

34th District Democrats
General Meeting Minutes
Date – January 13, 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 7:09 PM by Chair Marcee Stone-Vekich

Chair presented agenda for approval - Unanimous

Minutes presented for approval – Unanimous

Treasurer's report – Karen Chilcutt, Acting Treasurer

Karen noted that adjustments to the treasurer's report are anticipated; she has attempted to report the balance as closely as possible. The opening balance was \$24,316 on November 10, 2015. Revenue was \$3,238; all funds were from membership dues. Expenses were \$4,934, which include \$1,199 for the membership meetings and \$566 for the December holiday meeting. Other significant expenses included \$2,073 for printing the general election walk piece; the first quarter payment for the NGP software (website managers) was \$675. The ending balance was \$22,620 on January 13.

Chair report: Marcee gave a quick preview of candidates who have announced for office in 2016, especially judges. She discussed the resignation of US Representative Jim McDermott and expressed thanks for his many years of service. She talked about the precinct caucuses on March 26. We will caucus at 14 locations throughout the district. Volunteers will be needed at all locations; PCOs will run their precinct caucuses. She thanked renewing members and thanked Les Treall, the PCO coordinator. Anyone interested in volunteering as PCO or at the caucus is welcome and encouraged to contact Les or Marcee.

VIPs in room included Dow Constantine; Liz Giba; Bill Tracy; Leslie Harris; Lisa Herbold

Candidates for: Secretary of State Tina Podlowski spoke; she is running against Kim Wyman. She wants to work on increasing voter turnout and modernizing the voting system.

Superior Court Judge: Eric Newman, department 44; Johanna Bender, appointed 1 month ago by Governor Inslee; John McHale, department 43; Steve Rosen, running unopposed.

Marcee stated that our treasurer Tori Stoner has resigned; Karen Chilcutt has been appointed as acting treasurer until a permanent replacement can be found.

Program General Meeting:

Washington State Democrats Coordinated Campaign – Max Brown & Dillon Gilbert

Max Brown lives near Morgan Junction; he's been talking to Democrats across the state. Washington has about 1.35 million people who are Democrats and regular voters, about 47 – 48 percent of the

statewide vote. We need to find another 3 – 4 thousand people who will turn out and vote for Democrats. We have them but just need to get them out. Things that will be different this year are:

1. Starting earlier than ever before;
2. Investing in increasing contact methods, including Facebook, and finding people where they are;
3. Orienting conversations with voters around issues and identifying voters by the issues they support.

Questions for Max:

1. How is coordinated campaign going to be different in terms of data sharing?
Capture information in VoteBuilder software under MyCampaign and hand over to the LDs for follow up.
2. Use an affidavit for disability and military service and to make the form available earlier for people who need to work. They will be able to cast vote in absentia this year.

State Senator Cyris Habib spoke; he is running for Lieutenant Governor. He took over the House seat recently occupied by Rodney Tom. He is a prime sponsor of the Washington Voting Rights Act. He is also supporting paid sick leave.

Forum: Focus on Homeless Youth

Michael Maddux lived in a youth shelter and previously worked for Planned Parenthood.

Tent city residents are often working parents who cannot afford the upfront expenses to get into an apartment. Many support programs end when youth turn 18. It's important to contact the people who represent us at the city, county and state level.

Hanna Brooks Olsen Project Manager Civic Ventures – reporter.

75% of homeless youth are from the Seattle area. We still see sweeps of encampments with belongings locked up or destroyed. Barriers include linking people to services and lack of information. Shelter options are discriminatory; many are single gender but a percentage of homeless youth are LGBTQ or they don't feel welcome. How can the rapid rehousing initiative be improved? Vouchers are being used as a source of discrimination.

Mercedes Elizalde

Mercedes has moved from the Low Income Housing Institute and now works for Seattle City Manager Debra Juarez. Homelessness focus includes increasing shelter, increasing services and improving data. There were 3,772 people sleeping outside in the last one night count. While 100 new shelter beds were added last year, that is not adequate to serve the needs of the community. We've seen increases but not enough to keep up. The focus of information gathering is in wrong direction; it's on individuals rather than the system. Even if people are making minimum wage \$15 per hour, they cannot afford rent for the average apartment in Seattle.

King County Democrats Legislative Action Committee

Tamsen Spengler spoke about plans for lobby day on Monday, February 15. For more information, contact her. She discussed the LAC agenda for 2016.

Election of New Officers

The chair opened the floor for nominations for King County Committeewoman Alternate. Maggie Lindstrom was nominated; the nominated was seconded. No other nominations were forwarded. The chair closed the nomination and the candidate was invited to speak to her nomination. Election by acclamation was moved and seconded; the motion carried unanimously.

Endorsements

Leslie Harris requested that the 34th renew the Building Technology Athletics and Operations Fund Levies for Seattle School District. The two levies will be on the ballot on February 9: Proposition 1 and Proposition 2 and are renewals. The endorsement was moved, seconded and passed by the membership.

Resolutions

In Support of Accessible Community Based Social Security Administration Service Delivery

Martha Koester spoke in support of the resolution. There are many cuts to services; the website must be made secure and the SSA offices must remain open. The resolution was tabled and sent to the e-board for editing.

PCO Appointments

Katherine DeGarmo (Vashon Island – Dolphin), Kimberly Waligorska (BUR 34-1407), Carrie Alexander (SEA 34-1428) and Claire B. Lewis (SEA 34-1476) declared they are Democrats. They were elected by PCOs only, by unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS:

None

GOOD of the ORDER:

Anne Martin join the WSDW on Thursday, January 28 at 11:30 at the West Seattle Golf Course.
Martha Koester contact Senators to say no to TPP.

Meeting adjourned at 9:11 PM