34th District Democrats
Executive Board Meeting
Wednesday, August 19, 2009 – Puget Ridge Co-Housing

Attendees: Tim Nuse (Chair), Stu Yarfitz (Treasurer), Michael Taylor (Secretary), Marcee Stone (State Committeewoman), Chris Porter (State Committeeman), Lisa Plymate (King County Committeewoman), Walter Sive (Finance Chair), Richard Bartlett (Hospitality Chair), Greg Doss (Legislative Action), Jeff Upthegrove (Membership Chair), Les Treall (Outreach Chair), Kimber McCreery (PCO Chair), Stephen Lamphear (Parliamentarian), Jackie Dupras (Newsletter Editor)

Guests: Leslie Harris

7:00pm - Meeting called to order by Chair, Tim Nuse, who offered the following Remarks:

The Health Care Forum at this month's membership meeting went very well. The hall was packed – standing room only. Lisa received praise from her national organization on how well it was put together. MoveOn.org sent an alert to its local members, which helped bring many attendees who have not been involved with the 34th before. We signed up 20+ people for the Organizing for America canvass on August 22 in Burien. The KCDCC Picnic is happening afterwards at the Carpenter's Hall in Renton.

Robin Hess, King Co. Committeeman Alternate, sent an e-mail saying that he has not been able to keep up his level of commitment to the District, and offering to step down.

We need to refocus on our goal of an electronic newsletter. We are behind due to the vacancy in the Communications Chair position, and Tim will step up to take care of it.

Concerns have been raised by some members over the use of e-mail to discuss contentious issues. Tim reminded the Board that e-mail comments can be parsed together and could raise legal implications for District and Board members. They have also been leaked to the media and other outlets. Tim is available by phone whenever anyone has a question that needs to be answered or a concern that needs to be expressed.

7:21pm - *PCOs Report* – Kimber reported that 125+ PCOs and members walked precincts in the 34th for the Primary Election. She has been able to identify some good area organizers, and plans to hold a de-brief meeting to continue improving our GOTV efforts. 12 PCOs resigned during the process, and we need to revisit the process for communicating resignations/appointments to the appropriate Board members for keeping all databases and lists current.

State Committee – Marcee reminded everyone that the next State meeting is September 25, 2009 in Walla Walla. She has not seen an agenda yet.

Lisa raised a concern to Marcee and Chris that the Resolutions process may be impaired by the Committee's switch to meeting only three times a year.

Fundraising – Chris thanked everyone for the good work on this year's Garden Party & Auction. He needs to de-brief with the committee about good processes and bad processes, like not getting to all the live auction items. The District will net ~$6,500-7,000 after expenses, thanks especially to a generous donation from our state legislators to offset the cost of the food.

Finance – Walter passed out a handout (*attached*) of the current finances to review with the Board. He reminded everyone of the budget goal of having ~$10,000 left at the end of the year, and pointed out that these numbers do not reflect the $4,000 check from SEIU that was discussed at the Membership meeting.

Stu stated that he picked up the SEIU check from the PO Box on Tuesday before that meeting. There was no note attached to it, or any direction given on how to spend it. Tim said that he consulted with David McDonald, WSDCC Attorney, and we seem to be under no legal risk in accepting it. Stu mentioned that $4,000 is the maximum contribution that we can receive from a Labor organization into our exempt account under PDC rules.

7:59pm - Walter continued his review of the finances. The District has a "burn rate" of ~$1,500-1,600 per month or ~$18,000 per year. However, this does not include GOTV efforts, printing of sample ballots, or contributions to campaigns and other Democratic Party organizations, which raise our regular annual expenses to ~$24,000 per year.

Discussion followed regarding putting the report into the context of the Board's priorities for the rest of the year and the rest of the election cycle. Do we want to keep the goal of carrying forward $10,000 at the end of the year? How will we address the tabled motion from the Membership Meeting regarding spending the SEIU contribution or candidate support? Are there significant ethical concerns that have been raised about the District accepting this check?

Brian Earl (By-Laws Chair) entered the meeting at 8:55pm.

Les motioned to hold a special Executive Board meeting to further discuss the Board's financial goals for the end of the year and to prepare a proposal for the September Membership meeting regarding spending in the General Election cycle, which was seconded by Marcee.

Discussion followed about whether we need to have a proposal in September and "early money" for candidates, or wait until the September Executive Board meeting to prepare a proposal for the October Membership meeting and a "last minute push" for candidates. **The motion passed, with 12 for, 3 against, and 1 abstention.**

9:04pm - *New Business* – The discussion of contribution to Democratic organizations (i.e., WSDCC, KCDCC) was tabled to the special Executive Board meeting.

Members asked what our process is for the September Membership meeting regarding endorsements. Copies of the Endorsement Rules were passed out (*attached*) for review. Are we allowed to reconsider races? Especially under dual endorsements where a large number of members may have voted for a candidate who did not make it through the Primary? Or are we restricted to new races and ballot measures only? Under these newly adopted rules, do the membership's endorsements for the Primary carry over to the General, or must all candidates/issues seek re-endorsement? Can we amend the Endorsement Rules at the meeting? Is it possible that we violated the endorsement rules by considering General Election-only races in July?

Lisa motioned to consider <u>all</u> races and ballot measures on the November General Election Ballot at the September Endorsement Meeting. The motion was seconded by Marcee, and passed with 13 for and 3 against.

9:51pm - *Good of the Order* – Marcee read a resolution she received from member Karl de Jong for publication in the newsletter and consideration by the membership at the next meeting. She submitted it to the Secretary (*attached*) and asked for feedback from Board members on the language.

Leslie requested that the State Committee members express her concern at their next meeting that Democrats might be more willing to make contributions to party organizations during this economic crisis if leaders at the State level were as willing to forego raises on their salaries and/or take cuts as state workers are.

Submitted by,

Michael Taylor

Michael Taylor-Judd, Secretary