



25th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT DEMOCRATIC FOCUS

Laura Moore from the Private and Home Based Education section of the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, explained home-based education to our group with Dixie Grunenfelder, Director of Secondary Education looking on at the February meeting of the 25th Democrats.

Moore explained how the requirements for home-based education align with public education. She said, "Parents must provide a curriculum and provide 1,000 hours of instruction per year." There are 19,610 students statewide who are enrolled in home-based schooling, 473 in the Puyallup School District. She added that the biggest reason parents say they move to home-based education is their dissatisfaction with public schools.

Seattle School District has the largest population of home-based students.

NEXT MEETING; MONDAY, MARCH 2 AT THE PUYALLUP PUBLIC LIBRARY AT 7 PM. SPEAKER WILL BE TODD IVERSON OF THE LONGSHOREMAN'S UNION. PLEASE BRING PEANUT BUTTER TO THE MEETING FOR THE LETTER CARRIER'S FOOD DRIVE.



Nick Bayard was nominated as the new PCO for 25-241. He addressed the 25th LDD at the February meeting.



25th LDD Parliamentarian and Webmaster Cliff Allo presented the Mary Bryant-Anne Jacobson Volunteer of the Year award to Kathryn Wright.

Senate Republicans Deceiving Voters Again On Transportation Proposals

If you are on Republican State Senator Bruce Dammeier's mailing list, then you recently received an email that mentioned how pleased he is that the Senate has produced a transportation package. Hidden near the end of the paragraph is mention of various reforms that are included in the package, supposedly to reduce the cost. Do not be fooled when someone tells you how important these 'reforms' are. They are not about saving money; they are about attacking working people and the environment.

The transportation package put together by Bruce Dammeier's Senate Republican colleagues weakens apprenticeship programs and prevailing wage standards that protect working people in Washington State. It threatens to cut all bus funding for the next sixteen years if Governor Inslee moves forward with a proposal to require cleaner fuel. It also authorizes a set of revenue options for Sound Transit that is much more regressive than was requested, meaning that the cost of improving our mass transit system will be paid disproportionately by those who can least afford it.

Washington needs a clean transportation funding package without the Senate Republicans' attacks on working people and the environment, and we must call on our legislators to deliver one. If Bruce Dammeier and the other Senate Republicans do not want a transportation package without these attacks, then they do not want a transportation package. In that case, we will have to elect Democratic majorities to both houses of the Legislature and then make sure that our Democratic representatives deliver the transportation package that we need.

Please call Senator Dammeier's office at (360)786-7648 and ask him to support a clean transportation package without attacks against working people and the environment.

District Democratic Organization

Have an impact on the future of Washington's transportation system. Participate in the Washington State Transportation Commission's Voice of Washington State surveys (VOWS). To do this go to <http://www.VoiceOfWashingtonSurvey.org> and sign up to get the surveys.

This message is from Anne Haley, Chair of the Washington State Transportation Commission: <http://wstc.wa.gov/>

Member Meeting Minutes, 2 February, 2015
Held at Puyallup Library

Meeting called to order at 7:10pm by Chair Ed Herde. Ed Herde led the flag salute. Roll was called. Officers present: Chair Ed Herde, Parliamentarian Cliff Allo, Sgt-At-Arms Bryan Yambe, Membership Chair Blaine Pearman, State Committeewoman Ellen Zulauf, PCO Chair Eric Herde, PCCC Members Pos. 2 Laura Groves and Pos. 3 Mervin Swanson, Focus Editor Joan Cronk

Approximate Attendance: 30

The agenda was approved as presented.

Elected Officials:

Julie Door, Puyallup City Council, spoke on general council issues. Council is seeking to acquire land for a new park and to connect some trails. They are seeking the best way to plan for ongoing road maint/repair with Shaw Road cited as the most pressing example. There are 4 seats up for election and they are seeking strong, willing candidates.

Bryan Yambe, Fife City Council, informed that he is in the process of forming a City of Fife youth council. Fife City Council is focusing on the completion of SR 167/509 whose completion is as important to Fife as it is to Puyallup

John Palmer, Puyallup City Council, addressed the legislative agenda for the council. Supporting WSU's investment in Puyallup is high on the list.

Guest Speaker:

Dixie Grunenfelder, Director of Secondary Education and Laura Moore, Private & Home Based Education (of the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction) spoke about Home Schooling as it plays out in WA State. This was an informative talk with many questions from the audience.

Action Items:

Nick Bayard was introduced as a candidate for PCO 25-241. He is excited about taking on this responsibility and promoting the Democratic agenda in general.

