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Endorsements Committee Chair

Keith Tyler 253-653-6319

Hospitality Committee Chair

(vacant)

Fundraising Committee Chair

(vacant)

Outreach Committee Chair

Jodi Riker-Yap 253-249-7188

Membership/PCO Committee

(vacant)

Communications/Technology

Dan Turley 206-819-7397

Regular Monthly General Meeting: **January 8th, 2014**

First Wednesday of each month, **7:00 to 9:00 pm**

WEA, 32032 Weyerhaeuser Way S., Federal Way

Official Call -- three resolutions (printed on pages 6 and 7) have been proposed for action at the January meeting.

From The Chair

Remember that our monthly membership meeting for January has been moved to January 8th (7pm at the WEA Building) due to the New Year's Holiday.

2013 The Year in Review

The 30th LD had a very good year in 2013. Highlights are many:

January — The semi-annual reorganization and 45 elected Precinct Committee Officers (PCOs).

February — We were represented by 11 members and friends at the King County Legislative Action Day in Olympia and by 16 at the annual Washington State Democrats' Crab Feed in Lacey. In both cases we were the largest delegation of any LD.

February and March — Voter registration in the Federal Way High Schools.

April — We moved our monthly meetings to the Washington Education Association building in Federal Way.

May — We broke 100 paid members and were an integral participant in the 3rd annual South King County spaghetti dinner and auction.

June, July and August — We participated in parades and festivals in Algona, Federal Way, Milton and Pacific and had our annual picnic at Steel Lake Park in Federal Way. In addition we had election success with all of our endorsed candidates moving on to the general election in November.

September — The 30th LD Democrats (yeah, that's us) were awarded the first ever "Magnuson Award" as best Local Party of the Year by the

Washington State Democrats. Senator Eide provided a table and Congressman Smith a couple of seats at the banquet helping us attend with 22 members, the largest delegation of any LD.

October — Working hard to elect our 19 endorsed candidates and one proposition, of which 10 candidates are members of our organization.

November, Sweet November — Election results showed success for 15 of our candidates and one issue, including Federal Way Mayor-elect Jim Ferrell, Federal Way City Council Member-elect Martin Moore, Federal Way School Directors-elect Geoffery McAnallo and Carol Gregory and Pacific City Council Member-elect Stacy Knudtson (all of whom are members and PCOs of the 30th LD Democrats). In the process, 3 incumbent Republicans were defeated. In addition member and PCO Leanne Guier was appointed interim Mayor in Pacific.

December — Our annual Holiday Party was a huge success with an attendance of approximately 80 family and friends.

During the year we also registered more than 300 new voters and appointed an additional 14 PCOs. Indeed 2013 was a very good year for the 30th LD Democrats. Thank you everyone. For 2014 we will be striving for even greater accomplishments.

Progressive Radio Fans

For those of you who have missed listening to AM 1090 Progressive Radio since it changed formats, Norman Goldman will be in Seattle for a “Party On for Progressive Radio” on Saturday, January 18 from 7:00 to 9:30 pm at the Impact Hub (220 Second Ave South). Tickets are only \$10.90 for general admission (limited to 290) and \$109.00 for a private dinner and reception. Contact Chair Tim Burns for more information.

Outreach Committee

by Jodi Riker, Chair

Outreach 2014-2016 Goals:

Registration drives at Federal Way, Auburn and Fife/Milton High Schools, and Highline, Green River and DeVry Colleges. Also, team up with other organizations to coordinate registrations drives at welcoming stores and Malls.

Voter registration goals

250 in off years

500 in midterm election years

1000 in presidential elections years

Reserve a park for the August picnic (most likely Steel Lake Park). Cost will be \$60.00 for site, plus food (about \$2.00 a person). **We need a host for this event!**

Coordinate with PCOs to include them on Outreach events, encouraging participation.

Coordinate summer events for each of the cities within the 30th LD. **We need hosts, one for each event. Sign up for one city!** (Federal Way, Algonia, Pacific, Milton, Auburn x2) Each event will cost about \$100.00, including candy, site fee, and iced water for workers.

Get candidates ready with introductions at the summer events. Collect signs and info to pass out.

Outreach comes from all of us, and these event are what make our membership rolls soar. **Without you we cannot succeed!**

Legislative Action Committee

by Roger Flygare, Chair

Strategy session for LAC Day on the Hill activities. Roger will be out of the area and Walter Brooks will be hosting this via email. We need your questions that you would like answers to from our various legislators. Please send them to skoorb62@comcast.net and to RGFlygare@aol.com. We will sift through them and pick out the top ten issues from your submissions.

