WEST SEATTLE ★ WHITE CENTER ★ BURIEN ★ VASHON AND MAURY ISLANDS

Chair's Message

Thank you to all who attended our February program on resisting the Trump Agenda, whether in-person or by watching our livestream. As I said that night, you give me hope, and the sheer numbers who showed up was inspiring. We hope to see you all again in March, when the topic will be protecting Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid from the Republican juggernaut, and a presentation on trafficking for International Women's Day.

The Dodgy Republican President

We're 4 weeks into the Republican presidency. And by February 9th - the last date for which information is available on www.whitehouse.gov, the former reality TV host had issued 23 Executive Orders, which if he continues at that pace works out to a rate of 399 per year, the highest of any president in history, and more than 10X the rate of Presidents Barack Obama and George W. Bush. Meanwhile, Congressional Republicans who were so outraged at the 129 Executive Orders signed by President Obama during his second term remain silent. So where is the Republican outrage at "presidential overreach" now? Like most Republican outrage, it was nothing but false outrage manufactured for consumption by our facile and ratings obsessed television news organizations.

Meanwhile, as the Washington Post <u>reports</u>, the Trump family's lavish lifestyle continues to cost taxpayers more than \$1,000,000 per day, with much of that money being funneled into Trump businesses in New York and Florida. This is an unprecedented conflict of interest from a man who has refused to release his taxes, put his assets into a blind trust, or otherwise be honest with the American people.

As the Republican President continues to enrich himself at taxpayer's expense, his ties to Russia continue to raise questions. National Security Advisor Michael Flynn was forced to resign after admitting he'd discussed reversing sanctions imposed by the Obama Administration in violation of the Logan Act. Questions abound about what the president knew and when he knew it. Americans have a right to know if there is a Russian mole in our White House, and even Fox News has joined the calls for a full investigation.

The Center of the Resistance

Seattle and Washington State continue to establish themselves as the center of the resistance. Attorney General Bob Ferguson successfully blocked the Republican President's travel ban, Governor Inslee has made standing up against Trump a hallmark of his Governorship. Both Seattle and Burien have passed legislation making them sanctuary cities in defiance of Republican anti-immigrant polices, and Mayor Murray has been increasingly vocal in his critiques of the new regime in Washington D.C.

Here in the 34th we're building a resistance movement to be reckoned

Continued on page 7...

March 8, 2017 Meeting Notice

The Hall at Fauntleroy, 9131 California Ave SW Across from the YMCA - Parking behind the Hall Accessible by Metro "C" Line

6:30 - Potluck Social Time

7:00 - Meeting

Program:

International Women's Day

March 8th is International Women's Day and we will feature former State Representative Velma Veloria speaking on the relationship between human trafficking and international trade agreements.

Saving Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare

Longtime activist Robby Stern from PSARA (Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action) will be speaking on threats to Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid and what we can do to resist them.

Resolutions will be considered.

