

Minutes of the 34<sup>th</sup> District Democrats  
Meeting of 14 June 2006

71. Chair Ivan Weiss called the meeting to order at 7:03PM. Second Vice-Chair Tim Nuse led the members in the flag salute. The members approved the agenda and the minutes of the May 10th meeting.
72. Chair Weiss' report:
- 72.1 The State Democratic Party Convention was held on June 2nd and 3rd in Yakima. The 34th District had all 40 delegates present, the second highest number of delegates for any district in the state. A number of other 34<sup>th</sup> members also attended.
  - 72.2 In Yakima on Friday, June 2nd, several members of the 34th's executive board met with several members from the 15th LD's Democratic organization, including 15th Chair Wendell Hannigan and candidate for state senate Tomás Villanueva, plus Tania María Rosario of the State Party's Latino Vote project and Gabriel Portugal, chairman of the Latino Caucus and of the Franklin County Democrats. This is the beginning of our sister district relationship with the 15th.
  - 72.3 Weiss cautioned members not to take Larouche literature from organizers in the hall.
  - 72.4 PCOs need to file for and run for election. The filing date is July 29th. Bruce Stotler has forms.
  - 72.5 Weiss thanked members who have been volunteers working at the White Center food bank. They are glad for the help, and we can use more members to volunteer.
  - 72.6 Weiss reminded members of the upcoming "clean and green" cleanup of the Cottage Grove neighborhood and requested a good turnout of volunteers. Flyers were placed on the chair or more information is on the website at [http://www.34dems.org/news\\_calendar.htm#cottage](http://www.34dems.org/news_calendar.htm#cottage).
  - 72.7 There are petitions to sign for I-937 Initiative 937, which will guarantee that by 2020, 15% of the electricity from Washington's largest utilities comes from plentiful and home-grown renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar. See Cherisse Luxa.
  - 72.8 The 34th's phone bank is at the Machinists' Hall in S. Park tomorrow night (June 15th). We need volunteers to help make the calls. See Outreach Chair Steve Karbowski.
  - 72.9 Weiss recognized elected officials attending tonight, including State Senator Erik Poulsen, State Representative Ruth Kagi (D-32nd), County Councilmember Dow Constantine. He also recognized the Chair of the King County Democrats, Susie Sheary, and the Chair of the 47th District Democrats, Bryan Kesterson, who are visiting tonight.
73. Transit Now. Weiss introduced Melanie Mayock of the Transportation Choices coalition to speak about "*Transit Now*".
- 73.1 *Transit Now* proposes to add more frequent and faster bus service to the county's busiest and most congested roads and highways. The proposal is intended to get more than 50,000 drivers a day out of their cars and onto buses.
  - 73.2 County Executive Ron Sims transmitted a final proposal for review by the Metropolitan King County Council on June 15th, with a recommendation that *Transit Now* be placed on the November ballot.
  - 73.3 When combined with current resources, *Transit Now* expands King County Metro bus service by more than 20 percent with funding from a proposed 1/10th of one percent sales tax increase. The proposal would only cost the average family about \$25 a year, less than a tank of gas. It would allow Metro to keep pace with regional growth and use the final tenth of one percent sales tax authorized by the state legislature after Initiative 695 cut transit funding statewide. I-695, proposed by Tim Eyman and passed in 1999,

cut Metro's budget \$100 million.

73.4 For West Seattle, the proposal includes funding for "Bus Rapid Transit", much improved services, Installation new buses and upgraded passenger waiting areas; plus adding technology to synchronize traffic signals and operate real-time bus arrival signs.

73.5 Website: [www.metrokc.gov/kcdot/transitnow](http://www.metrokc.gov/kcdot/transitnow)

74. Early Learning. Member Cheryl Ellsworth introduced Representative Ruth Kagi Democrat of the 32nd District from Lake Forest Park. Kagi is a long-time early learning advocate and chair of the House Children and Family Services Committee. She sponsored a bill, HB 2964, which was passed in the latest legislative session and was signed into law by Gov. Christine Gregoire. It creates a new state department of early learning.

74.1 Washington's littlest learners will be the focus of this new state agency. The cabinet-level Department of Early Learning will bring together child care and preschool programs currently scattered among many state agencies.

74.2 By creating a unified Department of Early Learning, we affirm our state's commitment to helping parents give their children the best possible start in life. These programs will help give Washington's children a better chance to start kindergarten ready to succeed in school.

74.3 The new Department of Early Learning will partner with a high-powered group of private sector supporters of early learning that includes the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Boeing, Lockheed and the Talaris Research Institute. All have agreed to make major investments in early learning programs and research, and to coordinate investments and policies with the new department. But the department will control and manage the programs, not the private and non-profit investors.

74.4 Young children and parents will be the beneficiaries of an unprecedented commitment from the state and philanthropic organizations to work together through this new partnership. The Gates Foundation has already committed \$90 million over the next ten years. This would not be possible without the new Department of Early Learning to serve as a single point of partnership with the state."

74.5 The new agency will direct programs and functions such as the Working Connections Child Care program, child care licensing, the Head Start Collaborative Office, and the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program.



