The quest for a “more perfect” electoral process to assure “government of the people, by the people, for the people” is as old as the founding of our nation and remains a work in progress. Fast forward to January 2010, and the Supreme Court decision in the case of Citizens United v. the Federal Election Commission, which overturned longstanding precedent by prohibiting federal and state governments from placing limits on independent spending for political purposes by unions and corporations. Subsequent Supreme Court decisions have combined to allow special interests, wealthy contributors and wealthy candidates to spend unlimited amounts of money to dominate political discourse.

At its 2011 Convention, the League of Women Voters of Washington created a Citizens United Committee “to investigate how unlimited and undisclosed corporate financing is impacting WA state campaigns and legislation.” The committee met regularly that year and filed its report for distribution to local Leagues throughout the state in May 2012, in time to help guide our state’s delegation to the 2012 League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) national convention.

In the meantime, in March 2012 the League of Women Voters Seattle-King County, prompted by the results of its January program planning meetings, passed a resolution calling on LWVUS to “seek a remedy in whatever form is necessary.” The resolution was forwarded to LWVUS and placed on a website list together with similar advisories from other states. The June 2012 LWVUS Convention, recognizing the growing concerns of the delegates, including those representing Washington State, passed the following resolution:

We, the representatives of local and state Leagues assembled at the 2012 LWVUS Convention, call upon the LWVUS Board to advocate strongly for all appropriate, duly-considered measures which may include, but are not limited to, a constitutional amendment and which: are consistent with our current positions on campaign finance reform and individual liberties; allow Congress and the States to set reasonable regulations on campaign contributions and expenditures; and ensure that elections are determined by the voters.

At the same time, other organizations were gaining strength not only to advocate against Citizens United but to explore ways of assessing and alleviating its consequences. Our April 4 Campaign Finance Forum will inform us about some of the approaches to doing so at the state and national levels. On the local front, we will hear about the current effort to return public financing to the Seattle City Council elections. If the adage “may you live in interesting times” speaks to you, so will the advocates for Campaign Finance Reform on April 4.
Connecting with Judy

I am rereading Edith Hamilton’s *Mythology*. Early Greek creation myths depict only men on earth—NO WOMEN. A recent program on feminism reminded me of times I had forgotten and my daughter’s generation seems unaware of. In the 50’s and 60’s there might as well have been a sign NO WOMEN on many rights and opportunities from school sports and family planning to careers and elected offices.

An all-female cast of finalists for two new port commission jobs, as well as a female Secretary of State, reminds me of how far we have come. But our position is not secure. Many of the hard fought rights for women, the environment, and social justice are threatened. They are vulnerable to attacks by vocal extremists who lack any understanding of their importance; they need stewardship by those who do. While there are many more women in government than formerly, there has been some decline in some areas including our state legislature.

Women have more choices now in terms of career and family. I hope the choices include being an informed citizen, choosing socially-useful jobs, and raising responsible children. I also hope that a substantial number of young women will choose to be involved in elected politics. We need them to steward the rights essential in a Democracy. They need to be strong because there are many barriers to public involvement. Balancing home and family is still an issue for women and they may be reluctant to compromise their privacy or contend with the lack of civil discourse. The playing field may not be level; the power of incumbency can be a big issue and they may have had fewer opportunities that develop confidence.

There are many more paths to public office than in earlier times, whether through careers or organizations. But I believe that the League is still an excellent pathway. The League is a good place to develop and hone the knowledge and skills that can lead to a career in the public sector. It is an arena to gain knowledge of public issues, from education and taxation to campaign finance and climate change, and to develop group skill in listening to and garnering support for an idea. One can sharpen one’s skills and toughen one’s skin in skirmishes with those who disagree. The League offers experiences that can qualify one to take the next steps to school boards, city councils, ports, and state and national offices.

We have a history of Leaguers who have held public office. Phyllis Lamphere, Nancy Rust, Audrey Gruger, Lois North, Ruth Kagi, and Jean Godden are a few. I would like to see more young women follow in their footsteps. I would like to see them use the League of Women Voters as a pathway to public office where they can champion the causes of this era. This includes making sure that women’s hard fought rights are not eroded.

Please plan to attend the May 5 Spring Fling at the Mount Baker Community Club where you may get inspired.

