

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

Givens Center, 1026 Sidney Road, Port Orchard, WA

October 5, 2017, 7:00 p.m. (meal at 6:30 p.m.)

1. Call to order; pledge of allegiance

We began the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

2. Recognition of elected officials
3. Recognition of new members and guests

Thomas Eaton, from Gig Harbor. He is the PCO from Precinct 260; Mullenix. Also in attendance was Prof. Tara Hudiberg from Moscow, Idaho.

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

See <http://26d.org/wp/meeting-minutes>

5. Member of the Month

Chair Kelly introduced Jill Neumeister as our Member of the Monty. A new member, he said that she is doing a great job. John appreciates that she picked up the ball for the canvassing program (presented later in these minutes).

6. Approval of agenda
7. Speakers

- a. Adam Brockus—Bremerton City Council, District 3

Candidate Brockus spoke about turning the Bremerton City Council blue. Suzanne Griffith in the District 1 and Michael Goodnow in District 5. Adam works for a large government employer in Bremerton. Adam will work to keep Harrison Hospital in Bremerton. He said that we need an emergency room, and 85 beds for the 37,000 people in Bremerton plus the 10,000 workers at the shipyard. His is for responsible growth. He stated that condos are okay, and we need affordable housing, too.

- b. Drew Hansen, Representative, Washington LD23—Legislative preview, and being active in the party

Drew mentioned that the 26<sup>th</sup> District has had a long history of electing Democrats. He stated that we have the Washington House, and that Manka Dhingra's election in the 45<sup>th</sup> District will get back the WA Senate for Democrats. Then, along with the Executive branch, we will have Democratic control in Olympia. Drew spoke of two bills that cannot get past the Republican Senate: a bill to protect undocumented students from losing their financial aid, and a bill to excuse court fees and interest for people released from prison. He is excited that bills like this will have a chance in a Democratic Senate (because these bills were blocked by Republican leadership.)

Drew has been researching grassroots organizing. The answer to building consensus is to go door-to-door, taking the temperature of voters. If we clean the get-out-the-vote list now, we can be more effective in 2018. Posting on Facebook is not enough; if you post you must knock on five doors! This is how we build the grassroots resistance. Doing Summer of Canvas shows the state party that we are active; and then support from the state party comes our way, to the 26<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Democrats.

The House Democratic Campaign Committee helps us keep Democrats in power. Drew has to write a big check to the HDCC to make sure that he is a Committee Chair of the majority party—so that he can make things happen.

c. Jill Neumeister, Gig Harbor Indivisible

Lynn Jabs spoke supporting Noelle Balliett for Peninsula School Board. There is some misinformation going around and her signs are disappearing. Lynn said that she is a great candidate who deserves our support.

Jill Neumeister spoke about Summer of Canvass. She said that we have to get out there to canvass, to get good information on voters. She passed a signup sheet for a Saturday, October 7 event from 1—4 p.m. Meet at Roundtable Pizza in Gig Harbor. The Saturday event is a deep-listening script, so we can understand what motivates voters to vote. Once you learn how this works, then you can canvass in your own precinct.

8. Executive Board reports

a. Chair, John Kelly

John mentioned that there are donation boxes in the room. There are T-shirts for \$10.

John reported that our Secretary, Dan Ransom, PE, will be moving out of the district. Please consider stepping forward to help our organization as Secretary. His last meeting is November 2.

John reported that he met with Mena Mercer of the HDCC. He stated she said that they have not given up on our 26<sup>th</sup> district—they want to see strong candidates from our district. John asked for preferred candidates for 2018. Judy Arbogast mentioned Emily Randle. Larry Seaquist spoke on the Effective Political Leadership group workshops, from which there are some possible candidates. He spoke about two possible candidates: Emily Randle, who handles major donors for Planned Parenthood. Robyn Denson is a Gig Harbor realtor, a single mother who has been working in the community and learning who does what. Larry stated that both the Senate and House DCCs want to support 26<sup>th</sup> District candidates. He related that candidates should attend every forum.

## Candidate Forums

There is a candidate forum on Tuesday October 10, 7:00 p.m. at the Key Peninsula Civic Center Whitmore Room. Candidates include Peninsula School Board candidate Noelle Balliett.

Gig Harbor mayor's debate October 15 from 4—6 p.m. sponsored by Indivisible Gig

Harbor, at the Gig Harbor Civic Center.

There is a city council and mayoral debate on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m. at the Methodist Church on Pioneer Way in Gig Harbor.

Bremerton Admiral Theatre, 515 Pacific Avenue, Bremerton Mayoral Debate October 17, 6:00 p.m.

b. Vice Chair Kitsap, Johanna Baxter

One of Hannie's friends asked what she is doing about Jan Angel. She turned it around and asked what **he** was doing. She related that he is writing a letter to the editor. She asked that we do so, too. Hannie distributed a sheet about how to write letters to the editor.

