

34th Democrats Membership Meeting Minutes, November 8, 2023

In-person at the Alki Masonic Center, with YouTube Streaming.

7:05 PM – Call to order by Chair Graham Murphy

Chair's opening remarks and announcements

- Graham thanked the PCOs and others who helped with the Get Out the Vote effort.
- He noted a few of our successes in elections locally and nationally:
 - The Seattle Housing Levy renewal passed.
 - Gina Topp was on top of her race for a Seattle School Board seat with a commanding lead.
 - Democrat Andy Beshear won reelection as Governor in the red state of Kentucky.
 - Ohio voted to ensure women's reproductive rights, and to legalize marijuana
 - Virginia Democrats won control of both the House and Senate.
- Graham also made an appeal for members to renew their membership in January, reminding members that "As goes Seattle and King County, so goes the state".

Meeting Business

- The meeting agenda was presented. Ann Martin moved to approve; Leslie Harris seconded. The agenda was approved without objection.
- The minutes were shown and approved without objection.
- Chair Murphy gave the financial report for September.
 - Chris Porter rose to note that we should be grateful that even while our remaining funds were at a low point as the year is ending, that amount is bigger than the budget of some LDs for the whole year.

Opening Ceremonies

VIP Recognition

Several elected officials were acknowledged:

- Seattle School Board Director Leslie Harris
- Seattle Councilperson Lisa Herbold
- King County Councilperson Joe McDermott

Land Acknowledgement – 1st Vice Chair Rachel Glass

Rachel recited the Land Acknowledgement, then suggested that an additional means of honoring local indigenous peoples could be done through a donation to Seattle Indian Health Board

<https://www.sihb.org/>

December Service Project – Rachel Glass

We would be working with Stephanie's Lifeline, a locally based non-profit operating in White Center and West Seattle that is "dedicated to serving less fortunate individuals and families in order to improve the quality of life of those most in need." <https://www.stephanieslifeline.org/>

- An event was to be at the Blu Grouse in White Center on Saturday December 16 to benefit Childhaven <https://childhaven.org/> involving a meal, a visit with Santa for the children, and to provide clothing as gifts.
- An online signup page would be set up for volunteers to help at the event, to commit to providing specific items, and to contribute money.

Resolution to Raise the Minimum Wage in Unincorporated King County

The resolution was presented to the membership by Rebecca Rego, with an Executive Board recommendation of Do-Pass.

See the Resolution online: <https://34dems.org/unincorporated-king-county-minimum-wage-resolution/>

Rebecca moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Chris Porter.

- Rebecca spoke to her motion.
- The resolution was adopted by a show of credentials.

2023 Awards

Chris Porter led the ad hoc committee to sift through the nominations from members for the annual achievement awards.

Awards Recognizing Retiring Elected Officials

- **Leslie Harris**, Seattle School Director for District 6.
 - Presented by Heather Barker
- **Lisa Herbold**, Seattle Councilperson for District 1.
 - Presented by Rachel Glass
- **Joe McDermott**, King County Councilperson for District 8.
 - Presented by Shannon Braddock, Michelle Allison, and Anne Burkland.

Member Awards

- **Rising Star – Hannah Cameron.**
 - Presented by Ann Martin.
 - Hannah’s husband Jonathon Herman accepted her award in her place.
- **Committee of the Year – Communications and Technology, Carla Rogers and Steve Butts.**
 - Presented by Ted Barker.
- **PCO of the Year – Nick Bonazza.**
 - Presented by Bunny Hatcher.
- **Jackie Dupras Member of the Year – Carla Rogers.**
 - Presented by Rebecca Rego.
- **Board Member of the Year – Graham Murphy.**
 - Presented by Chris Porter.

Good of the Order

- Ann Martin rose with information about a newly published book “Salmon Cedar Rock and Rain” that features photos of the Olympic Peninsula, written by Tim McNulty.

- Ann also announced that Leesa Manion would be speaking at the next meeting of the West Seattle Democratic Women.
- Karin Engstrom spoke of the Debt Collective, which works to reduce student loans and other types of onerous obligations.
- Carla Rogers reminded members to renew for 2024.
- Chris Porter spoke of an unpleasant run-in with a man while doorbelling, an experience that was mollified soon after with a favorable discussion at his next stop.
- Chair Murphy announced that the next Pop Up Social was the coming Friday, the Board Meeting was on Wednesday November 16, and that the next Membership Meeting would be on January 10.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.