Judy Bevington
President
## CALENDAR

### April/May

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<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>Spring into Action 3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>International Relations Committee 12:45 p.m.</td>
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(Units are meeting during shaded period)

### APRIL

**League Drinks**
- Thursday, April 4
- 6:00 p.m.
- Jimmy’s
- 1100 Broadway, Seattle

**Forum: Campaign Finance**
- Thursday, April 4
- 7:30 p.m.
- Seattle First Baptist Church
  - Briefing at 6:30 p.m.

**Voter deadline**
- Monday, April 8

**Economics & Taxation Committee**
- Saturday, April 6
- 9:00 a.m.
- 909 E Newton, #D9, Seattle

**Tree Study Committee**
- Monday, April 8
- 12:45 – 2:45 p.m.
- League Office

**Transportation Committee**
- Tuesday, April 16
- 10:00 a.m. – noon
- League Office

**Education Committee**
- Thursday, April 25
- 10:00 a.m. – noon
- League Office

**Tree Study Committee**
- Thursday, April 25
- 1:30 p.m.
- 900 University St., #701, Seattle

### MAY

**Board Meeting**
- Saturday, May 4
- 9:00 a.m. – noon
- League Office

**Spring into Action**
- Sunday, May 5
- 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
- Mt. Baker Comm. Club
- 2811 Mount Rainier Drive S

**Annual Meeting**
- Thursday, May 16
- 5:00 p.m.
- Seattle First Baptist Church
Forum Schedule

| January 10 | Action/Program Planning |
| February 7 | Reproductive Rights     |
| March 7    | Renewable Energy in WA  |
| April 4    | Campaign Finance Reform |
| May 2      | No Forum                |

The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County (LWVS-KC) generally presents a public forum each month (except December) between August and May, on the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. The expert speakers at each forum focus on a topic chosen by the Board with advice from the members. We also provide information on the topic in the Voter. Those topics are then discussed at unit meetings during the following weeks; unit meetings are open to all. See the list of units at the end of this Voter for a discussion in your neighborhood.

Most forums are held at the Seattle First Baptist Church, but occasionally they are scheduled at other locations and times. The schedule of forums for the first half of 2013 appears above - please note that there have been several changes to the schedule; check your Voter or the LWVS-KC website (seattlelwv.org) each month for up-to-date information. On May 5th we will be holding a special event, as well as our annual meeting on May 16, so there will be no forum.

Board Briefs by Joanna Cullen, Secretary

The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County Board met on Saturday, March 2, 2013. This is a summary of their work.

Judy Bevington reported that the meeting at Microsoft about exploring a grant for Voter Services went well and that there may be an opportunity for an Eastside forum. The LWVS-KC and State League will be following up.

Action and Program

M/S/C The Board approved a motion allowing the LWVWA Citizens United Committee Program Plan Packet to be added to the programs submitted to LWVWA by the LWVS-KC with edits that emphasized the support of campaign finance reform, addressed issues of the influence of money on democracy, and indicated that this is an update to the State League positions. The original wording had more emphasis on the influence of corporations and issues raised by the Citizens United Supreme Court decision. Board members noted that this better describes positions that can be studied at the state level.

Action Chair Ellen Barton reported that LWVS-KC is still trying to determine if we should concur with the Bellingham/Whatcom County League’s position on deep water ports in Puget Sound. Obstacles include getting to an understanding of the issues and insufficient volunteer time.

Janet Winans attended the Senate Government Operations Committee Meeting on February 5, 2013, and presented the League’s letter in support of SJM 8002 requesting an amendment to the United States Constitution to return the authority to regulate election campaign contributions to Congress and state legislatures.

Local Units

Local Unit Coordinator Lindsay Cummings reported that most local units are doing well. Some are growing and one is disbanding. She noted that it is helpful to have more Board presence at unit meetings, and generally most of the unit leaders feel well supported by the Board and the office. She was working on how to get more frequent updates about new members to the appropriate unit leader and noted that units...
welcome help with outreach strategy. Some of the units outside of Seattle had indicated that they would appreciate an occasional League forum in their areas.

Development

Development Chair Ginna Owens reported that there will be a Spring Fling event on May 5, 2013, at the Mount Baker Community Center. The program is still fluid.

Secure Medicine Return

Helen St. John, who has been representing LWVS-KC on the Secure Medicine Return Subcommittee of the King County Board of Health, updated the Board on the importance of programs that encourage and ensure the safe disposal of unused drugs, current activities, and obstacles to funding and creating robust programs. In light of the ongoing discussions regarding how much of this funding should come from manufacturers and how much from other sources, along with the logistics of implementing various programs, she asked if the LWV has positions that can support action on future proposals. The Board agreed that the League has a number of environmental and health positions that would allow us to take action.

