

46<sup>th</sup> District Democrats General Meeting minutes  
Olympic View School, Seattle WA  
May 18, 2006

Scott White called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.

#### Chairman's Report

After the pledge of allegiance, Jan Ames announced the birth of Barrett White, and led the group in "Happy Birthday." Barbara Whitt cut a birthday cake decorated in Barrett's honor.

Scott welcomed PCO's, and outlined the election season schedule.

Janet Miller reminded PCO's that they must file for their positions for the next two-year period of service.

Scott encouraged everyone to renew their membership with Betty Means. He thanked everyone who helped with the District caucus and also those who worked on the platform.

President Clinton will host a Town Hall meeting June 3 at the Seattle Center, with Jim McDermott. Scott can help people get admitted to the event.

The District has established two new committees - Resources and Campaign committees.

Sarajane Siegfriedt will be working on Darcy Burner's campaign and anyone wanting to help can speak to Sarajane.

Phyllis Gutierrez-Kenney and Bob Ferguson were introduced.

Michael King, statewide coordinator of the Coordinated Campaign spoke briefly about that project. This Saturday, Russ Feingold will speak in Ballard, to be followed by door-belling in the neighborhood.

Phyllis Kenney invited everyone to the "Taste of the 46<sup>th</sup>", and asked for volunteers to help run the event.

#### Sergeant-at-Arms

Justin Simmons nominated Barbara Whitt. Peter Martinson was also nominated. Phyllis Gutierrez-Kenney nominated David Garcia.

Barbara became a PCO in 1973, and campaigned even though she had a broken leg. She has been active in the District on several projects, including baking cookies for this evening's meeting. Justin spoke briefly on Barbara's behalf.

Peter spoke about his coffee-making skills. He studied astrophysics, and is now active in the LaRouche organization. He is a PCO, and works on a project to get Dick Cheney out of government, organizing campaigns for the auto industry and union organizations. He wants to bring youth into the organization.

Phyllis spoke in support of David Garcia's nomination. David was a delegate to various conventions, and served on the Civil Service Commission. David is a WWII veteran and union leader. He has been active in education. He is a strong supporter of the values we share in the District.

The first vote was taken.

### **Resolutions**

Language for the resolutions was passed out on the chairs. Scott asked if anyone wanted to "flag" a resolution for further discussion. Items #2, #4, #7, #10, #11 were flagged.

Item #1 was listed, but it has already been passed.

Items #3 Universal health care, #5 Department of Peace, #8 Fair Share Healthcare legislation, #9 SR-520 development, #12 King County Sheriff were passed by a show of credentials.

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Sergeant at Arms - first round results

Peter 3  
Barbara 39  
David 39

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### **Discussion of #2, Impeach Dick Cheney**

Con: Leo said Dick Cheney is unpopular, but won't run for President. If impeached, someone else would be appointed, who would have an advantage in the next Presidential election.

Pro: Peter Martinson said Karl Rove will be indicted, and may testify against Dick Cheney. Cheney violated language in the Constitution and should be impeached, first, then we can impeach George Bush.

**Passed** by show of credentials.

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### **#4 Key Arena**

Gail Chiarello proposed an amendment to clarify the intent of the resolution, adding "for the primary or sole purpose of supporting professional sports teams."

The idea would be that other uses could be subsidized with public funds. The Platform committee accepted the amendment.

Con: no one spoke against the resolution

**Passed** by show of credentials.

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### **#7 Disappointment in Maria Cantwell**

Maria Cantwell has not accepted invitations to speak to the 46<sup>th</sup> District.

Con: Ed Doyle said our purpose is to strengthen the Democratic Party. Were it not for Maria Cantwell, Slade Gorton would be our Senator. Overall she has done a good job.

Pro: Chad Lupkes said Maria Cantwell should be interested in speaking at the District. The resolution expresses disappointment, not opposition.

Con: Steve Zemke pointed out that the District didn't really issue a proper invitation. Therefore the resolution is misguided.

Pro: Sarajane said that Scott invited Maria verbally, and Sarajane has been involved with other groups that invited her, too. When Maria Cantwell spoke at the LD caucuses, she came and went quickly, and did not show much interest in the visit.

**Failed** by show of credentials

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Sergeant at Arms - second round results

Barbara 40

David 40

**Motion** by Betty Means, seconded by Chad Lupkes: accept both Barbara Whitt and David Garcia as Sergeants-at-Arms. Scott ruled that the Bylaws allow two people in that position.

Jim Mullins wanted the opportunity to ask questions of the candidates. Jim asked David about a motion David made to prevent debate on a resolution about Maria Cantwell. David said Maria Cantwell was a good senator, and his motion was discussed and voted by the group.

Jorgen Bader asked if the candidates would share their duties, according to the motion. Both said they would.

John Webber asked to hear the language in the Bylaws regarding officers. John challenged the ruling of the chair regarding Scott's interpretation of the Bylaws, and it was seconded. Chair's ruling on the number of Sergeants-At-Arms was **upheld**.

Betty Means clarified that the two Sergeants-At-Arms were both voting positions.

Con: Bev Marcus said this action is a bad precedent and has not been thought out thoroughly. Instead, we should hear the candidates and re-vote.

Pro: Chad Lupkes said the motion would be inclusive and would heal potential divisions.

Con: John Webber said Roberts' Rules calls for drawing of straws in the event of a tie. The Bylaws call for "a" Sergeant-At-Arms. Drawing straws would be fair.

Pro: Having two people do a crummy job is a good thing. If we can have two, we should.

