

**34<sup>th</sup> District Democrats**  
**General Membership Meeting**  
**Wednesday, November 11, 2009 @ Hall at Fautleroy**

7:01pm – Meeting called to order by Chair, Tim Nuse. Skip Dreps and Dorsol Plants were invited to lead a tribute to all Veterans and members of the Armed Services and to lead the flag salute. After the Pledge of Allegiance they [rang a memorial bell](#) both in honor of the Veterans Day holiday and the victims of [the shooting the previous week at Fort Hood in Texas](#). All veterans in attendance were asked to stand and be recognized.

7:07pm – Chair announced that, now that Dow Constantine has been elected King County Executive, there will be a vacancy to fill in the King County Council District 8 position, which includes the entire 34<sup>th</sup> Legislative District (and parts of the 33<sup>rd</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Districts). Our State Senator, Joe McDermott, has already declared his intention to seek the appointment.

A member asked who would fill Sen. McDermott's seat if he were appointed to the empty council seat. Chair reminded the body that PCOs would make that decision, and that State Representative Sharon Nelson would be an excellent candidate for consideration.

Chair then entertained a motion to adopt the agenda and to approve the [October meeting minutes](#) (*attached*). The motion was moved and seconded, then passed by the body.

7:08pm - *Chair's Report* - Chair briefly reviewed the last month's news and activities in the District, including Get Out The Vote efforts, a huge poll turnaround for Constantine, and great fundraisers.

Chair also reminded the body that it is our tradition to host an annual Holiday Party instead of a Membership Meeting in the month of December. No objections were raised by the body.

Chair called on the membership to fill volunteer shifts at the White Center Food Bank [<http://www.whitecenterfoodbank.org>], where the organization has a monthly shift, and the West Seattle Food Bank.

7:13pm - *First Vice Chair's Report* – Vice Chair Kim Becklund announced the upcoming fundraiser for the Delridge Neighborhoods Development Association [<http://www.dnda.org>], at Youngstown Cultural Arts Center on December 4, 2009.

7:21pm - *King County Executive-elect Dow Constantine* – Chair introduced Constantine, congratulated him on his election win on behalf of the organization, and invited him to speak to the body.

He [expressed his gratitude for so much encouragement and support from the members of the 34<sup>th</sup> District](#) – especially the early endorsement and sizeable donation from the organization – in helping him win a “long, tough campaign.” He also laid out a few priorities in moving toward what he promised would be “fundamental reform,” and cordially invited everyone to his 10<sup>th</sup> Annual 39<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party

fundraiser at Kells Irish Pub on November 18, 2009 and to join him for his swearing-in ceremony on November 24. Plans are being made to move it to a larger, venue outside of the King County Council chambers so that more of the public can attend. A final location has not been decided yet, but he hopes it will be held around 4:00pm at the First United Methodist Church downtown, which he fought to save from demolition.

7:27pm – *Office of Senator Maria Cantwell – Chris Endresen, State Director* – Chair thanked former District Vice Chair Endresen for accepting his invitation to provide an update on current legislation, including health care reform, climate change and cap-and-trade, banking reform, and more.

As a member of the Energy and Natural Resources, Commerce, Science & Transportation, Finance, Indian Affairs, and Small Business & Entrepreneurship Committees, Sen. Cantwell has been very busy this year.

One recent development is her pledge to make sure that nothing similar to the [Stupak Amendment](#) is added to the Senate version of the health care bill. Other key goals include improving competition through a public option, reforming Medicare payments to improve quality, preserving patient access to primary care, and expanding access to home and community based long-term care.

On climate change, Sen. Cantwell is working to make sure polluters pay for cleanup at polluted sites, supporting clean alternative energy and reducing fossil fuel use, helping to launch a Washington State biofuels industry, and working to make sure that Washington gets “credit” for being so far ahead on clean energy standards and reducing emissions under any new restrictions or systems.

Before concluding, she answered some questions from the body.

7:57pm - *Vashon Island School District – [Bob Hennessey](#), Board Chair* – Last month the body heard from our district’s member of the Seattle School Board. Continuing with the updates, Hennessey was invited to provide an update on current issues being discussed and voted upon by another School Board within the 34<sup>th</sup> and share information that might be of interest to members.

