

Spring Online Fundraising

by Alyssa Weed

It's spring! And as always, a time to help League raise the funds needed to continue its work. You've probably already seen GiveBig requests from other organizations and you will see one from us too. But if you want to add some fun to the fundraising, here's what we have for you:

Do you love mysteries? Have you ever wanted to attend a murder mystery party? Then please join us for our Spring Fundraiser, *Behind the Curtain: A Murder Mystery Whodunit*. Travel back in time to a 1950's Hollywood Gala complete with famous actors, authors, and scandal. Put your sleuthing skills to the test while enjoying an evening of fun in support of all the League does to solve real-life challenges, like disenfranchisement and other barriers to participation in our democracy.

In this online adventure you'll attend a party hosted by well-known actress and former darling of the silent film era, Frances Beck. While this former star doesn't need an excuse to throw a bash, this is an extra special occasion: Frances has announced the release of a tell-all book she's written detailing all of Hollywood's juicy secrets! Would anyone kill to keep these secrets under wraps? That's for you to figure out!

You and a team of four other players will work together online to gather clues,



investigate the suspects, and solve the mystery. You can recruit friends to be a part of your team or be randomly assigned, just indicate what you prefer when you sign up. The mystery will feature local actors and be hosted by Foulplay, a women-owned creative business based in Seattle, WA.

These events are a lot of fun and cap out at 50 participants, so book soon!

Tickets are \$85 per player. Each player needs a separate desktop computer or laptop to play but couples or family members are welcome to share a screen. Please no phones or tablets.

Ticket purchase includes local delivery of one snack pack for you to enjoy during the game. Pack includes a Moscow Mule drink kit (or non-alcoholic if you prefer), salty snack mix, and a sweet treat.

Click here to purchase tickets.

Want to read a little more about the company, the characters, and how the game is played? Check these links:

[FoulPlay](#)

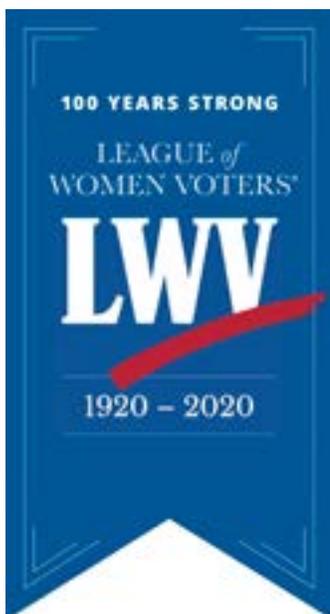
[Actors](#)

[FAQ](#)

Contents

Connecting with the Leadership 3
 Announcements 4
 New Healthcare Committee 5
 Police Reform Team 6
 Reporting on the USPS..... 7
 DEI Learning Lab..... 9
 Spring Book Club..... 10
 Book Review by Vicky Downs 12
 Annual Meeting info 13
 Units Unite Us 18
 Units & Committee Meetings..... 19
 Board and Committee Contacts..... 20

To become a sponsor or to individually support the health of the League, please consider making a donation.



Contact Information

President: Alyssa Weed
The Voter Editor: Stephanie Cirkovich

League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County
 1511 3rd Avenue, Suite 900
 Seattle, WA 98101

Phone: 206-329-4848
info@seattlelwv.org
www.lwvskc.org

Virtual Office Hours: Weekdays, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Please call in advance if you need to physically visit the office.

League of Women Voters of Washington
 1511 3rd Avenue, Suite 900
 Seattle, WA 98101
 206-622-8961
lwvwa@lwvwa.org
www.lwvwa.org

League of Women Voters of the United States
 202-429-1965
lwv@lwv.org
www.lwv.org

Postal Regulations

The Voter is published monthly except June and August by the League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County.

Periodicals postage paid at Seattle, WA.

Postmaster:
 Send address changes to **The Voter**:
 1511 3rd Avenue, Suite 900
 Seattle, WA 98101
 The Voter (ISSN 0888-8841)

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.

Connecting with LWV Leadership

by Marilee Fuller, Treasurer

Every year before the Annual Meeting, the League board prepares a budget for the upcoming year, which must be approved by the membership. This year budgeting is challenging, as we transition back to normalcy after a year of social distancing.

Some things this year worked better than we ever would have expected—Zoom issue and candidate forums, board, committee and unit meetings. Other things might not have been so great—electronic TRY and Voter publications and fundraising.

While most of the budget for LWVSKC is fixed expenses for staff, office rent and insurance, other budget items will require decisions on how we will operate in the future.

On the revenue side, grant opportunities are being pursued, like one from King County Elections. Fundraising events are also in the works.

On the expense side, Chairs of the Program, Voter Services, Membership, Action and Units chairs have proposed their budgets for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year, beginning July 1. Budgets will include a hybrid of in-person and virtual activities.

When it comes to publications, the feeling is that TRY should go back to a printed version which can be available at public libraries and at King County Elections. Materials for new members will also be distributed in print form. Less firm is whether, after a full year of electronic publication, The Voter should go back to being printed and mailed.

The Executive Board has decided to follow LWVUS to using ClubExpress for web hosting and database management. ClubExpress may cost slightly more than our current arrangement but will allow better functionality. It will improve member activation, enhancing Observer Corps and Environmental Committee work with city councils in King County.

The board welcomes member ideas and input on these budget decisions.

STAY HEALTHY, STAY STRONG, STAY INFORMED!

As the League does its part to help slow the spread of COVID-19, this issue of **The Voter** will be distributed in digital format only—all print production and mailing of the newsletter is temporarily suspended. This is an interactive PDF, meaning you can click on hyperlinks (in bold blue font) and page numbers to navigate the document. The  symbol at the bottom of each page will take you to the top of the newsletter.

