

45th LD Democrats
General Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2008

Call to Order and Flag Salute

The meeting was called to order by Martin Chaney, Chair, at 7:04 p.m. and commenced with the flag salute led by Kate Kloba.

Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted by a show of hands.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the last month's meeting, previously posted on the website for review, were adopted by a show of hands.

Reports by Elected Officials and Candidates

- **Darcy Burner – 8th Congressional District**
 - Darcy spoke briefly, welcoming the new attendees and thanking everyone for their support. She noted that 1/3 of the 45th Legislative District (LD) is in the 8th Congressional District (CD) but everyone's help is needed. The 8th CD seat is considered to be the one to be won this year. Darcy's campaign welcomes your help in any form you wish to give it.
 - Darcy then spoke about how the political climate has changed dramatically this past year. She spoke about her recent experiences traveling throughout the eastern part of Pierce County during the caucuses and what she saw, including bigger crowds, and many who indicated they had voted for Republicans up through 2006 but they have now changed their minds.
 - The greatest issue she continues to receive questions about is the war in Iraq. Around 80% of the time she is asked how she will help end the war. Darcy then spoke about the town hall that was held in August to discuss how to responsibly end the war. On 3/17, she will be part of a group that will be rolling out the Responsible Plan to End the War in Iraq. The group includes a number of retired

generals, retired diplomats, and others of high regard. The Republicans talk about the options being either stay the course indefinitely or have a precipitous withdrawal and let the terrorists reign. Those are not the only two options. The plan that will be introduced talks about what we actually have to do economically to end the war and bring our troops home. It addresses the need to repair the damage to the country and the basic principles that got us into this problem in the first place.

- Q&A
 - **Question:** What do you want us to do on the 17th? How can we help? **Answer:** There will be online video coverage to roll out the plan. If you are on Darcy's mailing list, you will receive information about how to watch. It will be streamed on www.darcyburner.com. Let others know and ask them to participate. The larger the start, the more quickly it will spread. Letters to the editor will also help.
 - **Question:** One of the first things you would be asked to do once you get to Washington DC is to vote on the composition of the House leadership. Are you going to vote to support Nancy Pelosi? **Answer:** I don't yet know. I think highly of Nancy Pelosi though disagree with many of positions she has taken in last year. There are a couple of recent things that give me hope, including warrantless wire tapping. The Senate passed Bush's demand to grant immunity, but the House stopped it and let the protections expire.

- **Mariane Spearman – King County Superior Court Candidate**

- Mariane is running for Position 53 which is an open seat. There are about 5 seats that will be open in the spring mostly due to retirements.
- Mariane provided her background information including the fact that she has been with the King County Court system for 8 years. She was also previously a Municipal Court judge in Kirkland. In her three times on the ballot she has yet to have an opponent.
- Her main purpose for coming tonight was to give people a chance to meet her. Neighbors often say that they don't know enough about the judicial candidates. This is largely because judicial candidates can't take positions as the need to keep open mind about issues that could eventually come before them.
- Q&A:
 - **Question:** Judith Shattuck noted a recent headline in article that she found very disturbing. It stated that 1 in 100 Americans are in jail. How do you feel about that? **Answer:** I didn't realize the number was that high and I find that an alarming statistic. We should reserve jail for violent offenders

who need to be off the street. For petty offenses we should use non-jail alternatives.

Special Award Recognizing Terry Thorsos

- Martin presented Terry Thorsos with a certificate of appreciation and some of his homemade **blue**berry jam. On behalf of the membership, he thanked her for the tremendous amount of work she did to help make our precinct caucuses outstanding.
- Terry graciously acknowledged the award and her hard-working team.
- She then shared a few remaining items and tasks about the precinct caucus, including lost and found items (Einstein – camera case, Sammamish Valley Grange – scarf & glasses). She spoke about the surveys that were returned and the improvement opportunities that were identified so far. She will be sending a message to the announcement list to gather further feedback.

Woodinville All Fool's Day Parade

- As is tradition, the Woodinville parade will be the first parade of the season! It will be on March 29th.
- The 45th LD would like to have huge contingent to walk in the parade. This year we will be in the 10th slot in the parade.
- Plan on meeting there around 8:00 am. The parade starts at 10:30 am.

Presidential Campaign Reports

Obama Campaign – Rita Margolies

- Rita reported that the results of last night's elections show that Hillary Clinton won in Texas, Ohio and Rhode Island. She made a net gain of around 4 delegates. Barack Obama made up a lot of ground from where he first started in those states.
- In 45th LD the Obama campaign have names of their delegates and alternates. They have contacted well over 1000 so far. They plan to try a different way of training for the LD caucus. They will break into small groups and have precinct captains together with precincts.
- There is a 45th Democrats group on BarakObama.com. Also, Jeremy York set up website with caucus information at <http://obama.jeremyyork.com>.
- Q&A:
 - **Question:** The 5th LD is getting all together for training. The 45th is not doing this? **Answer:** No, we will train in small groups by precinct captain.

Clinton Campaign – Mandy Wertz

- Mandy Wertz is out of town, so Martin shared information she provided.

