

26th Legislative District Democrats General Meeting Minutes

Givens Community Center, 1026 Sidney Rd., Port Orchard,
Washington June 1, 2017, meeting starts at 7:00 p.m.

1. Call to order; pledge of allegiance

Chair John Kelly opened the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

2. Recognition of elected officials

Chair Kelly recognized Kitsap County Clerk Dave Peterson. He is retiring—he will have served 15 years, 10 months, and 4 days when he retires. Allison Sonntag, present at this meeting, told us that she is seeking the appointment to replace Clerk Peterson.

3. Recognition of new members and guests

We had four new people attending the meeting.

4. Member of the Month

Chair Kelly commented on the attributes of our two, co-Members of the Month, Rick Offner and RoxAnne Simon. He said that these two people have stepped up, which is doing the thing that you must do as a Democrat. Both are on the Executive Board and have filed for elected office. RoxAnne Simon is running for Key Peninsula Metropolitan Parks Commissioner. Recently, she took a job at Safe Streets. Rick Offner is running for Gig Harbor City Council.

5. Guest speakers

- South Kitsap Fire and Rescue Chief Steve Wright

The South Kitsap Fire and Rescue has a new bond levy coming up. Chief Wright stated that the South Kitsap District is a combination district, both rural and city. Some personnel are volunteer and some are career firefighters. SKFR does both fire and emergency medical; 78 percent is medical. Chief Wright related that his agency has had some challenges. Chief Wright has been the chief for 3.5 years, overseeing a downsized staff over the past few years. During this time, the community has been growing.

Now, of the fire districts in Kitsap County, SKFR has the largest population and the smallest staff. SKFR was successful in passing the latest bond to update fleet vehicles. Coming in August is an election for renewal of the basic levy. Chief Wright declared that we need to take our levy back to \$1.50/1000 from \$1.35/1000, to handle the increased call volume. He said that the challenge is to get people to return their ballot. Q: Is there a minimum? No, no minimum on a renewal. It's just a simple majority. SKFR Commissioner Mike Eslava spoke, asking us to vote.

- Jay Rosapepe, candidate, Port Orchard City Council

Jay is running for the at-large position for Port Orchard City Council. Right now, Jay is the Director of Transportation at the South Kitsap School District. Jay has been a volunteer in the community. He brings to the position the skill of consensus-building; he said, "I play nicely with others." There are problems facing the city: revitalization of downtown, improving the Bethel business core, and including "Port Orchard West" (the developments west of Highway 16). He asked for votes, and stated, "If you don't live in the city you know someone

who does.” Michaelene M. asked: How would you increase bus routes? At yet, Jay stated that he needs to study how, and that he is in favor.

- John McCarthy, Port of Tacoma Commissioner candidate

John McCarthy is a candidate for Port of Tacoma Commissioner, Position 1, which is open. He said that his campaign is for the future of the port. His aim is to create good working jobs, allowing development that is safe for people who work there and is good for the people who live nearby. He is a retired Superior Court Judge. John initial practice as a young lawyer was located in the tide flats, where he was a Port Commissioner for 10 years. He was a former longshoreman, working on the docks for 10 years while in college. He promotes a coalition with the Port of Seattle, and he stated that we need to promote the Port of Tacoma interests in that coalition. John wants to apply his passion and knowledge to the job.

- Adam Brockus, Bremerton City Council, District 3

Adam Brockus spoke about smart growth downtown, and about keeping Bremerton and Manette feeling like “the home that it is.” Adam has been doorbelling in Evergreen Park. The Bremerton City Council third district is in two LDs 23 and 26. Adam noted that an opponent was here tonight (speaking next) so he said, “We’re going to have a fun, old primary.”

Deborah McDaniel, Bremerton City Council, District 3

Deborah McDaniel is running against Adam Brockus and another person for District 3. Deborah is a lifelong progressive and she said that she is endorsed by all three sitting Democratic Bremerton council members. She has been doorbelling in the area for five weeks. She said that she would not accept an endorsement from any Republican major.

Noelle Balliett, Peninsula School District

Noelle Balliett told us that communication is the key to the problems on the Peninsula School Board. She will promote two-way communication—the communication needs to go both ways between the board and parents. In addition, the board needs to hear from the students and the people who don’t have children attending the schools. As a working mom, Noelle said that the board needs her perspective. There are no working parents on the board right now. She is running because she understands a moral imperative, that we need to give back to our community. Noelle is running against the incumbent school-board member. Chair Kelly reported rumblings in the community that the local Republicans have threatened to fail the next school levy if the incumbent was opposed in the upcoming election.

- Dr. Nathan Schlicher on “Trumpcare”

Dr. Schlicher is a former Democratic State Senator from our district. Presently, he works on medical-issues legislation. Nathan spoke on the proposed Trumpcare. He reported that most of USA citizens support A) continuous coverage until you are 26, B) no lifetime limit, and C) no pre-existing conditions denial.

