

**January 16, 2018 Meeting Minutes
Vashon Progressive Alliance (VPA)**

Attendees: Sheila Brown (Host), Diane Emerson (Facilitator), Trey McBride (Minutes), Erin Durrett, Kevin Jones, Sue Letsinger, Melvin Mackey, Steve Rubicz, Victoria (Tori) Stoner, Terry Sullivan, Jennifer Zeisig, Leslie Enzian

Announcements:

1. New York City takes steps to divest funding from fossil fuels: Sheila shared that New York City mayor Bill de Blasio and his administration are suing five major oil companies over climate change and urging city pension funds to divest from fossil fuel firms.

News Link: <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/10/nyregion/new-york-city-fossil-fuel-divestment.html>

2. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) unanimously rejects Trump administration proposal to subsidize coal and nuclear power facilities: Sheila shared that the FERC, which includes four commissioners appointed by President Trump, unanimously rejected a proposal by the Department of Energy that utility companies should pay coal & nuclear plants to maintain a 90-day supply of additional fuel on site to bolster the resilience of the U.S. power grid.

News Link: <https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2018/01/trumps-coal-bailout-is-dead/550037/>

3. Seattle Women's March 2.0 (January 20): Trey shared that the Seattle Women's March 2.0 will occur January 20th. The march begins at 10am at Cal Anderson Park and heads through downtown Seattle to the Seattle Center. For information regarding roundtrip bussing from Vashon to the March and back, use the following link:

Bussing Info Link: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0e49a5ad2ca3fb6-vashon>

March Info News Link: <https://www.seattlepi.com/local/seattlenews/article/Seattle-prepares-for-Women-s-March-2-0-12502092.php>

4. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) actively targeting immigration activists with deportation: Melvin shared that ICE placed immigration rights activist Maru Mora Villalpando in deportation proceedings. Maru leads the organization Northwest Detention Center Resistance and is a national figure in protesting immigrant deportations and detentions.

News Link: https://www.democracynow.org/2018/1/17/ice_is_sending_us_a_message

5. Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal’s Vashon Town Hall Meeting (January 23): Kevin shared that Congresswoman Jayapal of Washington’s 7th District will conduct a Town Hall Meeting at Open Space Vashon (18870 103rd Ave SW) on January 23rd starting at 6:30pm. Voice of Vashon will interview Representative Jayapal on the morning of January 23rd at 10:30am. If you have any questions or concerns you would like her to address during the radio interview, email Sheila Brown at sheilatree@comcast.net.

Event Link: <http://www.openspacevashon.com/event/pramila/>

6. Washington’s Democratic Party of the 34th Legislative District Committee Member Drive: Diane shared that the Democrats of the 34th Legislative District are actively seeking committee members.

Sign-up Link: <http://www.34dems.org/our-executive-board/membership-committee/>

Follow Up on Action Items from December Minutes:

1. Inviting other groups to VPA meetings: Terry successfully reached out to other local groups with similar missions and values to VPA. Representatives from the Vashon Living Wage campaign, Vashon Resettlement Committee, Indivisible Vashon, and other local progressive groups were in attendance at the January meeting.

2. VPA Endorsements: a vote on the procedure for conducting VPA endorsements passed unanimously. The quorum table proposed in Melvin’s **Draft Endorsement Agreement** during the December meeting will be used to establish how many members are required to pass subsequent endorsements. The decision was made that anyone who attends the VPA monthly meeting is considered a “voting member” for voting occurring during that meeting. Two points were reinforced concerning the timing of VPA endorsements:

1. **Normal endorsements** require 1 month between proposing an endorsement and voting on the endorsement (voting will occur during the subsequent VPA meeting).

2. **Emergency endorsements** can be proposed and voted on within the 1-month window if the requirement for expediency does not allow for the normal endorsement procedure. The procedures for voting on emergency endorsements will be discussed in the next monthly meeting.

3. VPA Meeting Minutes Distribution: Terry confirmed that a summary of the VPA meeting minutes are distributed within a monthly newsletter (sent via email) or available for review online on the VPA website.

New Business:

1. **Vashon Living Wage Campaign:** Tori Stoner requested VPA support for a campaign to provide a living wage for employees working on Vashon Island. Several ideas were introduced to structure the campaign, including the following:

1. **Expand campaign membership:** campaign information is currently accessible through the Facebook group, “Vashon & Maury Islanders for a Living Wage.” Meeting attendees discussed the creation of a webpage to increase campaign membership and align with other living wage groups such as “15 Now” and “Fight for 15.” Kevin suggested reaching out to Vashon businesses for pledges to provide a living wage. ***Diane will include a link to the Vashon Living Wage campaign, details on the organization, and points-of-contact on the VPA website.*** Sheila recommended VPA formally endorse the Vashon Living Wage campaign at a future meeting.

