

34th District Democrats

West Seattle, Burien, White Center, Vashon and Maury Islands

Chair's Message for March, 2016

The 2016 Democratic Presidential Caucus is only a month away. Here are some important things you can do right now to make the 34th Dems' caucus the most successful in the state.

Check in now from home online at www.wa-democrats.org. Type in your information, print out the form, and bring it with you. You'll find out your caucus location, plus save time and precious party resources. If you're not ready to commit to a candidate, no worries. You can go back to the link and change it as many times as you like and you still have the opportunity to do so at the caucus itself. You can also fill out a paper copy at the caucus if you forget yours at home or if you don't have online access.

Sign up for a caucus training. For PCOs, and those who aren't, please come to a training to familiarize yourself with the process. We're training on 3 separate dates. Find out if your precinct has a PCO, if not, you can run to chair it yourself. Check PCO listings at www.kcdems.org. If you've had the training, it makes you very appealing as a delegate to your caucusing friends! Go here to sign up: <http://doodle.com/poll/pc6q7rpabq4x4zmx> or the information is on our website.

Want to participate but can't be there that day due to religious, disability or illness, or military or work obligations? Use the Surrogate Affidavit Form and get it to the State Party by March 16th. Your voice will be heard. The form is located here:

www.wa-democrats.org.

Volunteer! We need many people to help that day to sign in attendees. We'll need a minimum of 10 to 20 people at each location to welcome, check-in and inform caucus attendees. If you're willing to help, email 34demscaucus@gmail.com to let us know!

Super Tuesday at Drinking Liberally at Pizzeria 22 in Admiral March 1st, 6:30 p.m. stop by to chat.

Marcee Stone-Vekich
Chair
(206) 465-1963

March 9, 2016

6:30 Social, 7:00 Meeting
The Hall at Fauntleroy
9131 California Ave SW
Across from the YMCA

**Proposed Program
Speakers, Candidates and
Campaigns**

**Panel - Social Justice in the
State House**
Moderated by Jamila Johnson,
PCO and Attorney

Washington State Convention
Elect 34th District Representatives
to these three committees:
Platform and Resolutions,
Credentials, and Rules

Endorsements May Be Considered

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Executive Board

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206-465-1963

First Vice Chair

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206-954-7755

Second Vice Chair, Finance Chair

Carol Frillman
425-785-7502

Treasurer

Karen Chilcutt
206-935-3216

Secretary

Kathryn Sprigg
206-933-6754

State Committeewoman

Lisa Plymate
206-937-5050

State Committeeman

Chris Porter
206-856-0182

King County Committeewoman

Martha Koester
206-762-6417

King County Committeewoman Alternate

Brianna Thomas

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206-935-0798

King County Committeeman Alternate

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206-380-5448

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PCO Committee Chair, Sgt at Arms

Les Treall
206-948-5423

Program Committee

Marcee Stone, Ted Barker, Sofia Aragon

Technology Chair

Richard Bartlett

Parliamentarian

Allan Munro

Website

Bill Schrier
206-937-8045

Newsletter Editor

Jackie Dupras

Presidents Day in Olympia

Lobby Day

It's a busy time in the Washington State Legislature and we were unable to meet with our legislators as they were in session. Those legislators who could get away spoke with us about what they were working on, and their frustrations with the other side, and what they had to say wasn't pretty. Democrats need to get a majority in the Senate in order for anything to get done. One

Republican idea to solve the McCleary problem is with a levy swap, (or swipe) which would divert our property taxes to the state, which would then allocate them to the districts. Since we pay higher taxes here in King County, we would lose revenue.

The Annual Crab Feed

Marcee and Max with Governor Inslee



Joe McDermott with constituents



We appointed an even dozen Appointed PCOs and one Acting PCO at our last meeting, just in time for the caucuses.



34th District Bulletin Board

34th District Democrats Meetings

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

Executive Board

Wednesday, March 16, 7:00 p.m.

Puget Ridge Co-Housing Common House
7020 - 18th Ave SW

PCO Committee

Thursday, March 10, 7:00 p.m.

Uptown Espresso in the Junction

Other Meetings and Events

Drinking Liberally in Seattle

Tuesday, March 1, any time after 6:00 p.m.

