Win Some and Lose Some: Assessing the Election and Where We Go from Here

by Katie Dudley, Voter Editor

On November 8th, those of us who hadn't turned in our ballots rushed to do so, and expected the nation to vote one way, but on the morning of November 9th, we found that our nation had taken a different stance. Our expectations for the next four years have been modified, and we need to think hard about how we want to act and what we need to do to make sure that we can make American democracy continue to work for us.

It is of paramount importance that we continue our nonpartisan work of conducting studies, educating voters, and providing information to the public for things we consider important not only to the lives of people in King County and Washington State, but to the lives of all Americans.

On a national level, we will need to continue the fights that we have started and channel our energy to ensure that the things we have fought for and won continue. That means continuing our work in making sure that democracy works for everyone, and not just a few - it means working to make voting accessible for all people who should be eligible and working to remove arbitrary restrictions and hurdles that many jurisdictions place upon their voters and residents in regard to voting rights. As League members, this means understanding what the requirements to voting are and helping the public with the specifics.

It means continuing the fight to get big money out of politics and our exploration of the avenues to constitutional amendments, and a reexamination of corporate personhood, ensuring that Citizens United ultimately becomes a thing of the past.

In Washington State and the rest of the country, an issue of paramount importance, as the world continues to heat up, is global warming. How can we hold ourselves and our nation accountable for this? How can we work to slow, negate, or prevent the activities that are leading to the warming of our planet? Washington State saw the rejection of Initiative Measure 732, which would have imposed a carbon tax on certain fossil fuel emissions and fossil fuel-generated electricity. While the League supported this measure, it failed to succeed in the hands of voters. In the coming months and years, the effort to reduce carbon emissions will need to continue, as a way to preserve our state and our planet, and to keep our region healthy.

The League did not take a position on Proposition 1, which is popularly known as Sound Transit 3, in part because this required consensus among the three League regions that Proposition 1 would impact (Pierce, King, and Snohomish Counties). Nevertheless, Proposition 1 passed successfully, which will create interesting opportunities for transit, travel, and regional growth in the coming decades.

Although Seattle voters passed a successful measure in 2015 as an attempt to get big money out of politics and provide vouchers that voters can give to candidates, this fall’s similar statewide attempt to pass a similar measure was not successful. Continuing the work to get big money out of politics will be a sustained effort.

When it came to protecting partners, families, and friends from gun violence at the hands...
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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

As I write this, I am still in a state of shock and grief at the results of the presidential election. I realize of course that I am being partisan, but my biggest disappointment is that after so many years, and so many hopes, we have such a long way still to go before we elect a woman president. Not only do I grieve at our failure to elect a woman president, I’m unhappy that the president-elect has promised so many government changes that run counter to League positions.

A silver lining, perhaps, is that the Seattle-King County League has gained 15 members in just the one week following the election. Many of these new members are interested in taking some sort of action. So, what can we do?

First, remember the last part of our mission statement: “The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County . . . works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influence public policy through education and advocacy.” (Emphasis mine.)

The League, at the national, state, and local levels, has developed myriad positions based on careful research and study. I suggest that one of the first things to do is re-acquaint yourself with these positions. Is there an issue that you feel especially strongly about? Do we have a position on it? If so, you can probably find like-minded people to work with you to do your best to influence public policy. If these positions are at the national level, and many of them probably are, this is the time to encourage national to act.

As I stated at the beginning of this article, many of the new administration’s proposed changes in governmental policy and laws would undo policies that the League supports. You can find national’s public policy positions on its website, and there is a handy summary of them on the first few pages. Below are a few that I find worth pursuing. You are probably already aware of what changes are proposed or have already taken place, such as the gutting of the Voting Rights Act and the proposal to deport millions of illegal immigrants.

**Voting Rights:** Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.

**Election Process:** Selection of the President: Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct popular vote. Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. (I was very pleased to see this one.)

**International Relations:** Promote peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international organizations.

**Trade:** Support U.S. trade policies that reduce trade barriers, expand international trade and advance the achievement of humanitarian, environmental and social goals.

**Environmental Protections and Pollution Control:** Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment.

**Health Care:** Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents and controls health care costs.

**Immigration:** Promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises; and provide for student visas. Ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons. In transition to a reformed system, support provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the county to earn legal status.

And there are more.

So what can you do? Obviously, you can write and phone your members of Congress and encourage others to do the same—time after time. Keep the pressure on, and don’t stop.

Encourage national to publicize its positions—

*Continued on page 6*
## December

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Units meet on light shaded days; office closed on dark shaded days

### DECEMBER

**Where Do We Go From Here?**
Thursday, December 1
4:30 p.m.
Downstairs Town Hall Seattle

**Board Meeting**
Saturday, December 3
10:00 a.m.
League Office

**The Voter Deadline**
Monday, December 5

**Education Committee**
Thursday, December 8
11:00 a.m.
League Office

**Action Workshop**
Saturday, December 10
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Horizon House

**Transportation Committee**
Tuesday, December 13
10:00 a.m.
League Office

**Econ. & Tax. Committee**
Saturday, December 31
9:30 a.m.
909 E. Newton #D-9, Seattle

**Winter Weather Reminder!**

If Seattle Schools are delayed or closed, then the office will delay opening or be closed. Call the office or check the website for the status of forums or other events.

