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MARCH 2020

NEWS

A monthly publication of THE METROPOLITAN DEMOCRATIC CLUB of SEATTLE



Claudia Balducci

Balducci to speak at March 11 meeting

King County Council Chair Claudia Balducci, recently reelected to her second term representing District 6, will discuss council reorganization, homelessness response and Sound Transit integration at the March 11 meeting of the MDC.

Before her election to the King County Council, Ms Balducci served as mayor of Bellevue. She also served as director of the King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention.

She earned her law degree at Columbia University School of Law.

(Editor's note: I mistakenly noted in the February edition of The MDC News that Ms Balducci would speak February 26.)

Note and vote

At the MDC's March 11 meeting, members will vote on a motion to endorse Representative Gael Tarleton for Secretary of State and Senator Bob Hasegawa and Representative Roger Goodman for reelection.

Kohl-Welles addresses King County transit, health issues



Jeanne Kohl-Welles

If the temporary injunction against I-976 (\$30 car tabs) does not become permanent, King County and other municipalities that depend on vehicle taxes for transit funding will experience severe cuts to transit services, King County Councilmember Jeanne Kohl-Welles told members and guests of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle at its February 27 meeting. A ruling from the state Supreme Court is expected later this year.

As the Seattle Transportation Benefit District (STBD), which receives funding from vehicle taxes, expires this year, Seattle and King County officials are discussing a Regional Transit Benefit District (RTBD), she explained. There is some urgency involved as approval of a ballot measure to establish and fund an RTBD or to renew the STBD would have to occur by the end of April, she added.

Another transit issue Ms Kohl-Welles addressed was a proposed fully-subsidized annual transit pass for riders at 80 percent Federal Poverty Level or below. The program would serve 54,000 residents whose eligibility is determined by enrollment in state benefit programs.

Asked to address the coronavirus threat, Ms Kohl-Welles said it is not a matter of if but a matter of when. (Note: the first death in the US from coronavirus occurred in King County. As we go to press, a total of five people have died in King County from the virus. The county is purchasing a motel to isolate people who have been infected.) She said the public is being advised to put in a two-week supply of food and to watch for updates on the Public Health – King County and Seattle website.

Ms Kohl-Welles invited members to attend her 5th annual Women's History Month panel discussion, 11:45am – 1:15 pm,

MDC meeting notes

February 12

Business

The MDC board of directors approved the budget discussed at the January 23 meeting. MDC members elected Joanna Cullen to the position of MDC treasurer.

Program

New Seattle City Councilmember Andrew Lewis spoke on homelessness issues including winter evictions and a transitional encampment ordinance (see page 3).

February 27

Business

A motion was made to vote early endorsements for Representative Gael Tarleton, Senator Bob Hasegawa, and Representative Roger Goodman, all of whom have been members of the MDC for many years. The vote will be taken at the March 11 meeting of the MDC.

Program

King County Councilmember Jeanne Kohl-Welles spoke on transit, funding and health issues (see right).

editorial

Putting our money where our values are

At the February 12 meeting of the MDC, the board of directors approved an ambitious budget, calling for eight members to donate \$1,000 each to the organization.

This action was based on the assumptions that members want the organization to grow and to preserve and enhance its reputation as a promoter of progressive values. To meet these goals we need to bring in funds in excess of what current membership dues, sponsorships and donations provide.

As do other organizations, the MDC periodically discusses strategies for meeting these goals. It is time to put some of these into action. Primarily we are proposing to extend our promotional reach for greater exposure. For that to happen we need up-to-date data for mailing, emailing and reporting purposes. We've agreed to pay to have these data managed – an ongoing task – along with other administrative and secretarial services. We have also agreed that we need help to put on A Chautauqua Afternoon.

It is all very well to agree to bring in more money. Now we need to do it. Your donation should be considered an investment in the future of the MDC, an expression of your belief in the organization and what it stands for. It is an affirmation of the value of promoting progressive policies, candidates and campaigns. Eight one-time \$1,000 donations will allow us to ramp up our promotional activity so as to increase our membership (and membership dues), sponsorship of our two major events (A Chautauqua Afternoon and Winter Holiday Party) and suggested donations at these events.

With the additional funds we can revitalize the organization. We can continue to shine a beacon of progressive light that helps people solidify and refine their beliefs and political choices. We can continue to fill our special niche in the political spectrum.

Among the statements that describe our unique identity are the following:

- We are not part of the Democratic Party although we share its values
- We meet downtown at noon twice a month.
- Our meetings are always open to all at no cost, although we suggest donations at our major events.
- We aim to educate ourselves and others about the important issues facing us today, bringing to our bimonthly meetings a wide range of elected officials and experts to speak on local, national and international issues.
- We use our reputation and influence to effect change for the good of all.
- Our membership has always included a large number of public officeholders.
- From the beginning (1956) our endorsements and other support have been coveted by candidates seeking election.

