

Chair's Report – June 22 , 2023

Ever since Rob Gelder resigned his commissioner seat, life has been hectic. The process resulted in Sen Christine Rolfes being the candidate selected to replace him. Senator Rolfes announced this morning (Tuesday, June 20) that she is resigning her seat effective August 15. She was sworn in at 9 am today as the new Kitsap County Commissioner District 1.

This started an appointment process to fill her now vacant Senate seat. Our county chair, Hannie Baxter, will call a special caucus for all PCOs who were elected last fall or appointed by May 15, 2023 . These folks will choose the top three candidates for the county commissioners to consider for the appointment to fill the vacancy. Anyone can attend the caucus but only the eligible PCOs of the 23rd LD will be able to nominate people and vote.

Hannie and I met with Drew Estep, WSDC Party Affairs Director, to go over the process for filling the upcoming State Senate vacancy. The process is dictated by the state Dem bylaws and by the state of WA. The 23rd portion is supplying the PCOs for voting and nominating three candidates for consideration. The caucus will be led by Hannie.

Once the slate of three candidates is set, the slate will be presented to the county central committee for a vote of approval or denial on the whole slate. There is no opportunity to change the three candidates or their positions – it is an “all or nothing” situation. If the KCDCC does not approve of the list, then the decision on who to appoint goes to the governor.

Yes, there are details such as specific dates that are being decided. People will need to keep an eye on their email for notification of the caucus.

Between Rob Gelder's resignation and Commissioner Rolfes' appointment, much time has been spent on answering questions about this process and helping Nicolas fine tune his power point. Nicolas deserves a big round of applause for taking this on!

Kathy has been working with the WEA-Uniserv to see if we can use their meeting room at Twelve Trees Business Park north of Poulsbo. They are amenable to doing that but we need to change our meeting day to Wednesday. It will cost quite a bit less than the OC space – about \$100 per use.

Ginny did a great job with the picnic and is now working on getting folks to help out in our 23rd booth in Kingston. There is also the 23rd booth in Bainbridge which is being coordinated by Shannon. Please help out the 23rd and celebrate the 4th by staffing one of our booths 😊