

## February 20, 2018 Meeting Minutes Vashon Progressive Alliance (VPA)

### Attendees:

Sheila Brown (Host), Diane Emerson (Facilitator), Trey McBride (Minutes), Roxy Hathaway, Kevin Jones, Sue Letsinger, Jessica Lisovsky, Margaret Mackey, Melvin Mackey, Steve Rubicz, Terry Sullivan, Roxanne Thayer, & Judy White

The meeting began at 6:30pm with introductions and concluded at 8:30pm with discussion of the schedule for next month's meeting.

### Announcements:

1. **Vashon High School Voter Registration:** Roxanne shared the Vashon High School (VHS) librarian is encouraging 18-year old students to vote through a voter registration reminder held during a VHS library end-of-month birthday party.

VHS Library Homepage: <https://www.vashonsd.org/domain/301>

2. **MoveOn.org Petition if Trump Fires Mueller or Rosenstein:** Kevin shared that MoveOn.org is asking for members to sign a petition requesting Congressional condemnation of President Trump if his administration fires either Robert Mueller or Rod Rosenstein. Sheila mentioned, in case Mueller and/or Rosenstein are fired, there will be a rapid response protest in Seattle the day of or following day at Cal Anderson Park. This is a part of a nationwide event organized by [MoveOn.org](http://MoveOn.org). It is suggested that we go to the website and ask for instant alert to come to our email addresses.

MoveOn.Org Homepage: <https://front.moveon.org>

3. **Indivisible Vashon Art Build if Trump Fires Mueller or Rosenstein (Mar 7):** Kevin shared that an art build will occur on March 7 (2pm – 6pm) at the Backbone Campaign warehouse (18850 103<sup>rd</sup> Ave SW (Sheffield Building)) if President Trump's administration fires either Robert Mueller or Rod Rosenstein.

Backbone Campaign Homepage: <http://www.backbonecampaign.org>

4. **Winona LaDuke Visiting Vashon (Mar 10):** Sheila shared that activist, environmentalist, and farmer Winona LaDuke will host an evening of music and discussion at Open Space (18870 103<sup>rd</sup> Ave SW) on March 10, 2018 (6:30pm - 8:30pm). Tickets are available online and at the Vashon Bookshop (\$25/person & \$15/students & seniors).

Event Online Tickets: <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3235482>

5. **Tacoma Detention Center (TDC) Court Watch:** Sheila shared that volunteers are needed to ensure the standard of justice at the TDC by actively monitoring court proceedings (8:30am - 11:30am / Monday - Thursday).

Court Watch Info & Training Through the Washington State Action Network:  
<http://wanet.org/actions/NORTHWEST-DETENTION-CENTER-COURTWATCH>

6. **Tacoma Detention Center (TDC) Hunger Strike & Work Stoppage:** Melvin shared that immigrants detained at the TDC are protesting abuses by guards through a hunger strike & work stoppage.

News Release: <http://www.nwdcresistance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Feb-Hunger-Strike-Press-Release-.pdf>

7. **WA DOL Provided ICE With Mora-Villalpando Background Info:** Melvin shared that Washington State's Department of Licensing (DOL) provided Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) background & driver's license information for immigration activist Maru Mora-Villalpando without a warrant.

News site: <https://www.thestranger.com/slog/2018/02/16/25826966/yep-the-washington-state-department-of-licensing-gave-immigration-activists-info-to-ice>

8. **Carbon Free Vashon Members Protest PSE Plan to Keep Using Coal (Feb 21):** Kevin shared that members of Carbon Free Vashon plan to protest Puget Sound Energy's (PSE) plan to continue producing energy from coal until 2035. Several meeting attendees were going to attend the WA Utilities and Transportation Committee hearings in Renton and provide testimony to help PSE go carbon free.

News Release: <https://www.opb.org/news/article/activists-protest-puget-sound-energys-plan-to-keep-using-coal/#.Wo5AaPaPjhs.facebook>

9. **Reemergence of Indivisible Vashon:** Kevin shared that Indivisible Vashon is expanding its message through increased use of local newspapers, social media, and online endorsements by other progressive organizations.

Indivisible Vashon Homepage: <http://www.indivisiblevashon.org>

10. **VPA Endorsement Agreement:** Melvin shared that the procedures for the VPA to endorse other progressive groups are not yet on the VPA website. **Diane will post the agreement to the website.**

VPA Homepage: <http://www.vashonprogressivealliance.org>

## Follow Up on Action Items from January Minutes:

1. **Vashon Living Wage Campaign:** Diane added information on the campaign to the Vashon Progressive Alliance website. Kevin shared that VPA provided names of volunteers to design campaign stickers. **Roxy pledged to assist with graphic design support.**

Living Wage Campaign Facebook Link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1701226999949075/>

2. **Vashon Earth Day (Apr 21):** Kevin shared that passport stamps for attending Earth Day events will be available by participating in various local events, to include trail maintenance & tree planting through the Vashon Land Trust. Kevin is reaching out to other Vashon organizations to provide additional stamps. A fully stamped passport will allow participants to get into Earth Day's evening musical event at no cost. Earth Day events will include environmental speakers, vendors, merchants, & artisans.

Vashon Earth Day Facebook Link:

[https://www.facebook.com/events/573165106352124/?active\\_tab=discussion](https://www.facebook.com/events/573165106352124/?active_tab=discussion)

## New Business:

1. **Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ):** Jessica provided detailed information about the mission, structure, and focus of SURJ on Vashon Island.

National SURJ Homepage: <http://www.showingupforracialjustice.org>

Vashon SURJ Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/VashonSURJ/>

**SURJ Mission:** to educate Whites about systemic social racism, particularly focusing on community education & solidarity with people with color.