Check with offsite committee chairs and unit leaders to verify the status of those meetings.
Forum Schedule

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<td>Jan 5</td>
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<td>Issues on Aging</td>
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<td>Women’s Issues</td>
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<td>Apr 6</td>
<td>Juvenile Justice</td>
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<td>May 4</td>
<td>Gun Control &amp; Mental Health</td>
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The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County (LWVS-KC) presents a public forum most months between September and May, generally on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Most forums are held at the Seattle First Baptist Church, but occasionally they are scheduled at other locations and times. The tentative schedule of forums for 2015-6 appears at left; check the Voter each month or the LWVS-KC website, seattlelwv.org, for up-to-date information. Past forums are frequently televised and can be accessed from the resources page of the website.

Board Briefs by Katie Dudley on behalf of Zara Kublin, Secretary

The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County and Education Fund Boards met on November 5, 2016. This is a summary of their work.

The Board met to discuss the upcoming months and consider new business. Implementing a way to acknowledge donations, particularly as a way to assist our members for tax purposes, was the first short order of business. The Board also discussed the current financial status of the C4, with a review of Linda Snider’s monthly reports.

Pat Griffith described the Legislative Action Workshop set for December 10th at Horizon House (see announcement page 9).

Janet Winans provided her programming report - there is no forum in December, but there is an event on December 1. The Board also began discussion about next year’s program planning forum in January, and what early forum topics could be. Janet also told the board about the inception of a Social Justice Committee, which already had five potential members.

Becky Cox gave a membership report - invitations were sent to local area politicians to join the League of Women Voters, although at the time of the board meeting, few had replied. Drop notices had also been sent to non-paying members, but Becky and the Board both hope that unit members who may know some lapsed members would consider talking to them about renewing their memberships. The Board then discussed the idea of a formal welcome to new members.

President Amanda Clark and Voter Editor Katie Dudley explained a newly implemented Voter submission deadline: the second Monday after the board meeting. The difference is that this is a very hard deadline, whereas the prior deadline, the first Monday after the board meeting (less than two days), was more flexible. The Board also discussed collaborative authoring by using such platforms as Google Docs.

The State Convention was an important topic of conversation, and the board is narrowing in on

Continued on next page
a venue, hopefully in or near downtown Seattle so that attendees who don’t get many chances to come to the city can enjoy its features. Board members also discussed creating a field trip focusing on important regional issues in order to help engage attendees and prevent feeling captive at the venue. Topics were discussed and board members wanted to know how to unite the state and what would best engage attendees.

Ed Fund Treasurer Joanna Cullen gave her financial report. The Board also discussed the Seattle Times Giving Guide and the Seattle Times Advertorial, which needed to be complete by November 13. The board discussed cross checking if people who receive TRY solicitations do make donations. The Board also discussed the need for a committee to review the C3 books.

Stephanie Cirkovich gave a report on the Ballots and Baristas event held on November 1. Some of the locations had many attendees, and other locations did not have quite as many. President Amanda Clark’s Mercer Island Starbucks location had several teen attendees. The Board also discussed the structure of similar future events, and whether we can do outreach through OneAmerica and what the sweet spot is as far as event timing is concerned.

The December 1st event was discussed and honed by boardmembers. Any food options needed to be decided upon shortly, and volunteers were needed to help set up, take down, and check in the attendees. Also discussed was the structure of the event.

Finally, the Board discussed the upcoming Spring gala, which we have been planning for now for a few months. Volunteers are needed to be on the steering committee and a chair or co-chair is needed. A speaker is also needed, and entertainment was also discussed.

time after time—and to keep the pressure on Congress.

Attend the Legislative Action Workshop on December 10 to learn how to more effectively lobby members of the legislature.

Look for local opportunities to address or study these issues. For example, like other mayors around the nation, Mayor Murray has said that Seattle will remain a “sanctuary city” for illegal immigrants. What exactly does this mean? Would it be effective? Is studying this something you want to do?

You get the idea. I hope that, by the time you read this, you want to get involved. A new Social Justice committee has been formed to address local problems. If there isn’t a committee that addresses your interest, form one. There are probably many members with the same interests.

But no matter what happened in this election, we have been moving forward with all our plans. The Ballots and Baristas evening with Starbucks really helped our visibility. We developed ideas for making it even more successful next time. I hope you have registered to attend the post-election program with David Domke on December 1. It should be both interesting and entertaining. The Action Workshop can get your juices flowing. Finally, remember that January is Program Planning time - here will be more information in the January Voter, but it’s never too early to start thinking about what programs you would like to see presented and what you would like to see national focus on.