Announcements

Board Briefs

April C4 Meeting

2nd VP/Action Chair Heather Kelly was out. Barbara Erickson was officially voted in as Secretary of Board retroactively to March 2021. Marilee Fuller gave the Treasurer's Report, noting the reconciliation came out successfully due in part to the recent payment from the C3. Adele Reynolds' proposed program of work was approved by the board to be voted on at the annual meeting by the membership. Lauren Pixley gave an update on Observer Corps and DEI Learning Labs for Heather Kelly and shared updates on upcoming new member orientation and Speak Up Schools. Roslyn Duffy shared that a new unit has formed and Unit Cross Connection groups will now be known as League Links.

April C3 Meeting

2nd VP/Action Chair Heather Kelly and C3 Treasurer Katie Dudley were out. Barbara Erickson was voted in as Secretary retroactively to March 2021. President Alyssa Weed gave an update on the May 19 fundraiser which will be a virtual murder mystery event and confirmed that the Voter Education Fund Grant was submitted to King County Elections/Seattle Foundation. Chelsea Jordan shared a proposed budget for Voter Services for the upcoming year. It was discussed that the current Voter editor will be stepping down following the May issue; the board discussed ways to make the process easier for future editors including holding firmer deadlines for content. Alyssa Weed shared the Nominating Committee's report of the slate of directors and officers that will be voted on at the annual meeting and the board voted on the winners of the Carrie Chapman Catt and Alice Paul Awards to be given at the annual meeting. The board discussed changing the website over to Club Express, deferring further discussion to the executive committee. Updates to nonpartisan and official communications language in the Board Policies were adopted by the board.

Voter Seeking Dynamic Editor(s)!

Do you have copyediting and/or desktop publishing skills and want a fun, creative way to keep up with League activity? Consider editing **The Voter**, starting with the summer issue! Contact info@seattlelww.org for more information.

Building Connections with OutreachCircle

Looking for a new way to engage friends and family with the important work of the League? OutreachCircle is a digital organizing tool you can install on your phone or use online. After selecting the organizations you wish to follow, you'll be invited to take "Actions" such as contacting your elected officials, learning more about Fair Maps, or spreading the word about VOTE411. You'll be encouraged to share those actions with your contacts via text and email.

We invite you to explore OutreachCircle and follow the LWWUS Circle. You can find detailed instructions on how to sign up and use the tool by [clicking here](#). If OutreachCircle sounds like something you'd like to develop and manage for our local League, please email communications@seattlelww.org.

LWWA Convention: The Next Hundred Years

Plan now to attend—each local League may send its president and delegates, as determined by the final membership count with the LWWUS as of January 31, 2021. Anyone may attend as an observer. This is a great place for new and long-term members to learn more about the League, meet members from across the state, and be inspired about our next hundred years.

The business of the convention will set the stage for the 2021-2023 biennium. A variety of workshops will address key issues and provide tips and ideas from others for League work.

[Click here for more details and to register.](#)



Members of LWVSKC Are Forming a Healthcare Committee

by Maureen Brinck-Lund

In this endeavor we are in league with Leagues across the country through the LWV network, HCR4US. In our own state, we are part of the Health Care Affinity Group, made up of League members from across Washington State.

Together with many other dedicated healthcare reformers, we endeavor to discuss, learn, and explore actions we can take to correct this devastating breach in our social contract as we promote the League's positions in support of equitable healthcare. There is no time like the present to be researching and advocating for universal health insurance protection. Even before 2020 and the arrival of the coronavirus, healthcare in the U.S. was many times more costly—with dramatically worse outcomes when compared to other countries—compared to both our peer countries and much poorer nations.

The United States stands alone among our peer nations without universal healthcare coverage. The United States—the wealthiest

country, now and ever in history—has health outcomes that rank among those of the poorest nations in the world. Many measures of health outcomes in this country, from maternal health to life expectancy, are getting worse, not better, and yet the cost of health care in the U.S. continues to rise.

This greater and increasing expense, combined with declining overall health, is a huge handicap to our economy and our ability to compete worldwide. Even more devastating is the human cost and lifelong disadvantages this creates for all of our communities, now and for generations to come. We can turn this around.

The LWVSKC HealthCare Committee is just getting started. We may be small, but we are committed to advocating for the League's long-held positions in support of universal, single-payer healthcare for all.

Interested? Contact: Maureen Brinck-Lund at molundia@gmail.com or 206-398-9089.



Spokane Area LWV

Update on the LWVSKC Police Reform Team

by Mary Taylor

As police reform continues to permeate local, state, and national legislation and conversations about social justice and civil rights, the newly formed Police Reform Team is developing strategies to assess, monitor and support local police reform efforts among King County law enforcement agencies, consistent with League positions. The team formed following the January 2021 Program Planning Forum where police department and criminal justice issues were discussed in one of the eight breakout sessions.



Formation of the team is a natural progression from actions taken by the League. In the last year, our League's Board of Directors supported local calls for police reform and endorsed ballot measures, including the return of the King County Sheriff to an appointed position and ensuring community input in the selection process. Members also brought together local experts in police reform to share their knowledge and perspectives on best police practices via virtual panels.