**Motion** to have two Sergeants-At-Arms passed by show of credentials

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#### **#10 Iran**

Con: No one spoke against

**Passed** by show of credentials.

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**#11 Disappointment in Maria Cantwell** for supporting the appointment of Samuel Alito appointment and for supporting the war in Iraq.

Con: Leo argued that Maria Cantwell is a better candidate than McGavick, and we need to support Democratic candidates.

Pro: Dana O'Day-Senior said she was happy to have this discussion, as this resolution had had difficulty getting to consideration and a vote. The resolution is about holding candidates accountable, and is not meant to attack Cantwell. Why can't we express our concerns publicly in a productive way?

Con: Basil Anex said we just debated a similar resolution. We should take over the Senate, rather than cause problems for Maria Cantwell.

Pro: Margaret Shield has been an active campaigner, and years ago, she went to the 2<sup>nd</sup> District campaigning for Cantwell. She is profoundly disappointed with Cantwell's failure to support the core values of the party.

Con: John Webber said Republicans would use this resolution against Cantwell in the fall. We want to get the right result in November.

Pro: Bev Marcus said she wants to stand for her principles, and wants Maria Cantwell to explain why she voted the way she did. We should help Cantwell become a leader.

**Failed** by show of credentials

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### **Sally Clark**

Sally is a newly appointed City Council member. Sally said she would watch her step so she doesn't disappoint us (joke). She will run this fall to keep her seat, then run again in 2007 to get back into the election cycle. She serves on the Economic Development and Neighborhood Committee, Environment, emergency management and health committee. She wants to see how Seattle can create living wage jobs. Studies say that means at least \$12.61 plus benefits. Skills training and career ladders are part of this, plus working on employers that will provide good jobs. National discussion highlights erosion of the middle class, and we want a society where you don't need a PhD to have a comfortable life.

Q: Housing for new residents?

A: One of Seattle's big challenges.

Q: Specific question about Harborview hospital?

A: Sally said she would get the answer and pass it along to Scott.

Q: How can we get better information about the Alaska Way viaduct?

A: Channel 21 is a great tool for self-educating briefings on the construction details and design options.

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### Guest Speakers - Initiatives

John Vazina - Washington Won't Discriminate

Meagan Dickson - Yes! on I-937

Aisling Kerins - No on I-933 campaign manager

### **I-937**

Megan said I-937 would require 15% of energy to come from wind and solar power by 2020, and would require investment in energy conservation. Similar measures have already been passed in 24 other states, including Texas, no less. It failed to get through our legislature, so the initiative is justified. Farmers can earn up to \$10,000 per wind turbine. This progressive issue will help with voting in the fall. It is a progressive issue we can be "for" when we oppose the other ballot initiatives.

Megan wants help getting signatures at Folklife, and at grocery stores in different neighborhoods.

### **I-933**

Aisling is working on No on 933. I-933 is a turnout boost for conservatives. It targets land use, clean air and water laws and opens protected lands to development. It will cost millions for years to come. In Oregon, a similar law resulted in countless legal challenges, and claims against the State of Oregon. Developers are intruding on residential areas. This initiative is running in five states this year, all supported by the same interests. Aisling also wants volunteers to help her campaign.

### **Ref 65**

John Pazina spoke about Referendum 65, which deals with a new bill adding "sexual orientation" to the anti-discrimination legislation. Tim Eyman started a referendum to overturn the new legislation. John wants us to vote "approve" on the referendum to approve the action of the legislature. This is confusing, but we generally agree that the legislature made the right decision on this question, and it should not be overturned. John also wants volunteers.

Q: Where did the 15% energy goal come from?

A: Megan says about 1% of our energy (other than hydroelectric power) comes from clean sources, now.

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Jim McIntire was introduced to the group.

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**Initiatives passed**, except items #1 and #6, which are equivalent.

### **#6 Supporting I-937**

Con: Peter Martinson said windmills and solar panels cost more than the electricity they generate. Nuclear power is much better. Clean energy would divert investment from nuclear.

Pro: Nuclear power has an unsolved waste problem

**Passed** by show of credentials.

### PCO Appointments:

Jaqueline Johnson - precinct 1303 in Greenwood.

Anne Marie McGuire - precinct 2322

Nathan Borgford-Parnell - 2208

**Motion** to approve these PCO's, **passed** by acclamation.

### **Appointments to Audit committee**

Scott appointed Norma Miller, Jeff Douthwaite, Kim Wells, Carol Monahan to the Audit Committee, approved by voice vote.

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**Mark Wilson** spoke about his campaign. He opposed the war in Iraq since before it began. He wants to keep the party united. Many of his family members served in the military, and Mark helped start a Veterans for Peace chapter. But now is the time to withdraw from Iraq. Our military presence there creates violence. The Bush administration is populated with people with distasteful records. His past "third party affiliation" can help bring in votes from outside the Democratic Party base. Maria Cantwell won by a tiny vote margin. He has 800 volunteers around the state.

Q: When did you become a Democrat?

A: Nov 22, 1963 when he was 9 years old, waving to John Kennedy in Dallas, Texas. He ran as a libertarian in 2002, and helped get Jay Inslee elected. He also ran as a Green party candidate in 2004.

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## **Announcements**

### **FairPac**

Jim McIntire spoke about judicial races, which have big effects in communities. Republicans spend large amounts of money on judicial races. This year, two Washington State Supreme Court seats are being pursued by conservatives. FairPac was set up by state leaders to educate on the judicial races. Jim asked for people to sign up to a mailing list.

Steve Hadley announced a walkathon peace event at Green Lake.

Gail asked for volunteers to be deputy treasurer. Gail will be out of the country next year, and wants to groom a successor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 PM

Minutes by Stan Sorscher