

46<sup>th</sup> District Democrats  
Minutes of the November 20, 2005 General Meeting  
Olympic View School, Seattle WA

Meeting was called to order at 7:34 PM

Scott White led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair's Report. PCOs and volunteers were recognized. Scott asked for a show of hands from activists who spoke to neighbors and friends about candidates in the November election. In January, the District will hold an issues summit as a program item. Activist training will be scheduled for another meeting. Scott spoke about the Republican Party challenge to voter registrations. Bev Marcus, Gail Chiarello and Chad Lupkes helped Suzie Sherry follow up in contacting voters whose registration was challenged.

Vice Chair's report. Jan Ames has been working on the holiday party, planned for Sunday December 11 from 5-8 PM at the Ramada Inn on Northgate Way. No speeches, no resolutions, but auctions and food and beverages will be provided. Suggested donation will be \$10/15 for singles and couples. Items for the auction should be directed to Jan.

PCO Appointment. Janet Miller introduced Ed Doyle, who lives in Ken Jacobsen's precinct - 2264. Ed's family is active in politics. Ed was elected by show of hands.

State Party Report. John Webber reported the State Party went through caucus rules, which go into effect tomorrow. Special rules will be settled in January. The State Party debt is being paid down. Defeating I-912 was a big victory. Janet Miller explained the choice of the date for precinct caucus - Saturday, March 4 at 2 PM. LD caucus will be Saturday April 22. The State Convention will be in Yakima, June 2, 3.

Treasurer's Report. Gail Chiarello reported that contributions in October were \$639, expenses, were \$1988 and the balance is \$4971

Membership Report. Betty Means said we have 649 members.

Community Outreach Committee. Bev Marcus reminded us about a flyer prepared by the committee. The committee is following their schedule and making progress. Scott talked about the significance of community organizations and how individuals serving in multiple groups help build strong neighborhoods.

Announcements.

Bob Benton talked about the Wal-Mart movie being shown by various organizations and individuals. He encouraged everyone to see it and left flyers

about a showing at the University of Washington.

Bernadette talked about the comment period for rulemaking about National Park policies. Park superintendents, Park employees and other groups are very concerned about the change in policy direction being proposed by business interests. Comments can be filed online from links available at [www.npca.org](http://www.npca.org).

Maria Cantwell used some photographs of the Arctic, in the recent political campaign, and some of them are on display at the Burke Museum.

Jim Mullins talked about biodiesel fuels, and a presentation by Maria Cantwell's staff to be held soon at the Phinney Ridge Community Center.

Legislator's Reports. Ken Jacobsen, Phyllis Kenney and Jim McIntire talked about legislative priorities for the coming session.

Ken talked about I-912 and the Monorail. The motor vehicle excise tax is still in place until the Monorail shuts down. Ken also wants to support the Veterans' Conservation Corps. Some Iraqi veterans are homeless, already. A study to look at the future of forestry will start soon, and ken wants to have informed discussion to help keep forestry in this State. Another issue is ocean policy. If a State lacks policies for 3-mile limits, then that State will not be involved in Federal policy for the 200-mile limits.

Phyllis Kenney passed out flyers with legislative highlights. Phyllis also expressed appreciation for defeating I-912. Medicare prescription coverage is just starting but is very complicated. Phyllis is proud of our education budget, which funds voter-approved initiatives. A council on early learning will work to make seamless programs for all ages. Higher education got more support. In health care, uninsured people were brought into programs and mental health funding was restored. In 2006, revenue should be improving, with a small surplus expected, but pensions and other deferred items will need funding. Phyllis wants to encourage more math and science teachers. Farm worker health programs will be important in the next session.

Jim McIntire was in Olympia today. Budget forecasts are looking up, and employment is growing. Jim chairs the Finance committee, and works on appropriations. He wants more money for childcare for working families. He wants local options for teacher salaries. Basic civil rights for gays and lesbians will also be a priority. Jim would like to fund family leave insurance along with workers compensation insurance. Biodiesel incentives would help us deal with energy crisis, it would help the environment, and help farmers. Tax breaks should be audited at least once every ten years. A unified system for all the states would rationalize taxes on internet and mail order sales. Income taxes, and corporate income taxes will be important in creating new jobs. The Prosperity Partnership is pushing hard for tax reform in 2007. The estate tax will be a vehicle for

conservatives to attack Maria Cantwell.

Sarajane Siegfriedt asked about the Wal-Mart movie. She wants to encourage creation of good jobs, and discourage exploitative employers. Jim McIntire talked about family-wage jobs and increasing the standard of living. Subsidies for retail development don't always make sense in the long run.

Virginia spoke in favor of Tax Increment Financing and wondered about challenges to the Growth Management Act through a "Takings" initiative. Ken Jacobsen said growth management is important and surprisingly popular, even in suburbs.

Scott White asked Phyllis about higher education and tuition trends. Phyllis said the estate tax was directed at education to increase enrollments. Mark Emmert is doing a good job giving direction to UW in terms of accountability and diversity.

Betty Means asked about moving the primary to an earlier date. Ken Jacobsen talked about process for moving the primary date. A 30-day freeze on fund-raising complicates the timeline. Ken would prefer a comprehensive redesign of the process, to separate campaign season from the legislative session. Ken thinks people won't pay attention if the primary is in the summer, far from the election in November.

Silvia Haven asked about a fisheries bill to increase fish farming in Puget Sound. Ken shared his "best judgment" on this issue. Ken wants to improve the siting process for fish farms, so the State needs to take action on aquaculture policies. Based on testimony in the hearings, Ken will decide how he wants to proceed regarding policies and legislation.

Jim Mullins followed up expressing concerns about fish farms in Puget Sound. Ken said siting, zoning and state regulations should provide controls, based on a fair review of the facts. Ken talked about political process and the purpose of hearings in bringing out public comments.

Gretchen asked about state funding for the Seattle public school district, which must meet state mandates. Jim McIntire sponsored a major study of state funding for K-12 education. Jim said the study addressed Gretchen's question.

George asked about going to all-mail-in voting to speed up counting. Phyllis would like mail-in ballots to be due by the end of election day, so counting can begin promptly. Scott pointed out that 31 counties use all-mail voting.

Some people expressed doubts about security of mail-in voting.

What about the "gun show" loophole? Jim said a bill on that subject comes up every year. It can be divisive, spoiling the ability of legislators to accomplish other

goals.

Jim Mullins asked about incentives or mandates for good jobs. Jim McIntire said mandates would be a problem, Phyllis Kenny said no business should get incentives or tax breaks unless they meet minimum job standards. Ken talked about combined buying groups for health care, organized around state employees, allowing individuals to participate.

Scott introduced Vickie Martinez as a visitor (from West Seattle).

Gerry Pollet said the 36<sup>th</sup> District is working on training to use a tracking system for the next legislative session, and we can participate with them. Anyone interested in the training should contact Gerry.

Chad Lupkes set up a tool on our web site for contacting legislators, Seattle City Council, School Board and some other officials.

Scott said the Board is considering accepting advertising in the Demogram. This would help build bridges to the business community. Comments were generally favorable to the idea, although advertising can influence content over time. Gail proposed an editorial board to screen advertisers.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:32 PM.

Stan Sorscher  
Secretary