While the SKCLWV Police Reform Team continues to discuss, expand, and refine its focus, to date, team members have identified and initiated work in three priority areas:

- Review other Leagues' positions on police reform and criminal justice for potential areas of concurrence. After discussion, several local members joined a committee working on updating LWVWA criminal justice positions that local Leagues throughout the state could use if approved at this year's LWVWA convention.
- Research how I-940 (De-Escalate Washington) has been implemented by law enforcement agencies in King County and plan a forum to share what we learn. To date we have accessed a report from the State Attorney General's Office regarding use of force incidents and agencies' compliance with the requirements of the law. Other members have reached out to local law enforcement agencies to discuss adherence to de-escalation training. One member is reviewing the curriculum developed in response to I-940 and interviewing Monica Alexander, Interim Executive Director of the Criminal Justice Training Commission, which is charged with providing training responsive to I- 940.
- Monitor and support the selection process of the King County Sheriff, particularly regarding the quality of community input. The team is in contact with the King County Executive and Council staff responsible for overseeing the project and will receive updates on the process. Team members are also coordinating with ACLU People Power, who has a member serving on the Citizen Advisory Committee overseeing implementation of the charter amendments and can provide updated information.

If you are interested in the timely issues of police reform and criminal justice and want to be involved with an action-oriented team, please join us. We need you. Our team meets every second Monday of the month from 6:30-7:30. For the Zoom link, email Heather Kelly at action@seattlelww.org.

League Links: Unit Meeting Reporting on the U.S. Postal Service

by Laura Parma-Veigel



When Roslyn Duffy explained the concept of League Links to our Northeast Unit last fall (see p.15 of the *April 2021 Voter*), I knew right away that I would volunteer to

report on the U.S. Postal Service. It has been a very informative experience that has pushed me to more deeply research a subject I care about each month. Sharing my research with other unit members always sparks new insights and suggestions for further exploration.

Here is a summary of the report I presented at the March Unit meeting:

During the past month, USPS has been at the center of three important events.

On February 25, 2021 President Biden announced three nominees for the USPS Board of Governors:

- *Amber McReynolds*, the former Director of Elections for Denver, Colorado, where she developed their vote-by-mail system. She also co-authored the book "When Women Vote."
- *Anton Hajjar*, former general counsel of the American Postal Workers Union.
- *Ron Stroman*, recently retired after 10 years as deputy postmaster general, and the highest-ranking African American in the Postal Service's history.

Biden's nominees would diversify the board. The six current members of the board are white, male businessmen, including three

investment bankers. However, 35% of postal workers are people of color, mainly African American; women represent 40% of the total workforce.

In late February, the House Committee on Oversight and Reform held a hearing to discuss postal reform efforts. Members of Congress were able to ask questions to Ron Bloom, USPS Board of Governors President, and Postmaster General Louis DeJoy. The meeting also included the USPS Inspector General, the American Postal Workers Union President, and other sector experts.

One of the major issues under discussion was the burden imposed by the Postal Accountability Act passed in 2006, which directed USPS to fully fund retiree health care benefits for its current and former employees—a requirement that no other Federal agency or private corporation is charged with.

That mandate could be repealed in an upcoming bill, which will include the adoption of the USPS Fairness Act, passed last year in the House with bipartisan majority, integrating the postal service employees in the Medicare program. The Union President is in favor, but cautioned that in this proposed transition, some of the additional hard-earned benefits should be retained.

Some interesting ideas were discussed to increase revenues for the USPS. Congresswoman

Ayanna Pressley, Democratic Representative for Massachusetts, argued in favor of allowing the Postal service to provide expanded financial services. An estimated one in four people in America are unbanked or underbanked, including 50% of Black and

continued on p. 8

USPS, cont'd from p. 7

Latinx communities, resulting in thousands of dollars in fees and reliance on predatory check cashing services and payday loans.

Sixty percent of majority-Black neighborhoods do not have an active bank branch, but they have post offices, which could offer financial services such as money transfers, bill payment, and check cashing.

A report by the Postal Service Office of Inspector General estimated that this could generate roughly \$8.9 billion in new annual revenue. Postal banking was widespread in the US until the 1960s, when private sector bankers lobbied to shut down the Postal Savings System.

Another potential revenue source could be Internet broadband service. Internet access has become vital for telework, distance learning, and telehealth, but more than 18 million Americans lack access to broadband service. The Postal Service could directly support 5G deployment by leasing its physical infrastructure of more than 31,000 postal facilities in communities large and small for the collocation of towers, antennas, and other communications equipment, such as servers.

The third important development for the U.S. Postal Service in February was a \$482 million decision to replace its aging truck fleet with a mix of fossil-fuel and electric vehicles. The Postal Service operates 225,000 vehicles, making it the largest part of the federal fleet. Almost two-thirds of those vehicles are Grumman trucks that have been running routes since 1994 or earlier and only get about 10 miles per gallon. Maintenance costs are high.

During the hearing, Louis DeJoy, explained that due to a lack of funds, the agency's plan called for only 10 percent of its new trucks to be electric. This was disappointing after President Biden's commitment in January to move quickly to electrify the entire federal fleet as part of a wide-ranging climate agenda.

In response to this announcement, a group of 17 U.S. House of Representatives Democrats introduced legislation to provide \$6 billion to the USPS to buy tens of thousands of additional electric delivery vehicles.

The USPS said it would welcome help from Congress, and with the right level of support, the majority of the Postal Service's fleet could be electric by the end of the decade.



DEI

DEI Learning Lab: Reconnecting with Our Purpose and More Glossary Notes!

by Heather Kelly, 2nd Vice President

Now that we have covered more than half the terms in the [League DEI Glossary](#), it's a good time to stop and ask: What are the goals of the Learning Lab? Where are we going?

In some ways, I think of the Learning Lab like a League "study." We are reviewing current, reliable resources compiled by LWVUS to deepen our understanding of diversity, equity, inclusion, and related concepts. These resources can help us become better advocates for DEI, just as a study of data on healthcare, education, or the environment might lead to new public policy positions for our advocacy on those topics.

Of course, contrary to a formal League study, we need not arrive at any new positions in order to advocate for DEI—the policy already exists! Here in the Learning Lab, we are playing catch-up, testing our understanding of a policy so we can implement it effectively.

