

46<sup>th</sup> Democrats General Meeting - Reorganization  
Olympic View Elementary  
January 15, 2009

Javier Valdez called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM.

Jason Osgood led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Javier introduced Suzie Sheary. It's Suzie's birthday, and we brought out a birthday cake. Suzie thanked everyone, and expressed appreciation to Javier for chairing the District after Scott White stepped down. She thanked Chad for helping with the King County web site, and also Barbara Whitt for all her hard work.

Javier reviewed some of our accomplishments in the election cycle, and thanked Bernadette Laqueur, Kathryn Lewis, and Noah Burgher who helped organize the campaign and handled the canvassing. Javier feels our legislative races were handled fairly and served all the candidates' interests.

Javier drew attention to the rules, which were printed in the Demogram.

**Motion** to adopt the Bylaws, made and seconded. This version has one change from the past version. Dean Fournier explained that in Article 5, on page 4, the language was amended to allow non-PCO's to serve in any of our elected positions. Only PCOs can vote for candidates for certain offices by State Party rules. That remains the case in the new version of our bylaws. **Motion passed** by a show of credentials of PCOs.

**Motion** to accept the proposed rules made and seconded. Justin Simmons asked about the time allowed to nominate a candidate and for the time a candidate can use. Can the time be shifted between nomination and other speakers? Javier explained that the total time is two minutes. Dean Fournier corrected the rules to read "All members in good standing for the 2009 calendar year." **Motion passed.**

Credentials. Janet Miller reported that 50 PCOs had signed in.

#### Nominations for Chair

Janet Miller nominated Chad Lupkes for Chair. No other nominations. Janet spoke about her experiences with Chad as a volunteer in the District over the years. She looks forward to keeping up the enthusiasm and bringing new people into the organization.

Carol Simmons spoke of Chad's human and technical skills and asked for everyone's support.

Chad served in an at-large position. His goal was to build up infrastructure. His focus now will be on building community.

**Chad Lupkes** was elected **chair** by acclamation.

PCOs. Some PCOs were elected as write-ins. By State law, PCOs must have 10% of the vote. The write-in PCOs can be elected at this meeting. We have fourteen such PCOs in this District. Emily Bingham could not attend the meeting.

Boaz Ashkenazy worked with Karen - the former PCO in his precinct. Boaz decided to

become the PCO.

Erica Minshull has been acting PCO, and was happy to become an official PCO.

Jerry Newman was legislative assistant to Phyllis Kenney. He is getting involved in politics again.

Steve Hadley has been a PCO for years. His form missed the deadline. He continued to act as PCO, and neighbors wrote his name in for the election.

Matthew McSheehy also missed the deadline. This has been a fantastic year, and he wants to help out.

Diane Bradburn hasn't been involved before, but got started with the caucuses and voter registration.

Cyrus Knowles was a PCO until 2000. He enjoyed working with his neighbors, and is proud to be a PCO again

Marcus Evenstar was involved in elections. With mail-in voting, he wants to become active in the political process.

Dustin Buehler moved here from Oregon. He was a law clerk in California, and worked on campaigns in Oregon.

Amy Freedheim became involved during this election cycle. Every Saturday she brought her son to the Obama office to work on the campaign.

Sheila Kohls lives in Jim McIntire's precinct. Jim was the PCO for many years. She looks forward to carrying on Jim's momentum

Antonia Gonzalez' paperwork also missed the deadline. She was a delegate to the national convention.

Craig Watson lives in a precinct with student housing.

**Motion** to accept these PCOs, including Emily Bingham was made and seconded.  
**Motion passed** by acclamation.

#### Nominations for First Vice Chair.

Jayron Finan nominated Shanna Sawatzki for First Vice Chair. Jayron said Shanna worked very hard on the Obama campaign. She is intelligent, well organized and will do a fantastic job.

Seconding speech - Kathryn Lewis saw Shanna's hard work, and feeling of accomplishment.

Shanna looks forward to working with Chad and others, and wants to find a way to make the meetings a draw for new people. **Shanna Sawatzki** elected unanimously as **First Vice Chair**

#### Nominations for Second Vice Chair - Membership

Becky Benton nominated Betty Means - no other nominations.

Betty said she has held this position for 6 years, and looks forward to building membership. **Betty Means** was elected **Second Vice Chair - Membership** unanimously.

#### Second Vice Chair - Programs

Sarajane Siegfriedt nominated Gerry Pollet as program chair. She appreciates the good speakers, interesting panels and debates. Gerry wants to keep us in touch with the platform and to hold candidates accountable. Sylvia Haven seconded Gerry's nomination.

Gerry promised that this will be the most boring and bureaucratic meeting we will have all year. Gerry said candidates should all know they will be asked about our platform issues and will be expected to answer unequivocally.

**Gerry Pollet** was elected **Second Vice Chair - Programs** unanimously.

#### Nominations for Secretary.

Janet Miller nominated Stan Sorscher. Janet made some heartfelt remarks. **Stan Sorscher** was elected **Secretary** unanimously.

#### Nominations for Treasurer.

Donna Boysen nominated Stan Moffett. Stan recently retired from Boeing. He was treasurer for Sierra Club, and serves on other community boards. He is taking the training class from the Public Disclosure Commission.

Stan first became politically active recently. He became PCO and wants to get more involved. **Stan Moffett** was elected **Treasurer** unanimously.

#### Nominations for State Committee Woman

Erica Minshull - declined.

Janet Miller nominated and seconded. Kathryn Lewis says Janet knows our district as well as anyone. She is the heart and sole of this place and no one can do a better job. Mark Saporito appreciates all the organizing that goes on in her house.

**Janet Miller** was elected **State Committee Woman** unanimously.

#### Nominations for State Committee Man.

Elizabeth Willmott nominated John Webber - seconded. Elizabeth said we all know John well, and asked for our support. John said he loves this job and asked to be re-elected.

**John Webber** was elected **State Committee Man** unanimously.

#### King County Committee Woman

Erica Minshull nominated by Matthew McSheehy and seconded.  
Elizabeth Willmott nominated by Javier Valdez and seconded.

Matthew said Erica was very active, smart and enthusiastic and has the personality we need on the Executive Board. Erica thanked Matthew for his kind words, and believes Elizabeth is also a strong candidate.

Javier Valdez said we have two great candidates. He met Elizabeth about a year ago. Elizabeth left her job to work on an out-of-state campaign. Elizabeth said both she and Erica would serve well on the Board.

Elizabeth Willmott 39 - Elizabeth is elected **King County Committee Woman**  
Erica Minshull 20

### **Announcements**

Rusty Williams is Jeanette Williams' son. Jeanette worked on human rights issues and worked on funding and building the West Seattle Bridge. Rusty would like to have the bridge named after Jeanette. A grassroots campaign has started to encourage the City Council to take that action. Next month, he hopes to have some petitions available to sign.

Pat Emerson shared reminiscences about Jeanette's accomplishments, as an elected official and party activist.

### King County Committee Woman Alternate

Elizabeth Willmott nominated Erica Minshull - declined  
Gerry Pollet nominated Sarajane Siegfriedt.

Gerry Pollet says Sarajane and Steve Zemke co-chair the Legislative Action Committee. Sarajane stepped down from KCC Woman Alternate so someone else could serve, but wants to remain on the Board as Alternate. Sarajane sees this position as important in getting our values and interests incorporated into the State party platform.

**Sarajane Siegfriedt** was elected **KCC Woman Alternate** unanimously.

### King County Committee Man

Janet Miller nominated Dean Fournier. Janet admitted that Dean is a recovering lawyer, which we need in many cases in the Board's work. He is well suited to this position. He looks out for everyone in the District. **Dean Fournier** was elected **King County Committee Man** unanimously.

### King County Committee Man Alternate

Erica Minshull nominated Matthew McSheehy. Matt has been acting in this position for several months. He is well qualified and Erica would like Matthew to continue.

Matthew wants to be a part of the Board, and give his perspective. He would appreciate our votes.

**Matthew McSheehy** was elected **KCC Man Alternate** unanimously.

### Nominations for Sergeant at Arms

Justin Simmons nominated Barbara Whitt. No other nominations.

Justin is proud to speak on behalf of Barbara. She is popular in the organization and she feeds us. She cooks for other party meetings, too. She edits and assembles the Demogram, too. She is a tireless volunteer, and is a strong progressive voice on the Board.

Barbara Stoner said Barbara Whitt has boundless energy and works hard for the

organization.

**Barbara Whitt** was elected **Sergeant at Arms** unanimously.

#### Nomination for At-Large Positions

At-large Board members will serve on subcommittees and Chad has a lot of ideas for things the Board can do.

#### Nominations:

Jason Sawatzki

Kathryn Lewis

Peter Shapiro

Erica Minshull

Sheila Kohls

Anthony Monaco

Justin Simmons

Javier Valdez

No other nominations

Sunil Saluja has worked with Shanna and Jason at the Democratic National Convention. Jason has a fantastic way of looking at things and will be a great contribution. Shanna said she and Jason were both on the Board in the 36<sup>th</sup>. Jason was a national delegate for Howard Dean in 2004. Shanna and Jason worked closely together on the Obama campaign.

Janet Miller spoke on behalf of Kathryn Lewis. Janet is excited about having Kathryn on the Board. She can do a lot, and brings a lot of enthusiasm and is an incredible organizer. Gaurab Bansal is proud to second the nomination. Gaurab, Jayron Finan and Kathryn helped get the Obama campaign going.

Kathryn Lewis nominated Peter Shapiro. He helped register voters and was a regional organizer - smart, hard working, compassionate. His first campaign was George McGovern's. Janet Miller says Peter has worked on many Boards and has a passion for our issues.

Gaurab says Erica represents what is best about the Obama campaign. Erica walked 26 precincts and was a great volunteer in the Obama campaign. Elizabeth Willmott heard about Erica even when Elizabeth was in Ohio.

Hady DeJong nominated Sheila Kohls. Sheila is Hady's neighbor. Sheila has been in the District for 19 years, and was a neighborhood leader for Obama. Sheila is running to give back to her community. Sheila read a quotation from Martin Luther King to the effect that, everybody can be great, because everybody can serve. You don't need a college degree or Einstein's theory of relativity or the second law of thermodynamics. You just need a heart to serve, generated by love.

Justin spoke on behalf of Anthony Monaco. Anthony has a strong educational background, and has worked with disabled and mentally ill clients. He works for King County, and is a co-owner of three local businesses, and a songwriter with political passion. Anthony has always wanted to make the world a better place. He is active in the Masons. He was inspired by Barack Obama.

Barbara Whitt urged everyone to vote for Justin, who is her friend. Justin is a citizen activist. Justin works with other community groups and has been a delegate to state and national conventions.

Elizabeth Willmott appreciates Javier's efforts. He is an outstanding candidate and Elizabeth asked for our support. Javier says he is happy to give his time because he loves the party and the District. Javier is on the State Executive Board.

Those elected:  
Jason Sawatzki 49  
Kathryn Lewis 79  
Javier Valdez, 72  
Erica Minshull 78  
Peter Shapiro 62

## **Resolutions**

### Thornton Creek Resolution

Ruth Williams introduced a resolution TBR: We 46<sup>th</sup> District Democrats endorse and support the effort by Ruth Williams to name park #6 the Alice Bryant Peace Park on Thornton Creek.

This was not included in the Demogram. Motion to suspend rules to allow the District to vote on this resolution. Basil Anex expressed opposition to suspending the rules, since this is not timely, and we could vote on it next month. Ruth says the Parks Department wants this to go away, and the Parks Department may name the park after someone else. Chad ruled that the resolution is timely. Sylvia Haven said the resolution was submitted in a timely manner, but was not printed because of space limitations. Motion to suspend passed by more than two thirds.

Sylvia Haven spoke in favor of the resolution. Alice Franklin Bryant was active in the Adlai Stevenson campaign in the 50's.

Speaker against: Jorgen Bader said Alice Franklin Bryant ran against Scoop Jackson. We already have one park named Bryant - Bryant Park. Also, we should name parks for someone who worked for parks. The Thornton Creek Alliance is recommending a different name for the park. The NE District Council voted 10-2 against this proposal. We should wait to see all the names that are proposed for this park.

**Resolution passed** 32 to 30.

## **Announcement**

Jorgen Bader spoke in favor of Option A in the 520 bridge project. He prefers it because it is affordable. He also feels it serves motorists better.

## **Director of Elections**

All candidates for the Director of Elections were invited to speak at our meeting. Two candidates turned in questionnaires. Our endorsement rules require affiliation only with the Democratic Party. Under our rules, only one candidate is eligible for endorsement - Sherril Huff.

Elizabeth Willmott spoke on behalf of Sherril Huff. Elizabeth says Sherril is a total professional and experienced in this position. She is an unflappable manager, with many endorsements from elected officials and community organizations. She is running because the progress made in the Department must be continued to protect democracy.

Mike Snyder is a PCO and knows Sherril personally. He served on the State Party election certification board. He has been observing elections since 1990. Of the 8 elections directors we've had Sherril Huff is the best. He has disagreed with her on occasion, but Sherril has his confidence.

**Motion** to endorse Sherril Huff for Director of Elections. **Motion passed.**

**Motion** by Sarajane to contribute \$500 to Sherril Huff's campaign, conditioned on a statement by the Treasurer that we have the money. The 34<sup>th</sup> District also donated \$500. This campaign is very short and we need to get behind our candidate.

Basil spoke against the motion, saying it is more than we spent on candidates in the general election. Basil moved to amend the motion to provide \$200. Motion to amend was seconded.

Jason Sawatzki spoke against the amendment. During the Gregoire recount, Jason sat next to Pam Roach and was offended by her behavior. Getting a strong Director of Elections is very important.

Javier spoke for the amendment. At our November meeting, we agreed to go back and look at how much we could afford. The Board decided to spend \$1000 for literature for this campaign. Given the circumstances, Javier thinks \$200 is an appropriate amount.

Steve Zemke said this race is under the radar. The Public Disclosure Commission says Huff has a small budget, but money could come in late for her opponents.

Amendment failed. **Motion to provide \$500 passed.**

We will print a sample ballot. Saturday morning, the literature will be on Janet's porch - 7750 17<sup>th</sup> Ave NE - for PCOs to pick up. Shanna encouraged PCOs to walk their precinct and maybe do some extra precincts, too. Ballots were mailed out yesterday, so the voting has already started.

#### Legislative Acton Committee

Steve Zemke gave a brief report on the LAC and he encouraged attendance at their meetings.

Minutes by Stan Sorscher