9:00 - Adjournment

Renew or Become a Member

At www.34dems.org/contribute/

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Executive Board

Elected Officers

David Ginsberg | Chair chair@34dems.org

Treina Aronson | First Vice Chair vicechair1@34dems.org

Michael Taylor-Judd | Second Vice Chair vicechair2@34dems.org

Lisa Plymate | State Committeewoman wsdccw@34dems.org

Chris Porter | State Committeeman wsdccm@34dems.org

Carrie Alexander | King Co. Committeewoman kcdccw@34dems.org

Martha Koester | King Co. Committeewoman Alt. kcdccwa@34dems.org

Les Treall | King Co. Committeeman kcdccm@34dems.org

Ted Barker | King Co. Committeeman Alt. kcdccma@34dems.org

Jason Cheung | Secretary secretary@34dems.org

Gina Topp | Treasurer treasurer@34dems.org

Committee Chairs

Michael Taylor-Judd | Bylaws vicechair2@34dems.org

Kyle Prete | Data & Technology corespace@gmail.com

Carrie Alexander | Digital Communications kcdccw@34dems.org

Sean Riley | Diversity & Inclusion inclusion@34dems.org

Jacob Holt | Events events@34dems.org

Finance - Vacant

Elisabeth Rose Astwood | Fundraising fundraising@34dems.org

Kate Riley | Hospitality hospitality@34dems.org

Ann Martin | Legislative Action lac@34dems.org

Joy Pakulak | Membership membership@34dems.org

Steve Butts & Karen Richter | Outreach outreach@34dems.org

Brooks Salazar | PCO Coordination pco@34dems.org

Treina Aronson | Volunteer Recruitment vicechair1@34dems.org

Other Roles

Steve Butts | Newsletter Editor newsletter@34dems.org

Allan Munro | Parliamentarian

Nick Bohall | Web Editor webmaster@34dems.org

A Resolution Regarding Social Security

A RESOLUTION supporting the expansion of Social Security and the elimination of the cap on earnings that are subject to the Social Security payroll tax, and directing the Executive Board of the 34th District Democrats to distribute this motion to the King County Central Committee, the Washington State Democratic Central Committee and Washington's congressional delegation.

WHEREAS: The gap between the pensions and retirement savings American households actually have and what they need in order to maintain their standard of living was \$7.7 trillion as of 2013, and

WHEREAS: Forty-seven percent of working-age families had nothing saved in retirement accounts, and the median working-age family had only \$5,000 saved, as of 2013, and

WHEREAS: One in three American families had no savings at all, and 56.3 percent of Americans had less than \$1,000 in their checking and savings accounts, as of 2015, and

WHEREAS: As of 2011, only about half of United States workers participated in a workplace retirement plan, and only ten percent of all private sector establishments provided defined benefit plans, covering just eighteen percent of private industry employees, and

WHEREAS: As of June 2015, Social Security retiree benefits averaged only about \$1,300 per month, and among elderly Social Security beneficiaries, fifty-three percent of married couples and seventy-four percent of unmarried persons received most of their income from Social Security, and

WHEREAS: As of July 1, 2015, 12.4 percent of the King County population was sixty-five years old and older, and 26.3 percent was between forty-five and sixty-four years old, and

WHEREAS: People of color made up 32.3 percent of King County's population in 2014, and among seniors sixty-five years old and older in 2012 Social Security was the sole source of income for forty-three percent of Hispanics, thirty-seven percent of African Americans and thirty-two percent of Asian and Pacific Islanders, compared to twenty-two percent of whites, and

WHEREAS: As of April 1, 2015, women constituted 55.7 percent of King County's population over sixty-five years old, and in 2013 the average annual Social Security income received by women sixty-five years old and older was \$12,857, compared with \$16,590 for men, and

WHEREAS: All wage earners who earn above the cap of \$127,200 pay no payroll tax on all of their earnings above the cap, thereby paying an effective tax rate lower than that of wage earners who earn less than the cap, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the 34th District Democrats that:

- A. Social Security benefits should be expanded to address the growing crisis of financial insecurity among present and future Social Security recipients.
- B. The cap on earnings that are subject to the Social Security payroll tax should be eliminated to pay for the expansion of Social Security benefits.
- C. The Executive Board of the 34th District Democrats is directed to send a copy of this motion to the King County Democratic Central Committee, the Washington State Democratic Central Committee and each member of Washington's congressional delegation.

Submitted by Karen Richter



Members of the 34th Democrats attend the Washington State Democrats reorganization meeting December 28 Left to right are:

Chris Porter, Ann Martin, Bruce Stotler, Lisa Plymate and David Ginsberg

34th District Bulletin Board

34th District Democrats Meetings

All meetings of the 34th District Democrats are open to any of our members.

Executive Board

Puget Ridge Co-Housing Common House 7020 18th Ave SW Wednesday, March 15, 7:00 p.m.

