

**MINUTES FROM THE THIRD MEETING OF
THE LEADERSHIP TASK FORCE
FOR THE 34TH DISTRICT DEMOCRATS
IN WEST SEATTLE.**

March 24th 2008

**Attending: Leslie Harris, Samantha Updegrave, Walter Sive, Sharon Henderson,
Bill Shrier, Brian Earl, Ann Martin, Peggy Abby, Steve Karbowski**

33rd Legislative District Meeting Report:

Sharon reported on her visit to the 33rd Legislative District monthly meeting. The 33rd's meeting was similar to ours, yet significant differences include a mid-meeting socializing, food and refreshment break. The quality and quantity of food available was excellent.

There were about 120 attending, evidently it was a larger meeting than normal for some expected important announcements. Representative Shay Schual-Berke announced her intention not to run for re-election. District Chair Tina Shamseldin announced her resignation and her intention to run for Rep. Schual-Berke's seat. Plans are underway for an event to honor Georgie Kunkle, Democratic activist and 34th District member.

Sharon also reported that the meeting included a funny skit of Barack and Hillary to entertain the group. They also had a lovely wall hanging of their committees and member participation created by their Young Democrats. Their board has Young Democrats on it. Their chair acts as a facilitator and lets others run their part of the meeting.

11th Legislative District Meeting Report:

Steve reported on his visit to the 11th District meeting at the Carpenter's Hall in Renton. It was small, warm and welcoming. The by-laws of the 11th are similar to the 34th; they are posted on their website. They have standing rules we could refer to for ideas. They utilize a "List Serve" for communication between members. It's not a blog, but more helpful as it is controlled by a moderator. They feel it helps to build their member base. Something like this could be used by the 34th. Bill Schreier said it could be possible, though it would require some time investment to create, monitor, and maintain.

The 11th, like the 33rd, includes a mid-meeting break with food to encourage interaction among members.

Throughout the meeting, the Chair, Susan Kruller, was an engaged moderator.

37th Legislative District Meeting Report:

Brian reported on the 37th district meeting which was small and not very well attended. The 37th is a very large ranging district, covering large and diverse areas of the city such as Madison Park, Leschi, Rainier Valley, South Jackson area and Central district.

Leslie pointed out that the 37th, while diverse, has faced a number of challenges, and sometimes has had a contentious environment. They have a relatively small number of registered voters, but the highest percentage of Democratic performance and identification of any LD in the state.

Their meeting had a casual feel to it, with no sign-in area or procedure, and mostly young people running the show. There is some risk that these young enthusiasts, who are new to the organization (and likely Obama supporters), will leave after the election. However, it may not be a bad thing that this year's election is what has brought these people to their current level of involvement. Further, we discussed the importance of a focus on new member retention, specifically after the election is over.

Brian reported that the by-laws of the 37th are similar to ours, that they are a laid-back group and somewhat informal about procedures.

LDC RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) **1) *Include mentoring and recruiting as an action item.***
We should encourage mentoring as an action item, emphasize important information on events and issues in our newsletter, and get started on recruitment work before fall. We also need to define roles, and advertise for volunteers for our various events. We could do a mass mailing to our welcome our new members.
- 2) **2) *Create a Young Democrat Representative position on the 34th District E-Board.***
We need to mentor, encourage and include Young Democrats in every aspect of our organization. The By-laws and standing rules should provide for this position.
- 3) **3) *Include a mid-meeting break.***
We should begin to have a break in the middle of each of our meetings. Members would have the chance to socialize and enjoy food or drinks. A hospitality committee could provide the refreshments, using money collected as donation for this specific purpose.
- 4) **4) *Explore creation of a "List Serv" or Blog for the 34th District.***

ACTION ITEMS:

- 1) It was agreed that Peggy and Brian will create Recruitment Development outline and schedule, and a possible talent and interest survey. We will try to engage Les Treall, the Outreach chair, to see if the Outreach Committee can help with this. Samantha agreed to help pull much of this together and check on the titles we could use for jobs.**
- 2) We need to recruit one person to oversee member retention through issue of welcome letters to visitors and keeping records of addresses for mailings.**
- 3) Bill will present a more complete outline for the Standing Rules and circulate this to the committee. Samantha and Richard are to assist.**
- 4) Walter will check on how we can compile addresses to contact the 1000 + precinct caucus attendees, for a mailing.**

The next meeting of the LDC will be on Monday, April 21st @ 7 p.m. at Ann Martin's house. We will have pizza and refreshments. All are welcome to attend.