I do not mean to suggest that all of the concepts we are exploring are new to you. Many of us have fought against discrimination and oppression throughout our lives, laying the foundation for our work here in the Lab. My hope is to build on that experience and explore what these concepts mean today, to us, and to our League.

With that, we return to our regularly scheduled programming. This month, we are exploring another cluster of related, but distinct, concepts—bigotry, prejudice, and racism. From the glossary:

Bigotry: Intolerant prejudice which glorifies one's own group and denigrates members of other groups. (Source: W.K. Kellogg Foundation; National Conference for Community and Justice St. Louis Region – unpublished handout used in the Dismantling Racism Institute program.)

Prejudice: A pre-judgment or unjustifiable, and usually negative, attitude of one type of individual or groups toward another group and its members. Such negative attitudes are typically based on unsupported generalizations (or stereotypes) that deny the right of individual members of certain groups to be recognized and treated as individuals with individual characteristics.

(Source: Racial Equity Tools; Institute for Democratic Renewal and Project Change Anti-Racism Initiative. A Community Builder's Tool Kit.)

As for "racism," I have an update. Last year, 22-year-old Kennedy Mitchem campaigned to revise Merriam Webster's definition of racism, arguing that people have come to relate racism with power. The publishers agreed and redefined racism as "the systemic oppression of a racial group to the social, economic, and political advantage of another; specifically: white supremacy." (Read more about Mitchem's view [here](#).)

Discussion questions: What are your reactions to these definitions? Based on these definitions, can anyone be "racist" or just certain groups? Is the same true for bigotry and prejudice? Do you agree with Mitchem that racism is essentially prejudice plus power? Is it important that we agree on these definitions? Why or why not?

Normally join us every third Wednesday for our DEI Discussion Group, but due to a conflict this month we will meet on Wednesday, May 26 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. You can register for that meeting [here](#). Send me your questions, comments, and ideas at action@seattlelww.org.

Spring Book Club Selection: Triumph of Injustice

by Maureen Brinck-Lund and Roslyn Duffy

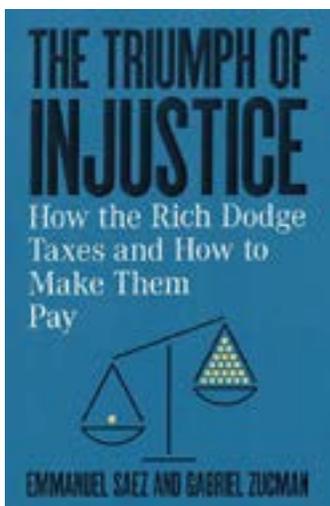
"When I heard Janet Yellen's pronouncement that the Biden Administration is pursuing the idea of a global minimum corporate tax rate, I knew right away where I'd heard that before. It is one of the points presented in this book as part of the solution to 'stop the spiral' of tax avoidance by corporations and the wealthy. Like some of the best solutions to complex problems, it has the benefit of being simple and effective. To get to know more about what I mean, pick up this terrific book." –Maureen Brinck-Lund

The authors of this text are both professors of economics at UC Berkeley. Both have attained importance in their field through their writings before this joint effort.

The first 109 pages of the book describe how our current tax system was crafted over time. How—without anyone really paying attention to the shifts in the way international corporations function today, or the way our tax systems are structured based on early 20th century experience—a monster of tax avoidance through offshoring of profits has come into being. Corporations and the wealthy are able to shelter income in foreign tax shelters, places such as Bermuda where the corporate tax rate is zero percent, thus depriving the corporations' home countries of tax revenue in the billions.

This in and of itself is not the nut of the crisis. That crisis, as explained by Thomas Piketty (*Capital in 21st Century*), is the accelerating of increased wealth and income in the hands of a smaller and smaller group of people. As paraphrased by the authors:

"Under business as usual, income concentration is likely to keep rising in the medium run thanks to a snowball effect: the wealthy save a higher fraction of their income than the rest of the population, which allows them to accumulate more wealth, which in turn generates additional income." (p. xv)



The tax avoidance schemes that have become a normal part of the "wealth management" routine of corporations and wealthy only serves to accelerate this condition while leaving governments lacking billions in taxes.

To whet your appetite, listen to the **New York Times** podcast **The Daily**, which aired April 7, 2021 titled "Targeting Overseas Tax Shelters"; tax evasion, including Janet Yellen's proposal, are the focus of the 30-minute conversation.

Maybe during this COVID year you watched the Netflix movie *Laundromat*, directed by Steven Soderburgh and starring Meryl Streep, Gary Oldman, and Antonio Banderas. The movie borrows heavily from the revelations in the Panama Papers, which are still resulting in guilty corruption verdicts around the world. The main character is investigating an insurance fraud and has reason to visit several tax haven locations. We get to see glimpses of the block-long walls of safe-deposit boxes that function as business addresses for corporations and wealthy individuals who can then claim these as the home of their profits, thus avoiding billions in taxes.

The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists has also done an **in-depth investigation of the Panama Papers** and the greater offshoring phenomenon

continued on p. 11

Spring Book Club, cont'd from p. 10

which, though mostly legal, ends up in the same general arena as legions of corrupt characters and players.

While the book does not wallow in the Panama Papers and related specific events, the authors clearly, succinctly and in chronological order describe how the phenomenon of tax avoidance through tax shelters has metastasized to the enormous drain on national economies that it is today. And they provide a template for how to correct our dilemma. So many texts are good at spelling out problems but don't go the extra mile to explain a workable solution, so this is a welcome and hopeful part of reading this book.