- The Clinton campaign is working on training sessions. They are still gathering information from the campaign and will be organized at the Seattle Metro level.
- Additional information can be found on www.hillaryclinton.com
- General Q&A:
 - **Question:** Isn't there a basic book for the caucuses that comes down from the party that should be followed? **Answer:** Martin responded that there are basic rules that can be downloaded from state party website – a 60 page document. Also, there are more specific rules for the LD caucus, which we follow pretty closely. Our Rules Committee will review them. We have some flexibility in certain areas. Campaigns have their own training to teach their particular strategies.
 - **Question:** When will we have the rules for the 45th LD caucus? **Answer:** We are putting the committees in place tonight who will develop those rules.

Resolution Regarding Super Delegates – Judith Shattuck

- Given the number of new attendees, Martin gave a brief overview of how the resolutions process works.
- Judith then presented the specific resolution. She noted that it came from submissions at the precinct caucuses. There were approximately 60 people who brought this resolution forward and it was felt that it would be timelier to bring forward to the members now rather than wait for LD caucus.
- A question was asked if the word “no” was missing from the line stating “and for other reasons.” It was clarified that there are other reasons, so adding the word no would be inappropriate.
- Line 9: Clarified it should read – “virtue of holding an elected office or other reasons.”
- **Question:** What is obligation of the super delegates or DNC to respond to the resolution? **Answer:** Judith shared that the Progressive Caucus has been working on how to get elected officials to be responsive. They are not obligated to follow our wishes, but we can tell them what they are.
- **Question:** Is there even an attempt for common courtesy for them to respond? **Answer:** Sometimes yes, sometimes no.
- **Question:** Since they have right to vote as they want, shouldn't the language on line 23 be “recommend” rather than “shall”? **Answer:** Using the word shall is not a demand. Using “will” or “must” is a demand.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve the resolution.
- Discussion:
 - Steven Quinn, Michael precinct, spoke in favor of the resolution. He believes it helps with the issue of transparency. He stated he

would like to include additional language requiring publication if a super delegate changes his or her vote after it has already been published. Martin ruled that the exact language is needed in order for it to be considered as an amendment.

- Joe Lane spoke against the resolution, recalling his experience with the 1968 convention and how that was the genesis of having super delegates. He stated that we need to realize that the super delegates are not appointed in some smoke filled room, but are elected Democrats. If everyone adopted a resolution like this one it would mean that people like Ted Kennedy and John Kerry would have to change their support to Clinton to match the voters in their state. He believes the super delegates are savvy enough to realize what the popular vote supports and they will not tear the party apart.
- Bill Roman, PCO for the Lake Joy precinct, spoke in favor of the resolution. He stated that the resolution is simply informing the super delegates of the will of people. We can't force them to do anything, but we can remind them of what we want. He feels the resolution reinforces that they should do what majority wants them to do.
- Jim Broz from the Welcome Lake precinct asked how the "will of the people" is defined. Is it what is said by those who showed up on Saturday for a caucus? Is it what was said by those who voted in the primary? We don't really know what the will of the people is. The decision on who to support should be made by people who have been afforded the responsibility of being a super delegate – who have spent a life time, or good part of one, being a Democrat – rather than those who showed up one Saturday afternoon.
- Steven Quinn returned with verbiage for the proposed amendment previously discussed:
 - Line 31 - Whereas, if a super delegate's new position (i.e. the candidate they back) differs from a previously published position, it is incumbent upon that super delegate to issue a press release announcing said change.
 - **Question:** After a super delegate has voted, do we know their vote? **Answer:** Yes
 - Martin asked if there was any objection to voting on amendment, or did anyone want to debate the amendment
 - Objection was received and debate on the amendment was opened:
 - Peter Sandvig stated that the amendment contradicts the resolution – If the voting should be proportional to the will of the people, then how can a super delegate change their vote? Peter believes this should be reworded.

- Jeremy York noted that many super delegates have already stated their preferences. He believes the intent of the amendment is towards those super delegates.
- No further speakers were identified.
- A request was made to re-read the amendment, which was done.
- A question was raised regarding who is eligible to vote. Martin briefly explained our rule of prior association and noted that for this meeting attendance at the precinct caucuses meets the test of prior association.

VOTE: failed, with 17 in favor and 23 opposed

- Terry Thorsos spoke against the resolution. She stated that it doesn't work well when corporations control government and work well when just labor controls government. It is best when it is the messiest and has the greatest variety of perspectives. All should have a say. She is comfortable asking those who have dedicated large portions of their lives to use their best judgment, even when she disagrees with them.
- No other speakers were identified.

VOTE: failed, with 14 in favor and 32 opposed

Approval of Caucus Committees

Credentials (including sign-in and tallying), Rules, Platform and Resolutions, Program, Facilities, Communications, and LD Affirmative Action Committee

- Martin referenced the handout provided listing the proposed 45th LD caucus committees, noting that some of the committees are required by the state delegate selection plan and others are optional committee proposed by the executive board to manage logistical needs.
- The opportunity exists to volunteer if there are people who would like to participate on committees,
- Terry Thorsos noted that we will need an "army" of volunteers and pointed out the sign up sheet.
- A motion was made and seconded to adopt the structure and committees outlined on the handout for LD caucus.
- Martin called for discussion. None was offered.

