

**37<sup>TH</sup> LD Democrats Membership Meeting**

**Monday, February 13, 2023**

**7:00pm, on Zoom, 40 participants**

1.

Call to Order by Mary Scanlon

Land Acknowledgement by Mary Scanlon

Comments from the Chair

Welcome to new executive board members.

Links to King Co. Conservation and I-135 elections; deadline 2/14

2.

Appointment of 12 new Precinct Committee Officers:

Anne Anderson 37-1572

Sen. Rebecca Saldaña 37-1576

Joseph Harrington 37-1608

Japhet Koteen 37-1612

Andrew Oommen 37-1614

Na'eem Shareef 37-3721

Alexander Erickson 37-1827

Kisam Goueli 37-1907

Rodney Hearne 37-2799

Nancy Truitt Pierce 37-1637

Lucina Robbins 37-1839

Thomas Poulos 37-1566

Meredith Means has helped persuade people to sign up as PCOs.

Move to approve new appointed PCOs by acclamation. Motion to approve by Lyn McKay, second Alex Cooley

3.

Adopt January 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve minutes Nancy Pierce, seconded by Gwen Ranch (she said we actually don't need a second)

4.

King County Superior Court Judge Joe Campagna: 2022 Superior Court judge, wants to introduce himself: one of 54 judges, now General Trial judge in Kent. All types, criminal, family. Prior he was a judge in district court. He was a lawyer in a small firm in Seattle. Brings his best to court every day, full attention, his patience, dignity and respect. Duty to make system better. Helped start the community court program in Shoreline. He's proud of this program. Early push to bring to prisons better programs, not warehousing the inmates. Question by Alec Stephens: What are your ratings from the minority bar association. Answer: well qualified, exceptional.

His email:

[judgecampagna@gmail.com](mailto:judgecampagna@gmail.com)

5.

Report from State Committee Representatives Vallerie Fisher and Alec Stephens. Valerie: There was a great turnout at the State Committee meeting. She learned a lot. Thanks for the opportunity. There will be four WA representatives to the national committee. Alec: The meeting was mostly about the WA state reorganization. Shasti Conrad was elected State Chair by acclamation. She is a former KC party chair. She is the youngest state chair and first person of color in this role. Also, the only

Asian state chair in the country. David Green was re-elected as Vice-Chair.

6.

Report from the King County Committee Representatives.

Lyn McKay: we still need a female-identified or non-binary alternate to the King County Committee. Mention of KC Conservation District election and opening for an appointed position to that organization. Introduction to all LDs. PCO recruitment, they need volunteers. There's plenty to do! There was a training on Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> to support new PCOs. Help doing buddy walk? More trainings coming up. Talk to Lyn if you need training. Legislative Action Committee, the chair for equity and diversity. Lots of exciting things from party. Peer learning is one focus.

Lynmckay@hotmail.com

Khalid Bulale: opportunities to canvass and text for I-135. Trainings by Heidi Floss. PCO training coming up. Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> Save the Date for candidate recruitment.

Alexander Erickson: Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> voter registration training. MiniVan training (a mobile canvassing application) on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

7.

Treasurer's Report: Question for Jeanne LeGault: do we have the budget to vote on? Answer: yes. \$26,000 is the budget. However, per Alec Stephens: The Budget isn't final yet. He asks whether there are actions we need to take while the final budget is prepared?

Jeanne: We need to discuss before the final amount. No fundraisers last year. What do people think about doing a fundraiser?

Alec: This should go to Exec committee.

Mary: Not a terrible idea. Let's table this.

Alec: anything in terms of expenditures before next month?

Jeanne: retreat expenses

Mary: Exec board to conduct leadership retreat. Goals, individual responsibilities before next year, presidential election. A board retreat has not been held since 2018 under Alec Stephens. We need to work together to get more active volunteers. We'd like to hire a professional facilitator and conduct the retreat early in this term. The retreat needs to be a line item in budget. Can we vote on the retreat as a separate expenditure, before the budget is voted on as a whole?

Gwen said we can vote on the retreat as a separate expenditure.

Jeanne: Venue rental would be \$650, facilitator would be \$1500. Plus \$200 for food/drink..

Alec: Made a motion that we seek approval from membership for up to \$2500.

Seconded by Gwen.

Alec: (Comments about the need to conduct a retreat.)

Dianne Ramsey: Suggests a maximum expenditure of \$3000. She can do a friendly amendment.

Accepted.

Call the question: all in agreement to pay for retreat: 21 yes. No votes: zero. It is approved!

8.

Policing: A Moderated Discussion and Q&A

Moderator

Alec Stephens: Tyre Nichols beaten to death. At memorial service for Tyre,

Rev. Al Sharpton said there is unfinished business. George Floyd Act. Removing qualified immunity. 1963 police brutality address by MLK Jr. I stand witness as someone who had to talk to my 2 sons to keep safe. Not just sons, but talk to your daughters, too (e.g. Sandra Bland).

