

The Voter

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WATERFRONT PARK SEEMS SAFE, BUT NEW CONCERNS ARISE

by Nancy & Charles Bagley, Waterfront Committee

Waterfront Park now has a reprieve from the threat of view blockage, as the Aquarium hopes to expand on shore. The Seattle Aquarium Society (SEAS) proposed a Master Plan for City Council approval in August that would initiate detailed evaluation and design for an expansion building on shore, called the Central site. This would be created inland from the Aquarium's Pier 60 buildings, in a space to be freed up by the planned revision of Alaskan Way.

In this site, SEAS plans a Tropical Pacific exhibit with a large tank showing an array of tropical waters habitats, including reefs. In this highly visible location, the building will feature large windows attracting waterfront visitors to the Aquarium, and will be stationed very near or partially under the anticipated elevated Overlook walkway from the Market to the waterfront, attracting the attention of more visitors.

League President Amanda Clark has written the City Council expressing League support for the Master Plan: "The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County requests that the Seattle City Council approve the Final Seattle Aquarium Master Plan for Expansion, released July 1, 2015. The League strongly supports the Aquarium expansion at the Central site, as described in the Master Plan. ... The League of Women Voters expressed

strong opposition to the former plan of expanding to the south and in front of Waterfront Park. We are pleased that this plan of south expansion has been abandoned and that the needs of the Aquarium can be met at the Central site on land."

New Waterfront Concerns:

City of Seattle Initiative 123 concerns the construction and operation of a mile-long elevated park on Alaskan Way. The LWVS-KC Waterfront Committee has read the initiative carefully and has some serious concerns. If passed, I-123 would radically change all of the waterfront plans carefully drawn up by the City and volunteers over the past 5 years. This Initiative has two aspects: first, it creates a new public development authority (PDA) that will create commercial development at both ends of the proposed park. Second, this initiative also gives the PDA title to all "under-used" city property anywhere in the entire city, not just the waterfront. This property may be disposed of as the board of the PDA sees fit, provided that laws are not violated. It is worth being aware that the

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

Return your ballot by August 4!

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Connecting with the Leadership

State Convention: The convention was held at the Holiday Inn in beautiful downtown Yakima. Yakima is in the midst of a severe drought right now and it was very dry. We had speakers at the convention who spoke about about how they were trying to cope with the drought, and specifically, water rights. It was quite interesting to learn that all of the water that can currently be held in the reservoirs was earmarked in 1905 by senior water rights holders. As the result of 36 years of litigation, only now is the Department of Ecology (DOE) starting to work on locating new sources of water for all of the junior water rights owners. This year, the snowpack was so low that most of the water rights holders are receiving less than 50% of their usual water. The DOE is doing several things, including purchasing water rights from senior water rights owners, allowing farmers to pump water from their own wells, encouraging water conservation and the planting of less water intensive crops and instigating new methods of storing rain water that falls in the winter.



Ellen Barton

On a much lighter note, I also opened a Twitter account and learned how to tweet, so if you want to find me on Twitter, my username is @eebarton56. Yay! I attended several workshops on topics such as moderating forums, growing leaders, and increasing our membership and I learned a lot. I met and spoke to past national League president Mary Wilson as well as current national League board member Toni Larson. I also met Kim Abel's delightful son, Riley, a member of the Bellingham League.

We adopted a budget, amended the Bylaws and elected a new State board. Seattle-King County is well represented on the State board by Joanna Cullen (treasurer), Kathy Sakahara (first VP and advocacy), Mary Ehlers and Lisa Unsoeld-Chang (development).

State is facing some of the same challenges that Seattle-King County is in fundraising and development. They included in the budget a "wish" to raise another \$100,000 to hire new employees to do the fundraising/development work.

We adopted the following programs: Public education and advocacy on climate change; the formation of a team to review and evaluate voter turnout and develop a toolkit for local leagues to increase voter turnout; and an update to our positions on the Growth Management Act, specifically to consider and address "vesting" of the right to develop property.

