

**Minutes – January 21, 2009**  
**34th Legislative District Democrats**  
*Executive Board Meetings*

7:09 PM Chair calls the meeting to order. Welcome and introduction [David Ginsberg joins the meeting.] Chair requests that each member of the Executive Board present give a brief introduction of themselves to the group including what their role on the Board is, how they got involved in the 34<sup>th</sup> and what, if any positions they have held previously.

Bill Shirer – Information Technology Manager, Website and E-news Editor – In 2001 he walked his neighborhood for Greg Nichols, shortly thereafter, Jackie Dupras convinced him to come and spend time with the 34<sup>th</sup>.

Miki Meahan – Secretary –In 2008, she became an Obama Delegate to the Congressional District Caucus. Ivan recruited Miki to join the 34<sup>th</sup> and become a PCO in her neighborhood. She was elected PCO as of November 2008, then elected Secretary at the January 14, 2009 Reorganization Meeting for the 34<sup>th</sup> District Democrats.

Beth Grieser – Acting Programs Committee Chair – She was the West Seattle Democratic Women Chair for a few years, but ran and was elected Vice Chair this past year. She is the PCO for her precinct. The Chair has appointed her as the Programs Committee Chair, approval pending the Feb. 2009 membership meeting.

Marcee Stone – State Committee Woman – She started in the 34<sup>th</sup> in 2004 [or 2003]. She went to the occasional meeting, but started getting seriously involved in 2006. She became a PCO eventually and has held the position of King County Committee Woman. She was elected State Committee Woman at the January 14, 2009 Reorganization Meeting for the 34<sup>th</sup> District Democrats.

Les Treall – Acting Outreach Committee Chair – He got involved three years ago volunteering to do projects and learn as much as he can. He volunteered at the Precinct Caucus last year. Ivan Weiss, Chair Emeritus, had appointed him the Outreach Committee Chair just after those caucuses were held. The Chair has appointed him as the Outreach Committee Chair, approval pending the Feb. 2009 membership meeting.

Jackie Dupras – Acting Newsletter Committee Chair – She became very actively involved in the district after the 2000 voting mess in Florida. Since 2001, she has been producing the newsletter for the district. She is also the unofficial 34<sup>th</sup> District Democrats Button Maker. She has also held other various positions within the district including PCO coordinator. The Chair has appointed her as the Newsletter Committee Chair, approval pending the Feb. 2009 membership meeting.

Greg Doss – Acting Legislative Action Committee Chair – After leaving a position working for the government in Olympia, Greg decided to “come out of the closet” and become a full fledged Democrat. In 2005, he got job with the City and was elected Treasurer of the 34<sup>th</sup> District Democrats. The Chair has appointed him as the Legislative Action Committee Chair, approval pending the Feb. 2009 membership meeting.

Jeff Upthegrove – Acting Membership Committee Chair – He has been involved with the 34<sup>th</sup> District Democrats for two years. He was recruited by Ivan Weiss. Prior to this he involved with Democratic politics for many years at the 33<sup>rd</sup> District Democrats, where brother was the former chair and is currently their Representative in the State House. The Chair has appointed him as the Membership Committee Chair, approval pending the Feb. 2009 membership meeting.

Kim Beckland – First Vice Chair – She has been involved with the Democratic Party since she was in college, working for House Democrats, in voter registration drives for three counties. She became more policy focused over time, but a couple of years ago she decided to reengage and became a PCO. She loves doing it because she can track her neighbors voting trends and it helps her to feel more connected to her community. She was elected First Vice Chair at the January 14, 2009 Reorganization Meeting for the 34<sup>th</sup> District Democrats.

Richard Bartlett – Acting Hospitality Committee Chair – He became involved in 2004. He has held the position of Bylaws Committee Chair in the past. The Chair has appointed him as the Hospitality Committee Chair, approval pending the Feb. 2009 membership meeting.

Steve Karbowski – Prior Committee Chair of the ad hoc Leadership Development Committee – he got involved in 2000, doing voter registration and other events. He continued his involvement into 2002. In 2004, he headed up the “controversial” Leadership Development committee.

Walter Sive – Acting Finance Committee Chair and Treasurer – He became involved in the Democratic Party by way of the Sen. Bill Bradley campaign for President in 2000. He worked on the State-wide Coordinating Committee in New York State. Sive has been elected King County Committee Man, Second Vice Chair of the 34<sup>th</sup> District, and has been the Finance Committee Chair for that last four years. The Chair has appointed him as the Finance Committee Chair, approval pending the Feb. 2009 membership meeting.