Bill Havens was appointed as Assistant Treasurer.

Presentation:

Kathryn Wright was awarded the 2014 Mary Bryan-Anne Jacobsen Volunteer of the Year Award by Cliff Allo for her many and varied volunteer actions. Cliff spoke of the work of Mary Bryan and Anne Jacobsen, two prolific & tireless workers for the Democratic cause.

Open Officer Positions:

The Secretary position is still open as well as PC Exec Board Rep Pos #1

Good of the Order:

Carolyn Merrival spoke about the measles outbreak, its seriousness and rapid spread, and the need to get legislation regarding mandatory measles vaccinations.

Jerry Beckendorf passed out League of Women Voters Pierce County Elected Officials booklets and thanked the League for providing them. The Jerry Beckendorf Labor Council Scholarship applications are available for high school, college and technical school bound graduates who are dependents of union members. Bring peanut butter to the next meeting to support the PC Labor Council and Letter Carriers food drive.

Ellen Zulauf spoke about the WSD Organizational meeting on January 24th.

Eric Herde spoke on 15 Now Tacoma. The Young Democrats are supporting signature gathering of this initiative to set a \$15 minimum wage in Tacoma.

Chris Chisholm spoke about Citizens for Political Integrity which seeks to bring integrity back into politics in Puyallup as well as the need for all to practice civil discourse which enables communication between people with different ideas. The group is seeking rational, courteous, ethical candidates.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm

Chair's Message
Ed Herde

The national trend of working to depress wages has come to Washington State in full force. If you think that Washington State's Republicans are not of the same variety as the national Republicans who continue to work to redistribute income to the very wealthiest in our nation (and to foreign entities as well) be aware that only a lack of power has kept the local GOP (Greedy Oligarchic Party) from attempting to pass legislation to take from the poor and moderate income classes and give to the super wealthy. With ALEC (American Legislative Exchange Council) written bills legislators and rightist think tanks in the state are working to force down wages in Washington.

Senator Bruce Dammeier of our 25th Legislative District is excited about the prospect of lowering the wages of Washington families through his support of provisions in the transportation package the Republicans are pushing in the legislature. He states in his latest constituent email "This far-thinking plan reforms the way we manage transportation projects..." One of the things Senator Dammeier is giddy about is eliminating prevailing wage provisions in state transportation projects. Currently all contractors who do work for government entities in the state are required to pay wages to each trade on a project at the prevailing rate of that trade's wages in the area. The Department of Labor and Industries publishes a schedule of prevailing wages for each trade. The Republican plan is sold to the voters as a way to reduce costs of transportation projects. The most immediate effect of eliminating prevailing wage laws would be that contractors who bid on state jobs would use lower waged workers. Lower wage workers translate to less experienced workers. A company that is spending less on a work force is spending less on training. This means we get a lesser quality product, quite possibly a product that will not last near as long as one built by an experienced work force. A work force usually trained through union apprenticeship.

A secondary effect of a lower paid work force is less money circulating in the local economy. Anyone who has lived around here for a while has heard of the multiplier effect of Boeing machinist jobs. Because the machinists are a well-paid work force it is estimated that each machinist job generates 3 other jobs in the local economy (that multiplier was 4 before the last few contracts).

This is only one example of the smoke and mirrors method of the Republicans to get us to go along with cutting off our own hands. Remember that grown in Washington Republicans are no different than the national variety. This is more obvious when you know that their funding comes from national dark money groups like the Koch brothers and the Karl Rove groups, and their bills come from ALEC. Senator Dammeier is well aware of the effects of eliminating prevailing wage provisions, and he is fine with it.

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**Well, you should be if you want the truth about politics by Frank Blair and Traci Kelly
Fridays at 12:00 to 1:00 PM on KLAY 1180AM!**

And if for some reason or other you miss it then go to equaltimeradio.net.

Tune in or be tuned out!

**HAVE YOU PAID YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES?
DUES SHOULD BE PAID NOW FOR 2015**

**Use this form to recruit friends and neighbors to join you
In helping our Democratic party**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ **E-MAIL** _____

**Dues: Evergreen (Includes Senior, outside district, etc.) \$10 per member
Rainier \$25. Chair's Voice \$50. Senator's Club \$100. (Can be paid
In installments.)**

**Please send dues to: 25th LDD, P. O. Box 73594, Puyallup, WA 98374 or pay by
credit card on <https://secureform.cloud.clickandpledge.com/20184/1>**

(Can be paid in installments)