 3 write in votes from your precinct to be elected.

Be sure that others spell your name exactly as you have and (poof) you are a PCP! Of course, that is just the beginning. You can be a part of the party at the neighborhood level, and you have a vote in county party elections! Be an activist for the Democratic Party!



FORUM



The Future of Linn & Benton Counties:

THE **LINK** BETWEEN **JOB**S AND **EDUCATION**

LBCC Albany Campus, 6500 Pacific Blvd.
Fireside Room, College Center Bldg.
Thursday April 15 – 7:00-9:00 pm

- ◆ What can be done to get Oregonians back to work?
- ◆ How can our youth become productive members of our communities?
- ◆ What can be done to bring sustainable industries & services to our counties?

Participate in this great forum. Contribute *your* ideas on how we can work together to build a better future for Linn & Benton Counties.

PANELISTS:

- 1) **Nancy Hamilton** - Senior Policy Advisor: Economic Development & Workforce-Office of Governor Kulongoski
- 2) **Catherine Mater** - President, Mater Engineering, Corvallis
- 3) **Gary Price** – Assoc. Dean, Business, Healthcare & Workforce, LBCC
- 4) **Joy Margheim** – Policy Analyst, Oregon Center for Public Policy

MC: Charlie Bush – Albany business personality
will keep forum moving & entertaining!

Newsletter Looking To Improve

By Staff

"The goal is to have the newsletter out on the first to the third of the month." That's the word from Marion County Democratic Central Committee Communications Chairman Roger Pike who says the last several issues have been released later than planned. "When the newsletter is out as late as the 7th we may miss publicizing important events that happen early on each month."

To get the publication date more on track the Communications Committee has moved several of its deadlines and streamlined some of its review processes. The deadline for submission has been moved to the 25th of the month; but that date is now a firm cutoff. Roger says, of course, stories will be published submitted after that date in the event of emergencies or rapidly breaking developments, but he insists it's vital that contributors understand the importance of submitting stories in a manner that allows proper editing.

"We'll also be cutting one step out of the editorial review process," says Pike, who adds that may mean some calendar items could fall through the cracks. It's hoped that everyone will help keep the calendar updated by letting communications or executive staff know when the Website calendar is incomplete or inaccurate.

The committee is also interested in updating it's list of contributors. A couple of people have volunteered to step up and write for the newsletter, but the list has been too short to develop a pool of "stringers." A stringer is a person who writes occasional stories. Pike says people who volunteer would be a big help to the newsletter and to the community of Democrats in Marion County.

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Silverton Grange to Host Marion County Commission Candidates

On April 14, 2010, The Silverton Grange will host our first Candidates Forum of the year. Incumbent Republican Commissioner Patti Milne and Democratic challenger Jason Freilinger will both be on hand to introduce themselves, their positions on the future of Marion County, and will take questions from the audience.

This is the primary election and both Candidates are running unopposed. They will square off with one another next November during the general election. Come with your questions! Refreshments provided! All are welcome!

Date: April 14, 2010

Time: Doors open 6:00 / Candidates Speak at 7:00

Location: Silverton Grange No. 748, 201 Division Street, Silverton

(From Main & Water, head south towards the Falls 1.7 miles on Water St., then turn left on Division St.)

Gus Frederick; Lecturer
Silverton Grange No.748
SilvertonGrange.org
H: 503-873-6216

Salem Progressive Film Series

Salem Progressive Film Series Presents: **Thursday, April 8, 2010 Grand Theater 191 High St. NE, Salem**

Secrecy

This film is about the vast, invisible world of government secrecy. By focusing on classified secrets and the government's ability to put information out of sight if it would harm national security, this film explores the tensions between our safety as a nation, and our ability to function as a democracy. Secrecy can throw into the dark our system of justice and derail the balance of power between the executive branch and the rest of government. And we have learned that under the veil of classification, even our leaders can give in to dangerous impulses.

Guest Speaker:

Steven T. Wax

Federal Public Defender for the District of Oregon Represented Portland attorney Brandon Mayfield, who was accused of bombing the commuter trains in Spain and Mr. Wax has defended men accused of being "enemy combatants" in Guantanamo



Opinion Editorials

Why the Marion County Home Rule Charter Matters

By Wayne Baum

Measure 24-292, the Marion County Home Rule Charter on the May Primary ballot would provide Marion County with a charter (similar to a city charter) that would give the county more flexibility in governing its own affairs than the current General Law model. It would save money too, but most importantly, it would give greater democratic representation to the county's residents.

