

March 7th 25th LD minutes

By Melissa Thompson

Called to Order at 7p.m. Then we did the Flag Salute. Roll Call of Officers everybody was present except Sgt at Arms Eric Renz. We adopted the consent Agenda.

Our Guest Speaker was Congressman Adam Smith. He said that the Democratic Delegation in Congress needs to have a more cohesive message to go forward. He talked about the economy. He said that the Republican Congress wants increasing the revenue to be off the table. It needs to be discussed in order to help run programs. The Republicans also want no capital gains, no estate tax, and to cut 61 billion dollars for the rest of the 2011 budget. They want to shut down the government. Democrats want to fight back for the opportunity for all. He is the ranking member of the Armed Services Committee. He then had a question and answer session where he talked about unions, genetically engineered food, redistricting, and the tax cuts and social security.

Pierce County Council member Tim Farrell came and spoke for a few minutes. Then we had Robin Farris who is heading the Recall of Assessor Treasurer Dale Washam Update. The Supreme Court has agreed to pass on to go forward on the recall. The recall is based on misconduct in his office with the way he is treating the employees. In order for the recall to get on a ballot they needed 90,000 signatures of registered voters in Pierce County. They have 180 days to get the signatures, but Robin would like them in no later than June 30th. Volunteers are going to be wherever they can to get the signatures.

Tim Farrell spoke again and he will be running for the Assessor Treasurer's office. If the recall succeeds the County Council will have to appoint someone to fill the vacant position within a week. That person will be a place holder until the 2012 election is certified which is just before Thanksgiving.

We then had a Resolution presented to us regarding the Supreme Court Decision of granting Constitutional Rights for People not Corporations. Merv Swanson made the motion for the resolution and Al Gray seconded it. We voted on the resolution and it passed.

On April 30th from 10-2 on the River Walk there will be a Fun Run and other activities in the Goodwill parking lot.

One March 17th at 6:15- 8 p.m. The League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County invites people to a Forum on The Open Records Act. It will be held at The News Tribune office in the Baker Room at 1950 South State Street, Tacoma. A panel of experts will give information on current issues facing citizens and government agencies in release of public records. The panel

consists of Tim Ford, with Open Government Ombudsman, Attorney General's Office, and Toby Nixon, with Washington Coalition for Open Government, Sean Robinson, TNT Reporter, and Russell Wood, who is State Records Manager.

State Committeeman Cliff Allo brought up Big Issues that State Rules Committee will be facing when they meet at the end of March. They will be discussing if we should have Presidential Primaries or Caucuses. About the Top 2 Primary decision of PCO elections that were dropped. What shall happen with PCOs? How will they be elected and how long 2 year terms or 4 year terms? Should we have bigger Precincts? If you got opinions contact Cliff Allo at cliffallo@blarg.com.