

26th Legislative District Democrats General Meeting Minutes

Givens Community Center, 1026 Sidney Rd., Port Orchard,
Washington May 4, 2017, meeting starts at 7:00 p.m.

1. Call to order; pledge of allegiance

We began the meeting at 7:08 p.m. Secretary Dan Ransom, PE (last month the Member of the Month) led the pledge.

2. Recognition of elected officials

3. Recognition of new members and guests

Nolle Pritchard PCO from the 23rd District attended this meeting. He said that he was impressed by our meeting organization. Koonen Kyle, who is considering running for office, also was new this evening.

4. Member of the Month

Luellen Lucid represented the endorsement committee at the latest Pierce County Democrats meeting, for which she made multiple trips to Tacoma. Rick Offner accepted the award for Luellen, who was not in attendance.

5. Guest speakers

Announcement: Rick Offner is running for Gig Harbor City Council against pro-development incumbent Tim Payne. Rick criticized the present city council, who let the developers cut down all of the trees along a new shopping-center development. He said that this is not good for the city. There are four incumbents running; Rick is part of a coalition to elect new people.

Announcement: Konnen Kyle is considering running for office on the Key Peninsula. He grew up in Kingston. He is a veteran, 10 years in the Navy. He has taught nuclear Power in upstate New York. He had a brief time in California industry, making emissions-control equipment. Konnen is attending UW for Economics, and is also working full time. He is involved in the school system in the Key Peninsula. His wife is volunteering in the school system. He stated that there are ridiculous restraints in the classrooms right now. Teachers need to get the attention that they deserve. One thing that he wants to point out, working with Vets at UW, that the apathy before the election, especially in younger people, is gone. Legislative grants seem like short-term thinking. The legislature is mortgaging our kids' future. Konnen wants to change that.

a. Emily Randall—possible candidate for state legislature in '18

Ms. Randall spoke about making our community better and to gain the representation that we deserve. Emily grew up in Southworth and in Sunnyslope and graduated from South Kitsap High School. She went to Wesley College. She has worked in fund raising, building communities of support around health care for all. She worked in New Hampshire and California, communities that reminded her of rural Kitsap County. She is testing the water for State Legislature from the 26th District. She wants to hear our concerns, advice and for what together we all should be striving.

b. Leslie Daugs, Bremerton City Council, on Service Employees International Union, SEIU

Ms. Daugs spoke about the union-busting behavior of the Freedom Foundation. They have been infiltrating our community, speaking at chamber-of-commerce meetings. The Freedom Foundation uses union logos on mailings, in addition to their logos, in an attempt to fool union members into signing away from union membership. The Freedom Foundation is backed by the Koch brothers and by big retail corporations like Walmart. The Freedom Foundation has targeted the child-care workers, to get them out of unionizing. John Richardson, president of the South Kitsap teachers' union, confirmed that the Freedom Foundation has been working on education workers to get them to opt out of the union. These efforts are very crafty, in that these materials look like these are from the union. There is a big push to make Washington a "right to work" (Editor: "for less") state. See <http://nwaccountabilityproject.com/> and http://whatisthefreedomfoundation.org/?gclid=CMCWy_2CxcgCFc5hfgodzPYK3Q

c. Lynn Goralski from No on 1552 (Washington Won't Discriminate)

Lynn is from the 28th District from the 6th Congressional District. She was a delegate to the Washington State Democratic Convention last year. Lynn was assigned male at birth. She knew who she was and that her body did not match. She said that she is not a caricature, just a regular, everyday people. In Washington last year was an effort to gain a "bathroom bill," Initiative 1515, which failed to gain enough signatures. She asked that we "just say NO" to the request to sign the new version Initiative 1552. It is very similar to the HB2 bill in North Carolina. It would ban people in public accommodations from using the gender-segregated facilities consistent for whom they are. It will interfere with local control—the all-knowing state will have the authority. It will require transgender people to submit to violation of privacy when using restrooms. It requires that schools comply, and opens school districts to lawsuits. Students could file for \$5000 per incident if they encountered a transgender person in the school restroom. It goes against all our values of liberty and freedom. (North Caroline will lose \$3.76 billion in revenue in the next 12 years from events that left the state <http://apne.ws/2n9GSjE>). The Just Want Privacy organization needs to get 360,000 signatures by July 9. Lynn commented that she speaks at many churches, and would love to be invited to speak.

Joy Vartanian moved that the 26th LD endorse the “Decline to Sign” effort. The vote was unanimous. Noel Pritchard PCO from the 23rd District supports Washington Safe Alliance, Kitsap County. He and a local group worked at the recent Washington State Science Fair at Bremerton High School, asking people not to sign.

d. John Louma, Indivisible Manchester

John started an Indivisible group in January, it now has 82 people. It is evolving into an email organization. He goes to the Tuesday Resist Trump rallies at the Federal Building downtown Seattle. He met a person there whose wife works full time driving a commuter train in Seattle. He is retired and does the home maintenance. Every morning he makes his telephone call, from John’s “Call of the Day” email.

Daily, John and his wife Kay craft a paragraph about the pressing issue of the day, for District 26 politics. He emails this message to the group, and group members telephone their representatives with John’s script. (Secretary’s note: this is true, grassroots politics!) Chair Kelly asked how people can get involved, perhaps at a meeting. John doesn’t have a meeting scheduled (people want to work daily), but would be glad to do so. You can contact John through the Indivisible Facebook page.

e. Deborah McDaniel, running for Bremerton City Council

Ms. McDaniel stated that she listens to people, that this is the way to lead. She stated that she would lead with passion, making sure that everyone is heard. Finally, she will lead with integrity and keep her word. She asked for donations, with envelopes in the back. Leslie Daugs spoke about the four Bremerton city council openings, mayor and a judge. The Bremerton City Council, which is mostly Republican-leaning people (Mayor, Council Chair, Vice Chair, Finance Committee Chair) have been relegating progressive ideas out of city politics.

f. Greg Wheeler, running for Bremerton Mayor

Bremerton Mayoral Candidate Greg Wheeler spoke. He has doorbelled 2700 doors. He said that Bremerton is a town of Democrats. He told us that he is well received as he states his views on peoples’ doorsteps. His goal is 10,000 doors by August.

6. Approval of Agenda

7. Minutes of previous meeting, Secretary Dan Ransom, PE

8. Reports

a. Chair, John Kelly

Chair Kelly began by introducing the Executive Board. He stated that we’ve got to keep Jesse Young from bullying people, and shoving prayers down our throats. He said “I am mad as hell and we’re not going to take it anymore!” Recently, John was at a committee meeting / meal. Recently, in a restaurant, President Trump cam on the television screen. A drunk patron asked, “Couldn’t we all be quite and listen to President Trump.”

John responded rather inappropriately, but he said that his actions were necessary. He said that we've got to stand up!

- b. Vice Chair Kitsap, Johanna Baxter
- c. Vice Chair Pierce, RoxAnne Simon
- d. Treasurer, Kathleen Tei

Kathleen reported that we have \$1,837.24 bank balance. We printed posters and a standup board for photographs through our upcoming public displays and events. We collected \$254 this evening—Membership chair Don Bartley assisted in collecting and in counting the funds. The raffle brought \$17. We paid bills including dinner at \$69, and rent at \$168.

- e. State Committeewoman, Joy Vartanian
- f. State Committeeman, Drew Williams (not in attendance)
- g. Membership, Don Bartley

9. Committee reports

- a. Bylaws, George Robison, Chair

See report under Old Business.

- b. Budget, Kathleen Tei, Chair
- c. Candidate Recruitment and Development, Larry Seaquist, Chair

Rick Offner spoke. He related the next training, Saturday, May 6 at 9:00 a.m., is "The Art of Doorbelling." Our local experts (Randy Spitzer, Larry Seaquist and others) will give pointers on effective doorbelling. Next, there will be role playing, about how to doorbell. Then small groups will go out into Port Orchard and ask, "What are the issues that you think are most important?"

Rick stated that this effort is to take back the LD; to do so we need to engage our community. Get to know your neighbors and bring back this data to make effective campaigns.

Next is "Catching the New Blue Wave," a program that maps actions for working with our communities on specific bills. This effort builds a **Blue** political momentum for the next legislative session and the 2018 campaigns.

Payton Swinford presented information on "The Summer of Canvassing." The state party data are stale. We need to identify voters who would vote our way, to focus our Autumn efforts.

Chair Kelly reported that the state party and other districts have noticed our Effective Political Leadership class, and support might come from our efforts.

- d. Community Involvement, Joy Vartanian, Chair
- e. Fundraising and Event Planning, RoxAnne Simon, Chair
 - i. Livable Community Fair

Please come to the Key Peninsula Civic Center for the Livable Community Fair. We will have a booth at the Livable Community Fair, Key Peninsula Community Center, on Saturday May 6, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Barb Trotter has a cardboard photo stand of Uncle and Aunt Sam. Also, she has a button maker for 2.25" buttons. She will put our logo on the buttons. We need a LD26 map, 24 x 36.

