

Minutes of the 34th District Democrats Board Meeting

September 20, 2023, held virtually on Zoom.

Attendees:

Graham Murphy, Rachel Glass, Ted Barker, Roxanne Thayer, Bunny Hatcher, Chris Porter, Julie Whitaker, Steve Butts, Carla Rogers, Ann Martin, Gina Topp, Hannah Cameron, and Rebecca Rego.

7:09 pm – Call to Order by Chair Graham Murphy

- The agenda was reviewed and approved by unanimous consent.
- Minutes from the June board meeting were presented and were approved by unanimous consent.

Annual Awards

- Chris Porter will chair this ad hoc committee.
 - Ann, Bunny, and Ted volunteered to assist.
- The online form will be the same as used in the past and will be updated as necessary.
- The awards will be presented at our November 8th Meeting.
- The deadline for nominations will be October 31st.

December Service Project – Rachel Glass

- Rachel was in the process of looking for possible service opportunities, with a “Youth Forward” project in mind. She has been consulting with Araya Sandis from the organization “Free 2 Luv” for suggestions for local groups that could use help.
- A Zoom planning meeting will be announced.
- She will also write a blurb to bring volunteers on board for the project.

Young Democrats Committee Chair

- Graham welcomed Rebecca Rego to the Executive Board.

October 11th Meeting – The first in-person meeting of the year – Graham Murphy

- Volunteers would be needed to help with setup.
- Several laptops will be needed.
- Superintendent of Public Instruction, Chris Reykdal, was scheduled to speak to us. Among his topics was to be the far-right group “Moms for Liberty”, which is making inroads in areas of the state.
- Former PCO Chair Nick Bonazza will be on hand to facilitate GOTV efforts.
- SEIU had asked Graham to address the membership to speak about potential strike action against Kaiser Permanente.
- The meeting will be held at the Alki Masonic Temple in the Alaska Junction area.
- Limited hybrid participation via live streaming was also to be available.
 - Carla Rogers gave a caution about the promotion of hybrid meetings as there are state party requirements to meet, and we should not oversell the ability to fully participate remotely.

- o Roxanne Thayer rose to note that the state party is working on developing hybrid meeting options to increase attendance of younger and working people. Resources would be available from the state party.

State Party Report – Ted Barker and Roxanne Thayer

- The next State Party Meeting was to be September 29 and 30.
- He watched a YouTube video on the Ranked Choice Voting process. He didn't see how that process would be possible to use prior to 2024.
- Roxanne sat in on a talk on the lack Latinx representation in the state. The GOP will push back against efforts to improve that.

Resolution in opposition of a proposed timber sale near the Elwha River – Ann Martin

- The logging location could negatively affect the Elwha River Watershed drainage area into the river. This would hamper the ongoing efforts to restore the river and its salmon run following the removal of a dam a decade ago.
- The Clallam County Democrats and the 24th LD Democrats have both come out against the sale.
- Chris Porter asked if the local Indigenous people of the area had been consulted and are there protections to ensure wetlands are protected.
- Ted Barker has studied the issue and noted the complexity of this proposal.
- No motion to adopt the resolution was made to allow for further study.

King County Democrats Report – Bunny Hatcher and Chris Porter

- There was no KC Democratic Coordinating Committee meeting in August.
- Bunny reported that 4% of the KCDCC-endorsed candidates did not make it through the Primary, and some endorsements were scheduled to be redone in those elections. She said that there was a "Moms for Liberty" endorsed candidate running for a position on the Highline School Board, Carlos Ruiz is our endorsee in that race.
- Chris spoke to Martin Chaney, KCDCC Endorsement Committee Chair, regarding the one precinct in Seattle City Council District 1 that isn't in our Legislative District, allowing KCDCC to contradict the 34th's endorsement in that race with their own choice. He would like to see that addressed for 2024.
 - o There was discussion on how best to contact KCDCC with our concerns about this issue. The matter will be revisited next year for action.

Outreach Committee – Steve Butts

- The 34th had a unit in the Fiestas Patrias Parade in South Park on September 16th.
- We were to share a booth with the 33rd LD Democrats at the B-Town Fiesta in Burien on the 23rd.
- An Adopt-A-Street work party was scheduled for September 30th.

General Election Canvassing Events – Carla Rogers

- October 7th in Burien at Burien Press Coffee.
 - o There is a danger of our Burien endorsees losing to more conservative candidates

- o Carlos Ruiz faces a tough battle against a “Moms for Liberty” influenced opponent in his school board race and needs our help.
- October 21st in West Seattle at C&P Coffee.

Good of the Order

Carla informed us that she has arranged to rent a storage unit to hold surplus 34th gear.

Graham reminded us of the Pop-Up Social with the 33rd LD on the 29th at Elliott Bay Brewery in Burien. He also told us that Gina Topp has received endorsements from every LD in the area

Ann announced that the West Seattle Democratic Women were to host Karen Richter at their September 28th meeting where she was to speak about Medicare and Social Security privatization efforts. Leesa Manion will speak at their November meeting.

Chris mentioned that the West Seattle Blog was to have a Seattle Council District 1 forum on September 25th.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.