



## 25th Legislative District Democratic Focus



Photos from the April 22nd March for Science held in Tacoma in conjunction with nationwide marches.

Our May 1st meeting is at 7:00 pm at the Downtown Puyallup Library. We will be discussing the many levels of government, and will hear from candidates who are running for local office this year.

## Report on the Washington State Democrats 4-22-17 meeting in Walla Walla By 25<sup>th</sup> LDDO State Committeeman Jeremy Kamel

I want to thank the 25th LD for allowing me to represent you in the Washington State Democrats Central Committee.

We have had a successful weekend building the Democratic Party in Washington.

The hottest topic in almost every Constituency Caucus was PCO recruitment. We need to be working on filling all of our empty PCO slots. Our LD Chair Ed Herde has our list of precincts without a PCO. Please send inquires to Ed Herde about vacant PCO slots in your area. With that list we can talk to our like-minded friends that live a few miles away in precincts that need PCO's. These positions are critical for helping Democrats find out what matters most to voters in our community. PCO's also help us Get Out The Vote.

Join The Resistance!

With funds being available due to Democrats signing up for *The Resistance* the State Party is hiring more staff. These staffers will help County and LD parties with community organizing, and with PCO and Candidate Recruitment. If you have not yet signed up please join *The Resistance* by visiting <https://wadems.ngpvanhost.com/resist>

I am on the Eastern Washington Committee where we hear issues important on the east side of the state. We also heard a presentation from our State Chair Tina Podlodowski. Aside for the need for PCO's, Tina also spoke of a new initiative from the state party called the "Summer of Canvassing". The state party is asking us to do more canvassing and collecting of information on issues important to the voters. They are saying that the surveys will be more relevant to the local areas. They are also promising to give us better tools to collect the data. We need to get our Vote Builder database up to date.

I personally attended two Caucuses, the Jewish Caucus and the Labor Caucus. The Jewish Caucus may be doing a Reorganization coming up at the September State Central Committee Meeting.

I am Chairman of the Labor Caucus. I gave reports regarding efforts by conservative groups pushing for "Right to Work" For Less, and open public negotiations for public sector unions. We succeeded in defeating both of those pushes for the time being. We also discussed the need to get Union Members to become PCO's, and we voted to have Pierce County Dems Anita Latch as our Legislative Issues Coordinator.

In Solidarity,  
Jeremy Kamel  
PCO 25-251  
25th LD State Committeeman  
Washington State Democrats Labor Caucus Chair

# The Inseparability of Science and Society

By Kara Lanning

What is science? Defining what *is* and *is not* science has become a critical conversation which I engage my students in at the start of every semester. In defining science, my students use phrases such as: self-correcting, the pursuit of the truth, objective, and an evidence-based process that describes the natural world. Conversely, the phrases they use to define what is not science include: subjective, influenced by religion or culture, and seeking to support an ideological agenda. The process of science involves the formulation of testable questions generating reproducible, predictive explanations of the observed phenomenon. Innately fact-checking, science requires the constant development of new experiments to support or reject the data of previous experiments. Far more than a fact-checking, data-generating process; however, science is a way of observing and appreciating the natural world around us. Science provides an individual with a profound sense of wonder.

The ubiquity of science leaves no fraction of human existence untouched – ranging from the food that we eat, the fiber of our clothing, to the quality of the air we breathe. While scientific innovation and discovery is inseparable from the advances of modern society, scientists have remained on the sidelines of public engagement. This lack of effective engagement has provided the opportunity for politicians to steer the conversation as to what is and is not credible, scientific information. Commonly using phrases such as “I don’t believe in climate change,” or “I don’t believe in evolution,” politicians have injected an element of subjectivity permitting the tailoring of scientific truths to fit within their political ideology. The result of this has been an increase in public skepticism and distrust of scientific evidence.

Perhaps there has been no clearer manifestation of skepticism of the scientific community than what we are observing with the current administration. The Trump administration has taken a highly destructive stance against scientific education, research, and innovation. Actions range from the constant denial of climate change, the removal of the word “science” from the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) mission statement, and the catastrophic proposed budgets cuts to the NIH, USDA, and the EPA. What now seems like a daily occurrence, federal programs that support scientific innovation are being cut and environmental protections have been stripped away. Evidence-based policy is being replaced by biased, cooperation-boosting executive actions and proposed policies.

Now is the time for scientists to move into the national spotlight and take control of the conversation regarding the importance and utility of scientific innovations and progress.

And this is, in fact, what has been observed since the dawn of the Trump administration. Scientists and science enthusiasts alike are engaging in political activism in levels previously unseen. This mobilization is most notably reflected with the recent March for Science on April 22, 2017. According to the official March for Science website, 610 marches were held involving the participation of hundreds of thousands of people around the world.

I chose to attend the Tacoma March for Science with my family, colleagues, and students. The crowd convened at Tollefson Plaza the morning of the march with an estimated attendance of 1,000 people. Advertised as a nonpartisan event to highlight the positive benefits of science to society, science lovers and political activists took a critical stance against the anti-science Trump administration. When I asked one student why she chose to march, her response was, “The march for science was a place to join with my fellow university students and show our devotion and passion for further science. I was able to march with students from many scientific disciplines and not only protest the ever-increasing anti-science administration but help motivate each other to continue in our pursuit for the truth.”

