

**34<sup>th</sup> District Democrats**  
**General Membership Meeting**  
**Wednesday, October 14, 2009 @ Hall at Fautleroy**

7:03pm – Meeting called to order by Chair, Tim Nuse. Pete Spalding was invited to lead the flag salute.

7:04pm – Chair announced that Vice Chair, Kim Becklund, is absent due to illness, and entertained a motion to adopt a revised agenda allowing for Michael Taylor-Judd and Olivia Robinson to speak about the Institute for a Democratic Future in place of the First Vice Chair's Report and to approve the September meeting minutes ([attached](#)). The motion was moved and seconded, then passed by the body.

7:05pm - *Chair's Report* - Chair made announcements about a West Seattle Candidates' Forum hosted by the Delridge Neighborhoods and Southwest District Councils the next evening at the Youngstown Cultural Arts Center [<http://youngstownarts.org>], and the White Center Food Bank's [<http://www.whitecenterfoodbank.org>] 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Harvest Dinner & Auction on Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>.

Chair also commended 34<sup>th</sup> District leaders who are leading in other parts of their lives: Dr. Lisa Plymate joined Doctors for America in a meeting at the White House with President Obama to discuss health care reform; Bill Schrier was recently elected the new President of the Metropolitan Information Exchange, a group representing Chief Information Officers of large governments; and Russ Brubaker and Pete Quigley, along with a host of other active members, are hosting a fundraiser at their home on Sunday afternoon, October 18, 2009 for the Approve Referendum 71 campaign (endorsed by the 34<sup>th</sup> District)!

7:11pm - *Institute for a Democratic Future* – Taylor-Judd and Robinson spoke briefly about the now open application period for the next IDF class [<http://democraticfuture.org/>], a six month program for young adults, ages 21-36, who want to learn more about politics, government, public policy and issues in Washington state. Supported by many Party officials and electeds – although not a Party organization – IDF has a number of alumni from the 34<sup>th</sup> District, including the speakers and Executive Board member Kimber McCreery, many of the campaign staff in the current election cycle, legislative staff in the offices of our state's federal delegation, as well as statewide electeds including Rep. Kevin Van de Wege (D-24<sup>th</sup>) and Sen. Derek Kilmer (D-26<sup>th</sup>). Members are encouraged to recommend the program to young adults looking to get more involved in the Party and/or to make donations in support of the group's work.

7:15pm - *Steve Sundquist, Seattle School Board* – [Steve Sundquist](#), who represents our area of the City on the Seattle School Board, provided an update on current issues being discussed and voted upon by the School Board and information that might be of interest to members.

One of the issues is the proposed new student assignment plan and a mistake made in the mapping for Denny Middle School and Chief Sealth High. As we know the renovated/new school buildings will be co-sharing a campus, and will have the same attendance boundaries to take advantage of that. He also spoke of new computerized testing to help teachers assess student learning in their classrooms, plans to better align curriculum across the District, realigning high school graduation requirements to make sure that they match up with requirements for college entrance, and changes to the grading scale to encourage

students to work harder which include bringing back '+' and '-' grades and weighting credits for Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate classes.

Before taking questions from the membership, he reminded everyone that the District's Operations and Capital Improvement levies will be up for renewal in the February election.

Before introducing the next speaker, Chair mentioned that the organization will be reaching out to our representatives of the other School Districts within our area to receive updates from them as well.

7:40pm - [Max Vekich for Seattle Port Commissioner](#) – Endorsed candidate and Member Max Vekich spoke to the body and began a series of pep talks to the body to Get Out The Vote in the next few weeks!

Before taking questions from the body, he encouraged members to speak with Marcee Stone to sign up for opportunities to phone bank on his behalf all the way up to and including Election Day.

7:56pm - [Dow Constantine for King County Executive](#) – Chair began the next pep talk, alerting the membership that Endorsed candidate and Member Constantine is behind in the latest polling for this race. This is the highest profile race in our district this cycle, and members should do all they can to raise more money, make more phone calls, and knock on more doors.

State Senator Joe McDermott spoke next, on the campaign's behalf, as Constantine was currently debating his opponent, Susan Hutchison, on Mercer Island. As clipboards were sent around for members to sign up for phone banking, he told the body that TV ads are going up tonight and running for the final three weeks of the campaign so donate money to the campaign to keep them on the air. Our membership has know Constantine since 1996, and he has represented our District and been an organizational leader in a number of capacities, so the more we can volunteer and talk to people about him the better.