LAC Day on the Hill is planned for January 22, 2014. The Senate Rules Room and the Washington Conference Center are two rooms that have been

used in the past and will more likely than not be used again this session.

KCDCC LAC committee hasn't been providing much in the way of dialog for what they see as relevant issues for the Day on the Hill and so it is incumbent upon the 30th LAC to develop our own set of issues. Walter Brooks and Roger Flygare have been attending all of the KCDCC LAC meeting this year and have also helped arrange for guest speakers.

FWPS Community of Interest. On a side note, Roger has been holding FWPS Community of Interest meetings with concerned citizens regarding the quality of education in the K-12 programs in Federal Way as well as the touching on the grading system and the Global Learning Initiative (GLI). The angst of the parents is finally getting across to the school board and the superintendent and changes are on their way. Unfortunately that doesn't cure the problems for all of the students who graduated before and also in 2012 and the misspent money on the GLI that continues.

Cedar Crest Community. Another project that Roger has been helping with, although not directly connected to the LAC Committee is developing a strategy for the residents who live in the Cedar Creek Community who had their internal roads severely damaged. This has been an ongoing project from the early months of 2013 forward. Roger created for the Cedar Crest Community a lengthy Power Point Presentation and there have been presentations to Puget Sound Energy (PSE) and to members of the City Council. There is a lot of frustration over this issue as it's not be properly addressed by PSE who had overarching authority on the project of what seems to be an unneeded and unwanted upgrading of the natural gas lines in the community.

Vietnamese Memorial ~ Auburn, Washington. Working with members of the Auburn City Council, members of the VFW and the Vietnamese Memorial Alliance, Roger helped solve a community identity crisis from unfolding. There will be a new memorial commemorating all the Vietnam and US military that fought on the side of South Vietnam

built in Les Gove Park in Auburn. The hope is to have this constructed by the end of fall 2014.

Minimum Wage

Letter submitted by Paul Levy to the FW Mirror, in response to "Q&A with Mr. Federal Way"

It's odd that during the holiday season, Mr. Federal Way should extol the virtues of Scrooge.

Mr. Federal Way fantasized about the effects of increasing the minimum wage and falsely concluded that increasing the minimum wage to \$15 an hour would lead to a decrease in employment.

Fortunately, we have data to disabuse Mr. Federal Way of his erroneous conclusions.

Princeton economists David Card and Alan B. Krueger studied the effect of an 18.8 percent wage increase for workers in New Jersey. Neighboring Pennsylvania retained its old minimum wage. Interestingly enough, they compared employment at fast food restaurants.

This study, carried out over an 11 month period, was during a recession. The results? No change in relative employment. Tiny Tim 1, Scrooge 0.

The argument for raising the minimum wage should be even more persuasive for employers. Raising the minimum wage leads to more productive employees because employee turnover decreases. Tiny Tim 2, Scrooge 0.

And interestingly enough, sales increase. We all know about how Henry Ford paid his workers well because he wanted them to be able to afford his cars. Economists study the disparity of income using a measure called the Gini coefficient. The higher the Gini, the greater the disparity in incomes.

Studies indicate that economies grow faster when the Gini is low. This makes sense because putting more money in the hands of the working poor means that they can afford to buy things and that translates into increasing demand. Tiny Tim 3, Scrooge 0.

And the argument for increasing the minimum wage gets even better.

You see the government supplements the income of the working poor through programs like food stamps.

These are really government subsidies to minimum wage payers like Walmart and McDonald's. Tiny Tim 4, Scrooge 0.

And finally, there is the argument for decency. Why should we stand mute when we see needless poverty?

King County Council Appointment

Statement from Omaha Sternberg, chair of the 33rd
District Democrats

On Monday afternoon, the King County Council took up the decision to appoint a replacement to the 33rd House seat recently vacated by Dave Uptegrove when he won his election to the King County Council.

The timing of the discussion and vote was a surprise to many of us, as this decision wasn't expected until early January. At least two of the nominees (myself included) were not informed that the 33rd appointment would be on the agenda, and only learned of it through third-hand sources. Without this notification, I was not able to be present at the meeting.