World Affairs Conference: I was invited to participate in the World Affairs Conference as a representative of the League to discuss political action and involvement of women in the 21st century. Attendees included five representatives from Eastern Europe, including Bulgaria, Armenia, Turkey, Georgia and Ukraine. They were here to learn all they could about making their new democracies work, but I found that we could learn a lot from them! First, they have a higher participation rate among women in their societies, both in terms of running for office and political activity. The delegate from Bulgaria said that the rate of participation in her country is higher for women than for men! Also, in most of the countries represented, the candidates did not have to do their own fundraising. Once they have been selected by their political party, the party does all the fundraising. In some countries, the government also contributes. While some of the countries have quotas for the number of women in government roles, not all do. The delegates wondered why our voter turnout rate is so low. Another attendee from the Women's Political Caucus mentioned some barriers to voting, including not having ballots or information in the

August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 Board Retreat 9:00 a.m.
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Leadership Circle Luncheon
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 Transportation Comm. 10:00 a.m.	19	20 Education Comm. 10:00 a.m.	21	22
23	24 Econ & Tax Mtg. 7:30 p.m.	25	26	27	28	29 Econ & Tax Comm. 9:30 a.m.
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

AUGUST

Board Retreat
Saturday, August 1
9:00 a.m.
League Office

September Voter Deadline
Monday, August 3

Leadership Circle Luncheon
Saturday, August 8
11:30 a.m.
Exeter House, Seattle

Transportation Committee
Tuesday, August 18
10:00 a.m.
League Office

Education Committee
Thursday, August 20
10:00 a.m.
League Office

Special Econ. & Tax. Meeting
Monday, August 24
7:30 p.m.
League Office
See note on page 8

Econ. & Tax. Committee Meeting
Saturday, August 29
9:30 a.m.
League Office

SEPTEMBER

Board Meeting
Saturday, September 12
9:00 a.m.
League Office

October Voter Deadline
Tuesday, September 8

Forum Schedule

Sept 3 - Money in Politics
Oct 1 - General Election Issues
Nov 5 - Constitutional Amend. Study
Jan 7 - Program Planning
Feb 4 - Media's Role in Gov't
Mar 3 - Carbon Pricing
Apr 7 - Capital Punishment

The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County (LWVS-KC) presents a public forum most months between September and May, generally on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Most forums are held at the Seattle First Baptist Church, but occasionally they are scheduled at other locations and times. The tentative schedule of forums for 2015-16 appears at left; check *The Voter* each month or the LWVS-KC website, seattlelwv.org, for up-to-date information. Past forums are frequently televised and can be accessed from the resources page of the website.

Board Briefs by Dora Taylor, Secretary

The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County and Education Fund Boards met on Saturday May 2 and June 6, 2015. This is a summary of their work.

Note: These briefs were prepared by then Secretary Amanda Clark.

In the May Board meeting the members recapped the fundraising event at the Wing Luke Museum. From the attendees' point of view, it was a success. The food was good, the exhibits fascinating. Best of all was hearing from those to whom we gave awards. Cindy Ryu, Representative from the 32nd District, introduced our awardees: Pramila Jayapal, the Lifetime Achievement Award for her work fostering voting rights; David Perez, also for his specific work on voting rights, particularly for minorities in Eastern Washington; and, for an organization, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), for its civic advocacy work. And of course everyone enjoyed the raffle, envying those who took home the prizes.

Much of the time was also spent preparing for the Annual Meeting—being introduced to the slate of nominees for the Board and working through the budget. We also heard from

two members of the Seattle Aquarium Society (SEAS) about aquarium expansion plans. The League supports what is called the Central option, which now is the preferred option of SEAS. It will be presented to the Seattle City Council in late July.

In June we held the “In and Out” Board meeting, in which new and outgoing Board members meet and talk about portfolios and Board duties. Newcomers to the Board often feel at sea, so it's hoped that this meeting helps them get a feel for what it's like to serve on the Board.

Janet Winans led a discussion about our endorsement process. There had been some confusion about the number of votes needed to make an endorsement, as well as how to communicate the decision to committees, interested outside organizations, and the public.

The Social Justice Committee is looking at the proposed County initiative called “Best Starts for Kids” to provide resources for early child-

Continued on next page

Board Briefs continued:

hood development. When the language of the bill is finalized the Board will discuss whether to endorse it.

The Voter Services Committee recommended that the League be a co-sponsor of a candidates forum on June 29 for the Port of Seattle. Nine candidates have filed for one position! The League will not be a participant at the forum, but we are involved in ensuring that the questions of the candidates are unbiased.

Finally, it was decided to hold the Leadership Circle luncheon on August 8 at Exeter House. If you are interested in joining the Leadership Circle, which commits you to a three-year minimum pledge of \$240 a year, please call the office to request an invitation.

Diversity Policy

The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County (LWVS-KC), in both its values and practices, affirms its beliefs and commitment to diversity and pluralism, which means there shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.

LWVS-KC recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making. LWVS-KC subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds and that this inclusiveness enhances the organization's ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs.

LWVS-KC affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of Americans in its membership, board, staff and programs.

Connecting with Leadership continued:

voters' native languages, which astonished the delegates. They believed, before their visit, that the United States had no problems. Imagine that! As you can see, it was an exciting and informative conference AND a lesson in humility.