Other Meetings or Events:

West Seattle Drinking Liberally

Pizzeria 22, 4213 SW College St. Tuesday, March 7, 6:00 pm

Evergreen Democratic Club

Angelo's Italian Restaurant 601 SW 153rd St., Burien Tuesday, March 14, 11:30 am

Metropolitan Democratic Club

Plaza 600 Building #205, 600 Stewart St 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 12-1:30 pm

Burien Drinking Liberally - New Time and Location:

The Point 435 SW 152nd St Thursday, March 23, 7 pm

West Seattle Democratic Women

West Seattle Golf Course Banquet Room Thursday, March 23 6- 8 pm Check www.westseattledemocraticwomen.org For information

King County Democrats Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, March 28, 7:00 pm

New Location:

Teamsters Hall in Tukwila 14675 Interurban Ave S, Tukwila, 98168

Treasurer's Report for March 2017 Newsletter

Balance as of Jan. 20, 2017	\$ 9,679.00
Add Revenues	\$ 7,456.29
Less Expenses	\$ 3,430.12
Balance as of Feb. 26, 2017	\$ 13,705.17

A Metropolitan Democratic Club Forum

PRESERVING OUR VALUES,
ADVANCING OUR RIGHTS.
THIS IS YIIIIIGFIII

MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2017 * 6PM
BERTHA KNIGHT LANDES ROOM AT CITY HALL, 600 4TH AVE

Moderator: Jack Whisner, MDC Vice President. Participants:

Former Councilmember Nick Licata Michele Storms, Deputy Director of the ACLU of Washington Lisa Stone, Director of Legal Voice

Sponsored by Pete Holmes, Tim Burgess and Lisa Herbold

Join other 34th Democrats at the

White Center 5K Run (and Walk) Race - March 25

8:00 Doors Opens to the public 8:45 Warm-Up Activity 9:00 Racers Begin 9:10 Walkers Begin 10:00 Entertainment, Race Winners Announced

10.00 Entertainment, Race winners Announced

Registration includes a free T-SHIRT! The course is pet friendly, stroller friendly, and wheelchair accessible.

Special Price for 34th Dems - \$20. Use the code "dems2017" when registering

Register at: www.whitecenter5k.brownpapertickets.com Contact Diversity Chair Sean Riley with questions.



Members pose with Senator Sharon Nelson at Lobby Day 2017.

Contact Information and Committee Assignments for Our Legislators

Senator Sharon Nelson

Senate Democratic Leader Rules 316 Legislative Building PO Box 40434 Olympia, WA 98504 (360) 786 - 7667



Representative Eileen Cody

Chair, Health and Wellness Appropriations 303 John L. O'Brien Building PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504 (360) 786 - 7978



Representative Joe Fitzgibbon

Chair, Environment Finance 305 John L. O'Brien Building PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504 (360) 786 - 7952



Resolution in Support of HB 1646 which Creates a Carbon Tax that Allows for Investment in Clean Energy.

Whereas, the burning of fossil fuels creates air pollution that causes impaired lung function, shortness of breath, wheezing, asthma attacks and premature death;

Whereas, the burning of fossil fuels generates greenhouse gases that cause climate change which according to the World Health Organization, the Center for Disease Control, and the University of Washington Climate Impacts Group is a major public health risk;

Whereas, unless action is undertaken without further delay to return the atmospheric concentration of CO_2 to no more than 350 ppm by 2100, Earth's climate system will be pressed toward irreversible, everworsening, climate-related impacts;

Whereas, transitioning off of fossil fuels towards a 100% renewable energy economy is in the best interests of the residents and citizens of Washington;

Whereas, nationally, renewable energy businesses are creating jobs 12 times faster than the rest of the economy;

Whereas, a carbon tax is recommended by many economists as a way to promote the just transition from fossil fuel to renewable energy; and thereby, improve our health and create jobs for our communities in the renewable energy economy;

Whereas, HB would use the proceeds of a carbon tax fund to invest in clean energy, clean air, healthy forests, and Washington's disproportionately impacted communities:

Whereas, HB 1646 would strengthen greenhouse emissions limits for the State of Washington;

Whereas, HB 1646 is sponsored by representatives Eileen Cody and Joe Fitzgibbon, and endorsed by Front and Centered, Got Green and the Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy;

Now, Therefore Be it resolved:

That the 34th District Democratic Organization urges our caucus in Olympia to give their very highest level of support to House Bill 1646 (Senate Bill 5509). We believe this bill will benefit our communities by improving our health, bringing new jobs and protecting young people's rights to a healthy climate system.