Pizzeria 22, 4213 College St.

Evergreen Democratic Club

Tuesday, March 8, 11:00 a.m.

Angelo's Restaurant, 601 SW 153rd St in
Burien

Drinking Liberally in Burien

Wednesday, March 23, 7:00 p.m.

Mark Restaurant 918 SW 152nd in
Old Burien

West Seattle Democratic Women

Thursday, March 24, 1:00 p.m.

West Seattle Golf Course

Check westseattledemocraticwomen.org for
meeting information and program

Metropolitan Democratic Club

12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m.

2nd and fourth Wednesdays of each month:

March 9 and March 23

White Center Food Bank

Our Volunteer Day at the White Center
Food Bank, Wednesday, March 23,

West Seattle Meaningful Movies

Saturday, March 5, 7:00 p.m.

Highpoint Neighborhood House

6400 Sylvan Way SW

Bus routes 21 and 128

"Education Inc."

**A stunning documentary about dark
money behind reform**

Brian Malone, film-maker, has self-funded a film about the corporate assault on public education.

American public education is in controversy. As public schools across the country struggle for funding, complicated by the impact of poverty and politics, some question the future and effectiveness of public schools in the U.S.

For free-market reformers, private investors and large education corporations, this controversy spells opportunity in turning public schools over to private interests.

Education, Inc. examines the free-market and for-profit interests that have been quietly and systematically privatizing America's public education system under the banner of "school choice."

Contact Information and Committee Assignments for Our Legislators

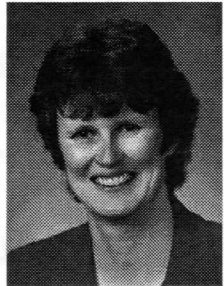
Senator Sharon Nelson

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



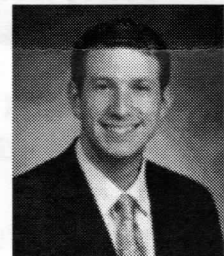
Representative Eileen Cody

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



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 is April 1. Mail to Jackie Dupras, 1920 46th Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98116 or jdupras@quidnunc.net. Phone: 935-9683.

Lisa Herbold's District 1 Office Hours

"I am happy to announce that I will soon be starting my District 1 office hours. Every other week I will be holding office hours from 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; the in-district office will rotate to help best serve all communities in District 1."

"I'm still working on finalizing a schedule and locations, but I do know that my first office hours will be at the Southwest Neighborhood Service Center (2801 SW Thistle St. on March 4 from 12:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

I'm including evening hours for folks who want to stop by after work. These will be open office hours for anyone to stop by; additionally, you're welcome to schedule a meeting with me through my scheduler, Alex Clardy (alex.clardy@seattle.gov) There likely will have to be adjustments as we move forward, but I'm eager to try this out and see what works and what does not. Your input is welcome."



Lisa Herbold

2016 Precinct Caucuses Saturday, March 26 10:00 a.m.

Save Time and Pre-Register

There is a link on our website (34dems.org) that will take you to the registration form on the Washington State Democrats' website, or you can go directly to wa-democrats.org. Click on Caucus 2016. The form is beneath the picture of Hillary and Bernie. You can sign in and find the location of your caucus and pre-register at the same time. It only takes a minute and you will avoid the crowds when you arrive at your caucus. If you are unable to attend the caucus because of work or military obligations, disability or illness, or religious reasons, you may fill out a surrogate application form by March 16.

King County Democrats Meeting of February 25

The Endorsement rules and candidate questionnaires were the bulk of the 3-hour meeting, and began with an introduction to Randy Gordon as the Chair of the Endorsements Committee for 2016. He will lead the process, but will not be a voting member.

Then Jaxon Ravens spoke to the precinct caucuses and to their importance for Democratic successes in 2016 and onward to 2020. We should prepare to make the caucus process go smoothly, and use it to bring in new people. The Coordinated Campaign is getting off to an early start and the Regional Field Director for King County will be Celia Jackson. There are currently no Democratic candidates for the 4th or the 8th CDs.

We heard from three candidates for Lieutenant Governor:

Karen Fraser, State Senator from the 22nd LD, stressed her involvement in the women's movement, her strengths on labor, conservation and community issues. She has a long history of serving in elected office and has led international trade delegations.

Cyrus Habib, current State Senate Democratic Whip, is the son of Iranian immigrants. Being blind for 25 years has taught him the importance of fighting for inclusion. He will use the office as a bully pulpit to fight for McCleary funding and paid sick leave.

Jim Moeller is a State Rep from Clark County. He will use the office to push for a state-wide \$15 minimum wage, funding for McCleary and progressive gun legislation.

Running to be the 7th CD Rep is Dr. Arun Jhaveri. He came to the US from India as a graduate student. He wishes to bring his science and technical expertise to the US house. Climate change solutions and energy efficiency are important to him.

We heard a report from Rep Adam Smith's office. He is a co-sponsor on a bill to eliminate the US budget sequestration.

The majority of the meeting involved approving the KCDCC Endorsement Procedures and the candidate questionnaires. As a motion to table or postpone consideration of these documents were not to be in order, a proposed rule to limit the recognition of members for the purpose of introducing amendments to only three times was adopted, and proved to be beneficial to getting through the refinements to the 11 national, state-wide, judicial and legislative-level questionnaires.

Other business included the ongoing issue of Treasurer. A candidate for this office has dropped out. 1st Chair and Finance Committee Chair Omaha Sternberg has been the interim Treasurer, and that status needed to be extended to the April meeting, and a motion to that was made and approved. Omaha will have monthly Finance Committee meetings. She has created a budget for 2016, and will create a working budget for reporting changes in income and expenses when they occur to the Executive Board.

This resolution, presented by Martha Koester, was approved by the membership at our February meeting: Resolution in Support of Accessible Community-Based Social Security Service Administration Service Delivery

WHEREAS record number of clients are visiting and calling Social Security Administration offices to receive the services and benefits that they have earned over a lifetime of work, and facing record waiting times before finally having the chance to speak to an SSA employee trained to assist in navigating the agency's complex programs; and

WHEREAS SSA has cut hours and is eliminating certain services at field offices in these times of greatest need, while aggressively steering the public to Internet self-service both inside and outside of those offices; and

WHEREAS identify thieves have had an easy time filing fraudulent internet retirement applications that rob the Social Security trust funds, because there is no authentication of applicant identities; and

WHEREAS the monthly payments of an estimated 120,000 beneficiaries have so far been redirected to the bank accounts of thieves because MySSA is neither save nor secure and

WHEREAS SSA has closed over 70 field offices and 1500 contact stations in recent years, and placed many of the remaining offices in locations that are costly and difficult for elderly, disabled and low-income clients to reach; and

WHEREAS SSA Acting Commissioner Carolyn Colvin now says she will consider additional office closures on a case by case basis, following an 18 month moratorium on closure due to adverse public and Congressional reaction; and

WHEREAS SA claims to be responding to growing public demand for internet self-service, but a November 2014 public policy polling survey revealed that only 11% to 13% of respondents wanted to file for retirement benefits or for replacement Social Security Cards online rather than at a field office, with only 3% to 4% of those under 30 years of age wanting that option; and

WHEREAS over 1 million Americans, many of them veterans, are waiting for decisions on their disability benefit application appeals, many enduring years of delay from the date of filing to receive a final decision; and

WHEREAS austere administrative budgets and inadequate front-line staffing have crippled the SSA's ability to provide the prompt, equitable, accurate services that American workers have paid for and deserve, even though trust fund surpluses have grown to \$2.8 trillion, and administration of the Social Security program consumes less than 1% of annual program income;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 34th Legislative District Democrats ask that SSA office hours should be restored and then expanded; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the SSA should not require or encourage transmission of personal information over the fraud-plagued internet retirement application and My SSA systems until they can be made safe and secure; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that since most SSA administrative costs are reimbursed from trust funds that are in surplus, and because some of the surplus is desperately needed now to fund front-line staffing increases for much-needed service improvements, the SSA's administrative accounts be taken off-budget in order to shield the accounts from sequestration cuts and other fiscal attacks; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Washington State Progressive Caucus send copies of this resolution to our Congressional delegation and to the Seattle and national SSA offices

In Case You Missed Our Last Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chair Marcee Stone

Marcee acknowledged Tom Rasmussen who had served on the Seattle City Council from 2003 to 2015. He received a standing ovation. Tom was always accessible. You could see him walking around West Seattle, Ballard and other areas. He vitalized the office of senior citizens, and he organized an effort to save green belts and other green spaces.