The PCO (Precinct Committee Officers) Caucus held on Dec. 3 resulted in three nominees, ranked in order of PCO preference. It has been traditional for the County Council to accept the first choice of the PCOs, as the PCOs have had the longer time with the candidates and thus are more able to determine which candidate they feel is the best suited to the position. And, in fact, the King County Council followed the recommendations of the PCOs from the 43rd Legislative District for the two appointments done on the same day.

But the 33rd position was handled differently. Apparent pressure was placed on several councilmembers to vote in favor of the PCO's second choice for reasons that have not been clearly communicated and certainly don't seem to be connected to any of the candidates' ability to function in the position properly.

When Washington State's Constitution was first ratified in 1889, a vacancy in the state Legislature was handled with a special election, a direct vote of the people. An amendment to the Constitution in 1930 changed this to make the appointment the responsibility of the County Council in whose legislative district the vacancy occurred. Clearly this was done to reduce the price tag of an election.

In 1956 (and again in 1969), other amendments occurred, to bring the voice of the people back into the process while balancing out the price tag. The County Council was required to choose from three nominees chosen by the political party the prior legislator had come from. Anyone reading the Voter's Pamphlet of 1969 can clearly see that the vote of the people is considered paramount as the intent of the amendment.

What the King County Council has done is not about choosing one candidate over another. All nominees were strong candidates from the 33rd that could receive the House appointment and continue representing the strong progressive values of the 33rd District Democrats.

What the King County Council has done is about subverting the will of the PCOs which also very clearly subverts the intent of the Constitution itself. Should a County Council rubber stamp the nomination of the PCOs without even looking at them? Of course not. But when the King County Council makes a decision while ignoring the recommendations of the PCOs, taking the advice of people from outside the district with other agendas, they simply used a different rubber stamp!

I urge the County Council to recognize that such back-room dealings do not help the district in which the vacancy occurred. They do not help or encourage the PCOs, for whichever party the PCOs represent,

to feel that they are being taken seriously. They do not help the voters of that district believe and trust in the interim legislator that has been chosen.

The 33rd District Democrats support Mia Gregerson as our interim House Representative. We simply do not support the way in which the King County Council proceeded with the 33rd House appointment. This process ignored the advice of the PCOs, discounted the will of the people, and ignored the process of Democracy.

Make A Difference

by Paula Joneli, 33rd District Democrats

A week or so ago, newly-minted US Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ) posted a quote on his Facebook page: "A different world cannot be built by indifferent people." Peter Marshall.

This thought caused me to think about why we do what we do in political activism. We want to build a different/better world. We want to influence public policy and legislation toward that pursuit of a better world for our families, friends, and fellow citizens of the planet.

Of course, everyone defines that "better world" differently; hence the heated political discussions between various groups; ie:

- The Christian right wants the Ten Commandments to be the Law of the Land.
- The top 1% wants to live in a gated community, away from the "unwashed masses".
- The Tea Party wants to hate all things and people different from them.

None of these groups is indifferent. They are passionate. They are driven. They are well-funded (by the top 1% who benefit from any chaos that diverts attention from their devious activities).

If we Progressives are the least bit indifferent, the passion and drive from the other side will, in fact build that "different world" -- and it will NOT be to our liking.

As we approach the New Year, let us take a vow to shed our indifference -- so we can make a difference and build that different world to our liking. It is why we participate in the political process; gathering signatures on petitions, registering voters, fundraising, supporting our candidates and issues, doorbelling, phone-banking, getting out the vote, speaking out on behalf of our causes, etc.

Here in the 33rd Legislative District, we have an extra golden opportunity to make a difference building our different and better world. Thanks to the extraordinary recruiting efforts of Elizabeth Albertson and Mia Gregerson as they competed to replace Dave Upthegrove in the State House, we have a wealth of brand new PCO's to help us with our task.

Long-term PCO's and members: Invite our new teammates to help with current and future activities. We will benefit greatly from an infusion of new ideas and energy.

New PCO's: Please continue to help us out by becoming active members, attending our meetings and events, volunteering for event planning, and stepping into leadership positions. We need your time, your talent, your skills, and your energy to make a bigger and better difference.