This is Goodbye: It has been an illuminating and challenging presidential term for me. Shortly after my term began in July, 2013, I was diagnosed with cancer. It was a trying time for everyone and I thank you all for being patient and for all your help and good wishes. I finally began to enjoy myself in spring of 2014 after my treatment was finished and I could relax. I believe that I have gained much more than I have given to League and will always be grateful for the opportunity you all gave me when you elected me to be your president. It was an honor and an incredible learning experience. The best part was meeting all the dynamic, interesting, energetic, engaged and brilliant women and men involved in League.

I expect that I will continue to be involved in League activities. I am the chair of the nominating committee so if you know of anyone who might be a good board member, please let me know! You can send emails to me at eeb0825@yahoo.com.

Thank you and goodbye!

Ellen Barton
Immediate Past President

Committees

Climate Change Committee

DATE: Thursday, September 17

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: League Office

Not meeting this month - next meeting in September.

Economics and Taxation Committee

DATE: Saturday, August 29

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: League Office

Special second meeting this month! See the announcement on page 8.

Education Committee

DATE: Thursday, August 20

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: League Office

International Relations Committee

DATE: Monday, September 14

TIME: 12:45 – 2:45 p.m.

PLACE: League Office

Not meeting this month - next meeting in September; a week late due to Labor Day holiday.

Transportation Committee

DATE: Tuesday, August 18

TIME: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

PLACE: League Office

Discussion of the Move Seattle proposed transportation levy.

We encourage participation in our committees by all interested members. It's a great opportunity to meet and talk to community leaders, stakeholder organizations, and experts where you can have direct input on local issues that affect you.

Don't see a committee that covers your issue? Call the office and let us know. Sometimes people are working more informally without regularly scheduled meetings. If so, we may be able to help connect you with them or help you start your own.

Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

King County Connects — Announcements

Leadership Circle

On July 17, 2011, in Anne Ormsby's beautiful North Seattle home, the funding backbone of the Seattle King County League of Women Voters was launched. Twelve women, later joined by nine others, took the first steps to establish the LWV Leadership Circle – a three-year pledge program in support of the League's work to strengthen the tenets of democracy.

In the five years following that important summer afternoon, 58 men and women joined the Leadership Circle founders with pledges that ranged from \$240 to \$7,500 annually; \$720 to \$22,500 for three years.



Leadership Circle members provide financial support we can count on – a solid endorsement of our mission, programs and services. We express our heartfelt gratitude every year with a special luncheon in their honor. This year's Leadership Circle luncheon is set for Saturday, August 8, 2015, from 11:30 – 1:30 at Exeter House, 720 Seneca St., in Seattle.

All current Circle members are invited to attend, as are all others interested in joining the Leadership Circle ranks with a three-year pledge. Please email or phone the office if you'd like to join us. Invitations to all current LC members were sent out in June – if you haven't already done so, please return your RSVPs so that we can finalize our plans!

Please consider expressing your support of the League's work with a Leadership Circle financial commitment. We'll be delighted to welcome you at our August 8th celebratory event at Exeter House.

SPECIAL ECONOMICS AND TAXATION COMMITTEE MEETING!

John Burbank, Executive Director, Economic Opportunity Institute, will speak to the League's Economic and Taxation Committee and to interested League members. He will present and compare three proposals for reform of the state tax system, each of which would introduce a state income tax. Also, he will discuss a proposal for a local tax on the privilege of making wealth which could be submitted as an initiative for the 2016 election. Burbank drafted an earlier initiative which would have created a state income tax on high-income individuals and continues to work with Bill Gates, Sr., to seek ways to reform our current regressive and inadequate tax structure.

Monday, August 24 at 7:30 p.m. in the League office.

Voter Service

VOTER REGISTRATION GOING STRONG!

Thanks to Connie Hellyer and her great team of volunteers we registered close to 100 voters at 7 different events around First Hill in June and July, as well as staff and residents within the Horizon House community. We also increased League's profile and voter education by distributing over 150 copies of TRY and other voter materials. Give a big hand to Anne Anderson, Helen Bereiter, Eleanor Fordyce, Joan Lawson, Frank Little, Ingrid Lynch, Nancy Robinson, Nancy Rust, Lou Templeton, and Connie Wentzel!

Want to help increase voter registration, turnout and education in your neighborhood? It's easy to do. Contact the voter service team at voterservice@seattlelwv.org and we can provide information, materials and training.

We'd love to have all our units plan something for **National Voter Registration Day: Tuesday, September 22!**

Questions? Call the office for more information. We'd love to have you.