Hennessey reported that Vashon is struggling – like districts all around the area – with growing income disparities and the difficulty of absorbing more and more budget cuts. The district identified inefficiencies long ago, and cuts now threaten teaching personnel and major programs. Cuts to the transportation budget risk putting students into increasingly dangerous situations. While spreading out bus stops and asking students to walk just a little further may work in Seattle and other local cities, such changes on Vashon mean some students are walking down unlit rural roads, particularly in dark, wet winter weather.

8:12pm - *2010 Legislative Preview – Senator McDermott, Rep. Cody, Rep. Nelson* – Sen. McDermott spoke first, reporting that the Legislature is expecting to face an almost \$2 billion budget gap this coming year. He believes they must look at new revenue sources after last year’s “all-cuts” budget from the Governor,

especially since there are no expected federal stimulus funds to help again as there were this year. He also expects work to continue on proposed changes to professional standards for teacher certification.

Rep. Nelson reported that the Blue-Green Alliance of labor and environment supporters will be meeting next week to lay out their agenda. Key items include a petroleum fee bill, the Insurance Commissioner's proposed bill to stop insurers from using credit scores to price premiums, promoting "green jobs," and seeking new funding for county governments, especially for public health.

Rep. Cody said she also expects the budget to consume most of the work in session this year. She will also be working on health care reform at the state level and in making sure that our rules and regulations match up with any changes being proposed at the federal level.

8:37pm - *2009 Election Celebration* – Chair briefly postponed conduct of business for a celebration of all that our membership accomplished in this year's election cycle. A sheet cake was cut and champagne was poured for all to enjoy. Chair offered special thanks to the hard work of all PCOs who carried literature on behalf of endorsed candidates, countless volunteer hours spent by members on phone banks for our targeted elections, and our success in three of the four targeted elections: No on 1033, Approve Ref. 71, and Dow Now!

8:43pm - *New Business / Good of the Order* – **Ivan Weiss submitted a resolution to the body for a vote, which had not been previously published in the newsletter, which was seconded by Ann Martin.**

**The resolution was submitted to the Secretary ([attached](#)) and read out loud to the body, resolving "that the 34<sup>th</sup> District Democrats supports the appointment of Joe McDermott to the 8th County Council District seat IMMEDIATELY after that seat becomes vacant; ... that this resolution, if approved, be sent to all members of the King County Council and all announced and/or reported applicants for this position; ... [and] that every member of the 34th District Democrats who votes for passage of this resolution will pledge to contact each member of the County Council, in whatever form of address that member might choose, to express to each Council member the will and intent of this organization."**

A couple of brief questions and comments followed, including a friendly amendment to some of the opening language. **Hearing no further discussion, the vote was called on the resolution, and it passed unanimously.**

**PCO Chair, Kimber McCreery, announced the application of the following for appointment as PCOs:**

- ❖ **Destiny Itano: 34-1254**
- ❖ **LeeAnne Beres: 34-1458**
- ❖ **Christopher Casillas: 34-1468**
- ❖ **Richard Lum: 34-1504**
- ❖ **Alyssa Farber: 34-1511**
- ❖ **Lynne Moore: 34-1523**
- ❖ **Justin Farmer: 34-1527**
- ❖ **Joshua Johnston: 34-1528 (Acting)**

After a brief introductory speech by each candidate, who recruited them, and his/her declaration of being a Democrat, **all candidates were approved unanimously by the body.**

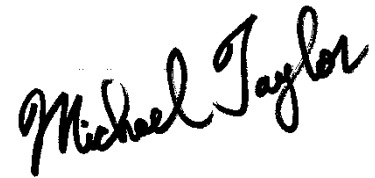
Mike Heavey requested help from the membership in taking down Dow Constantine yard signs from public rights-of-way.

Georgie Kunkel informed the body that she is organizing a speakers bureau to address community groups about "corporate personhood" and why we should work to overturn this legal standing.

Plants publicized the upcoming 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party of the Highland Park Improvement Club, claiming that it is the oldest neighborhood association in the city.

9:03pm - There being no further business to pursue, Chair motioned to adjourn for the evening.

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael Taylor-Judd, Secretary