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34TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT DEMOCRATS

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

Chair's Message for March - #NeverAgain

Fellow 34th District Democrats,

Over the past three weeks the student survivors of America's most recent mass shooting have managed to succeed where the generations before them have failed for decades: they've managed to keep a conversation about gun control front and center in the public consciousness. And while legislative accomplishments have thus far been small, the boycotts they've launched have already had an impact on business relationships with the NRA and helped to isolate that organization and its extremist views from the mainstream.

The students of Parkland are like veterans coming home from the bloody front of the NRA's de facto war on children. They've seen their friends, teachers and coaches gunned down in the halls. To them, powerful Washington lobbyists and United States senators suddenly look like what they are: Detached TV spokesmodels for murder weapons. It's been inspiring and thrilling to watch furious, clear-eyed teenagers shame and vilify gutless politicians and soulless lobbyists for their complicity in the murders of their friends. Last week Wayne LaPierre was reduced to ranting like Gen. Jack D. Ripper in "Dr. Strangelove" about a "socialist" takeover and "hardening" our schools. You could see the whites all around his irises. That look is fear. They know they're losing the public. They know their usual tactics aren't working. They know these kids are coming for them for their decades of profiteering off mass murders.

If you've been wondering why so many students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School have become such effective political activists so quickly, look no further than their school and it's name-sake. In all likelihood they got some of it from their school's name-sake, Marjory Stoneman Douglas, and some of it from the kind of education most schools in the country have long since abandoned under fiscal constraints imposed by decades of Republican attacks on public education. Marjory Stoneman Douglas' story is a story so relevant today. And there's no better day than today, International Women's Day, to share her story because she was an incredible woman and a force to be reckoned with.

Marjory Stoneman Douglas

Marjory Stoneman Douglas was a journalist, writer, feminist, environmentalist, and progressive activist, best known for her staunch defense of the Everglades against efforts to drain it and reclaim land for development. She was a remarkable woman who made political activism her calling right up until the day she died at the age of 108.

Her father owned the Miami Herald and she became a reporter there in 1912. Initially he assigned her to the Society page, but she quickly proved as capable as any of the male reporters at covering hard news. She fought for women's suffrage, joined the Red Cross

March 14, 2018

Meeting Notice

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

6:30 Potluck Social Time, please bring a dish to share

7:00 Call to Order

Opening Ceremonies

Pledge of Allegiance

VIP Acknowledgements

Review and Approval of the Minutes and Agenda

Approval of the Minutes

Adoption of the Agenda

Reports of Officers and Standing Committees

Reports of Officers

Chair's Report

Membership and Treasurer's Report

Program

Health Care for All - WA

Bevin McLeod, Program Director

Unfinished Business

8:30 New Business

8:50 Good of the Order

Adjourn to Whiskey West

Renew or Become a Member at

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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

Ann Martin | State Committeewoman
wsdccw@34dems.org

Chris Porter | State Committeeman
wsdccm@34dems.org

King Co. Committeewoman | Vacant

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

Data & Technology | Vacant

Digital Communications | Vacant

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

Events | Vacant

Katie Harris | Finance
Finance@34dems.org

Chris Porter | Finance
wsdccm@34dems.org

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Joy Pakulak | Membership
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Steve Butts & Karen Richter | Outreach
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David Ginsberg | Program
chair@34dems.org

Treina Aronson | Volunteer Recruitment
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Other Roles

Steve Butts | Newsletter Editor
newsletter@34dems.org

Allan Munro | Parliamentarian

Nick Bohall | Web Editor
webmaster@34dems.org

State Democrats Meeting Notes, Bellingham - Jan. 26-28

The Executive Committee met Friday night. Chris Porter attended as co-chair of the Affirmative Action Committee.

Constituency caucus meetings, training and committee meetings were the business of Saturday. I attended the newly constituted (as of last meeting) Environmental Caucus, racial equity and consent culture workshops (attendance required for all state committee members), the Rules Committee and the Women's Caucus. On Sunday I attended an early morning session at which David McDonald explained what was happening with the Unity Reform Commission at the national level related to potential changes to the role of party leader delegates to the presidential convention.