The Charter would change the board from three partisan commissioners elected at large to five non-partisan district elected commissioners. It would also eliminate the elected treasurer and place those responsibilities in the finance department under the county administrator. It would save the county money by eliminating the unnecessary treasurer's position - currently a highly paid position that requires NO professional expertise in finance; and by removing the need for three "policy advisors" assigned to the commissioners whose salaries and benefits total more than \$300,00. The Charter will not change the daily administrative functions under which the county presently operates.

In 1860 when the entire population of Oregon numbered about 12,000, Marion county's affairs could be managed by a judge and a couple of elected citizens, but Marion County now has over 300,000 residents and a budget of more than \$350 million. The county has responsibility for a myriad of issues that its founders could not have imagined, including: urban/rural conflicts, drug related crimes, the health, safety and welfare needs of literally thousands of its citizens, competition for limited water resources, solid waste disposal, and thousands of miles of paved roads. Is it desirable or even reasonable to expect critical policy, legislative, and quasi-judicial decisions for this large and diverse county to be placed in the hands of only two individuals? That is not a typo. It only takes two commissioners to constitute a majority, and frequently some of the most critical and controversial decisions have been made with just two commissioners present.

Compounding this inadequacy is that no two commissioners (a quorum) are permitted by Oregon's Open Meetings Law to have any form of discussion outside of publicly scheduled meetings. Ironically, the Open Meetings Law, when applied to a board of three, makes impossible collaborative discussion where sharing ideas, special knowledge, and expertise leads to better decision making.

(story continues next page)

Why We Need Art In Public Schools

By Don Hudgins

In all economic downturns, one of the first casualties of cutbacks is the arts in public education. Art and music teachers are the first laid off and the last called back. Classes and entire curricula are eliminated and programs are slashed. Yet this short-sighted strategy undermines the very thing we need to instill in our children. Creativity.

[Thomas Friedman](#) tells us the world is flat. We compete globally on the same playing field as China and India. Customers can be served more efficiently and goods can be manufactured and distributed more effectively in almost any other country. So what advantage does the United States have in global competition? Creativity and culture. We live in a society where the free expression of ideas is possible and encouraged. Our very diversity defines our product. No other country is so well-equipped for producing the products that change our world view and advance our civilization. From the iPhone to the Bloom Box, new products and ideas come from creative and analytical thinking. The arts makes this way of thinking possible and allows students to experience and ponder greater meaning in their lives.

Outside the box thinking is not generally fostered effectively through teaching only the three R's. Simple reading doesn't convey the poetry of Shakespeare. As naked as he is, Geometry II will never instill an appreciation for the symmetry, balance and beauty



Michelangelo's David

(story continues next page)

The situation has resulted in the hiring of those three "policy advisers," alluded to earlier, to get around the problem. It is a very expensive solution in two ways. First, the cost of these three individuals is virtually the same as three more commissioners. Second, although their duties and job responsibilities mirror closely those of the commissioners, they are not elected. Thus Marion County is essentially paying for six commissioners, yet only three are accountable to the public. (continued next page)

With five commissioners the Open Meetings Law is not violated when two commissioners speak in casual conversation. Intermediary PA's are not needed. Despite workloads that are surely equal to or greater than that of Marion County; Lane, Washington and Multnomah county commissioners function fine without individual policy advisers.

The most important reason to support the Charter has nothing to do with money, but everything to do with representative democracy and accountability. Each of our elected at-large commissioners represents 300,000+ constituents. That ratio is three times greater than a state house district! Is it any wonder that more people know that Betty Komp and Brian Clem – whose house districts are fully within Marion County - than know who their county commissioners are? The Charter would divide the county into five roughly equal districts of about 60,000 population - little more than half the size of a house district. This would create an opportunity for citizens to run for office who, before the charter, would not have been able to raise the \$50-60,000 needed to run in a countywide election. For the citizens in the districts, it would mean having a representative dedicated and answerable to them. It would be someone from their district – a friend, a neighbor, or at the least, someone who knocked on their door asking for their vote and hearing their concerns.