CANDIDATE FORUMS

The primary season has been busy and we held forums in West Seattle and First Hill for the new districted Seattle City Council Elections. More are planned for the general election. We've also received requests to help out in Bellevue, Kirkland and Issaquah and we expect to hear from others.

We need more volunteers to help invite candidates, find sites, develop questions and moderate. If you'd like to help out, please let us know - this is a great way to learn about the candidates as well as have some fun volunteering.

Call the office at 206-329-4848 or email voterservice@seattlelwv.org



Once again our stalwart team of volunteers, Becky Cox, Beatrice Crane, Linnea Hirst, and Julie Anne Kempf, along with other Leaguers around the state, put together the information on 738 candidates in Washington in primary contests for the Vote411.org website. This means everything from uploading maps to create the personalized searches to assisting candidates to upload their answers to our questionnaires.

You are a part of developing this great tool for our community by suggesting questions to be asked of the candidates. Got ideas? Email them to vote411@lwvwa.org.

We also need more volunteers to help as we start preparing to add almost 1,800 more for the general election. Email vote411@lwvwa.org to volunteer. Help us make this democracy tool work!

Getting Connected Membership News

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

EDVIGE DAY

Edvige recently retired and moved to Seattle from Northern California to be near her daughter and family. She earned a BA in History from Stanford University and an MS in Special Education from Dominican University in San Rafael, California. In addition to teaching, Edvige worked as an educational evaluator, identifying individual learning difficulties and recommending remedial options. While working as an evaluator and special-needs tutor, Edvige also worked for many years at a large independent bookstore. Eventually, Edvige changed careers and became an international admissions evaluator at Dominican University and then Sonoma State University. She found this to be especially satisfying work and truly enjoyed the fresh perspective of international students who chose to study in this country.

Edvige lives in West Seattle, where she has joined the West Seattle unit. A former suburbanite, she is adjusting to city living. Edvige is also learning the political landscape of a new community and state. Having always respected the League's positions in California, Edvige is looking forward to informing her opinions in a new home through participation in the League. She is also looking forward to eventually assisting in a research project position at some point. As one might guess, Edvige loves to read.

MARGOT KADESCH

Margot moved to Seattle in May of this year from Salt Lake City in order to be near family—a sister, who lives on Capitol Hill. She is retired, but prior to retirement, she worked for twenty years in an inner-city program for immigrants, mostly Latin American, and then worked at a small liberal arts college, Westminster College, where over the years she filled a number of positions—foreign student advisor, dean of continuing education, and, finally, assistant vice president

for academic affairs. Margot is a tennis player, birdwatcher and avid reader. She was politically active in Salt Lake, particularly during the 60s and 70s.

FRED AND MAYA SHULTZ

Fred and Maya moved to Seattle from Ohio last November and settled in at Horizon House, where they discovered the largest unit of the League of Women Voters. With their household membership, they look to League for information in their new community. Maya, a retired teacher, earned her B.A. from Radcliffe, an M.ED. from New York University, and did graduate work at Ohio State University. Her interests include art, music and social issues. Fred was awarded a B.A. from Haverford College; he did graduate work at Columbia University's Russian Institute, earning an M.A. in Russian Literature and a Certificate in Russian Area Studies. He taught Russian language and edited the Current Digest for the Soviet Press, a weekly academic journal of translations.

MEG VAN WYK

Meg couldn't have a better mentor than her friend Becky Cox, a 50-year member who just received the Carrie Chapman Catt Award at the League's annual meeting.

In 1994, Meg and her husband moved to Burien from California, but both were familiar with the area, since they met while attending the University of Washington. Meg is a registered dietitian who has been a stay-at-home mom with heavy involvement in local schools. She co-chaired a local bond and levy for Highline schools and has advocated for effective math education. She is concerned that both the national and state PTA accepted funding to support the CORE Standards without fully considering the issues involved.

Now that their two older children are pursuing careers and graduate school, and with her

youngest daughter entering the UW, Meg and her husband are looking forward to traveling. She also looks forward to working with League, especially on legislative issues involving education. The Education Committee welcomes her participation.

JEAN WORTHEN

Jean was an active member of LWV Lake Washington East from 1965 - 2000, serving on the local board and on the board of Puget Sound LWV. After a 15 year hiatus, she has returned, joining the Horizon House Unit in Seattle. Her main interests were, and continue to be, the environment and local and state government issues. She has also worked for social justice, including membership in American Civil Liberties Union.

50 YEAR MEMBERS:

JEANETTE KAHLBERG

Jeanette writes: I grew up in a League family. My mother was an active LWV leader whose experience with the League culminated in seven terms in the Illinois state legislature. When I was a young mother, I too joined the League in Prince George's County, Maryland and in North Plainfield, NJ. That was 50 years ago. Since then, wherever I have lived, my best friends have been Leaguers — interesting, engaged, well-informed women.

