 26th LD Democrats General Meeting Minutes--11/5/2021

Call to Order

--Meeting called to order at 6:32 PM by Chair Kara Aley

--Tribal Land Acknowledgement (Melissa Lund)

**Guest: WA State Atty General Bob Ferguson** (Intro by Chair Aley)

**--Q & A with attendees, highlights:**

**Q:** How does he decide which issues to defend?  **A:** Consumer protection-type cases are often grouped with other bipartisan AGs in other states (like opioid epidemic issues), partisan issues (like lawsuits against the Trump administration) are when other Dem/Liberal state AGs congregate together. WA State may not always be the primary bringing a case forward, but can be a part of the congregate of states working on an issue.

**Note:** He recently won a federal lawsuit against GEO Corp., they were using labor from the Tacoma Ice detention center, detainees were paid only $1 per day.

**Q:** How are AGs protecting voting rights? **A:** Most Voting rights issues are the purvey of legislators, not AGs, but AGs can work on voting laws that keep BIPOC or other groups restricted. If other states have bad laws (like abortion prohibitions), AG Ferguson can sign onto an amicus ("friend of the court") brief that challenges those laws. the AG can step into certain issues during elections, such as when Postmaster General DeJoy was slowing down postal service to hamper ballots being delivered. For the most part, WA State elections are considered safe.

Guest: US House Rep. Derek Kilmer

**--Rep. Kilmer gave thanks to all candidates who won their recent elections, and also the "26th LD Team." He believes that congress is close to passing their bills, and went through some points in the Build Back Better Act (follows).**

**Lowering costs for families:** Childcare help; universal preschool; lowering cost of health care for some lower-income families; Medicaid for low-income persons who were not previously eligible; earned income tax credit extension, and more.

**Create more economic opportunities:**  Providing grants to some areas of states that may need help creating jobs (like economically depressed logging areas); workforce development; increase in Post High School training; affordable housing and rental assistance, etc.

**Climate Action:** Rebates to families who are changing their energy sources (like from gas to electric/solar); economic justice, resilience for communities that are affected by climate change (like forestry & Agriculture), etc.

--Rep. Kilmer is upset that congress has not yet passed voting rights legislation.

**SS 2100 Act:** Expand & strengthen Social Security, make it solvent. Some "Pay for" items in the bill: Surcharge on the extremely wealthy; savings from drug price negotiation in Medicaid; increase in IRS enforcement (focus on those making over $400,000 per year).

--He spoke about building local industries that are eco-friendly, and generating economic development to promote those industries. the BBB Act includes clean energy, but we can keep working on issues like recycling waste products to make usable items (housing composite for example), and projects that help fish thrive (like culvert replacement), etc.

--He thinks that the BBB Act will ultimately go through, though not as big and robust as he hoped, as some items are still being negotiated.

--When asked, Rep. Kilmer stated that the Democrats in congress are taking the Jan. 6th insurrection seriously, "They vandalized our democracy, we cant let them get away with it."

--Derek encouraged everyone to go forth and push/defend the bills in congress, coming elections for Dems will hinge on getting bills passed for the American people.

Business

**Local Races Update** (Chair Aley, as of tonight): Tracy Flood (54%), Greg Wheeler (55%), Mike Goodenow (66%), Anna Mockler (50%), Brian Pickard (68%), Jeni Woock (76%), Roger Henderson (62%), Brenda Lykins (?), Juanita Beard (42%).

**State Committee Persons Report** (Ray Shjerven & Joy Vartanian): State group voted on getting rid of war training in parks; they are a "yes" in protecting voting rights; pro orca & salmon protections & recovery; and working to help expand the state house.

Treasurer Report (Chair Aley reported on behalf of Treasurer Carl Olson)

--26th LD has $4380 total in the bank.

Approval of Oct. 2021 Minutes: Approved by acclamation.

Next 26th LD General Meeting: Thursday, Dec. 2nd, 2021--Chair Aley will be on vacation, Alex Davidson & Brenda McCormick will lead the meeting. Tom Slyter offered to invite Commissioner Garrido to come speak about the homeless, Police chief Brown was also suggested as a guest. Chair Aley will promote food donation.

Good of The Order

--KCDCC Chair Hannie Baxter stated that Tom Slyter was PCO of the month in Oct., the Nov. PCO of the month is Jerry Austin (who challenged an SK School Board write-in candidate about his place of residence). KC Dems next meeting will be Nov. 15th via Zoom--Committee is looking for nominees for 2021 KCDCC Lifetime Achievement Award. chair@kitsapdemocrats.org.

--Frank Dacca thanked all candidates for running, his is very proud of them.

--Alan Marshal, new attendee, would like to connect with other local Southworth/Yukon Harbor (Port Orchard) members. His number is 425-246-9131, AlanMarshallSeattle@gmail.com.

--Judy Arbogast will be having a house party for Sen. Randall on Sunday, Nov. 7th, from 1-3 PM, 9140 SE Fragaria Rd., Ollala, WA, 253-225-1977. Other events for Sen. Randall are coming.

--KCDCC Chair Baxter encouraged people to check out friendsofharperpier.org

--Luellen Lucid reminded all that redistricting is ongoing, if the committee cannot agree on boundary lines, the State Court will draw them (court is predominantly Democrats).

Adjournment: Chair Aley adjourned the meeting at 7:44 PM.

(Minutes respectfully submitted by Melissa Lund, Secretary)

26th LD General Meeting 11/5/21

Attendance

~Ray Shjerven ~Melissa Lund ~WA State Attorney General Bob Ferguson

~Kara Aley ~Frank Dacca ~Adison Richards

~Alan Marshall ~Alex Davidson ~Angela Sisney

~Barb Turecky ~Beverly Smith ~Brenda Lykins

~Chad Enright ~Catherine Jordan ~Brenda McCormick

~Donna Mayer ~Doug Smith ~US House Representative Derek Kilmer (WA)

~Jeni Woock ~Johanna Baxter ~Joy Vartanian

~Judy Arbogast ~Larry Seaquist ~Kevin S. (team Kilmer)

~Luellen Lucid ~Marty Bishop ~Bill Budd

~Melinda Mazoue ~Nora Eckstein ~Robert Reynolds

~Sam Wells ~Tom Slyter ~Tony Trotter

~Twila Slind ~Julian Wheeler ~Eileen