

46th District Democrats
General Membership Meeting
Olympic View School
November 16, 2006

Chair Scott White called the meeting to order at 7:32 and welcomed those present. Steve Zemke led the pledge of allegiance. The meeting agenda as proposed was approved.

Chair's Report. White commented that Democrats had "won big" in the November 7 election. He reminded members that with leadership comes responsibility, and leaders must be held accountable. This includes finding a way to get out of the war in Iraq. A moment of silence for the fallen soldiers and civilians in the Iraq conflict was observed.

White thanked everyone for the part every person in the room had played in working to make the victory possible. He gave special thanks to Janet Miller for her part (including use of the Miller/Pollet front porch) in organizing the campaign in the 46th, along with Aiko Akers, 46th liaison from the Coordinated Campaign.

White said that while we should enjoy the victory, the next step is to begin immediately to build the infrastructure for both the local city and county campaigns in 2007 and the presidential campaign in 2008. One of the major tasks ahead is to recruit PCOs for all vacant precincts.

White introduced Ivan Weiss, chair of the 34th Legislative District, who White said had done a great job in "whipping the 34th District into shape." The chair also introduced State Senator Ken Jacobsen, Seattle School Board Member Sally Soriano, and Port Commissioner Alec Fisker. Fisker, who will be up for re-election in 2007, sees economic development, environmental problems, labor, and tax questions as issues that face the Port.

Treasurer's Report. Donna Boysen, Deputy Treasurer, reported that in October contributions totaled \$1,437, while expenses totaled \$1,563, leaving a balance of \$1,430. It is hoped that money coming in during the remainder of the year will make it possible to carry over \$2,500 for 2007 activities.

Membership Report. Betty Means reported that the 46th currently has 165 voting members. Memberships received from now through December will be considered membership payment for 2007.

King County Report. King County Male Representative Dean Fournier reported that a Democratic rally held October 24 at the Labor Temple replaced the regular King County October meeting. The King County Democratic Central Committee reorganization meeting will take place Saturday, December 2, with registration

beginning at 8:00 a.m. at the Aerospace Machinists Hall, 9125 15th Place S. All PCOs are urged to attend.

State Report. No meeting of the State Committee was held during the past month. State Committeeman John Webber reported that unofficial results of the November 7 election show that Democrats now hold 62 seats out of 98 in the Washington State House of Representatives and 32 seats out of 49 in the Washington State Senate. Nationwide, Democrats hold 28 gubernatorial seats, while Republicans hold 22 seats.

Voter File Report. Paul Clayton, from the State Democratic Party Coordinated Campaign, talked briefly about the Voter File. He is committed to improving the Voter File so that it is He will e-mail a user survey to the District that can be passed on to 46th PCOs.

Program—2007 State Legislative Preview. Gerry Pollet introduced Senator Ken Jacobsen and Representative Phyllis Kenney. Representative Jim McIntire sent his regrets at not being able to be present for the legislative discussion.

Senator Jacobsen reported that the upcoming Legislature will have a \$2 billion surplus to use in funding for the next biennium. He hopes that the Senate can work together on several issues, including transportation, K-12 education, higher education, natural resources, ocean policy, and timberland retention. He would like to focus on Puget Sound issues, including a cost of living for teachers. Washington is paying the price for no new taxes for 10 years and definitely needs to invest in its infrastructure.

Representative Kenney thanked the District for helping in her re-election. She sees the following critical issues that need to be addressed in the upcoming session: changing votes on school issues to a simple majority, funding the Washington Learns' program, making higher education more affordable, developing an affordable health care program (including preventive health care) for every citizen in Washington, and solving transportation issues at both state and local levels. She commented that input and support would be needed in order to get bills passed.

A question and answer session followed. A brief summary of some of the questions and responses follows:

Question: Is there a chance to repeal DOMA (Defense of Marriage Act)?
Answers: House is o.k.; chance in Senate.

Question: Should we try to impeach Bush and Cheney?
Answer: This is a federal issue, and it would be better for the two parties to find a way to work together.

- Question: What can be done about closure of Viewlands School, a move opposed by both the 36th and 46th Democrats?
Answer: This is a local issue, not one for the Legislature.
- Question: Can something be done about global warming, such as a carbon tax?
Answer: This might be the year that some action is taken, such as tax credits.
- Question: What should be done re the Seattle issue of the viaduct vs. a tunnel?
Answer: A decision needs to be made quickly, and we need to remember in making the decision that the ocean is projected to rise considerably in the near future.
- Question: What can be done about all the theft and waste by contractors in Iraq and in the aftermath of Katrina?
Answer: Again, this is a federal issue, but restoring the GAO audit team could be one solution.
- Question: What is the future for health care legislation in this state?
Answer: The House ironed out many issues in the interim, so the issue might have a better chance in the upcoming session.
- Question: What about a PayDay loan bill?
Answer: It might be looked at; there are some good companies, and it's not fair to blanket all of them as bad.
- Question: What can be done regarding the Seattle School District?
Answer: Urge people to take a stand and elect responsible leaders to the School Board. Remember that School Board members have to respond to administrative recommendations.
- Question: What can be done to change Washington's regressive tax system?
Answer: More needs to be done in educating the public; tax credits and tax exemptions need to be studied.
- Question: What can be done regarding election reform and public finance?
Answer: The Maine and Arizona systems should be studied. We need to get dollars out of politics, such as what happened with BIAW's expenditures in the latest State Supreme Court races in Washington State.

In conclusion, Representative Kenney thanked the District for its support, said her door in Olympia is always open, and said she looks forward to working with the 46th during the session. Senator Jacobsen's final comment was "Ditto to what Phyllis just said."

Room Rental. White reported that \$140 had been collected during the meeting to help pay for the evening's school rental.

Holiday Party. The chair reminded members that there would be no general meeting in December but that the annual holiday party would take place at Meadowbrook Community Center, 10517 35th Avenue NE, on Sunday, December 10, from 5-8 p.m. The event is a potluck, with members asked to bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Both a live and a silent auction will take place. Members will receive an invitation in the mail.

46th District Reorganization. White reported that the 46th District reorganization that takes place every two years would occur at the regular general membership meeting on Thursday, January 18th. He introduced and thanked the current Board and asked anyone interested in serving on the Board the next two years to contact him or another member of the Board. The years ahead should be an exciting time. He again urged everyone to relish the election victory, since it was "your" victory.

Other Business. Virginia Gunby reminded members that the 46th District earlier had adopted the following resolution, which was included in the Washington State Department of Transportation's SR520 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS):

SR 520 Development: Be it resolved that we, the 46th District Democrats, oppose (1) the construction of an interchange to SR 520 over Marsh Island in the Arboretum, (2) the conversion of Lake Washington Boulevard into a bridge/freeway access road, and (3) the building of a freeway interchange to SR 520 on the University of Washington campus and the widening of either Montlake Boulevard or NE Pacific Street to serve it.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Reported by Jan Ames