



General Meeting Minutes Thursday, September 5, 2019

6:30 PM

1. Call to order, Pledge of Allegiance, Approval of agenda.
2. Recognition of elected officials, candidates, and first-time guests: Tina Podlodowski, State Party Chair; Greg Wall, So Kitsap School Board #5 incumbent & candidate; Jenny Woock, Gig Harbor City Council member; Robyn Denson, candidate for GH City Council; Anna Mockler, Bremerton City Council candidate; Pedro Oguin, City Council member and Teamster; Todd Iverson, Pen Met Parks Commissioner. Several first-time guests and union members.

6:40 – 7:50 PM

3. **Program: Union Issues in Today's Environment.** Panel moderated by Cherika Carter, the Field Mobilization Director for the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO. Panelists include Patty Rose, Pierce County Central Labor Council AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer; Pedro Oguin, Co-Director of Organizing for Teamsters Local 117; Steve Miller, Business Representative Machinist Union District 160; Todd Iverson, member of ILWU Washington Area District Council and Executive Board, ILWU Local #23 at Port of Tacoma; Stacey Opiopio, UFCW Local 21 Membership Action Director; Nick Langlow, PAC Rep, Gig Harbor Fire Local 3390.

Intros: Iverson, longshoreman since he was 16. Oguin, director of organizing for 3rd largest local in nation. Opiopio started at Harrison Medical Center. Langlow, Local 3390, 100% participation post-Janus decision. Miller, 250-300 contracts of machinists who are not Boeing in WA. said it's important to support the local candidates for school boards, city councils, and ports.

Luellen Lucid reported on Gig Harbor City Council resolution that calls for open union negotiations within the city; in practice, with police officers in Gig Harbor represented by Teamsters. Republicans are majority on the GH City Council and voted for Koch Brothers Freedom Foundation initiative for undermining unions.

Carter opens the panel with discussion of increased union membership and increase in favorable views of unions, e.g., teachers, fast-food and hotel workers, etc. Janus decision = the entire public sector is "right to work", so you can opt out of being in the

union, benefit from their negotiations, and not contribute dues. Nick Langlow responded to Cherika's question, how has Janus affected you? No effect in our local, everybody is in; we fight fires as a team and it's been a galvanizing opportunity for us and for other public sector unions.

Pedro responds to same question. The solidarity is baked into the nature of the work. They have to trust each other to work together. Has made us more thoughtful about the nature of unions -- what are our values? do you believe in dignity? in respect? in the opportunity to buy a little piece of the American Dream? when you frame it like that, people start to get it, why unions are vital, why their participation needs to go beyond dues or donations. Because we need to get together to solve stubborn problems like affordable housing, like decent education, like jobs for the future.

Steve answers question. Janus is a clear attack on unions, on our members' time, money, and energy. IAMAW represents six percent of the total machinist workforce, down from 10% in the past. Janus makes it hard to tell new workers why they should pay dues when they get the same representation without.

Stacy -- UFCW has 46K members, continuing to grow despite Janus. Even public-sector hospitals in rural districts see that their reps are fighting for them, and they're holding steady. They can see the benefits. Grocery store workers are walking the picket line with medical workers at UFCW because they're all in this together.

Todd -- works with private sector businesses, so little impact from Janus. Required organizers to go out and re-organize themselves. For example, had to devote all organizers' time to going out every day and making sure all ferry workers had signed their cards. Other unorganized workers have approached ILWU to join, e.g., strippers in San Francisco.

Patty -- AFCSME, AFT, NEA have all gone out to talk to millions of members to find out what they want, what they need, what union can bring. WA has the lowest percentage of opt-out since Janus in the USA. Example - Tacoma teachers' union actually grew after union kicked out superfluous middle management, because teachers saw that the union worked and it worked for them.

Cherika -- workers say, why should we get involved in politics? We say, everything is politics. The water you drink, the roads you drive on, are political. Your wages, pensions, benefits -- all political. Her question: How do you motivate workers?

Nick -- workers say, what difference does it make? Makes us more thoughtful - are we representing our workers? Reps are taking more time to break down contracts and negotiations for workers, asking: do you think management gives you these benefits

out of the goodness of their hearts? Supporting candidates who support labor has helped our union right down the line.

