



The 11th District Journal



February 2011 Volume 9, Issue 2

11th LD Democratic Organization Chair

Martha Koester

February 2011 Chair's Report

Martha Koester

Please welcome the new officers elected in January for the 2011-2012 term.

Chair: Martha Koester
Vice Chair: Marvin Rosete
State Committeeman: Azziem Underwood
State Committeewoman: Kate Kruller
KCDCC Committeeman: James Flynn
KCDCC Committeewoman: Rosemary Quesenberry
KCDCC Male Alternate: Roger Pence
KCDCC Female Alternate: Emily Willoughby
KCDCC LAC Rep: Don Bennett
Secretary: James Flynn
Treasurer: Shirley Gaunt-Smith

Also, Larry Grubb was appointed as PCO events coordinator and George Summers as member retention coordinator.

We have a lot to do over the next two years. Never has the notion of the public good been under heavier attack with so many of those goods underfunded or defunded entirely. Historically, Democrats have stood strong for public goods, and we are called upon to step up and fight to retain what we can. The Party of NO is certainly not going to be of any help here; it's up to us. People power is our only hope for countering the vast sums of money that corporate interests are pouring into Republican election campaigns. Not forgetting to have fun along the way; of course, we'll keep on putting the "party" in the Democratic Party as often as possible.

Over the next couple of months, we will be planning community outreach, reviewing our bylaws, and setting a budget for the year. I've been a policy wonk for the last four years - now I need to learn how to be a cat herder!

Many, many thanks to the people who held office in our organization for the last two years. Of course, you've probably noticed that quite a few of us are back in different roles. Please join us in our fight for Democratic values.

Upcoming programs

*****11th Legislative District Democrats General Membership meeting February 15, 2011 – 7:00pm at Carpenters Hall, 231 Burnett Ave N, Renton, WA 98057.** We will discuss our budget, bylaws, and calendar. Councilman Richard Conlin will talk about Seattle's budget priorities and anything else you would like to discuss. A representative from Planned Parenthood will discuss legislative priorities for the 2011 legislative session. Larry, George, and Don will discuss carpooling to our lobby day.

*****Presidents Day February 21, 2011.** We will carpool to our lobby day. Also, there will be grass-roots/PCO training, followed up by the famous Crab Feed.

GO DEMS!!

Martha Koester

**Welcome to the
11th Legislative Democratic Organization**

**You are Invited to attend the
Monthly Meetings and engage in democracy in action!
Your dues enable you to receive the district newsletter,
help us defer our meeting expenses, and support our efforts on
behalf of Democratic candidates. We provide or participate actively
in fun and informative opportunities to reach out to
Democrats and other voters in the 11th District.**

**Your volunteer efforts will further our goal
of active members in all of the
11th District precincts.**

We welcome you!

2009— 2011 11th Legislative District Democratic Organization Executive Board

| Officers | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|-------------|--------------|--|
| Chair | Martha | Koester | 206-762-6417 | formalhaut2003@yahoo.com |
| Vice-Chair | Marvin | Rosete | 425-255-2009 | marvin.rosete@gmail.com |
| Treasurer | Shirley | Gaunt-Smith | 425-255-1303 | Gaunt-smith@comcast.net |
| Deputy Treasurer | Chuck | Laney | 425-260-5824 | claney06@gmail.com |
| Secretary | James | Flynn | 425-221-0883 | jim.flynn@bensenville.com |
| WSDCC - Male | Azziem | Underwood | 425-430-2652 | meizza@yahoo.com |
| WSDCC - Female | Kate | Kruller | 206-853-9330 | 11demsscw@gmail.com |
| KCDCC – Male | James | Flynn | 425-221-0883 | jim.flynn@bensenville.com |
| KCDCC - Female | Rosemary | Quesenberry | 425-271-4396 | running4renton@msn.com |
| KCDCC - M Alt | Roger | Pence | 206-276-5668 | rpence@cablespeed.com |
| KCDCC - F Alt | Eimly | Willoughby | 206-241-5885 | emilya57@comcast.net |
| KCDCC - LAC | Don | Bennett | 206-242-9113 | bennettdonebe@aol.com |
| Appointments | | | | |
| Programs | | | | |
| Parliamentarian | Brendan | Donckers | | bwdonckers@gmail.com |
| Raffle | Azziem | Underwood | 425-430-2652 | meizza@yahoo.com |
| Membership Retention | George | Summers | 206-244-0632 | g.e.summers@worldnet.att.net |
| Webmaster | Alene | Brede | 206-396-1237 | alene@theflutededge.com |
| PCO Activities | Grubb | Larry | 206-243-3199 | larbeag@hotmail.com |
| Newsletter Editor | Young | Virginia | 206-650-0240 | greenrolls3@msn.com |

