



## 25th LD Democrats April 2018 Newsletter



25th LDD Democratic Caucus was held on Saturday, March 24 at Franklin Pierce High School. It was well attended.

Our April 2nd meeting will be at 7 pm at the Puyallup Library, 324 So Meridian, Puyallup, WA. This meeting is our nomination meeting where we will vote on who will be the 25th LD Democratic Organization's Nominees for the two 25th Legislative District seats in the House of Representatives in the State Legislature. Prior to the votes for nomination the three Democratic Legislative candidates (Julie Door, Jamie Smith, Brian Duthie) will speak and take questions from attendees. All Precinct Committee Officers and any member of the 25th LDD who has paid dues for 2018 at least 30 days prior to the vote is eligible to cast a ballot. See the meeting's full agenda at [25dems.org](http://25dems.org).

## **25th Legislative District Democrats**

Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2018

### **Opening**

The regular meeting of the 25th Legislative District Democrats was called to order at 7:05PM on March 5, 2018 in the Puyallup Library by Ed Herde.

### **Present**

Officers: Chair-Ed Herde; State Committeeman-Bob Klavano; State Committeewoman-Gina Bua; Membership Officer-Joe Colombo; Parliamentarian/Webster-Cliff Allo; Treasurer-Bob Koreis; Newsletter Editor-Joan Cronk; PCO Chair-Eric Herde; Secretary Karri Wicka; Sgt. At Arms Blaine Pearman; PCDCC EX board Pos. 1 Turan Kayaoglu; 35 total attendees.

Update from one elected official: Robin Farris – Puyallup City Council, District1

Candidates – Brian Duthie running for 25<sup>th</sup> Legislative Rep. Position 2, spoke, and Kara Lanning read a statement from Jamie Smith, announcing that Jamie will be running for Position 1 Legislative Rep. in the 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **Action Items**

Cliff Allo introduced the amendment to bylaws regarding online voting by LD members and PCO's. Bob Klavano moved, Chris Chisholm second that we vote for the amendment. Amendment passed by vote of 19 for, 1 against, 2 abstain.

### **Program**

Joe Colombo – “Reframing Progressive Values” – Changing the language and reframing the debate on your terms. Very informative presentation with audience participation

Eric Herde spoke of the Deep Listening Doorbell Event on Saturday Mar. 17.

Ed Herde announced the 25<sup>th</sup> LD Caucus is Saturday March 24, 2018 at 10:00am at the Franklin Pierce High School Cafeteria. We need Credentials Committee Members, volunteers to bring refreshments, and we will be electing 6 Delegates and 3 Alternates for the June 16, 2018 State Convention in Wenatchee.

### **Good of the Order**

- Jerry Beckendorf spoke about his bowling tournament that raises money for scholarships for local students who are dependents of union members.
- Eric Herde shared the GoFundMe page for West Virginia striking Teachers. Also spoke about the petition for Int. 1600.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:42pm by Ed Herde. The next meeting will be at 7:00pm on April 2, 2018, at the Puyallup Library. The meeting will be our Nomination Meeting for our candidates for our 2 Legislative House seats.

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**2018 25<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT CAUCUS**  
Franklin Pierce High School, 11002 18th Ave E, Tacoma, WA 98445  
**Minutes March 24, 2018**

1. 10:00 am – Registration Begins
2. 11:04 am – Meeting Called to Order by chair Ed Herde. Call for delegate nominees, Welcome letter from State Party Chair Tina Podlodowski was read by Ed
3. Appointments:
  - a. Caucus Secretary – Karri Wicka
  - b. Caucus Sargent at Arms – Blaine Pearman
  - c. Caucus Time Keeper – Joe Colombo
  - d. Caucus Parliamentarian- Cliff Allo
  - e. Caucus Tally Committee. Eric Herde, Gina Bua, Karen Herde
4. Credentials Report: Cliff Allo – 11:11am - 46 present. A quorum of 30% = 14 voters is set per the State Party’s 2018 Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plan
5. Election of Delegates and Alternates to the State Convention. 6 delegates, 3 alternates
  1. Angela Wambaugh
  2. Karl Mecklenburg
  3. Mary Pat Laushot
  4. David Torrey
  5. Lorra Jackson \*
  6. Robert Wardell
  1. Rebecca Gallogly – Alternate #1
  2. Chris Oliver – Alternate #2
  3. Bob Koreis – Alternate #3

\*Rebecca Gallogly stepped back to become an Alternate to allow Lorra Jackson to be a delegate.
6. Candidates for Public Office who spoke during the vote Tallying: Julie Door, Jamie Smith, Brian Duthie all running for 25th LD state representative. Marty Campbell for Dist. 5 Pierce County Council. Mark Lindquist – Pierce County Prosecutor
7. Return of Credential Holders.
8. Good of the Order – Jerry Beckendorf spoke to the Labor Council Peanut Butter Drive.
9. Adjournment. 12:27pm

## A Plan to Nationalize Fossil Fuel Companies

Peter Gowan

Climate change cries out for ambitious solutions. All progressives recognize that climate change is a serious long-term risk which could cause devastating damage around the world. There is not, however, consensus on which policy options could seriously mitigate the effects of climate change.