The authors warn that the tax evasion trend is increasing unabated and will continue to increase without some brakes being applied. Not least of all, the 2017 tax law rewrite that lowered corporate taxes to 21% has already accelerated the rate at which individuals are becoming corporations in order to take advantage of this much lower tax rate rather than pay personal income taxes.

The authors also point out that taxing multinational corporations is definitely possible.

"There is nothing about globalization that requires that corporate tax should disappear. The choice is ours. The race to the bottom that rages today is a decision we've collectively made—perhaps not fully consciously or explicitly, certainly not a choice that was debated transparently and democratically, but a choice nonetheless." (p. 110)

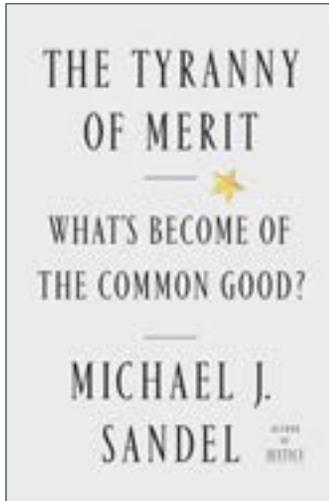
Their solution is focused first and foremost on international cooperation, something we have not chosen to do so far. The final 87 pages of the book are devoted to delving into the adjustments that it will take and to describing the ways in which everyone—the tax sheltering countries, the wealthy countries, as well as the corporations and wealthy citizens who use this system—is damaged by the current, short-sighted state of affairs.

This book provides an easy-to-read, instructive explanation of why we keep hearing about corporate tax evasion, offshoring, wealth and income disparity, as well as a concise real-world description of changes that we can choose to implement to stem the rising tide of inequality and create a more equitable world.

Discussion Questions:

1. What should be counted for taxation purposes?
2. Describe the difference between taxation on labor and on capital.
3. Approximately how much corporate income is sheltered through offshoring?
4. How do the authors justify calling the US tax system "massively regressive"?
5. Explain the authors' use of the term "healthcare poll tax."
6. What proposals for reform did you think were most feasible?

Book Review by Vicky Downs



The Tyranny of Merit: What's Become of the Common Good?

by Michael J. Sandel

In 2019 Federal prosecutors charged 33 wealthy parents for cheating to get their children into elite universities including Yale, Stanford, and the University of Southern California. Most people believe applicants should be admitted on their own merits.

But what is merit? Why should a student who has parents who are university graduates, have prestigious jobs, can pay for computer camps, travel and good colleges, be considered "better" (i.e., have more merit) than students who have none of

these in their upbringing? Should a poorer student also be admitted?

Sandel argues that our concept of merit destroys our sense of community and the common good. In America we have been eroding the dignity of work by focusing on credentials such as Scout badges, college degrees, or becoming a CEO. "Valorizing credentials undermines social recognition and esteem for those who lack the credentials that our society awards." In fact, it too often mocks those who earn a living producing useful goods and services such as cleaning, cooking or making things.

Does assigning merit just come down to sorting people? In Sandel's 8th grade class, "the math teacher arranged for all students to sit in the precise order of their grade point averages." Students changed seats after each math test or quiz. The better you did, the more merit you earned, and the higher you were ranked. However, ranking took its toll as the "students became obsessed with grades ... and intellectual curiosity was threatened," not to mention an appreciation for math itself.

"Today, our love of merit legitimates the lavish rewards the market bestows on the winners, and the meager pay it offers workers without a college degree." Over the last several decades, the idea that the money we make reflects the value of our social contribution has become deeply embedded. That leaves those who work hard but receive less feeling that they are without merit and truly unworthy, and it helps to explain the growing number of deaths of despair.

Sandel reminds us that after WWII until the 1970s, it was common for "those without a college degree to find good work, support a family and lead a comfortable life." He says that in the last four decades the "age of globalization brought rich rewards to the well credentialed," but nothing for the ordinary worker. In fact, the median income for the average worker has been stagnant, and the public in general does not feel indebted to them.

This book shows how "social bonds and respect for each other came unraveled ... and how we might find our way to a politics of the common good." Sandel suggests a way Harvard

continued on p. 17



TOP



SATURDAY, MAY 22 at 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Online via Zoom
Please register here.

An Annual Meeting Workbook with full agenda, rules, and reports will be provided to members separately. If a paper copy is needed, please contact the office..

Report of the Nomination Committee
Linnea Hirst, Chair, Judy Deiro and Julie Sarkissian

Board of Directors Nominees 2021-2023 Term	Board of Directors Nominees 2021-2022 Term	Continuing Board Members 2020-2022 Term
Heather Kelly, President	Kathy Sakahara, 1st VP	Katie Dudley, EF Treasurer
Barbara Tengtio, 2nd VP	Tania Hino	Marilee Fuller, Treasurer
Barbara Erickson, Secretary	Mary Taylor	Lauren Pixley
Lev Elson-Schwab		Adele Reynolds
Chelsea Jordan	Nominating Committee 2021-2022 Term	
Sarah Miller		
Lisa Nelson	Pat Griffith	
Sara Thein	Joanna Cullen	
Meg Van Wyk		

Nominee Biographies

Lev Elson-Schwab. Lev Elson-Schwab moved from California to Seattle in 2007 where he now lives with his wife and two kids. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of California, Santa Cruz and doctorate in chemistry from the University of California, San Diego. He is currently an Associate Professor at Bastyr University where he teaches chemistry and physics, chairs the faculty senate and is co-organizing an upcoming conference focused on health in the climate crisis. His passion for work in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) with a focus on environmental justice is evident in his leadership roles both at his university and on the racial equity team at his children’s school. In 2020, he joined the Washington State League of Women Voters and has been actively working with the chairs for the committees of climate change and energy, elections, voting rights, and campaign finance. His desire to play active role in making the world, starting with his local community, a better place for children inspired him to apply to the board of the Seattle, King County League of Women Voters.

