

Vashon Progressive Alliance Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2018

Attendees:

Sheila Brown
Diane Emerson
Margy Heldring
Kevin Jones
Julia Lakey
Melvin Mackey
Amy Morrison
Steve Rubicz
Terry Sullivan
Christopher Birdz Van Putten

Announcements:

- Diane: Campaign to stop using toxic pesticides. This Sunday, 1 - 3PM: Holistic Orchard Spray talk - Country Store - \$10 donation requested - \$5 discount at Country Store
- Sheila: Starbucks – 2.5Billion paper cups end up in our waste stream annually. They cannot be recycled or composted because of plastic liner. There is a plant-based alternative, and Starbucks said they would convert, but they have not. stand.earth.org is the lead protest organization. Call Starbucks and ask them to make this change.
- Julia: Vashon March For Our Lives – Saturday, March 24, 11AM, Vashon High School.
- Melvin: Ranked Choice voting discussion – March 29, 11AM – contact Melvin for information.
- Terry: Governor Inslee signed three voter empowerment laws this week.
- Amy: Backbone Campaign – Single Payer Action Camp – Free - Washington DC – April. Margaret Flowers is the organizer. Let people in the Washington DC area know.

Minutes review from last meeting:

- Diane posted the VPA endorsements agreement on the website
- Roxy help with graphic art design – **we will check in with Roxy at next month's meeting**
- Terry invited Grandmother's Against Gun Violence to this meeting. **Terry will invite a different group to discuss their work at the next meeting.**
- Diane posted the Citizens Impeachment Coalition information to website, Facebook, etc.

Old Business:

Endorse Citizens Impeachment Coalition support of House Resolution 621:

- Five articles of impeachment were listed on the endorsement statement.
- Questions and Recommendations:
 - o Question: How is impeachment different from the Mueller investigation?

- Mueller is pursuing a criminal investigation under the auspices of the Justice Department and will make a criminal recommendation to Congress – It is not clear if a sitting president can be indicted – The Mueller investigation report could influence impeachment proceedings. Impeachment is a legal proceeding initiated in the Congressional branch.
 - Recommendation: Melvin Mackey recommended that our endorsements also contain a rationale statement.
- Vote: 9 yeas, 1 abstain – the motion fails (did not meet the ten-person minimum vote)
- Recommendation: **Diane Emerson to add this endorsement discussion to the April 17 meeting agenda, and notify people again through a MailChimp mailing and Facebook.**

New Business:

Grandmothers Against Gun Violence – Margy Heldring:

- Margy is the President of Grandmothers Against Gun Violence – now expanding to become a national organization with current membership in fifteen states.
- Grandmothers Against Gun Violence was created at a dinner of Vashon residents following the Sandy Hook shooting. In January 2013 the group was formed to oppose gun violence. The group now has nine hundred members. Membership is open to all – grandmothership is not a requirement of membership.
- Focus areas:
 - Legislative advocacy (mainly at the state level)
 - Anticipate an assault weapon ban initiative in Washington State
 - Public Education (quarterly meetings around Washington State)
 - Research
- Approach: a multi-year approach to establish new norms via social change and the legislative process to change to culture.
- Vision: We seek a safer world for our grandchildren, and for theirs
- Goals for growth: Sufficient funding to continue education, research and expansion into more states (currently a 501c(4) and soon to be a 501c(3) as well)
- To Join: www.grandmothersagainstgunviolence.org and click join
- Alliance for Gun Safety website identifies which legislators accept money from the NRA

Repeal ban on Rent Regulation – Diane Emerson:

- Living Wage Vashon group is the sponsor of this rent control activity.
- Cards allowing meeting attendees to petition for rent regulation were handed out.

Get Well Card – Diane Emerson:

- No calls for get well cards were mentioned.

Health Care For All – Sheila Brown:

- Jeannie Earnst, Board Member, says that Health Care for All Washington (HCFA-WA) has been working to implement a single payer system in Washington and has been working with organizations in other states including CA, MA, NM, NY, PA, and OR to accomplish this in 2020. They hope to make this as nationwide as possible. They have been working with the Washington State legislature for several years and have obtained funding from WA State to do an actuarial study of their bill called the Washington Health Security Trust (WHST). They have not created an official statement concerning initiative I-1600 sponsored by another organization called "Whole Washington". Both HCFA-WA and Whole Washington are trying to accomplish the same goal of universal healthcare for Washingtonians -- they just have different strategies for how to get there. <http://www.healthcareforallwa.org>
- There is now an initiative I-1600 to create a state program to pay for health care for all Washington residents.
- To sign the initiative petition, the contact person at Whole Washington, which is sponsoring the Initiative is Sara So, Initiative Writing Vice Chair: sara@wholewashington.org
- Want a petition? We have a Google form that members can fill out to "order" the petitions here: https://i1600-wholewashington.nationbuilder.com/order_a_petition
- It was suggested that we have a panel discussion to educate the Vashon community on this topic. **Amy Morrison will look into this. Terry Sullivan will write an article and assist. Sheila would also like to help. Diane will post information on the website and on Facebook, once the date is set.**

Proposed Endorsements:

- Department of Licensing Director Kohler should be removed from office - Jennifer Zeisig (presented by Kevin Jones):
 - An endorsement by the Vashon Progressive Alliance: Remove the Director of the Washington State Department of Licensing (DOL) from office, as proposed by the Latino Civic Alliance (Nina Martinez is board chair).
 - Other groups calling for Pat Kohler's resignation:
 - Asian Pacific Islander Coalition of WA State
 - Community to Community
 - El Centro de la Raza
 - GC Reforms
 - Vietnamese Community Leadership Institute
 - CIRCC (Coalition of Immigrants, refugees, and Communities of Color)
 - Seattle Indivisible
 - Indivisible Vashon
 - Why we propose this endorsement:
 - Nina Martinez of the Latino Civic Alliance and a number of other immigrant rights groups are calling on Governor Inslee to fire the head of the state's department of licensing (DOL) over its release of driver's license information to ICE. Under Kohler, the agency failed to comply with Gov. Inslee's Executive Order EO 17-01 in which he promised state resources would not be used to assist ICE. DOL head Kohler has ruined the trust between the DOL and citizens of Washington state. Click [here](#) for more information.
 - Rationale: DOL director's resignation is needed to reestablish trust in the agency.

- Vote (to consider this endorsement at the next monthly meeting): Passed
- **Diane Emerson will add this topic to the April 17 Vashon Progressive Alliance meeting agenda, and let people know via website, MailChimp, and Facebook.**

Next Meeting:

- April 17, 2018