

Resolution to Confine our Party’s Guidance to Matters Political, not Religious

WHEREAS the United States Constitution guarantees not only freedom of religion for all, but also that there shall be no establishment of religion nor any religious test for public office in this country; and

WHEREAS our Washington State Democratic Party proudly proclaims its defense of individual liberty and its opposition to oppression, with a Charter declaring the Party’s openness and welcome to all who support our values, and a Platform calling for “honoring the rich diversity of society and efforts to reflect that diversity in our Party”; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the above, the most recent convention of our Washington State Democratic Party, held in Spokane on June 21, 2014, conspicuously included in its prescribed opening a sectarian invocatory prayer delivered by an ordained minister; and

WHEREAS our Party, though not an agency of government, has a public role recognized in Washington law; and

WHEREAS the delivery of a prayer incident to opening a Party gathering – even if nominally nonsectarian in content – is likely to offend attendees of minority faiths as well as those of no religious faith at all, and/or to marginalize such attendees as persons not wholly welcome;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that publicly-led prayer has no place in plenary meetings of the Democratic Party and should hereafter be omitted therefrom; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the foregoing shall not be deemed to preclude provision for a moment of respectful silence in recognition of a person or event warranting sympathy or honor; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be sent to the Chair of the Washington State Democratic Party and the Chair of the State Democratic Chairs Organization.

Adopted _____ *by* _____

Originated by Dean Fournier, dean48@comcast.net
Previously adopted by the 32nd LD and edited by KCDCR Resolutions Committee