One strong option: bringing fossil energy under majority public ownership. It is being proposed by the Labour Party in the UK and is already the case in Norway. Such ownership could bring major benefits if tried here.

The Trump administration's repeal of the Clean Power Plan last year has taken the country in the wrong direction. But the Obama administration policies before him were very underwhelming. The Clean Power Plan, instituted under Obama, was already facing serious legal troubles and would have been insufficient to achieve the U.S. pledges under the Paris Agreement, which themselves would have been insufficient to meet the proportional contribution required to limit global warming to 2 degrees above pre-industrial levels.

Free-market solutions and incentives are not capable of dealing with a major economic transition of this type on a quick enough timescale to avoid environmental disaster. The use of workers in the fossil fuel industry as a cynical bargaining chip by the owners of those firms represents a massive political obstacle to a real energy transition, as does the valuation of these firms based off an expectation by investors that much or all of their underground assets will be developed — which, if we are to avoid climate catastrophe, will not.

What we should do instead is have the state buy a controlling stake in all major fossil fuel firms.

This could be quite costly — Alperovitz, Guinan, and Hanna recently estimated “the price tag to purchase outright the top 25 largest US-based publicly traded oil and gas companies, along with most of the remaining publicly traded coal companies” at \$1.15 trillion — but there are ways to minimize this cost while still obtaining all of the benefits.

The mode for gaining public control of these companies should involve making the federal government's final intentions well known to investors from the outset. Control over these shares would be given to a new Social Energy Fund, which would be chartered to use its stake in the firms to achieve key priorities, including national compliance with ambitious decarbonization targets and building up publicly owned renewable energy firms. This means stating from the outset that huge quantities of oil and gas will be left in the ground. The state would vote for resolutions and directors that will ensure its social goals are met.

While full nationalization would be preferable under an ideal legal regime, the Supreme Court case law under the Takings Clause requires market value compensation for compulsory purchases. Instead, having made its intentions to annihilate the fossil fuel industry known, the government would offer to voluntarily purchase up to 51% of shares. It would also announce that it intends to compulsorily purchase any shares required to obtain its majority stake at some point in the future — say, one year afterwards.

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This guarantees to investors that if they do not sell stakes, they will be left holding an asset worth far less than they paid for with no available buyer. The price of fossil fuel shares includes both their immediate profits and a speculative value based on the expectation that firms will continue to have a stranglehold on the political system and ensure their ability to extract and sell fossil fuels for a long time to come. We would therefore expect the value of the stocks to collapse just as shares in private prisons collapsed in 2016 due to Obama's promise to phase them out.

The state could add a further incentive to sell now by stating that it will include a discount accounting for environmental externalities in its "just compensation" for compulsory purchase. It is likely that this would not persuade America's right-wing judiciary and the state would eventually have to pay market value. But the prospect of holdouts having to fight an extended legal battle with the federal government should depress the stock price further.

If we assume Alperovitz, Guinan, and Hanna's figures are correct and a conservative discount of 30% on the current prices, and only purchase 51% of the shares, the total cost works out at \$410 billion. A similar plan by David Hall of the University of Greenwich put the cost of nationalizing half of the UK's major fossil fuel companies at market value at around £36 billion (\$50.2 billion), or £44.4 billion (\$61.9 billion) if one includes the transmission and distribution grids. The U.S. economy is about seven times larger than the British economy, so the figures are roughly comparable.

In truth, this would be worth doing even if the sticker price was far higher. The long-term costs of climate change to the U.S. economy and society will dwarf any capital investment we need to make right now.

Economists largely agree that nationalization does not have a direct impact on the government's balance sheet due to the acquisition of public assets, a fact recently acknowledged by the Financial Times in reference to Jeremy Corbyn's plan to nationalize the energy network. The ability of the government to plan energy transitions in a way which does not require them to pay off fossil fuel barons with subsidies and tax incentives will no doubt improve the government's financial resources over time, and the revenues from fossil fuels will provide a stopgap until a large public clean energy sector begins to pay dividends.

An undeniable consequence of decarbonization will be job losses in the fossil fuel sector. The fund should address this through a gradual downward trend in employment which can be absorbed through hiring freezes, voluntary redundancies, and active labor market policies rather than through large-scale immediate layoffs — especially where largely concentrated in a single area. The Wilson Labour government in the United Kingdom reduced employment in collieries by a similar absolute number to the Thatcher government, but its cooperation with unions, focus on full employment, and active industrial policy ensured this did not cause a social catastrophe.

