

37th LD Democrats Membership Meeting
Monday, February 14, 2022

Meeting called to order at 7:03PM.

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Land Acknowledgment

Offered by Julia Bobadilla-Melby.

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Adopt January 10, 2022 Minutes

Minutes are adopted without objection.

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Elections for Open Executive Board Offices

First Vice Chair

Andrew Ashiofu is nominated and approved without objection.

Secretary

No nominations for this office.

Washington State Central Committee Member*

Vallerie Fisher is nominated and approved without objection.

*Gender-specific for individual identifying as female

King County Central Committee Member**

No nominations for this office.

**Gender-specific for individual identifying as male

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PCO Appointments

Two new nominations, plus one correction of precinct assignment.

All nominations are approved without objection.

Comments from Justin Baird regarding the need to file for PCO in May.

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Candidate Introductions

(The candidate contact information included below was supplied during the meeting.)

9th Congressional district candidate, introduction and brief remarks:

Stephanie Gallardo
<https://www.electgallardo.com/>

Judicial candidates, introductions and brief remarks:

Judge Kuljinder Dhillon – King County District Judge Pos. 2
judgekuljinderdhillon@gmail.com

Judge Lisa Paglisotti – King County District Judge Pos. 1
judgepaglisotti@kingcounty.gov

Judge Rebecca Robertson – Municipal Court Judge Pos. 1
judgerebeccarobertson@gmail.com

Judge Damon Shadid – Municipal Court Judge Pos. 7

Brief Q & A and discussion touching on the following points:

- Inequities in sentencing.
- Approaches to restorative justice.
- Seattle’s incoming city attorney.
- Warrants and bail.
- Community court and who is eligible.
- Juvenile court and children of deployed parents.
- Accountability in cases of property crime.



Black History Month Panel Discussion and Q & A:

Reverend Harriet Walden
Councilmember Larry Gossett
37th LD Board Member Alec Stephens
Moderator: 37th LD Board Member Andrew Ashiofu

Q: How would you respond to someone who expresses skepticism regarding critical race theory (CRT)?

Larry Gossett:
(Discussion of The University of Washington.) UW has made progress in reforms regarding ethnic studies and representation in teaching. It’s ironic that there is hostility to CRT, given that historically very little education has been offered regarding the Black experience.

Rev. Walden

Black Americans are not immigrants, they are citizens and have history in this country dating back to its founding. The hostility to CRT reflects white rage; psychological warfare.

Alec Stephens

CRT is telling the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. The fight against it is a reflection of cognitive dissonance and denial. It's an attempt to erase Black history.

Q: What are the most dangerous areas of bias you see currently, and how do you see that playing out locally?

Alec Stephens

The propagation of ignorance, so that lies can be told. Locally, racism is more hidden than elsewhere in the country. There are concerns about how much lasting progress the George Floyd protests will yield.

Larry Gossett

Many people don't understand what is characterized as a relentless focus on race. Racism began long before 1776. The first 10 of 12 U.S. presidents were slave-owners, even during their presidencies.

Rev. Walden

The Catholic Church has supported status quo racism with the doctrine of "perpetual servitude." Black history is taken and erased. Progressives are offenders in this regard, just as conservatives are.

Larry Gossett

We need to do more to build multi-racial unity.

Rev. Walden

People don't get out of poverty by themselves; they need societal assistance.

Rev. Walden

With the Democrats' "big tent," it's harder to get things people unified behind a cause.

Alec Stephens

Black Americans must be given equal access, treatment, and support in society. Individuals must be supported; it is not possible to make it "on one's own."

Rev. Walden

Discussion of HB 1918. There has been societal collusion to drive Blacks off the land.

Alec Stephen

For reparations and reconciliation. The story of racism and intentional Black disenfranchisement must be told in order to attack entrenched ignorance.

Q: Can you explain your perspectives on working with the police?

Rev. Walden

Every sector of the city must have adequate policing, and that's not happening now. Defunding the police is "throwing the baby out with the bathwater." Right now the Seattle Police Department has been destroyed. We need both adequate policing and accountability.