The general session of the body started at about 8 am. The central theme of the state party this year is "Rise and Organize." To that end, the state Democrats trained over 1,043 people over a week's time across the state. Priorities for the year are organizing (note training and view video) and data collection (door knocking to identify issues across state – jobs, health care, education, affordable housing and dignified retirement). The Coordinated Campaign is being led by Diane Bentwell. The DNC is focusing support on state organizations and is giving \$10,000 each month to state committees. Innovation grants from the state will help focus financial resources on legislative and congressional districts where we can have a major impact.



As of Dec. 31, 2017, the state committee had \$417,463.40 in all accounts. Habib Habib pointed out that if some of the immigration reforms the current administration wants to adopt were in place when he immigrated to the US, he would not be here to give this report. Minor amendments to the state Charter and Bylaws were considered and passed along with a more substantive set of amendments that added representation from the Young Democrats of Washington to the central committee. A proposed amendment that would have significantly expanded the executive board to achieve gender and racial equity was not passed. Concerns revolved, not around the aim of the amendment, but fears the large board would become even more unwieldy and require split votes, etc.

Committee reports consumed the remainder of the meeting. The following committees reported: Affirmative Action; Communications; Elections, Eastern Washington; Finance; Rules; Technology; Advocacy; and Resolutions. Further details can be found in the official minutes of the state committee.

Submitted by Ann Martin, State Committeewoman

KCDCC Meeting Notes - Feb. 27

Most of the KCDCC meeting, which lasted until 11:30, was spent in executive session devoted to discussing reports of improper conduct on the part of chair, Bailey Stober. A six-page handout on Vice-Chairs' issues with Stober served as the subject matter, and was collected from everyone at the end of the meeting. KCDCC Executive Board members are not allowed to publicly disclose its contents.

In other business, revised candidate questionnaires were submitted and approved. The treasurer's report indicated substantial losses in the last quarter of 2017. This means that not only the chair, but all members of KCDCC need to be alert for overspending.

Submitted by Martha Koester, KCDCC Alt. Committeewoman

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 21, 7:00 p.m.

Other Meetings or Events:

West Seattle Drinking Liberally

Pizzeria 22, 4213 SW College St.
Every 1st Tuesday, 6:00 pm

Evergreen Democratic Club

Angelo's Italian Restaurant
601 SW 153rd St., Burien
Tuesday, March 13, 11:30 am

Metropolitan Democratic Club

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

Burien Drinking Liberally

Angelo's Italian Restaurant
601 SW 153rd St.
New Day - Wednesday March 28, 6:30 pm

West Seattle Democratic Women

West Seattle YMCA's Rotary Room,
3622 SW Snoqualmie St.
Check www.westseattledemocraticwomen.org
For information

King County Democrats Monthly Meeting

Teamsters Hall in Tukwila
14675 Interurban Ave S, Tukwila, 98168
Tuesday, March 27, 7:00 pm

Treasurer's Report for March Newsletter

Balance as of February 2, 2018.....\$	27,209.30
Add Revenues	\$ 1,346.02
Less Expenses.....\$	1,261.15
Balance as of March 2, 2018	\$ 27,294.17

White Center 5K - Run or Walk Before the Caucus!



The theme this year is SUPERHEROES, come with your cape and everything superhero related as we celebrate heroes of

Saturday, March 24th

**White Center Heights Park
SW 102nd & 7th Ave SW**

The 5K Walk and Run has four main objectives:

- 1) Promote the positive and diverse culture in White Center
- 2) Promote a healthy lifestyle
- 3) Support local White Center businesses
- 4) Unify the White Center Community

In conjunction with these objectives we hope to raise money for three long time organizations devoted to empowering the White Center community: *WC Community Development Association, YES Foundation of White Center and the White Center Food Bank.*

7:30 Doors Opens, Race Starts at 9:00

Registration includes a free T-SHIRT!

The course is pet friendly, stroller friendly, and wheelchair accessible.

Tickets: <https://whitecenter5k2018.brownpapertickets.com/>

Help Identify Democratic Voters in the 8th CD

Rich Irwin, former KC Dems Chair in the 41st LD is running a voter ID effort in the 8th CD. This was part of the successful strategy in the 45th LD last year in electing Manka Dhingra. Identifying Democrats helps target voters for GOTV in the fall.

Contact Robin at robinba137@gmail.com to learn how you can help.

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



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 Thursday March 29.

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

In Case You Missed Our February Meeting...

Chair **David Ginsberg** thanked the attending members for coming, given the fact that it was Valentine's Day and in the midst of the Winter Olympics. He shared with us the fact that the gavel he wields was made on Vashon of wood harvested on the island. His report highlighted the fact that the GOP will have a lot of money this year, and we will need to counter by out-organizing them. PCOs need to build relationships with their neighbors. We need to find people to fill empty precinct PCO slots.

There are open officer and committee chair positions that need to be filled. It was announced that the Finance Committee Chair position would be filled by **Katie Harris**. Harris brings experience as a King County Budget Analyst and years of working with non-profits.

He told us about the upcoming PCO training on the 17th. Scheduled was to be a VoteBuilder training session, followed by canvassing in the Highpoint area to promote the LD caucus in March. PCO Chair **Brooks Salazar** followed up with more information.

VIPs present and speaking.

First up were Burien City Council members **Krystal Marx** and **Jimmy Matta**. Krystal reported that the Council repealed the controversial trespass warnings on city and other public properties ordinance that was passed in 2014. Jimmy was happy to have our "Democratic love" and hard work. He is the first person of Guatemalan descent to be elected in Washington State. He is reaching out to other ethnic communities, and is hoping that the Dept of Licensing fires employees that had been turning driver's information over to ICE.

Seattle School Board member **Leslie Harris** led us in a moment of silence to honor the victims of the school shooting that day in Parkland, Florida. She has been Board President since December. She told us that the board is working to keep charter schools out of Southeast Seattle to maintain the strength of public schools in that area. Superintendent Larry Nyland's contract has not

been renewed, and that there is a search process under way to select a replacement and the board should have a candidate this spring.

Judge **Gregg Hirakawa** spoke to his re-election effort. He is



Katie Harris, Finance Committee Chair.



Safe Injection Sites Panel, left to right: LAC Chair Tim Marshall, Patricia Sully, Turina James, and Dr. David Sapienza - Photo by John Shields

looking for solutions to increase bail availability for persons of color, rather than being held in jail before trial.

Joe McDermott told us that he is co-sponsoring an ordinance to help protect immigrant and other vulnerable populations through services such as translation. He made note the case of a Seattle ICE official stealing the identification of immigrants awaiting deportation.

The first part of the program covered proposed Safe Injection Sites, AKA “Safe Consumption Spaces” A three-person panel consisted of **Patricia Sully**, from the Pubic Defender Association, **Turina James**, VOCAL Washington member and **Dr. David Sapienza**, a primary care and addiction medicine physician.

Safe Consumption Spaces are safe, clean spaces where users can bring previously obtained drugs to use under the supervision of healthcare professionals who provide safe and sterile needles, prevent overdoses and referrals to other medical, rehabilitation and other social services.

The plan is to locate two sites initially: One in Seattle and another elsewhere in King County. The goal is to have additional small sites situated across the county. These will be run by the county health department and staffed by nurses. The total cost is estimated to be less than 1% of the budget for King County user recovery services currently being offered.

- Recognize the reality that addicts will use regardless.
- Save people from overdoses that kill about 60,000 annually in the U.S.
- Have services for users when they are ready to stop using and to interact with health workers.
- Reduction discarded syringes and public drug use.
- Reduce the spread of HIV and Hepatitis C.

These sites are not expected to become magnets and will mostly serve users currently in the neighborhood.

Law enforcement interventions will to be kept at a minimum by working with police and other stakeholders to keep barriers low for users to access the sites. The sites would not supply any of the drugs people use.

More information at www.yestoscs.org

The second half of the program was a presentation from **Katie Wilson**, general secretary of the Transit Riders Union and part of the Housing for All Coalition.

According to Wilson, King County has lost 35,000 housing units that were affordable to those making less than

50% of the Seattle area median income, leaving 23,000 Seattle households in the lowest income brackets struggling to afford housing. 8,500 are homeless in Seattle.

She said that current city action doesn't address the situation on the ground, and has cut useful items to help homeless find permanent housing. Until more housing is available, the homeless sweeps should be stopped, or kept at a minimum.

