1. Call to order, Pledge of Allegiance, approval of agenda.

2. Recognition of elected officials: Mark Michel, Key Peninsula Parks Commissioner; Linda Weeks, Key Peninsula Parks Commissioner; Robyn Denson, Gig Harbor City Council; State Representative candidates Joy Stanford and Carrie Hesch; and first-time guests.

3. Peninsula School System Levy Election: Deb Krishnadasan, President of Peninsula School System Board, was scheduled to speak on February 2020 Levy Election and GOTV Assistance. In her absence, George Young described the situation and urged everyone to vote “yes.” He also described the upcoming vote on a Pierce County tax championed by our County Councilor, Derek Young, to fund mental health services and asked members to write the Council members to encourage them to vote positively on the tax. It requires a vote of 5 out of 7 Council members. Pierce is the only county in Western Washington that hasn’t implemented this tax.

4. Paul Andrews, Kitsap County Auditor, elected with our support in 2018, was the featured speaker. Paul oversees all elections in Kitsap County and spoke on the Presidential Primary taking place in March (ballots drop in February). Primary is 3/10. Publicity includes LWV / BKAT video of Paul being interviewed by Judge Laurie. Also, of course, the Voter’s Guide that comes in the mail. Ballot is slightly different this year, color-coded (Kitsap is magenta). Left side of ballot is blue for Democrats; right side is red for the other team. Ballots without party declaration will not be opened - you’ll be contacted to correct this. If you don’t declare, your vote doesn’t count. If you fear that Republicans will pretend to be Democrats to foozle the vote, don’t — they don’t want a written record that they are Dems! Also, many studies have shown that this threat, even when put into practice, has a very minute effect on electoral outcomes. New software tracks the opening, processing, and recording of ballots, as well as assisted / accessible voting, which is also used to duplicate all military ballots. If you’re mailing ballots, please allow 5 days before Election Day. Safest, fastest, is ballot drop boxes. If you’re waiting until candidates drop out after Super Tuesday, make CERTAIN that the postbox you use will be picked up before 8pm on Election Day! Otherwise your vote will be received, but not counted. Your name, address, and age - and your political affiliation in presidential elections — are the ONLY information that is available to parties and the public. Two people perform every operation of the voting process. The tabulation room is protected from the internet, i.e., it is “air-gapped”. Results are moved from computer to computer by sneaker-net. Ballots must be held for 22 months after certification in federal elections; 60 days for other elections. If someone’s signature has changed, for whatever reason, they’ll be contacted to confirm their signature. Paul’s office has asked Homeland Security to try to break into the system, as a means of testing its security. There is backup and redundancy left, right, and center. New voting center is opening in Bremerton: Marvin Williams Recreation Center on Park Ave.

The membership expressed its appreciation of Paul Andrews, an elected official who is truly making a difference, ensuring the safety of our democracy.

5. Approval of Minutes (December, January) It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of both months, and the membership was unanimous in support of adoption.

6. Treasurer’s Report (Constance Maytum/Lynn Jabs) – Approval of 2020 Budget — and an appeal for trucks to move furniture and boxes out of storage and into the office! Note that one increased cost is domestic terrorism insurance for every booth we staff at every fair, parade, or other event.

7. Old Business

a. 2020 Fundraiser for LD 26 Democrats: Ticket and Donor Order Forms. Volunteer for Committees.(Barb Turecky/Lynn Jabs) We need volunteers! The caucus is expensive, we exist to support candidates who embody our ideals, and those candidates need office space for phone banks and canvass events etc. It all costs money, which we get by throwing an annual fundraiser. Please volunteer, attend, and buy tickets for others.

b. 2020 LD 26 Caucus for State Delegates Committee Report (Tony Otto): The caucus is the day after the fundraiser. This will basically be a hard-working weekend, and we’re asking everybody to pitch in. For example, the Credentials Committee needs at least 15 volunteers to check that attendees’ addresses are current, that their precinct is correct, etc. Enlist your kids and grandkids.

c. Team 26 update (Jill Neumeister/Anna Mockler)

Canvasses will be held throughout February and March for the five Neighborhood Teams: Key Peninsula; Fox Island; Gig Harbor; Port Orchard; Bremerton/Gorst/West Port Orchard. Three aims: Identify voter issues; identify Dem voters; inform and educate about primary/caucus process.

d. Update on House Races (Carrie Hesch/Joy Stanford)

Carrie Hesch: Her kickoff is on 2/22 at Wet Coast Brewery, 2-4. Emily Randall, many union leaders, other electeds will show up in support. 23,000 union members in LD26 vote for union candidates like herself. Carrie just spent several days with union leaders at the state capitol.

Joy Stanford: Joy was also in Olympia to support a bill on housing. Some costs to keep in mind: 3 days at Harborview or 3 months of incarceration equal ONE YEAR of permanent housing.

e. Membership drive for LD 26 Democrats: pay dues now, dues will cover 2020 membership

f. 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. Luellen thanks everyone who has committed to this kind of donation.

8. New Business

a. Donate to Standup for Kids for next month’s program (Cassandra Wolle).

b. Report on State Conference (January) and upcoming State Convention (Credentials, Rules, Platform) – June 11 – 13 (Joy Vartanian, Don Bartley). Productive meeting attended by Don and Luellen. The State’s DNC Representatives were elected, including two incumbents and two new members.

c. Save the Date - March 21 - LD 26 Office Official Opening!

**9. Next General Meeting: March 5, 6:30 p.m., Givens Center: Standup for Kids Service Project and Presentation on Caucus by State Party Elections Administrator Julie Kemp (also Chair, LD 46).**

10. Good of the Order: Various announcements of upcoming meetings; KCDCC, NAACP. Abolishing death penalty is upcoming legislation – email your House members. Caldier will vote to maintain state-sponsored executions. Jesse Young was unavailable to speak to the member who’d traveled to Olympia to plead for the bill.

11. Adjournment