Alec Stephens

We pay for police protection, and violence is real. Policing needs to be protective, not an invasive force. Blacks must not be treated as second-class citizens.

Larry Gossett

Would like to hear questions from the LD members.

Questions from the membership:

Sunil Aggarwal

(Question regarding criticism of Black leaders.)

Larry Gossett

Constructive criticism of Black leaders is healthy, necessary and should not be discouraged. It should not be feared, or it will dissuade participation.

Rev. Walden

Even MLK was not universally liked; the Black community is not monolithic.

Alec Stephens

Some Black leaders have not always been strong enough in their criticism of Trump.

Robert Stephens

(Question regarding the history of policing in the U.S.)

Alec Stephens

Early U.S. policing involved slave-catchers. Execution was not uncommon.

Rev. Walden

Quakers started policing in the U.S., with a focus on redemption. Northern Quakers were not slave-holders, but Southern Quakers were.

The Southern Strategy was intended to take back everything that was given to Blacks after the Civil War.

Larry Gossett

Two book recommendations: *Worse than Slavery* and *Slavery by Another Name*.

Southern prisons in the late 19th Century provided free labor for plantations. These prisons were profitable. There were laws on the books that only targeted Blacks.

Jennell Hicks

(Comment regarding the term “reparations.” Suggests it should be reframed as “crime victims compensation.”)

Alec Stephens

Simply reframing the term is not adequate; an understanding that there were victims, and that this was covered up, is needed.

Larry Gossett

Other societies have taken responsibilities for their abuses. It is possible.

Kevin Allen

(Question regarding the institutionalized segregation of the U.S. North.)

Larry Gossett

MLK came to the Seattle in 1961 to speak at Garfield H.S. One topic was open housing. Seattle was the fifth most segregated city in the U.S. at the time. Discussion of Black vs. white wealth. The difference is vast.

Alec Stephens

About misconstruing history: There was racism in both the North *and* the South. It just took different forms.

Rev. Walden

Regarding generational wealth: Historically, other immigrants to the U.S. were given jobs before Blacks. Black Americans have had great difficulty building family wealth.

Carrie Barnes:

(Question regarding what a white ally should do to get engaged to fight for equity.)

Larry Gossett

The Democratic party in Seattle and King County is an important asset in fighting institutional racism. We need to have a reconciliation discussion, then go ahead and implement it. We need to avoid infighting.

Andrew Ashiofu

(What is your advice for the future?)

Rev Walden

Stay at the table; stay engaged. She votes in remembrance of her mother, who was unable to vote, and for the Supreme Court, which is a vitally important institution.

Larry Gossett
We have the capacity to become a united front.

Alec Stephens
This fight is a marathon (requiring perseverance), not a sprint.

Resolution Update

An update by Rep. Jesse Wineberry regarding the *Resolution to Urge Governor Jay Inslee to Overturn Governor's Directive 98-01*. The resolution in question was endorsed by the membership at our September 13, 2021 monthly meeting.

Thank you to the 37th LD Democrats for endorsing this initiative. The Democratic party was instrumental in this effort. The vote to rescind Directive 98-01 was unanimous.

Some history: I-200 did *not* end affirmative action in the state, as had been widely assumed. It was only intended to prevent less-qualified candidates from being elevated over higher-qualified candidates. There has been a lot of misunderstanding about this. However a later document, Directive 98-01, *did* undermine affirmative action. Gov. Inslee's action to rescind 98-01 will restore affirmative action. However the damage done by the intervening years of systemic disadvantage must still be addressed.

More information: WaEquityNow (Washington Equity Now Alliance)
Resolution link: <https://bit.ly/3glkCuB>

Good of the Order

Kevin Allen
The Coalition of Back Trade Unionists will be holding its monthly meeting 2/15 at 6pm. See the CTBU Facebook page for more info.

The A. Philip Randolph Institute will be hosting the Charles Rolland African American Virtual Legislative Day on 2/21, 10:30am. See the APRI Facebook page for more info.

Robert Stephens
Extends thanks to Rep. Wineberry for his hard work and steadfastness.

Larry Gossett
Thank you to Carrie Barnes for putting on this program.
Looking forward to working together on anti-racism.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:39PM.