And we’re moving into the holiday season. I hope you all have time to entertain and be entertained, to enjoy the company of family and friends, and to bask in the warmth and good cheer the season always brings. I wish you the happiest of holidays.

Amanda Clark
President
Committees

**Economics and Taxation Committee**
DATE: Saturday, December 31
TIME: 9:30 a.m.
PLACE: 909 E. Newton #D-9, Seattle

**Education Committee**
DATE: Thursday, December 8
TIME: 11:00 a.m.
PLACE: League Office

**International Relations Committee**
DATE:
TIME: 12:45 – 2:45 p.m.
PLACE: League Office

No meeting this month; January meeting on January 9.

**Transportation Committee**
DATE: Tuesday, December 13
TIME: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
PLACE: League Office

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.

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**Diversity Policy**

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

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

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

**Great Decisions 2017**  
*Meetings Start February 7th*

The 2017 Great Decisions topics are as “right now” as we’ve ever seen them. Take a look at the descriptions on page 14 to whet your appetite.

Logistics: We will meet at Vicky Downs’ house on Capitol Hill, 909 E Newton Street, Unit D-9. You are welcome to bring friends. The number 49 bus stops ½ block away on 10th Ave E. Meetings will be Tuesdays at 7:15 p.m. for coffee and cookies and 7:30 p.m. for discussion. The first meeting is on February 7th and will be every two weeks through May: Feb 7 and 21; March 7 and 21; April 4 and 18, May 2 and 16. For more information, call Rosalie McCreary at 206-687-7415.

**TRY 2017**

Updates for the 2017 edition of our annual They Represent You directory of elected officials are underway.

Members automatically receive a copy as soon as it’s ready (late January). If you would like additional copies for yourself or another organization that you work with, please contact the office and let us know so we can include that in our initial distribution.

**Where Do We Go From Here?**  
*A Post-Election Conversation with David Domke*

Thursday December 1, 2016  
4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
Program starts at 5:45 p.m.

Downstairs at Town Hall Seattle  
1119 Eighth Ave

Tickets: $25 online or $30 at the door.  
Cash/check preferred.  
No Host Bar and Light Hors d’Oeuvres
BE AN ADVOCATE FOR LWV!
COME TO THE LEGISLATIVE ACTION WORKSHOP

Date: Saturday, December 10
Time: 9:00 am Registration. Session starts at 9:30 am and lasts until 3:00 pm
Location: Horizon House Skyline Room, 900 University Street*
Cost: $25  (includes lunch and coffee)

Program: Funding Our Paramount Duty, with Sen. Christine Rolfes, 23rd Legislative District and member of the Education Funding Task Force; afternoon session with Rep. Gael Tarleton, 36th District, and newly elected Sen. Lisa Wellman, 41st District. Speed dating with members of the state lobby team.

LWV of Seattle-King County is hosting one of four Legislative Action Workshops across the state. Workshops will focus on how to be a better advocate, whether you make phone calls or email legislators or join the lobby team and testify on bills important to the League. Lobby team members track legislation on education, health care, the environment, gun safety, social and economic justice, revenue, and voting rights and will host roundtables on these issues for you to choose.

*Your feedback at the workshop will be a part of determining LWVWA’s legislative priorities!

Makeup of the 2017 state legislature has changed slightly with the recent election. Republicans still have a slight majority in the senate, and Democrats picked up one to two seats in the house.

THE issue this session is making a definitive plan to meet the Supreme Court’s McCleary decision to fully fund our K-12 schools. Until this happens the $100,000 a day contempt fine on the legislature will continue. State Education Chair Catherine Ahl will explain the ins and outs of the funding debacle. And we will hear from Sen. Christine Rolfes about funding options, including the state property tax, a capital gains tax, an income tax and eliminating tax exemptions the state has granted over the last twenty years.

You can register online at the state League website, www.lwvwa.org.

*Please register early as seating may be limited. Also we encourage you to take METRO or carpool. Parking at Horizon House is $12.50; $19.00 at Town Hall. METRO routes 2 and 13 stop a block away from Horizon House.

Questions? Please contact Pat Griffith (206) 285-2452.
Voter Service

Voter Service Report
by Allison Feher

Voter Registration & Outreach:
From Auburn and Enumclaw to Lake City and Shoreline, we covered the county this year with our voter registration and outreach efforts. We were able to provide voter registrars for all sorts of events, including farmer’s markets, speaking events, community fairs, forums, and even at the presidential debates shown at the Seattle Public Library.

Our First Hill Unit alone attended a dozen events throughout the summer and fall, assisting over 150 members of our community with voter registration, providing take-home registration forms, and offering to assist with questions about voter registration status. Apart from the above events, the First Hill unit team distributed large numbers of registration forms in various apartment buildings, had them included in Horizon House and other welcome packets, and placed them in various neighborhood mailrooms. Posters with information registering and other voting matters were put up in about 14 high-traffic locales.

