**MINUTES**

**32nd LD General Monthly Meeting**
**Wednesday, April 5, 2023, 6:30-7:45 PM**

[Facebook Zoom LIVE Meeting Video](https://www.facebook.com/32democrats.org/videos/32nd-district-democrats-meeting/1016555536396247/)

*~ Thanks* ***Rosamaria Graziani*** *for your wonderful, live English-Spanish translation ~*

**6:30 PM WELCOME (:35-3:31min:sec)**

**• Chris Roberts, Chair:** Today is the first day of Passover and we will therefore be ending the meeting before sundown, at 7:15.

**Land Acknowledgement/Flag Salute**

[***Minutes, March 1, 2023***](https://32democrats.org/2023-minutes/)***, adopted without objection***

**PUTTING RANKED-CHOICE VOTING IN OUR PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY (3:32-14:05)**

**• Guest Speaker: Lisa Ayrault, Director,** [Fair Vote Washington](https://fairvotewa.org/)

Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) makes good sense because as a voter, you can be more strategic voting for the candidate you think would be best, rather than voting for the candidate who has the best chance of winning. If your top candidate doesn’t win, your vote is not wasted as you have a backup choice. In 2020, 25% of Washington State Democrats’ votes, in the presidential primary, were wasted because so many candidates dropped out. Maine and Alaska will be using ranked choice voting in the 2024 Presidential election. It’s too late to have RCV in Washington State in 2024, as [HB 1592](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1592&Year=2023&Initiative=false) did not get a hearing in this session, however we will be working to pass it next year. Legislators need to know that Democrats support RCV and therefore we would like the 32nd LD to adopt our resolution.

**REFORMING THE 1872 MINING LAW - SLIDE SHOW (14:20-30:54)**

**• Guest Speaker: Michael “Buffalo” Mazzetti, Environmental Activist,** [PureWater.Org](https://purewater.org/)

I live in Okanogan County very close to Buckhorn mine. The 1872 Mining Law allows the sale of public land for $5 per acre or less to multinational mining companies. The Kinross Gold Corp. was able to purchase 154 acres of the Okanogan National Forest for less than $800. They removed $1.83 billion worth of gold. This law forces public land managers to approve mining projects in spite of scientific evidence of environmental destruction and community resistance. Public input helped reduce environmental impacts when the Okanogan Highland Alliance and allies forced the planned open pit to be built underground. However, this mine violated federal and state Clean Water Act provisions, 3,500+ times. The water is now polluted and pollution is increasing daily in surrounding aquafers. To make one ounce of gold modern mines use: 2,000 gallons of water; 30 pounds of cyanide; and 10 tons of crushed rock. All over America, mining destroys ecological diversity and entire watersheds. Mining reform must include meaningful Tribal consultation and indigenous resource protection. Mining corporations must pay into a clean-up fund based on the value of the minerals they extract. Make reforming the 1872 Mining Law a plank in the Washington State Democratic Platform. Contact: buffonit@gmail.com

[**LAWSUIT FILED AGAINST BUCKHORN MOUNTAIN MINE**](https://www.atg.wa.gov/news/news-releases/court-rules-gold-mining-company-violated-law-more-3000-times-okanogan-county) **(30:54-40:47)**

**• Guest Speaker: Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson**

Both the AGs office and the Okanogan Highlands Alliance have filed lawsuits against Buckhorn mine. The lawsuit we filed asserted various violations of the Clean Water Act. When they got the permit from the Dept. of Ecology to work the mine, the permits required them to monitor what was going on and to take mitigation efforts. The thrust of our lawsuit is that they violated that permit over and over again. When we moved forward on a partial summary judgement, the judge said they were libel for violating the Clean Water Act 3,000 times -- $50,000 per violation – this is very significant. There is a trial date later this year. We are going to ask the judge to require clean up of the mess they have made. We have an AG environmental team committed to stopping any rollback of environmental protections. We filed 99 cases against the Trump administration and close to half were related to the environment. This is the type of work the AG environmental team is doing and they are doing it very well.

**NEW BUSINESS** **(40:49-46:29)**

[**Resolutions**](https://32democrats.org/resolutions-passed/?orderby=publish_date&order=desc)

• **Trudy Bialic, PCO**: I move we adopt the **Resolution: Reforming the Mining Act of 1872**. Seconded.

*Without objection, the resolution is passed.*

**• Michael Brunson, PCO**: I move we adopt the **Resolution: For Inclusion of Individuals with Lived Experience.** Seconded. *Without objection, the resolution is passed.*

**PCO Appointment**

**• Carin Chase, PCO**: I move that **Jonathan Chen be appointed PCO, SEA 32-3656**, Seconded.
*Without objection, appointed.*

**MEETING ADJOURNED — 7:15 PM**

**NEXT MONTHLY ZOOM MEETING**
Wednesday, May 3, 2023, 6:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Soriano, 32nd LD Secretary

sally.soriano@32democrats.org