Barbara C. Erickson. I joined LWV in 2018 because of the work the organization was doing to enroll voters. I'm very invigorated by the work I see my unit doing and wish to serve the larger group.

I was a litigation paralegal in a small firm until the end of 2015 when I retired. At the age of 60 I went back to school to get a Masters in Counseling Psychology, while continuing to work parttime.

My interests include reading, bridge, walking my dog and enjoying family, friends and my wonderful neighborhood. I moved to Shoreline in 2018 after 40 years in the Meadowbrook area.

I am a grandmother of 6 and mother of 2.

Tania Hino. I teach Parent Education fulltime at North Seattle College. I also have been under contract for doing Spanish Story Times with the Seattle Public Libraries for the last 12 years. And I'm founder and president of C-3 Somos Muieres Latinas, with the mission to connect, educate and empower Latinas. I love doing the work of connecting with other Latinas and educating myself to be better and empowering myself by helping other Latinas. As Gandhi stated, "Be the change that you want to see in the world". The mission of the League of Women Voters is a passion of mine as well. I believe in the empowerment of women and closing the gap of inequalities that women still face today.

I walk, read, take hot baths and meditate, including attending an annual 10-day silent meditation retreat. My partner and I alternate taking this course yearly so one of us is with the kids—three amazing teenagers. Finally, I am also pursuing my Ph.D. in leadership studies. I believe we never stop learning so I am really excited about my continued learning process. My vision as a person is to have integrity and be able to visualize ways that can be better for different communities and act on it.

I am honored to have been nominated to be on the board because I truly believe in voting rights and the empowerment of women

Chelsea Jordan. Chelsea joined the League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County in 2017 and began volunteering with the Voter Service Committee in 2018, assisting with planning candidate forums and voter registration events. Chelsea was first elected to the Board as Voter Service Chair in 2019 and is eager to continue working on programs like the new Youth Voting Ambassadors along with cross-organizational collaborations to increase voter turnout and civic participation in King County. She loves to be a support to any and all Unit-led Voter Service projects.

She currently works as the Director of Operations at a local nonprofit community recreation center in Bellevue. Her educational background is in elementary/preschool education and nonprofit leadership through Seattle University. Past volunteer experience includes tutoring elementary students in reading through Children's Literacy Project and serving as website manager for Eastside Community Aid Thrift Shop in Kirkland. Chelsea grew up in Sammamish, WA but has been living in Renton since 2017.

Heather Kelly. Heather joined the League of Women Voters in 2016 to become more involved in her community. Her work as a criminal defense attorney drew her to the League's Social Justice Committee where she learned about the League's policies, positions, and culture. Heather joined the Board in 2018 and oversaw the Action portfolio, offering guidance

on endorsements and advocating on a broad range of issues. Heather is excited to continue building bridges between members, implementing the DEI policy, and adapting the League so it can thrive for another 100 years. She lives in Phinney Ridge with her husband, Brian, and two boys, Liam and Gabe.

Sarah Miller. I grew up in Raleigh, NC, where my mother was (of course!) a League member and my father a professor at North Carolina State University. My parents were progressive and involved in local issues, especially those that supported education and healthy environments for children. My parents were involved in the Civil Rights movement in North Carolina in the 1960's and, as a child, I joined them in many demonstrations, marches and other activities in support of Civil Rights.

My academic background is in psychology. I have always been interested in the psychology of learning, and I pursued a degree in Special Education and taught in NC and later in WA State.

My husband, Craig and I "pioneered" out to Seattle when we were 25 years old, and we have gradually morphed into Northwesterners. I taught while my husband, Craig pursued a degree in Architecture at the UW. Once he graduated, it was my turn to go back to school; I received a M.Ed. In Educational Psychology at the UW and have been a school psychologist in Bellevue for the past 25 years.

I have loved my work in education and psychology. But the civic awareness and political activism of my parents are in my DNA, and I knew I would pursue these interests once I had retired. My incipient experience with the League has been just what I had been hoping for: A space/place for discussing, thinking, and connecting with people and ideas to make our community a better, more just and more equitable place for children...and everyone else!

Lisa Nelson. Growing up in a Navy family, I had the opportunity to live in the smallest state, the largest state, and even abroad. As amazing as those adventures were, I've been happily settled in the Pacific Northwest for over 35 years and would be quite content to never see a moving box again. My husband and I have two wonderful college-aged children, an orange cat, a black Lab who loves to play ball, and a very muddy back yard.

I have a degree in Political Science from the University of Washington and have worked with families as a co-op preschool teacher and as an advocate at a shelter for homeless women and children leaving situations of domestic violence. Volunteering in our local schools, church, and community gave me a way to stay engaged while raising my children.

I joined LWVS-KC in 2018 and jumped right in to managing the League's social media accounts. The past five years have opened my eyes to how much our democracy depends on the active and informed participation of its citizens. I'm honored to be part of an organization so committed to educating and empowering voters and look forward to expanding our use of technology in ways that strengthen our connections to each other and to our mission.

Mary KC Taylor. I joined in 2019 but became active in mid-2020. I have been an active Observer Corp member, assisted the Action Committee with research and writing and tracking police reform in King County and Seattle. I am also working with the Legislative Criminal Justice Group and a LWVWA Criminal Justice positions workgroup.

I retired in March 2020 after serving as a social worker and program manager with King County Superior Court for 32 years. My direct social work experience was with the Court

Appointed Special Advocate Program, Family Court, Juvenile Court and as an adoption social worker. I managed the King County Drug Diversion Court Program for 22 years,

I like working as a team member on projects, sharing responsibility and learning from others.