Cherika asks Pedro, elected official, to walk us through the endorsement process. It's a tedious process -- shouldn't we start clarifying our values, creating one streamlined endorsement form. We start strategizing new contracts, new campaigns, new negotiations the day after the deal is signed or the candidate elected. We need more on the ground mobilization so that candidates can spend more time running. We need greater diversity, not just of race and gender, but also of age. We need more back-benchers. If we don't do it, who will?

Cherika asks Stacy to walk us through the endorsement process. With 46,000 members, that's a lot of votes. We want to make sure that members know reps, know what the union is doing, and encourage members to run for office, so there will never again be a conversation in the legislature about nurses playing cards.

Cherika asks Patty to walk us through the endorsement process. PCCLC has seven questionnaires for a variety of positions. They are working to streamline the process and to support working families.

Cherika asks Steve the question. We do more for local communities than any politician. We don't have money, but we do have the votes.

Cherika asks panelists what sparks joy in their work and sustains you.

Todd: I stand on the shoulders of organizers past, with a responsibility to the generations to come. Questionnaires don't do much compared to face to face interview, where you can tell if the candidate is fake or genuine.

Pedro: the new generation gives me hope every single day.

Stacy: started this fight for racial and gender equity. Knowing that my union supports that gives me joy.

Patty: When I started out as typist for SEIU, I didn't realize it would become my life and save my life -- literally, when I had cancer twice, my benefits saved me.

Nick: Watching a firefighter walk out of the station after his retirement party with all his limbs and faculties intact, and a decent pension to ensure he enjoys his retirement. We did that. The union did that.

Steve: Overcoming the apathy and inertia of workers to help them successfully organize and fight for their rights.

Tina Podlowski addresses the members. We've got to walk the walk if we want to keep talking the talk. 80% of Democratic-oriented candidates made it from the primary to the general election for the non-partisan races this year, so we're going to keep on

running in every race in every place. Tina advises every candidate to talk about health care and jobs. Would be great to translate climate crisis solutions from last night's eight-hour debate into plain English. Thank you, 26th LD, for your fundraising and organizing efforts. You are a model for the state; I wish I could clone you in every LD.

Resolution proposed by Luellen Lucid, voiced by Pedro Orguin:

We, the members of the 26th LD Democrats, move to support the collective bargaining process of all labor organizations, including the right to collectively bargain in good faith and confidentiality in the bargaining process.

Moved, seconded, approved by unanimous voice vote.

7:50 – 8:30: Business Meeting

4. Approval of Minutes (June – August) – all approved.
5. Treasurer's report (Constance Maytum and Lynn Jabs) – bank account in good state; new donations coming in.
6. Old Business
 - a. September 21 Day of Action Pierce County LD 26: Wesley Inn, 10 – 2.
 - b. October 26 Pierce County Day of Action: being planned.
 - c. **2020 Fundraiser for LD 26 Democrats SAVE THE DATE: April 25. Wesley Inn, GH**
 - d. Bob Ferguson (AG) Fundraising Dinner September 15 – LD 26 has filled two tables!
7. New Business
 - a. Endorsements of Deanna Keller (Port Commissioner), Anna Mockler (Bremerton City Council), and Chuck West (Peninsula School System) proposed by Executive Board All proposed candidates were approved for endorsement by LD26.
 - b. Financial contribution to candidates endorsed by LD 26 Democrats. \$200 to Leslie Harbaugh, Chuck West, Linda Weeks, Kristin Ang, \$250 to Anna Mockler, \$400 to Robyn Denson.
 - c. Membership drive for LD 26 Democrats: Email to mailing list, request that everyone pay membership dues now; dues will cover 2020 membership
 - 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. **Next General Meeting: October 3, 6:30 p.m., Givens Center: Program under development.**
9. Good of the Order: Mockler proposed that PCOs be given mediation training as incentive, for we will need them in 2020. Babette Olson reminded members that Kitsap Democratic Women meet at the Yacht Club Broiler every 4th Thursday, 11:30-2:00. Seaquist asked if members would care to watch September debates at Gig Harbor or

Port Orchard location.
10. Adjournment