Proposed Resolution #1

Resolution in support of fixing Washington State's unfair tax system

WHEREAS, Washington State relies on the sales tax, the Business & Occupation Tax, and property taxes to fund state government (see A Citizen's Guide to the Washington State Budget);

WHEREAS, sales taxes are regressive — meaning that the middle class and the poor pay a higher proportion of their income in sales tax than do the well-to-do;

WHEREAS, the Business & Occupation tax is also regressive, because it taxes revenue, not profit, and thus favors profitable corporations over struggling small businesses;

WHEREAS, the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy says that Washington State has the most regressive tax system in the nation: the poorest 20% of non-elderly Washingtonians pay 17% of their income in state taxes; the richest 1% pay under 3% of their income in state taxes. (source);

WHEREAS, the state desperately needs a reliable source of funds to pay for education pursuant to the State Supreme Court decision in the McCleary case, which declares that the legislature is underfunding K-12 education;

WHEREAS, in recent years the state has had to slash funding for social services and for higher education, causing real suffering among vulnerable people, threatening our prosperity and safety, and drastically raising the cost of a college education;

WHEREAS, when voters in 2010 rejected I-1098, the initiative to establish a high earners' income tax in Washington State, most voters were voting against their own self-interest, because only the richest 2% of citizens would have seen their taxes rise;

WHEREAS, our political leaders are averse to discussing the issue, and only a few advocacy groups have spoken up about it;

WHEREAS, as of November 18, 2013, over 3800 people have signed the MoveOn.org petition Let's fix our unfair tax system in Washington State, and hundreds of those signers wrote passionate comments which you can read here;

WHEREAS, there are proposals under discussion to institute a carbon tax, a capital gains tax, and a tax expenditure budget;

WHEREAS, the last time the governor and the legislature undertook a thorough investigation of the tax system was in 2002, with the Gates Commission hearings;

WHEREAS, a tax study commission that holds hearings around the state and makes recommendations to the governor and legislature would raise awareness of these issues and increase the likelihood of action being taken to fix our unfair tax system;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 30th District Democrats endorse the creation of a new tax study commission and ask Governor Inslee and the legislators to address the issue of fair taxation in speeches, in newsletters, and via legislation.

Proposed Resolution #2

A Resolution in Support of the Washington Liquor Control Board's Recommendations for the Regulation of Medical Marijuana

Whereas Washington State voters approved Initiative 502, which would allow limited possession of marijuana by persons aged twenty-one and over, by a 12 point margin in the 2012 November General Election, and

Whereas Initiative 502 removed state-law prohibitions against producing, processing, and selling marijuana, subject to licensing and regulation by the Washington State Liquor Control Board

(WSLCB), and

Whereas the WSLCB has made a number of recommendations to the legislature, which would bring symmetry between medical and recreational marijuana production, processing, retail sale, and use, and

Whereas the WSLCB has recommended that adults 18 to 20 and children 17 years old or younger, with parent or guardian consent, be allowed access to medical marijuana with prohibitions on the labeling of medical marijuana in a matter attractive to children, and

Whereas the WSLCB has recommended that a mandatory patient and designated provider registry should be established and maintained by the Department of Health with submissions made to the registry by the authorizing health care professional and registrations expire annually with re-entry into the registry only after a new or follow-up examination, and

Whereas the WSLCB has recommended requirements that a health care professional's practice does not consist primarily of authorizing medical marijuana, a permanent physical location for a health care professional's place of practice, and an in-person examinations for authorization, and

Whereas the WSLCB has recommended the elimination of collective gardens, and

Whereas the WSLCB has recommended a reduction in the amount a qualified patient or designated provider can possess at any given time from twenty-four ounces of useable marijuana to three ounces, and

Whereas the WSLCB has recommended an elimination of home grows, the ability for a qualified patient or designated provider to possess marijuana plants in any stage of growth and the ability for designated providers to also be qualified patients, and

Whereas the WSLCB has recommended a single

system for medical and recreational producer and processor licenses and, thus, only recreational marijuana stores with an endorsement may accept medical marijuana authorization cards with the taxation being the same for medical marijuana as recreational marijuana, though with an exemption from sales and use taxes on purchases by registered medical marijuana patients,

Therefore be it resolved we, The 30th District Democrats, call upon all members of the Washington State Legislature to create law(s) during the 2014 legislative session that regulates medical marijuana in accordance with the recommendations made by the Washington State Liquor Control Board.