Let's do what we must to retain this identity. Let's put our money where our values are. **Join the two members who have already made \$1,000 donations.** You can also make a smaller donation to this fund. Send your check to MDC Treasurer Joanna Cullen at 975 21st Ave, Seattle WA 98122-4758 today. Or go to our website, www.metrodems.org and make your donation using the membership form.



New members

The Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle welcomes new member Michael Brunson, a PCO in the 32nd legislative district.

Lem Howell

MDC people

Another in a long line of tributes to Lem Howell, a member of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle since 1967, appears as the lead story in the February 2020 edition of *NWLawyer*, a publication of the Washington State Bar Association. The article is entitled "The Long, Hard Fight: The life and (legal) times of Lem Howell."

The editor of *NWLawyer* notes that as part of honoring the tradition of Black History Month, the magazine features a "profile of Lem Howell, a now-retired civil rights and personal injury attorney with a long and distinguished career in which he took on more than 20 cases involving police killings, most of them of African American men, fought for greater police accountability and de-escalation, and was a driving force behind changes to King County's inquest process."

Mr Howell's contribution to justice has been celebrated in numerous awards and other recognition. In 2018, for example, he was among 16 individuals* honored in an exhibition in Olympia that celebrated "1968: The Year That Rocked Washington."

He was born in Jamaica and raised in Harlem. He served four years in the Navy and attended New York University Law School. He came to Washington on a Ford Foundation fellowship to study state government in the governor's office.

He opened his law practice in Washington in 1968, one year after joining the MDC. He was an early and active member of Choose an Effective City Council (CHECC); his resume lists numerous other examples of his participation in political activities.

**Also honored were former MDC members Mayor Wes Uhlman, King County Councilmember Larry Gossett and Senator Karen Fraser.*

METROPOLITAN DEMOCRATIC CLUB of SEATTLE –Board of Directors

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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.

mark your Calendar

MDC Meetings

All MDC meetings take place noon – 1:30 pm at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 911 Stewart St, Seattle, unless otherwise noted. To enter buzz 002.

March 11, noon – 1:30 pm

King County Council Chair Claudia Balducci will discuss council reorganization, homelessness response and Sound Transit integration.

March 25, noon – 1:30 pm

To be determined.

April 8, noon – 1:30 pm

To be determined.

April 22, noon – 1:30 pm

King County Councilmember Rod Dembowski.

June 7, noon – 5 pm

Get A Chautauqua Afternoon on your calendar now. This event is an opportunity for MDC members and others to hear from the candidates prior to our June 24 endorsement proceedings. It takes place at the home of Ann and Tony Martin at 3618 SW Orchard.

The MDC welcomes guests at all membership meetings and events. To join the MDC or for more information visit metrodem.org or [facebook.com/metrodem](https://www.facebook.com/metrodem).

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March 16 at the King County courthouse, 9th Floor Courtroom, 516 Third Ave, Seattle.

She also invited members to attend a Town Hall Meeting in which she is participating along with King County Councilmembers Rod Dembowski and Girmay Zahilay. Topics include transit, housing and homelessness. It takes place 7 - 8:30 pm at the UW Tower Auditorium, Level M, 4333 Brooklyn Ave NE, Seattle. The meeting is preceded, 6 – 7 pm, by a Metro Open House to solicit community feedback on improving the current transit network.

Ms Kohl-Welles was reelected last year to represent District 4 of King County. She now serves as chair of the Budget and Fiscal Management Committee and as vice chair of the Community Health and Housing Services Committee. She previously served as senator representing the 36th legislative district and is a lifetime honored member of the MDC.

Note: Ms Kohl-Welles notes that during her presentation she incorrectly stated that SSI is run by the state; it is a federal program, but used by the state to determine Medicaid eligibility.

City Council passes winter eviction law

Amended winter eviction legislation was passed by the Seattle City Council on February 10, newly-elected Seattle City Councilmember Andrew Lewis told members and guests of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle at its February 12 meeting. Seattle is the first city in the US to ban winter evictions.

Instead of developing new laws, Mr Lewis explained, the council chose to alter an existing ordinance. One alteration shortened the moratorium from five to three months; instead of November to April, effective dates are November to February. Another allowed for the exemption of nine of the 16 “just causes for eviction,” including criminal activity and creating a public nuisance. A third amendment, sponsored by Mr Lewis, created a mitigation fund of \$500,000 per year so landlords will be paid if the tenant gets a stay of eviction. He pointed out that the ban does not stop eviction, but delays it.

Also dealing with housing and homelessness issues is a proposed ordinance regarding transitional encampment permitting, Mr Lewis said. The proposed legislation does not fund encampments, but authorizes permits if funding becomes available he added. Also, the ordinance would extend interim use permits from one to three years, allow encampments in residential zones, and expand the number of permits allowed to 40. (This legislation was adopted by the city council on February 18.)

