

CEG Meeting—January 10, 2020

Putnam Barber, Facilitator, opened the meeting at 4:00 p.m. in the Sky Club
(*Note:* There have not been any CEG-sponsored events since the last meeting in 2019.)

COMING EVENTS

Jamielyn Wheeler, Common Purpose

Wednesday, January 22, 2020, 3:00 p.m., Arts & Crafts Room, 4th Floor (Peggy Newsom)

Peggy Newsom had a meeting with Jamielyn Wheeler (“Jamie”), who has been working with David Domke at Common Purpose (Domke’s new organization). Wheeler has been assisting groups of people who have signed up to write personalized letters to encourage people to vote. She will be coming to Skyline to talk with residents who want to learn about this process. Common Purpose will supply names and addresses for people in selected areas of the country who haven’t voted in some time. Sample letters and suggested messages will be provided, although part of the plan is that the letters are individualized. Each address is to be used only once and will include a central return address, which protects letter writers from receiving hostile return mail. Similar groups have been organized at Mirabella, Horizon House, the First Baptist Church, and other locations.

An introductory meeting has been scheduled for **January 22nd at 3:00 p.m. in the Arts & Crafts Room on the 4th floor**. Peggy has also arranged for rooms to be scheduled on the 4th Wednesday of each following month during election season where letter writers can enjoy each other’s company while preparing additional batches of letters. There was a discussion about whether this is the kind of activity that residents must organize on their own in order to avoid the appearance of management endorsement. CEG members agreed that this activity is something that residents can do independently. Jim Tanner was asked to put an announcement on the Skyline725 blog that might reach people who are not on the CEG mailing list. Peggy urged CEG members to let others in the building know about this project.

Carri Campbell, Seattle Public Schools Director of Communications

Friday, January 24, 2020, 3:30 p.m. Mt. Baker Room on January 24th at 3:30 p.m.
(Jim Sanders)

Carri Campbell came last year to explain the special levy that would be on the ballot to provide additional support to Seattle schools. Jim Sanders pointed out that Seattle’s school district is the largest in the state, with 54,000 students, 6,000

teachers, and 3,000 additional employees. Campbell has been asked to talk about academic performance, academic progress, and the district's goals. We requested that she leave time on the 24th for questions and answers after her talk. Before her present job, Campbell was a classroom teacher, the associate curator for arts education at the Tacoma Art Museum, the visual and performance arts manager for the Seattle Public Schools, and its manager of school and community relationships.

Note: If there are other topics you would like to see addressed by Carrie Campbell, send a note to Jim Sanders at jimsanders1947@gmail.com within the next few days.

David Domke Election Year Lecture Series

February 4th (2:00 p.m.), 5th (1:30 p.m.), and 7th (3:30 p.m.), Mt. Baker Room (Peggy Newsom)

David Domke has been giving capacity-crowd lectures in Kane Hall at the University of Washington. Residents who attended the early lectures in the series reported that they were highly worthwhile, typical of his style, and filled with lots of energy. There will be three sets of three lectures each, running through this election year: “Act I (“the Democrats”), Act II (“the Republicans”), and Act III (“the Nation”). Peggy Newsom reported that he had approached her saying that he would like to give the same lectures here at Skyline. The first set of three will be given in the Mt. Baker Room on February 4th, 5th, and 7th. Dates for Acts II and III have not been set yet. (Peggy reassured the group that Domke has agreed not to solicit donations on these occasions, following the push-back that was received at the end of last year's series.)

It was noted that the lectures David Domke gave at Skyline last year are posted as videos on the Skyline Portal. To see them, open <https://login.caremerge.com/login/> in a web browser, then click on *Videos* in the left-hand menu, then on *2019 Presentations*, and then on *FEB* in the top menu. All three videos are there.

Worthwhile Resources

- Sue VanLeuven said that she had found a reference to a political activist named David Plouffe in the book *Becoming*, by Michele Obama, and had looked him up online. He is active with a web service called ACRONYM to develop digital media campaigns in an effort to counter the financial and other advantages the incumbent will enjoy during the coming election. She recommended that CEG members who are concerned about that side of the campaign take a look at the website <https://www.anotheracronym.org> and sign up for *FWIW* (For What It's Worth)—ACRONYM's weekly newsletter that tracks political spending and

digital trends.

- Other CEG members mentioned favorably The Progressive Voters' Guide <https://progressivevotersguide.com>, which supplements the official Voters' Guide by reviewing recommendations and commentary from a wide range of progressive organizations. Mary Jane Francis said that in planning for upcoming Skyline Soapbox events, the organizers would be making available lists of useful online materials for review by Soapbox participants in advance of the event.
- Mary Jane Francis mentioned Robert Hubbell's email news analysis, described by a subscriber as "...a way of providing support and hope for my three daughters and close friends who were shocked and anxious about Trump's election...a private communication among friends and like-minded people who opt-in." To be added to the Hubbell distribution list, send your personal email address to rbhubbell@gmail.com. Each issue contains information on unsubscribing, so checking it out is relatively risk free.
- Mary Jane also mentioned Rogan's List, described in a recent Hubbell email as "a terrific resource created by Susan Rogan. Not only does the list include comprehensive information on congressional addresses, phone numbers, fax numbers, and emails, but she lists who you should contact on key issues." The list is updated occasionally; the latest version is at <https://roganslist.blogspot.com/>.
- Jim Tanner said he would add any useful websites or services to the CEG resource list (accessible on the 725Skyline blog site at <https://www.skyline725.com/ceg/ceg-useful-links/>). Forward suggested websites or services to Jim by email at james.g.tanner@gmail.com.

WACCRA Update – Rick Baugh

On his WACCRA update, Rick Baugh began by saying that a lot has been happening over the past few months, and the situation as the legislative session opens is fast-changing and complicated. Some history: During the 2019 session, the Senate Health and Long-Term-Care Committee had a hearing on the bill that WACCRA had championed, but in the end, did not take any action. The chair of the committee, Annette Cleveland from Vancouver (where there are no CCRCs), said after the session that the members of the committee needed more information about CCRCs. The committee arranged for four visits to CCRCs—all places where

management and residents had publicly opposed the bill. The fourth visit was at Emerald Heights, where leaders of WACCRA also had a meeting with the Committee. About 150 residents attended the meeting. They told several stories about difficulties residents of CCRCs have had with their management. After that meeting, Senator Cleveland asked WACCRA and LeadingAge (the trade association of management of a variety of senior-citizen residences and service agencies) to participate in mediation to see if the issues could be resolved by mutual agreement as a way forward. Both organizations agreed, and a professional mediator has led three 4-hour sessions so far—a fourth is scheduled for January 16. WACCRA has told LeadingAge and the legislators that if WACCRA sees there is a high probability of an agreement being reached on any of the points without legislation where there have been differences about CCRC policies, the language about that item will be removed from the pending legislation. A new version of the legislation has been introduced for this session, replacing the bill that was considered in 2019. The new bill number is HB 2345 (“easy to remember,” as Rick Baugh commented).

The agenda for the mediation sessions has included five issues. They are at different stages of resolution, and it may not be possible to reach agreements on all of them. Briefly, they are the following:

- Everyone agrees that the “typo” in the current statute that grants prospective (not current) residents access to financial information about a CCRC should be corrected. In general, present practice already allows current residents to review financial information.
- Time limit for refunding deposits. There is likely to be agreement that (with reasonable exceptions) this limit should be 24 months from the time the unit is vacated or occupied by a new resident (whichever comes first). This language should be included in all new residency contracts after the specified date. It is possible that a plan may be developed that permits that section of the bill to be withdrawn.
- Access by residents to an actuarial report on the CCRC where they live (if one has been prepared). The current proposal is that a resident-selected finance committee (not all residents) be allowed to review the assumptions and conclusions in any actuarial report. However, there is still not a firm agreement about how that would work in practice.

- There should be a system for resident input on significant management decisions in advance of decisions being made on health, finances, and well-being, with feedback on why ideas, recommendations, or analysis are not appropriate for pending decisions. LeadingAge is concerned about how the word “significant” can be defined clearly enough.
- The fifth issue is not part of the HB 2345 because its subject is covered in other legislation. This is a request to the Joint Legislative Executive Committee on Planning for Aging and Disability Issues (known as JLEC) to conduct a study of how a pilot program for including Independent Living Facilities can be added to the scope of the state’s Long-Term-Care Ombuds Program for senior citizens. The current Ombuds program covers skilled nursing, assisted living, and memory care for all such facilities in the state. The pilot program would be for King County. One of the questions for the pilot program is how the expense of setting up the final program and operating it might be met, since the federal funds that are the principal support for the current Ombuds program cannot be used for independent living residents.

There will be a **hearing on HB 2345 on Wednesday, January 15, at 1:30 pm.** Allan Affleck is looking for residents who would be willing to be part of the audience (and sign in in support of the bill). There is also a meeting of the Senior Caucus on Monday, January 13, that Allan will attend and will welcome interested residents who would also like to attend.

WACCRA’s Annual Meeting will be held on March 7 from 10:00–12:00 in the morning at Emerald Heights. The keynote speaker is Prof. Katherine Pearson from the Pennsylvania State University Law School—a nationally recognized expert on the legal environment for CCRCs. Put Barber mentioned that her published articles online at <https://dickinsonlaw.psu.edu/katherine-c-pearson> include a report on several CCRCs in Pennsylvania that have had serious difficulties. Rick Baugh added that WACCRA has heard of six CCRCs that became bankrupt during 2019—none in Washington state.

Rick also mentioned that March 1 is the renewal date for WACCRA membership, so current members will be receiving a renewal notice soon. WACCRA membership information is at <http://www.waccra.org/join-us-1.html>.

There was a brief discussion on the question of whether we are comfortable with inviting solo speakers who are also running for re-election? In general, anyone can invite a speaker to come to Skyline, but obviously there is a strong preference for

avoiding the appearance of an endorsement to one candidate over others. If the possible speaker is an incumbent officeholder, and the subject of the talk is the responsibilities of the office (and if the speaker agrees to avoid campaigning), there would be less reason to worry. If there are no announced opponents, it is also less worrisome. But it also might be better just to wait until after the election to issue an invitation.

Next Meeting: February 14, 2020
Mt. Baker Room: 4:00 p.m.

Thanks to Putnam Barber for facilitating the session; to Put Barber and Val Lynch for taking notes for the minutes (with assistance from Rick Baugh, Peggy Newsom, and Jim Sanders); to Wendy Schoen for final editing and formatting of this document; and to all who participated.