

# 34th District Democrats

All the Democracy You Can Handle



[www.34dems.org](http://www.34dems.org)



December 2014

## Message from the Chair

I don't believe there are any people I know whose lives have not been touched in some way by mental illness. Whether it's personal, a family member, co-worker or friend; we all see the effects of untreated mental illness. The most insidious part of it is that the future is forever changed and the damage is exponential. We know this and yet can't calculate the toll on our society. The loss of life, creativity and knowledge, the cost to us as a nation is more than mere dollars. The 34th District Democrats the last few years have donated to the Navos Toy Drive during the holidays. It's a small gesture but we also do this so you're aware of the work that they do in our community. Please go to their website and learn more about their work. <http://www.navos.org/>

So in the spirit of the season, please bring an unwrapped gift for a Navos family. If you did not pick up a gift tag at our November meeting, contact Joy Pakulak (206.380-5448), or go to the above website to donate or shop online. Special thanks to Joy who is coordinating our efforts to support Navos, an organization that benefits the most vulnerable in our community.

Our annual holiday party is Wednesday, December 10, 6:30 PM at the Hall at Fauntleroy. All members and their guests (partners, spouses, children, & parents) are welcome to attend. This is a party so there are no speeches or asks, just fun! Entertainment is the Elliott Brothers Jazz trio.

Please bring a potluck side dish or dessert or two to share, along with any special dietary restricted foods your family may require. The District provides hams, turkey, alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks.

We'll present our 2014 Membership awards and a very special Lifetime Achievement award. (There's still time to nominate someone [http://www.34dems.org/org\\_recognition.htm](http://www.34dems.org/org_recognition.htm))

Stay tuned for our 2015 membership drive now with the added capability of contributing monthly.

Thank you for your involvement and support of the 34th Legislative District Democrats.

Happy Holidays!

Marcee Stone-Vekich  
Chair

## No December meeting

**Holiday Party  
December 10th**



## Treasurer's Report

Balance as of Oct. 8, 2014 .....	\$11,853
Add Revenues .....	\$1,853
Less Expenses .....	\$2,661
Balance as of Nov. 12, 2014.....	\$11,045

## Membership Report

Available at the meeting.



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## Newsletter information

We have implemented our switch to online newsletter notification. The link will be emailed to members on a monthly basis. If you want to opt in to a paper copy, please contact our treasurer, Karen Chilcutt. Paper copies will be available at the monthly meetings as well.

We will no longer be having mailing parties, as the editor is able to handle the opt in list. We are not printing membership status anymore—this information will be available on the website.

Editorial policy remains the same. We are Democrats, and like most Democrats we have strong opinions and like to express them. We welcome letters and articles. All submissions are subject to editing. If submissions need to be shortened, you will be given the option of editing your own work. Photos and notices of upcoming events are always welcome.

The deadline for the January newsletter is December 30th Mail to Martha Koester, 10015 2nd Ave S, Seattle, WA 98168 or [fomalhaut2003@yahoo.com](mailto:fomalhaut2003@yahoo.com) Phone: 206-762-6417.

## Executive Board

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Open

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## Holiday Party December 10



Our annual holiday party is Wednesday, December 10, 6:00 PM at the Hall at Fautleroy. All members and their guests (partners, spouses, children, parents) are welcome to attend. Please bring a potluck side dish or dessert or two to share, along with any special non-alcoholic drinks your family prefers. The District will provide hams, turkey, alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks (thanks to Carol Frillman, Joy Pakulak, Chris Porter, and Tamsen Spengler). Entertainment is the Elliott Brothers Jazz trio. We'll conduct our annual awards (there's still time to nominate someone). Finally bring an unwrapped gift for a Navos family. If you did not pick up a gift tag last meeting, contact Joy Pakulak (contact info at right) who has a few extra, or go to their website here (<http://www.navos.org/>) and donate online. Joy Pakulak is coordinating the work.

Make the  
**HOLIDAYS BRIGHTER**  
for kids, youth,  
and adults  
in need.

