



26th LD Democrats Minutes for 4/4/2019

1. Call to order, Pledge of Allegiance, Approval of agenda.
2. Recognition of elected officials, candidates, and first-time guests

First-time guests: Deanna Keller running for Port Commissioner, Tacoma #3. Steve Miller, Machinists & Aerospace Workers (IAMAW). Kristen Ang, candidate for Port Commissioner., Tacoma, #5. Lori Wheat, appointee & candidate for Bremerton City Council District #4.

3. Program:

a. Joy Vartanian and Don Bartley, 26th LD Committee persons: presentation on Primary vs. Caucus (Possible Resolution by Membership)

Prompted by state legislature deciding that national primaries can be held (now scheduled for March), Democratic Party must now decide whether to use the state-funded primary to select its Presidential preference or continue to use caucuses paid for by precinct, district, and state levels of the Party. There will still be caucuses to determine who goes to state and national convention to vote for the Presidential nominee but less complicated and costly. A straw vote was taken of membership on which is preferred: 3 members were in favor of remaining with caucuses; all remaining members (majority) wanted to switch to primaries. Military voters can now vote by email, at least in WA. Superdelegates no longer vote in the first round at national convention.

b. Judy Arbogast: Legislative Update

Judy notified all members that if they provide email address, she will send them regular updates on all legislation. She called attention to a Rider introduced in Senate to education bill that will, in three years, begin to lower the salaries of senior public education teachers. Nurses are trying to get regular meals and regular breaks, not currently guaranteed by typical contracts. Jesse Young introduced a "hero" bill to severely limit reproductive rights in the most draconian fashion. Jesse Young town hall date (April 13) and locations and times announced.

c. Report by Pierce County and Kitsap Candidate Search groups on non-partisan elections

Luellen Lucid reported for Pierce County and Anna Mockler for Kitsap County. They identified some key positions for which candidates are sought. Declared candidates spoke briefly:

Kristen Ang: Port of Tacoma #5. More experienced now than in 2017, when she won 48% of the vote. Opponent is a Republican who last ran in 2012 in the 35th. Wants to preserve and increase both environmental health and economic prosperity of the Port.



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Deanna Keller: Port of Tacoma #3. First-time candidate, immersing herself in the day-to-day of the Port. Kick-off 5/8 at Foss Waterway Seaport in Tacoma. Bring people together to find solutions.

Robin Denson: Gig Harbor City Council #5. Running because she's passionate about Gig Harbor. Wants to manage growth, preserve historic character & maritime authenticity. Been on Parks Commission for 4 terms and currently chair. Kickoff 4/24 at Gig Harbor Tap Room.

Lori Wheat: Bremerton City Council #4. Appointed 1/2018. Wants streets that allow people to walk, bike, take buses, as well as drive. Citizen engagement is another priority. Holds monthly meetings, attends other electeds' town halls, etc.

Anna Mockler: Bremerton City Council #6. Wants to increase neighborliness and representation in the district.

Tony Otto introduces a special guest, Steve Miller. IAMAW District #60, Business Representative and Legislative Director, wants to visit all the locals and speak plainly & clearly to them. If any candidates need an endorsement, the IAMAW is ready. He wants to return power to the people, to voters, to union members and increase engagement at every level.

Luellen introduced Twila Slind, PCO (26-340), Legal Rights for the Salish Sea, working to get legal rights for orcas, assure them the right not to become extinct. Partnering with other organizations, putting on workshops in Gig Harbor, seeking more participants.

4. Minutes of last meeting approved.
5. Treasurer's report (Constance Maytum and Lynn Jabs): information provided on back of agenda.
6. Update on LD 26 Democrats Fundraiser June 8 at Sehmel Park Pavilion: Bridges to Bridges, Dining with Democrats is the theme. Silent auction, live auction (week in Hawaii, week in Orlando), Mexican buffet, Hillary Franz, WA State Public Lands Commissioner keynote speaker. \$30 per ticket includes dinner and 2 drink tickets; tickets and forms for auction items and sponsors available.
7. Monthly Pledge Fundraising Campaign: Even \$5.00 / month would give us the solid financial backing we need to support & encourage candidates. Can pledge at meeting or on website.



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8. Old Business

a. Meetings of Social Clubs in April: Gig Harbor April meeting back at Round Table; by May, in full election mode; Chris Kim seeking collaborator to arrange Kitsap meetings; Constance Maytum helping to find venue for Kitsap.

b. PCO appointments and training: two new PCOs introduced. Jill Neumeister brought in map of precincts with red dots to identify vacancies; PTO training upcoming in April (14th and 28th); will have training for new PCOs as well as experienced PCOs. Must RSVP for training as packets will be specific to their precinct; bring laptop or smartphone.

9. Next General Meeting: Bob Ferguson, current State AG and potential candidate for Governor, May 2, 6:30 PM @Givens Community Center – invite your friends and neighbors, we want to pack the house!

10. Good of the Order

Lori Olsen, PCO and member of Moms Across America, spoke about vaccines being tested and test results showing they contained glyphosphates, which can adversely affect people's health; wants LD to research this issue and looking for support for opposition to vaccinations based on ingredients contained within them. Chair suggested both sides of this issue be represented in a future presentation.

11. Adjournment