

45th LD Democrats  
General Meeting  
January 3, 2007

The meeting was called to order by Martin Chaney, Chair at 7pm and commenced with the flag salute.

- The agenda, provided to the membership as a handout, was adopted by a show of hands.
- The minutes of the previous meeting, posted on the website for review and advertised in the Web News Update, were adopted by a show of hands.
- There was a call for elected officials to speak—none were present.

### **Guest Speakers**

Marcee Stone of Washington Public Campaigns ([washclean.org](http://washclean.org)) with the assistance of Bill McQuaid an affiliate of the national umbrella organization Public Campaign ([publiccampaign.org](http://publiccampaign.org)) gave a presentation that explained the purpose and goals of the organization. The presentation included a DVD hosted by Bill Moyer entitled “The Changing of America” in which politicians from states which have adopted public financing laws for campaigns gave testimonials as to the effectiveness of public financing, the positive reception from the voting public, and the positive results with regard to legislation passed (from legislators unencumbered by financial obligations to lobbyists and special interest groups).

Notable to Washington State:

- Governor Christine Gregoire has earmarked 4.5 million dollars on a pilot program related to public financing of elections
- Rep. Joe McDermott is spearheading legislation to repeal a 1992 law that make public financing of elections at the local level illegal in Washington State.

She brought to our attention multiple forums being given around the state and requested that the 45<sup>th</sup> LD consider endorsing Washington Public Campaigns. The presentation was followed by a question and answer period. A hat was passed and donations generously given by our membership.

Eliien Thorsos of Traction gave a presentation. Traction is a social network of 20-30something progressive activists determined to encourage political activism in fun and innovative ways. They have organized 50 events in 18 months and have been successful in encouraging participation through events such as tailgate parties at the board of elections on Election Day.

### **Short Topics**

- Dee announced the showing of “An Inconvenient Truth” hosted by the National Audubon Society. Melissa Waldie volunteered to post event with details on calendar.
- Andrew Villeneuve warned us of a new Tim Eyman initiative in the works to require a super majority by the legislature, essentially undermining the democrats majority and instilling minority rule. He will keep us informed and let us know how we can help when Eyman begins collecting signatures.

### **Endorsements and Resolutions**

Martin discussed the usual procedure and responding to the Washington Public Elections request to endorse the organization, took straw vote to get sense of the membership’s support for endorsing public finance. The majority of the room raised their hands in assent and a “opposed” vote was waived to avoid singling out a minority. Due to procedures an official vote could not take place without advanced warning to the entire membership.

Martin informed the membership about special election that will take place throughout the year. He announced there is a February 6<sup>th</sup> special election that will impact segments of the 45<sup>th</sup> LD. It was announced that information and links would be made available on the website.

### **Committee Signups**

Terry Thorsos explained how the committees were organized emphasizing that to sign up for a large committee doesn’t mean you have to take on a large project. There are many jobs large and small.

- Melissa Waldie our LAC representative launched the idea of a legislative action committee of the 45<sup>th</sup> LD in order that we may have an influence on the county and state organization.
- Paul Yarbrough announced that he would be convening a meeting of PCO’s at the Chairs request to brainstorm how PCO operations and support can be improved. He emphasized that he would not be chair of the PCO committee but was simply organizing this brainstorming session.
- Brad Larson asked us to keep in mind, during all of our reorganization work that the legislative session is beginning (January 8 – April 22) and there is a short window in which we may have an effect.
- Mike Burner launched his ideas for a new and improved elections committee that creates packages of crucial “how to” and support information for candidates who are thinking about running for office such that all of those that we support do not have to “recreate the wheel”.

### **New PCO appointments**

- No new appointments

### **Officers Report**

Martin announced that the Holiday Potluck Party, cancelled due to the windstorm, has been rescheduled. Flyers were available.

Martin announced and encouraged participation in upcoming meetings including

- KCDCC - LAC Meeting Monthly Meeting , Officers and Chairs meeting
- Washington State Democrats Reorganization Meeting in Olympia. Martin expressed a desire for more than the chair and our representatives to be present at this meeting since there will be multiple meetings going on simultaneously and it would be good for the 45<sup>th</sup> LD to be well represented.
- He reiterated that all members were welcome to attend the EBM
- He informed the membership that there will be a monthly chairs meeting in advance of the EBM to set the agenda and though the date for the chairs meeting will not be the same month to month, anyone interested can contact Martin at [chair@45thdemocrats.org](mailto:chair@45thdemocrats.org) to have access to the meeting information as it becomes available.

### **Treasurer Report**

Terry Linkletter, treasurer, gave the membership the good news that we have received \$2,500 from the money earned at the Eastside Democrats dinner. Then, creatively and with good humor, reminded us that our membership dues expired as the clock turned to midnight on New Years Eve. He noted his address on the whiteboard for those who wanted to send a check at a later time. They could be sent to Terry Linkletter, 12826 230<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE, Redmond, WA 98053

He then introduced the idea of a new membership program with tiered levels, individual at @ \$25, a “club 45” component for families/households for \$45, and retaining free membership to students or those who can’t afford the fee.

A motion was made to include the tiered dues schedule, proposed by Terry Linkletter and seconded by Terry Thorsos.

Discussion included the fear that there was a conflict with our by laws which exempts PCO’s from paying (though they are encouraged to do so) and that the wording of the proposal doesn’t address, also that procedure may require we notify the membership in advance of such a proposal.

- A motion was made by Bill Roman to table the issue in order to follow procedure which includes membership notification. It was seconded.

Martin made the point that in the agenda there has been a notation that resolutions will be voted on and thus, technically, a notification has been made, but that perhaps that would be disingenuous since it was a non-specific “carry over” from the election cycle and would be unfair to consider as official notice.

Brad Larson reminded us that if a motion is tabled verses postponed it takes a 2/3 majority to revisit the issue.

- The motion to table the issue failed.

Ralph Gorin offered a friendly amendment to the motion which does not disrupt the existing dues but simply adds a Club 45 membership option at a fee of \$45/year per household which was seconded and passed by a show of hands.

**Good of the Order**

Martin discussed a book

**The meeting was adjourned.**

Prepared by Lynn Norwood, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair