

34th District Democrats
General Membership Meeting
Wednesday, January 13, 2010 @ Hall at Fautleroy

7:04pm – Meeting called to order by Chair, Tim Nuse. Burien City Council member (and PCO) Brian Bennett was invited to lead the flag salute.

7:05pm – Chair directed members to note some program changes had been made to the agenda since its publication in the newsletter to reflect schedule conflicts with speakers.

Chair then entertained a motion to adopt the agenda and to approve the November meeting minutes ([attached](#)). The motion was moved and seconded, then passed by the body.

7:06pm - *Chair's Report* - Chair welcomed everyone to our first meeting of 2010, and then offered brief remarks on the push to get our State Senator Joe McDermott appointed to the vacancy on King County Council (see great coverage in [our January newsletter](#) and from [West Seattle Blog](#)). Particular thanks was given to the members who showed support by contacting County Council members and attending meetings; we need that power and passion to get Joe elected to the position in November. We expect vacant legislative seats, candidate forums, and much more ahead in the next election cycle.

Chair also introduced Greg Doss, Legislative Action Chair, to make a brief announcement about organizing to support bills this legislative session and planning underway for Lobby Day in Olympia.

Chair reminded the body that the [King County Democrats' Honors and Clean Energy Banquet](#) is coming up on January 17, 2009. Our District has filled up a table and will be buying an ad in the program; which entitles us to two free tickets, so we will be looking to identify people who might not otherwise be able to afford to attend.

Chair then provided a review of some 2009 accomplishments as an introduction to the New Year membership pitch. While our organization's costs run ~\$34/member, we only raise an average of ~\$24/member through fees and donations each year. The Executive Board had a spirited conversation at its last meeting about raising the base membership fee; but decided to keep the base rate at \$15 "or what you can afford" as always. This is one of the lowest LD membership fees, but we believe it encourages more people to join and feel like they are a contributing member. Instead, we have created a new \$34 "Sustaining" level, as well as [a new online option](#) for creating recurring donations; and the Executive Board is asking all members who can afford to do so to please consider stretching themselves further.

7:17pm - *First Vice Chair's Report* – Vice Chair Kim Becklund said that 2010 presents opportunities to really try out some new ideas in programming. We really want to make these meetings support our key values – like last year's [Forum on Health Care with Congressman Jim McDermott](#). Please [contact her](#) if you have ideas or would like to help with planning.

7:21pm - [Tribute to Cherisse Luxa](#) [.pdf] – Chair began the tribute to “a real leader amongst our membership” who passed away December 13th, very quickly after being diagnosed with stomach cancer, before opening the microphone up to personal tributes from members.

Cherisse was a committed and compassionate sheriff’s deputy, a Ph.D. candidate in Leadership Studies at Gonzaga University, a public administration and policy wonk, a Democratic Party activist who helped form Drinking Liberally in Burien, a champion of the homeless and disadvantaged, a tireless advocate for the city of Burien, an avid gardener and cook, and one of the world’s great crazy cat ladies.

She joined the 34th District around 2003 and became a PCO. She was an early and constant supporter of Howard Dean in the 2004 presidential campaign and went to the national convention as a Dean delegate.

What better comment is there than the presence of her neighbor and steadfast friend, Jim Clingan, chairman of the 34th District Republicans who said, if there was one word to define Cherisse, it’s “intensity.” It’s not often that a Republican sees applause in one of our meetings.

Others said that she “encouraged me to do more,” “seemed to know everything,” was a “tenacious advocate,” and was “not afraid to give leaders hell if she believed in something” such as when she spoke against John Creighton’s endorsement at our meeting in the summer because she could not recall him having identified himself as a Democrat on a questionnaire.

More than one member mentioned the seminar she offered in 2008 on “How to Become a Delegate to the National Convention,” which helped member Chris Porter go all the way to the convention floor.

A gathering in her honor is planned for [January 27, 2009 at 7:00pm at Mick Kelly’s Irish Pub in Burien](#).

7:40pm – *KC Council Member Jan Drago* – Chair invited Sen. Joe McDermott up, who thanked everyone for their support of his efforts to be appointed to Dow Constantine’s vacant seat on King County Council. He then introduced and welcomed our newly appointed [County Council member Jan Drago](#), who will serve in an interim role until the election in November.

She said she is well versed in many of the biggest issues facing our County, especially the budget crisis facing all levels of government. Having just left the Seattle City Council after 16 years, where she was its most recent Transportation Committee chair, she highlighted key issues of interest to our district, such as transportation during the replacement of the Alaskan Way Viaduct, the Spokane St. Viaduct Widening Project, and the future BRT line to be run by Metro. Dow has also recently named her to the Sound Transit board.

She thanked King County Council Chair, Bob Ferguson, for coming to the meeting in support, and then took a few questions from members on issues regarding staffing in her office, renewal of the Shoreline Act, and addressing youth violence (where she hopes to establish a city-county partnership).