A thank you to all volunteers who gave up a morning, afternoon or evening to help with this tireless work: Anne Anderson, Eleanor (Lundy) Fordyce, Nancy Robinson, Jean Carlson, Ingrid Lynch, Connie Wentzel, Jane Stevens, Nancy Jane Cope, Bob and Marcia Brown, Frank Little, Lisa Shuchman, Lynn Ludwig, Lydia Bork, Anne Dennis, Bridget Kruka, Kathy Pugh, Marlis Worthington, Ann Berberian, Babits Faires, Becky Thibodeaux, Candis Litsey, Christine Rossen, Dianne Ramsey, Cathy Dormaier, Glenda Carper, Hazel Thomas, Janet Dowd, Janet Orlando, Joshua Beach, Karen Adair, Kay Kite, Kiku Hayashi, Lynn Ludwig, Malinda Miller, Marcia Brown, Rachel Ben-Shmuel, Sharon Aller, Sharon Baker, Sherry Smith, Tonna Kutner, and Virginia Kimball.

An extra special thank you to Julie Sarkissian who organized the efforts around the county, Barbara Reid who coordinated and was one of three volunteers at weekly visits to the Downtown Seattle Emergency Service Center from June to October, and First Hill coordinator Connie Hellyer who wasn’t present at a meeting to accept a bouquet and the thanks of her unit but had this to say in an email:

“It was dear of you to honor me so publicly for doing what only gives me pleasure. Like many retirees, I feel compelled to do something, anything, to ‘earn my keep.’ I’m glad you acknowledged my companions, who pitched in, rain or shine, in the registration effort.

I’m well aware that there many others in LWV who work just as hard, in ways that are not so public. So hats off to us all!”

Voter registration isn’t just about getting people signed up, it’s also about helping them know what to expect, how our elections work and what resources are available to help them make their decision. An engaging volunteer opportunity with occasional free ice cream as a bonus!

Candidate Forums
This year, we partnered with the state League to hold forums for several of the statewide races. In addition, we held three forums about Prop. 1, the Sound Transit 3 measure, and a forum on some of the statewide ballot measures. Including the Mercer Island and North King County units who hosted candidate forums in their communities, that’s a total of nine forums; hundreds of hours of effort from dozens of volunteers. I don’t have all the names but would like to give special thanks to Mary Ehlers who did an amazing job coordinating the details and keeping everyone on track.
Speaker’s Bureau
This year’s traditional ballot measure presentations were limited due to a low number of volunteers. Julie Anne Kempf, Cyndi Woods and Allison Feher spoke to eight different groups about ballot issues. However, several volunteers also went out to talk to an assortment of groups over the course of the year about voting, the long fight for universal suffrage, League’s role and more. Thank you to Ellen Berg, Amanda Clark, Hilke Faber, Julie Anne Kempf, Adele Reynolds, Janet Winans, and Cyndi Woods. See the box below for an example of what one of these events is like.

We are always looking for more volunteers for all of our voter service activities. If this is something you are interested in for the coming year, please keep it in mind and contact the League office to get more particulars. We provide training for Speaker’s Bureau, voter registration, and moderating for candidate forums and other forums.

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Amanda Clark Speaks at Alpha Kappa Alpha ASCEND Program

On October 22 President Amanda Clark traveled to Covington to speak to students in the AKA ASCENDsm Program on the importance of voting, not just for President, but all the way down the ballot. She emphasized that voting in state and local elections can often have a much more direct impact on a person’s everyday life—and pocketbook—than national elections.

The AKA African-American sorority’s mission is to cultivate and encourage high scholastic and ethical standards, to promote unity and friendship among college women, to study and help alleviate problems concerning girls and women in order to improve their social stature, to maintain a progressive interest in college life, and to be of “Service to All Mankind.”

As part of this mission, AKA developed the ASCENDsm program, designed to motivate, engage, and assist high school students in reaching their maximum potential. ASCENDsm focuses on Achievement, Self-Awareness, Communication, Engagement, Networking, and Developmental Skills. Locally, the program meets once a month, each session focusing on various topics, usually including one civics lesson. The League has also been invited to speak at the November session on how a bill becomes law.
On November 1, one week before Election Day, members of the Seattle-King County League hosted a coffee hour in partnership with Starbucks at six selected Starbucks stores around the county. The idea was to be available to talk about ballot issues with anyone interested who came by, and to promote a neighborly “sort of polling place” vibe.

Results were mixed, although many customers remarked about how much they appreciated the League. At most of the stores only a few people were interested, partly because they had already voted. One success story was at the Mercer Island location, where a large group of high school students, some of whom were eligible to vote, came to ask questions and get information.

At a post-mortem of the event, it was noted that more should have been done to publicize the event. We also thought that it might have been more successful if it had been held the weekend after the ballots dropped, as many people had already voted.

We have to thank Board member and Outreach Chair Stephanie Cirkovich for conceiving the idea and working with Starbucks to accomplish it. Starbucks was very enthusiastic, and said they hoped to take it national. We’ll do it again next year so please plan to join us and let us know if you want to host one in your neighborhood.

