

34th Democrats Membership Meeting Minutes, March 13, 2024 – Held via closed Zoom

7:04 PM – Call to Order – Chair Graham Murphy

Graham began the meeting with the announcement that our fundraiser would be held on June 1.

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 February meeting were shown. Chris Porter moved to approve; Tamsen Spengler seconded. The minutes were approved without objection.
- The minutes from the March 2nd PCO Meeting were shown. Ann Martin moved to approve; Rachel Glass seconded. The minutes were approved without objection.
- The financial report for February was presented by Treasurer Julie Whitaker.

Opening Ceremonies

Land Acknowledgement – 1st Vice Chair Rachel Glass

Rachel recited the Land Acknowledgement. This month she suggested to members that one way of honoring local indigenous peoples could be done by making a donation to the National Urban Indian Family Coalition <https://www.nuifc.org/>

Candidate Spotlights

Three candidates joined the meeting to speak about themselves:

- Candidate for State Attorney General **Manka Dhingra**.
- Washington Supreme Court Justice **Sheryl McCloud** is running for reelection.
- King County Superior Court Judge **David Keenan** also seeks reelection.

PCO Appointments

Chair Murphy introduced and swore in 2 new PCOs. They were approved by a voice vote of the PCOs in attendance.

- **David Toledo** was appointed to serve in SEA 34-1498.
- **Jessica Hauffe** will serve as Acting PCO in SEA 34-1538.

Call for Delegates

1st Vice Chair Rachel Glass asked us to become delegates to the state convention June 22, in Bellevue. She would like to see a diverse delegation, and we would get additional delegate slots if we met our diversity objectives. Members were asked to contact her with questions.

KCDCC Committee Alternate

- Carla Rogers nominated Jules Williams; Rachel Glass seconded.
- Jules spoke for himself; Carla also spoke for Jules.
- Jules was elected via a voice vote.

Changes to Platform, Bylaws, and Code of Conduct – Jordan Crawley

Platform Updates

Jordan and the platform committee are asking for revisions to our platform, first drafted and approved in 2021, to update it for the future. Suggestions should be sent to lac@34dems.org

Jordan laid out the following schedule:

- March 17 – Members Receive Draft Platform.
- April 9 – Comments Due to Platform & Legislative Action Committee.
- April 28 – Members Receive Final Draft Platform.
- May 8 – Members Vote on the Platform.

Ann Martin asked about how our platform planks relate to the state platform. Jordan responded that Chris Porter would be reviewing them in his role on the State Convention Platform Committee.

Bylaws Amendments

Jordan next brought forward amendments to the Bylaws. These amendments were the product of a process started in January 2023. They are:

- Protecting the personally identifiable information of members
 - Establishes unauthorized access to, or improper use of, PII as a violation of the Code of Conduct.
 - Allows the Board to take enforcement action if this should occur.
- Defining “eligible voting members” for the purpose of endorsements
 - Disallows new members from participating in endorsements (making motions, seconding motions, speaking, or voting) for 60 days after joining.
 - Adjusts requirement when endorsements are considered in January or February.
 - Excludes PCOs and returning members from the requirement.
- Specifying conditions for bringing previously considered endorsements back before the body
 - Establishes a 3-week wait period.
 - Clarifies instances in which bringing previously considered endorsements back before the body is allowed.

Dorothy Gesick asked who has access to members' personal information. Jordan answered that endorsed candidates, certain 34th officers, and members running for positions in our organization receive access.

- Jordan moved to adopt the amendments; Carla Rogers seconded.
- Jordan spoke in favor of adoption.
 - Chris Porter rose to strike the 60-day wait requirement for new members before endorsing; Ann Martin seconded.
 - Chris spoke in favor of his amendment.
 - Carla spoke against.
 - Ann spoke in favor.
 - Jordan spoke against.
 - The motion failed by 14 to 4 votes of PCOs voting via Zoom poll.
- The Bylaws were passed by a vote of 16 to 2 by PCOs present and voting via a Zoom poll.