8:01pm - *Education Panel –Innovations in Seattle Schools* – Bill Schrier was invited up to moderate a small panel including Glenn Bafia, Executive Director of the [Seattle Education Association](#) and our [Seattle School Board member, Steve Sundquist](#).

Bill began by reminding everyone that Seattle voters will be asked to [renew the two expiring school levies](#) on the ballot February 9th, before stating that the focus of tonight’s discussion would be on what’s happening in our local schools: What changes have occurred? What are the challenges? And what innovations are occurring?

Steve said Seattle Public School enrollment is up for the second consecutive year, which means more students and more pressure to meet achievement standards – even as the state keeps tightening the budget belt. New tools will help, he said – the district is pursuing mentoring programs for first-year teachers, and will put more emphasis on evaluating teachers at the school level. Responding to a question, he said the district might look at tying teacher pay to student performance, though any such proposal would require public review.

Regarding the district’s much-discussed new [Student Assignment Plan](#), Steve said it will get the district out of the transportation business and back into the education business, with the goal of having every school offer a rigorous education.

8:38pm – *New Business* – **Barbara Schaad-Lamphere moved to suspend the rules in order to call for endorsement of the two expiring school levies, which was seconded by many members, and passed unanimously.**

Barbara then moved to endorse renewal of the two expiring school levies, Proposition 1 & 2, which will be on the ballot mailed to Seattle voters for the February 9, 2009 Special Election. This motion was also seconded by multiple members. After no call for debate on [the campaign for the levies](#), Chair called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.

8:42pm – *New Business - Resolutions and Donation* – Chair referred members to the two resolutions (*attached*) which were submitted to the Executive Board and printed in the January newsletter. **Tom Carr moved to approve the [Resolution to Support Adam Eisenberg for King County Superior Court](#), resolving “that the 34th District Democratic organization respectfully recommends that the Honorable Christine Gregoire, Governor of the State of Washington, appoint Adam Eisenberg to the King County Superior Court created by the retirement of the Honorable George Mattson.”** Greg seconded the motion.

Tom spoke on Adam’s behalf, with Adam standing by his side. Hearing no opposition, **Chair called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.** Chair then offered Adam a moment to speak to the body.

Chair then invited State Committeewoman, Marcee Stone, to speak about her efforts to bring leaders from the Vietnamese community to share some of their issues with the Executive Board. Marcee pointed out that the Vietnamese community in King County is the third largest in the country, and they have a history of political support going strongly in favor of Republicans. One of their most important

political issues is being allowed to fly the former South Vietnamese flag as their community symbol. This is why Marcee moved to approve the [Resolution to Recognize the Vietnamese-American Heritage and Freedom Flag](#), which she submitted on behalf of community leader Linh Thai, resolving “that the 34th District Democratic organization urge the Seattle City Council to: A. Recognize the Vietnamese-American Heritage and Freedom flag of the Vietnamese-American community and support the display of this flag at community events and at appropriate locations in Seattle; and B. Encourage other cities and counties to also recognize the Vietnamese-American Heritage and Freedom flag as the symbol of the Vietnamese-American community.” The motion was seconded by Dorsol Plants.

Marcee spoke on behalf of the motion. Hearing no opposition, Chair called for a vote and the resolution passed with only 3 against, although several members abstained from voting.

Chair then made a motion to approve a recommendation from the Executive Board to make a 2010 donation pledge to the King County Democrats in the amount of \$2,034, with \$1,000 to paid immediately, which was seconded by Les Treall.

Tim spoke about the training for PCO’s, LD Chairs, and Democratic leaders which the county organization provides, as well as the extensive maps, data, calendar, and other information maintained on their website. Our District has good representation at the county organization and a mutually supportive relationship which we should continue to sustain. This pledge also will serve as an early and strong challenge to other district organizations to meet their responsibilities in supporting the County organization.

The motion passed unanimously.

8:54pm - *New Business / Good of the Order* – PCO Chair, Kimber McCreery, announced the application of the following for appointment as PCOs:

- ❖ Elisabeth Carr: 34-1436
- ❖ Damiana Merryweather: 34-1469
- ❖ Betsy McConnell-Gutierrez: 34-1496
- ❖ Catherine Stineback: 34-1517
- ❖ Elizabeth Shedd: 34-3175
- ❖ Scarlett J. Foster-Moss: Baker
- ❖ Sandra Cooke: Seaview
- ❖ Dan Morris: 34-1516 (Acting in -1532)

After a brief introductory speech by each candidate and his/her declaration of being a Democrat, all candidates were approved unanimously by the body.

Harry Vye & Chris Porter together called for donations to relief efforts after the recent earthquake in Haiti. Members can easily donate \$10 through their cell phone bill by texting “Haiti” to 90999.

Ann Martin announced that the King County Democrats are hosting a [New Media Panel](#) on January 29, 2010 during the Washington State Democrats quarterly meeting.

Plants publicized the upcoming 90th Birthday Party of the Highland Park Improvement Club, claiming that it is the oldest neighborhood association in the city.

9:15pm - There being no further business to pursue, Chair motioned to adjourn for the evening.

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael Taylor-Judd, Secretary