I have served as a local League president in White Bear Lake, Minnesota and Ridgewood, New Jersey, as a state Board member in Minnesota, and briefly as a staff member for the Minnesota League. I was privileged to be a delegate to the historic national convention in San Francisco when we voted to admit men.

When I lived on the east coast, I worked in New York City for 20 years, most of them as Executive Director of Citizens Union, a 100 year-old civic organization working for many of the same government reforms as the League. In fact, our

projects were frequently carried out in coalition with the NYC and NYS Leagues.

In the Seattle-King County League, I was Unit Leader of the First Hill Unit for four years, as it was growing by leaps and bounds toward 100+ members. I have worked on the CIS desk and twice on the Nominating Committee, including most recently as Chair. I am immensely grateful for all that League has taught me and treasure the friends I have made through League over the last 50 years.

EDITH MILLER

Edith and her husband, Roger, met in Minnesota, where many recent graduates in Library Science began their careers, at the University of Minnesota Library. Roger was eager to return to his beloved Pacific Northwest and when the opportunity arose, they settled in Seattle's Madrona district, and Edith joined the League of Women Voters. One of Edith's treasured memories involves dressing up like a suffragist in 1890s costume and gathering signatures on petitions for home rule for King County at University Village. The archaic costumes, provided by the League, were used to illustrate that our form of government at that time, with three commissioners, was inadequate and needed to be updated. The King County Charter was adopted by the voters in 1968, with much help from the LWV and the Municipal League. Many members joined Edith in this reform, including Lois North and Virginia Gunby, who were elected as freeholders cheered on by fellow League members. Edith served as unit chair for the East Central unit and continues to enjoy the friends and learning experiences that have accompanied her 50 years of membership.

VIRGINIA WEDGWOOD

In 1962, Virginia made a circuitous move with her physician husband from Cleveland to Boston and finally to Seattle, and never left. Virginia joined the League's Laurelhurst Unit, which later combined with View Ridge. She chaired

for the unit and served on the education committee. A new baby curtailed Virginia's League activities in those days for a short time. Virginia now lives in Horizon House, and although she is not as active as she once was, she appreciates reading the VOTER and says her "heart is still with the League."

BOOTS WINTERSTEIN

Boots recalls highlights of her experience in four different Leagues, beginning in 1965: Denton, Texas; Lebanon, Oregon; Baltimore Maryland, and Seattle-King County.

Boots' greatest League mentor? Her mother, Olive Wise Spannaus, a long-lived League leader.

Boots' entry into League began in Denton, Texas, reading hand-written entries in the city's Official Records Journal, looking for causes of death in the unincorporated (but literally encircled by the city) African-American neighborhood in order to find statistics that might bear on the upcoming, very heated election concerning incorporation. Working on issues like this one remains one of Boots' greatest joys in League work.

Next on Boots' agenda was helping establish a League in Lebanon, Oregon, which is situated in Oregon's rural Linn County. When a local election produced a result that seemed totally unbelievable to many, Boots said, "This wouldn't

have happened if there had been a local League of Women Voters." Boots was already a board member of the Albany LWV, but she took the initiative and recruited acquaintances to start a Lebanon League, which ultimately led to the creation of the Linn County Area League. The make-up of the new Lebanon League was primarily stay-at-home moms and retired teachers, a "wonderful mix," Boots recalls.

The composition of the Baltimore City League was very ethnically diverse, which made the LWV a unique civic organization in the segregated city of Baltimore. As a highly-respected organization, the League was often heavily involved in issues ranging from the make-up of the school board to formation of a Fair Elections Task Force at the beginning of the first mayoral election cycle in which an African-American candidate was a serious contender. Boots also recalls a mayoral primary debate, which was simulcast in prime time by all the local TV stations, and a national presidential debate televised in Baltimore. Her three years as president in Baltimore were exhilarating.

In Seattle, Boots has held a variety of roles over many years – including Voter Services Chair. She still recalls with chagrin a LWV Primary Guide produced on her watch, which, despite multitudes of proofing, emerged with an error in a very important phone number: the League's.

Features

JANET WINAN'S LWVWA STATE CONVENTION NOTES:

My personal efforts at this year's state convention in Yakima were focused on providing as much information to the members as I could about the 2010 Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United V The Federal Election Commission* (CUvFEC). This year, LWVUS is disseminating two national studies stimulated by that decision and request for responses to consensus questions. We expect to receive that information in time for it to be the focus of LWVS-KC's September forum. One study focuses on whether current LWVUS positions are adequate to allow local leagues to join other organizations in campaigns to confront the Supreme Court's decision, while the second focuses on the process of amending the Constitution.