Program

Program Chairs Karen Adair and Beatrice Crane reported that plans to conduct a discussion leader briefing for the State Energy Study and work on study materials for the April Voter were on schedule and that the program planning responses from January and February unit meetings had been compiled.

Voter Services

On behalf of the Voters Services Chairs, Office Manager Allison Feher reported that 50% of the copies of the TRY has been distributed. Hyperlinks are new this year in the online version. The League is currently recruiting interns to help with VOTE411.

Staffing Committee

President Bevington announced that she, Ellen Barton, Ginna Owens, Cyndi Woods, and Mary Jo Vigil will be exploring the future office staffing needs for the LWVS-KC.

Annual Meeting

Secretary Joanna Cullen reported that planning is underway for the May 16, 2013 Annual Meeting.

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.
Committees

**Economics and Taxation Committee**  
DATE: SATURDAY, APRIL 6  
TIME: 9:00 A.M.  
PLACE: 909 E NEWTON, #D9

**Education Committee**  
DATES: THURSDAY, APRIL 25  
TIME: 10:00 A.M. - NOON  
PLACE: LEAGUE OFFICE

Interested in public schools? This is an excellent time to join the committee as we are reorganizing and considering what we'd like to do next.

**International Relations Committee**  
DATE: MONDAY, APRIL 8  
TIME: 12:45 - 2:45 P.M.  
PLACE: LEAGUE OFFICE

We will be showing the documentary *Man Zou: Beijing to Shanghai*. Interested League members are invited to attend. *Man Zou* is an independently produced documentary (approx. 1.5 hours long) shot in China during the fall of 2008. The film records the experiences of four Americans who, along with a Chinese guide, tour China’s countryside on a 1,000-mile bicycle journey. Their travels provide an intimate and fascinating perspective on the sociological, economic, and environmental challenges facing China today.

**Transportation Committee**  
DATE: TUESDAY, APRIL 16  
TIME: 10:00 A.M. - NOON  
PLACE: LEAGUE OFFICE

Subject: Continuing FREIGHT 101
Speaker: Christine Wolf, Transportation Planner, Port of Seattle.

**Tree Study Committee**  
DATES: MONDAY, APRIL 8 & THURSDAY APRIL 25  
TIME: 1:30 P.M.  
PLACE: HORIZON HOUSE  
900 UNIVERSITY ST., #701, SEATTLE  
CHAIR: Nancy Rust, 206-621-4856

We encourage participation in our issue committees. Often there are excellent speakers who provide informative presentations.

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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.
THE VOTER APRIL 2013

King County Connects - Announcements

**MAKE AN IMPACT ON CLIMATE CHANGE WITH LWVUS CLIMATE ACTION TOOLKIT**

The LWVUS Climate Change Task Force is encouraging League members to take advantage of the Grassroots Action Priorities section of its Climate Action Toolkit to make an impact on greenhouse gas emission reduction through energy efficient buildings and renewable energy. The Toolkit includes detailed information about climate solutions. For more information, go to www.lwv.org.

**LEAGUERS IN THE NEWS!**

Former Seattle City Council member and long-time League member Phyllis Lamphere has an article in the February 24, 2013 issue of Crosscut explaining her views on why Seattle hasn’t had a woman mayor in a long time and offering some advice to today’s office seekers. As always, Phyllis has thought-provoking things to say. To read the article, go to www.crosscut.com.

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**FOUNTAIN SCULPTURE AT SEATTLE CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE BY GINNA OWENS**

On April 28, 1942, one quarter of Seattle’s Broadway High School student body failed to report to class. Instead, these 200 or so young Japanese Americans and their families were mandated to assemble at the Puyallup Fairgrounds for eventual transfer to inland internment camps for the duration of World War II.

In 1973, renowned artist George Tsutakawa, who was one of the scores of Japanese American students who passed through Broadway High’s classrooms between 1902 and 1942, honored Seattle Central Community College – before the internment, Broadway High School – with the sculpture entitled *Fountain*, to serve as a reminder of our Japanese American past. Currently *Fountain* has fallen into disrepair and the Tsutakawa Fountain Committee has created a long-term plan for its repair, ongoing maintenance, and operation. Re-dedication of *Fountain* is scheduled for next year.

To learn more: savescccfountain@gmail.com
Subject: Vote411 is Your One-Stop Shop for Nonpartisan Election Information.

I hope you are already familiar with Vote411, League’s online Voters Guide. National League has developed this fabulous website where you can learn pretty much everything you need to know about voting, including information about voter registration, upcoming elections, candidates running in your district and some of their positions, and much more. Vote411 is easy to use and full of great information.