WE INVITE YOU TO  
MAKE A WISH COME TRUE:

GIVE  
AND OUR  
ELVES WILL  
SHOP

SHOP  
ONLINE AND  
FULFILL A  
WISH

## 34TH DISTRICT BULLETIN BOARD

### 34th District Committee Meetings

#### PCO Committee

No meeting in December

#### Executive Board

No December meeting

### Other Meetings of Interest to Democrats

#### Drinking Liberally

Wednesday December 3, 7:00 pm -?

#### Mick Kelly's Irish Pub

435 SW 152nd St., Burien

**Rather than meet during Thanksgiving or Christmas weeks, we decided to just have one meeting earlier in December.**

No Robert's Rules, just informal political chat. Eat, drink or abstain as desired.

To sign up for email reminders—

<http://livingliberally.org/drinking/subscribe1.html?id=159>

#### West Seattle Meaningful Movies

Saturday, December 6, 7:00 pm (6:30 pm social)

High Point Neighborhood House,

6400 Sylvan Way SW Seattle

*The Healthcare Movie* will be shown in collaboration with Healthcare For All—Washington

Canadians now have universal health care because of people who took a heroic stand nearly fifty years ago.

*The Healthcare Movie* tells the story and provides a glimpse into what could be possible for us. Produced by Laurie Simons and Terry Sterrenberg. David McLanahan, from Health Care Is a Human Right—Washington, will join the discussion following the movie and share a strategy for achieving universal, affordable health care in Washington State.

Continued on p.3

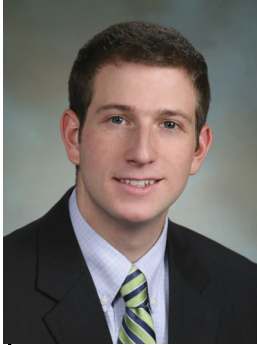
## Contact Information for Our Legislators



**Senator Sharon Nelson**  
Phone: 360-786-7667  
sharon.nelson@leg.wa.gov  
218 John A Cherberg Building  
P.O. Box 40434  
Olympia WA 98504-0434

### Representative Eileen Cody

Phone: 360-786-7978  
District Office: 206-923-5463  
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Olympia WA 98504-0600



### Representative Joe Fitzgibbon

Phone: 360-786-7952  
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Olympia WA 98504-0600

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Recognition of 34th District Members

All our members are important, but there are some who stand out and deserve to be recognized for all they do. If there is someone you think deserves recognition in any of these categories you may download a nomination form from our website <http://34dems.org/>.

Listed below are the evaluation criteria for these awards

#### Cherisse Luxa Lifetime Achievement

Length of service within the District  
Participation—variety, type, extent of contribution  
Innovation  
Team player, collegial, works well with others, respectful, well regarded, community oriented  
Results/Outcomes—demonstrated record of outstanding performance; identifiable benefits to the District

#### Outstanding Committee

Type of work—project specific, community based work etc.  
Innovation  
Execution—how work was work accomplished, effectiveness  
Team players; synergy of group  
Results/Outcomes

#### Outstanding Individuals

(PCO, Executive Board Member, Member, Rising Star)  
Type of work—project specific, community based work etc.  
Innovation  
Execution  
Team players  
Results/Outcomes

There's still time to nominate someone [http://www.34dems.org/org\\_recognition.htm](http://www.34dems.org/org_recognition.htm)

## Bulletin Board

Continued from p.2

### King County Democrats Reorganization Saturday December 6, 9:00 am—1:00 pm

IAM Hall  
9125 15th Place S.  
Seattle, WA

See p 4 for more information

### Evergreen Democratic Club

Tuesday December 9, 11:30 am-1:00 pm

Angelo's Restaurant  
601 S 153rd St, Burien, WA

Holiday Buffet! Time to pay dues for 2015

### Metropolitan Democratic Club

Plaza 600 Bldg., 6th Ave & Stewart St., Suite 205,  
Downtown Seattle

Bimonthly 12:00 pm- to 1:30 pm.

Brown bag or deli lunches.

