

46th LD Democrats
October 18, 2007 Minutes

The meeting was called to order by King County Chair Suzie Sheary at 7:40 p.m.
Agenda was adopted.

Suzie thanked Scott White for being an inspirational chair for five years. Scott came forward and gave his farewell speech. He is stepping down to run for 46th District Rep. He feels strongly that he needs to step down at this time to concentrate solely on mounting his legislative campaign. He noted the following milestones:

We've doubled (?) our budget and tripled (?) our membership in five years, thanks to Betty Means, Donna, Gail...

We've got the best Internet presence of any LD in the state, thanks to Chad Lupkes.

We've increased the circulation of the *Demogram* and put it online, thanks to Jan Ames, Chad Lupkes, Barbara Whitt. We've increased our meeting attendance. We've gotten to where we donate in a major way, \$2,000 and \$1,700 to campaigns. Thanks to John Webber and Pat Emerson for representing us at the state Dems, to Barb Whitt and Mark Saporito for hosting our meetings, to Sarajane and Dean for work on the platform and resolutions. We've developed the best network of PCOs of any organization, thanks to Janet Miller and Bernadette Lacquer. Janet has been an especially great mentor as the previous chair. We've adopted specific, strong resolutions such as the lighting at the Magnusson Park ball fields that made a difference. We all want to make our city, our county, our world a better place to be. That's why we do this! Let's focus on the November 6th election, at this time. It's been an honor to serve you!

Jan Ames noted that Scott is visionary, articulate, knowledgeable, organized, politically savvy and follows through. He epitomized grassroots, for 57 months as chair. Scott has made a difference in several communities, from the neighborhood to the city, state and national. We also thank Allison for her gift of sharing his time with us. He was awarded with a desk clock/globe/plaque, as well as a set of embroidered sweats from the King County Democrats.

Suzie Sheary, as King County Democrats Chair, conducted the election for a new chair of the 46th District Democrats to fill out Scott's term for another year and a half. Javier Valdez was nominated. There were no other nominations. Javier founded the state Young Democrats and formerly chaired the 43rd LD. He feels that, now, the 46th is the best organized district in the state. Janet Miller, former district chair, gave his nominating speech. Javier is a rising star in our party, she said.

Javier spoke about his commitment to this organization and to the Democratic party, to strengthening the grassroots at the PCO level, and to deliver this district for Gov. Gregoire and for the presidential nominee. Javier noted that he's the only (one of the only) person of color in the room tonight. We are looking for someone to take over the newsletter (which Scott has been doing).

Program

The Exec Dir of Washington CeaseFire Kristen Comer spoke about the movement to limit gun sales. She was formerly with the Brady campaign. A *USA Today* article this week tells about the three police officers in Odessa TX on a domestic violence call were shot, and all three died. In the last three years, deaths of police officer by firearms have increased 56%. In Seattle, it's gone up 45% in the last two years. We have to eliminate our unwillingness to address the issue of gun violence. Gun violence is a public health problem, similar to seat belts and air bags. We can take steps to stop people being killed needlessly. They are promoting sensible legislation, such as universal background checks, stronger background check system (currently covers only 30% of felony records and fewer mental health and domestic violence records), and a ban on assault weapons, and safe storage required on every gun (gun locks, and a gun safe in each house). You are five times more likely to have a completed suicide if you have a gun in your home. In 2006, 86% of NRA-backed candidates lost their elections.

Q & A followed

Since the 1930s, all Federal courts have held that the U.S. Constitution's Second Amendment does not guarantee an individual right to bear arms, although this is guaranteed by the Washington State Constitution.

There is a Day of Remembrance this Sunday Oct. 21st, planting daffodil bulbs at Greenlake (10 a.m., north end, Corlis and Meridian).

Treasurers Report: balance of \$3,097. We had a large expense for direct mail.

Membership Report: October begins the dues year for 2008. We ended with 458 members, compared with 2003 we had 365. We had 58 Friends of 46th (paying \$46) and 44 who paid \$100, compared with 25 four years ago. Dues for 2008 are now due. Our direct mailing resulted in 48 brand-new members, so far, recouping about half of the cost of the first mailing.

State Committee Report: Sharon Mast was elected to represent the state at the DNC. The state party is short of funds and needs memberships. Next state convention will be in Spokane in 2008. We will be sending someone to the Platform, to the Rules, to the Credentials committees.

King County Dems: Honors Banquet is Saturday, Oct.28th, featuring Chris Gregoire. Chad and Scott are nominated for Honors, so please vote, at www.kcdems.net/temp/honorsbanquet2007

Resolutions

Sarajane Siegfriedt moved to suspend the rules requiring resolutions to be published in the *Demogram* prior to be introduced to the general meeting. The Chair ruled that the condo conversion resolution was not timely (urgent) and should be published in the newsletter and

voted in November, per the rules. Sarajane appealed, but the vote of the body sustained the Chair's ruling.

Next meeting: a Presidential candidate's campaign forum.

On November 17th, WashClean will have a Town Hall forum that will include representatives of Portland's campaign financing program.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarajane Siegfriedt
In the absence of San Sorcher