The process in creating the Charter involved researching the other home rule charter counties, consulting with experts both political and legal, and carrying out multiple public presentations at the Salem Public Library, fairs, and city council meetings in nearly every city in the county. It has been reviewed by several attorneys with expertise in city and county governance, and has passed constitutional muster with Marion County's own legal counsel. Finally, more than 7,000 registered voters in Marion County put their signature to the petition that put the measure on the ballot.

The Charter has earned the endorsement of the local chapters of the League of Women Voters, Oregon League of Conservation Voters, the Audubon Society, Salem Professional Firefighters Association, the city councils of Aurora and St. Paul, Salem city councilors, various city and county present and former planning commissioners, Friends of French Prairie and others. It is a diverse group that shares one commonality: They recognize the unique problems and challenges facing Marion County today can no longer be adequately addressed by an outmoded 19th century model of governance designed for a few thousand

embodied in Michelangelo's David. The arts allows students to learn about the world outside the PSP screen, experiment with their own thought and fairly evaluate the work and ideas of others.

With the disproportionate influence of the Texas School Board in selecting and recommending school textbooks, further damage to the cultural consciousness of American students is being perpetrated. Student intellects can only grow when they are exposed to ideas as diverse and important as Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Paine and Mark Twain. In the narrow world view of many fundamentalists, much which is intellectual and provocative is deemed simply too challenging or truthful for our students to sort through and come to their own conclusions. Basically, it is pretty easy to "teach the controversy" when the curriculum is slanted toward an existing world view through the selection of slanted texts and curriculum. Many of the books and curricula selected by the Texas Board of Education for our students support and give equal weight to religious supposition as to established scientific thinking.

As with Liberal, Intellectual has become a derogatory term used as a weapon by those who would diminish and control the social and intellectual horizons of students in our public schools. The arts teaches students analytical skills which are strengthened and developed through experiencing and evaluating objects, events and ideas of cultural significance created by others and ourselves. Learning of self value comes through failure as well as success. No other discipline teaches this lesson so well. The arts needs to be given equal weight and emphasis in all parts of our teaching.

As [Daniel Pink](#) shows us, many of the jobs which were once intellectually based and well paying are now accomplished by sophisticated databases and web services at a fraction of the cost to consumers and to the great dismay of many strip mall attorneys. Need a will? A lawyer used to do that. Now there are any dozens of choices for legal documents. Tax time? Welcome to TurboTax. Our best strategy is to help our students prepare their thought abilities and creative impulses to best serve their own career needs through creative and entrepreneurial thinking. Can you imagine going to your mom in 1970 to let her know you were going to be a blogger when you grew up? We don't know today, what the jobs of tomorrow will be.

Without the arts in schools as a strong part of the curriculum and a daily influence in the lives of students, the dominance and influence of American

people. They believe the Marion County Home Rule Charter can play an essential role in improving democratic representation and accountability, while finding the right solutions to fit our 21st Century reality.

The Charter is right for Marion County, but unless the public is informed, it will fail in May. Go to www.haveavoicceveryone.org to find out more and how you can help.



The Health Insurance Reform Battle Not Nearly Over

By Roger Pike

I'm waiting. I don't know how long it will take; but the fear merchants and the peddlers of doom insisted it would come. So, I wait.

It's been awhile since health care reform became law of the land. So far, no one with a federal badge and gun has knocked on my door demanding I fire my doctor and sign on somebody on the "approved" list. Nobody has stripped me of my existing health insurance and demanded I take a government sanctioned plan. There've been no reports of doctors deserting the profession wholesale as the reality of health care reform hits home. Nobody has contacted me about when I must meet with death panels to plan the murder of my mother and father.

So what's the holdup? Where is the army of bureaucrats in charge of the "federal takeover of one-sixth of the nation's economy" as I was assured would be the inevitable and instant result of the passage of health insurance reform? Why haven't China, Cuba, North Korea, Laos, and Vietnam welcomed us into the family of Communist/Socialist nations? Surely there must be some sign of the collapse of capitalism and the birth of the Socialist States of America. But...nothing. Nada. Zilch. As I said, I'm still waiting.

Those of us who favored health insurance reform knew, all along, that the Republicans in Congress, hell-bent to derail the Obama Presidency, had strung together an outrageous collection of gross exaggerations and outright falsehoods. In fact, the biggest challenge faced in winning passage of the bill was debunking the myths reforms opponents kept repeating over and over again.