The welfare state and union-run retraining schemes should also fill the gap here. We should aim to smooth out the transition for people as much as possible. The liberalized market is a massive obstacle to decarbonization because it polarizes the interests of energy workers against everyone else's compelling interest in energy transition. This is not inevitable, and a large social-democratic welfare state would significantly reduce these divisions.

Norway's social wealth fund recently suggested divesting from privately held fossil fuel firms, and its state energy company Equinor is seeking to diversify away from oil. The fossil fuel industry in America already exists, and state management is much better suited to planning a fair and viable transition that will avoid catastrophic climate change.

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How should we pay for such a plan? Climate change poses a grave risk to global security in the long run. Even major oil producers have recognized this. Norway's Climate and Environment Minister noted that "studies have pointed out that the record drought that ravaged Syria in 2005 to 2010 was likely stoked by ongoing manmade climate change," and that this "helped push conditions over the threshold" of civil war.

If offsets are required to pass this proposal, funding it by cancelling planned military spending increases makes sense. We should not need excessive spending on the military if we are living in a safer world, and a publicly controlled energy transition whose profits finance a secure, collectively-owned clean energy industry will do more good for America, and the world, than any spending on F-35s or foreign interventions.

Originally posted at [peoplespolicyproject.org](http://peoplespolicyproject.org)

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## Chairs Comment

Ed Herde

### **25<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Caucus**

The 25<sup>th</sup> LD Democrats had a successful caucus last Saturday at Franklin Pierce High School. The 45 local Democrats that came to take part in the caucus elected 6 delegates and 3 alternates to the Washington State Democrats convention that will be held June 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> in Wenatchee. At the convention the delegates will revise the state party platform. We had a good turnout considering the very important "March for Our Lives" ended up being held nationwide on the same day as the Washington State Democrats Caucuses.

### **Pierce County Democrats Convention**

On Sunday April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 at 1:00 pm the Pierce County Democrats will hold their convention at Spanaway Lake High School. The business of the County Convention is to adopt a County Platform and Resolutions. Any Democrat from Pierce County who is registered to vote and is willing to sign a registration form stating they are a Democrat, and agree to public display of their attendance at the meeting is invited to participate in the convention. So show up at the convention and help shape your local party.

### **25<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Candidate Nominations**

At our Monday April 2<sup>nd</sup> General Membership Meeting at 7:00 pm at the Puyallup Library we will have a candidate forum and votes on who we will nominate as our Democratic candidates for Positions 1 and 2 for the 25th Legislative District seats in the

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State House of Representatives. General members who have paid the current year's membership dues at least 30 days prior to the vote and all PCO's are eligible to vote. Candidate questionnaires for candidates requesting nomination can be viewed at [25dems.org](http://25dems.org). A candidate Forum and Endorsement Meeting for other elected offices that are partially in the 25<sup>th</sup> LD will take place at our June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Democrats who are running for 25<sup>th</sup> LD House Position 1 in the Legislature are Julie Door and Jamie Smith. The Democrat running for 25<sup>th</sup> LD House Position 2 is Brian Duthie. All 25<sup>th</sup> LD Democratic Organization eligible voters are strongly encouraged to read the candidates' endorsement questionnaires and come to the April 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting to listen to the candidates and ask questions. After the candidates speak and take questions anyone in attendance can share their thoughts and join in the discussion on the candidates, but only 25<sup>th</sup> LDDO eligible voters can vote on the nomination.

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**25<sup>th</sup> LDDO Delegates and Alternates to the 2018 Washington State Democrats State Convention**

**Delegates:**

Angela Wambaugh

Karl Mecklenburg

Mary Pat Laushot

David Torrey

Lorra Jackson

Robert Wardell

**Alternates:**

1. Rebecca Gallogly \*

2. Christopher Oliver

3. Bob Koreis

\*Rebecca Gallogly stepped down from Delegate to Alternate to give a younger Democrat a delegate position

**25th Legislative  
District Democrats  
(LDD)**

**Chair:**

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**Website for latest  
information  
or copies of Focus:**  
[www.25dems.org](http://www.25dems.org)

**DEMOCRAT'S  
CONTACT  
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**DNC**

[www.democrats.org](http://www.democrats.org)

**WA. STATE DEM PARTY**

[www.wa-democrats.org](http://www.wa-democrats.org)

**PIERCE COUNTY  
DEMS:**

[piersecountydems.org](http://piersecountydems.org)

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

**\*PCDCC Ex. Board =  
Pierce County  
Democratic Central  
Committee Executive  
Board**



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**Tune in or be tuned out!**

**The new year is arriving soon and your 2017 membership will expire on 12/31/17. To be a voting member of the 25th Legislative District Democrats you need to be up to date on your dues. When you are a member you have a vote on who will be the officers of your local Democratic organization, on endorsements, policy issues and other club business. Please renew your dues so the 25th LD Democrats can keep working to spread the message of democratic values and support good local candidates.**

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.*