TREASURER



Please Send in Your 2010 Membership Dues Now
(Make checks payable to the 11th District Democrats)



Memberships:

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| ___ Regular Membership \$15.00 | ___ Family Membership | \$27.00 |
| ___ Captain Membership \$50.00 | ___ Living Lightly | \$6.00 |
| ___ Liberty Membership \$100.00 | ___ Silver Membership | \$250.00 |
| ___ Family Sponsorship \$100.00 | ___ Platinum Membership | \$1,000.00 |
| ___ Gold Membership \$500.00 | | |

NAME _____

(Please list all household names joining if membership is for Family or Sponsor)

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Employer _____

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Occupation _____

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Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

KCDCC Meeting Tuesday January 25, 2011

Greeting and introductions by Steve Zemke, new KCDCC Chair.

Comments on changes in agenda.

Agenda and resolution changes on internet.

Chair Report:

- Rebuilding King County Democrats – we need to address problems.
- Change meeting agendas: Monthly leadership meeting not productive use of time. Propose committee meetings in lieu of leadership meetings, voting on internet or email
- Currently eight committees, suggest changes in committee structures, add two new committees, members will be able to participate in committees of their choice
- Technology, PCO training workshops
- Candidate recruitment is a nonfunctioning committee, KCDCC coordinates changes with LDs
- Voter Outreach – now listed as multicultural, labor, students, young people, seniors
- Ballot Measure committee – new LAC related 500 email list
- By-law changes will be posted on internet - considering changes
- Chair will work with resolutions and bylaws committee to come up with changes, looking for feedback
- Chairman Zemke is involved with legislative district reorganization this past month and will be working with LD leaders in committees to get this working reorganization i.e. internal structure, database. Would like to talk to other volunteers.
- Question: Can anyone, that are not necessarily elected delegates to KCDCC, participate in committees?
- Answer: To get more people involved, committees are open to members and PCOs of legislative district
- Statement from floor: Reservations about opening committees up in cases where the committee will take up position or change the rules, someone may show up to vote and never show up again, in case of a close vote, pack the committee and burden the organization, making support a position we do not want to support, something to show we have a little bit more care about how this committee is operated
- Chair: Thank you, that is why we are asking for input from everyone. Should (suggestion) voting members be approved by the chair?

KCDCC Meeting Tuesday January 25, 2011

Committees: Central point in direction we are heading

Communications and technology: Critical races are coming up, new cms, processing system for donations, decisions on web host, task assignments, the website will be **FLASH** free, asking people who are involved with communications in LDs to communicate with KCDCC communications committee and benefit from the resources they develop.

Platform resolution and by-laws committee: A platform that communicates well, multiple formats, short format, one page format resolutions, every month, in plain language, understandable, democratic values. Writers, thinkers, collaborators on committee, one delegate one alternate from each district trying to achieve balance and cooperation to get platforms ready, adopted every two years. Comprehensive statement of values that Democratic majority believe in, resolutions supplementary to platform. Resolutions are 1 page.

Suggestion from floor: LDs do platform.

Comment from floor: Understand the difference between platform and resolution – a resolution is an actionable item, a platform plank is a statement of values. If you think the platform needs an amendment have someone from the LD appointed to the platform committee. Due to investment of time by platform committee, present materials appropriately. These are our values, it should last at least two years.

Discussion of timeline for by-law changes - drafted in February, procedure is in the bylaws.