Note: The southeast King County unit held a similar event at a bookstore in Enumclaw and got excellent reviews!
Getting Connected Membership News

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Rita Requa joined the League because she wants more background on the initiatives we vote on. She would like to participate in the discussion of League's endorsements of issues.

Rita has been active professionally and politically. She says she used to doorbell, until she was bitten by a dog. These days, Rita wields her pen writing and lobbying for Sno-King School Retirees. She has served in many leadership roles including president of Washington State School Employees Association, Shoreline Education Association, Washington State Education Association Coordinating Council, and Washington State and King County Women's Political Caucus. Rita is a retired elementary school teacher who has been living in the area since 1966. At 82, Rita says she has limited stamina, but her intellectual curiosity is not stunted. She attends the League’s North King County Unit.

We’ve had a flood of new members this past couple of weeks and we look forward to introducing them in the next month or two.

IN MEMORIAM

Mae Shields

Mae was a 63 year member of League! We don’t have an obituary for her but we thought we’d share the bio that was printed when she became a “lifetime member.”

Mae was a member of the first Lake Washington East League, which originally met on Hunts Point. The League functioned as a temporary League for a year, and then received full credentials as an independent League, and adopted the name of Lake Washington East. Mae says she joined the League because she wanted to hear both sides of issues, presented in a fair and impartial way. Mae is originally from Hibbing, Minnesota. She graduated from the University of Minnesota and received an RNBS degree. Mae worked for a short time in public health nursing, but since this was during World War II, she decided to become an Army nurse. She was in the Army for two years.

When she left the Army, she became the head nurse on a neurological floor at the University Hospital at the University of Minnesota.

In 1947, Mae ventured out to Seattle where she met an aeronautical engineer, Edward Shields, who of course worked at Boeing. Edward and Mae were married and settled in Seattle. They were the parents of two children. Mae has been involved with several agencies concerned with public health and with the aging population. She served for nine years as a volunteer ombudsman with the Seattle/King County ombudsman program. She served those in nursing homes in King County. She was a president and vice president of Citizens for Improvement of Nursing Homes, was vice-president of the Puget Sound Council of Senior Citizens (now called the Alliance Of Retired Americans), was on the Advisory Council of the Seattle/King County Division of Aging, where she remained until April 2003, and was the Medicare representative for a regional medical program through the University of Washington. Her husband, Edward died in 1997.

Since she served as a nurse in WWII, a military funeral honors ceremony was held at Tahoma National Cemetery in mid-November. Unfortunately we did not get this information early enough to allow members to attend.

Dorothy Lobrano “Dotty” Guth

May 5, 1928 — November 5, 2016

Born in Albany, New York, Dotty grew up in Chappaqua, New York. Her mother’s family ran a travel bureau. Her father was fiction editor at the New Yorker Magazine and she grew up meeting prominent writers of that time in-
including Cheever, Salinger, Thurber and E.B. White. She graduated with an English degree from Smith College and started to work in the publishing field in New York City. She worked at William Morrow and later at the New Yorker Magazine as an editor. She had several items published in the New Yorker and edited the first edition of the Letters of E.B. White. She met and married Raymond Guth in New York City where she lived until she retired in 1994. Ray and Dotty built their dream house in Saunderstown, Rhode Island, and continued to live summers there and winters in Santa Rosa Beach in the Florida panhandle. They travelled widely. In 2007 they moved cross country to Horizon House to be closer to their daughter. Shortly thereafter, Dotty joined our local chapter of the League and was a frequent attendee at meetings, forums and events. She was involved in many committees. One of her passions was books and working on the Horizon House library committee. She was an officer at the Women’s University Club. A life-long learner, she also continued to study Italian, which she first started studying with colleagues at the New Yorker. She was grateful for the many deep friendships she and Ray made at Horizon House.

Features

Great Decisions 2017 Starts February 7th

The 2017 Great Decisions topics are as “right now” as we’ve ever seen them.

The Future of Europe, by Andrew Moravcsik

The outcome of the United Kingdom’s referendum on EU membership, popularly referred to as Brexit, sent shockwaves across the globe. It even caught British voters by surprise. The European Union has helped secure peace in Europe over the past 70 years, but now it faces an uncertain future. Amid a refugee crisis, lingering financial recession and the constant specter of terrorism, unity seems more imperative than ever. But the Brexit vote underscores the complexities of integrating an extremely and increasingly diverse continent. What will post-Brexit Europe look like, and how can U.S. foreign policy adapt?

Trade and Politics, by Jeremy Haft

The U.S. political mood toward trade has gone sour. One need look no further than the 2016 presidential contest for the popular narrative: trade means that China wins, at America’s expense. But do the numbers support that conclusion? The metrics used to gauge economic strength – Gross Domestic Product and balance of trade – have not kept up with the realities of modern manufacturing. Obtaining an accurate picture of U.S. economic stature requires a critique of those numbers. Only then can the U.S. develop appropriate policy solutions for the challenges at hand.