### SURJ Activities:

[1] Cosponsored a Black Lives Matter rally on Vashon (Spring, 2017).

[2] Hosted group discussion of the book "Waking Up White."

[3] Viewed & discussed the documentary film "13<sup>th</sup>" film (available on Netflix) about mass incarceration & the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

[4] Hosted group discussion of the ReEntry project to determine how to assist former inmates with social integration after release.

[5] Created Legal Financial Obligations (LFO) committee to discuss courts imposing mandatory fines on incarcerated inmates. Encouraged citizens to write to Sharon Nelson (state senator & majority leader) about WA State Bill HB 1783 (LFO legislation).

HB 1783 Info: <http://app.leg.wa.gov/billssummary?BillNumber=1783&Year=2017>

[6] Hosted group discussion of the book "Stamped from the Beginning" concerning the intellectual history of prejudice in the United States.

[7] Discussed the podcast *Seeing White* (14 episodes, each episode is roughly 40 minutes long).

**SURJ Vashon Meetings:** every third Sunday (3pm – 5pm) at the Vashon-Maury Island Land Trust (10014 SW Bank Rd).

**2. VPA Rapid Response Database:** Roxy recommended to Kevin that VPA initiate a central database to mobilize individuals for participation in local activist events requiring rapid response. Kevin shared that he currently uses a variety of applications and databases for mobilization. VPA meeting members recommended several different ways to contact people for rapid mobilization, to include email, Facebook, and activism websites.

**3. Reaching Out to Other Progressive Organizations:** Terry shared that **he will be responsible this month for reaching out to other organizations to join the VPA at next month's meeting.**

**4. Unified for Democracy (UFD):** Kevin shared that he & Terry are reaching out to increase UFD membership.

**UFD Mission:** to create and expand a coalition of Vashon citizens in addressing threats to democracy at the local, state, and national level.

**UFD Schedule:** two meetings are tentatively scheduled for May.

[1] **1<sup>st</sup> meeting:** small table format to clarify & discuss issues that will unify individuals from diverse political perspectives. This meeting is not about developing strategies to win elections. Instead, the meeting will create priorities to work together for common political goals. The meeting location & time is to be determined.

[2] **2<sup>nd</sup> meeting:** possibly facilitated by an elected official to discuss how to participate in democracy through voting (benefits & consequences). Attendees will represent a diverse political spectrum (liberal & conservative) to create a unifying message for upcoming 2018 & 2020 elections.

**5. Discussion of Gun School Violence:** VPA members discussed the increased public awareness of addressing national gun violence after the recent Parkland, FL, school mass shooting.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

[1] **National School Walkout (Mar 14):** national school walkout of students, teachers, administrators, & parents scheduled for 17 minutes on March 14 (starting at 10am) to protest Congress' legislative inaction concerning gun violence.

[2] **Columbine Anniversary 'March for Our Lives' (MFOL) March (Mar 24):** nationwide march to raise awareness of common sense solutions to gun control. An event is scheduled in Seattle (Saturday / March 24 / 10am) starting with a rally in Cal Anderson Park and marching to the Key Arena.

MFOL Seattle March News: <http://www.parentmap.com/article/march-for-our-lives-seattle-event>

March for Our Lives Seattle Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/seattlemarchforourlives/>

Kevin and Trey discussed approaching the VHS administration to determine what is required for administrative support of the March & Walk Out if VHS students choose to participate. Sheila shared that mentally ill people should not serve as scapegoats for the cause of gun violence. Steve shared that a lack of anger management awareness is one of the main causes of mass shootings. Roxy suggested more financial pressure should be placed on stores to not sell automatic weapons. Sheila shared that the Alliance for Gun Safety is currently working on gun control legislation at the state level through two bills (HB 1387 & SB 5444) addressing background checks and licensure for assault weapons and large capacity magazines.

HB 1387 Info: <http://app.leg.wa.gov/billssummary?Year=2017&BillNumber=1387>

SB 5444 Info: <http://app.leg.wa.gov/billssummary?Year=2017&BillNumber=5444>

**6. Vashon Action Network (VAN) Diagram/Model:** Kevin shared a diagram modelling how the network of Vashon activist groups collectively interacts to influence legislative agendas and raise public awareness. The model indicates ways for activist organizations to create alliances, particularly for overlapping legislative agendas. Sheila proposed providing the diagram to other Vashon activist organizations & adding a Point of Contact (POC) list. Roxy proposed making the diagram into a pamphlet for dissemination. Diane suggested adding it to Facebook, and noted that there was no mention of the Democratic Party in the diagram. Kevin plans to share the diagram with other Vashon activists to gather recommendations for improvement and garner support.

**7. Proposed VPA Endorsement of Citizens Impeachment Coalition (CIC):** Steve requested that the VPA formally endorse the CIC. The Citizens Impeachment Coalition represents individuals from cities, towns and counties across the US who have passed resolutions supporting the impeachment of Donald Trump.

Over 80% of VPA meeting attendees voted to consider an official endorsement of the CIC at next month's meeting. **Diane will put this item on the March agenda, post on Facebook, and make sure it gets included in our upcoming mailings to the full VPA mailing list of 221 subscribers, so people have a chance to come to a meeting and vote on the endorsement.**

CIC Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/citizensimpeachmentcoalition/>

**8. Donations for WA Senator Maria Cantwell:** Roxy shared that Senator Cantwell does not receive campaign contributions from the National Rifle Association (NRA). Roxy asked VPA members to send political donations of \$5 or more to Senator Cantwell.

## Next meeting:

Our next meeting is scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month, March 20<sup>th</sup>.