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JANUARY 2018

NEWS

A monthly publication of THE METROPOLITAN DEMOCRATIC CLUB of SEATTLE

mark your Calendar

January 24 – MDC meeting

Homelessness Solutions in Seattle

King County Assessor John Wilson, Seattle City Councilmembers Sally Bagshaw and Lisa Herbold; moderator Dan Fievez.

February 14 – MDC meeting

Taking Care of the Northwest Environment – What's Behind and What's Ahead
Roger Leed

February 28 – MDC meeting

Report on a Pollution Poll and Clean Energy Initiative

Andrew Villeneuve, executive director of Northwest Progressive Institute.

MDC meetings take place noon – 1:30pm, the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at the Plaza 600 Building #205, 600 Stewart St. unless otherwise noted.

Meeting notes

January 10

2018 budget

The budget for 2018 was approved.

Motion to endorse a carbon tax

A motion to endorse a carbon tax was seconded and will be discussed and voted upon at the January 24 meeting.

Peter Steinbrueck

Former Seattle City Councilmember Peter Steinbrueck acknowledged congratulations upon his swearing in as commissioner of the Port of Seattle, which took place January 9. He said one of his goals is to triple the number of contracts the Port awards to women and minority owned firms. He also said he is looking forward to working with the MDC Climate Change Task Force to support the Port's efforts to address climate change.

Climate Change Task Force

The MDC Climate Change Task Force distributed a charter describing its mission, objectives, boundaries and deliverables for 2018. For more information or to comment contact Tyler Mollenkopf at mollenkt@gmail.com.

Burgess promotes “new localism”



Mayor Tim Burgess, left, answers questions about the new localism. Also shown, from left, MDC President Eleanor Munro, Dan Shih, Bert Wyman, Jonis Davis, Harriet Wasserman, Dean Fournier, Seattle Port Commissioner Peter Steinbrueck and MDC Vice President Jack Whisner.

Mayor Tim Burgess wants Seattle to create a media center at Seattle Center, he told members and guests of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle at its January 10 meeting. His thinking on this has been influenced by the best seller, *The New Localism: How Cities Can Thrive in the Age of Populism* by Bruce Katz and Jeremy Novak, he said.

He's been wondering what Seattle would look like if it adopted a new localism. The

Steinbrueck sworn in as port commissioner



Above: Peter Steinbrueck was sworn in as a commissioner of the Port of Seattle at a ceremony January 9 at the Port of Seattle offices. Mr Steinbrueck, a long-time member of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle, previously served three terms as a Seattle City Councilmember. A dozen members of the MDC were on hand to congratulate him.

key element of the new localism, he explained, is people rallying around a common cause. And Seattle's common cause, he continued, should center on our children. This is important, he went on, because 40 percent of our children are unprepared for kindergarten. Thus we need programs to make sure kids are ready for school. We do that, he said, by strategically integrating services that promote preparedness, including providing early learning, financial assistance, healthcare, transportation and numerous others.

It will help to renew the police and the families and education levies that will appear on the ballot this year, he added.

How does a media center fit into this thinking? We are experiencing serious attacks on the free press, he maintained, and that means an attack on democracy. What if we rallied around the idea of providing a place where students and others can learn journalism and other communication and media skills, a place that also provides a center for public media services, he asked? And what better place for this integrated activity than Seattle Center?

Mr Burgess, a former police officer, was first elected to the Seattle City Council in 2007. He did not run for reelection in 2017, but served out his final term as interim mayor following the resignation of Mayor Ed Murray.



Jack Whisner's annual crossword puzzle



Here are the crossword clues

ACROSS

1. Descriptor of phone, card, wool
6. Dory thruster
9. Re-elected Seattle City Attorney
11. Found in Sousa band and military
14. Utah pro. soccer team
15. Throw up
17. To tie decorative knots
18. Aspirational national objective
20. French article
21. Second woman Seattle mayor
22. Skirt length
24. Some MIT grads
25. Kelly portrayed by Heath Ledger
28. Evans who was Governor
29. New Yr. Eve transport partner
30. Northgate Mall owner
32. Queen Anne bound Route 1 dir.
33. My greeting to you
40. May be tight or split
42. Regrade street used by inbound Route 62
43. Deceased uke giant
44. Seven are deadly
46. Fed. agency once led by Dixie Lee Ray
47. Vegetable storage container
50. Circle circumference diameter ratio
36. Unit of work
37. Swift BRT transit agency
38. 36th Representative Frame
41. Agency that had Mueller as Dir.
44. Seattle quadrant with ETB routes 7, 14, and 36
45. Re-elected Seattle Councilmember and attorney
47. Maker of lighters, pens, shavers
48. Re-elected Councilmember Dembowski
49. Slippery fish
50. Pussy hat color
51. New port commissioner from Queen Anne

DOWN

1. Evidence bit
2. New Seattle Councilmember
3. Attract or charm
4. Hotel unit, in brief
5. Elon Musk company
6. Follow order
7. With 15, used in Las Vegas shooting
8. In Seattle, Norway and roof
10. Possible attraction in tiny circus
12. State Senator in 44 Across
13. New port commissioner and architect
16. St. with Ogden and Logan
19. St. with Nome and Sitka
23. Comic wizard kingdom
26. Contrasting linguistic suffix
27. Re-elected Executive Constantine
29. New 45th District Senator and deputy prosecutor
30. War torn ME nation
31. Hoops mecca with Liberty, Knicks, Nets
34. Former councilmember and Democratic chair
35. Alien cyclist told to phone home
39. Winning row

Answers will appear in the next newsletter.

New members

The MDC welcomes new member
Elizabeth Younger

METROPOLITAN DEMOCRATIC CLUB of SEATTLE –Board of Directors
Executive committee President Eleanor Munro ▪ President Jack Whisner ▪ Immediate Past President Kiku Hayashi
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From the editor

Please send notices of upcoming events, letters, articles, and book reviews to Editor Eleanor Munro at walkere1@msn.com or 1925 41st Ave SW, Seattle WA 98116 no later than the fourth Wednesday of the month. All contributions are subject to editing. For more information call 206-370-1374.

Food for thought: the MDC and #MeToo

by Tyler Mollenkopf

Around the nation this fall, we heard the assertion from many voices, “Me too.” These statements have reached a critical mass and seized our attention. Harvey Weinstein may have been the first powerful man to collapse in the landslide, but he was not the last. Dozens, even hundreds, of rich and powerful men now stand accused of sexual harassment and/or sexual assault. Most face multiple allegations over a period of time demonstrating a pattern of behavior. This is not a cultural movement about a few misunderstood individual incidents. #MeToo is an uprising of millions of voices against a deep-rooted cultural failing: men in power are protected by peers and institutions when they abuse their power through sexual misconduct.

As a codified movement, this one is just a couple months old. It was only this October that Weinstein came under fire. Since then, hundreds of women have spoken out against a growing list of men. Most of these men may look decent compared to Weinstein, but he is obviously a wretch. While the severity of their crimes varies, these men all share a pattern of abusing their power through sexual harassment or even assault. They committed sexual crimes against subordinates and applicants (particularly female) knowing they would be protected by their professional power. And they were right, until this fall.

The Court of Public Opinion can be a bit scary, and it’s often unforgiving. Unfortunately, a few false accusations may damage the lives of some good men and their families. But the truth is an uncountable number of women have already had and will undoubtedly have their careers and families damaged by workplace sexual assault and its cultural consequences, so let’s focus on that. It’s clear that the Court of Corporate HR and our Courts of Actual Law are not addressing the problem sufficiently. When those institutions fall short of justice, we should be thankful to have a robust media network that exposes and confronts our cultural skeletons.

The Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle has many great opportunities to engage in the swelling #MeToo movement. As we do, we should strive to help in three key areas:

1. Hear and amplify many voices

Historically, sexual assault and rape culture have “intersectional” effects. Women who are targets of phobias, e.g. homophobia, or -isms, such as racism, are more vulnerable to sexual assault and its consequences. They may be more likely to be targeted, and they often face additional hurdles trying to in speaking up about issues or crimes. Voices of women at unique intersections are often normalized away in the public narrative.

What we can do: We can familiarize ourselves and each other with many perspectives on issues of sexual assault and workplace discrimination. When we hold forums, we should strive for inclusion of leaders who identify and represent many groups, particularly identity groups among women.

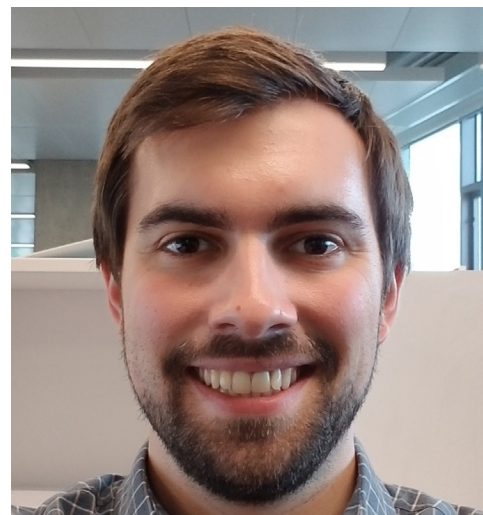
2. Fight the Mike Pence effect

Our vice president’s professional discrimination is probably more damaging than our president’s - at least with the latter, you know what you’re getting into. If there might be one negative consequence of #MeToo, it is the risk of a backlash through an increase in the Mike Pence effect. Any male manager who was already afraid of putting himself in legal trouble with an attractive, talented female colleague will be terrified with the stakes now. He will be even less likely to hire and mentor talented women.

What we can do: If you’re a leader or a mentor, and especially if you’re a man, take stock of your own habits. Are you balanced in your approach to your team or mentees? If you’re not sure - get help! Beyond that, as citizens we can prioritize chances to advocate for great women that we know. As endorsees, we can support candidates who lead diverse teams and stand for a diverse constituency.

3. Push for public & private policies to improve HR

HR departments in the US have generally been the enemy of employees who experience sexual harassment. When women assert the crime and take action, the result is often a settlement whereby the accused escapes largely unscathed.



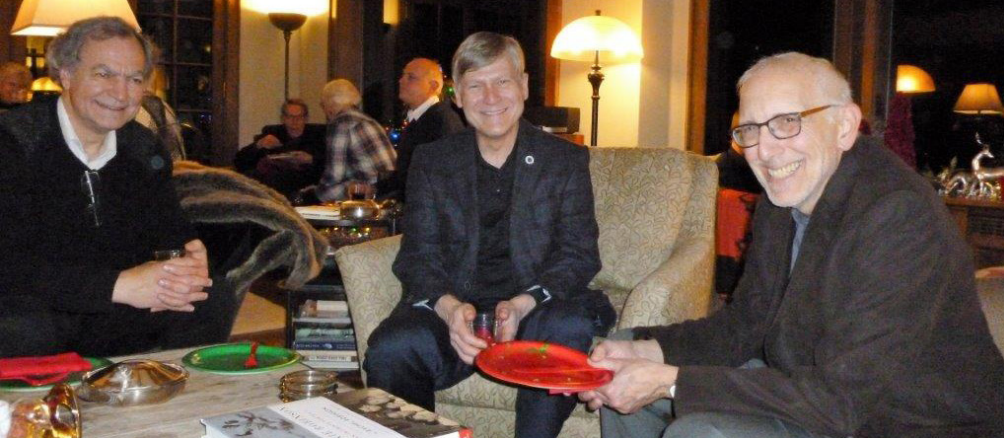
Tyler Mollenkopf

What we can do: There are many large employers in our region, in both the public and private sectors. Their HR departments are doing well at mitigating legal exposure, but they aren’t aligned with the general public interest or the interests of women who experience workplace crimes. We should advocate for policy and candidates who push for better HR policy in our government but also in our many large companies. Those companies employ a huge number of SeaTac citizens, but even more, they set the example for US and international industry. Seattle can be a city on the hill.

Tyler Mollenkopf recently joined the MDC and leads its new Climate Change Task Force. He is new project and alliance manager at the Allen Institute for Brain Science.

1 Earlier this year, before #MeToo took off, we were all well aware of the Mike Pence effect: men in positions of power are less likely to mentor female colleagues, even if they’re exceptionally talented. The effect is given to our vice president because he famously does this knowingly and intentionally. This is not some insidious unconscious bias that we might forgive because of a man’s childhood. This is our vice president knowingly and intentionally discriminating against his exceptional female colleagues because he’s too uncomfortable around an attractive woman to avoid committing carnal sin.





Election 2018

February 6

Reelection campaign kickoff for Supreme Court Justice Sheryl Gordon McCloud, 5:30 – 7:30pm, FareStart, 700 Virginia St.

Please send information about 2018 campaign events to Eleanor Munro at walkere1@msn.com.



Notice of Vote

carbon tax resolution

A motion to endorse a carbon tax was approved at the January 10 meeting of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle. A resolution to that effect will be presented and voted upon at the organization's January 24 meeting. The resolution to be proposed will be distributed by email prior to the vote.

Left: Annual Winter Holiday Party

The Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle celebrated its annual Winter Holiday Party December 3 at the home of Maryanne Tagney and David Jones. Above, MDC President Eleanor Munro, left, presents Ms Tagney with orchids in honor of her 70th birthday. Also shown are Allan Munro, Lem Howell and Mark Marshall. Center, from left are Robert Rosenberger, Seattle City Attorney Pete Holmes, and former Seattle City Councilmember Nick Licata. Below, from left are Kay Bullitt, Carol Simmons, and Lem and Pat Howell.

Membership renewal date appears on above label

January 2018

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Return Service Requested

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OF SEATTLE