Submitted by Stu Yarfitz

Letters and Submitted Articles

We are Democrats, and like most Democrats we have strong opinions and like to express them. We welcome letters and articles. .

All submissions are subject to editing. If submissions need to be shortened, you will be given the option of editing your own work.

Photos and notices of upcoming events are always welcome.

The deadline for the April newsletter will be Friday, March 31.

Mail to Steve Butts, 10254 36th Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98146 or email to swbutts@comcast.net

Patrick Wicklund stands with Bob Ferguson





On Friday February 4th, Bob Ferguson was in US Federal Court seeking to stop Donald Trump's travel ban. 34th Dems member Patrick Wicklund stood in support of our Attorney General despite the inclement weather. Our local paper of record referred to him as "a person", but 25 news organizations across the country - from the Poughkeepsie Journal to NPR and USA Today gave Patrick proper recognition for his peaceful resistance on a rainy day. Thank you Patrick!

Resolution Opposing Attacks on Our Health Benefits

WHEREAS: Comprehensive health benefits are essential to ensuring working families and retirees can get the health care they need, when they need it;

WHEREAS: Health insurance should be affordable for all Americans;

WHEREAS: Medicare is a promise to the American people that must be kept for current and future generations, including the 55 million seniors and people with disabilities enrolled today and the many millions more counting on it for their retirement;

WHEREAS: The Affordable Care Act (ACA) was an important step toward providing comprehensive, affordable health care for all;

WHEREAS: Repealing the ACA without a replacement will put 30 million people at risk of losing their health benefits entirely and strip away vital protections and benefits from the many millions more with Medicare. Medicaid, and workplace coverage:

WHEREAS: More than 74 million people get health benefits through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP);

WHEREAS: Repealing the Affordable Care Act in its entirety will take health benefits away from the approximately 11 million people who gained coverage through that law's Medicaid expansion.

WHEREAS: Cutting federal funding to Washington for Medicaid through block grants or per capita caps will shift health care costs onto our state, force impossible choices between cutting health benefits or even eliminating eligibility for them, take funding away from other essential services, and require state taxpayers to pay more;

WHEREAS: Cutting federal funding to Washington for Medicaid will threaten the health care, nursing home care and the long-term supports and the services that allow seniors and people of all ages with disabilities to live independently in their own homes and communities:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The 34th LD Democrats oppose any and all attacks on our health benefits;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

We call upon all members of Congress representing the people of Washington to oppose any and all attacks on our health benefits, including legislation that:

- Turns Medicare into a voucher system, increases the Medicare eligibility age beyond 65, or in any other way cuts seniors' Medicare benefits or shifts additional costs onto them;
- Imposes new taxes on or otherwise threatens the health benefits working people earn on the job;
- Repeals the Affordable Care Act without a replacement plan that ensures that anyone with coverage today is able to afford it and keep it and that maintains key protections for all working families and seniors;
- Repeals the Affordable Care Act's expansion of Medicaid benefits to millions of people; or
- Block grants or imposes a per capita cap on federal funding for Medicaid;

AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED:

The 34th LD Democrats calls upon all members of Congress representing the people of Washington to support real reforms that bring us closer to the goal of providing comprehensive, affordable health coverage for all by strengthening and expanding health benefits and controlling and lowering health care costs, so that everyone in America can get the care they need, when they need it. This should include consideration of a public option and single payer system.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Plymate, MD,

34th LD State Committeewoman and The 34th LD Democrats



Kathy Marshall introduces new 9 appointed and 7 acting PCO's at our February meeting.

In Case You Missed the Last Meeting...

The well-publicized agenda, "How To Resist Trump And Protect What We Hold Dear", brought over 700 concerned people to our February meeting, far out-pacing the 400 attendees to the August 2009 health care forum with Rep. Jim McDermott, the previous high.



In order to accommodate this massive turnout, we used the Vashon Room for the overflow and TV and audio were live-streamed into the auxiliary space.