We had a demonstration at our January forum. And now we’re looking for volunteers to help us populate the site with data specific to Seattle-King County. So what will be expected of volunteers? State League will provide training, lasting approximately a half day, which we’ll schedule before the close of candidate filings in May. The training will likely be planned for a Saturday in April.

We volunteers will decide the scope of our involvement, i.e., which elections to include and to what degree we will fill in data on the site. We will develop a few questions to ask the candidates and ensure the answers are correctly loaded on the site. We will decide which ballot measures to include with pro and con positions and then ensure they are properly loaded on the site.

And we’ll work to get the word out in the community about this fantastic resource.

If you have a home computer and are interested in joining us, please call the office at 206-329-4848. We’d love to have you!

Cyndi Woods, Voter Services Co-Chair

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**Volunteer Opportunity: Help Wanted**

**VOTE411.ORG**

**ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED**

Five of the Fire Districts in King County and the City of Milton have measures on the April 23rd ballot. These are generally funding measures to pay for fire protection services - for Milton, there is an annexation proposal to be included as part of East Pierce Fire and Rescue.

With the exception of the Milton annexation, all of these measures need at least 60% to pass. If you live in the Northshore (Kenmore/Lake Forest Park), Maple Valley, Woodinville, No. 40 (Spring Glen) or No. 44 (Black Diamond/Muckleshoot) Fire District, watch your mail for a ballot in early April. Then take the time to fill out and return your ballot - help make democracy work!

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**April Special Election!**

Five of the Fire Districts in King County and the City of Milton have measures on the April 23rd ballot. These are generally funding measures to pay for fire protection services - for Milton, there is an annexation proposal to be included as part of East Pierce Fire and Rescue.

With the exception of the Milton annexation, all of these measures need at least 60% to pass. If you live in the Northshore (Kenmore/Lake Forest Park), Maple Valley, Woodinville, No. 40 (Spring Glen) or No. 44 (Black Diamond/Muckleshoot) Fire District, watch your mail for a ballot in early April. Then take the time to fill out and return your ballot - help make democracy work!

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**Goodbye to Jet**

We are sad to report that our special office dog, Jet, has passed away. He has brought many smiles to us with his sweet and playful nature.

When not playing with his Kong toy, he was draped over his cozy bed near Allison’s desk. You can imagine how much Allison will miss her beloved companion.

We will all miss him.

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Jet
Join the League!

Members automatically receive the VOTER, either in print or electronically, for the latest updates on current studies and action, monthly forums, committee activities, voter registration, and other volunteer opportunities. In addition, members receive action alerts about legislation in Olympia and Washington, D.C., as well as publications from the state League.

League membership is open to men and women.

Name: ____________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________

City/State/Zip: _____________________________________

Phone: _____________ Email: _________________________

Dues and contributions:

☐ $60 one year individual membership
☐ $90 one year household membership
☐ $35 low or fixed income
☐ $25 student
☐ Enclosed is a contribution of $ __________

Please make your check payable to LWVS-KC and return with this form or go online to www.seattlelwv.org/membership.

Membership dues and contributions are not tax deductible; however, eligible tax deductible contributions may be made to the LWVS Education Fund.

Thank you for supporting the work of the LWV!

Please return this form to:
League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County
1620 18th Avenue, Suite 100
Seattle, WA  98122-7007

Celebrating 93 years of educating voters, improving elections, and making democracy work!
League of Women Voters
Spring into Action!

Reception Sunday, May 5 at 3-5 p.m.
Mount Baker Community Club
2811 Mount Rainier Drive S, Seattle

What happens at a League of Women Voters event? We educate, inform, connect and inspire. Bring your friends, family, neighbors and colleagues to learn more about our thriving group of actively engaged, community savvy members. Learn more about how the League is making a difference and, if you aren’t already active, consider joining our ambitious team of volunteers. Need more motivation? Established in 1920, The League is one of the nation’s most respected grassroots organizations and our mission is to make democracy work.

We hope to see you, and your friends, at the celebration!

Early registration runs from April 1 - April 22. The cost is $30. Call 206-329-4848 or go to our website, seattlelwv.org, for more information.
It’s amazing to discover just how complex the system is that moves cargo through our midst and causes what we need to be available, even when we don’t recognize that we use it. Trucks and roads and ports and warehouses are ubiquitous, of course. Nikolaus Barta, Corporate Counsel for American Fast Freight, Inc., (AFF) provided information at our February 19 meeting about another necessary business in the mix, one not easily seen. Freight forwarders provide the logistics that connects manufacturers of cargo to container to truck to dock to ship to dock to truck to distributor. In particular, Mr. Barta’s company moves cargo from the Port of Tacoma to Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. That cargo comes from many small businesses and manufacturers, none of which have enough cargo to fill an individual container. AFF organizes and allocates space in containers to those shippers, creating efficiencies that reduce cost.