75. Head Start. Kagi introduced, John Bancroft, the executive director of Puget Sound Head Start and president of Building Better Futures, a community partnership to increase social services in South King County.

75.1 There is considerable research that shows Head Start is effective in getting low-income children ready for school and helping their parents become economically self-sufficient. We work continuously to improve our services, assisted by the increased funding we received in the '90s.

75.2 Head Start serves 1,800 children in King and Pierce counties. But it has funding to serve only 30 percent of the eligible 3- and 4-year-old children and less than 2 percent

of the infants and toddlers eligible for Early Head Start. That leaves almost 25,000 eligible young children languishing on waiting lists.

75.3 Within Highline School District are 1568 three and four year old children at or below the Federal Poverty level and therefore eligible for Head Start. A new “making connections” initiative in White Center hopes to stitch together a number of early learning and family support programs in White Center. See [www.mcskc.org](http://www.mcskc.org)

76. Darcy Burner. Chair Weiss introduced Darcy Burner, candidate for the 8th Congressional District. We need to take 15 seats from Republicans to win control of the U.S. House of Representatives in 2006. The 8th District voted for John Kerry and has elected a number of Democratic state legislators. It is quite winnable, and Darcy Burner has done a phenomenal job of campaigning and fund raising for this race.

76.1 Darcy grew up in a military family. She worked hard in school, graduated at the top of her class and put herself through Harvard. After graduation, Darcy worked for 12 years in the high tech sector - including as an executive at Microsoft.

76.2 Darcy comes from a hard working family. Her dad spent a career in the Air Force and after his retirement worked as a public school teacher. Her oldest brother is a janitor in Olympia. Her other brother serves in the Army’s 101st Airborne and has served one tour of duty in Iraq. Her sister just got her nursing degree. And her youngest brother does his public service, delivering beer for the Miller Brewing Company.

76.3 Darcy is convinced – along with most Democrats – that the Bush Administration has abysmally failed at the war in Iraq, on Homeland and Port Security, in healthcare, education, energy and at almost everything else. Her opponent, Dave Reichert said recently that we should just “trust the President,” and has voted 93% of the time with the right-wing Republican leadership in Congress.



76.4 Burner believes can take this country in a new direction by: Helping families who work hard and play by the rules get ahead through investments in education, healthcare, and training our workers for new jobs with good wages; Holding our government accountable by requiring that it be open and honest with the American people it serves; Achieving real energy independence and breaking our addiction to oil by making investments to make us a world leader in the growing market of next generation energy; Committing to a strong, intelligent, far-sighted national defense which uses our military strength wisely and shares the international burdens of power in smarter ways through diplomacy, alliances and international investment.

76.5 Members asked questions about why she has no position papers posted on her website (because Reichert’s staff uses them to direct his future token votes on some measures), whether she supports “net neutrality” (she does) and other topics.

77. There was no Old Business.

78. New Business:

78.1 PCO Appointments. Two members applied for appointment as precinct committee officers, Michael Taylor for Seattle Precinct 1493 and Sharon Henderson for Seattle Precinct 1465. Both stated they are Democrats and were unanimously appointed by the membership.



78.2 July meeting. Weiss asked for discussion about whether to hold a July business meeting. There are no significant primary campaigns or endorsements required this year. Bruce Stotler moved the organization not conduct a business meeting in July, but rather just hold the usual July summer picnic in Lincoln Park. This motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

78.3 Energy Forum. We are sponsoring this forum on Saturday, July 15th at Madison Middle School. Second Vice-Chair Tim Nuse has been organizing it. State Senator Erik Poulsen will moderate it and U. S. Representative Jay Inslee will keynote. Tim can use help organizing and preparing for the event. The organizing committee meets every other Monday night – see calendar at [www.34dems.org](http://www.34dems.org) for meeting nights. The complete program is also on the website at [www.34dems.org/energy.htm](http://www.34dems.org/energy.htm) .

79. Good of the Order

79.1 Vashon Democrats' meeting. Roger Fulton, chair of the Vashon Democrats, invited members to the next Vashon Democrats' meeting on Saturday, June 17th. They will show the new Robert Greenwald film "The Big Buy: Tom DeLay's Stolen Congress" ([www.tomdelaymovie.com](http://www.tomdelaymovie.com)). This event is a fundraiser for Washington Public Campaigns ([www.washclean.org](http://www.washclean.org)), whose representative, Islander Terry Sullivan, will update us about public campaign financing after the film.

79.2 Pathfinder School. Leslie Harris, our State Committeewoman, talked about West Seattle's only alternative school, Pathfinder School, and the plan to move it to Boren Middle School as part of the upcoming school closures and other changes proposed by the Seattle School District. Boren is in quite poor shape, and will actually increase the school district's costs. Leslie encouraged members to attend upcoming hearings on the changes, scheduled from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Interested speakers may sign up by calling the School Board office at (206) 252-0040. Public testimony will be limited to three minutes per speaker, and should focus on the school at which the hearing is being held. Locations:

79.2.1 June 26 – Fairmount Park Elementary Cafeteria, 3800 SW Findlay St.

79.2.2 June 28 – Genesee Hill (Pathfinder) Cafeteria, 5012 SW Genesee St.

80. We adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Bill Schrier, Secretary*