

**45<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Democrats  
General Meeting  
November 4, 2009**

**Call to Order**

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

**Flag Salute**

Bob Osrowski 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**

The approval of the September meeting minutes was postponed to the next general meeting.

**Introduction of Visiting Elected Officials and Candidates**

**State representative Larry Springer** addressed the members and let the group know that the party lost a seat and offered to answer questions from the membership.

**Candidate Brad Larson** thanked the group for its support during the election, and noted that he was the first candidate to doorbell the entire City of Kirkland.

**Candidate Amy Ockerlander** thanked the group for their support, and she was congratulated on her likely win of the Duvall City Council seat.

**State Senator Eric Oemig** addressed the members. He noted that the election held some great results and noted the importance of working together at the local level.

**Terry Thorsos** asked the group to thank our legislators for their help in achieving greater equality for the state with the passage of R-71.

**Rebecca Graham**, a potential judicial candidate, came to thank the group for support during the last election. She will likely be seeking our endorsement again for a seat on the eastside KC district court. **The Endorsement Chair agreed that his committee should be able to decide on recommendation for the December meeting.**

**Transition Initiative – Elaine Harger and Gary**

Elaine presented information on the Snoqualmie Transition Initiative, a chapter of a global movement supporting a transition from fossil fuels to other forms of resources. Elaine and Gary are representatives from the group's Snoqualmie branch. They would like the Democrats to help push for a change from dependence on fossil fuel to the use of other fuels. The group meets on Thursday nights at the barn at the Carnation Tree Farm and members are invited to join them.

**The Election – Andrew Villeneuve**

Andrew went over the group's endorsed issues. He noted that R-1033 is failing across the state; Approve R-71 has passed; Dow Constantine will be the next King County

Executive and will be in office at the end of the month. Endorsed candidates were also successful in Woodinville, Redmond and in smaller school board races.

#### **The Election – Ken Albinger**

Ken noted that a lot of hot races took a lot of work from our group and many others across Western Washington. Things that went well: we distributed box loads of literature; the system of pick-up and list production worked well as did phone-banking. **Ken is looking for mentors particularly in the Redmond/Woodinville Valley.**

#### **The Election – Priscilla Owens**

Priscilla thanked those that phone banked and reminded them to turn in the information that was gathered during the election process. We are pleased that by working with the candidates we are working to continue cleaning up our data-bases. Coordination of calls for different campaigns worked well.

#### **The Election – Shelley Kloba**

Shelley thanked Ken for keeping all the PCOs going through the election!

#### **Holiday Party – Judith Shattuck**

Judith announced that we will have the annual Holiday Party at the Northlake Unitarian Church at 308 4<sup>th</sup> Ave S, Kirkland, on December 14, with set-up to occur around 5:30. Sign-ups were passed around. Ken A volunteered to work on entertainment and Dave Ascher to invite all endorsed candidates. **Volunteers are needed for all committees including decorations, raffle, and award co-ordination (please submit nominations, with one good statement, to chair@45thdemocrats.org).**

#### **Legislative Action Committee (LAC) – Kathleen Reynolds**

Elections are over and the legislative session is coming soon. **The next meeting King County LAC meeting will be November 15 and Frank Chop will be there to inform us about expected actions and to note our interests.** Please send issues with clear supporting information to either the 45<sup>th</sup> or the KC LAC groups.

#### **Labor Activities – Brad Larssen**

Brad reported that anti-labor donors financed opponents of our endorsed candidates in the Kirkland City Council election. These include the Master Builders and the Realtors Association.

#### **King County Democratic Central Committee Report – Ken Nelson**

Ken reported that the November 4<sup>th</sup> KCDC meeting was short as everyone was busy with campaigns. He shared some points including: polls are often off because they poll all voters rather than likely voters and that Martin reported that the Eastside Dinner program raised \$8,000.

#### **Chair's report – Martin Chaney**

Martin note that the tentative date on the calendar for the party has been confirmed. He introduced David Spring so that he could share his research regarding the political

involvement of the Building Industry Association of Washington (BIAW) and the Master Builder Association (MBA) and its relationship to Retro funding. David Spring has recently submitted a resolution on the topic passed by the KCDCC.

### **BIAW and MBA – David Spring**

David noted that the resolution on retro funding has been passed by many districts and by the King County Democrats. David presented a short history of the evolution of the Retro program of labor insurance. He explained the relationship of the BIAW and its affiliate the MBA. He stated that tax-payer subsidies are going to conservative campaigns. He reported on his research suggesting a relationship between BIAW campaign funding and the lack of school funding. He reviewed accounting errors that have been found and noted that state law requires the tax money to be refunded to the state with interest. Dave is asking that there should be no additional funding to Retro employers until they pay back the past due dollars. The resolution being proposed asks that the Attorney General enforce state law, demand action within 30 days, and then ask the governor to take action if none is forthcoming. Questions were taken. *How much of the retro funds goes to the BIAW?* The BIAW and MBA get much of their funding from these funds. *Have you gone to the press?* Yes, but this is considered “toxic” material. *Are these errors “innocent”?* That is a matter of opinion, officially it is a mistake. We are asking for disclosure. *Where did this money go?* About 20% into elections, substantially into lobbying, and the rest – who knows.

### **BIAW and MBA Comments – Eric Oemig**

Eric suggested that the problem is so big that it may be another “too big to fail” issue. He noted that a grassroots movement would be needed in order to make progress on the issue. He believes that the facts as presented by Dave Spring are correct and encouraged people to look into this.

### **BIAW and MBA Comments – Brad Larrsen**

Brad noted that the program allows the pooling of resources for workplace insurance which is overall a good thing. It is misused if it is being used for political campaigning instead of for claims.

### **BIAW and MBA Comments – Ken Nelson**

Ken noted that although it has problems, it is important to recognize that the Retro program has provided a very successful insurance program.

### **BIAW and MBA Comments – Martin Chaney, Dave Ascher, Brad Larrsen, Judith Shattuck, Ken Nelson**

Martin asked whether the membership wants to move forward on this issue and if so how? Dave suggested the most effective action would be to include it as a Legislation Action issue. Brad suggested considering both LAC support and endorsement of the resolution. Judith moved that the group co-sign the letter. Martin noted the need to give notice to our membership prior to passing resolution support. Terry Thorsos suggested the motion should put the demand letter on the next agenda. **The membership**

**considered three actions: December general meeting agenda inclusion, resolution consideration, and possible LAC support. Agreed.**

### **Good of the Order**

Judith introduced Don, from Massachusetts, who is out observing our process. She noted he brought a white paper on healthcare and had copies to share. She urged members to call Nancy Pelosi and hold her to her healthcare promises.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.