Conflict in the South China Sea, by Bernard D. Cole

The South China Sea is a locus of competing territorial claims, and China is its most vocal claimant. Beijing’s interest has intensified disputes with other countries in the region in recent years, especially since China has increased its naval presence. Despite rising international pressure, including an unfavorable ruling by the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, China staunchly defends its policies in the region. Preventing tensions from boiling over is a matter of careful diplomacy.

Saudi Arabia in Transition, by Lawrence G. Potter

As Saudi Arabia struggles to adjust to the drastic decline in oil revenue, Deputy Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman attempts to boldly
transform the country and shift more power to the younger generation. At the same time, many countries such as the U.S. point out the lack of democracy, women's rights and human rights in Saudi Arabia, and blame its promotion of Wahhabism, an extremely conservative version of Islam, for creating jihadists. Bipartisan criticism of Saudi Arabia is rising in Congress. Both countries need each other, but they are at a crossroads in bilateral relations.

**U.S. Foreign Policy and Petroleum, by Jonathan Chanis**

What is the effect of U.S. petroleum security on foreign policy? For 45 years, the country has alternated between periods of energy security and insecurity, sometimes able to wield petroleum as a useful instrument of foreign policy, sometimes not. Despite the so-called “energy revolution,” the U.S. today is by no means disentangled from foreign dependence and global trends. In order to be successful, policy makers must recognize both petroleum security circumstances and patterns in the relationship between petroleum and foreign policy.

**Latin America's Political Pendulum, by Michael Shifter and Bruno Binetti**

The pendulum of Latin American politics is swinging rightward once again. Yet as the “Pink Tide” recedes, the forces of change have more to do with socio-economics than ideology. Dramatic economic and political crises have coincided in countries like Brazil and Venezuela. Still, the final result for Latin America may be the emergence of centrist, pragmatic modes of governance, and with them, opportunities for the U.S. to improve relations. The new administration must look beyond the neoliberal model of the 1990s, and develop an approach to relations that is fit for the 21st century.

**Prospects for Afghanistan and Pakistan, by Austin Long**

Major internal conflict has plagued Afghanistan for four decades. The U.S., for its part, has conducted military operations in the country nearly continuously since 9/11. Today, war with the Taliban persists, and the tensions between the U.S. and Pakistan have gradually increased. As his time in office drew to a close, President Obama limited further withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan. The incoming administration has a choice: will it maintain the status quo, completely reverse the Obama administration drawdown or withdraw completely? Does the U.S. face a no-win situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan?

**Nuclear Security, by Todd Stephen Sechser**

Nuclear nonproliferation was a top priority for the Obama administration. While the Iran Deal was a diplomatic victory toward this end, major threats persist from both state and non-state actors. Countries like North Korea, Russia, and India and Pakistan continue to challenge nonproliferation efforts. The possibility that terrorists will carry out and attack using a “dirty bomb,” made from captured nuclear materials, looks increasingly real. In a fractious world, which way forward for U.S. nuclear security policy?

Discussion of these topics will be guided by the Great Decisions briefing book, $25 plus shipping. Order from the Foreign Policy Association (fpa.org), 1-800-477-5836 – or just Google Great Decisions. Learn more about the Foreign Policy Association on its website.

Logistics: We will meet at Vicky Downs’ house on Capitol Hill, 909 E Newton Street, Unit D9. You are welcome to bring friends. The number 49 bus stops ½ block away on 10th Ave E. Meetings will be Tuesdays at 7:15 p.m. for coffee and cookies and 7:30 for discussion. The first meeting is on February 7th and will be every two weeks through May: Feb 7 and 21; March 7 and 21; April 4 and 18; May 2 and 16. For more information, call Rosalie McCreary at 206-687-7415.
The Transportation Committee served as the Social Justice Committee in October to brainstorm how best to prepare for the November 3rd forum on the housing crisis. Because it is such a multifaceted issue, we chose to call the forum “Imagine Abundant Housing.”

The speakers we chose provided four different perspectives about what seems to be an ever-elaborating issue: Timothy Harris has been working with homeless people and the life crisis issues they face while providing them with the job of selling Real Change, the weekly newspaper often sold outside of grocery stores. The Real Change editorial staff provides focus on and advocacy for constructive solutions to the causes of homelessness in Seattle. Sharon Lee is the director of the Low Income Housing Institute and a long term leader of efforts to both house and provide essential services to people vulnerable to homelessness – “transitional housing.” City Council Member Lisa Herbold is central in the Council negotiations about how the city can best distribute essential resources using current law, considering new legislation and the budget negotiations for the 2017 city budget. Steve Walker is Director of City Department of Housing and leads the city’s housing policy. Somewhere in all this, there is the voter-approved Seattle Housing Levy funding. We wanted to have a conversation between these people to better understand how it all interacts. Cary Moon served as moderator. Members of the audience asked very pertinent questions.

As stated on the cover of November’s Voter, we need a volunteer to lead the effort to get it going; the 3rd Tuesday transportation meetings will serve as the meeting time for the next month or two.