PCO Membership: 826 PCO elected, 52 appointed, new database for KCDCC, Request for contributions, LDs need to contribute dues of \$600. Need archive data, anything you can provide, copies of caucus database from 2010 or 2008 or whatever you can provide. Referrals for new members. Willing to help set up database for LDs. Party records cannot be found. If you know where they are, please let Chair Zemke know. Need archival material for campaigns etc. Historical records can be saved before recycling.

Voter Outreach: Ivan Weiss -Where are the other 29%? Feels they are ethnic minority. Not only ones who didn't vote, but the ones that are not even registered. Ethnic minority campaign to register voters and make sure they vote. Top priority - deny Rob McKenna. Don't underestimate Kirby Wilber RP State Chair, tea party-ex KVI host. Ivan needs help with committees, labor outreach.

LAC: Meets 11 months out of the year at libraries. Presidents Day action in Olympia, all legislators invited to lunch. Please come. HB 1079 SB 5124 will expand precincts to 2000. Adopt KC Dem Legislative Action Committee 2011 Legislative Agenda.

Treasurer: Dire cuts all around - fixed overhead \$325 per month, switching to Quick Books Pro, PDC corrections from past cycles needed and almost complete, LDs dues are due now. Salary of past chair will be paid as available. No plan for an audit at this time. \$2500 salary for Chair Zemke not being paid at this time, forsake payment. Doing financial review for PDC.

Last year budget was 49.5 revenue; 55.8 expenditures. Functioning county organization will return

Finance Committee: Reducing expenses is temporary fix. Smaller office, internet, newsletter. \$32,000 is possible without paid chair. In-kind donations only until solvent. No PCO training by KCDCC, it duplicates state training. KCDCC March Retreat - proposed Sunday March 27 in lieu of meeting. What do we like, what don't you like, what can be changed to improve? **MSA**

Resolutions:

[Resolution Calling for Federal Recognition of the Duwamish Tribe](#) MSA

•

[Resolution Adopting 2011 State Legislative Priorities](#) MSA

•

[Resolution Regarding Constitutional Rights for People, not Corporations](#) MSA

Minutes of the Eleventh District Democrats Reorganization Meeting

January 18, 2011

Recorded by Shirley Gaunt-Smith

The meeting was called to order at 7:34PM by Joel Ware. Steve Zemke, current Chair of the King County Democrats addressed the meeting. He emphasized that we are entering the two year cycle and are under attack. We must respond aggressively in our campaigns to keep King County "Blue!" We must keep the current people in office and add more. He stressed that we must make sure that we have Democrats running for office, and that we have the manpower to support their campaigns.

The meeting was turned back to the Chair. He announced the count of PCOs present. There were 16 PCOs and 10 other members that can vote on the business.

Shirley Gaunt-Smith volunteered to be Temporary Secretary. John Guevarra volunteered to be Parliamentarian; Azziem Underwood volunteered to be Sergeant of Arms. John Guevarra made the motion to adopt the agenda, which passed without opposition.

The set of By-Laws were presented, and a motion to adopt them was made. The vote passed which no one opposed.

The final Credential report showed 17 PCOs and 10 others.

The election of officers started at 6:45PM. Marvin Rosete nominated Martha Koester for Chair. The vote was a unanimous yes. Martha made a short speech. Kate Kruller and Jay Hollingsworth presented her with a new gavel.

Jay Hollingsworth nominated Marvin Rosetta for Vice-Chair. All votes were in favor.

The vote was unanimous for Kate Kruller to be State Committeewoman and Azziem Underwood for State Committeeman. All were in favor to have Azziem Underwood the State Committeeman.

All were in favor to have Shirley Gaunt-Smith as the Treasurer. Rosemary Quesenberry was elected as King County committeewoman. Jim Flynn was elected as King County committeeman.

Emily Willoughby was elected as alternate King County committeewoman. Roger Pence was elected as alternate King County committeeman.

Jim Flynn was elected as recording secretary. Virginia Young will continue as the newsletter secretary.

Don Bennett was elected by acclamation to fill the position of Legislative Action Committee Representative.

Kate introduced Joe McDermott from the King County Council. He thanked us for supporting Dow for King County Executive.