The LWVWA Impact of CUvFEC on Washington State Toolkit (LWVWA CU Toolkit) is at the very edge of approval by the state board. We have been working since 2011 to collect data and analyze changes in state campaign practices and endeavored at the National Conventions in 2012 and 2014 for the adoption of related national studies.

Our committee held two caucuses at the state convention to introduce the upcoming studies and the resources our toolkit will provide to local leagues as we join the national conversation about electoral politics that the Supreme Court's decision has caused. More than 50 people attended at least one of the caucuses, including Mary Wilson (former president of LWVUS and the author of the League's amicus brief), and Toni Larson (coordinator of the LWVUS Campaign Finance Task Force and LWVWA's National League Liaison).

Mary Moore, LWVWA natural resources lobby team chair organized an excellent exchange

between Erika Shriner from Carbon Washington and a spokesman from the Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy. Carbon WA and the Alliance have separate initiatives to address carbon pricing with the goal of reducing carbon emissions.

Raelene Gold, LWVWA natural resources chair, introduced Kelsey Collins, Statewide Trust Water Coordinator, Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE), who provided extensive information about the Yakima River basin, and explained why it is important to conserve and reallocate the ever-more limited water resources in the Yakima Valley and the tributaries of the Yakima River, and how they plan to allocate water among the water-rights holders of the Yakima River. Rachel Paschal Osborn, a public interest water rights lawyer provided background describing the challenges DOE faces. I LOVE the opportunity to learn about important local issues that are critical to the local Leagues who host the conventions.

ANNUAL MEETING NOTES:

The Seattle-King County annual meeting was the usual business meeting combined with dinner and the chance to chat with and celebrate fellow Leaguers. In addition to electing a new board (see the inside back cover for the list), adopting a budget and reaffirming our long-standing positions, a new study was adopted:

The Impacts of Standardized Testing when Tests are used for More than a Means to Measure Student Achievement

Scope: The study will explore the impacts of standardized testing on students, teachers,

classrooms, and on districts and states when tests are used to measure more than student achievement and needs over time. We will be studying the developments since tests began to be attached to determining if schools should be closed; rewarding and penalizing teachers, principals and districts; and deciding whether students could graduate from high school. Have the tests resulted in any demonstrated gains for the students or school communities? Are there any demonstrated losses to the education system? Have they contributed to better accountability? If so, how is that defined?

Focus:

- Have the tests impacted student achievement and how is that measured?
- In what way have they been helpful, and to whom (students, families, administrators, teachers)?
- Has the growth of standardized testing impacted the classroom climate? In what ways?
- What has been the cost, in both dollars and time, to develop new standards and implement new tests?
- What has been the impact on teacher and principal compensation?
- Has testing affected non-academic areas such as physical education, arts and music?
- Has the privacy of student records been compromised?

We will be incorporating the latest research and practices from the federal, state and local levels and interviewing researchers from more than one institution in the geographical area.

We will be using at least three districts from the LWVS-KC area for our case studies. Kent, Seattle and Bellevue School districts are possibilities. Our first three months of meetings will be used to interview academics and those involved in making and implementing public policy in order to develop the questions and interview topics for our case studies. The education committee has at least 5 members who are committed to following through on this study. The study materials would take at least 12 months to develop and we would plan to work with the program chair to schedule the forum and final schedule.

Contact Education Committee Chair Joanna Cullen if you'd like to be a part of the study committee. See inside back cover for contact info.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT AWARD WINNERS:

CYNTHIA HOWE AND BECKY COX!

From serving on the board, running the CIS desk and leading the Mercer Island unit to Vote411.org and the presidency of the League of Women Voters of King County South, between the two of them, these ladies have put in thousands of volunteer hours for League. We cannot thank them enough for all their contributions over a combined 93 years of membership!

BOOK REVIEW by Vicky Downs

DAVID AND GOLIATH: UNDERDOGS, MISFITS AND THE ART OF BATTLING GIANTS

By Malcolm Gladwell

We all know the story of David and Goliath: Goliath was a huge, powerful, seasoned fighter who wore protective armor and carried a lethal weapon. David had never fought in battle. He wore almost no clothing and was only a shepherd boy with his sling. Yet, according to Malcolm Gladwell, “Goliath had as much chance against David” as any “sword carrying warrior had against an opponent with a .45 automatic pistol.”

