

**45th Legislative District Democrats
General Meeting
January 6, 2010**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Martin Chaney at 7:05 pm.

Flag Salute

Ralph Gorin led the Flag Salute.

Adoption of the Agenda

It was moved and seconded to adopt the agenda. Motion was passed unanimously.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

It was moved and seconded to approve the October and December general meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Introduction of Visiting Elected Officials and Candidates – Martin Chaney

Representative Larry Springer – Discussed the upcoming Legislative Session. Larry noted that the primary work will be to fill the budget gap, which will be over 1/3 of the operating budget, stating that “we will need to make cuts and to raise revenue. We will also be working on moving the 520 bridge project forward”. Questions were taken and discussed. Larry agreed to look up the “items that cannot be touched” and have them mailed to the announcement list. Larry invited members to contact him with their concerns.

Senator Eric Oemig – Reiterated the concerns over the state budget. Eric noted that it will be very difficult to get any extra dollars for programs this year in light of the budget situation.

Holly Hill – Expressed her pleasure at being back and thanked the group for supporting her appointment to Superior Court Judge. Holly also expressed her support of an endorsement for Adam Eisenberg.

Adam Eisenberg – Asked the group for endorsement to the King County Superior Court. Adam explained his current court work as being similar to “substitute teaching” in that he currently works in many different types of courts. He noted that he believes judges should take an active role to work on the court system, to meet with groups such as the 45th Democrats, and to volunteer in the community. Questions were taken and discussed. Adam stated his most “salient” contribution as his ability to communicate in a way that is clear and uncomplicated.

Michael Finkle – Stated he is a long time resident of the 45th and that he worked on the incorporation of The City of Sammamish. Michael explained the role of the King County District Court. He explained his current work, mentioning that he helped create the Mental Health Court and that there is a plan to open a Mental Health Court on the “Eastside”. Michael asked for endorsement for the King County Northeast District Court appointment. Martin reminded members that Mike was our caucus representative at the

National Convention. Mike also noted that he has worked with Kathleen and Andrew at Northwest Progressive Institute.

Resolution on Raising State Revenues – Martin Chaney

Martin noted that because of time constraints the resolution was not reviewed through the regular endorsement process. He asked that the group vote to suspend the rules in order to take up the resolution for consideration before the state meeting. The membership voted to suspend the rules. Judith then gave the group background on the resolution, including that passage was requested by State Party Chair Dwight Peltz. As requested, Martin read the three “therefore be it resolved” sections of the resolution to the membership. Martin entertained a motion to adopt the resolution, which was moved and adopted. Jean Roche spoke for the resolution and noted that many state residents, who make less than the amount specified in the resolution (including herself), would be happy to pay a tax to support the state. Resolution passes, one opposed.

Endorsement Rules Update – Andrew Villeneuve

Andrew passed out updated endorsement rules and noted the changes that are being proposed. These include changes addressing state party nominations, special elections, ballot measures, the appointment of the endorsement committee, and modification of the document by simple majority. Questions were taken and discussed. One typo and an extra word were noted and their correction taken as friendly amendments. Motion carried unanimously.

Ballot information was passed to the membership as Andrew noted that Randy Gordon has been recommended for State Senate in the 41st District. He also stated that Tim Eyman has scheduled announcement of his next proposal and that Andrew will be there to give a rebuttal to the press.

Consideration of endorsement of Rural King County Library District Proposition 1:

Andrew briefly summarized Proposition 1 and the school levy and bond issues that will be up for election. He noted that the Endorsement Committee determined that the levies make a lot of sense. Ralph Gorin moved to endorse all twelve levy and bond measures at once. Andrew noted that the levies will require 50% to pass, but that the levies require enough turnout and 60% to pass. It was also noted that the Lake Washington School District levies are all renewals so will not add to current taxes. No discussion was offered. Motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of recommendation to the governor for appointment of Adam

Eisenberg to the King County Superior Court Appointment: Andrew announced the endorsement committee’s recommendation of Adam for this position. Ralph noted that a letter will need to be drafted and sent to the Governor. Motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of recommendation to recommend appointment of Mike Finkle to the King County Northeast District Court Appointment:

Andrew announced the endorsement committee’s recommendation of Mike Finkle for this position. He noted that

Mike lives in the district and that the Endorsement Committee found many additional reasons for endorsement. Motion passed, one opposed.