South Park bridge closure was discussed. The ground breaking for the new bridge will occur in April of 2011. A cautious estimate of completion is sometime in 2014. It was announced that February 21, 2011 is lobby day, and Rosemary and Don are planning to attend in Olympia.

Jay Hollingsworth is very concerned about the possibility that civil rights were violated when First Nations carver John T. Williams was brutally shot down by a Seattle police officer and should be investigated more. There are questions that have not been answered. Jay is asking for support to clear up these issues. He will be present at the King County meeting on Friday.

Washington Investment Trust (WIT) Committee Hearings on January 25, 2011

Martha Koester

Bob Hasegawa is the primary sponsor of HB 1320 to create a state bank of Washington, and Senator Margarita Prentice is the primary sponsor of the companion bill SB 5238. Hearings were held in both chambers in January. These were very well attended with representatives from a number of community groups. Two bankers working for the Bank of North Dakota were available for questions. The bill does not actually establish a bank but authorized a working group to work out the details.

A representative from the Main Street Alliance, an advocacy group for small businesses, testified about the problems that they have had in getting credit even for long-established businesses. Several people were present from the King County Legislative Action Committee, as well as Cindy Cole and John Repp, who did the research behind the bills. They will make a short presentation at our March meeting this year.

Commercial banks testified against the bill, despite the fact that the Bank of North Dakota does not compete with commercial banks but works with them. The biggest barrier, though, is that our State Treasurer, James McIntire, is against a state bank. His representative gave the following reasons.

1. WIT is unconstitutional.
2. WIT would be unfair competition to private banks.
3. How can the WIT maintain liquidity so the state can pay its bills?

There will always be at least a few non-performing loans. The Office of the State Treasurer currently has zero tolerance for losses and essentially maintains a checking account with the Bank of America.

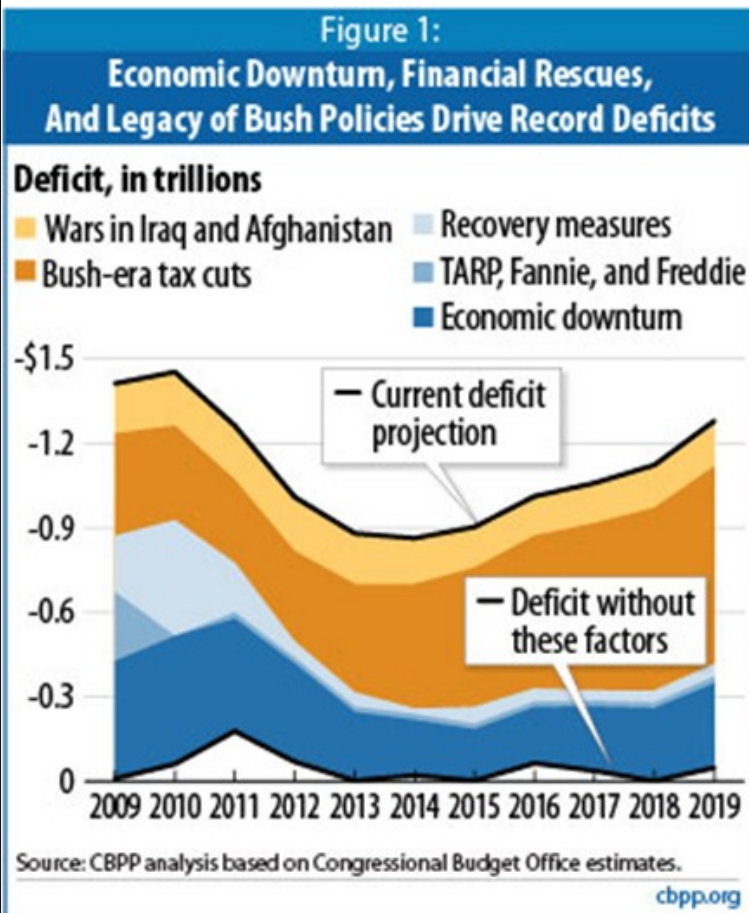
Answers to those objections are as follows

