

34th District Democrats
General Meeting Minutes
Date – February 10, 2016
Secretary – Kathryn L. Sprigg



Occasional references may be made to attachments distributed at the meeting. These handouts may be accessed at the 34th District website or upon request.

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Chair Marcee Stone-Vekich

Chair presented agenda for approval, changes were requested. How to become a delegate was removed. The agenda with changes was unanimously approved.

Minutes were presented and approved unanimously.

Treasurer's report – Our beginning balance on January 13 was \$22,620. The ending balance was \$25,315 as of February 10. Major revenue was from membership dues (\$3,773). Expenses were \$1,288.

Chair report: Marcee acknowledged and the members honored Tom Rasmussen, former city council member, with a standing ovation. Ted Barker presented Tom, who served from 2003 until 2015, with a plaque from the 34th Legislative District. Tom spoke about some of the accomplishments he is proud of. Marcee spoke about what's going on in the legislature right now. Republicans are blocking any work that the Democrats are trying to accomplish.

The remainder of the Chair report and the Vice Chair report were tabled.

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

Program General Meeting

Candidate Speakers

The candidates running to succeed retiring Representative Jim McDermott's 7th District Congressional seat were invited to speak for 3 minutes each and take questions for 2 minutes.

Pramila Jayapal – killed transgender bathroom bill this afternoon. She spoke about what she's worked on as an advocate for the past 25 years. She helped draft Washington DREAM Act and worked on a \$15 per hour minimum wage. Her issues include income inequality; minimum wage; paid leave & gender equity; expanding Social Security and Medicare; clean climate, jobs & energy; debt free college.

Q&A a bill allowing immigrants to serve in the military but not in fire or law enforcement. Is she a supporter of single payer health care.

Arun Jhaveri – first mayor of Burien Experience in energy, environment, climate change, STEM, homelessness & affordable housing. We need people with this experience in Congress.

Q&A what have you done in Burien to increase social justice for those who need it. How to negotiate with intractable opponents in Congress.

Joe McDermott – King County Council member served as state committeeman, WA State legislator, King County Councilman. Issues include energy, health care, immigration, gun policies. Our campaign finance

system needs to change; we need to overturn Citizens United first. He is calling for independent expenditure organizations to stay out of the race and invites opponents to agree.

Q & A How to get money out of influencing Congress. It is the first bill he will introduce. How to help Veterans. We owe health care to Veterans and to every single American as well and we need to help Veterans with housing so they aren't homeless. What will you do to help Duamish people be recognized as a Federal Tribe.

Jeff Stillwell – he is a fresh face, new voice, new ideas. He brings energy and endurance to the campaign. 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.

Q&A background arts and manufacturing. “Dream the big dream”

Brady Wakinshaw – State Representative in the 43 Legislative District. He wants to take money out of the election and pledge to not accept independent expenditures. Stated all candidates should sign the pledge and model public financing in the 7th Congressional District. He wants transportation system investments with a Federal partnership. Stands for values of the district. Issues include foreign policy; he will carry on Jim McDermott's legacy and lead the way as advocate for mental health, housing, and homelessness.

Q&A thanks for transgender help. Violence problem what would you do. Youth homelessness, foster care services. Expand access to health care.

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

Candidates for Lieutenant Governor

Karen Fraser – State Senator Senior member.

Jim Mueller – 43rd District Representative.

Candidate for Washington State Auditor

Jeff Sprung – from 36th District

Ballot Initiative – Raise Up Washington, Jon Grant Outreach Director. The initiative would raise the state minimum wage to \$13.50 per hour and add sick leave protection. It is endorsed by the State Democratic party. They need volunteers and passed around sign up sheets.

Judges – One minute each; all are running unopposed

Steve Rosen Jury diversity is an important issue. They are polling Washington jurors to learn about who they are.

Johanna Bender Superior Court Judge. Mental illness and drug dependence services experience.

Eric Newmann Superior Court. Latino services and providing legal services to the community are important.

David Keenan just announced for a newly open position.

Rachel Berkson Executive Director NARAL Pro Choice Washington We are not Texas but there is an emboldened movement fighting against choice options. The anti choice campaign is using new

strategies such as going after public funding of abortion. They are targeting a “sex selective” abortion ban and taking away reproductive freedom. We could see a vote on the issue of parental notification. NARAL is working to re-frame the debate about what it means to stand with women: affordable birth control, contraception, sex education, child care. They are rallying at 3:30 PM on February 15 on the steps of the Capitol building; please join them.

Overview of the 2016 Caucus Saturday, March 26 go to Washington State Democratic website to sign up for information. Can preregister for the caucus on Monday, February 15. Sign up and bring a copy of the sheet to the caucus. The website is www.wa-democrats.org. Area caucus coordinator training at Puget Ridge Common House is scheduled on Saturday, February 20 from 9:30 – 11:30 AM. Trainings for PCOs are scheduled at the Kenny on 3/1 from 6:30 – 8:00 PM and on 3/8 from 6:30 – 8 PM. There will also be a PCO training before the general meeting on 3/9 from 6:00 – 7:00 PM at The Hall at Fautleroy. Much more information is available on the 34th District website. A surrogate affidavit form will be available later from the State Democratic party website. If a voter can't be at caucus for an approved reason he or she can use the form to send someone as a proxy.

State Committee Report Lisa Plymate, Chris Porter The Governor spoke at lunch about the \$13.50 minimum wage. On Friday they had caucus training and heard from candidates for lieutenant governor Saturday was a cultural competency workshop. On Sunday other candidates spoke to the group. The State finance report showed cash on hand of \$874 thousand with no outstanding debt.

Election of New Officers

The floor was opened for nominations for treasurer – Karen Chilcutt was nominated and the nomination was seconded. No other nominations were brought forward. Karen was approved by acclamation.

Further Business

Old Business None

Endorsements for 7th District Congressional seat

Joe McDermott was nominated by Peter Newbold who spoke briefly for the candidate and ceded his time to Joe.

Pramila Jayapal was nominated by Akemi Matsumoto who ceded her time to Pramila.

Brady Wakinshaw was nominated by Brianna Thomas who spoke for the candidate.

Arun Jhaveri was nominated by [REDACTED] who ceded her time to the candidate.

A credentials report was requested; there were 75 eligible voting members. Ballots were collected. Results:

Arun Jhaveri 3 votes

Brady Wakinshaw 3 votes

Pramila Jayapal 22 votes

Joe McDermott 44 votes – This number met the 60% level required to receive the endorsement of the 34th District. Joe thanked the membership for our endorsement.

PCO Appointments

Les Treall introduced 1 acting and 13 new candidates for PCO. Marcee introduced each individually and asked them if they were willing to walk their precincts. NAMES OF PCOs ARE AVAILABLE ON THE 34th DISTRICT WEBSITE.

New Business

Marcee introduced the caucus expense projections. We've set aside \$15,000 but are projecting costs of \$20,101. We need to make sure we get people to caucuses, which will be expensive.

Marcee invited questions and concerns and requested a vote of confidence about caucus budget support. Marcee asked the committee volunteers to stand for acknowledgment.

Steve Butts King County Democrats want all LDs to contribute 1/3 of dues to KCDCC by the end of the month. Moved to submit full amount of dues now. Seconded and passed unanimously.

Resolutions

Resolution in Support of Accessible Community Based Social Security Administration Service Delivery.
M/S/P unanimous

Preview of March meeting

GOOD of the ORDER:

Veterans Puget Sound increase of 14% in homelessness in 2015.

Concert series at Alki Church Presidents Day weekend

Meeting adjourned at 9:32 PM