The goal is to build housing for the 0-30% median income range. Such housing would need to consider a spectrum of needs: People with kids or pets, and those with special needs. A minimum of 20,000 new homes would need to be constructed in the next 10 years to meet the need. They are hoping to have a plan this spring. It would include a progressive tax on large businesses and possibly the streamlining of various codes by the city council.

More information at www.housingforallseattle.org

Ann Martin briefed us on the State Party meeting that was held January 26-28 in Bellingham. (See her full report on page 2.)

The following people were elected delegates to the State Convention committees: **Ann Martin** - Credentials, **Bunny Hatcher** - Platform, and **Patrick Wicklund** - Rules.

Krystal Marx was appointed PCO for precinct BUR-0377.



Katie Wilson speaking for Housing For All- Photo by John Shields

to take care of wounded soldiers in World War I, and then refugees in Paris after the "War to End All Wars" ended.

But her greatest achievements came much later. In 1947, she wrote the groundbreaking book, "River of Grass," the story of the Florida Everglades. In it she explained how the Everglades functioned and its vital importance to Florida's entire ecological system. She led the fight to protect the Everglades from destruction. She fought Big Sugar on dumping toxic waste water into the Everglades. She fought the Army Corps of Engineers to block the straightening of the Kissimmee River, explaining how the wandering, winding river filtered water on its journey from Central Florida to the Everglades. The "ditch," as she called it, eliminated that filtering system and turned the Everglades into a toilet of sorts.

She fought the South Florida Water Management District when they allowed water levels in the Everglades to rise dangerously high, killing off the native deer population and other species of wildlife. She was a fighter and an activist for protecting things valuable to our planet and its inhabitants.

In 1948, angered by the fact that many black residents of Coconut Grove, the racially segregated section of Miami, had no running water or sewers, Douglas led a successful campaign to pass a law requiring all Miami homes to have toilets and bathtubs. She also set up a loan operation for the black residents of Coconut Grove to borrow money interest-free to pay for plumbing work.

Douglas was a charter member of the South's first American Civil Liberties Union chapter in the 1950s. In the 1970s she campaigned for the Equal Rights Amendment, urging the state legislature to ratify it. In 1974 she cofounded the Friends of the Miami-Dade Public Libraries and served as its first president. In the 1980s Douglas lent her support to the Florida Rural Legal Services, a group that worked to protect migrant farm workers, especially those employed by the sugar cane industry near Lake Okeechobee.

In 1985 Douglas campaigned to get the Dade County School Board to provide a building for the Biscayne Nature Center. Six years later, the Florida Department of Education endowed \$1.8 million for the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Biscayne Nature Center in Crandon Park. The headquarters of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in Tallahassee is called the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building.

Broward County named its new high school for the 100-year-old Douglas in 1990. Among many awards, she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Clinton in 1993. She passed away at the age of 108 in 1998.

Marjory Stoneman Douglas would be proud of the students who are now standing up to fight for a cause in which they deeply believe. She would have been standing right with them, demanding action and action now. It was in her DNA. But how did these students become such effective activists?

Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School

The effectiveness of these poised, articulate, and well-informed student leaders of Stoneman Douglas has been

attributed to their specific personalities and talents. And their words and actions have been so staggeringly powerful that they ended up fueling laughable claims from the right wing lunatic fringe about crisis actors, coaching, and funding from George Soros. But there is a more fundamental lesson to be learned from their response to this tragedy: these kids aren't freaks of nature. Their eloquence and poise also represent the absolute vindication of the extracurricular education they receive at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

Despite the gradual erosion of the arts and physical education in America's public schools, the students of Stoneman Douglas have been the beneficiaries of the kind of public education that's all but vanished in America and that is being further dismantled as Republicans cut funding for things like the arts, civics, and enrichment. In no small part because the school is more affluent than its counterparts across the country (fewer than 23 percent of its students received free or reduced-price lunches in 2015-16, compared to about 64 percent across Broward County Public Schools) these kids have been fortunate enough to receive the kind of extracurricular education Republicans have been eviscerating for decades in the United States. These kids aren't prodigiously gifted, they've just had the gift of a well-rounded education that's no longer the norm for America's students.