Code of Conduct

Jordan reviewed the amendments to our Code of Conduct documents. These amendments were produced in tandem with the Bylaws amendments begun at the beginning of last year:

- Identifying mediation as the preferred means of conflict resolution and establishing a mediation process.
 - Mediation will be recommended, but not required, to resolve interpersonal conflicts.
 - A clear process for mediation is established, including a definite timeline.
- Adjusting process for Board actions.
 - Requires a 2/3 majority of the Board to adopt an action.
 - Allows the Board to take no action by way of a vote.
- Restricting access to member personal identifiable information when found guilty of unauthorized access to, or improper use of that member information.
 - Includes, but does not limit to: names, addresses, emails, and phone numbers.
 - Allows the Board to determine the level and duration of restriction.

Michael Parker asked for background on the misuse of member information. Jordan responded that there have been suspicions that past board members have used such information in seeking office.

- Jordan moved to adopt the Code of Conduct; Carla seconded.
 - Jordan ceded his time to Chris Porter, who spoke in favor of adopting the Code of Conduct as amended.
- The Code of Conduct was adopted unanimously via Zoom poll of the PCOs present and voting.

Recommendation to Raise the Minimum Annual One-Time Membership Contribution – Carla Rogers

Carla laid out her reasoning for raising the minimum one-time membership contribution amount from \$5 to \$34 dollars. She noted that other LDs have similar membership dues amounts. The \$5 monthly membership contribution would not change. Those unable to afford \$34 can appeal to the Chair to have the contribution waived. PCOs are not required to pay dues.

- Carla moved to adopt the new contribution minimum level; Julie Whitaker seconded the motion.
 - Carla spoke to her motion, and ceded time to Jordan Crawley.
- The motion was passed by a Zoom vote of 19 to 2 by members present and voting.

Budget for Fiscal Year May 2024 – April 2025 – Chair Graham Murphy

Graham reviewed the budget and emphasized the importance of the year ahead. He laid out the required fixed costs our organization faces, and projected the variable costs of our usual activities throughout the year. He presented a conservative revenue forecast, stating that it could be increased.

- Dorothy Gesick rose to inquire about the “Change That Makes Sense” revenue category listed. Rachel Glass answered that the idea is for random donations: Perhaps a person has a “change jar” used to place their excess coins in. When it becomes full, they could donate that to the 34th. Rachel said she will work on promoting the concept more.

- Kathy Myers asked whether the carryover amount given was typical. Carla Rogers answered that it is variable. She also stated the 34th needs to make sure that there were funds available in January when memberships expire and must be renewed. The change to the fiscal year timeframe was also in response to ease that point.
- Carla moves to adopt the budget; Bunny Hatcher seconded. Carla spoke to the motion.
- The budget was approved by a unanimous vote.

Good of the Order

- Carla Rogers said that the initiative to raise the minimum wage in Burien she has helped with has been written and submitted. Signatures were currently being collected. The Transit Riders Union is leading the effort. Volunteers would be needed over the coming weeks to help gather 8,000 signatures by the end of May.
- Ann Martin announced that the West Seattle Democratic Women will have a dinner meeting March 25th featuring Representatives Emily Alvarado and Joe Fitzgibbon.
- Chris Porter rose to express his disappointment in the Bylaws change increasing period new members must wait before being part of our endorsement process. He believed it to be exclusionary and contrary to our values as Democrats.
- Dorothy Gesick felt that it is important that we express our opinion against a slate of initiatives facing voters this year on any doorbelling literature we produce.
- Julie Whitaker responded to Chris and said she felt that we can still bring in new, diverse members with the new 60-day membership requirement for endorsement participation.
- Rachel Glass pushed “Change That Makes Sense” and asked us to check our cars, cushions, and coin jars for extra donations to the 34th organization.

Chair Murphy closed the meeting with announcements regarding the April and May meetings as well as the March Pop Up Social gathering.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 PM.