Mr Lewis said that another move toward reducing homelessness is the formation of a joint city/county authority that would house human services in one place and be overseen by a single chief executive accountable to a board made up of representatives from the city, county and other municipalities.



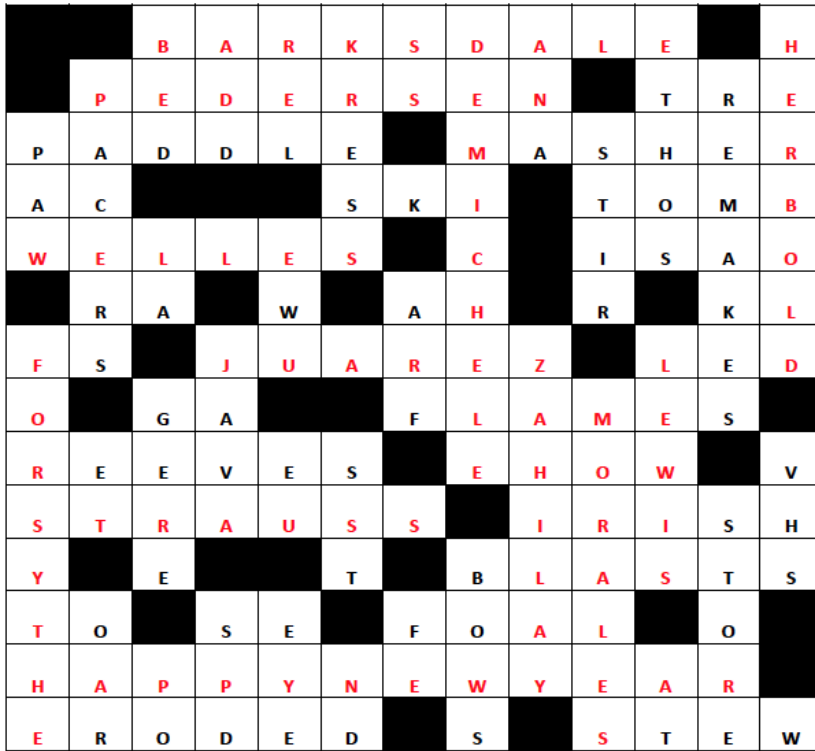
MDC members – Let's renew our vision in 2020.

Your donation of \$1,000 will help us revitalize the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle.

Mail your check to MDC Treasurer Joanna Cullen,
975 21st Ave, Seattle WA 98122
or pay online at metrodem.org
using the membership form,

If \$1,000 is a bit out of your reach,
donate any amount and help us reach our goal of \$8000.
We have already received two \$1,000 donations.

Answers to Jack Whisner's crossword puzzle



Across

1. New Bellevue Councilmember
10. New Seattle District Four
11. Roma three
13. Kayak thruster
14. Potato tool
16. Oakland CA transit
17. Alpine travel plank
18. Jolie target
19. With dirty fuel synonym, Councilmember
22. Cyber standards NGO
23. Egyptian sun god
24. Dentist may request
25. w/ Gates, big law firm
26. Bus stop beyond int.
27. Re-elected Seattle District Five
29. New elec. light
30. State with MARTA
31. Pilot lights or beaus
33. Matrix star
37. How to on-line site, in brief
39. Seattle District Six, former paperboy
40. Sea, whiskey, or tea
42. Explosions or good times
43. B-ball mistaken change of possession
45. Seattle quadrant with routes 7, 14, and 36
47. Young equine

48. My greeting to you
52. Worn away
53. Fret

Down

1. Garden or feather
2. Increase
3. Einstein thy.
4. 3rd Avenue downstairs grocery
5. Busy MLB infield position
6. New Issaquah Councilmember
7. Provides Tokyo flights, in brief
8. Community beliefs
9. Re-elected Seattle District One
10. Nate McMillan is their coach
12. Crown Affair and Oceans 11
13. Dog foot
15. Ado or gravy task
20. City of NBA Lakers and Clippers
21. Cheney WA Eagles
24. Pound sound
26. New Redmond Councilmember
27. Densely populated island
28. New county Councilmember, attorney
29. New Seattle District Seven, attorney
30. Pretty Woman Richard
32. New Seattle District Two
34. Rides in UFO
35. What UK may exit in Brexit
36. Grounded fast jet, in brief
38. Obsolete TV movie player
41. Brick and mortar Amazon competition
42. Opposite sterns
44. Dory thruster
45. C. Best is chief
46. Sight organ
47. Iron in chem.
49. North Italy river
50. Fargo St.
51. Internet suffix part, in word

Membership renewal date appears on above label

March 2020

METROPOLITAN
DEMOCRATIC CLUB
OF SEATTLE

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Return Service Requested