### Saturday December 14

#### Winter Holiday Party

Time and place to be determined. For more information,

contact MDC President Eleanor Munro at 206-370-1374 or [walkere1@msn.com](mailto:walkere1@msn.com) or visit <http://www.metrodems.org/index.html>

### Help at the White Center Food Bank

Wednesday, December 24, 5:00 pm—8:00 pm

10829 8th Ave SW Seattle WA 98146

<http://www.whitecenterfoodbank.org/>

206-747-0802; Aileen Sison, [aileentsison@gmail.com](mailto:aileentsison@gmail.com)

### West Seattle Democratic Women

#### Holiday Luncheon

Thursday December 18 11:30 am-1:00 pm

#### West Seattle Golf Course

We will be assembling gift bags for distribution to female clients at the White Center Food Bank and doing a White Elephant exchange. Lunch is \$13.50 for members and \$15.00 for non-members. Everyone is welcome, but you must RSVP by December 15 at noon to reserve a lunch. If you have any questions, please contact Ann Martin at [martinhtam@gmail.com](mailto:martinhtam@gmail.com)

## KCDCC Chair Candidate Biographies

### Omaha Sternberg



Omaha Sternberg has been a Democrat all her life. Most recently, she has been the chair of the 33rd Legislative District Democrats for six years and the co-chair for the South King County Democrats for four years. The SKCD is a progressive organization that runs an annual dinner and auction, coordinating the efforts of five LDs, splitting the profits between these LDs for

their progressive efforts. Omaha is seeking to become the next chair of the King County Democrats to bring more participation to the county, especially from our PCOs; better support to our Legislative Districts, the grass-roots of the Washington State Democrats; and stronger communication within our organization and to our allies, including our voters, our PCOs, our electeds/candidates, and progressive organizations we work in fellowship with. Together we can empower our members to truly believe that their actions bring change, with that change turn that "new tomorrow" into today! <http://omahasternberg.com/>

### Rich Ervin



My name is Rich Ervin, and I'm running for Chair of the King County Democratic Central Committee (KCDCC). There's lots about myself and my campaign on my website, but I suspect your first question is "Why do I want to do this?"

Because what we have is not enough. We won the right for all adults to marry, but we still need to improve all individuals', couples' and families' shot at the American Dream. We won the freedom to use marijuana, but we still live in a nation that imprisons young black men at twice the rate of young white men on drug charges. Until we are all treated equally under the law, none of us are truly free. We elected the first African-American President – twice. But make no mistake, our work is not done – just ask the family of Michael Brown. We need more people of color at our meetings and on our ballots. We need to represent and reflect all of King County.

We are poised to make history again by electing the first woman President of the United States. But that is a small victory if her daughter, or any of our daughters, loses the right to control their own body.

There is no doubt that together, we can do great things. But we should never look at our work as complete. For every step we take forward, there are others who want to hold us back, take us back.

And so the status quo is not enough. Victories every Presidential election year are not enough. I want to be a Chair of continuous, lasting victories! I want clear victories – I don't want to wait a month or a week or a day to know that our Governor has been re-elected in 2016! I want the Republican Party to give up on King County as a battleground! And if you want that too, vote for me, and join me, as we show this state what it really means to be a Democrat!

I ask for your vote on December 6th. Questions? Feel free to contact me at 206-232-7630 or

[rich.for.kcdcc.chair@gmail.com](mailto:rich.for.kcdcc.chair@gmail.com)

<https://richforkcdcc.wordpress.com/>

### Betsy Walker



Hi, my name is Betsy Walker, and I'm running for KCDCC Chair to support the grassroots work of the LDs and help elect Democratic candidates to office. We have a lot of work to do between now and 2016, but the caucuses present a great opportunity to recruit new members and build a stronger base here in King County. We need to focus on improving our internal and external communications, building the capacity of the LDs, and strengthening our grass-roots by recruiting new members and volunteers. I'm the current Chair of the

King County Young Democrats, a member of NARAL-WA's Millennial Advisory Council, and the C.O.O. of a tech company. To learn more about why I'm running, check out my website at [www.vote4betsy.org](http://www.vote4betsy.org).

## 2015-16 King County Democrats Central Committee Re-Organization

December 6th, 2014

9:00 am—1:00 pm

IAM Hall

9125 15th Place S

Seattle, WA 98108-5100

More information at [www.kcdems.org](http://www.kcdems.org)

Every two years the Democratic Party in Washington State reorganizes. One of your responsibilities is to directly elect new officers for King County Democrats and your Legislative District.

Only PCOs elected in August, 2014, are eligible to vote. No proxy voting is allowed so you must be present to participate. See the 2015-2016 elected PCO list for the 34<sup>th</sup> LD here.