1. Phil Talmadge (former Supreme Court judge) thinks that a constitutional amendment would be unnecessary because there is no lending of credit problem (a constitutional provision) where the state gets a full return on its asset. The state has been in the business for many years of issuing bonds for housing assistance and taking deposits for guaranteed tuition programs, to name just two examples. Those are "lending" programs that are similar to the proposed activities of the WIT.
2. The model for WIT is the Bank of North Dakota (BND). From the very beginning, BND has had the policy of partnering with the private banks in the state. BND is often called "a banker's bank" or a mini-Fed. That is also the intent of the WIT bill. Representative Hasegawa gave legislators and lobbyists a chance to talk to the two retired BND officials between the two hearings. Unfortunately, they did not take advantage of this opportunity.
3. The BND is run by bankers who have always been able to provide liquidity to pay the state bills. The BND had losses last year of \$10 million on a loan portfolio of \$2.7 billion. This is a very respectable 0.37%. BND protects itself by retaining sufficient liquidity and by setting aside enough to cover bad loans based on their knowledge of the position of their borrowers and the condition of the local economy. Therefore, the occasional loss on bad loans does not affect the overall profitability of the bank. The WIT is expected to make a profit a few years after its founding.

Meeting with Adam Smith to Discuss Defending Social Security and Medicare

Martha Koester

Jim Flynn, Emily Willoughby, and I along with a number of people from the 30th and the 33rd LDs met with Representative Smith in January. This meeting was arranged by Smith's office as a result of the resolution we sent him last year. He kept insisting that he does not want to cut Social Security but is very conflicted on the issue because he is also a deficit hawk. We need to keep communicating with him on a regular basis.



It is absolutely critical for all of us to commit to constant lobbying of our representatives on this issue, because a damaged Democratic brand on Social Security will spell electoral disaster in 2012 and beyond.

- Numerous surveys show that 75% to 80% oppose cutting Social Security benefits to reduce the federal deficit. The public understands it has no relationship to the federal deficit because they pay special taxes for it.
- 2010 election eve/day poll showed STRONG opposition to Social Security cuts – 73% Democrats, 72% Independents, 72% Republicans, 61% Tea Party. This is a truly non-partisan result.
- 7 out of 10 voters oppose raising the retirement age. Opposition is especially strong among blue collar voters: non-college men and especially non-college women, which are core labor constituencies in the key battleground states.

I find it appalling that voters now trust Republicans over Democrats to defend Social Security, despite the fact that Republicans have always had an ongoing agenda to destroy the program. This is mainly due to the fact that they constantly lied about health care reform throughout 2010, claiming that it would cut Medicare. Currently Republicans plan to privatize Medicare if they can get by with it. Democrats used to crush Republicans when voters were asked, "Who do you trust to better handle Social Security?" Today, we are losing badly to Republicans.

Cont'd.

- **Election Day 2010 voters favored Republicans on Social Security 31% to 28%.**
- **Election Day 2006 voters favored Democrats over Republicans 48% to 20%.**
- **Election Day 2002 voters favored Democrats over Republicans 43% to 20%.**
- **Election Day 1998 voters favored 44 Democrats over Republicans 44% to 21%.**

Jim, Emily, and I have discussed having a Social Security/Medicare working group and intend to keep in touch with Representative Smith on the issue. Meanwhile, there are national and local organizations that you can get involved with.

National organizations

Hands Off Our Medicare! <http://www.handsoffourmedicare.org/handsoff/>

Social Security Works <http://socialsecurity-works.org/>

Strengthen Social Security <http://strengthensocialsecurity.org/>

Washington State organizations

Social Security Works-WA <http://ssworkswa.org/>

Health Care for All-WA www.healthcareforallwa.org

Toll Free: 1 (877) 903-9723

Don't Cut Our Medicare- <http://dontcutourmedicare.org/>

Toll Free: 1 (877) 822-3220

United for Single Payer www.unitedforsinglepayer.org

Online connections - Contact frequently!

Democratic National Committee issues page

<http://my.democrats.org/page/s/contactissues>

White House contact - <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/> -- 202-456-1111

WSDCC State Committee Woman – Kate Kruller

First of all, thank you one and all for supporting me in my candidacy to represent you at State Democratic Party meetings as the 11th Legislative District State Committee Woman! It is an honor to be entrusted with this responsibility, and I will do my utmost to serve you well at state party business functions.