Marcee spoke about what's going on in the legislature. Republicans are blocking any work that the Democrats are trying to accomplish.

VIPs in the room included Joe McDermott, Pramila Jayapal, Brady Walkinshaw, Bill Tracy, Judge Johanna Bender, Judge Steve Rosen, Lisa Herbold, Liz Giba, Bill Tracy, Austin Bell; Leslie Harris and Dow Constantine

The candidates running for Jim McDermott's 7th Congressional seat were invited to speak for three minutes each and take questions for two minutes.

Pramila Jayapal helped draft Washington DREAM ACT and worked on a \$15 per hour minimum wage. Her issues include income inequality, minimum wage, paid leave and gender equity, expanding Social Security and Medicare, clean climate, jobs & energy, and debt free college.

Arun Jhaveri was the first mayor of Burien. He has experience in energy, environment, climate change, STEM, experience that is necessary to work in Congress

Joe McDermott is well known to all of us. He has served as 34th District Chair, 34th District State Representative and Senator, and presently as our King County Councilman. His issues include energy, health care, immigration, gun policies and our campaign finance system. We need to overturn Citizens United.

Jeff Stillwell, a new voice, new ideas. He wants to put unions back into the forefront of the country, close the gender wage gap, fund the first two years of community college and put solar panels in space. **Brady Walkinshaw** is the State Representative from the 43rd District. He pledges to not accept independent expenditures, and believes that all

candidates should sign the pledge and model public financing in the 7th CD. He wants to see a transportation system investments with a federal partnership. He will carry on Jim McDermott's legacy and lead the way as an advocate for mental health, housing and homelessness.

Donovan Rivers has import export and foreign / domestic experience. His issues include diversity, understanding of different cultures, mental health treatment and Social Security.

We also heard from candidates for Lieutenant Governor: Senior State Senator Karen Fraser and Jim Mueller 43rd District State Representative; and Jeff Sprung, 36th District, candidate for Washington State Auditor.

We then heard from several candidates for judge: Steve Rosen; Johanna Bender, Superior Court

State Committee Report is on next page

Election of Treasurer

This was easy. Karen Chilcutt has served us well as Treasurer for several years and we are happy to have her back. She was nominated and seconded and approved by acclamation.

Endorsement for 7th Congressional District Seat:

Four candidates were nominated: Joe McDermott, Pramila Jayapal, Brady Walkinshaw, and Arun Jhaveri. A credentials report was requested. There were 75 eligible voting members. The results: Arun Jhaveri and Brady Walkinshaw received three votes each, Pramila Jayapal received 22 votes and Joe McDermott received 44, which met the required 60% threshold for endorsement.

An even dozen PCOs were appointed:

Dan Gage SEA 34-1504
Susan Mamlock, SEA 34-1442;
Ted Barker, SEA 34-1411
Gene Kuhns, Carpenter;
Jacob Holt, SEA 34-1251
Shauna Causey SEA 34-1437
Therese McDermott, SEA 34-1424
Frank Crosswhite, BUR 34-1057
Rebecca Wells, Regal
David Billingham SEA 34-1518
Karen Stricklin, SEA 34-1526
Julia Peeler, SEA 34-1439

Report of Washington State Democratic Central Committee Meeting of January 29-31

Our agenda was packed in Lynnwood this weekend, starting with caucus training and a candidate forum on Friday, committee and business meetings on Saturday and a special workshop on Sunday morning.

In the Progressive Caucus, we met numerous candidates for office, starting with the top three candidates for our 7th CD seat - our own King County Council Chair **Joe McDermott**, State Senator **Pramila Jayapal** from the 37th LD and State Representative **Brady Walkinshaw** from the 43rd. Once again, we are blessed with excellent candidates to fill the position held by our Congressman Jim McDermott for so many years. We next heard from Lt Governor candidates **Jim Moeller**, a mental health professional from Olympia; **Cyrus Habib**, State Senate whip from the 48th; and **Karen Fraser**, a 38 year veteran of our State Senate from Olympia. They pointed out that the Lt Governor serves as President of the State Senate and is first in line of succession to our Governor. Many of us were particularly impressed by **Erin Jones** of Tacoma, candidate for State Superintendent in Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, and **Tina Podlowski**, running for Secretary of State. In the latter race, she emphasized that she will use that office to attract new voters and assure people can and do vote.