<http://34dems.org/Docs-2014/PCO-List-effective-01-01-2015.pdf>

Rules are here

<http://www.kcdems.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/LD+Reorg+Rules.pdf>

# In Case You Missed Our Last Meeting. . .

## 34th District Democrats

### Minutes, District Meeting of November 12, 2014

*Occasional references may be made to attachments distributed at the meeting. These handouts—and the full version of the meeting minutes—may be accessed at the 34th District website or upon request.)*

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by Chair Marcee Stone-Vekich. Max Vekich led the flag salute and shared information on Veteran's Day and the meaning of the traditional poppy that is used as a symbol. We then had a moment of silence in memory of those who have served our country and for fallen service members. Veterans in the room were asked to stand and be acknowledged. Chair presented agenda for approval, with one addition of a resolution in place of PCO appointments under new business – M/S/P Unanimous. Minutes presented for approval – M/S/P Unanimous

**Treasurer's Report** – Karen Chilcutt: Our beginning balance on October 8 was \$11,853. We received \$1,853 in revenue, including Walk Piece advertising of \$1,250. We had \$2,661 in expenses. These included \$450 for a submission for an initial new logo design update and \$1,500 in campaign contributions. Our ending balance on November 12 was \$11,045.

**Chair's report:** Marcee talked briefly about the election, Washington had the lowest turnout since 1978. Nearly every issue and candidate that we endorsed passed. The holiday party on December 10 will be at Fauntleroy Hall in the other room. We will have a Navos gifts holiday tree again this year. Joy Pakulak talked about the gift cards at the back of the room. Take one and bring an unwrapped gift to the holiday party for Navos. Dow's annual 39th birthday is Thursday at Kell's Irish Pub. We lost over 20 elected PCOs in the last election cycle. If members are interested in being a PCO in their district check the list for openings and we can appoint them after the reorganization in January. Marcee announced that she will be running for reelection in January.

**Vice-Chair report:** Ted Barker said that the parks levy passed but didn't do well in our district.

Current elected officials were recognized: Eileen Cody, Joe McDermott, Joe Fitzgibbon, Sharon Nelson, Bill Tracy SW suburban Sewer district, Tom Rasmussen, Seattle City Council. Also attending were Brianna Thomas Maggie Award winner and Arun Jhavari the first mayor of Burien.

#### **Program General Meeting**

2014 Volunteer Awards Lisa Plymate and Bill Schrier provided list of awards that 34th district gives; the list included awards and former recipients. They will be accepting nominations on the simple form; complete and give it to Lisa or Bill. Please provide your name and contact information so they can contact you if they need to clarify details you've given about your nominee.

Legislative Preview Sharon Nelson thanked the membership for our help and support. A red wave came to Washington along with the national wave but they are already planning for 2015. Education will be the theme of the session, the Supreme Court is watching. The legislature can't do it without revenue. She's asking the caucus not to take anything off the table. They cannot cut social safety net; we have 30,000 homeless children and can't cut programs for the homeless. It will be a tough session; no is no longer an option. They must find solutions to fund education in Washington State. The Senate leaders are already talking to the House leadership. They will have to fund new revenue sources, the lift is heavy but they need to work towards funding education and keeping the social safety net.

Eileen Cody acknowledged Sharon's work; the Senate held their own and did better than House Democrats. They lost a few races they didn't expect to lose. Her committee will look a lot different.

Joe Fitzgibbon acknowledged the work of 34th members. We were the only LD that really came up with financial and other support to take or keep seats all over the state. Democrats just stayed home, there were no top of ticket Democrats and they lost interest. There was a terrible turnout in several districts where we lost 4 seats and now are down to 51 seats. One member will be in the 30th in Federal Way; PCOs will be appointing a representative to replace Roger Freeman who died before the election but was reelected.

have an election for the seat in 2015. There will be hard fights for funding for programs other than K-12 education that the Supreme Court is watching. They are focusing on 2015 and plan to challenge Republicans who say they can create a budget without revenue increases.

#### **Q&A**

What taxes do we need to fully fund basic education? Sharon—\$3 billion over biennium, there are options: sales tax, higher income tax, closing tax loopholes. Need to look at every possible source. (For the remainder of Q&A see the website.)