The Stoneman Douglas students have become stars in recent weeks in no small part due to the fact that they are in a school system that boasts, for example, of a "system-wide debate program that teaches extemporaneous speaking from an early age." Every middle and high school in the district has a forensics and public-speaking program. Coincidentally, some of the students at Stoneman Douglas had been preparing for debates on the issue of gun control this year, which explains in part why they could speak to the issues from day one.

The student leaders of the #NeverAgain movement were also, in large part, theater kids who had benefited from the school's exceptional drama program. In another surprising coincidence, some of these students had been preparing to perform *Spring Awakening*, a rock musical from 2006. As the *New Yorker* describes it in an essay about the rise of the drama kids, that musical tackles the question of "what happens when neglectful adults fail to make the world safe or comprehensible for teen-agers, and the onus that neglect puts on kids to beat their own path forward." In short, because their school did what we should expect all our schools to do: it prepared them.

The student leaders at Stoneman Douglas High School have also included young journalists who'd worked at the school paper, the *Eagle Eye*, with the supervision of talented staff. David Hogg, student news director for the school's broadcast journalism program, WMSD-TV, was interviewing his own classmates as they hid in a closet during the shooting, and incredibly these young people had the wherewithal to record and write about the events as they unfolded. As Christy Ma, the paper's staff editor, later explained, "We tried to have as many pictures as possible to display the raw

emotion that was in the classroom. We were working really hard so that we could show the world what was going on and why we need change.”

Unless you're drinking NRA Kool-Aid (pro tip: don't, it's toxic!), there's simply no way to construct a conspiracy theory around the fact that students who were being painstakingly taught about drama, media, free speech, political activism, and forensics became the epicenter of the school-violence crisis and handled it so incredibly well. The simpler and more likely explanation is that extracurricular education—one that focuses on skills beyond standardized testing and rankings—creates passionate citizens who are ready for civic duty.

Perhaps instead of putting more money into putting more guns into our classrooms, we should think about putting more money into the programs that foster political engagement and skills. According to Marco Rubio, Marjory Stoneman Douglas was fostering arrogance. To the rest of the world, it was fostering adults who understand what it means to be citizens.

Gun control will be the focus of our April meeting on April 11th. We hope to see you there!

In solidarity,
David Ginsberg
Chair, 34th District Democrats

2018 34th LD Democratic Caucus

Saturday March 24, 10am - 1pm

At Evergreen High School, 830 SW 116th St.

Join us to elect delegates to the state convention and hear from candidates for office, including 34th LD state House and Senate seats.

In accordance with the charter of the Democratic Party of Washington State, every two years the party holds a State Convention where the party platform and rules are adopted. Those decisions are voted on democratically, by delegates elected at Local Party Organizations throughout the state.

The 34th District Democrats have been allocated 14 delegate slots to fill, along with 7 alternates.

The State Convention will be June 16, in Wenatchee.

Eligibility to Vote, Participate, Run or Be Elected Delegate:

To vote at the Caucus an individual must be a resident, registered voter in the 34th Legislative District, and sign a registration sheet stating that they are a Democrat, and agree to recordation of and public display of their attendance at the Caucus. Further, 17 year-olds who will turn 18 by election day, November 6, 2018, are allowed (and encouraged!) to fully participate and vote in the caucuses and conventions, and to run and serve as delegate.

Caucuses are a great way to dip your toe into Democratic Party activism. As an all-volunteer, grassroots organization, we love to see fresh faces, to hear diverse perspectives, and we can always use more helping hands.

More Information available at:
www.34dems.org/caucus



*Sabrina Kyoko Adele Constantine observes the festivities at her father's inauguration on January 31.
- Photo by Jon Shields*



David Ginsberg, Jimmy Matta, PCO Joe Nguyen and Pedro Olguin and child. Taken at the PCO Training Session on February 17 at the Highpoint Community Center. Jon Culver, a local Votebuilder expert was on hand for training - Photo by Brooks Salazar.



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

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* Required by Washington State Public Disclosure Commission/ Contributions are not tax deductible.

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- \$3 Living Lightly
- \$34 Friend of the 34th
- \$50 Sponsor
- \$1,000 Endowment
- \$100 Benefactor
- \$250 Sustaining
- \$500 Underwriter

In the interest of protecting our environment and building funds to support endorsed candidates, the 34th District Democrats wish to communicate electronically.

Please check this box if you do not have access to electronic communications and need to receive a mailed newsletter

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