The executive board authorized \$300 expenses for the Events Committee, to fund the Livable Communities Fair and other upcoming events.

- ii. Gig Harbor Parade

The Gig Harbor Parade is June 3. We will have new T shirts.

- iii. Port Orchard Fathoms of Fun

Port Orchard Fathoms of Fun parade is June 24.

- f. Legislative Action, Alec Matias, Chair

Mr. Matias might be running for office and might have to resign the chair. This is a good committee on which to serve as chair. Please contact Chair Kelly to volunteer.

- g. Membership, Don Bartley, Chair
- h. New-Member Recruitment, Curt and Patricia Scott, Co-Chairs
- i. Veterans' Activities, Don Bartley, Chair
- j. Webmaster and Publicity, Johanna Baxter, Chair

10. Old business

- a. Changes to bylaws, George Robison

Tom Donnelly, a member of the committee, spoke for Chair Robison. He presented the subject of "cancelation of membership." If one person pays dues and then decides, as a dues-paying Democrat, to sponsor a Trump rally, then this person must be removed. Another issue is a quorum. How many PCOs does it take to constitute a quorum? This is a safeguard for overrunning a meeting by members of a motivated faction. Chair Kelly said we will vote in June 1 meeting, "and be done with it."

11. New business

- a. In June, South Kitsap Fire and Rescue Chief Steve Wright has asked to speak.

b. Representative Kilmer's local-candidate endorsements

Mr. Lowinger spoke about Representative Kilmer endorsements on candidates for non-partisan offices, whom he stated "are Republicans!"

Pat asked that we as an LD send a letter to Derek Kilmer, a letter of censure, asking him to reconsider the candidates whom we don't support and to remove his recommendations.

Larry Seaquist presented three facts:

- A. That these are bipartisan offices, and by law, party is not allowed as a determinant
- B. That Derek works with moderate Republicans to forge a new coalition, a working middle, to get government done;
- C. In Washington State, you do not register as a party member, so the "Rs" in Gig Harbor are simply someone who might get the job done of governing well

Payton Swinford mentioned that we need to leave room for compromise. Joy Vartanian mentioned that it is not yet the end of filing week. Nove Meyers stated that we should ask Congressman Kilmer to wait for the end of filing season. Rick Offner also stated that we ask Representative Kilmer to wait until he hears from the candidates who are running and from the LD26. Nove moved to draft a letter to ask Congressman Kilmer to wait.

Ross Parton amended the motion by asking that we suggest to Representative Kilmer the candidates whom we endorse, to give him some direction.

12. Announcements

- a. Livable Community Fair Key Peninsula Indivisible, Saturday, May 6, Home Fire Station, 2:00 p.m.
- b. Pierce County Democrats, Thursday, May 11, 7:00 p.m., IBEW Local 76, 3049 South 36th, Tacoma
- c. Key Peninsula Democrats Social, Monday, May 15 at 7:00 p.m., Key Peninsula Fire Station, 8911 Key Peninsula Hwy N, Lakebay
- d. Kitsap Democrats, Monday, May 15 at 7:00 p.m., the Eagles Nest at Kitsap Fairgrounds, 1195 NW Fairgrounds Rd, Bremerton. This is a special candidates meeting for all offices affecting the Key Peninsula
- e. Executive Board meeting, Thursday May 18 at 7:00 p.m., Wright Bliss Fire Station, 12310 Wright Bliss Rd KPN, Gig Harbor,
- f. Camp Wellstone, Seattle, May 19—May 21, Seattle Pacific University

g. Gig Harbor Democrats Social, Tuesday May 23, 6:00 p.m., Round Table Pizza, 5500 Olympic Drive, #H101, Gig HarborLD26 General Meeting, June 1, 6:30 p.m., Givens Center, 1026 Sidney Road, Port Orchard.

13. Good of the order

Nove Meyers recently visited Guatemala and Mexico where he found that resistance against Trump is popular. Americans who agree are well received.

Chair Kelly commented that a recent CBS Late Show Stephen Colbert monologue from Monday, May 1 was a good practice of free speech regarding President Trump.

A member reported that, after the 217-213 house vote, a Party fundraising email garnered the Democratic Party a flood of donations.

14. Raffle

Raffle winners this meeting were Gene Hart and Diana Eversole (twice)

15. Adjournment

We adjourned the meeting at 9:13 p.m.