Please contact the members of the board if you are interested in joining the social justice committee. Please also contact the board to let them know whether we should maintain the Transportation Committee. Both issues are ongoing but we need more dedicated and interested committee members to handle the demands that both subjects pose.

With that, please consider attending our December 1st event downstairs at Town Hall, for a post-election conversation with Dr. David Domke about what this year’s election means and what’s in store for the future. Tickets are $25 ahead of time; $30 at the door. We hope to see you there.
BOOK REVIEW by Vicky Downs

THE GOD STRATEGY: HOW RELIGION BECAME A POLITICAL
WEAPON IN AMERICA  By David Domke & Kevin Coe

This intriguing book was published in 2008 and updated in 2010. It tells us “God has always been a part of American politics,” but for much of our history citizens of many faiths agreed with John F. Kennedy when he said, “I believe in an America where the separation of church and state is absolute…”

The authors describe significant changes arriving with Ronald Reagan in 1980 through Bill Clinton and George W. Bush to the candidates in the 2008 presidential elections, as politicians used religion as a political weapon. There are helpful charts revealing specific religious words and ideas that appear more and more frequently in Inaugural and other speeches.

“Theology and ideology have periodically formed a powerful nexus,” such as the movement to abolish slavery, the Social Gospel activism of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Prohibition, Cold War fears of ‘godless communism’, and the Civil Rights movement. Since Reagan, this religious heritage has been “increasingly used for partisan purposes.”

Politicians needed to appeal and respond to an ever more diverse nation, and the Republicans in particular, but the Democrats also “responded with the God Strategy, a mixture of voice and agenda,” by showing sympathy for particular religious views on such issues as abortion or help for the homeless.

“At the heart of the God strategy” there have been four clear signals. The first is politicians “acting as political priests by speaking in the language of the faithful.” Invoking God (or Christ, Creator, Providence, etc.) “is the most explicit type of religious communication…a U.S. president can use.” After Pearl Harbor, “FDR spoke to the nation once and invoked God one time.”

After “the 2001 terrorist attacks, Bush addressed the nation three times and invoked God more than 20 times in three speeches.

Another signal of the God Strategy is “Fusing God and country,” Ronald Reagan announced his presidential candidacy by using words from Jesus's Sermon on the Mount and John Winthrop’s city-on-a-hill metaphor. In Reagan’s view, “the United States was still God’s country, still the ordained leader of the free world.” Reagan brought the God Strategy to the American people, and they loved it.

“Offering acts of communion by embracing iconic religious elements” is a third signal. When Bill Clinton, a staunch Southern Baptist visited Catholic Notre Dame, columnists said it ’wasn't friendly turf.’ But Clinton recalled his own education in a Catholic elementary school and later at Georgetown, saying he was ‘deeply drawn to the Catholic Social Mission.’ “He was saying ‘I’m one of you’ and it helped legitimate Clinton among religious Americans of all faiths.”

A final signal “[is engaging] in morality politics by trumpeting bellwether issues” such as school prayer, abortion, research on stem cells, the Equal Rights Amendment and gay and lesbian relations, which can be brought up to show that the GOP is on the right and moral side.

This book shows how profoundly the religious character of America can be used to change elections.

I look forward to an update to show how the God Strategy worked - or didn’t - in the 2016 election.

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

(Units times and locations subject to change; please verify with unit leader.)

Meetings are open to all.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit Leader email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, December 5</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SOUTH SEATTLE</strong> - Marian Wolfe and Vivian Montoya</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:hedgwolfe@aol.com">hedgwolfe@aol.com</a></td>
<td>206-763-9430</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Third Place Books - downstairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:montoyaviv@gmail.com">montoyaviv@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>206-695-2620</td>
<td></td>
<td>5041 Wilson Ave. S, Seattle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday, December 10</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BALLARD/MAGNOLIA/QUEEN ANNE DAY</strong> - Alice Peterson</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:peterson-alice-jack@msn.com">peterson-alice-jack@msn.com</a></td>
<td>206-524-5530</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Hostess: Wendie Berge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3100 W. Commodore Way # 306</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>206.283.1190</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Cookie exchange</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, December 12</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FIRST HILL</strong> - Adele Reynolds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:adelereynolds@netscape.net">adelereynolds@netscape.net</a></td>
<td>206-621-4867</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Horizon House, Forum &amp; Social Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>900 University St., Seattle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Special Lunch meeting for**

**WEST SEATTLE** - Ethel Williams & Pat Lane
etheljw@comcast.net, 206-932-7887
plain11@juno.com, 206-932-1578
Contact unit leader for date and time.