After the discussion, raffle tickets were offered for the afghan on display.

#### **Post Election Wrap Up**

Tom Rasmussen Transportation Proposition 1 passed with a 62% majority; it is controversial because it includes a \$60 license fee. It's temporary for 6 years then it will expire. They will now negotiate an agreement with King County Metro for more frequent and reliable service and to reduce crowding on high use routes. They will be appointing a citizen's oversight committee. Will begin to be rolled out service in June and it will be better than what Seattle has had in past.

Joe McDermott. We saw strong support for transit and preschool in Seattle. We need to keep our majority and build on it in the state legislature. King County's budget was received in September. They had a press conference today and will have a final vote on Monday, November 17. Three key items in the budget: all 10 public health clinics stay open for at least one year; transit budget review, no more cuts; refunding sheriff's office department for domestic violence response.

#### **Soapbox**

Four people signed up. Lois Schiffer Highline School District bond numbers have improved from election night but not enough to pass; it's at +59%.

- Ivan Weiss – Dora ??? blog City of Seattle's Department of Education thinks they can use Family and Education money to fund charter schools. We should raise a stink all the way to the mayor's office.
- Martha Koester minimum wage increase is a very popular policy, even in the reddest of red states. Why are Democrats not campaigning on issues like this? Idea, send a postcard to any newly registered voter in your precinct and connect them with the organized party of Democrats.
- Alan Munro need a strategy to counter super PAC money and voter suppression techniques.
- Max Vekich ILWU workers are getting the blame for problems with coal trains, shipments from overseas. They have been working without a contract since September. They are not to blame for problems but are being vilified in press, including by the West Seattle Blog.
- Kathryn Sprigg progressive candidates and issues won in election. Alan Grayson got 59% of vote in a conservative Florida precinct. Democrats need to be democrats and should now be Democrats in Name Only (DINO).
- Ivan Weiss Steve Israel has resigned in disgrace because he didn't get any of his candidates reelected.
- Lisa Plymate look ahead at what's going to happen nationally don't just buy into Hilary Clinton. We have some good women who could win, don't get on the Clinton train.
- Anne Martin need to engage people throughout the process, not just in election years.
- Joan Huddleston plan to increase membership send an e-mail to 10 other friends and invite them to come to the 34th meetings.
- Chris Porter School board plan to buy downtown building for school.

**Resolution:** John Repp Public banking for City of Seattle. We passed one for a state bank but it isn't getting traction; they decided to focus on Seattle because that might get further. M/S/P There is a meeting with a panel discussion on December 10 from 7 – 9 PM at University Temple, United Methodist Church. A flyer is available that explains public banking, contact John Repp or Martha Koester.

#### **Old Business/New Business:**

Two candidates for King County Democrat's Central Committee chair spoke: Rich Erwin, Betsy Walker. Other candidates are running. Marcee encouraged members to attend the reorganization meeting.

**Good of the Order:** Joy chose the winner of the raffle, Anne Martin won the afghan.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:46 PM.**



Newsletter editor  
10015 2nd Ave S  
Seattle, WA 98168

Return Service Requested

## JOIN THE 34TH DISTRICT DEMOCRATS!

Fill out this form and mail it with a check made payable to the 34<sup>th</sup> District Democrats

Mail to: Membership, 34<sup>th</sup> District Democrats, 6523 California Ave SW, Box 183, Seattle, WA 98136-1879.

\*Required by Washington State Public Disclosure Commission / Contributions are not tax deductible.

\*\$34 is the actual cost per member of running the organization

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

If you use a P.O. Box, do you live in the District? Yes  No

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Employer City: \_\_\_\_\_

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Basic Dues  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$3 Living Lightly | <input type="checkbox"/> \$34 Friend of the 34 <sup>th</sup> | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Sponsor      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Benefactor   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Sustaining   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Underwriter                   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Endowment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Add Additional Household Member(s): \$10 each or more \$ _____ |   |  |  |

Name of Additional Household Member(s): \_\_\_\_\_

In the interest of protecting our environment and building funds to support endorsed candidates, the 34th District Democrats wishes to communicate electronically.

Please check this box if you do not have access to electronic communications and need to receive a mailed newsletter.