

26th Legislative District Democrats General Meeting Minutes

Givens Center, 1026 Sidney Road, Port Orchard, WA

November 2, 2017, 7:00 p.m. (meal at 6:30 p.m.)

1. Call to order; pledge of allegiance

We began the meeting at 7:03p.m.

2. Recognition of elected officials

Chair John Kelly recognized the following elected officials in attendance:

- Fred Chang, Port Orchard City Council
- Alison Sonntag, Newly appointed Kitsap County Clerk
- Gary Simpson, Kitsap County Sheriff

3. Recognition of new members and guests

4. Minutes of previous meeting; Secretary Dan Ransom, PE. See <http://26d.org/wp/meeting-minutes>

5. Member of the Month

6. Approval of agenda

7. Speakers

Candidates

Adam Brockus, candidate for City of Bremerton Council, District 3. Adam urged us to vote by Tuesday, November 7.

Kit Kuhn, candidate for Mayor of Gig Harbor. Kit stated that everyday there are new rumors going out. He wishes that people would just get on the telephone and call him to get the truth. There was a mailing that had nothing to do with Kit, yet perception about the mailing is affecting his campaign. Candidate Kuhn said that he is for the people of Gig Harbor.

Rick Offner candidate for Gig Harbor City Council. Rick stated that he is the only candidate who asked for an endorsement from our 26th LD Democrats. Rick said that in this non-partisan race he is supported by both Democrats and Republicans. Candidate Offner offered that we need to address growth, and to be more respectful in our dialog with each other—If we start listening we can do a lot more. Chair Kelly stated “Vote early, vote Offner!”

Kirsten Gregory, candidate for Pen Met Parks Commissioner. Kirsten stated that one of the primary duties of the Pen-Met Parks board is to approve contracts. She said that her background is as an attorney in compliance, working with contracts. She said that

the Pen-Met Parks staff does a great job with day-to-day work, and also needs her special skills in performing the commissioner's job.

Kristin Ang—Port of Tacoma Commissioner. Kristin is running because she wants the port to be community, technology and green effective. She said that we must include the peoples' ideas and values. She stated that she is a new voice—when she hears about the “right stakeholders,” it is not the young people of the next generation. She will have sign waving near the Tacoma Costco on Monday, November 6.

Special Guest Speaker

Ross Cohen, Veterans, Seniors and Human Services levy in King County. Ross served in Afghanistan and has worked on veterans' issue since he got out of the military. He said that the levy is up for renewal. It is \$350M to help the citizens of King County. He said that we need to engage the military community here in Pierce and Kitsap counties; that it is very much trusted and is a unifying influence in society. He stated that the problem is that our state tax system is upside down. The levy is only \$28 per year for the average home—less than a cup of coffee per month. The polling that they have done says that both Democrats and Republicans support it. However, Ross said that there has been a spate of “tax fatigue” (Sound Transit and other measures) and that might bring a defeat

8. Executive Board reports

a. Chair, John Kelly

Chair Kelly stated that the pre-meeting meal has been going well, thanks to organization by Joanne Hudiburg. Joanne asked if people could sign up for bringing food.

b. Vice Chair Kitsap, Johanna Baxter

c. Vice Chair Pierce, RoxAnne Simon--absent

d. Treasurer, Kathleen Tei

We received \$71.75 in food and donations. We have \$6401.30 in the bank for electing Democrats. Chair Kelly stated that we need to ramp up our efforts, beginning on the day after the election.

e. State Committeewoman, Joy Vartanian

Joy reported that she attended the Al Gore climate training. She is now on the state party Advocacy Committee. She will be following legislation and reporting on it. Chair Kelly asked about the ethical-conduct memo issued by the state party.

f. State Committeeman, Drew Williams--absent

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

We have 130 PCOs and paid members. Chair Kelly said that we need to double that amount to be ready for the 2018 election.

- 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
- b. Townhall meetings
- c. Adopt a Highway
- d. Kitsap Regional Library levy

Mark is doing two phone banks tonight to get out the vote for the upcoming election.

- e. Vote!

11. New business

- a. Action time: "get out the vote" calling (bring your mobile telephone / Skype)

Jill Neumeister introduced the get-out-the-vote work that we performed this evening. She presented the calling script, which urged voters to return their ballots and asked why voters participate. She explained that our effort this evening was to listen to voters' concerns. Also, we asked interested voters if they wanted to volunteer to assist Democrats in our work for the 2018 election.

12. Announcements

- a. Pierce County Democrats, Thursday, November 9, 7:00 p.m., IBEW Local 76, 3049 South 36th, Tacoma
- b. Key Peninsula Democrats Social, Monday, November 20 at 7:00 p.m., Key Peninsula Fire Station, 8911 Key Peninsula Hwy N, Lakebay...at Key Center
- c. Kitsap Democrats, Monday, November 20 at 7:00 p.m., the Eagles Nest at Kitsap Fairgrounds, 1195 NW Fairgrounds Rd, Bremerton
- d. Executive Board meeting, Thursday, November 16 at 7:00 p.m., Wright Bliss Fire Station, 12310 Wright Bliss Rd KPN, Gig Harbor,
- e. Gig Harbor Democrats Social, Tuesday, November 28, 6:00 p.m.,

Round Table Pizza, 5500 Olympic Drive, #H101, Gig Harbor

- f. LD26 General Meeting, December 7, 6:30 p.m., Givens Center, 1026 Sidney Road, Port Orchard

13. Good of the order

14. Adjournment

We adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.