Dr. Schlicher spoke about three “Buckets of Bad Ideas.” Bucket 1 is to roll back Medicaid. Medicaid now covers 35 to 40 percent of patients. The working poor and children are threatened. Republicans are going to roll back the Federal Poverty Level, after the election at 2020 (of course!). They will allow states to experiment, until dollars are missing. Washington State can borrow 2 billion dollars from the future to effect changes today. If this does not work, then the future will be trouble.

Bucket 2 of bad ideas. The private market went to the ObamaCare markets. You could get a cap on a 3:1 differential for old people vs. young people. Trumpcare makes that 5:1 and 7:1. Older people cannot afford the increased prices at a five-times and a seven-times multiple.

Bucket 3: Lifetime caps of \$1M. Will we roll back the cap in Washington State? No. But the places hit the hardest will be the Trump states. In WA, we will lose some of the providers. Selling across state lines will not happen. There is a push for efficiency, but it is a fallacy.

State Committeeman Drew Williams asked if there is a public option in Washington. Dr. Schlicher responded that Medicare patients cannot find providers. Reimbursements to providers have gone up 5 percent in the past five years; medical expenses have gone up 55 percent. Also, the income collected by the state has gone from 7 percent to 4.8 percent of GDP, so there is less money to fund programs.

There is a perception of unfairness because of coverage levels. Most insurance is becoming catastrophic coverage. Baby boomers are demanding healthcare to restore them to a 21-year old condition. Nathan questioned that, perhaps, this is not a good idea for insurance coverage. Michealene asked about how to advocate for fixes to ACA: 1) premium support—Trump can repeal these subsidies; 2) fill in 30 million Americans with no coverage with ???; 3) what is end-of-life care.

Washingtonians are healthier than most other states, so our benefits will increase under Trumpcare. No one else in the country will have this effect. Recently, Dr. Schlicher asked Kathy McMorris Rodgers, R-Spokane, about the bill. He reported that she told him that she did not read the 179-page bill and did not know what was the premium-support levels.

6. Approval of Agenda

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

10. a. Old business-Report on Bylaws

We moved the review and discussion of the Bylaws Committee report to this time in the meeting.

Chair George Robison summarized that changes:

Article Three—expelling a member is not public record (no newspaper notice)

Article Four—minor editorial changes

Article Five—C is more specific about board-member duties

Article Six—minor editorial changes

Article Eight—B adds a task to identify Democrats for PCO in vacant precincts

—D makes it clear that a meeting notice can be electronic (email, website, social media); and that proper notice was given

Article Nine—a quorum is 10 members

Article Ten--Executive Board siriatum meetings must have a written record of vote or of a contact of ALL board members occurred

Article Twelve—had the most changes, for endorsement procedures. The new points are the following:

- There are approvals and endorsements
- No action until after filling-time ends
- An endorsement must have 2/3 vote of membership
- There is only one endorsement for a position

- An approval is 50 percent plus 1 vote of membership
- Approvals and endorsements are for one race only

Article Thirteen—minor editorial changes

Article Fourteen—minor editorial changes

George R. agreed that the word “chairman” will be changed to “chair.”

The motion to approve the bylaws changes passed.

8. Reports

a. Chair John Kelly,

Don't be ashamed to be a Democrat, where your new shirt in public. We have the Gig Harbor Parade this Saturday. Meet at 9:15 a.m. at Puerto Vallarta.

b. Vice Chair Kitsap, Johanna Baxter

Our endorsement list is the following:

- Greg Wheeler, Bremerton Mayor
- Michael Goodnow, Bremerton City Council
- Fred Chang, Port Orchard City Council
- RoxAnne Simon, Pen Met Parks Commissioner
- John McCarthy, Port of Tacoma Commissioner
- Rick Offner, Gig Harbor City Council
- Deb Krishnadasan, Peninsula School District Board
- Noelle Balliett, Peninsula School District Board

Larry helped get the Pierce County Democrats to put our Pierce candidates back on the endorsement page. Hannie stated that she has room for people to help on the Endorsement Committee.

She reminded us to buy a shirt, if you can!

c. Vice Chair Pierce, RoxAnne Simon-- absent

d. Treasurer, Kathleen Tei

After paying for Fathoms O Fun, Yo Ho Parade, and T Shirts we are at \$1231.56. Expenses of late were \$789.45 for the Fathoms O' Fun Parade fee, Rent at Givens Center, and T-shirt purchase. Proceeds from the meeting this evening were \$471.15: dinner, \$77; raffle, \$82; T-shirts \$199; rent, \$113.15

e. State Committeewoman, Joy Vartanian

June 11 is Peacock Hill road cleanup 2:00 p.m. at the Washington Water District. Join us for the Port Orchard parade this month on Saturday, June 24.

f. State Committeeman, Drew Williams

Drew is working on getting a Healthcare Seminar going for a town-hall meeting forum, in cooperation with Indivisible. The next meeting is this Sunday at 4 p.m. at the Gig Harbor Library. Steven Calli from Fuse will speak on the best ways to talk about taxes and the role of government. It was reported that they just went over 500 members!

g. Membership, Don Bartley

We gained four new members tonight. Please see Hannie for the membership form.