*The following units will NOT be meeting in December:*

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

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

**MERCER ISLAND** - Paneen Davidson
paneenie@gmail.com, 206-466-2023

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

**NORTHEAST SEATTLE** – Gail Winberg
winbergeng@Q.com, 206-524-7801

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

**SOUTHWEST KING COUNTY** – Kathy Jorgensen
kjorgensen@juno.com, 253-859-8349

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

**As of printing we did not hear from the following; please check with the unit leader:**

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

**NORTH KING COUNTY** – Judy Deiro
judy.deiro@gmail.com, 425-774-1492

**QUEEN ANNE/MAGNOLIA/BALLARD EVENING** – Kathy Pugh, Laraine Volkman & Marlis Worthington
ckp1966@comcast.net, 503-580-1240
marliswrt@hotmail.com, 206-283-7147
laraine.volkman@att.net, 206-
## Board & Committee Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Executive Committee</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015-17</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Amanda Clark</td>
<td>206-329-4848</td>
<td><a href="mailto:president@seattlelwv.org">president@seattlelwv.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-18</td>
<td>1st VP</td>
<td>Pat Griffith</td>
<td>206-285-2452</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pgseattle@q.com">pgseattle@q.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-17</td>
<td>2nd VP</td>
<td>Janet Winans</td>
<td>206-550-6483</td>
<td><a href="mailto:janetwinans@earthlink.net">janetwinans@earthlink.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Zara Kublin</td>
<td>206-329-4848</td>
<td><a href="mailto:zkublin@hotmail.com">zkublin@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Linda Snider</td>
<td>206-329-4848</td>
<td><a href="mailto:treasurer@seattlelwv.org">treasurer@seattlelwv.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Directors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-18</td>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Robin Brown</td>
<td>206-329-4848</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bvlbrown@gmail.com">bvlbrown@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-18</td>
<td>Public Relations</td>
<td>Stephanie Cirkovich</td>
<td>206-329-4848</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cirkovich@gmail.com">cirkovich@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-18</td>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>Becky Cox</td>
<td>206-329-4848</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cgcox@nwlink.com">cgcox@nwlink.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-18</td>
<td>Program</td>
<td>Abigail Doerr</td>
<td>206-329-4848</td>
<td><a href="mailto:abigail.doerr@gmail.com">abigail.doerr@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-17</td>
<td>Voter Editor</td>
<td>Katie Dudley</td>
<td>206-329-4848</td>
<td><a href="mailto:votereditor@seattlelwv.org">votereditor@seattlelwv.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td>Development</td>
<td>Kiku Hayashi</td>
<td>206-329-4848</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kikuhayashi1@gmail.com">kikuhayashi1@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-18</td>
<td>Asst. Treasurer</td>
<td>Gaby Metzger</td>
<td>206-329-4848</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gabymetz@comcast.net">gabymetz@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
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</table>

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

### Education Fund Officers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Executive Committee</th>
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<td><a href="mailto:president@seattlelwv.org">president@seattlelwv.org</a></td>
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<td>2016-18</td>
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<td>Pat Griffith</td>
<td>206-285-2452</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pgseattle@q.com">pgseattle@q.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>2015-17</td>
<td>2nd VP</td>
<td>Janet Winans</td>
<td>206-550-6483</td>
<td><a href="mailto:janetwinans@earthlink.net">janetwinans@earthlink.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Zara Kublin</td>
<td>206-329-4848</td>
<td><a href="mailto:zkublin@hotmail.com">zkublin@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Joanna Cullen</td>
<td>206-329-4848</td>
<td><a href="mailto:eftreasurer@seattlelwv.org">eftreasurer@seattlelwv.org</a></td>
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### Nominating Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Executive Committee</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Nancy Eitreim</td>
<td>206-329-4848</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nancyeitreim@gmail.com">nancyeitreim@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td></td>
<td>Paneen Davidson</td>
<td>206-329-4848</td>
<td><a href="mailto:paneenie@gmail.com">paneenie@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td></td>
<td>Judy Love</td>
<td>206-329-4848</td>
<td><a href="mailto:judystevel@gmail.com">judystevel@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

### Off Board Positions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Executive Committee</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Campaign Finance</td>
<td>Jean Carlson</td>
<td>206-774-6649</td>
<td><a href="mailto:carlson.jean@gmail.com">carlson.jean@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIS Coordinator</td>
<td>Cynthia Howe</td>
<td>206-236-0593</td>
<td><a href="mailto:howe.john@comcast.net">howe.john@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Committees

- **Economics & Taxation**: Nora Leech | nleech2002@yahoo.com
- **Education**: Joanna Cullen | jfoxcullen@gmail.com
- **International Relations**: Carol Goldenberg | carolsamgo1@gmail.com
- **Transportation**: Janet Winans | janetwinans@earthlink.net
- **Waterfront**: Nancy & Charles Bagley | candnbagley@comcast.net
LWV SEATTLE-KING COUNTY:

Where Do We Go From Here?
A post-election conversation

December 1
4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Program at 5:45
Downstairs at Town Hall Seattle
1119 Eighth Ave

Tickets $25 in advance,
$30 at the door.

Speaker: David Domke

LWVWA Action Workshop

December 10
9:30 to 3:00 p.m.
Horizon House
900 University St, Seattle

Cost $25
Includes lunch.

Get ready to lobby the legislature.