David Ginsberg – Second Vice Chair – He has over two decades of political involvement. He got involved in the 34<sup>th</sup> District through the Obama campaign, this year, and overwhelmed PCO with the amount of people he recruited for their Precinct Caucus. He was elected an Obama Delegate and went all the way to the Washington State level convention. He was also an Obama Fellow and Legislative

Captain for 34<sup>th</sup> District. He was elected Second Vice Chair at the January 14, 2009 Reorganization Meeting for the 34<sup>th</sup> District Democrats.

Ivan Weiss – King County Committee Man – He has been a Democrat since 1952. He was active in the civil rights movement at PA State. He was hired for Teamsters Local and assigned to become active in 34<sup>th</sup> District. He reached the Executive Board level by 2004 and he worked as an FO in the 25<sup>th</sup> District. Shortly thereafter, he was recruited to run for the Chair of the 34<sup>th</sup> District, a position he held for two terms. He was elected King County Committee Man at the January 14, 2009 Reorganization Meeting for the 34<sup>th</sup> District Democrats.

Lisa Plymate – King County Committee Woman – She has been a part of the 34<sup>th</sup> under two years, but has a history in politics that goes back years, including participating in the infamous March on Washington in 1963. She became involved in Democratic Party politics in early 2000, in the 33<sup>rd</sup> District on the Legislative Action Committee, which she still attends and maintains involvement. She has worked on bylaws and platform resolutions, and she helped draft the health care platform. She was elected King County Committee Woman at the January 14, 2009 Reorganization Meeting for the 34<sup>th</sup> District Democrats.

Robin Hess – King County Committee Man Alternate –He has serviced a term as County Chair in Thurston County. He really got involved after the “win” of Pres. Bush in 2000. He has held the Platform Committee Chairmanship, Parliamentarian, King County Committee Man, but this year wanted to be the alternate. He was elected King County Committee Man Alternate at the January 14, 2009 Reorganization Meeting for the 34<sup>th</sup> District Democrats.

Tim Nuse – District Chair – He got involved in 2004. He was elected as a delegate in 2004, and worked on community outreach. In 2005, he was elected as Second Vice Chair and worked hard to increase membership participation. In 2008, the First Vice Chair resigned. He ran and won the position. He was also the Caucus Coordinator for the District during the last Presidential campaign cycle. He was elected District Chair at the January 14, 2009 Reorganization Meeting for the 34<sup>th</sup> District Democrats.

7:42 **Remarks from Chair** – 34<sup>th</sup> District has 1,100 members, which is first in the state, 153 PCOs, 115 PCOs attended the reorganization, this is also first in the state, and included the PCOs appointment from that evening. Chair discusses the benefits of the 34<sup>th</sup> District’s diversity, high ranking in membership and PCO turnout, and that it is critical to keep the momentum for the Party moving. He encourages teamwork from the group and openness to new and differing positions and ideas for how to accomplish this.

#### **Upcoming Important Events:**

- Elections Director race – Sherril Huff.

- Washington State Reorganization – Happening this weekend, many contested races.
- Washington State Ferry hearing happening during this meeting. Topic of debate is either the removal of the whole dock and ferry line will be moved downtown, keep things as they are now, or double the size of the dock to accommodate the population expansion on the Kitsap Peninsula. Chair believes the most practical approach is all Southworth ferries moving to downtown to eliminate congestion in the residential neighborhoods. This is a high impact issue for many of the 34<sup>th</sup> District members. [Lisa Plymate noted tonight’s meeting is the discussion meeting and we may not have enough time to effect any type of outcome.]
- City Council races: Seattle and Burien –Jan Drago and Richard McIver are not going to run again. David Ginsberg announces to the group that he is a candidate. Brian Bennett might run Burien City Council. Dorsel Plant, a member of the District, has also announced his candidacy for SCC.
- Mayor race – Greg Nickels and Nick Licata, maybe.
- King County Executive races

7:50 **Approval of the Executive Board Rules.** It turns out that these rules must be passed before the membership can vote on Chair committee appointments. This nullifies the vote from the January 14, 2009 34<sup>th</sup> District Reorganization Meeting. Steve has prepared rules as prepped from the previous Executive Board. Chair proposes that the Board pass Rules as written and have issues and/or corrections be hashed out in committee and then bring recommended changes to the Board for approval. Chair turns the floor over to Steve.

Steve talks about the Rules, specifically focusing on the 14 standing committee, passed by the former Executive Board at the September 17, 2008 Board Meeting. New committees formulated by the leadership committee – Fundraising, Leadership Development, Programs, Communications, Newsletter (modified), Young Democrats, Legislative Actions and Resolutions, PCO/Area Organizing, Caucus and Elections and Hospitality.

8:00 Chair opens the floor for discussion on the Rules of the Executive Board.

Robin asks why the Secretary and Information Technology Manager are not detailed in the rules. Steve states that the Bylaws committee could take this up issue for refinement.

Jackie wants to know the difference between the Caucus and Elections and PCO/Area Organizing. Steve and Tim explain that Elections work directly with the Count and State Party leaders, while the PCO Chair would coordinate locally and importantly on the Get Out the Vote drives. Discussion continues but is then tabled to the Bylaws Committee.

Jackie does not want the Newsletter Committee to be responsible for mailing the newsletter. She believes that is part of the Communications Committee’s

responsibilities. She would prefer that “distribution” be removed from the Newsletter Committee description. No motion is made.

Lisa wants to know if the 34<sup>th</sup> is intending to have a platform and would like to know when that will be put together. Bill informs her that there is one posted on website, that passed in 2006.

Discussion then moves to the issue of the Legislative Action and Resolution Committee Chair. Lisa does not understand the need for a committee when one already exists and wonders why the “Chair” of this committee is not just an elected representative, like in the 33<sup>rd</sup> to the King County LAC. Tim, Greg and Ivan try to explain the reasoning behind the committee’s role and the lack of action without this committee. Jeff and Les offer some compromised ideas, and Marcee states her confusion over the position as well. Steve reads the By Law describing the LAC chair out loud.

Discussion continues on this topic, as Marcee does not see how this appointment related to the King County LAC. Ivan interjects that he thinks this appointment should be a liaison who reports back to the membership regarding legislative action items from the LAC and mobilizes the membership to those ends. Chair requests that this discussion be noted in the Minutes.

Chair requests a motion be made to implement the Executive Board Rules. Les moves to implement rules. Kim seconds.

Jackie states that the platform cannot be printed in the newsletter, and the discussion moves away from the motion at hand to another discussion about platform development. Bill wants a decision from the Board regarding a district-level platform. Bill notes that proposed resolutions are not moving beyond the district level because they are not organized and written correctly, he also notes that he has not been getting reports from the King County or state district representatives. The district representatives all agree to send him their reports for the website and e-news.

Vote on bylaws, motion still on the table, Chair start to move on the motion, “Adoption of Rules as Written.”

Robin, as a parliamentarian, states the Board cannot move on motion, because a motion to close discussion has not been voted.

Ivan makes a final comment regarding his dislike for the rules as written.

Chair defines voting eligibility for this Board as only elected officers. Tally: 7 votes For, 0 votes Against. Robin clarifies that the vote just taken was a vote to end discussion, the Board can now vote on “Adoption of Rules as Written.” Tally: 8 votes For, 0 votes Against.

8:22 Chair makes a point of clarification and explains that a wrong step was taken at the Reorganization Meeting, appointments should not have been held up for membership approval until after the Executive Board Rules were adopted. Chair will have to reappoint committee chairs and get the members to vote again at the Feb. 2009 meeting.

### **Committee Reports**

Bylaws – Brian Earl could not be at this meeting. The Rules have been distributed to the Board. He is asking for feedback, and part of the process will be the Rules.

Finance – Greg, as outgoing Treasurer, gives the current district balance as roughly \$13,000, that number does not include the approved \$500 to Sherril Huff's election campaign. He had meant to leave the balance at \$10,000, but Sen. McDermott's mailing was cheaper than anticipated. Revenues include endorsement money to the 34<sup>th</sup>, Nels Ekroth bequeathed \$5,000 after his death recently. The District spent some money to get web based software for financial and membership management. This purchase allows the district to make reports to state automatically, and e-mails and credit card posting should be up and running by Feb Board meeting March budget proposal to the membership.

Hospitality – While in charge of organizing summer picnic and the holiday party, Richard wants the committee to get involved in a new membership meet-and-greet plan. There is a flurry of discussion and ideas regarding this plan and everyone loves it. Chair believes "this will be madly successful."

King County Committee– Ivan speaks. The next meeting is this coming Tuesday (January 27, 2000 at 7:00pm at the Renton Carpenters Hall). The County is going to endorse Sherril Huff. Chad Lupkes, the First Vice Chair, has set up a great website: [www.kcdems.org](http://www.kcdems.org). Bill states that he will link to [kcdems.org](http://kcdems.org) for county info and only have 34<sup>th</sup> stuff on 34dems. The entire Executive Board is encouraged to come to the next meeting for introductions.

Legislative Action Committee – Lisa provides summary, as Greg could not attend. Lisa passes out notes from the meeting. She mentions that some legislators that did not come and Transportation is not included as a topic anymore. The Legislative Action Day (February 16, 2009) is announced. Lisa passes around a list for the LAC e-mail list. Next meeting is March 15th. Chair wants to bring the e-mail sign up to the members meeting in Feb. Lisa explains Legislative Action Day a bit and states that it usually ends around 1pm (the luncheon) and then members go and meet with their legislators. Ivan states that he is going to push for Transportation at the LAC.

Membership – Jeff talks about the Reorganization Meeting being very successful, new 108 members that night and 167 members have renewed and that is without putting a renewal members envelope in newsletters. He wants his committee to focus on renewing people from the caucus cycle aggressively. He discusses the tools available

to do this and using tactics befitting a large political organization. He also wants to use his committee as a switching station to filter new members into various committees of action.

8:52 Chair interjects that Jeff's idea would be a good topic for the committee chairs to discuss together, but time is short and moves on to Newsletter.

Newsletter – Jackie says the deadline for submissions are next Tuesday.

Outreach – Les wants to put together a meeting after the next membership meeting. He is looking for feedback on focus and will be reaching out to other organizations to network. Kim says she would like to help out and sit on committee.

Program – Beth states the agenda for the Feb. membership meeting has already been set up and Chair will approve after the Board meeting ends. Agenda includes three city council members. Additional ideas for meeting agenda additions include getting the Port of Seattle commissioner to discuss the viaduct option and how that is going to work as well as security at the port and airport. Another proposed topic for Program will be a forum on Gang Violence, want to invite Steve Dassel and Tom Rasmussen. To wrap-up there is discussion to put together a members suggestion form for the members to give their ideas to Beth. Other committee members want the same.

State Committee – Marcee says the State reorganization meeting is this weekend. Eileen McCaw and Sharon Smith are running for Chair and First Vice Chair respectively, and Dwight Pelz is running for re-election as well. Marcee wants to work on the resolution committee.

9:02 Chair skips “**Old Business**” on the agenda because there is none due to this being a new organization.

#### **New business – GET OUT THE VOTE**

Dwight Pelz sent out e-mail regarding Sherril. 34<sup>th</sup> have endorsed Sherril and gotten press in the West Seattle Herald. We have approved to give her \$500. While Dwight has already sent out an e-mail, the Chair recommends that we send out another to the entire membership.

Motion on the floor that we send another e-mail. Second.

Chair opens the floor for discussion. Bill thinks that a second e-mail would be redundant unless the Sherril endorsement is paired with other news about the district. Miki is looking for literature for the PCOs to pass out door-to-door. Chair suggests adding a second e-mail directed to the PCOs about vote builder and how to use the tool. Jeff qualifies the e-mail to the members as a ‘Letter from the Chair.’

Friendly motion to send letter to PCOs and e-mail out to the membership, seconded. Passed 7 to zero, passed by acclamation.

9:11 **Feb Meeting Agenda**

Candidates for Seattle City Council are interested in getting in front of our membership. Chair thinks this is a great way to get Sally and Bruce in front of membership. Discussion ensues regarding what they are going to talk about, and it is decided that they will focus on a topic from their committee that is pertinent to 34<sup>th</sup> District.

Greg would like to see the State reps come up from Olympia and talk to the membership about budget, big issues, etc. There is concern that they will not be able to make it. Greg and Chair discuss, the Chair agrees to extend an offer but if they cannot make it, Greg will speak in their stead.

Marcee would like to give a quick report regarding the Washington State Reorganization Meeting and add a three to five minutes presentation about publically financed elections for judiciary elections. Chair agrees with the update, but wants to put off the presentation until the March 2009 meeting or include in the LAC portion of the Feb meeting

Miki requests an update on the state budget. Lisa agrees. Greg states that really only the State representatives are in a position to discuss the status of the budget, if they cannot make it, then he cannot discuss.

Chair rehashes the proposed meeting agenda items: Licata's presentation regarding Mercer, Seattle City Council members discuss relevant topics from their committees, the legislative section. Point of information from the floor if Licata has a time frame from his presentation. Kim confirms he does.

Lisa wants to add the Fauntleroy Ferry issue, but Ivan suggests that this topic be avoided for the membership meeting.

9:24 **E-Board retreat**

Chair would like to split the idea of an E-board Retreat into two events. One event would be a retreat that is only the appointed committee chairs and chair to discuss an action plan (other E-board members can participate if they choose). Second event would be for the entire Board to go out into the community and perform an act of service together as a team. This is discussion on this, but ultimately everything is tabled for the next meeting.

9:30 **KCDCC Contribution**

Last year the 34<sup>th</sup> gave \$1,046, but the 46th district beat us, giving \$2,043. The amount has the approved by the membership. A motion in the amount of \$2,034 to

present to the membership is moved and seconded. Tally is 7 votes For and 1 vote against.

A contribution for the League of Women Voters is mentioned but tabled for the next meeting as the deadline has passed to be included on their contributors' board.

9:35 Adjourned