Hannie spoke about the upcoming Kitsap Regional Library vote. She urged us to place signs of support around our neighborhoods. These are available from her garage. See New Business, below.

c. Vice Chair Pierce, RoxAnne Simon

d. Treasurer, Kathleen Tei

Kathleen reported that we have a bank balance of \$6,139.23. This evening we collected the following funds:

Room rent donation box: \$65

Dinner: \$132

e. State Committeewoman, Joy Vartanian

f. State Committeeman, Drew Williams

#### 9. Committee reports

a. Budget, Kathleen Tei, Chair

b. Candidate Recruitment and Development, Larry Seaquist, Chair

c. Community Involvement, Joy Vartanian, Chair

d. Fundraising and Event Planning, RoxAnne Simon, Chair

e. Legislative Action, Drew Williams, Chair

f. Membership, Don Bartley, Chair

Don reported that we have a new PCO, John Luoma. John volunteered to take Harper 240 as his assignment. Don stated that we have 14 vacancies in Pierce County, and 28 open PCOs in Kitsap County.

g. New-Member Recruitment, Curt and Patricia Scott, Co-Chairs

h. Veterans' Activities, Don Bartley, Chair

10. Old business (if not previously discussed)

- a. PCO training / Summer of Canvass

See Speakers section above, Jill Neumeister

- b. Townhall meetings
- c. Adopt a Highway

11. New business

- a. Kitsap Regional Library levy

Mark Hughes spoke about the 8-cent levy lid lift, which is a very modest increase. Mark asked for help in building signs. The information site is [www.levy.kri.org](http://www.levy.kri.org) . Contact Don Bartley, [don.bartley52@gmail.com](mailto:don.bartley52@gmail.com), to get signs. Tens of thousands of phone calls have been made so far, and Mark asked for more telephone volunteers

- b. Vote!

Ballots are out on October 19 / October 20. Be sure to return your ballot early, to expedite get-out-the-vote efforts (voting early takes your name off of the calling lists, so time is not wasted on calling you!).

12. Announcements

- a. Keep Pierce Blue fundraiser, Friday, October 6, 7:00 p.m., Asia Pacific Cultural Center, 4851 South Tacoma Way, Tacoma;  
<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3073136>
- b. Pierce County Democrats, Thursday, October 12, 7:00 p.m., IBEW Local 76, 3049 South 36th, Tacoma
- c. Key Peninsula Democrats Social, Monday, October 16 at 7:00 p.m., Key Peninsula Fire Station, 8911 Key Peninsula Hwy N, Lakebay...at key center

Tim Farrell Pierce County Leader will be speaking.

- d. Kitsap Democrats, Monday, October 16 at 7:00 p.m., the Eagles Nest at Kitsap Fairgrounds, 1195 NW Fairgrounds Rd, Bremerton
- e. Executive Board meeting, Thursday, October 19 at 7:00 p.m., Wright Bliss Fire Station, 12310 Wright Bliss Rd KPN, Gig Harbor,
- f. Gig Harbor Democrats Social, Tuesday, October 24, 6:00 p.m., Round Table Pizza, 5500 Olympic Drive, #H101, Gig Harbor

Larry Seaquist said that we are talking about Vietnam, about what it means to you and our community. A new website, Defense 1, published the new game plan for Afghanistan. To get the other side to come to the table, the Generals have decided to increase bombing. It was remarked that we have not learned a thing from the Vietnam era.

Rick Offner stated that these open-discussion meetings are a good way to build the base in our community. Jill Neumeister has programs, but just needs people to handle the nuts-and-bolts meeting organizing.

g. LD26 General Meeting, November 2, 6:30 p.m., Givens Center, 1026 Sidney Road, Port Orchard

13. Good of the order

### Peninsula Town Hall upcoming events

Jo Rodman spoke about the Peninsula Town Hall. In October, there is a two-part series on Behavioral Health and the Opioid Crisis:

- October 12, 6:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m.; Gig Harbor Civic Center, 3510 Grandview Street, Gig Harbor; Scope and treatment, Dr. Nathan Schlicher, Jeremiah Saucier, Representative Derek Young, and Judd Morris
- October 26, 6:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m.; Key Peninsula Civic Center, 17010 S Vaughn Road Kp N, Vaughn; Societal Impacts with leaders from police and fire
- November 9, 6:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m., November 9, 6:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m. at Gig Harbor Civic Center; Health Care Reform in Washington State, Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler

### Council for Human Rights

Judy Arbogast reported on Kitsap County Conference for Human Rights on December 15: "Historical Perspectives and Moving Forward,"

[http://www.kitsapgov.com/boards/humanrights/council\\_for\\_human\\_rights.htm](http://www.kitsapgov.com/boards/humanrights/council_for_human_rights.htm)

### Supporting current campaigns

Karlene Rytönen asked that we get our efforts on the way, now is the time. Work on the LD31 district is forging ahead; any work on Michelle Ryland's race is helping her now and in the 2018 election.

14. Adjournment

We adjourned the meeting at 8:14 p.m.