A panel of five women spoke to the meeting topic, and moderated by Michael Taylor Judd The panel included (Right to Left):

- Judy Lightfoot from Indivisible Seattle
- Binah Palmer from the American Civil Liberties Union of Washington
- Monisha Harrell from Equal Rights Washington
- AmirahMirziteh from the Greater Seattle Neighborhood Action Coalition
- Aneelah Afzali from the Muslim Association of Puget Sound/American Muslim Empowerment Network

The later two groups were formed just after the 2016 election. Each panel member spoke for 5 minutes and then questions from the audience were fielded.

Binah Palmer, a native of West Seattle, briefed us on what the ACLU is doing, including analyzing Trump's stands, contrasting them against the US Constitution and documenting them in "The Trump Memos".







Aneelah Afzali

Judy Lightfoot spoke to the founding of Indivisible Seattle, formed after the publication of the Indivisible guide written shortly after the election by ex-Democratic congressional staff

Monisha Harrell notes that it's been only 11 years since we've had non-discrimination protections for LGBTQ in Washington State, and that we don't want to see that progress rolled back.

Amirah Mirziteh explained her group's roots and formation in November, just after the election with more than 1,000 people showing up for a regional organizing meeting. The group promotes independent neighborhood resistance groups to work on and support those communities' specific issues.

Aneelah Afzali's group formed in December to build coalitions and educate others about Islam and Muslims.

Following the featured program, the crowd thinned out and we continued with our regular business. Two new board members were appointed: Brooks Salazar will be the PCO Committee Chair, and Kyle Prete is our Data and Technology Chair. Out-going PCO Chair Kathy Marshal presented 16 candidates for PCOs, 9 Appointed and 7 Acting. Stu Yarfitz presented two resolutions: One in support of HB 1048 "Renewable Energy Tax Incentives and Recycling". It was passed. Another in support of HB 1372 "Goals for Greenhouse Gases Emission Reductions" was debated and it was agreed that it be reworded. Stu will present the revised version in March. We also approved two new logos for the 34th District Democrats.



The overflow audience in the Vashon Room watches a live stream of the program.

...Continued from page 1

with. Our February program was attended by more than 700 concerned citizens while a similar number watched our first livestream on Facebook Live. We gained 111 new members, more than \$4,000 in contributions, 15 new PCOs and 2 new Executive Board members. THIS is what the beginning of a successful resistance looks like, and here in the 34th we're just getting started!

The Indivisible movement continues to grow, and there are now Indivisible groups in West Seattle, Burien and Vashon. The West Seattle group has organized a weekly meeting with the staff of Senator Murray and Senator Cantwell at the Federal Building downtown, which Indivisible groups from around the 7th and 9th Congressional Districts are now joining.

Get Involved!

If you're wondering what you can do to help empower this local resistance, here are some of my top suggestions:

1. Become a Precinct Committee Officer

The biggest impact you can have on changing outcomes is to become a PCO and help us reach out to your neighbors, get them registered to vote, help them stay informed and engaged, and hear their concerns. Our new Data and Technology Chair Kyle Prete has just built a wonderful map-based PCO Lookup Tool for our website to help you find out if there's already a PCO for your precinct, then:

- If there isn't you can contact our PCO Chair Brooks Salazar to get appointed
- If there is a PCO you can look for a nearby precinct where you can become an Acting PCO

And coming soon:

 The ability to contact your PCO about joining their Precinct Committee and helping them contact voters in your neighborhood

2. Become a Member of the 34th District Democrats

The 34th District Democrats are one of the most powerful and well organized Democratic organizations in the state, but we're only as strong as our members and PCOs. What does the 34th do?

- We partner with other community organizations and support our community
- We recruit candidates for open positions and help them get their campaigns off the ground
- We hold programs on topics of interest to the community
- We host candidate forums to help the community get to know the candidates
- We endorse candidates and support them with our money and our ability to directly contact voters to get them elected
- We get out and talk to voters from Alki to Talequah to help keep them informed, engaged and help make sure their voices are heard
- We mobilize like nobody' business to GOTV for Democrats at election time

Many of these efforts cost money, and our Treasurer Gina Topp tells us that the current cost per member of running this organization is just under \$10/month, so the best way to become a member is to sign up on our website by selecting the \$10 monthly contribution option. I recently switched to monthly contributions myself, and I encourage everyone who's able to do so as well. Monthly contributions help us budget and plan, so please consider contributing in this way.

