

## **34th Democrats Membership Meeting Minutes, February 21, 2024 – Held via closed Zoom**

### **6:30 PM – Pre-Meeting Program – A Perspective on Gaza**

1st Vice Chair Rachel Glass introduced **Jen Marlowe**, an independent filmmaker and activist and **Laila Saliba**, a community organizer and author of Palestinian heritage gave their thoughts on the current situation in Gaza and provided some recent history of the area.

Marlowe is a West Seattle resident and has traveled to Gaza many times. She screened a short documentary from 2015 about a family struggling to rebuild after losing their home during military action in 2014. Her organization is called Donkeysaddle Projects.

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

### **7:31 PM – Call to Order – Chair Graham Murphy**

Graham opened the meeting with news of the passing of long-time 34th member **Annie Phillips** who had just succumbed to fall at age 85. **Randy Litzenberger**, who was Annie's co-chair on the Environment, Energy and Land Use Policy Caucus, shared his remembrances.

### **Meeting Business**

- The meeting agenda was presented. Ann Martin moved to approve; Chris Porter seconded. The agenda was approved without objection.
- The minutes from the January meeting were shown. Ann Martin moved to approve; Rachel Glass seconded. The agenda was approved without objection. and approved without objection.
- The financial report for January was presented by Treasurer Julie Whitaker.

### **Opening Ceremonies**

#### **Land Acknowledgement – 1st Vice Chair Rachel Glass**

Rachel recited the Land Acknowledgement, then suggested to members that consider a way of honoring local indigenous peoples could be by supporting donation to Seattle-based Native youth theater organization Red Eagle Soaring <https://www.redeaglesoaring.org/>

#### **African Americans in Washington State**

**Preston Anderson** and **Chris Porter** gave a presentation about the history of African Americans in Washington.

Preston gave a historical overview of African Americans in Washington State:

- The Great Migration
- The Growth of Seattle's Black Community
- Black Consciousness in Seattle
- Community Improvement
- Fair Housing

Chris expanded on housing:

- Home ownership is an important means for families to build wealth, and FICO credit scores are heavily weighted by mortgage payments.
- Black home ownership is in decline
- Blacks get lower home appraisals
- Blacks are more likely to be denied loan applications than whites, and are apt to get less favorable terms.

### **Candidate Spotlight**

Several candidates for state-wide offices were on hand to speak to their campaigns:

- State Superintendent for Public Instruction **Chris Reykdal**
- State Treasurer **Mike Pellicciotti**
- Senator **Rebecca Saldana** for Public Lands Commissioner
- Senator **Patty Kuderer** for Insurance Commissioner

### **King County Council Update**

King County Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda spoke.

- She shared her memories of Annie Phillips.
- She also said that the county is working on updates to its Comprehensive Plan for unincorporated areas and will have meetings on Vashon, and in Skyway that may be of interest to the 34th.  
<https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/executive/governance-leadership/performance-strategy-budget/regional-planning/king-county-comprehensive-plan>
- She also thanked members of the State Legislature for continuing to invest in King County public health clinics.

### **PCO Appointments**

Chair Murphy introduced 3 new PCOs. They were approved by a voice vote of the PCOs in attendance.

- **Loren Schmidt** (SEA 34-1258)
- **Carrie Sikorski** (VSH 34-Vashon)
- **Teresa Mosqueda** (SEA 34-1493)

### **Updates from the Washington State Democrats**

Isabella Maffei, the party affairs coordinator, spoke about the current activities of the State Party

- They were focused at the time on the delegate selection process. Training on how to become a delegate was to be coming soon.
- The organization has a new coordinated campaign director. The party will be active in all CDs but will concentrate on CD3 and CD8. LD10. LD42 and LD26 are also priorities as they are considered battleground districts. The Governor's race is also important.
- She can be reached at [isabella@wa-democrats.org](mailto:isabella@wa-democrats.org)

**Membership Drive** – Hannah Cameron

- Membership Committee Chair Hannah Cameron stressed the importance of becoming a contributing member of the 34th and pointed out what dues pay for.
- She will be holding a drawing for a gift basket in March with items from around the 34th LD.
  - Every new or renewing member will be automatically entered.
  - An additional chance can be earned for each new member a person brings in.
  - There will be a special prize for the best recruiter.

### **State and National Delegate Process – Chair Murphy**

Graham urged members to sign up to become a delegate. He described the roles and the filing process, which was in pre-registration at the time of the meeting. A person could sign up to be a National or State delegate, or both, at: <https://www.wademsdelegates.org>

### **Good of the Order**

**Ann Martin** shared some experiences with Annie Phillips when they worked together on getting money out of politics with the group Fix Democracy First...she announced that Shasti Conrad would be at the February 29th West Seattle Democratic Women’s meeting...She also recounted racist remarks from a realtor as she and her husband were house hunting.

**Stephen Lamphear** relayed that the Burien City Council asked their staff to put forth a minimum wage proposal. It had many special carve-outs and limitations that must be stopped, and asked members to urge the Council not to include those. Renter protections passed in recent years are also at jeopardy.

**Bunny Hatcher** informed us that the King County Democrats are putting together dates for candidate interviews.

**Chris Porter** urged Democrats to take part in election observation to counter doubt on the system cast by the GOP . He also “put in 20,000 steps” protesting a pop-up Trump merchandise tent that was in the area recently.

**Dorothy Gesick** recommended 2 books: “The Warmth of Other Suns” is about the Black migration from the South and “The Color of Law” which describes the system of state-sponsored segregation.

**Rachel Glass** suggested that we consider attending Intiman Theater’s production of “My name is Rachel Corrie”, a play based on the experiences of the late Rachel Corrie, an activist for the Palestinian people in Gaza.

**Carla Rogers** is working with the Transit Riders Union in preparing a minimum wage initiative for Burien, to be on the November 5th Ballot.

**The meeting adjourned at 9:09 PM.**