9. Committee reports

a. Bylaws, George Robison, Chair (see above)

b. Budget, Kathleen Tei, Chair

c. Candidate Recruitment and Development, Larry Seaquist, Chair

Rick Offner reported that they had doorbelling training on Saturday, May 6. Larry Seaquist, and Randy Spitzer lead the training. We asked “what issues do you have in your community right now?” Respondents ranged from strong Democrats to a home-schooling Republican.

Another session occurred this afternoon where local candidates attended. They discussed: 1) What are your campaign interest? and 2) how can our students in the Effective Political Leadership help? Rick Offner said that the group will work on campaigning this Summer and pick it up in September.

d. Community Involvement, Joy Vartanian, Chair

e. Fundraising and Event Planning, RoxAnne Simon, Chair

i. Gig Harbor Parade

The Gig Harbor Parade is Saturday, June 3. We will have new T shirts. Meet at Puerto Vallarta at 9:15 a.m.

Port Orchard Fathoms of Fun Port Orchard Fathoms of Fun parade is June 24.

f. Legislative Action, Drew Williams, Chair

Drew has been “voluntold” and he accepts the position.

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—see above

b. Congressman Kilmer’s’ local-candidate endorsements

Angela Roper of Congressman Kilmer’s staff responded to our recent letter to Congressman Kilmer. As LD26, we had written to Kilmer about endorsing local candidates before filing-time had ended. On the non-partisan races, she stated that sometimes we will have some

differences. Congressman Kilmer's office put staff and funds into local races, so we have their support. Ms. Roper stated that we need to focus on getting a Democrat into our LD26 State Senate office.

11. New business

a. Endorsements

Dave Peterson made a motion to support South Kitsap Fire and Rescue. There are outfitting tenders for the areas that have no hydrants. There will be more engines, tenders, and ambulances for the outlying areas, and reopening three, closed fire stations.

b. Port Orchard City Council race

c. T shirts

d. Fall membership BBQ

We are looking to go to Horseshoe Lake. It is more centrally located and has better facilities for young families. Chair Kelly wants to get some softball games going, perhaps challenging the Republicans. Our member, Ed Robison, Key Pen Met Parks District Commissioner, kept this park open

e. Adopt a Highway

f. DNC elections

State Committeeman Drew Williams drafted a resolution (<http://26d.org/wp/archives/33788>) He stated that we want the DNC to take our direction seriously. DNC is accountable to "the court of public opinion." We can get this passed at the state-party level. Our state-party chair Tina Podlodowski has not been able to get the DNC to listen/respond to this resolution. If it passes at our next state meeting, then it goes to the national party for discussion. George R. spoke in favor of adopting this resolution. He stated that the national party should do what we tell them, to do what they say. We adopted the resolution unanimously.

12. Announcements

- a. Pierce County Democrats, Thursday, June 8, 7:00 p.m., IBEW Local 76, 3049 South 36th, Tacoma
- b. Key Peninsula Democrats Social, Monday, June 19 at 7:00 p.m., Key Peninsula Fire Station, 8911 Key Peninsula Hwy N, Lakebay
- c. Kitsap Democrats, Monday, June 19 at 7:00 p.m., the Eagles Nest at Kitsap Fairgrounds, 1195 NW Fairgrounds Rd, Bremerton
- d. Executive Board meeting, Thursday June 15 at 7:00 p.m., Wright Bliss Fire Station, 12310 Wright Bliss Rd KPN, Gig Harbor,
- e. Gig Harbor Democrats Social, Tuesday June 27, 6:00 p.m., Round Table Pizza, 5500 Olympic Drive, #H101, Gig Harbor

Jo Rodman is stepping aside as the organizer for these Gig Harbor Democrats social meetings. Rick Offner spoke in support of Jo's efforts. We need a new organizer; Larry Seaquist will serve in the interim. Please step forward.

The topic for the June 27 meeting is The Resistance: How Goes It? It is a group meeting with the Manchester Indivisible, Our Revolution in Olympia, and Indivisible in Gig Harbor. Are we gelling as a resistance? Where are we as progressives and Democrats?

f. LD26 General Meeting, July 6, 6:30 p.m., Givens Center, 1026 Sidney Road, Port Orchard

13. Good of the order

State Representative Jesse Young-R, made a recent Facebook post, thanking President Trump for “lifting us out of poverty.”

It was commented and agreed that the food was great tonight!

14. Raffle and live auction

We will defer the live auction until next month, at the beginning of our meeting when there is more time.

Smedley Butler opposed Douglas MacArthur and Dwight Eisenhower. The book “*War is a Racket*” describes running the Marine Corps for the benefit of big business—conquering South America for the fruit-growing corporations.

Treasurer Kathleen Tei conducted the raffle. These are the raffle winners:

Persist necklace Michaelene

West-Side Pizza coupon: Allison Sonntag

Tom Hartman, author-signed book: Margaret Gaspari

DVD: The Eleventh Hour: Cassie

The Winter is Coming DVD: Adam Brockus

The Flowers, Geraniums: Jennifer Hardiston

15. Adjournment

We adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm