Reflecting on Our Future
by Stephanie Cirkovich, President, 2017-2019

Four years ago, I joined the League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County knowing very little about the organization aside from its sterling reputation in nonpartisan politics. A year later, I was asked to join the Board and the year after that, to serve as Board President. As my term comes to a close, I can’t help but reflect on not only the past year, but the tremendous transformation I’ve seen in the League in such a short amount of time.

For better or worse, we are moving away from an organizational model that focuses on slow, deliberative studies and discussion toward a model that is more immediate and action-oriented. We are not registering voters so much as we are getting out the vote. We endorse ballot measures and link to information about them online and on social media rather than print a lengthy, painstakingly researched article about them—with accompanying discussion questions—in The Voter. We are marching, and calling, and doing more than ever.

I have heard from some of our longtime members who don’t like this new direction for the League, and I understand where they are coming from. The League’s brand, its trademark, its sterling reputation is entirely based on the deliberative, thoughtful way that we have conducted our business for nearly 100 years: researching every angle, taking time to examine every aspect of an issue. But I have also heard from members who believe that to stay relevant and competitive in an ever-crowding field of democracy-related organizations, we have to move more quickly, be nimbler and more active without having to confer first.

The easy conclusion is that we should be both. Both methodical and quick to act when necessary. Both the studious researcher and the provocative rabble-rouser. But the reality is that this is incredibly difficult to do with only one staffer, a small group of core volunteers, and a shoestring budget. We simply can’t do everything or be everything we want to be. So, we make choices and prioritize as best we can.

One of my first initiatives—well before I became President—was to help the League develop a strategic plan to guide the organization’s development. Through the hard work of two separate boards, one comprised of primarily longtime members and the other primarily new ones, we developed a plan for the League that listed three goals:

1. Strengthen the League’s infrastructure, both technologically and organizationally.

2. Diversify and continuously engage the League’s membership.

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Don’t forget to vote!
by Tuesday, August 6
For detailed information about the issues and candidates go to Vote411.org.
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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 the Leadership

Convention Recap—And Many Thanks
By Alyssa Weed, President

It was an honor to serve as a delegate for the LWVS-KC at the 2019 State Convention. I was joined by 19 other dedicated Leaguers who spent the weekend learning, networking, and advocating on behalf of our local chapter. While it’s no secret just how big our chapter is, I’d like to share some of the major highlights from this weekend that demonstrate just how impactful we are as an organization at the state level.

This year, we’re sending three members to serve on the State Board of Directors: Amanda Clark, Joan Lawson, and Lea Galanter. They’ll be joining LWVS-KC members Joanna Cullen, Mary Coltrane, and Donna Dekkert-Fontaine on the board. LWVS-KC member Lou Templeton also served as a member of the Nominating Committee. Thank you to all of these League leaders who will continue their great work at the State level—we’re excited to see what you accomplish and look forward to continuing our mission to empower voters and defend democracy.

I’d also like to recognize LWVS-KC members Karen Luetjen and Martin Gibbons for the successful adoption of their update on Protecting Washington State’s Shorelines; Adele Reynolds, Kiku Hayashi, Dianne Ramsey, and Martha Meyer for the adoption of their program on providing education and action on a Washington State Investment Trust (Public Bank); and Linnea Hirst, Kathy Sakahara, and Barbra Chevalier for the adoption of a program to develop toolkits on a range of election methods to support citizen education. Their work will help the League continue to respond to the most pressing issues we’re facing and promote better public policy for all of Washington’s residents.

You may have heard that there was some excitement around the budget this year! I’d like to thank LWVS-KC members Melissa Taylor, Chelsea Jordan, and Christy Wood for joining me in a late night budget discussion with State Board members and leaders from other local Leagues that resulted in an amendment to the state’s proposed budget. In lieu of raising the PMP rate in 2021, Melissa introduced a successful amendment that would instead ask the State Board to increase their fundraising efforts to cover their projected revenue from the PMP raise. This amendment reflects our organization’s steadfast commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and we look forward to helping the State Board reach their fundraising goals.

We also have some amazing LWVS-KC members who sit on State Committees and Teams that I would be remiss not to mention. Thank you to Kathy Sakahara for your work with the Membership, Engagement, and Leadership Development Team; Barbra Erickson and Anne Sedgwick for your work with the Redistricting Committee; Adele Reynolds, Kiku Hayashi, Martha Meyer, and Linda Wager for your work with the Public Bank Task Force; Mary Ehlers for your work on the LWVWA Education Fund Committee; Mary Coltrane, Patti Brandt, Diana Caplow, Deborah Carstens, Erin Fields, Emma Sanyal, and Judith Yarrow for your work with Voter Services; and Linnea Hirst, Becky Cox, Beatrice Crane, Deborah Christensen, Susan Goedde, Julie Anne Kempf, Anne Sedgwick, Gail Shurgot, and Meg Van Wyk for your work on the Vote411 Committee. Additionally, Linnea Hirst, Bill Andersen, Julie Anne Kempf, Matthew Putnam, and Adele Reynolds all assisted with the 2018-2019 Redistricting Review, and

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## July/August

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### July
- **Board Retreat**
  - Sunday, July 28
  - 10:00 a.m.
- **Candidate Forum**
  - Seattle — District 1
  - Monday, July 29
  - 5:30 p.m.
  - West Seattle Library
- **Investment Committee**
  - Tuesday, July 30
  - 1:00 p.m.
  - League Office

### August
- **Candidate Forum**
  - Seattle — District 5
  - Thursday, August 1
  - 5:30 p.m.
  - Broadview Library
  - *tentative*  
- **Candidate Forum**
  - Seattle — District 2
  - Sunday, August 4
  - 1:30 p.m.
  - Columbia Library
- **Unit Leader Meeting**
  - Saturday, August 10
  - 11:00 a.m.
  - League Office
Forum Schedule

**Summer Forums:**

**Seattle City Council Candidates**

at various Seattle Public Library Branches

July 29, 5:30 p.m. — District 1, West Seattle

*August 1, 5:30 p.m. — District 5, Broadview

August 4, 1:30 p.m. — District 2, Columbia

*tentative

The League frequently presents public forums on issues of public interest. 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 Katie Dudley, Secretary

*The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County and Education Fund Boards met on May 4, 2019. This is a summary of their meetings.*

After some discussion the Board adopted a budget for the 2019-2020 fiscal year, with a net positive forecast.

The Action chair led discussion in regard to the August ballot, which will include parks and library levies. Barbra Chevalier agreed to reach out to members of Voter Services to research and provide recommendations on these measures. After the Annual Meeting, the Board will convene at a retreat to review and make decisions about the levies.

The Board also decided who should receive the Carrie Chapman Catt Award at the Annual Meeting. Other action items include getting material to Allison for the workbook and ensuring that there is a quorum in attendance.

State Convention is coming up, and delegates to attend need to be identified. League has funds to pay for two delegates to attend, but there is room for more delegates. The Board also needs to assemble a Local League History display with a cardboard trifold.

At this point, the C4 meeting ended and the C3 meeting convened.

There was some discussion about process documentation, especially in regard to fundraising, although a project manager for this endeavor was not specifically identified.

Regarding forums, the Board also discussed whether the candidate forum format could be changed so that a more engaging format could be used. Ideas included lightning rounds and speed dating. Further, for debate-style forums, a strong moderator is required, so the Board wants to identify strong moderators within the League who have the capacity to lead such events.

Finally, ways to reach out to voters—phone banks, post cards, high schools—were all discussed as ways and places to get out the vote.

As ever, direction to the Board is welcomed.
Committees

Economics and Taxation Committee  
DATE: No meeting until September  
TIME: 9:30 a.m.  
PLACE: 909 E. Newton #D-9, Seattle

Education Committee  
DATE: No meeting until September  
TIME: 11:00 a.m.  
PLACE: League Office

Homelessness Study Committee  
DATE: No meeting until September  
TIME: 4:30 p.m.  
PLACE: League Office

International Relations Committee  
This committee is in hiatus. Check with the chair for more information.

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.

Have a question? Contact information for committee chairs is listed on the inside back cover.

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, gender identity and/or gender expression, 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.
Let’s Put the FUN Back into Fundraising!

Join the LWV Seattle-King County Fundraising Committee

The Seattle-King County LWV is currently recruiting volunteers to serve on our Fundraising Committee. The Fundraising Committee is an ambassador-focused committee with members who are focused on making introductions to new donors in the community, helping to research funding opportunities, and planning events.

Responsibilities

• Work with the Development Chair to define the short-term and long-term fundraising needs of the Seattle-King County League of Women Voters.
• Set priorities for fundraising efforts; evaluate plans and strategies.
• Help nurture a culture of philanthropy throughout the organization and assure that all donors of time and money are respected and honored.
• Contribute to and review the fundraising plan to ensure progress toward annual and long-range funding goals.
• Work with the Development Chair to identify and research funding sources such as foundations, corporations, community organizations, and individuals.
• Support the organization through the planning and implementation of fundraising events and campaigns.
• Work with the Development Chair to execute a robust donor stewardship plan.

Expectations

• Attend and participate in Fundraising Committee meetings, remote call-in options available.
• Prepare adequately for meetings in order to make informed decisions.
• Make a modest annual financial gift to Seattle-King County League of Women Voters.

Time Commitment

• Average 5 to 12 hours per month.
• All meetings will include a call-in option so that League members outside of metro Seattle can participate.

Desired Experience

• The only experience you need is determination and a sense of humor!

To Apply

If you are interested in being on the FUNdraising Committee, please contact Christy Wood, Development Chair, at 206-707-3845 or development@seattlelwv.org.
King County Connects — Announcements

**The League Wants YOU!**

Do you love money? Counting it? Depositing it? Thanking the people who give it? Well then, the Seattle-King County League has an exciting volunteer opportunity for you!

We are currently looking for a c3 treasurer to join the Seattle-King County Education Board. The position is set to begin in August 2019 and runs through June 2020, and it oversees the nonprofit portion of the Seattle-King County funds.

A working knowledge of Excel and QuickBooks is desired, but not necessary. Training and ongoing support will be provided.

If you’d like to learn more about this exciting role, please email Christy Wood at development@seattlelwv.org

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**Observer Corps**

As we move into summer, the Observer Corps will still be covering meetings. Two more reports are posted on our website, the Issaquah School Board meeting (June 12) and the Seattle Community Police Commission meeting (June 3).

Barbara Reid has a great summary of the commission and how it was started, and she put it together just as Judge James Robart found the city and the police department are partially out of compliance due to concerns about the ability of the chief of police to hold officers accountable (May 15 pronouncement). Please join us and help explain the key local topics in King County.

Questions? Want to be an Observer? Contact Cathy O’Shea at 425-753-4182 or coshea120@gmail.com.

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MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 15, 2019

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS RECOMMENDS YES VOTE ON SEATTLE AND KING COUNTY LEVIES

The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County endorses both the Seattle Public Library Levy and the King County Parks Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Levy. The proposed levies would renew existing levies that the League also endorsed. The League urges voters to approve both measures, which will appear on the August 6, 2019 ballot.

While the League has longstanding positions that disfavor the use of levies to fund basic services, League positions also recognize that public libraries and parks are indispensable to maintaining a healthy community. Currently, levy funds pay for nearly all of the maintenance and operations of County parks. For the library, levy funds would pay for expanded hours and collections, building maintenance, and early learning and social service support. “These shared spaces offer a place for people to come together for education and recreation,” said League President Alyssa Weed. “Supporting free public resources promotes the League’s commitment to fostering greater diversity, equity and inclusion,” she added.

The League stresses the importance of transparency and public oversight of levy funds and is satisfied by the management of the existing levies in that regard. Park levy funds are currently managed by a nine-member Oversight Board. Although the library has no equivalent group, funding priorities for the proposed levy are informed by an extensive public survey conducted last year. Additionally, the Library Board reports to City Council, publishes detailed annual reports, and invites public comment at its meetings. The League is satisfied that the both proposed levies will meet the needs of the public.

Until the state resolves its public funding crisis, the League will continue to weigh the benefits of any proposed levies against the increasing property tax burden. In the meantime, voters should be aware that state law provides an exemption from levy payments to eligible seniors, veterans, and homeowners with disabilities or low income.
Help Us Get Out the Vote

By Barbra Chevalier, Voter Services Chair

The past few years the Voter Services Committee has been increasingly focused on turning out voters through phone banks, postcards, and community events such as Ballots and Baristas. This year we are hoping to expand those outreach programs, and we would love to keep you busy through the summer.

We are planning pop-up information tables at King County Library System (KCLS) locations before the Primary at which we will chat with voters and answer questions they may have about ballot measures or where to find information about candidates. These events are really low-key and a great way to introduce people to the League.

This year, with the help of a grant from the LWVUS, we are offering text message reminders to young people. These messages will nudge subscribers when it’s time to check that their registration is up-to-date, when it’s time to vote, and, where applicable, when it’s time to use their democracy vouchers. In order to be effective, we need people to sign up. We will, therefore, be building our youth GOTV text message reminder list on college campuses and perhaps at community events. We would like to post flyers and partner with on-campus organizations to inform students in school, and we are considering similar outreach at community events. If you have connections with local universities, community colleges, or community event organizers, please let us know.

There will be phone banks and opportunities to send postcards to infrequent voters, as well. These efforts have yielded an average 5 percent turnout boost among those with whom we’ve connected. While that might not seem like much, in the voter turnout world, it is significant. These are also fun ways to connect with other LWV members to do work that’s integral to our mission.

Lastly, we are looking at candidate forums both to be held over the summer and in the fall. We are planning on doing Ballots and Baristas for a fourth year, too. There are opportunities at these events for both new Leaguers and old pros.

We cannot do any of the above without volunteer activity and support. If you are interested in helping to engage voters personally or you would like to financially sponsor any of the above, please contact voterservice@seattlelwv.org.

Thank you in advance!
Privatize Discovery Park?

By Denise Dahn, Executive Director, Seattle Nature Alliance and Member of Friends of Discovery Park

(Note: The LWV Seattle-King County opposes the proposal to build the proposed Music and Arts Center. Please see the following letter to the Seattle Parks Department. This is unrelated to the Fort Lawton affordable housing proposal.)

Unless you’re paying very close attention, you might not know that a nonprofit group is proposing to build a Music and Arts Campus in the middle of Discovery Park. Like most people, you might have assumed that Seattle’s only official Natural Area park would be automatically off-limits for high-impact development.

But unfortunately, we can’t take that for granted. What we now enjoy as the Historic District—the area with the parade ground, historic chapel, and other military buildings—could be given over to arts and music organizations for use as recording studios, performance halls or practice spaces. It would effectively privatize some of the most spectacular public land in the city, a place we all share and depend upon for peaceful connection to nature.

Like many development proposals, the plans drawn for the Music Campus are sleekly persuasive, with soft renderings of families strolling by as performers dance or play musical instruments. At first glance, having art and music in such a serene pastoral setting seems like it could work.

The problem is that the proposal isn’t showing the whole picture. There is no mention of the intrusive infrastructure that would be necessary to support such a campus, like lighting, paving, buses, signage, and equipment. There is no consideration of the impact noise, crowds, and roped-off fee-for-entry areas would have on other park visitors. The plans are shifting and unclear, but have included cafes, artists’ residences, and an outdoor amphitheater. In an early presentation, the promoters declared that in order to get people used to the idea, the project could be done in phases. Perhaps they’re hoping that if they build it bit-by-bit, people won’t notice the impact it’s having until it’s too late. As Joni Mitchell said, “you don’t know what you’ve got ‘til it’s gone.”

But we do know, don’t we? We know that Discovery Park was hard-won, fought for by dedicated citizens who had nothing to gain but the knowledge they were doing what was right: providing future generations of Seattleites with much-needed respite from the noise and clutter and stress of city life. Today, there is plenty of research to show that time spent in nature is essential for human health and happiness, but those earlier activists knew it instinctively. A visit to Discovery makes any day—even the most stressful—just a little brighter. From the vista point by the old chapel down past the magnificent old maples and the bird-filled meadows to the sandy bluffs and the expanse of Salish Sea against snowcapped mountains, it’s a tonic for the soul, an urban wilderness so magnificent it takes your breath away.

That’s part of the problem. Discovery Park is so special it attracts a constant parade of would-be developers. Over the years there have been dozens of proposals that the city has considered and rejected. And this Music Campus is just as unwise as the golf course, the stadium, the shopping mall, and all the others have been.

The question is, will this be the one proposal that gets accepted? Will the prospect of private studios, scenic performance spaces and commercial opportunities attract the support of influential arts organizations? Will city officials cave to the pressures of increasing
urbanization and allow this development? There’s only one way to know for sure. Write the Parks Department, the mayor, and the city council and tell them to preserve Discovery Park. No privatization, no development, no commercial uses. And especially, no Music Campus.

Seattle is growing and changing, and future generations are going to need places like Discovery Park more than ever. Let’s make sure it’s there for them.

May 24, 2019

Jesús Aguirre, Superintendent
Seattle Parks and Recreation
100 Dexter Ave North
Seattle, WA 98109

Dear Superintendent Aguirre:

As an original member of the Citizens for Fort Lawton Park—now known as the Friends of Discovery Park—the League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County has long considered Discovery Park to be a crown jewel of our magnificent parks system. We ask that the City of Seattle preserve this 554-acre treasure by declining to develop Fort Lawton Center for the Arts at Discovery Park.

The League recognizes that arts and culture play a fundamental role in our society, and we are generally supportive of efforts that bring arts and culture to King County. However, this should not be done at the expense of some of our most precious resources. Not only would an arts and culture center at Fort Lawton go against Discovery Park’s Master Plan, but it would quite literally destroy the nature of the park by increasing vehicular and pedestrian traffic, displacing wildlife, and polluting this pristine environment rather than preserving it for future generations.

According to its Master Plan, Discovery Park “should not be asked to serve too many functions” other than “an open space of quiet and tranquility for the citizens of this city.” The Plan also presciently warns against the temptation to develop areas of the park for other civic uses or activities, predicting that these pressures will pose “the greatest single threat to the park.” Indeed, at a time when our region is buckling under the strain of unprecedented growth and development—and our green space and canopy cover are rapidly shrinking—we must remain steadfastly committed to preserving those spaces by prohibiting privatization or specialty development to take place within them.

While the League generally supports the idea of a Center for the Arts, such a venue is best suited at another location that can accommodate the proposed programming and accompanying challenges. Once Discovery Park’s delicate ecosystem has been disturbed, we will never be able to get it back.

Thank you very much for your time and attention, and for everything your department does to maintain Seattle’s reputation as the Emerald City.

Regards,

Stephanie Cirkovich, President
League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County

CC Seattle Board of Park Commissioners
3. Develop and improve the quality of the League's programming and services.

These goals reflect our priorities for the past two years, and I firmly believe that the best interests of the organization are inherent in each of them (regardless of where you stand on the League's evolution). And I am proud to say that we have made a remarkable number of accomplishments under each of these goal areas:

- Over the summer we moved to a new office space that we share with the League of Women Voters of Washington. This not only saves us thousands of dollars in rent but also provides some economic efficiency between our respective staffs and boards.

- We registered close to 1,000 new voters and had a strong presence throughout the King County Library System, at Seattle Storm games, and at area schools.

- We revamped the League's website to look fresher and more modern, and substantially increased our social media profile thanks to an outstanding Communications Committee and volunteers such as Lisa Nelson and Kristen Johnson.

- Candidate and issue forums and other voter services events like Ballots & Baristas attracted a significant amount of media attention; the League has been prominent in news outlets such as KNKX, KBCS, KIRO-TV, The Seattle Times, and other media outlets such as The Evergrey newsletter.

- We tackled difficult subjects such as racism in the suffrage movement, gun safety, and juvenile incarceration, and weighed in on important topics such as the City of Seattle's waterfront development and its education levy.

- We hired a temporary development consultant who raised more than $15,000 for the League in sponsorships and secured a media partnership with KNKX. More importantly, the League now has relationships with these sponsors that will continue independently.

- We conducted a survey of the League's membership to get a better sense of who our members are and what type of programming and information they like to receive.

- The Observer Corps has been revived on the East Side.

- We made small investments in materials such as League of Women Voters pens to give us a more professional look at forums and other events. (No more writing questions on index cards with golf pencils!)

- Unit leaders met at Horizon House to discuss how to improve communications between units and the board, and to brainstorm ways to support League programming and studies.
• We held forums and special events in
more diverse venues across King County
and featured a number of compelling
speakers and presenters, including
author Elaine Weiss and former Secretary
of State Sally Jewell.

When you consider how much has been
accomplished relative to the number of
people who did all of the work, you realize
that the League of Women Voters is an
extraordinary organization. I am so proud
to have been President of the board at this
exciting time.

But there is so much more work to do,
and—I’m going to give you some straight
talk here—more of you need to step up to
the plate, especially now. Your next board is
young and new to the League, and they have
more energy and creativity than I can ever
hope to have, but they can’t do it alone. If
you feel the League is missing some gravitas,
volunteer to research a ballot issue or
write a Voter article. (There are at least two
measures on the August ballot that need to
be researched right now.) If you feel like the
League is too stodgy and inactive, talk to a
board member or a committee about taking
some action on an issue you care about.

I promise that you will not regret getting
more engaged with the League to empower
voters and defend democracy. While it has
not been easy, my time with the League has
been some of the most rewarding years of my
life. I thank you all for allowing me to serve
you and this great organization.

Leadership continued:

Lee Carpenter has served valiantly as the
State’s Membership Roster Manager. These
members are doing the nuts and bolts work
of making democracy work across the state
and ensuring we’re staying true to our
organization’s mission. Thank you, thank
you, thank you!

And finally, to Kathy Sakahara—
congratulations on your much-deserved
award, and thank you for everything you do
for the LWVS-KC and the LWVWA. Kathy was
honored with the LWVWA’s Dorothy Roberts
Award, which is presented every two years
at Convention to a person who shares a
commitment, dedication, and passion for
the mission of the League. We are fortunate
to have you and your wealth of knowledge,
welcoming spirit, and determination.

While there’s much to be celebrated, there’s
also much to reflect on. In the coming
months you’ll hear more from the incoming
LWVS-KC board about our commitment
to diversity, equity, and inclusion as well
as our mission to make League culture
more welcoming and supportive of newer,
younger, and more diverse members.

Members from the LWVS-KC gave formal
direction to the board on the last day of
Convention, asking them to do better to
engage and support all members of the
League. This means we’re committed to
outward-looking fundraising, fostering the
next generation of leaders, and recruiting
and retaining members who reflect the
racial, religious, economic, ethnic, and age
diversity that make King County one of the
best places in the world to call home. With
our shared values of protecting democracy
and empowering voters, we enter the next
biennium ready to face challenges and
create change. If anything, this weekend
has reminded me that you should all be so
proud of the work we’re doing at the local
and state level—I know I am.
In 1872 President U.S. Grant signed the legislation making Yellowstone America’s first national park. For many years the park’s managers did not understand the ecosystem, so they killed off wolves that preyed on big animals such as elk, pronghorn, and buffalo, which were more interesting to visitors.

“Once the wolves were gone, the ungulate population in the park exploded and the quality of the range quickly deteriorated.” Overgrazed hillsides eroded, stands of aspen and willow were decimated, and bushes denuded of their bark crumbled into streams, damaging prime trout habitat. Many animals became sick and others starved.

In the 1930s park officials began to cull the elk herds, but by the 1960s “hunters in areas adjacent to the park pressed their elected officials to intervene.” Fewer elk in the park meant fewer elk migrating out of the park, leading to fewer hunting opportunities. Since wolves and elk had coexisted in Yellowstone for thousands of years, reintroducing wolves seemed the natural solution to the problem. In 1970 several wolf packs from Canada were brought into the park.

Most visitors are unlikely to find wolves on their own, but rangers like Rick McIntyre can make a big difference. McIntyre dedicated his life to watching and studying wolves, and provided much of the information in this book.

Without binoculars you won’t see them, and you will need someone like McIntyre to interpret wolf howls and wolf activity. A “single wolf separated from his pack “will sometimes howl for hours in a relatively high pitch,” while an alpha male warning off an intruder howls at a much lower level.

When visitors looking through binoculars or telescope first see pups at play there is almost always a whoop of delight. Pups pick up sticks or bones to toss in the air and pounce on them, or they pounce on adults in their pack. Watching the older wolves’ reaction seems to remind visitors of their own reaction to their human “pups.”

I was astonished to learn that wolves are capable of compassion. McIntyre describes one adult male who went out of his way to play with a “nephew” cub that was a runt with a limp hind leg. In time the pup grew stronger and was then able to keep up with his siblings.

Blakeslee describes specific packs and even individual wolves. One alpha female was called ‘O Six’. She “had a knack for not getting caught and her moxie made her one of McIntyre’s favorites.” She was an outstanding hunter, making her an asset to her companions, including her sister. However, when her sister mated with an unrelated male, that sister would become the alpha female of her own pack, and O Six would have to defer to her in every regard.

Instead, O Six went off alone, probably looking for a mate to start her own pack. She was seen pulling down bear and elk many times her size and weight. She was quick, intelligent, and cunning, becoming a star amongst visitors in Yellowstone. When a hunter eventually killed her, her death made big news across the country.

Though very intelligent, O Six had no way of understanding she had left the relative safety of Yellowstone when she crossed out of the park. Outside, hunters were mostly free to kill her if they could. Ranchers naturally hated wolves that found their cattle easy prey and their calves good food and easy to kill.

I found this a lively, riveting, and informative book about wolves and other wildlife, and am planning a trip (with binoculars) to Yellowstone.

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

Note: Many members of the LWVS-KC League attended the State Convention, June 7-9 in Tacoma. Here are a few of their recollections.

**Lea Galanter**—This was my first LWV convention and it was a whirlwind of activities, both fun and formal! I took the opportunity to sit at a different table in the main hall whenever possible in order to meet new people—I’m glad I did. I had the opportunity to share ideas with members from other units and talked with people from around the state I otherwise might never have had the chance to meet. There were so many wonderful and inspiring speakers, from our own Secretary of State Kim Wyman and Washington Supreme Court Judge Sheryl Gordon McCloud (we’re both New Yorkers and immediately bonded) to Tacoma Mayor Victoria Woodards (whose love for her city is palpable) and Rob Curley, editor of the Spokesman-Review, who kept us in stitches and brought with him a brilliant idea for collaborating. Getting a chance to meet Chris Carson, president of the LWV-US, and have her sit in on my first board meeting was another highlight. And even though extra caucuses kept me up when I should have been heading to bed, this was where I had some of the most interesting and fruitful discussions. I came away with a multitude of ideas for the future.

**Roslyn Duffy**—The puzzle pieces of how the various League levels work started to fall into place for me. I felt energized, inspired, and challenged and that I had truly “found my tribe.” One important insight was that we need to define tasks well and make them manageable. People want bites they can swallow.

My favorite takeaway quote came from Kathy Sakahara when asked how to respond to those who question the League’s nonpartisanship: “We’re nonpartisan. We haven’t changed. We don’t agree with one political party more than the other. However, one political party may agree with us more than the other; now. But it’s not always been that way.”
Mary Ehlers—The most inspiring thing for me at the LWVWA convention was the presentation by Rob Curley, editor-in-chief of the Spokane Spokesman-Review. His accomplishments and career path are fascinating. The creative ways he has found to engage the public was thought provoking. His invitation for the LWVWA to find a way to join with him to increase the interest and participation in voter forums on candidates was intriguing and I hope we find a way to join forces.

On another note, I realized that while we are moving forward to reach out to others to engage them with the League through MELD [Membership Engagement Leadership Development] actions and other things, we have a built in barrier in getting their participation because of our cost structure. I wondered why participation in all the League’s activities should not be free to anyone who wants to participate and how that might be accomplished.

Joan Lawson—What’s not to love about my first state League convention? Interesting, informed women. Talks by Secretary of State, Supreme Court Justice, editor of the Spokesman-Review (where I worked). Commemoration and reminders of women who came before us struggling for the vote and women’s rights. Be proud to belong to the League, pay your dues in full (includes state and national dues), and plan to attend next time.
Unit Meetings

Most units do not meet during the summer, however, the First Hill and North King County units will meet as follows:

First Hill
Monday, August 19 at 10:30 a.m.
Horizon House Forum & Social Room
900 University St, Seattle

North King County
Tuesday, August 27 at 7:00 p.m.
Third Place Commons, Stadler Mtg. Room
17171 Bothell Way NE, Lake Forest Park

If you have any questions about a unit, please contact the unit leader. Members can attend any unit that is convenient. Ask to be added to the unit email list if you want to receive regular alerts about meetings, etc.

BALLARD/MAGNOLIA/QUEEN ANNE DAY
Kerry Peterson

BELLEVUE/KIRKLAND/REDMOND
Day and Evening Units
Cathy O'Shea
coshea120@gmail.com, 425-753-4182

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UNIVERSITY HOUSE/WALLINGFORD
Janet Kime
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WEST SEATTLE
Ethel Williams & Pat Lane
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pgblain11@gmail.com, 206-932-1578
# Board & Committee Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Executive Committee</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019-21</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Alyssa Weed</td>
<td>206-329-4848 <a href="mailto:president@seattlelwv.org">president@seattlelwv.org</a></td>
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<td>425-753-4182 <a href="mailto:treasurer@seattlelwv.org">treasurer@seattlelwv.org</a></td>
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<td><strong>Directors</strong></td>
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<td>2018-20</td>
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<td>206-329-4848 <a href="mailto:melissataylor.lwskc@gmail.com">melissataylor.lwskc@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td><strong>Note:</strong> All board members listed above are also members of the Education Fund Board.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Education Fund Officers - same as above except Treasurer</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Treasurer open 206-329-4848 <a href="mailto:eftreasurer@seattlelwv.org">eftreasurer@seattlelwv.org</a></td>
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<th>Term</th>
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<tr>
<td>2019-20</td>
<td>Chair Stephanie Cirkovich 206-329-4848</td>
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<td>2019-20</td>
<td>Linnea Hirst 206-329-4848 <a href="mailto:lwvquilter@comcast.net">lwvquilter@comcast.net</a></td>
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<td>2019-20</td>
<td>Kathy Pugh 206-329-4848 <a href="mailto:ckp1966@comcast.net">ckp1966@comcast.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>Term</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Voter Editor Amanda Clark 206-236-0517 <a href="mailto:votereditor@seattlelwv.org">votereditor@seattlelwv.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>Term</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Communications Kristen Johnson</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Economics &amp; Taxation Nora Leech <a href="mailto:nleeh2002@yahoo.com">nleeh2002@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Education Joanna Cullen <a href="mailto:jfoxcullen@gmail.com">jfoxcullen@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Homelessness Study Christy Wood <a href="mailto:christywood@hotmail.com">christywood@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<td>International Relations Kim Peterson 206-789-7447</td>
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<td>Observer Corps Cathy O’Shea 425-753-4182 <a href="mailto:coshea120@gmail.com">coshea120@gmail.com</a></td>
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LWV SEATTLE-KING COUNTY:
Get Ready for the August 6 Primary!

CHECK THE CALENDAR/WEBSITE
FOR CANDIDATE FORUMS IN YOUR AREA!