3. Join one of our Executive Committees

The Executive Committees are the workhorses of the organization. Most of the committees meet monthly, and all of our committees welcome and encourage new members. You can learn more about each of our standing committees, including how to contact each Committee Chair, on our website.

4. Sign up to Volunteer

We participate in community events, march in parades, host candidate forums and community-focused programs throughout the year, and we need your help! You can sign up to volunteer on our website.

Other ways to help

Our neighbors to the south in the 31st District could use some help to win their upcoming special election which will determine control of the Senate. Please join me in contributing \$25 to the 31st LD Democrats. You can do that here:

http://bit.ly/2mwUpB6

Who are the 34th District Democrats?

We are the Democratic Party of the 34th Legislative District. We work to elect Democrats, uphold Democratic values, and support Democrats in Seattle, White Center, Burien, Vashon/Maury Island and beyond.

We are our elected officials. We are our candidates. We are the activists who knock on doors in neighborhoods from Alki to Tahlequah and the voters who make their voices heard each election. We are all volunteers.

We are your neighbors. We are your co-workers. We are your friends. We stand up for the marginalized and the voiceless among us. We join arms with allies to fight against injustice and fight for equity. We are engaged in our communities and we are committed to a brighter future for all of us.

We believe in inclusion, that unity is better than division, that we are stronger and better when everyone has an equal shot at living up to their potential. We believe diversity is a source of strength and that inequality is a threat to democracy itself.

We believe it's important to stand up to tyrants and bullies. We believe in the power of individuals working together to make great progress against incredible odds. We believe in you.

Join us in the fight of our lives. It might not be easy, but it will be rewarding.

And we will win.

In solidarity,

David

David Ginsberg Chair, 34th District Democrats

Resolution in Support of Amending Limits on Greenhouse Gas Emissions (House Bill 1144-S)

WHEREAS, in 2008 the State of Washington adopted goals for the reduction of Greenhouse Gases emissions reductions by 2020, 2035 and 2050; and

WHEREAS, the WA State House Representative of the 34th District Democrats, Joe Fitzgibbon, and the WA State Environmental Committee revised the target goals for greenhouse gas emission limits in the original House Bill 1144 creating HB 1144-S, and

WHEREAS, HB 1144-S is needed to amend the 2008 rule of greenhouse gas emission limits using consistency with the most recent assessment of climate science facts and climate change science.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The 34th District Democratic Organization supports HB 1144-S, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

The 34th District Democratic Organization requests all members of the 34th District legislative delegation support HB 1144-S; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

The Executive Board is directed to send a copy of this resolution to each member of the 34th District legislative delegation; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT:

The Executive Board is directed to send a copy of this resolution to the King County Democratic Central Committee Legislative Action Committee.

Submitted by Grace Stiller



Newsletter Editor 10254 36th Ave. SW Seattle, WA 98146

Return Service Requested



Join the 34th District Democrats!

Sign up by filling out this form and mailing it with a check made payable to:

The 34th District Democrats, 6523 California Ave SW, Box 183, Seattle, WA 98136-1879

The 34th Dist	trict Democrats, 6523 California	a Ave SW, Box 183, Seattle	e, WA 98136-1879
Name		Phon	e
Address		Zip _	
If you use a P.O. Box, do yo	u live in the 34th District? Yes _	No	
Email	* Oc	cupation	
*Employer	* En	nployer City	
* Required by	/ Washington State Public Disclosure	Commission/ Contributions ar	re not tax deductible.
If interested in pay ☐ \$3 Living Lightly	ing your dues in monthly installi	ments contact the treasure	er for more information. \$\square\$ \$1,000 Endowment
☐ \$100 Benefactor	☐ \$250 Sustaining	☐ \$500 Underwriter	
		mmunicate electronically.	d candidates, the 34th District

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