Barbara Tengtio. After living abroad for eleven years, Barb was eager to reintegrate by educating herself on community issues and priorities. She immediately joined the LWV Seattle/King County in the summer of 2020 when she moved back to her Bellevue home. She joined the Mercer Island unit and quickly became a member of the Observer Corps. While she observes a variety of county and city meetings, her particular focus is the King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA). Barb also was employed as an election worker for the 2020 presidential election. During her years abroad, she held Board positions in the AWCZ (American Women's Club of Zurich) and the AWA (American Women's Association Hong Kong).

Most of her work focused on philanthropy - vetting local organisations for funding and then helping raise funds for the selected charities. While in Zurich she organised and led the AWCZ International Women's Day event for three years. During her time in Hong Kong she also was on the LWV Hong Kong Board, responsible for Voter Services. She has volunteered often with a variety of charities (soup kitchens, underprivileged schools, food banks) in London, Zurich and Hong Kong. Earlier in her life, Barb worked for twenty years in financial services in marketing, process improvement, finance, operations, and strategy. She also served on her children's school Board. For great fun and exercise, Barb became a member of a dragon boat team while in Hong Kong. She is hoping to get out on the water with the Seattle Flying Dragon Boat Club this spring. She firmly believes that volunteering is a service to the community and oneself and looks forward to the opportunity at the LWV Seattle-King County.

Sara Thein. Sara was born and raised on the south side of Chicago and moved to Washington after college to work for Boeing as an aerospace engineer. She is an active voter and became involved in voter outreach through When We All Vote - a non-profit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to increasing participation in every election and closing the race and age voting gap. After leaving Boeing in 2020, she worked in Voter Services at King County Elections where she assisted voters with registration, ballot issues, and signature challenge questions during the 2020 Primary and General Elections. Sara currently works for Alaska Airlines as a Flight Operations Engineer and enjoys traveling, hiking, singing, and trivia. She is currently pursuing a graduate certificate in election administration through the University of Minnesota and plans to work toward her private pilot's license next.

Meg Van Wyk. Meg was raised in a very adventurous family that found her living in 3 continents: South America, Africa and then to the USA as a teenager. This unusual childhood gave her a sense of what it means to be a world citizen, and how important it is to learn from other cultures. She attended the UW where she developed her skills in the sciences by majoring in Clinical Dietetics. After a few years of working as a Registered Dietitian, she stayed home to raise 3 children. She stayed very involved in the community by working as a volunteer with the PTA, local agencies and even co-chaired a school levy and school bond. Once her youngest left the home she decided to invest some time in effective work so she joined the LWV because they are such a great advocacy group, and they bring balanced and fair positions to the issues at hand. The LWV is so needed in this time of disinformation and she wants to support the work that they do towards getting correct information to the voters.

Pat Griffith. When Pat moved to Seattle in 1974 with her husband Dave, one of the first things she did was join the Capitol Hill League unit where she connected with many politically active members. Pat has worked with programming for gun safety and computer privacy issues and served on the Seattle-King County LWV board. She currently is a member of the Education Committee and the Queen Anne-Magnolia unit. For the past four years she has worked on the LWVWA lobby/advocacy team as Gun Safety Issue Lead and on gun safety initiatives through the Alliance for Gun Responsibility.

Pat also was a school board candidate in 2001 and served five years on the board of the Puget Sound Education District. She also served as legislative chair for Seattle PTSA.

She is a member of Soroptimist International of Seattle Metropolitan and volunteered with AFS Intercultural Programs for ten years. Her daughter Shoshana and family live in Alexandria, VA when they are not on a foreign assignment. They will be returning this summer from assignment in Brazil.

Joanna Cullen. I am proud to be a member of the League, and of the work it does to promote voter education and its dedication to rigorously researched studies and positions on issues, which make it possible for the organization to take significant action on ballot issues and initiatives. I am looking forward to serving on the nominations committee to contribute to continue building a strong, forward-looking leadership.

I am current Treasurer of LWVWA and lead several portfolios of Seattle-King County League of Women Voters, including secretary, program, voter services, and am current chair of the education committee.

My work life included writing and editing, working as a manager and field manager for political campaigns, and coordinating non-profit efforts in the community. Literature, yoga, hiking, and performing arts are among my interests.

As a parent, I was active in PTSAs and site councils and served as Chair of Seattle Council PTSA. Currently, I am serving as HYCAN's (Healthy Youth Central Area Network) Interim Coalition Chair, editor of my community council newsletter, and as a board member of EastPac and my neighborhood district council, as well as supporting other local causes.

Book Review, cont'd from p. 12

could do this once it collects the thousands of applicants who reach the university's high academic standards. The college only needs a fraction of the applicants to fill the freshman class, but it also needs more diversity. He shows how to use an element of pure luck to cut back the numbers and find good diversity. His system would help applicants realize that talent itself relies in part on luck. Exceptional students who don't get accepted would become available to enter other colleges.

We live in an unequal society and need to do much more for those in the lower economic half. That might include a living wage for all workers, training people for well-paying jobs, and providing high quality early childhood and day-care programs.

Above all, the common good requires we must find ways to support and esteem the dignity of work.

Units Unite Us

by Roslyn Ann Duffy

Emerging. After a year of uncertainty, change and isolation, what is the way forward? Will we meet in-person, continue virtual meetings, or a combination of the two? Should there be summer unit meetings? What is the best use of forums? What will be our new “normal”?

In their **Peer Spirit** Newsletter, Christina Baldwin and Ann Linnea offer some valuable thoughts and pose important questions.

We are in the beginning of a huge cycle of return. We are returning to share public spaces, returning to expanded touch, to a vulnerable sense of stability, to work. Outbursts of grief and trauma, confusion and anger flare within and around us. It's been a very difficult year. In ways we cannot yet determine 2021 needs to be a life-changing year. How can we practice returning to one another. . . ?

It is disorienting to be doing the simple things we once took for granted: going grocery shopping, visiting friends or welcoming family into our homes again. Each encounter has a newly minted preciousness.

And what about our work together as League members? How will our units operate going forward? What will League events look like? How will things change? There is no simple going back to the old “normal” because we have changed, too. With that in mind, four questions posed by Baldwin and Linnea might be valuable for us to consider, both personally, and as League members.

What can we sustain? What can we protect?

What is worth keeping? How can we keep the good parts that emerged? How will those parts look going forward? What was good about Zoom meetings? What have we learned to do without—or no longer want or need? How will technology fit into future League work?

What have we learned to value differently? How has our perspective changed and how does that change our priorities going forward? How can we sustain and protect the insights we've gained? Both sustaining and protecting the results of these lessons means that first we must identify them, both personally and for our work together.

What can we release? What can we welcome?

Letting go is often the hardest challenge, but without letting go, it is difficult to have space to welcome in the new. And there has been plenty of new! From meeting virtually, to the transformation of our meetings through the League Link volunteers, the work we do has been redefined in many ways.

What is different? What is the same? What can we release? What can we welcome? Whether in our personal lives, as we once again can hug our loved ones or meet friends in person or in our work as League members, able to gather for events or in-person chats, each of these activities is forever embellished with new meaning and special value.

Our task is to emerge and build the future based on the answers to those four questions, so that this year apart will bring us together in new and better ways. We have changed—and the future will be crafted by those changes, but what, why and how are yet to be answered. To find the answers, we must first ask the questions.

Thank you for faithfully reading my “Units Unite Us” column these past two years. I have loved doing this work. Although I will no longer be on our board as Unit Liaison, I am sure I will share something through The Voter from time to time. This is my letting go, and an enthusiastic welcome to those stepping up to lead our League in the coming years. Our future depends on all of us, united—however that may look.

Unit & Committee Meetings

Much of our world is going virtual these days, and League meetings are no exception. While it's not quite the same as meeting in person, the upside is that it's now more possible than ever to attend meetings, since they're only a click away!

Visit the League's website for the most up-to-date meeting information. You can also check with committee chairs and unit leaders directly. Their contact info is included on the [last page of The Voter](#).

Committee Meetings

The League has several standing committees that focus on specific issues. They include:

- Economics & Taxation
- Education
- Environment
- International Relations (currently on hiatus and investigating remote meeting topics)

Unit Meetings

In addition to its general membership, the League is comprised of more than a dozen units (small discussion groups) that generally meet once a month from September to May. Units typically discuss the current monthly forum or other topical issues, and they help organize and connect members to League outreach activities.

Members have historically attended unit meetings that were geographically convenient to their home or workplace, but all LWV members are encouraged to attend any unit meeting(s) that best fits their schedule!

Check the League's website for the latest information on unit meeting times and to connect with units through Zoom. Typically units meet on the following days and times each month:

- **First Hill Seattle Unit:** Third Monday at 10:30 a.m.
- **Issaquah Unit:** Third Thursday at 4:00 p.m.
- **Northeast Seattle Unit:** Second Wednesday at 12:30 p.m.
- **North King County Unit:** Fourth Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
- **Queen Anne/Magnolia/Ballard (Day Unit):** Third Saturday at 10:00 a.m.
- **Queen Anne/Magnolia/Ballard (Evening Unit):** Second Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.
- **Mercer Island Unit:** Second Thursday at 10:00 a.m.
- **South Seattle Unit:** Third Monday at 6:00 p.m.
- **Southeast King County/Enumclaw Unit:** Special this month - Fri, May 14 at 1 p.m.
- **NEW: Virtual Evening Unit:** Second Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Board & Committee Contacts

All contacts can be reached at 206-329-4848 unless otherwise noted

Term Executive Committee

2019-21	President	Alyssa Weed	president@seattlelww.org
2020-22	1st VP		
2019-21	2nd VP - Action	Heather Kelly	action@seattlelww.org
2019-21	Secretary	Barbara Erickson	
2020-22	Treasurer	Marilee Fuller	treasurer@seattlelww.org

Term Directors

2019-21	Unit Liaison	Roslyn Duffy	roslyn@seattlelww.org
2019-21	Voter Service	Chelsea Jordan	voterservice@seattlelww.org
2020-22	Volunteer Coordinator	Lauren Pixley	lauren@seattlelww.org
2020-22	Program	Adele Reynolds	adelereynolds@aim.com
2019-21	Outreach & Events	Melissa Taylor	melissataylor.lwvskc@gmail.com

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

Term Education Fund Officers — same as above except Treasurer

2020-22	Treasurer	Katie Dudley	eftreasurer@seattlelww.org
---------	-----------	--------------	--

Term Nominating Committee

2020-21	Chair	Linnea Hirst	lwwquilter@comcast.net
2020-21		Judy Deiro	judy.deiro@gmail.com
2020-21		Julie Sarkissian	juliesarkissian@hotmail.com

Off-Board Positions

The Voter Editor	Stephanie Cirkovich	votereditor@seattlelww.org
-------------------------	---------------------	--

Committee Chairs

Communications			communications@seattlelww.org
Economics & Taxation	Nora Leech		nleech2002@yahoo.com
Education	Joanna Cullen	206-329-8514	jfoxcullen@gmail.com
Environment	MAK Mitchell	917-865-8423	mak@armak.us
International Relations	Kim Peterson	206-789-7447	
Investment Committee	Cindy Piennett	253-777-9864	cindypiennett@gmail.com
Observer Corps	Heather Kelly		action@seattlelww.org