Proposed Resolution #3

Resolution in Opposition to Federal Candidates Who Support Cuts in Social Security Benefits

Whereas the Platform of the Democratic Party of the State of Washington, adopted on June 2, 2012, twice states that the Democratic Party of the State of Washington opposes reductions in Social Security benefits; and

Whereas the Washington State Democratic Central Committee adopted, on April 27, 2013, a Resolution which resolved to urge our state's Democratic Congressional Delegation to refuse to pass a budget that includes cuts to Social Security and other benefits by implementing a chained CPI; and

Whereas on the other hand, the Washington State Democratic Central Committee, has not clearly stated how to approach or deal with federal candidates who, in contravention with our clearly-stated platform and resolutions on the issue of our Social Security system, vote for or advocate for cuts to Social Security, including reductions in its Cost-Of-Living Adjustment or COLA;

Therefore, be it resolved that, going forward, The 30th District Democrats will refuse to endorse or support, financially or otherwise, any federal candidate that either votes for or advocates for cuts to Social Security, including reductions in its Cost-Of-Living Adjustment or COLA, and that all

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2014?
 IF SO, THANK YOU – IF NOT, PLEASE DO!
 (* payment for 2014 has been received)

President's Club

Larry/Hideko Coghill, Linda/Elbert Gage*

Senator's Club

Jay/Peg Altman, Don/Kristi Ceder, Mason Cobb, Liz/Miles Drake, Art & Diana Fluharty, Roger/Karla Flygare, Jim/Madelyn Grayson, Rick Hoffman*, Jeff/Kaori Holden, Ginny Leach, Paul Mallary, Devin/Geoffery McAnallo, Linnea Peterson, Paul Schlossman, Sterling Smith, Mark/Bonnie Thompson, Beverly Warnke, Jem Wear

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John-Paul/Angelica Chaisson-Cardenas, Jerry/Mary Clingan, Kim/Penni Dixon, Alfred Frank, Carol/Gil Gregory, Al/Teya Hillerman, John/Karolyn Hughey*, Dan/Alice Olmstead, Jodi Riker-Yap/Jerry Yap, Jacqueline Russo, Dan/Julie Turley, Keith Tyler

Family Members

Jerold/Merriam Arvisais, Carmi Brooks/Melissa Brooks, Walt/Carolyn Brooks, Mary Bryce/Mike Thorne, Michael Campsmith/Myra Wisotzky, Jim/Wendy Ferrell, Jerry/Linda Flynn, Joe/Mary Greene, Mary/Gary Kanter, Bernie/Susan Knighton, Stacy Knudtson/Tyler Oliveira*, Mike/Mary Kun, Paul/Maxine Levy, Barbara Reid/Liz Connor

Members

Patricia Artz, Janet Bentley, Tim Burns, Richard Champion, Donna Cirincione, Marguerite Condon, Bob Dickinson, Tracey Eide, Hope Elder, John Fairbanks*, Dan Fisher, Max Hedgecock, Miriam Helgeland, Pauline Jones*, Lee Landrud, Marty Lelli, Keith Livingston*, Tony Lui, Cheryl Monk, Anthony Murrietta*, Lucy Musatti, Paul Names, Jean Noe, Catherine North, Mildred Ollée, Kurt Peppard, Kristine Reeves, Cheryl Reid-Simons, Steve Sandberg, Leonard Sanderson, Lynnette Shureb, Randall Smith, Ean Thompson, Bev Webber

Associate Members

David Damm*, Patricia Johnson, Camron Schwarmann, Sarjane Siegfriedt, Beth Zubitis

CALENDAR

Wed 01/08 30th District Democrats Regular General meeting
 1st Wed of each month, 7-9 PM, doors open 6:30 PM
 WEA, 32032 Weyerhaeuser Way S., Federal Way

Wed 01/29 Exec Board Meeting. Open to all members of the 30th District Democrats, where the members always have a voice. Federal Way Library on 320th.

Telephone Numbers

King County Elections:

206-296-VOTE

Elected Representatives

The White House:

202-456-1111/202-225-3121

U.S. Senator Patty Murray

206-553-5545/202-224-2621

Murray@murray.senate.gov

U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell

202-224-3441/888-648-7328

Maria_cantwell@cantwell.senate.gov

U.S. Rep. Adam Smith

202-225-8901/888-764-8409

www.house.gov/adamsmith

State Senator Tracey Eide

360-786-7658

tracey.eide@leg.wa.gov

State Rep. Roger Freeman

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Washington State Democrats

www.wa-democrats.org

Dwight Pelz, Chair

206-583-0664

K C Democratic Central Committee

www.kcdems.org/

Karl de Jong, Chair

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Jeannie Mitchell, Chair

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