



26th LD Democrats Minutes for 5/2/2019, 6:30 PM

6:30 PM

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

2. Recognition of elected officials, candidates, and first-time guests

Kathy Orlando, Pierce County Dems Chair; Jeni Woock, Gig Harbor City Council; Emily Randall, WA Senate; Lori Wheat, City Council Dist #4, Bremerton; Robin Denson, candidate for Gig Harbor City Council; Bob Free, Vice Chair Pierce County; Leslie Daus, Bremerton City Council Dist #2; Paul Andrews, Kitsap County Auditor.

6:40 – 7:15: Business Meeting

3. Approval of Minutes

4. Treasurer's report (Constance Maytum and Lynn Jabs) We have \$2,261.67 in the bank

5. Update on LD 26 Democrats Fundraiser June 8 at Sehmel Park Pavilion

a. Buy tickets and invite friends

b. Auction items needed

c. Sign up to help (set up, clean up, make a dessert)

6. Monthly Pledge Fundraising Campaign -- Luellen pointed out that we're gearing up now for 2020 races, so please start pledging.

7. New Business

a. IMAX Presidential Debate June 26 and 27 (fundraiser)

b. Pierce County Launch: June 22 (IBEW Hall, Tacoma) -- A Deep Listening Canvass that will begin in June and keep on going through the summer.

c. LD 26 Democrats Endorsement Process

d. Upcoming events/volunteers needed:

June 1: Gig Harbor Maritime Festival (booth);

June 29: Fathoms of Fun (parade in Port Orchard)

8. Old Business

a. Report from State Committee April Meeting (Don Bartley, Joy Vartanian)

Our April straw vote was closely mirrored by the state as a whole. State urged LDs to double their budget for upcoming 2020 caucus. There will be LD and State caucuses only -- no county or other caucuses. Our Presidential primary has been moved to March 10th, but all other primaries will be held in August, as always.

b. Meetings of Social Clubs in May

Gig Harbor talked about homelessness; in June they will talk about youth homelessness -- watch the newsletter for venue change; on June 25th the venue will be Boat Harbor for a special meeting on LNG at Port of Tacoma with a panel of experts

c. PCO appointments and training (Jill Neumeister, Jan Dahl)

Good reviews on training; there are many vacancies so, if you know someone who might be interested, come and see Jill or Jan after the meeting.

d. Update on non-partisan races -- E Board will interview candidates on June 18, candidates will appear at the July 11 General Meeting for membership to vote on endorsements. Bremerton City Council incumbent Dist #2, Leslie Daus; Dist #4, Lori Wheat; and candidate Anna Mockler for Dist



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#6 briefly spoke. Luellen called for recruiting Gig Harbor Fire Commission candidates. Joy Stanford told candidates to contact her, Emily, Connie, for help on Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Campaigning.

9. Next General Meeting: June 6, 6:30 p.m., Givens Center: Panel discussion on Social/Criminal Justice Reform with panel members: State Rep. Drew Hansen; Assistant Secretary of Corrections Danielle Armbruster; NAACP Leader Tracy Flood; criminal justice reform advocate Tarra Simmons; Kitsap County Prosecutor Chad Enright; moderator Joy Stanford. Invite friends and family to attend!

10. Good of the Order

Emily Randall discussed her first legislative session. 1/14, 105-day session began. With 6 new freshmen, caucus was 28-strong. Was able to protect rights and increase opportunities for working class people -- while white-collar is going very strong in Seattle, for example, blue-collar earnings and education are stagnant. One bill makes public university free for those who make \$50K or less, funded by industries that depend on university education. Cascade Care will make health care affordable for individual insurance buyers who make just a bit too much to qualify for Medicaid. Pathway to Universal Healthcare, introduced by Emily, is funded in the budget established by this leg. session, workgroups in late 2020, plan to introduce in early 2021. A Housing Affordability Committee was formed with strong bipartisan support AND cooperation between tenant and landlord representatives. Pilot program to ensure tertiary students are also able to afford housing. Transportation -- need at least one more boat, funding secured for study for entire region to increase foot ferries through Puget Sound. Funding for 2 ferries secured, one restoration, one new vessel, with fares capped to ensure affordability. Orca protection secured by improving salmon habitat, reducing toxic pollution, and reducing noise.

7: 15 – 8:30: Program

11. Program: Bob Ferguson, Washington State Attorney General since 2013, speaks about his actions to address issues that affect the State resulting from policies from the Trump Administration

Tony Otto introduced the Attorney General who, even in private practice, defeated Tim Eyman initiatives by supporting his contention that they were unconstitutional. In public service, he was on King County Council. First ran for WA AG in 2012, re-elected in 2016. He has filed 35 federal lawsuits, won 22 of them, and lost none. He talked about the new blood invigorating the state legislature, epitomized by Emily Randall. Why are we winning so much in court against the Trump administration? Because the changes made by the current administration are based on bad law or on lies. For example, DACA promised everyone, in writing, that their information would never be used to deport them -- yet when the administration rescinded these protections, this promise disappeared from the government's website. Ferguson said that "a deal's a deal" is a fundamental principle of this country and took the administration successfully to court.

Q&A -- How big is your office? 640 lawyers and support staff. Ferguson described how before his election, questions from the public about civil rights were referred to outside firm. He has brought this work inside his department and hired civil rights lawyers. Half the lawsuits are environmental so there are many environmental lawyers and experts. What about detention centers, e.g., Tacoma? It's run by a private, for-profit corporation that has had problems at other sites. Much of the work at their sites is done by detainees paid at prison rates, but these sites aren't prisons. Ferguson sued to get minimum wage going forward and retroactive pay as well. Status report on Tim Eyman? PDC felt there was wrongdoing by Eyman, and AG's office is pursuing the charge that he has not fully disclosed his donors and has personally profited from these initiatives. Suit demands that he no longer be allowed to handle finances. Ferguson



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says he talks about the work being done by his department to as many non-partisan groups as possible (e.g., Rotary Clubs) in addition to Democratic groups and does not change words or tone, wishes that more elected officials would do this.

12. Adjournment