Reading Gladwell’s book, we learn that David had grown to be an expert with his slingshot by learning to kill predators such as wolves and bears. Gladwell tells us “an experienced slinger could kill or seriously injure a target at a distance of up to two hundred yards.” In fact, David, standing about 35 yards away, could have hit Goliath in “little more than one second – a time so brief Goliath would not have been able to protect himself.”

In this book, Gladwell provides many examples of times when being exceptionally big or having exceptional amounts of “money or materiel is as debilitating as having too little.” He often refers to the ‘inverted U-curve’. For example, he shows that money “makes parenting easier [and families happier] until a certain point – when it stops making a difference.” Researchers suggest, “more money stops making people happier at a family income of around seventy-five thousand dollars a year.” After that, your somewhat wealthier neighbor might comfortably send his child to a private school, but your neighbor is not likely to be happier than you.

I was fascinated to read that class size also relates to the inverted U-curve. A room with very few students means there is too little diversity to lead to a good conversation or a lively, interesting class. Additional students would likely improve the quality of the atmosphere.

The ideal class size depends on the grade level and the teacher. In high school, a class size of twelve students is “too intimate for many high schoolers to protect their autonomy on the days they need to.” More students in the room would help. Many elementary teachers say that a perfect class size would be eighteen. In that class, no one child “needs to feel vulnerable, but everyone can feel important.” Another favorite size is twenty-four, because “the extra six bodies make it likely there will be a dissident to challenge the status quo” and help ensure the class discussion is lively. However, if we add yet another ‘six bodies’, “we’ve weakened the energetic connections so far that even the most charismatic of teachers can’t maintain the magic all the time.”

Malcolm Gladwell excels at storytelling, and shows us how being an underdog in a situation could force you into looking carefully at what is really going on so that you can use your strengths to possibly become a ‘David.’

My eldest grandchild, a very smart young woman, is going to attend university soon at a very good state school. One of my worries for her was that she would not be privy to the same quality of studies that other students who come from more means are often entitled to because of their wealth. Reading this book has led me to realize that in fact, these very wealthy students may be suffering from an extremely reduced class size and may actually be on the wrong end of a U Curve. Attending an Ivy League school may hinder her from developing her own unique and independent beliefs. After reading this book, I believe that my granddaughter will be able to excel in her studies at a school with students of more modest means.

I found this a delight to read and full of wonderfully thought provoking ideas to contemplate.

Opinions in this review are personal and do not necessarily represent those of the League.

Cover Article continued:

board members are all appointed, and not publicly elected. Finally, there is no specific funding mechanism. Funds could come from the general fund, opening up the possibility of cuts elsewhere or increased taxes.

In Other News:

The Seattle Seawall Replacement work is underway, largely on schedule, and 60% complete. The work involves drilling gigantic holes side-by-side deep into the soil, which are then filled with concrete, then pouring steel-reinforced concrete on top, then attaching preformed concrete plates cantilevered over the water, with specially designed surfaces facing the Sound onto which sea life can attach. The seawall from Pike to University streets is done, and businesses closed due to lack of access have reopened for the summer season.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Alaskan Way, Promenade and Overlook Walk was released June 29. A public hearing was held June 22, and the public comment period extends to August 12. For more information, contact:

www.seattle.gov/office-of-the-waterfront.

Unit Meetings

League unit meetings (small discussion groups) generally begin in September. The exception is the First Hill Unit which will meet on Monday, August 10 at 10:00 a.m. Check the September Voter, which will come out in late August, or contact the unit leader for the location, date, and time of the meeting. LWVS-KC unit meetings are free and open to the public. Each month, units discuss a topic which corresponds to the monthly forum or study; the *Voter* for the month provides discussion materials. We encourage League members to join any convenient unit; see list below. The information below is current as of publication. Please check the September *Voter* for possible updates in unit leadership or contact information.

Monday, August 10 FIRST HILL – Adele Reynolds
adelereynolds@netscape.net 206-621-4867 10:00 a.m. Horizon House, Forum & Social Rm
900 University St, Seattle

Topic: Climate Change 102 - What Science Says is Really Happening

Daytime Units:

BALLARD/MAGNOLIA/QUEEN ANNE DAY – Alice Peterson
peterson-alice-jack@msn.com, 206-524-5530

BELLEVUE/KIRKLAND/REDMOND – Bonnie Rimawi
bonnierim@aol.com, 425-820-7127

ISSAQUAH DAY – Margaret Austin
margaret.austin@comcast.net, 425-392-5760

MERCER ISLAND - Cynthia Howe
howe.john@comcast.net, 206-236-0593

NORTH CENTRAL SEATTLE– Jan Orlando
orlanre@aol.com, 206-524-0936

NORTH EAST SEATTLE – Gail Winberg
winbergeng@q.com, 206-524-7801

NORTH KING COUNTY – Toni Potter & Marjorie Hawkes
antoniapotter@comcast.net, 206-365-8949
mshawkesis@gmail.com, 425-582-2481

