

45th Legislative District Democrats
Regular Meeting
Minutes, February 1, 2006

Chair called meeting to order at 7:03 PM. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. The gathered were informed of a later portion of the meeting being devoted to a mock caucus.

Adoption of agenda was moved and seconded. Unanimous adoption.

Guest Speaker: Wayne Suyenaga was presented.

Mr. Suyenaga spoke regarding Peak Oil. He indicated this is estimated to be 5 to 10 years out, but early effects are being felt now. As evidence, he stated we are not finding as much oil as we are producing. This has been the case for about 25 years. We have been living on what's been found in the past. In addition, large fields of oil have reached their peak and will soon be in decline. Also, the price of oil has steadily gone up. The world is consuming 85 million barrels per day. Consumption is hard to back away from. Oil has essentially created the modern nation state. Mr. Suyenaga feels oil is a gift of the earth. It was created from decaying and compressed organic matter millions of years ago. Half of what oil we have has been used in the last 100 years. What remains of known fields is difficult to extract: we have already used the supply that was easy to get to. The biggest fields were discovered early on, they were easy to find because they were so large. The largest field, Ghawar, in Saudi Arabia was discovered in about 1940. The 2nd largest field is in Mexico, and has already begun to show a drop in production, and in Kuwait, the 3rd largest field is dropping in production. Since 1980 the finding rate has dramatically dropped.

Mr. Suyenaga suggests that we must look for alternatives, and in the meantime, to accommodate need, we must use less oil combined with using alternative/renewables already available. Getting what is left of the earth's resource will be far more costly than it has been in the past. Oil is usually under high pressure in the ground, which is why it is easy to extract. Once the pressure is gone, it has to be pumped out. Sand fields are very costly because the oil has come to the surface and is basically tar. It won't float on water, and needs to be highly refined before it can be used. Biodiesel can be a stopgap measure. Nuclear energy is being geared up again.

CANDIDATE

Eric Oemig, **next State Senator for the 45th LD**, spoke about milestones reached in his campaign. In the 30 days since he announced he has \$28 K in the bank. His first fund-raiser brought in \$1800. Staffing has taken place. Sue Keller is his campaign manager, and Liv Grohn is the campaign treasurer.

SHORT TOPICS

Bill Alford is now the host for Moral politics TV. James Yee is next week's guest. See handout.

Ashleigh Flowers, President of Young Democrats, brought their newsletter. She presented a fund raising in letter, asking for support for travel to convention.

Tom Conlin drew our attention to the 14th annual Human Rights film festival. Will send link to list

Andrew Villanueva said Eyman is back in Olympia, trying to overturn the law on Equal Rights. check www.permanentdefense.org

Judith Shattuck announced Scott Ritter will speak on March 2nd in Seattle.

Martin recognized Bob Horn for his published letter, as well as Tom Conlin, and Mark Hennon. He also urged a revised endorsement process. Early endorsement can actually help a candidate.

Richard urged us to be cautious about jumping in too early on endorsements...can be messy. Dave Asher offered the option of suspending rules except for the 10 days notice.

Ellen Hanley asked if anyone going to run against Toby Nixon? No one yet. Ralph intends to ask someone.

REPORT OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

.Dave Asher, Kirkland city council member, stated there are several volunteer positions open on various Boards and ComNissions, eg, Transportation, Cultural Advisory, etc. This is a good way to get started in politics.

PCO APPOINTMENTS.

No one came forward. The primary election cycle is when PCO elections happen. Ralph will hand out forms for filing. To run against someone be the person who knocks on doors, show up at precinct caucus.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Dwight Pelz elected to the State party chairmanship.

Ralph has been to Olympia to testify on Eminent Domain twice, as directed by this body.

Please take note of calendared items. There will be a mailing party this Saturday at 16731 188th PI NE, Woodinville. The Cottage Lake club house 1PM

Caucuses will be at Juanita HS, Redmond HS, and Evergreen JHS

Executive Board meeting will take place on the 13th at McDonald's Book Store.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dave not present.

VICE CHAIR

Terry asked us to bring political buttons for hat donations for sandwiches. She also handed out fliers for caucus notification to precinct population. Edit for your precinct.

REPORT OF STATE COMMITTEEMAN

Dave Asher says Dwight Pelz will probably come to our meeting to get acquainted.

Resolutions HR 635, 637 were passed calling for impeachment. Other resolutions were passed as well, but Dave did not have them available for this report.

REPORT FROM KING COUNTY DEMOCRAT COMMITTEEMAN

Martin stated the last meeting was candidate forum for state party chairperson.

CANDIDATE:

Darcy Burner, **our next 8th CD Representative**, is now only candidate in Dem column. Darcy states the campaign going well: still everyone's help is needed to make this a success. Talk to your neighbors about what's important to you and to them.

Major issues: Theme: Reichert is a right wing Republican 97% vote with R's Say it over and over again. Get Darcy's name in front of people. Key messages for Democrats. #1 ETHICS #2 ENERGY POLICY #3 FAMILY #4 NATIONAL SECURITY a. Reichert's committee. b. funding according to risk area. Reichert is the problem. Implement the suggestions of the recommendations of the 9/11. Reichert's money comes from Tom Delay. Vast majority of money for campaign goes to direct voter contact. It's going to be about 2 million. Exact amount of Reichert money from Delay 20K. Fund raisers in DC hosted by Delay raise around 6 or 700 K. Reichert has consultants on retainer and is going thru a bunch of money that way. Delay cant' raise money very well now.

ACTIVITY

Mock caucus practice conducted. Practice on electing chair of precinct (w/o PCO) using the packet for operational procedure.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:12 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Judith Shattuck, Secretary