

34th District Democrats
General Membership Meeting
Wednesday, March 10, 2010 @ Hall at Fautleroy

7:02pm – Meeting called to order by Chair, Tim Nuse. Karl de Jong was invited to lead the flag salute.

7:03pm – Chair entertained a motion to adopt the agenda and to approve the February meeting minutes (*attached*). The motion was moved and seconded, then passed by the body.

7:04pm - *Chair's Report* - Chair issued a call to action for the 34th Legislative District caucus scheduled for next Sunday, March 14, 2010. We need to “rekindle the passion we had in 2008” and fight for health care reform “against the Republican smear campaigns.”

Chair also reminded everyone of some upcoming events:

- [King County Democratic Party Convention](#) takes place on Saturday, April 10th at the Aerospace Machinists Hall. It is open to the public, not just elected delegates
- Congressman Jim McDermott (WA-7th) will host his [16th Annual "Celebrating Our Roots" Potato Festival](#) Fundraiser at Town Hall on Sunday, March 21st from 4:00-6:00pm
- [Special Election](#) for King Conservation District on March 16th

7:13pm - *First Vice Chair's Report* – Vice Chair Kim Becklund welcomed representatives from the 2010 Census, who have a table set up at the back of the room highlighting employment opportunities.

7:15pm - *Seattle City Councilmember Mike O'Brien* – O'Brien first passed out a handout (*attached*) highlighting the City Council's recently presented [2010 Priorities](#), before focusing his opening remarks on a few key items: including the political debate over a new 520 bridge, city energy audits, and carbon neutrality, and talking about how the City must become economically sustainable.

O'Brien then took questions from members. Regarding White Center annexation, he said he'd met with local supporters of Seattle annexation and will meet with opponents too, but right now he's in favor of going ahead and asking local residents to make their choice by voting; he also acknowledged the council must consider the costs involved (right now, a financial analysis is in the works).

He also took some heated questions regarding the South Park Bridge and its possible June shutdown and the Mayor's proposal for putting a levy on the ballot to fund the seawall rebuild.

7:36pm - *Jobs Now! Program* – Chair announced this month's educational opportunity on the state of our local economy and ideas for growing jobs. He invited Becklund to moderate a small panel including Fred Krug, Director of Partnerships at the [Workforce Development Council of Seattle](#); Charles Knutson, Senior Vice President at the [Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce](#); member Keith Weir, Assistant Executive Secretary at the [Seattle-King County Building & Construction Trades Council](#), and member and local labor activist Karl de Jong.

When asked where the jobs are and how we are going to create them, Knutson mentioned that “green” jobs and global health are two key sectors in the economy that are not only poised for real growth, but where Seattle can be a leader.

Responding to a question about how we can help advance solutions with our state and federal electeds, de Jong mentioned a few bills proposed in Olympia this session which would lead quickly to job creation while promoting progressive ideals:

- [HB 2334](#) - Creating jobs by funding construction of safety, health, and energy-saving improvements to public facilities
- [HB 3181](#) - Concerning the clean water act of 2010 funding cleanup of water pollution and other programs necessary for the health and well-being of Washington citizens through an increase in the tax on hazardous substances
- [HJM 4017](#) - Requesting that the United States Congress enact the AgJOBS legislation

Weir pointed out the number of large infrastructure projects currently being proposed or under consideration – from the 520 bridge to the Alaskan Way Viaduct to the South Park Bridge and numerous roads and bridges in need of repair.

Krug asked for some patience as many of the stimulus monies received are currently being spent on training new workers and re-training others to take their skills into new areas of the economy like the “green” retrofitting spoken of earlier.

Some concerns raised during the question and answer period with members included the high numbers of unemployed which seem to be leading to lower wage offers from employers and how to maintain equality in hiring, training, and wages.

8:21pm - *Sabra Schneider – Announcement of Candidacy* – Another PCO and member has declared her intention to run for 34th District State House Representative, Position 2, which Rep. Nelson says she’ll leave to run for State Senate. “Now more than ever, we need legislators who will make education and family wage jobs a priority in Olympia” said Schneider. “My background in government communications coupled with a decade of teaching the work force of the future makes me uniquely qualified to take on the challenges facing citizens across the 34th District and across our state.”

8:29pm - *2010 Proposed Budget* – Nuse called on Finance Committee Chair, Walter Sive, to briefly review the proposed budget (*attached* and recommended by the Executive Board). After reviewing the budget vs. actual for 2009 and the proposal for 2010, Sive reminded members that the organization benefitted in 2009 from both a bequest and a special contribution from labor of \$5,000 each. This, coupled with decisions to spend down some reserves to help endorsed candidates in competitive local races (Dow Constantine’s race for County Executive, in particular) meant unusually high revenues and expenditures last year. However, the proposed budget would continue to draw down reserves if the organization does not increase its membership and fundraising income.

Allan Munro moved to approve the 2010 Proposed Budget, and was seconded by Bruce Stotler. Brief discussion followed. It was explained that lower expenses are expected for newsletter mailing and production due to reduced numbers after turnover of non-renewal of memberships by 2008 caucus attendees. Requests for finer details on the budget and finances can be addressed to Sive or Treasurer, Stu Yarfitz.

Michael Taylor-Judd moved to amend the proposal to cut the \$5,000 in Election Contributions and the \$600 in Contributions to Non-Profit Organizations to be close to break-even rather than a budgeted loss of \$5,690 for the year, and was seconded by Dave Coffman. After speakers for and against, **the motion failed overwhelmingly.**

Chair reiterated the clear need to work hard to raise membership and increase fundraising in order to reduce the budget loss and work towards a goal of rebuilding our reserves for the 2012 election cycle. **He called for a vote on the original motion, which passed overwhelmingly with only one vote against.**

8:48pm - *2010 Caucus Information* – Nuse briefly reviewed details for the upcoming District Caucus. We have 35 delegates and 18 alternates to elect and an opportunity to submit resolutions and platform issues. Please attend this Sunday, March 14th at Mount View Elementary School, 10811 12th Ave SW, in White Center, starting at 1:00 PM. He issued a plea to members to forward the District e-mail to friends and neighbors in the 34th and encourage folks to attend.

8:53pm - *Introduction of Labor Caucus* – A group of members have been meeting informally to discuss ways to support labor and educate the district on issues. Weir was elected to Chair the group in the 34th and they plan to work to recruit and retain PCO's and activate their union brothers and sisters to doorbell. Contact Weir or de Jong to get involved.

8:57pm – *New Business* – No New Business was proposed.

8:58pm - *Good of the Order* – West Seattle Food Bank is holding its "[Instruments of Change](#)" benefit in the Hall on April 30, 2010. Tickets are \$75, and the 34th has filled one table already.

Chair reminded members that we will collect food donations at the District Caucus on Sunday.

The Seattle-King County Building & Construction Trades Council & Martin Luther King County Labor Council are holding a rally in support of labor on St. Patrick's Day at Westlake Park from 2:00-4:00pm.

Sharon Maeda told members that the UFCW is about to enter negotiations on behalf of local grocery workers, and encouraged everyone to take a moment when you go shopping to let the manager of your grocery store know you support a living wage for the workers.

Member Mike Heavey has been hired as King County Councilmember Jan Drago's Community Relations Director.

9:10pm - There being no further business to pursue, Chair motioned to adjourn for the evening.

Submitted by,

Michael Taylor-Judd, Secretary

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