

34th District Democrats  
General Meeting Minutes  
Date – March 9, 2016  
Secretary – Kathryn L. Sprigg



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

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by Chair Marcee Stone-Vekich

Chair presented agenda for approval - Unanimous

Minutes presented for approval – Unanimous

Treasurer's report – Karen Chilcutt reported our beginning balance on February 10 was \$25,315. We received \$1,767 in revenue, most from membership dues. Expenses were \$15,969, including \$10,561 for printing caucus materials and \$2,742 for Highline School District facility rentals. The ending balance on March 9 was \$11,113. Karen paid the Seattle School District caucus facility costs of \$4,231 today, making the final ending balance \$6,882.

Marcee asked for volunteers to help with the caucuses and for PCO volunteers. Conor Bronsdon was invited to speak about the Save SODO group. He asked for volunteers to come to the Seattle City Council meeting on Tuesday and comment about the plan for a new basketball/hockey stadium.

**Chair report:** Marcee stated she has trained nearly 100 people for the caucuses. She asked for a show of hands by previous convention delegates. She asked Richard to show a video of the democratic caucus process and how to become a delegate at the caucus. She acknowledged the people who have been working behind the scenes to make the caucuses work smoothly and thanked Steve Butts for his work on the caucus flyer. March 20 is the annual potato feed for Jim McDermott at MOHI; this will be the last one and it is sponsored by the State Democratic party to honor Congressman McDermott. There is another fundraiser for Joe McDermott on March 22, hosted by Tom Rasmussen at his home.

VIPs in room included Supreme Court Justice Mary Yu, Judge Steve Rosen, Judge Johanna Bender, Liz Giba, Judge Veronica Alicea-Galvan.

**Candidates and Campaigns** Justice Yu spoke to the group and asked for the support of the 34<sup>th</sup> District. Erin Jones also spoke; she is running for Superintendent of Public Instruction and is the first black woman to run for statewide office. Other candidates who spoke included David Keenan, running for King County Superior Court, Department 26; Judge Steve Rosen, running for King County Superior Court, Department 33; Eric Newman, running for King County Superior Court, Department 44; Judge Johanna Bender running for her current position, King County Superior Court, Department 28; Veronica Alicea-Galvan, running for King County Superior Court, Department 21; John McHale, running for King County Superior Court, Department 43 and Nicole Gaines Phelps, running for King County Superior Court, Department 14. All of the candidates are running unopposed.

### **Program General Meeting:**

**Panel discussion** – the fight for social equity issues in Olympia, moderated by Attorney and 34th District PCO Jamila Johnson. “How Did Good Social Equity Policy Fare in Olympia?”

Jamila introduced the Panel Members:

Rachel Meyers, Executive Director, Washington Low Income Housing Alliance/Washington Housing Alliance Action Fund; Janet Chung, Legal & Legislative Counsel, Legal Voice; Doug Honig, Communications Director, ACLU of Washington.

Rachel – source of income discrimination. In several communities in Washington landlords can refuse to rent to tenants based on their income or Section 8 status. That status can also be a proxy for discrimination based on other reasons including race, class and disability. They are making progress in Olympia but not on all of their issues.

Janet – pregnant worker fairness act bill is still alive. It would require employers to provide reasonable accommodations for pregnant employees.

Doug – civil liberties legislation regarding legal financial obligations where court imposes fees as part of sentence. They incur 12% per year interest and create a debtors prison system. In some parts of the state judges don't ask about ability to pay even though they are supposed to. This results in people being sent to jail for failure to pay fines. The bill to stop the practice is alive but has a poison pill in it. A bill to abolish the death penalty is another focus but legislators are reluctant to vote on it. The Washington Voting Rights Act is also a focus; a lawsuit resulted in 3 Latinos being elected to the Yakima City Council but the act needs to be strengthened.

Q & A followed.

**State Democratic Convention Representatives Election** – volunteers were asked to serve on the Credentials, Rules, and Platform and Resolutions Committees. Marcee described the committee responsibilities.

The floor was opened for nominations.

Credentials Richard Bartlett volunteered for the committee.

Rules Ann Martin was nominated but said she is co-chair and can't be the representative. She will carpool if anyone is interested.

Platform and Resolutions Martha Koester was asked to volunteer; she agreed to serve.

Chris Langler moved we vote to accept the slate, the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

### **New Business**

Martha Koester gave a brief report on the South King County Spaghetti dinner, scheduled for June 4 at the IAM Hall. They are asking for volunteers.

**Endorsements** Mike Heavey moved we endorse all of the judges who spoke this evening. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Chris Langler moved we endorse Tina Podlodowski, who is running for Secretary of State. The motion was seconded. Chris spoke to his motion and no one spoke against it. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Appointment of PCOs**

Les Treall introduced 3 new PCO candidates: Ashley Harrison, Anka Scotinso, Regan Connely; a fourth one is Harriet Hussmans, who could not be at the meeting. Marcee spoke briefly to each and asked if they were prepared to walk their precincts. The new PCOs were approved by the PCOs and members.

**Resolutions**

None

**Old Business**

None

**GOOD of the ORDER:**

The annual Gathering of Neighbors is Saturday March 12.

The West Seattle Democratic Women meet on March 24.

A Hillary Clinton rally is scheduled for 2 PM on March 12 at Carpenters Hall in Renton.

We need to elect good Democrats to the state legislature.

Sign up for caucus training.

A meet and greet for Pramila Jayapal is scheduled at Youngstown Center on March 21.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 PM