1.  Call to order, Pledge of Allegiance, Approval of agenda.
2.   Recognition of elected officials, candidates, and first-time guests: Derek Kilmer, Emily Randall, Robyn Denson, Deanna Keller (Port of Tacoma), Sheriff Gary Simpson, KP Parks Commissioner Linda Weeks. Over 15 first-time guests.

3.   Representative from Elizabeth Warren Presidential Campaign to present on upcoming activities. Bailey Dodd, regional organizer. “AJ” is Bremerton rep. “Warren is the candidate who best supports the fight we are in.”

**4.  Speakers: Campaign 2020!**

a.  **Congressman Derek Kilmer**

19 years since his first LD26 meeting, in Olalla, with five other people. “We’ve come a long way since then!” Update on Capitol - President abused his office; obstructed Congress in its investigation of that abuse. Each member of the Legislative branch, and the President, swears to uphold the Constitution. The President failed to do so, in our considered opinion. Note that HR3 and Paid Family Leave (for federal workers) recently passed, as did a spending bill that averts a shutdown (and increases protection for salmon habitat here in the PNW). In the new year, HR2, infrastructure bill that includes broadband and water-related projects. HR1 will be pulled back, passed in portions as stand-alone bills in 2020. He will support both representatives for 26th LD and urges us all to support them too. Questions - 1) what will you do about climate change? HR9 will restore the Obama era status quo, with a goal of net zero by 2050. Also supports a carbon tax. 2) Specific question re contractor proposing to House that they will provide election security — questioner says the contractor does NOT provide paper ballots, which are crucial to election security. Kilmer says he will look into it, cites his history of protecting elections. 3) Protect public lands from ranchers etc. Kilmer agrees, promises he will, cites small victories, is sponsoring bill to provide permanent funding to maintain our public areas and to protect more Olympic Peninsula as wilderness. “Please commit to action this year!”

b.  **State Senator Emily Randall**

With our people power, we can make sure that we win. Remember, in 2018 there was only one more Democrat than Republican in the state Senate. We passed the Universal Healthcare Work Group, designed to cover the 1/2 million people who are uninsured or under-insured, or aren’t covered for a full year of post-partum care. Also reproductive healthcare bill that mandates non-discrimination. Will try again to pass a bill creating an LGBTQ coordinator for the VA in WA state. New legislation passed to make college free for all students whose families earn less than $50,000/year. Direct funding to provide funding to transport low-income residents to clinics, hospitals, etc.

c.   **State House Candidates: Carrie Hesch, Joy Stanford**

Joy — “We are going to win this time” My job to empower people, need your help., e.g., volunteers for spread-out areas like Key Peninsula, Port Orchard. We’ll organize house parties to help me talk to the people I can’t get to by myself, to talk to them about all their hopes and concerns. Announcement - I am running for Position 2, currently held by Michelle Caldier – “that seat belongs to me!”.

Carrie - A year ago, someone in my union, the Teamsters, asked was I interested in running for office. Currently work for WA Dept of Corrections, criminal justice reform a real focus, after years of this kind of work. I’m not afraid to walk down those driveways. Has studied to prepare communities to deal with the impacts of climate change. Will run for Position 1, currently held by Jesse Young.

d. **Tom Quinlan**

Running for Superior Court Judge in Pierce County in 2020. Motivated to make a permanent difference in people’s lives.

d.   **Evan Koepfler, Field Organizer, WA Dems**

We are sitting at tables sorted by region because our goal going forward is to talk to as many Dems and voters as we can. In each area we intend to at least meet our 2018 benchmarks and aim to increase the number of voters we talk to and sway. At your table, we’ll start building teams by region, strong teams that have mustered volunteers for canvasses so that when paid field organizers come on board, they can hit the ground running.

**5.  Program:  Team 26:  Rise & Organize for 2020 Elections**

a.  Organizing by geographic location – 5 tables: Key Peninsula, Fox Island, Gig Harbor, Port Orchard, Bremerton. Each table was to create a sign-up sheet, choose two team leaders, and begin discussing future meeting dates/times/places.

**6.  Business Meeting**

a.  Approval of December Minutes (will be done at February meeting)

b.  Treasurer’s Report (Constance) – Proposed 2020 Budget. Office space available in a few months. Both candidates were approved by unanimous acclamation, making them eligible to rent space in the new office until endorsements allow the LD to offer space at no cost to endorsed candidates. Motion to allow candidates to rent space at market rate prior to endorsement was approved unanimously.

**7.  Old Business**

a.  2020 Fundraiser for LD 26 Democrats SAVE THE DATE:  April 25. Wesley Inn, GH; join the Coordinating Committee (Barb Turecky, Lynn Jabs, Jill Neumeister, Rick Offner, Dianna Eversole, Nora Eckstein, Cassandra Wolle, Chris Kim, Luellen Lucid). Need members to donate for live and silent auctions as well as dessert dash.

b.  2020 LD 26 Caucus for Presidential Delegates: join the Coordinating Committee (Tony Otto, Carl Olson, Constance Maytum, Joy Vartanian, Dianna Eversole, Nora Eckstein, Don Bartley, Luellen Lucid). Tony Otto informed membership that the Caucus will be on 4/26 — we want people to be delegates. Last month’s minutes covered the Caucus process.

c. Membership drive for LD 26 Democrats:  pay dues now, dues will cover 2020 membership. “Don’t just come casually, but commit to being a member of our group.”

d.  Monthly donation to LD 26 Democrats:  Request that everyone consider making a monthly donation toward 2020 races; can be done on-line with automatic deduction.

**8.  New Business**

a.  LD 26 Campaign Office has been secured in same Gig Harbor Uptown complex as last time but much bigger (six private offices, large kitchen, private bathroom, meeting area). Rent will start in March.

b.  Memorial Service for Jan Dahl January 18, Believers Fellowship, 4112 Hunt St., Gig Harbor, 2:00- 4:00.

9.  **Next General Meeting**:  February 6, 6:30 p.m., Givens Center: Hilary Franz, State Lands Commissioner to speak on forest preservation, effects of forest fires, other environmental issues.

**10.  Good of the Order** Several members called for more direct action on the climate crisis; drive less, use less plastic, grow your own vegetables, plant trees. Hannie Baxter let the membership know that the KCDCC January meeting will be on the third Tuesday of the month, not the 3rd Monday due to Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.

**11.  Adjournment at 8:30 p.m.**