Legislative Action Committee – Kathleen Reynolds

Kathleen reported on the meeting of the Legislative Action Committee (LAC) and noted that the LAC is also focused on budget issues.

Consideration of approval of Legislative Action Agenda: Questions were taken regarding the recommended LAC action items. A recommendation was made to take out “millionaires” and to substitute “high earners”. The change was accepted. A recommendation was made to add voting rights for everybody. Judith noted that the addition is in line with our platform and resolution recommendations. Brad made a motion to add voting rights for everyone to the bottom of the list and to adopt the amended list, with the understanding that additional issues, including those of labor, may be added later. Motion passed unanimously.

Martin noted the importance of the list and invited the membership to commend Kathleen and her committee for the good work.

Labor Report – Brad Larssen

Brad reported on two bills that labor will be pushing. He noted bill number 1922 is intended to ensure that projects that get public funding will pay labor wages. There will also be a bill regarding Retro funding ensuring that Retro funds are not siphoned off for political purposes.

Roger Goodman – Came to thank Ken, Gary, Sheila, Kathleen and Brad for the LAC list and the deliberative action that accompanied it. He noted that anything having to do with funding is going to be difficult and healthcare and social services cuts are likely. He stated that he believes raising revenue should be brought to the people for a vote, noting that of the 12 billion in the previously expected discretionary spending, 11.5 billion has to be cut. Questions were taken and discussed. Tax credits and loopholes are being carefully examined, however he noted they only make up a very small percentage of the amount needed. It was noted by the membership that difficult times are an opportunity to make changes, specifically structural changes and changes to the criminal justice system. Roger expressed his complete agreement. He mentioned that he will be supporting a program for an early learning program, noting that this will get Federal support. He also discussed three strikes in regard to the recent incidents that have occurred.

PCO Appointments – Martin Chaney

Martin called for new PCO appointments. Judith was unanimously appointed to be an acting PCO. Moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Possible Election of Alternative King County Committeewoman – Martin Chaney

Martin asked whether anyone would like to run for Alternate Committeewoman. As nobody stepped forward, he postponed replacement until next month.

Chair's Report – Martin Chaney

LD Caucus on Saturday, March 14th, 1:00 PM: Martin noted that Duane Wentz is working on a venue for the caucus and that the LD needs a four person committee to help with the caucus arrangements. Duane, Martin, and Priscilla agreed to work on the caucus committee and Martin noted that members may be called individually to help out.

KCDCC Honors Banquet Sunday, Jan 17th, IAM Hall, 9125 15th Place S, Seattle: Martin encouraged people to attend the banquet, to consider sponsorship of the event, and to check the website for opportunities to nominate people for awards. It was noted that the county LAC meeting will be on the same day as the honors banquet.

Legislative Action Day will be Monday February 15th: This is an important county event that all our district members are invited to attend. More information should come out through the announce list.

Membership Drive – Paul Yarbrough

Paul noted he mailed everyone on the membership list an invitation to renew membership for the year and he reviewed the membership rates. Jean volunteered to telephone people prior to remind them to renew prior to their removal from the membership list.

State Party Committeeman and Committeewoman

Party Nominations for Congressional Candidates, 1st and 8th CD.

Ralph explained the adopted rules regarding the nomination of Democrats running for Congress. Selections are expected to be needed in both the 1st and 8th district, recommendations may be discussed with either Ralph or Judith.

Short Topics/Open Forum

Michael Lofstedt asked whether a slim-jim regarding the upcoming election will be available for distribution. Ken Albinger volunteered to make an electronic copy available. Priscilla will work with Ken to ensure that volunteers willing to make calls or walk precincts have the information they need.

Judith noted that there are some issues regarding health care that we can influence. Basic health care is a top priority issue to our membership. She urged members to let our representatives know that we want retention of a public option if not nationally, on a state by state basis.

Shelly Kloba announced an upcoming event of Washington State PTA and agreed to send additional information to the announce list.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.