

**Ref 74 Steering Committee combined meeting minutes  
February 29th in Olympia & March 1st in Bothell**

Wednesday February 29th the meeting was held at Westwood Baptist church in Olympia. Lunch was served followed by an informal meeting on the Ref 74 campaign. Joseph Backholm, FPIW opened the meeting. Approximately 35 people attended. Brian Brown from National Organization for Marriage presented. He introduced Frank Schubert as the campaign manager for Ref 74. Frank will be leading the messaging effort. The meeting ended with a very informational and interactive Q and A time.

Thursday March 1st the meeting was held at Cedar Park Church in Bothell. Lunch was served for prayer leaders and for steering committee members followed by an informational meeting in the Chapel of the Resurrection. Approximately 50 people attended. Randy Leskovar opened the meeting. Christopher Plante from National Organization for Marriage said he and his family were moving to Washington State to be able to devote full time to the effort of Referendum 74. Frank Schubert was introduced. He is leading the messaging effort.

Prayer teams: March 1st a group of about 16 prayer leaders from around the state gathered earlier in the day to develop a framework for supporting prayer groups. The state will be divided into its 49 legislative districts plus Olympia for 50 districts. A list will be gathered by Nancy Woods ([nancy.2@cedarpark.org](mailto:nancy.2@cedarpark.org)) as people volunteer to lead a group or to form a prayer group of two or more people. A bi-weekly prayer objectives list will be emailed to those persons to focus prayer on the gay marriage issue as well as to pray for other important issues in the State of Washington. Diana Wakefield and Susan Johnson will assemble the prayer objectives and Nancy Woods will send them out.

Frank indicated that he has been involved in politics all his adult life and is a Public Affairs professional having been twice named as the "Most Valuable Political Consultant" by the trade association. He reported on his role in Proposition 8 in California which had 250,000 volunteers and some 100,000 who took off work on election day to help get out the vote. They began with similar numbers to Washington State and ended with a victory of 52+% to 47+%. The Ref 74 campaign will need tens of thousands of volunteers.

He noted that the 9th District Federal Court had overturned the results of Proposition 8. Their reasoning was that once a state had granted the right to marriage for same sex couples, it could not take it away. Therefore a Referendum which prevents Washington's law from taking effect is the only sure way to prevent same sex marriage. An Initiative without a successful referendum would be appealed to the same 9th District and would likely suffer the same fate. The Referendum must be successful.

In the message, we will be defending the tradition of marriage and pointing out the consequences of changing it. He noted the law, if allowed to stand, would be one statute imposing genderless marriage upon everyone. It would impact the Catholic Church in their program of adoption and many others. It would impact what children are taught in public school about homosexuality and about marriage. If you disagree, you would be in conflict with the law. Counselors who declined to counsel would be in conflict with the law. The message could be summarized as the truth about marriage and the truth about consequences. It will not be negative toward gays. Indeed, some emphasis will be given to the fact that gays already have every right connected with marriage and this law will not grant them any further rights of any kind.

Frank reviewed the Ballot Title process. The language is presently being appealed in Thurston County court with a hearing set for March 13th and a decision within 5 days of that date. Petitions could be printed immediately after that.

The distribution process aims to have two locations in every legislative district for distribution and pickup. Joseph Backholm is currently managing this effort. There will be training made available to volunteers working to gather signatures on the petition.

There will be conference calls, powerpoint presentations, and FAQ made available.

There will be a heavy emphasis upon voter ID with the ultimate aim to persuade the “mushy middle” to vote Reject on Referendum 74.

Persuading people will require a budget of about \$4 million dollars and people were encouraged to contribute starting now.

A brief discussion was held about the campaign structure which includes a very small executive committee and a much larger Steering Committee.

He encouraged leaders to have people sign up on the [www.PreserveMarriageWashington.com](http://www.PreserveMarriageWashington.com) website to volunteer, request petitions, and donate.

Professional handouts were provided for leaders to take and distribute; Why Preserving Marriage Matters, Email Your Friends/Spread the Word, The Threat to Marriage, and a mail-in sign-up sheet for volunteers.

**Pray:** We need all churches, ministries and organizations praying for the next steps. We need prayer for: more churches /organizations to join, for finances, for volunteers and for preparation for the signature gathering phase. March 13th is the court date on Ref 74 pray for a favorable outcome.

**The goal of the “steering committee” is to form a group of pastors and other leaders and work together to activate their networks, engage in the process of gathering signatures for Ref 74, educate voters on the issues and turn out voters.**

The Ref 74 Steering Committee will meet monthly. Tele-conferences will be made available soon. The goal of these meetings is to have an interactive format where leaders can get information on the campaign, build a stronger united coalition and be more effective in getting out our message of preserving God-ordained Biblical marriage.

If you know of other pastors or leaders who would like to join the Ref 74 Steering Committee forward their contact information to [Referendum74@gmail.com](mailto:Referendum74@gmail.com)

**Next meeting:** Subject to change due to the availability of the Ref 74 petitions. Purpose: Campaign update, hand out petitions, and review procedure for petitions.

Olympia area: Tentative date Tuesday March 20th 6:30-8:00 pm (dessert social)  
Bothell area: Tentative date: Wednesday March 21st 12:00-1:30pm (lunch provided)  
Spokane area: Tentative date Thursday March 22nd 7:00-9:00pm (dessert social)

By His grace and for His glory,

DiAnna Brannan  
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