At the start of the event, local scientists, students, and politicians gave electrically charged speeches expressing the importance of science. U.S Representative Denny Heck told the story of how science extended the life of his brother Bob, a veteran who developed Hodgkin’s Lymphoma after exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam. At the time of his brother’s diagnosis, Hodgkin’s Lymphoma was essentially an untreatable form of cancer. Now, due to the progress of scientific research, individuals today have a 95% survival rate. Following the speeches, marchers walked a 2 mile route through the heart of downtown Tacoma.

The enthusiasm surrounding the March for Science events must continue to build momentum. Scientists need to extend outside of professional circles, and engage the public in meaningful conversations and experiences. Possible community engagement opportunities include hosting public forums geared towards adults and youth, participating in social media outlets and discussing the impact of their work, talking with non-science experts about science, and lastly, assuming an active role in the political arena. If there is any hope for the reintegration of evidence-based political decisions at local and federal levels, scientists need to rise to this call for action and drive conversation of the beneficial inseparability of science and society.

**Minutes of the 25th Legislative District Democratic Organization Member Meeting,  
Monday April 3rd, 2017 Held at Puyallup Library**

Call to Order - 7:05pm

Roll Call of Officers – Total Attendees 38

Officers in attendance: Chair – Ed Herde, Vice Chair – Rae Baghirov, StateCMan – Jeremy Kamel, Treasurer – Bill Havens, Secretary – Denise Babineaux, Membership Officer – Joe Columbo, Sergeant of Arms – Dylan Kesler, Newsletter Editor – Joan Cronk, PDCC Exec. Board Pos.1 – Turan Kayaoglu

Items/Discussion

- Remembering Ray Green by Jerry Beckendorf
- Brian Duthie introduced himself, as he is considering a run against Joyce McDonald for Washington State House of Representative in the 25<sup>th</sup> LD Pos. 2
- Doorbelling discussion in regards to voters of which we have no date; volunteers needed

Guest Speaker – Dr. Turan Kayaoglu, Professor & Associate Vice Chancellor for Research, UW Tacoma; and one of our PDCC Exec. Board Members

- Spoke about Islam and American Muslims: What Every Democrat Should Know

Actions

- Resolution on Single Payer Healthcare, introduced by Eric Herde
  - Motioned by Jerry Beckendorf
  - Seconded by Jeremy Kamel
  - Passed by the Body unanimously

Meeting Adjourned – 8:55pm

## A RESOLUTION ON SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE

WHEREAS, the Washington State Democratic Party platform supports "universal health care and moving to a public single-payer system";

WHEREAS, past State Committees and State Conventions have passed resolutions in support of single-payer health care with minimal response from Washington's Congressional Democrats;

WHEREAS, the recent failure of the Republican attack on the Affordable Care Act makes this an ideal opportunity to continue improving our health care system; and

WHEREAS, Rep. John Conyers has introduced HR 676 to create a national single-payer health care system, and Sen. Bernie Sanders will soon be introducing a single-payer bill;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the 25th Legislative District Democratic Party calls on our Congressional representatives to cosponsor the single-payer health care bills in their respective chambers;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be sent to Representatives Denny Heck and Dave Reichert, and Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 25th Legislative District Democratic Party requests that the Washington State Democratic Party add to VoteBuilder a Survey Question on voters' support for single-payer health care, and make it available statewide; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution, edited to comply with the WSDCC rules for resolutions, shall be submitted for consideration at the next meeting of the Washington State Democratic Central Committee.



**25th LDD member Kara Lanning**



**Membership Chair Joe Columbo with Rep. Denny Heck**



**STUDENTS JACKIE STERNBERG, SARAH AMENY, LAURA GLASTRA WITH PROFESSOR KARA LANNING**



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**WA STATE DEM PARTY**  
[www.wa-democrats.org](http://www.wa-democrats.org)

**PIERCE COUNTY DEMS:**  
[piercecountydems.org](http://piercecountydems.org)

**25th LEG DISTRICT**  
[25dems.org](http://25dems.org)

**\*PCDCC EX BOARD = DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE BOARD**



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**Fridays at 12:00 to 1:00 PM on KLAY 1180AM!**

**And if for some reason or other you miss it then go to [equalltimeradio.net](http://equalltimeradio.net).**

**Tune in or be tuned out!**

**It's 2017 and time to pay your membership dues**

To be a voting member of the 25<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Democrats you need to be up to date on your dues. To help your local Democrats spread our message you need to pay your dues. To fight for the 99% you need to pay your dues. To elect good candidates you need to pay your dues. Your dues could be the straw that breaks the camel's back.

The Annual Dues period runs from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>. Use this form to pay by check, or go to <http://25dems.org/Anedot/Dues.php> to pay by credit card.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: Evergreen (Includes Senior, Outside of district, Student) \$10 per member. Rainier \$25. Chair's Voice \$50. Senator's Club \$100 - Can be paid in installments. Mail this form and your dues check to: 25th LDD, P. O. Box 73594, Puyallup, WA 98374

*Please encourage friends to become a member of the 25<sup>th</sup> LD Democrats.*