2. **Reward system:** offer tokens to businesses who pay a living wage of \$15 or more an hour (with benefits).

3. **Window stickers:** create window stickers for businesses and individuals, such as “I support a living wage on Vashon” and “15 +.” Tori requested artistic support for sticker designs. ***Kevin Jones said he knew of someone who might help.***

4. **Identify Vashon businesses providing a \$15 living wage with benefits:** Meeting attendees discussed steps for identifying Vashon businesses currently providing a living wage and how to promote the idea to those who do not.

Campaign Facebook Link: [Vashon & Maury Islanders for a Living Wage](#)

2. **Vashon Resettlement Committee (VRC):** Erin provided a comprehensive history of the VRC, to include the mission of the VRC, the decision to assist Syrian refugees, how the VRC supported three Syrian families living in Tukwila to relocate to Vashon, and how these families enhance diversity & open-mindedness in the Vashon community. Erin also shared that the VRC is in immediate need of a 3-bedroom rental home for one of the families. Leslie Enzian discussed the continuing need for general funding of the VRC and programs currently in place to assist the Syrian families living on Vashon Island, to include the following:

1. **Syrian dinner for 4:** A dinner serving 4 people will be available on Saturdays at the Sugar Shack (4pm–7pm). Orders should be texted to the Sugar Shack in advance. Phone (206) 463-3782 to confirm availability and cost.

2. **Selling Syrian food wholesale at the Sugar Shack & La Boucherie:** the idea was discussed to sell Syrian food wholesale if feasible in the near future.

3. **Savory Syria (Syrian Catering of Vashon):** Syrian catering is currently available. Information is available by texting 206-458-2450.

4. **Raffle tickets for B&B stay and excursions at Friday Harbor:** Raffle tickets are available for a two-night bed at a Friday Harbor bed & breakfast, a piano recital, and an outdoor walk with 2 naturalists through Friday Harbor. Raffle tickets are available for \$35 at the VRC website.

Diane suggested a future raffle idea of an in-home catered Syrian dinner. Terry suggested sponsoring a Vashon-wide program to learn more about Syrian culture.

VRC Homepage: <https://www.vashonresettlement.org>

3. **Power to the Polls Voter Registration:** Jennifer shared that January 21st is the Power to the Polls voter registration drive and volunteers are needed. The drive will occur near Port Orchard. The mission of the drive is to flip Washington's 26th District from Republican back to Democrat. There is also a strong push by 34th District Democrats to register more voters. Meeting attendees also discussed the following:

1. Washington State felons that meet parole and probation requirements **can** have their voting rights reinstated simply by re-registering to vote.

2. Future voting drives are planned at community colleges to encourage participation by younger voters.

3. Formal Voter registration training is not legally required for volunteers to help with voter registration.

4. 17-year-olds can participate in primaries & caucuses, if they will be of voting age on election day.

5. Terry asked about homeless voting. Jennifer shared that the physical address is used to determine precinct. It does not need to be a place of residence. It can even be an intersection of two streets. The mailing address, however, needs to be a place that can receive the voter's ballot and instructions. A PO box is fine to use for the mailing address; as is a shelter, a friend or relative's mailing address, or a post office that allows General Delivery.

To receive more information or volunteer to assist with voter registration, contact Jennifer Zeisig via text (206-463-6445) or email catrinx2007@aol.com.

4. **Get Well Card Signing:** meeting attendees signed a get-well card for Roxy Hathaway.

5. **Carbon Free Vashon:** Kevin shared that the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission meets February 21st to continue discussion on closing coal plants & committing to

strategies for renewable energy in the Puget Sound area. Kevin requested that VPA members send the commission comments and testimony prior to the meeting.

Pre-Written Letter Link: <http://www.indivisiblevashon.org/cfletter>

Message Board Resource Guide: <http://www.indivisiblevashon.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Messaging-Resource-Guide-3.0.pdf>

A Town Hall Meeting to discuss steps to promote a carbon free Vashon is scheduled for February 3rd from 10am-12pm at Vashon's Presbyterian Church (17708 Vashon Hwy SW). Panelists will discuss environmental impacts, regulations, and other carbon free issues.

6. Vashon Earth Day #2: Kevin confirmed that Vashon's second Earth Day is scheduled for April 22nd. This all-day event will showcase vendors providing home efficiency upgrades, a PSE discussion of how to promote green energy, and an end-of-the-day musical event. Volunteers should contact Kevin via email at jonesandjones@centurytel.net.

Next Meeting:

Our next meeting is scheduled for the 3rd Tuesday of the month, February 20th.