

# 26<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Democrats General Meeting Minutes

Givens Community Center, 1026 Sidney Rd., Port Orchard, Washington  
February 2, 2017 @7:00 PM

## 1. Pledge of allegiance

Secretary Dan Ransom, PE led the pledge of allegiance to our flag and republic.

## 2. Recognition of elected officials

Chair Kelly recognized the following elected officials:

- Derek Young, Pierce County Council
- Ed Robison, PE; Key Pen Parks Commissioner, President of the Board
- Todd Iverson, PenMet Parks Commissioner

## 3. Recognition of new members and guests

Many new people (approximately 20) introduced themselves, including new PCO Laurie Olson and Kitsap Democrats Board Member Lisa Paquette.

## 4. Minutes of previous meeting, Secretary Dan Ransom, PE

## 5. Pass the hat (for General Fund)

We passed a donation box (red, white, and blue) into which meeting attendees placed donations.

## 6. Executive Board reports

### a. Chair, John Kelly

Age discrimination is one of Chair Kelly's pet peeves. Every Democrat is important. Handle people with care. Let's take the time to get to know each other.

At a recent state meeting he was appalled to hear new Washington Democrats Chair Lisa Podlodowski say that the 26<sup>th</sup> District was run by "rich, old, white guys." He explained that, most often, it's the older folks who are doing the work. He stated that we have good folks like Hugh M. and George R. Chair Kelly reported that Podlodowski relented, saying that "old straight white guy" will be removed from the lexicon. To achieve effective diversity John stated that we should run "better candidates" (not just select people for whom they represent by their identity nature).

Chair Kelly named Payton Swinford as Democrat of the Month, and presented him with a certificate. He stated that Payton Swinford helps John with boundaries.

- b. Vice-Chair Kitsap, Johanna Baxter
- c. Interim Vice-Chair Pierce, Rick Offner
- d. State Committeewoman, Joy Vartanian
- e. State Committeeman, Drew Williams

State Committeeman Drew Williams reported that he, State Committeewoman Joy Vartanian, and Kitsap County State Committeeman Payton Swinford attended the recent Washington Democratic Party Meeting in Olympia at the end of January. He reported that the energy there was intense. The outcome of the meeting was that WA DEMS want to make a difference. He stated that state-level party “has your back.”

- f. Membership Chair, Don Bartley

Membership is available—new people should see Don Bartley, Membership Chair. Dues are yearly at \$25 per person, \$40 couple, \$10 need-based for one year.

Don Bartley has 26<sup>th</sup> District t-shirts for \$10.

- g. Treasurer, Wes Morgan
- h. Web Administrator, Johanna Baxter

## **7. Committee sign-up and organization**

At this time in the meeting we moved into groups at each committee table (arranged before the meeting). For 20 minutes people met in the committees in which they were interested. After this time each committee chair delivered a quick report.

## **8. Committee reports**

Drew Williams facilitated the following reports:

- a. Bylaws, George Robison, Chair

George Robison, the Bylaws Committee Chair made a motion to place the original bylaws changes on the agenda. This motion passed. Our LD26 website will have the added paragraph, **placed on our [www.26d.org](http://www.26d.org) website** today.

- b. Budget, Wes Morgan, Chair
- c. Candidate Recruitment and Development, Larry Seaquist, Chair

Rick Offner spoke for Larry Seaquist. He said that leadership training is an extension of the Recruitment Committee. This committee will develop strategies and give effective training on being a good candidate, armed with good information. Another important purpose of the committee is to vet, interview, and help shape better candidates.

- d. Community Involvement, Joy Vartanian, Chair

Joy Vartanian spoke on Community Involvement and Action Committee. We want to link people with different community organizations. Even if it is just 5 minutes...everyone can be involved.

- e. Event Planning, RoxAnne Simon, Chair

RoxAnne Simon discussed having an open house in the spring at Otto Jarstad Park on the Belfair Road. There will be a Dessert Auction! The Event Planning committee will be working with Don Bartley and the Veterans' Activities committee for doing something with the vets. There will be a big effort for the August Picnic, too.

- f. Fundraising, Randy Spitzer, Interim Chair

Chair Kelly appointed Randy Spitzer as Interim Fundraising Chair. Randy reported that fundraising for the 26<sup>th</sup> LD will include events and direct appeals. There will be a meeting Saturday at 3:00 p.m. at the Port Orchard Kelly's restaurant.

- g. New-Member Recruitment, Curt and Patricia Scott, Co-Chairs
- h. Veterans' Activities, Don Bartley, Chair

Don Bartley stated that there is just no outreach to veterans in our district. We need to contact them to get them involved—they will see what we can do for them. Our efforts are not just veterans, outreach is for military families, as well. He will coordinate with members of the Kitsap County Veterans' Advisory Board

(<http://www.kitsapgov.com/hs/veterans/members.htm>). A paintball fight would be a good fundraiser.

- i. Webmaster and Publicity, Johanna Baxter, Chair

Johanna Baxter reported that the website at [www.26d.org](http://www.26d.org) now has a calendar. The calendar shows the events of interest to 26<sup>th</sup> District Democrats. She said that there is lots of good stuff on the rest of the [www.26d.org](http://www.26d.org) website and on the Facebook page, too (<https://www.facebook.com/26dems/>).