Chair announced plans to host a fundraiser on Monday, October 19, 2009 with Labor on behalf of both Vekich and Constantine. Both are running countywide in nonpartisan races against candidates trying to hide their conservative values and their ties to Republicans. He also reminded the body that three of the last five Governors have been former County Executives.

8:10pm - *Washington State Democrats Meeting Review* – State Committee representatives Marcee Stone and Chris Porter provided a report on the recent State Party meeting in Walla Walla. A large contingent from the 34<sup>th</sup> attended, including Lisa Plymate, Porter, Karl DeJong, Ann Martin and Stone. The membership voted to not schedule 2010 precinct caucuses. In lieu of that, districts are encouraged to work toward meetings and platforms as they see fit for 2010. Some members felt that precinct caucuses were needed for party building in their areas, but others felt that the costs of facilities and the low turnout of a non-Presidential year would yield too little in return. Legislative district caucuses will be held on March 14, 2010, County Conventions on April 10, 2010, and the 2010 State Convention will be held in Vancouver, Washington in June.

Since there are no Congressional caucuses in 2010, candidates for Congressional office will be voted on by Congressional caucus at the State Committee meeting, which will take place on January 29-30, 2010 in SeaTac. That vote will then be ratified by the state committee as a whole.

25 resolutions were submitted to the Resolutions Committee, which Stone sits on; nine of them on health care. At Stone's suggestion, an ad hoc subcommittee was created to sort through the health care Resolutions, resulting in a resolution that continued support for single payer but also included language to support a "not-for-profit public plan designed to immediately provide irrevocable universal health coverage to all Americans regardless of age, preexisting condition or ability to pay, without limits to benefits, and with adequate size and authority to negotiate prices and agreements to ensure its effectiveness." Nine more resolutions were submitted during the weekend, but Stone is proud to say that her committee's package of resolutions was passed at the state committee meeting in total without discussion.

Stone commended Dr. Lisa Plymate on her work on the King County Democrats' health care resolution and Karl DeJong for successful passage of his resolution on "Use of Union Talent in Audio, Live Performances, and Video Productions which began as a resolution from the King County Labor Council which he submitted to our body for approval.

8:18pm - *Approve appointment of standing Committee Chairs* – Chair announced his appointment of new standing Committee Chairs to the Executive Board: Tara Jo Heinecke as Diversity Chair and Justin Anderson as Communications Chair, and provided each with a few minutes to address the body.

**Tim called for the body to approve his appointments, in accordance with the By-laws. Richard Bartlett seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

8:29pm - *Elect King County Committeeman Alternate* – Chair opened the floor for nominations to the position, which was postponed from the last meeting and announced in the newsletter.

**David Ginsberg nominated Dorsol Plants, and Taylor-Judd seconded.**

**Vekich nominated Michael Heavey, and Stone seconded.**

**After speeches for each candidate, Chair called for a vote, noting that only current PCO's may vote on this position. Plants received 31 votes and Heavey received 11, resulting in the election of Plants to the Executive Board.**

8:37pm - *New Business / Good of the Order* – Stewart Wechsler called on all members to contact Senator Maria Cantwell and ask her to lobby Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid in support of a strong public option in the health care reform bill.

Chair announced the [Washington State Democrats 16th Annual Warren G. Magnuson \(Maggies\) Dinner & Awards Ceremony](#) have been scheduled for Tuesday, October 27, 2009 at the Westin (1900 Fifth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101) with special guest Gov. John Kitzhaber.

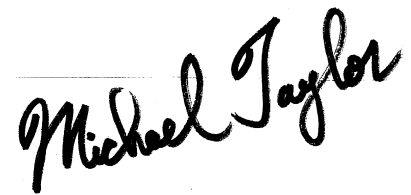
Karl DeJong thanked all the members who helped him shepherd his resolution up the ranks to approval by the State Committee.

Les Treall announced that he still has Dow Constantine yard signs available that were left over from our booth at Burien Oktoberfest.

Porter informed the body that Warm 106.9FM has been running Reject Ref. 71 radio ads, and urged members to contact the station to express their disagreement.

8:47pm - 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