SOUTHEAST KING COUNTY/ENUMCLAW - Cathy Dormaier
clcathy@skynetbb.com, 360-802-6799

UNIVERSITY HOUSE/WALLINGFORD
info@seattlelwv.org, 206-329-4848

WEST SEATTLE – Ethel Williams & Pat Lane
etheljwl@q.com, 206-932-7887
plain11@juno.com, 206-932-1578

Continued on next page

Evening Units:

CAPITOL HILL/MONTLAKE
info@seattlelwv.org, 206-329-4848

QUEEN ANNE/MAGNOLIA/BALLARD EVENING - Teddy Geokezas & Elsie Simon
tgeokezas@msn.com, 206-782-5036
elsiesimon@comcast.net, 206-283-6297

SOUTHEND SEATTLE - Marian Wolfe & Vivian Montoya
hedgwolfe@aol.com, 206-763-9430
montoyaviv@yahoo.com, 206-695-2620

SOUTHWEST KING COUNTY – Mary Ehlers & Kathy Jorgensen
maryehlers@comcast.net, 253-941-1930
kjorgensen@juno.com, 253-859-8349

Board & Committee Contacts

Executive Committee

2015-17	<i>President</i>	Amanda Clark	206-329-4848	president@seattlelwv.org
2015-16	<i>1st VP</i>	Ginna Owens	206-323-4825	ginnao@earthlink.net
2015-17	<i>2nd VP</i>	Janet Winans	206-783-8485	janetwinans@earthlink.net
2015-17	<i>Secretary</i>	Dora Taylor	206-329-4848	dora.taylor@icloud.com
2014-16	<i>Treasurer</i>	Cindy Piennett	206-329-4848	cindypiennett@gmail.com

Directors

2014-16		Paneen Davidson	206-329-4848	paneenie@gmail.com
2015-17		Katie Dudley	206-329-4848	votereditor@seattlelwv.org
2014-16		Pat Griffith	206-285-2452	pgseattle@q.com
2014-16		Julie Anne Kempf	206-329-4848	julie@kempf.com
2015-17		Zara Kublin	206-329-4848	zkublin@hotmail.com
2014-16		Amelia Woolley	206-329-4848	voterservice@seattlelwv.org

Note: All board members listed above are also members of the Education Fund Board

Education Fund Officers

2015-17	<i>President</i>	Amanda Clark	206-329-4848	president@seattlelwv.org
2014-15	<i>1st VP</i>	Ginna Owens	206-329-4848	ginnao@earthlink.net
2014-15	<i>2nd VP</i>	Janet Winans	206-329-4848	janetwinans@earthlink.net
2015-17	<i>Secretary</i>	Dora Taylor	206-329-4848	dora.taylor@seattlelwv.org
2014-15	<i>Treasurer</i>	TBD	206-329-4848	eftreasurer@seattlelwv.org

Nominating Committee

2015-16	<i>Chair</i>	Ellen Barton	206-329-4848	eeb0825@yahoo.com
2015-16		Carol Goldenberg	206-329-4848	carolsamgo1@gmail.com
2015-16		Susan Jones	206-329-4848	susan@monckjones.com

Note: Two board members will be appointed to serve on the nominating committee.

Off Board Positions

Campaign Finance	Jean Carlson	206-774-6649	carlson.jean@gmail.com
CIS Coordinator	Cynthia Howe	206-236-0593	howe.john@comcast.net

Committees

<i>Climate Change</i>	Judy Bevington		gbeving@eskimo.com
<i>Climate Change</i>	Raelene Gold		raelene@seanet.com
<i>Economics & Taxation</i>	Laura Weese		laura899@earthlink.net
<i>Education</i>	Joanna Cullen	206-329-8514	jfoxcullen@gmail.com
<i>International Relations</i>	Carol Goldenberg		carolsamgo1@gmail.com
<i>Social Justice</i>	Jayne Freitag	425-223-5827	mjafreitag@comcast.net
<i>Transportation</i>	Janet Winans	206-323-4825	janetwinans@earthlink.net
<i>Waterfront</i>	Nancy & Charles Bagley	206-282-1578	candnbagley@comcast.net

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Seattle WA 98122

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Moving? Let us know!

Call the League office at (206) 329-4848 or
email info@seattlelww.org

LWV SEATTLE-KING COUNTY:

No Forum This Month

Check the League website for
upcoming events!

www.seattlelww.org

Go to Vote411.org for Election Information