The Washington State Labor Council AFL&CIO has filed an initiative, Raise Up Washington, to provide every worker in the state a \$13.50 minimum wage and paid sick leave. If they get 250,000 signatures by early July, this will be on the November ballot,

Teresa Mosqueda, legislative and policy director for the State Labor Council, recommended a NO vote on I-732 for carbon pricing primarily because it relies on carbon pricing only without a cap or investment in communities of color. The initiative is NOT revenue neutral as is claimed, but would increase the state's budget deficit, exacerbating our inability to fund education, mental health and other social services.

Gillian Locascio, Coordinator of Washington Fair Trade Coalition, pointed out that the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) is due to be signed by President Obama this Wednesday, 2/3/16. It will then go to the U.S. Congress for approval or rejection, so we are approaching our last chance to stop this. We can now view the full deal here: <https://ustr.gov/tpp/>

Our lunch featured **Governor Jay Inslee**, who whipped up the crowd. Over his first 3 years, he oversaw the creation of over 1/4 million jobs and decreased unemployment by 2%. *He is campaigning for a minimum wage of 13.5% statewide and paid sick leave. We have high-quality preschool education and universal all-day kindergarten. Washington is the only state in the country that lowered tuition in public colleges. We raised teachers' salaries. We will continue to fight climate change. We will NOT defund Planned Parenthood. We will NOT allow discrimination based on faith in our state. His challenge for our caucuses:*

EVERYONE SHOULD BRING A FRIEND TO THE CAUCUSES WHO HAS NOT ATTENDED BEFORE.

Luncheon Panel included **Mindi Linquist**, from Patty Murray's campaign; **Aisling Kerins**, from Jay Inslee's; and **Dillon Gilbert**, coordinated campaign field director (under Max Brown). Coordinated campaign will have 5 regional directors, starting in mid-Feb. We need to send Inslee back with both Senate and House majorities.

Chair Jaxon Ravens pointed out that our state was the first to have our coordinated campaign plan finished. We will have a "caucus pre-check" on the website, so that people can complete their sign-in forms and print them out to carry in to save time at the caucuses.

For those who need extra enticement to run for national delegate, this year at the national convention in Philadelphia, our delegation will be in a hotel on the water, just 1 mile from the Convention Center and 3 blocks from the Liberty Bell. Dates July 25-28, 2016. Furthermore, every state will get a donkey, crafted by a Philadelphia artist, to decorate. Have at it! Turn in your suggestions to the state party.

Finance report: cash balance as of 12/31/15: \$874,427.61, highest ever going into an election year. Total outstanding debt: \$0.0. Budgeted expenses of \$4,444,366. Need to raise \$3.6 million. (38% of expenses are for operating costs.)

Democratic National Committee: We elected two women and two men to serve 4 year terms: Sharon Mast, Nancy Monacelli, David McDonald, and Ed Cote. Nancy, from Walla Walla, is the only new member. For our upcoming state convention in Tacoma in June, Ann Martin will serve as co-chair of the rules committee.

Finally, we passed several resolutions, most notably to raise the minimum wage and require sick leave; request the state legislature file for a waiver to the Affordable Care Act that would allow us to pursue single payer and provide health insurance for all Washington residents by 2020; expand dental care by authorizing dental therapists and say NO on I-732 carbon tax proposal.

On Sunday, the state party sponsored a cultural competency workshop. Several members of our 34th e-board attended, including myself, Marcee Stone-Vekich, Ted Barker, Ann Martin and Steve Butts. All of us really enjoyed it and felt we benefited greatly. Our hope is to apply the approaches we learned to our upcoming precinct caucuses and beyond. We need to increase the diversity in our membership, and to do so we need to knock down barriers to connecting with others.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Plymate, Washington State Committeewoman