State committee men and women from all over Washington State gathered in Olympia for an exciting two-day re-organization event on January 28-29, 2011. Our main task was to elect people to the Washington State Democrats Executive Board. The results were as follows:

Dwight Pelz was re-elected as the State Party Chair. Pelz defeated Natalie McClendon, Chair of the Whatcom County Democrats. Valerie Brady Rongey of Spokane was elected Vice-Chair, replacing Sharon Smith. Rob Dolin of Seattle was elected Secretary, replacing Luis Moscoso, who was just elected to the State House Representative in his district. Habib Habib was re-elected as Treasurer.

We also broke out into our Congressional Districts to elect WSDCC representatives for each:

1st Congressional District Representative: Richard Wright
2nd Congressional District Representative: Todd Nichols
3rd Congressional District Representative: Marsha Manning
4th Congressional District Representative: George Fearing
5th Congressional District Representative: Bob Esvelt
6th Congressional District Representative: Cathi Bright
7th Congressional District Representative: Javier Valdez
8th Congressional District Representative: Becky Lewis
9th Congressional District Representative: Zach Smith

This is an unusual time because once every two years the organization itself does not exist until after the officers elections are held. That means all the organization committees that typically meet prior to the main meeting don't exist (Rules Committee, Resolutions Committee, Affirmative Action Committee, Technology Committee, Finance Committee, Elections Committee and the Eastern Washington Committee). Instead, they hold open house for the state committee men and women to help them determine which committee they want to join next spring as an active and voting member. We send our preferences in to the WSDCC Chair, and he selects who will be assigned to what committee. I am very interested in the Rules Committee and could also work well on the Technology Committee. We'll see how it turns out!

Here are the five resolutions that came through the process:

507- WSDCC Legislative Prioritization based up co-opting what the KCDCC LAC had for this session.

Result: Referred to the Resolutions Committee in Spring, 2011.

508 - Requesting funding for WSDA Marketing (promoting farmer's markets etc.)

Result: Defeated

509 - Removing parking fees at state parks

Result: Referred to the Resolutions Committee in Spring, 2011.

510 - Counting Hydropower as a renewable resource.

Result: Withdrawn

512 - A Resolution in Support of keeping the Washington State Conservation Commission independent.

Result: Passed

Next WSDCC Activity: February 21 President's Day Grassroots Training (10 a.m. – 4 p.m.) and Crab Feed (5:00 p.m.). Where: St. Martin's College - 5300 Pacific Ave SE, Lacey, WA 98503 For more details and to register go to www.actblue.com/page/crabfeed

Official Call
 King County Democratic Central Committee (11th District)
 Tuesday February 11, 2011 — 7:00 PM
 Renton Carpenters Hall - 231 Burnett Avenue North
 Proposed Agenda

7:00 p.m.
 Call to Order
 Flag Salute

7:05 p.m.
 Approve Past Minutes
 Approve Agenda
 Recognitions/Introductions

7:10 p.m.
 ● Alejandro Pena - Young Democrats University of Washington Chapter re:
 YD Convention State Convention Committee
 ● Membership vote on WSDCC State Convention committee member selection (credentials, platform and rules) Convention date: Saturday, June 26, 2010
 Introduce proposed By-Law amendments that will be considered in March - Discussion

7:30 p.m.
 Richard Conlin - Seattle City Councilman /Council President

8:00 p.m. Break

8:10 p.m.
 ● 11th LD Caucus Meeting – Date/Details/Delegate selection process
 11th LD Nominating Convention

8:30 p.m. Officer Reports
 ● WSDCC Quarterly Meeting Recap: Martha Koester/Azziem Underwood
 Legislative Action Day Recap: Don Bennett

8:45 p.m. - Raffle Prizes

8:50 p.m. - Good of the Order

9:00 p.m. - Adjourn

The 11th District Journal is published on a monthly basis as a means of notice of general membership meetings. It is published and distributed 10 days preceding general meetings pursuant to District Bylaws.

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