VOTE: passed, unanimously

PCO Appointments

The following people applied to be appointed as PCOs for the precincts listed. For each a motion was made and seconded. Each spoke briefly about their backgrounds, being Democrats, and reasons for wanting to become PCOs.

Name	Precinct	Vote Results
Dennis Rutledge	Firlock	Passed, unanimously
Steven Quinn	Michael	Passed, unanimously
Jeremy York	Ryan	Passed, unanimously
Tutti Carter	WOD 45-3192	Passed, unanimously
Judith Hjorth	RED 45-3315	Passed, unanimously
Gina Culbert	Salish	Passed, unanimously
Ken Nelson	KIR 45-0623	Passed, unanimously
Rachel Kieselburg	Cherry Valley	Passed, unanimously
Nancy Abdel-Wahed	DUV 45-3219	Passed, unanimously
Debbie Shapiro	WOD 45-3270	Passed, unanimously

- Adam White requested to be reassigned to KIR 45-2962 as he has now moved to that precinct. A motion was made and seconded.
Vote: Passed, by acclamation
- In addition, Stella Pitts applied to be appointed as a temporary PCO to a precinct that will be identified later. She spoke briefly. A motion was made and seconded.
Vote: Passed, unanimously.
- Rita Margolies was recognized for finding a new PCO for her temporary precinct. She will be assigned as a temporary PCO to another precinct in her area.
- Joe Lane spoke about what a difference 4 years can make. Four years ago what got everyone involved was George Bush. This year, it is the excitement of the Democratic candidates.

Job Fair / Volunteer Fair

Various volunteer opportunities were highlighted and opportunities given to sign up to help. Area included Affirmative Action/Outreach, Membership, Neighborhood Leaders and Hosts, Newsletter, Website and Technical, Office Support, Hospitality, Parades, Letters to the Editor, and PCOs.

- **PCOs:** Bob Horn gave a short overview of what a PCO is and what they do. When asked about available training, he noted that the full handbook is available on the King County website and that meetings will be organized to provide additional training. Ken Albinger noted that all PCOs will be up for reelection in August and the deadline to file is in June.
- **Area Neighborhood Leaders Program:** Ken provided a brief overview of this program. They are working to get 4 area leaders to support each

PCO. They are currently working to contact caucus attendees by email and phone to find interested participants.

- **Office Support / Affirmative Action Committee / LD Caucus Volunteers:** Priscilla O'Leary gave a brief overview of the opportunities for volunteers in these areas.
- **Website and Legislative Action Committee:** Melissa Waldie gave an overview of these areas and the volunteer opportunities that exist.
- **Hospitality:** Diane Slota shared the opportunities to help in this area including responsibilities for the food at parties and picnics, as well as greeting of new attendees.
- **Membership:** Martin noted that we are in need of a membership committee to track membership and do more follow up to share information with new members
- **Letters to the Editor:** Terry Thorsos shared that we would like to get this to be an active group once again. A couple of years ago we had over a dozen letters published. There are guidelines on website.
- **Endorsements:** Andrew Villeneuve spoke about the purpose of the Endorsements Committee and noted upcoming opportunities.
- **Young Democrats:** Andrew also shared information about the Young Democrats for those under 36 years of age.

Legislative Action Committee

Melissa Waldie gave a brief report from the LAC.

- Public Finance Campaign bill is on the way to governor for signature. Melissa thanked Eric Oemig for being a champion of this legislation.
- Domestic Partnership rights – Going to the governor for signature
- SB 6483 – Local farms, healthy kids – Going to the governor for signature
- HB2815 – also know as green collar jobs bill – Going to the governor
- The bills regarding toxic toys and Maury Island are still awaiting voting
- Homeowner Bill of Rights – Suggesting people contact Frank Chopp tomorrow

Membership

- Terry Linkletter gave a short update of membership. Post caucuses, we have 109 Club 45 members and 153 individual members.

Short Topics / Open Forum

- Ken Jauch donated a CD on how to impeach a president for auction. It went for \$20.
- Martin donated a pocket copy of the U.S. Constitution signed by Dennis Kucinich. It also was auctioned for \$20.

Good of the Order

- A new group has formed in Kirkland. They are talking about the war and how to hold accountable people in high offices. All Kirkland residents are welcome. They will be meeting with mayor.
- There was an announcement sent to the email list presentation regarding the casualties of war that will happen this Monday at the Congregational Church in Kirkland at 7:00 p.m.
- Ellen Hanly has flyers with information about I-1000 and a petition for those who would like to sign it. Former Governor Booth Gardner will be speaking on March 16th in Kirkland.
- Terry Thorsos noted that Gary Gelow has a sign up sheet for other miscellaneous contributions, artwork, equipment, etc.

Old Business

- None was offered.

New Business

- None was offered.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Priscilla O'Leary, Secretary
45th LD Democrats