Unfortunately, that battle hasn't ended. Republicans will continue to push their distortions and delusions well past the point that reason would insist they abandon them. In fact, their rhetoric will escalate even further. They have no choice. By insisting, from the beginning, upon the most extreme consequences and couching their arguments in the rhetoric of the apocalypse Republicans have painted themselves into a corner. If they back off even the most outrageous of their claims, their credibility will be shattered for years.

culture and the strength of our economy will wither and die as has happened with other great powers of history. Our place in the world is not guaranteed. And without inventive entrepreneurship and analytical abilities fostered through creative thinking, the United States is destined to become another third rate empire reduced to remembering the good old days. Our students deserve the best in education including exposure to and appreciation of ideas and images which provoke free thinking and creative thought. Creativity and thought best provoked by exposure to and participation in all arts disciplines.

Health Care Reform—Help it Grow

By Rick Hartwig

So we passed a health care bill. The bill does much for the working class of this country. While many of us wanted much more, we must realize that Social Security and Medicare started with much meager bills and were strengthened later. Our legislators must follow through with reform, such as public option and, hopefully, single payer. This is a good first step. The disloyal opposition will now gear up their campaign to take over the House and Senate to repeal what we now have.

What does this mean to the Marion County Democrats? Two years ago, we worked to elect Kurt Schrader to the U.S. House in District 5. Kurt has voted twice to pass the health care bills. The other side now targets him and the big money will come into our district to defeat him. Kurt has proven to be a good progressive legislator. His progressive rating is over 90%! His environmental rating is 100%! We must ensure that we do not lose what we have and lay the groundwork for further reform. To do that, we must work even harder than we did 2 years ago to **RE-ELECT KURT SCHRADER.**

Marion County will play a pivotal role in this campaign. We must work to communicate to the uninformed voter the truth about the health care bill and what it means to the commons. Fact must prevail over money! We will all be active this year in many important campaigns. Save some time for Kurt!



(Battle –continued)

The Health Care We Got

By Rich Harisay

The CBO estimates that the health Insurance Reform package will save \$940 billion over the next ten years. It fails to mention however that, if we had installed single payer, we would have saved a minimum of \$5 Trillion over the next ten years. We currently spend \$2.5 Trillion a YEAR on health care so the math is not too hard; eliminate insurance companies from the picture and substitute Medicare Administration and you immediately save 30%. Then add in the advantages of preventative care, consistent care, and wellness initiatives (drug intervention, smoke cessation, weight stabilization) and the savings (over the current system) mushroom.

What did we actually get however?

Becoming effective in the next three to nine months.

- 1. SMALL BUSINESS TAX CREDITS--** Offers tax credits to small businesses to make employee coverage more affordable. Tax credits of up to 35 percent of premiums will be immediately available to firms that choose to offer coverage. Effective beginning for calendar year 2010. (Beginning in 2014, the small business tax credits will cover 50 percent of premiums.)
- 2. BEGINS TO CLOSE THE MEDICARE PART D DONUT HOLE--** Provides a \$250 rebate to Medicare beneficiaries who hit the donut hole in 2010. Effective for calendar year 2010. (Beginning in 2011, institutes a 50% discount on brand-name drugs in the donut hole; also completely closes the donut hole by 2020.)
- 3. FREE PREVENTIVE CARE UNDER MEDICARE--** Eliminates co-payments for preventive services and exempts preventive services from deductibles under the Medicare program. Effective beginning January 1, 2011.
- 4. HELP FOR EARLY RETIREES--** Creates a temporary re-insurance program (until the Exchanges are available) to help offset the costs of expensive health claims for employers that provide health benefits for retirees age 55-64. Effective 90 days after enactment
- 5. ENDS RESCISSIONS--** Bans health plans from dropping people from coverage when they get sick. Effective 6 months after enactment.
- 6. NO DISCRIMINATION AGAINST CHILDREN WITH PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS--** Prohibits health plans from denying coverage to children with pre-existing conditions. Effective 6 months after enactment. (Beginning in 2014, this prohibition would apply to all persons.)
- 7. BANS LIFETIME LIMITS ON COVERAGE--** Prohibits health plans from placing lifetime caps on coverage. Effective 6 months after enactment.

(Continued next page)

For the foreseeable future, Republican activists will insist the socialization of America is just around the corner. Any negative trend in health care, or any situation they can spin as negative, will be attributed to health insurance reform.

The legislation will be blamed for everything from an increase in hangnails, to inflation.

Supporters of universal health coverage must expect that, and be prepared. We have to be ready to debunk these myths and distortions every time we hear them; at cocktail parties, among our friends, and around the water cooler at work.

Make no mistake. Republicans haven't given up this fight. They can't. They've invested too much reputation in it to back down now.

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- 8. BANS RESTRICTIVE ANNUAL LIMITS ON COVERAGE--** Tightly restricts new plans' use of annual limits to ensure access to needed care. These tight restrictions will be defined by HHS. Effective 6 months after enactment. (Beginning in 2014, the use of any annual limits would be prohibited for all plans.)
- 9. FREE PREVENTIVE CARE UNDER NEW PRIVATE PLANS--** Requires new private plans to cover preventive services with no co-payments and with preventive services being exempt from deductibles. Effective 6 months after enactment. (Beginning in 2018, this requirement applies to all plans.)
- 10. NEW, INDEPENDENT APPEALS PROCESS--** Ensures consumers in new plans have access to an effective internal and external appeals process to appeal decisions by their health insurance plan. Effective 6 months after enactment.
- 11. ENSURING VALUE FOR PREMIUM PAYMENTS--** Requires plans in the individual and small group market to spend 80 percent of premium dollars on medical services, and plans in the large group market to spend 85 percent. Insurers that do not meet these thresholds must provide rebates to policyholders. Effective on January 1, 2011.
- 12. IMMEDIATE HELP FOR THE UNINSURED UNTIL EXCHANGE IS AVAILABLE (INTERIM HIGH-RISK POOL)--** Provides immediate access to insurance for Americans who are uninsured because of a pre-existing condition - through a temporary high-risk pool. Effective 90 days after enactment.
- 13. EXTENDS COVERAGE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE UP TO 26TH BIRTHDAY THROUGH PARENTS' INSURANCE -** Requires health plans to allow young people up to their 26th birthday to remain on their parents' insurance policy, at the parents' choice. Effective 6 months after enactment.
- 14. COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS--** Increases funding for Community Health Centers to allow for nearly a doubling of the number of patients seen by the centers over the next 5 years. Effective beginning in fiscal year 2010.
- 15. INCREASING NUMBER OF PRIMARY CARE DOCTORS--** Provides new investment in training programs to increase the number of primary care doctors, nurses, and public health professionals. Effective beginning in fiscal year 2010.
- 16. PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SALARY--** Prohibits new group health plans from establishing any eligibility rules for health care coverage that have the effect of discriminating in favor of higher wage employees. Effective 6 months after enactment.
- 17. HEALTH INSURANCE CONSUMER INFORMATION--** Provides aid to states in establishing offices of health insurance consumer assistance in order to help individuals with the filing of complaints and appeals. Effective beginning in FY 2010.
- 18. CREATES NEW, VOLUNTARY, PUBLIC LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE PROGRAM--** Creates a long-term care insurance program to be financed by voluntary payroll deductions to provide benefits to adults who become functionally disabled. Effective on January 1, 2011.

Newsletter Staff

Roger Pike: Editor in Chief

Don Hudgins: Paste-Up Editor & Web Master

Tina Calos: Sr. Editor Publications

Michael Mile: Staff

Trudy Margules: Staff

Steve McCarthy: Staff

MCDCC Leadership

Rick Hartwig: Chair

Michael Miles: Vice Chair

Claudia Kyle: Secretary

Kasia Quilliman: Treasurer

Email: MCDCC1@gmail.com

Calendar

April

04/14/2010

[DemoForum-Former Governor John Kitzhaber-Wed April 14-Noon to 1 PM](#)

Marion County Commissioner Debate: Jason Freilinger and Patty Milne.
04/14/2010 – 6:30 PM Silverton Grange

04/19/2010

[MCDCC Meeting - Local Legislative Politics - Mon Apr 19- 6:30-8:30 PM](#)

04/21/2010

[DemoForum-Sen. Rick Metsger-Treasurer Candidate-Wed-April 21-Noon-1 PM](#)

04/28/2010

[DemoForum - State Treasurer Ted Wheeler - Wed - April 28 - Noon to 1 PM](#)