Special guests:

Victoria Beach

Chair of the African American Community Advisory Council for the Seattle Police Department

Victoria: Asked for over a year to take this role and she said no. SPD called her names. She grew up hating police. Domestic violence in home. Police would come and beat her father. Nephew was beat up along with his mother. Racial profiling at age 17. She works with police; she tries to help make a change. Lots should not have the gun and badge. Before the Badge program, educating why the black community doesn't like them. We still have a long way to go.

James Bible has been addressing high profile civil rights and criminal cases for nearly twenty years. As the former president of the King County NAACP and Legal Redress Chair for the Alaska, Oregon and Washington State Conference of the NAACP, Mr. Bible has played a role in addressing just about every type of civil rights matter.

The reality is black men are losing their lives while complying with law enforcement. It's a daily occurrence, not isolated incidents. He talks about what needs to change. Good officers remain silent. Cases of benign neglect? He can't perceive you as good. We need to push our senators and representatives: human life is more important.

Rev. Harriett Walden

Social justice activist and co-founder of Mothers for Police Accountability.

Lift your voice and sing every day. Personally, she hasn't had a bad experience. She grew up in segregation in the south. Been doing this work

32 years. Police beat her kids up when she wasn't at home. In 1990, they put guns to their heads. This is a psychological war. She wants people to know that we are at war. Systems set up against us. Every county in this state has problems; it's time to do it on state level. Memphis: King helped sanitation workers; 55 years later still a struggle to get black people hired. You had to become a CSO officer first before being a police officer. Black officers being brutal makes us cry. We have known no safety. Our nervous system is always on Fight or Flight.

Alec: Ms. Beach, can you tell us about African American Advisory Panel?

Victoria: She wants our voices to be heard. She threatened to quit, chief asked her to come back. One of their captains said she was fair. Things have gotten somewhat better. In Seattle the movement was hijacked by white kids.

Alec: how does one dialogue with the police union?

Victoria: bad faith, she doesn't trust head. (Mike Solan)

James: Municipalities are in bed with unions.

Alec: what's your assessment on the outcome of the consent decree?

Harriet: There is always a lot of work to be done. 25 years ago, we thought it was the union. Body cameras should be on. Mark Solan ran on MAGA. Rank and file voted for him. She has seen 3 mutinies (CHOP, WTO). Police are not public servants; they are public employees.

Alec: What do you think of new internal investigations?

Harriet: She is hopeful. Reopen Charlene Lyles. She only weighed 95 lbs.! She won't rest on that case.

James: An independent investigation, he pushed for that for a long time. Too many potential conflicts. He's hopeful about effective policing.

Alec: what role can treatment and mental health counseling play?

James: we need to do better at regulating who we put out on the streets. Treat drug use as more of a mental health problem. Officers don't get tested for drugs or alcohol.

Victoria: James described the training. Hired a psychologist 4 days a week. They are training them when NOT to show up at work. When your partner is not acting right.

Victoria: Jan 6<sup>th</sup> police, current to keep them off the force. We need officers who call them out.

Harriet: It's like a standing army. Suicide is high. Black church used to be our therapy. Black officers are catching hell.

James: the Nazi problem is real across the state. He was a CO for teens and attended training. Whatcom County: briefed on Nazi plans to infiltrate law enforcement as a means to control populations.

Lem Howell bought James a suit!

Mary: Discussion has been recorded. It will be valuable to the community.

9.

Volunteers needed for PCO outreach and event planning

10.

Good of the Order:

Robby Stern: link to document. Thank you, Alec, for the program. March 20<sup>th</sup> 5 pm, he came to our meeting before to discuss supporting privatization of Medicare. Will have PSARA webinar: Don't Let Naked Profiteering destroy our Medicare. We are in danger of losing 1965 Medicare for huge profits.

Medicare flyer: <https://37dems.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Privatizing-Medicare-webinar.pdf>

To REGISTER click here:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_G5ISKC5dR6OwCalwvYrX\\_w](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_G5ISKC5dR6OwCalwvYrX_w)

Mary Williams: Black History Month events with N.O.W. Seattle Chapter and Seattle Women's Commission. As always you can join us as a member of DDI: Democrats for Diversity and Inclusion. Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> all day, food, films (new film on police accountability and corrections), music, drag show.

Vallerie Fisher: Seattle schools are celebrating Black History Month. She is proud to be a member of the 37<sup>th</sup>. She wants to share information from tonight.

9:00pm

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn: Vallerie. 2<sup>nd</sup>: James Hutchins

Minutes taken by Carla McLean