21st District Democrats

Business Meeting

Jan. 20, 2016

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM.

A quorum was established.

Pledge of allegiance recited.

Agenda moved, seconded and approved.

Approval November the business meeting minutes tabled until next month.

Guests and elected officials

Rick Larson, US House of Representatives

Congressman Larson formally requested the endorsement of the 21st LD Democrats. He spoke on the passage of major transportation legislation that will create thousands of jobs in our state. He also spoke about skills training program to help people to gain the needed job skills at the high school and community college levels. The bill focuses on apprenticeships for high tech jobs. He is also working on legislation that would lower the costs of student loans. He wants to fight to keep Pell Grants available. He also spoke about passing the Dream Act and passing the Voting Rights amendments that would re-establish federal review of state and local laws that limit citizens from voting. He is also working on passing a constitutional amendment to address the impacts of the Citizens United ruling. Finally, he encouraged us to work for a good turn out at the upcoming caucuses.

He responded to the following questions: Can the federal legislation be amended to restrict commercial flights at Paine Field? He responded that airport funding from the FAA comes with certain requirements and spoke of Paine Field’s role as an emergency alternate to other nearby airports.

He responded to a question about the sale of cigarettes to people under 21 years of age. He pointed out the federal limits on the sale of cigarettes.

He spoke of the TAA and related legislation. He spoke of the challenge of crafting trade agreements. He noted the President supports the agreements.

He responded to a suggestion that NASA consider expanding it’s presence in the Puget Sound region. He spoke of a number of space based businesses here in the NW. He also noted that NOAA has a strong presence in the region.

Cyrus Habib

A supporter of Cyrus Habib spoke of his goals in running for Lt. Governor.

Old Business

Linda Wooding gave an update on the holiday party. The event went well. We broke even and we donated left over items to the state party.

Resolutions

Mike read the titles of three resolutions submitted by Dick McManus.

A resolution to oppose the War Powers act passed by Congress that authorized military action in Afghanistan. The act also granted the President power to arrest citizens.

The war powers resolution was moved, seconded and voted down.

A minimum wage resolution. A friendly amendment was adopted to change the amount of minimum wage in the resolution to $15 per hour. The resolution was moved, seconded and adopted.

A carbon tax resolution. The resolution was moved, seconded and was voted down.

Caucus Update

Steve gave an update on the caucus planning. The caucus is on March 26th at Meadowdale High School. The event will cost more than $1000. We need volunteers. Michele went over the room set up and requirements for directing people to the right precincts. She passed out a sign up sheet for volunteers. The next Caucus Committee meeting will be on Monday at 7:00 PM at the Rosehill community center.

New Business

A motion was passed to extend the agenda to 8:45 PM.

Budget Committee Update

Michele said the goal was to approve the budget at the next E. Board meeting.

State Party Committee

Michele gave an update on the January 29th meeting in Lynnwood.

Membership Committee

Christine gave an update on recruitment of new members. She asked for help in developing recruitment information and stressed the need for new members to be able to pay dues on-line.

Treasurer Report

Will provided our current balances.

A motion to extend the meeting to 9:00 PM was made, seconded and approved.

Good of the Order

Steve thanked people for volunteering for the caucus. Mike noted he has offered to sponsor the caucus up to $1000. More fund raising is needed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 PM