- j. Legislative Action

Alec Matias reported that the signs saying "Vote No" on the upcoming school bond/levy are illegal—there is no marking on the signs declaring from whom comes this message. Those responsible have been contacted and the signs are being removed. Alec reported that the Legislative Committee will be taking on State Rep. Jesse Young. The committee will spearhead an effort to get our local government to divest from the racist banks.

- k. Other

Payton Swinford reported that the Young Peoples' committee is informal. They will have get-to-know-you meetings, but these events are not a social club.

## 9. Old business

- a. Changes to bylaws, George Robison
- b. South Kitsap School District Levy and Bond, Payton Swinford

Payton Swinford is heading the get-out-the-vote effort for passing the South Kitsap Schools bond and levy. He said that we know who is on our side, and we need to **get these folks out to vote!** He invited all of us to help—meet at 11:00 a.m., Saturday February 4, Saturday February 11, and Sunday, February 12. The meeting location is Greg Rolls' Law Office next to Fire Station 31, at 104 Tremont Street, Suite 200.

## 10. New business

- a. Replace Vice-Chair Pierce

We will be electing a new vice chair at our next meeting. This person may be male or female.

- b. PCO positions: 26-40 Erica Melzer, 26-222 Joyce Bunch, 26-306 Derek Young, 26-320 Keith Michael Estrada

Chair Kelly recognized these new Precinct Committee Officers. He is still trying to fill PCO positions with as many young people as possible.

- c. Proposed resolution, HB 1178, Joe Labrum

Joe Labrum spoke in opposition to resolution addresses two different legislative actions: HB-1178 and SJR-8205. These actions promote religious views in state government. He requested that we 1) **issue a statement opposing these bills, 2) send a lettering to the three state legislators.** George Robison added that we send the statement to the newspapers that cover the 26<sup>th</sup> LD. This motion passed overwhelmingly. LD26 Secretary Dan Ransom, PE will draft the statement for the newspapers and send the letters.

## 11. Announcements

- a. Pierce County Democrats, February 9, 7:00 p.m., IBEW Local 76, 3049 South 36th, Tacoma
- b. Executive Board meeting, February 16 at 7:00 p.m., Wright Bliss Fire Station, 12310 Wright Bliss Rd Kp N, Gig Harbor,
- c. Key Peninsula Democrats Social, February 23 at 7:00 p.m., Key Peninsula Fire Station, 8911 Key Peninsula Hwy N, Lakebay
- d. Kitsap County Democrats, February 27, 6:30 p.m., Eagles Nest, 1195 Fairgrounds Rd NW, Bremerton
- e. Gig Harbor Democrats Social, February 28, 6:00 p.m., Round Table Pizza, 5500 Olympic Drive, #H101, Gig Harbor

See the LD26 calendar (<http://26d.org/wp/calendar> ) for these and other events.

## 12. Book auction, RoxAnne Simon

We deferred this item to our next general meeting (March 2).

## 13. Good of the order

### Raffle

Bobbette Olson stated that she will help RoxAnne with future raffles. In the past, we brought \$150 per meeting from the raffle.

### Bremerton City Councilwoman Leslie Daugs

Daryl Daugs spoke about Bremerton City Councilwoman and Kitsap Democrats Vice-Chair Leslie Daugs' arrest in Washington, DC at Senator Jeff Sessions' hearing. She uttered a remark sufficiently loud so that someone heard her (in response to the high-five hijinks of other

spectators at the hearing). She might be fined and get jail time. George Robison said that we should present her a certificate for the Bravest Democrat in the 26<sup>th</sup> District.

It was moved and seconded that we draft a letter of support for Leslie. **Chair Kelly and the Kitsap Vice-Chair will create the letter** (with editing by our Secretary).

PCO Don Manning spoke for the new group West Sound for Social Justice. They will sponsor a Go Fund Me account for Leslie Daus' defense.

## South Kitsap Levy/Bond

John Richardson, President of South Kitsap Education Association, asked that attendees please turn in their ballots school bond/levy ballot. He said that "this is do-or-die time for us." He reminded us to go **doorbelling this weekend and next**. John R. said that we should talk to anyone in the community about getting their ballots submitted.

## Alt-Office Replacement for Censured Jesse Young

Todd Iverson, PenMet Parks Commissioner, commented on the recent news of our State Representative Jesse Young. The State House administrators censured Young, directing that he cannot have a district office in our area because of complaints of "a pattern of hostile and intimidating behavior" toward his staff. Todd declared that this is a golden opportunity. Todd is going to open his own "Legislative Office" in Gig Harbor to provide constituent services. He stated that we need a place where people can go for help. He said cannot pass on this opportunity to differentiate LD26 Democrats! PCO Pat Lowinger of Fox Island noted that, while restricted from having staff, we need to catch Young violating the terms of this arrangement.

Chair Kelly asked for Todd to head the effort. **Todd said that he would look into it on Monday, February 6.**

## Death Penalty

State Committeewoman Joy Vartanian commented that SB 5354 is in process. This bill eliminates the death penalty. **She urged members to call State Senator Jan Angel** to get it out of committee.

## Indivisible

Vice-Chair Kitsap Johanna Baxter introduced John and Kay Luoma, members of Indivisible, a part of Move On. Recently, they had a meeting at the Manchester Library in January. He and Kay held a vigil at the Southworth Ferry, many people responded. Their next meeting is Feb. 12 at the Manchester Library.

## Power

Bob Anderson commented that we are more than 70 people tonight and we have POWER.

### 2. Adjournment

We adjourned the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