AFF, like other freight forwarders, is “light asset based,” i.e., it does not own large capital investments aside from the distribution center and the infrastructure to maintain the necessary tracking of cargo. Instead it uses contract haulers and contract shippers to transport the cargo. An exception is AFF’s operation in Alaska, where it owns its warehouse with refrigeration facilities, trucks, and planes, because of the complex conditions it confronts to deliver the cargo, often to villages accessible only by air. The US military is AFF’s largest customer in Alaska. It moves not just supplies but also household goods to families moving to and from there. Hawaii consists of islands and Alaska is island-like because the only access to vital goods, food, and other resources is by water. The weather, of course, is important. Shipments leave for Alaska every Tuesday and Friday, and a day’s delay can have a serious impact.

AFF does not own its local trucks but those trucks and their drivers must meet all the requirements of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) and have proof of insurance. In that way, the insurance companies act as investigative and enforcement agencies. The FMCSA’s mandate is to reduce crashes, injuries, and fatalities involving large trucks and buses. It develops and enforces data driven regulation and partners with law enforcement, the motor carrier industry, safety groups, and organized labor. Mr. Barta said the FMCSA is the best thing he has
Getting Connected Membership News

TELLING THE LEAGUE STORY....ONE TALKING POINT AT A TIME

By Susan Jones, Membership Chair

Like any other membership organization, the League of Women Voters depends on growing and nurturing a solid base of dues paying members. You’ve all heard this before: how it is incumbent upon each of us to try to build that membership whenever we can by inviting friends and other guests to some of our events, distributing our popular TRY brochures throughout the community, and so on.

But there are some other, more subtle and even easier ways to promote the League and the benefits of membership on an ongoing basis. Take your email signature, for example. Most of us send a number of personal emails every day or week, usually with only our name at the bottom. If you explore the email application on your computer (Outlook or Apple Mail for example) you will find some options for customizing a signature or sign-off for your correspondence that you can use to reveal some small detail of what the LWV stands for. Even if below your name, you include no more of a signature than “Member, League of Women Voters---Making Democracy Work,” you are telling your contacts---your sphere of influence---that you are a League member and are part of that effort to make democracy work. That alone may precipitate an inquiry and thus an opportunity to explain more of what the League is up to.

Your email sign-off can be more expansive than this first example and can include a sentence about how the League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization whose members work to shape public policies through education and advocacy, for instance, or how we have been at it for nearly 100 years. There are a number of talking points you can glean from our own website and rephrase them in your own words, using color and font styles to draw attention to your message. And if you google, say, famous quotes on democracy or voting rights or transparency in government, you will uncover a wealth of material to incorporate. The choices are nearly endless so you may want to compose more than one custom signature; you can store multiple sign-offs and rotate them as you choose. Finally, you can even add a hyperlink to the “Join Us” information from the LWVS-KC website.

And that’s just your email correspondence. Some of the same principles of using one simple talking point at a time can be applied to other means of communication as well. I’ll talk about those possibilities in future articles. In the meantime, have fun customizing your own sign-off and talking points!

Susan Jones, Membership Chair
susan@monckjones.com  206-478-1617

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Dues payments raise only about 16% of what we need to support all the great activities we do here at League. So we really appreciate the help we get from members who chip in a little extra at renewal time. Thank you to M. Joan Brown, Pamela Eakes, Karin Engstrom, Russell Fosmire, Dorothy Guth, Margaret Hall, Marjorie Hawkes, Flora Belle Key, Dorris Martin, Jo-an Scott, Denise Smith and JoAnne Way who all made additional donations with their dues.

Donations to the Education Fund in response to our year-end appeal and to support the TRY Directory of Elected Officials continue to come in. Thank you all very much for all you’ve given!
NEW MEMBER

Joan O’Reilly, a Northwest native, has found a wealth of experience right in her own back yard. She is a Seal Sitter at Alki Beach and Lincoln Park in Seattle. The Marine Mammal Act provides for protection of baby seals that come up on the beach to rest. While yellow tape surrounds the pups, Joan and other volunteers are there to explain the program to beach walkers. Joan’s caring nature also led her to work with Vashon Island Domestic Violence Outreach Services. She is currently a volunteer at the Veterans’ Hospital. While working at Northwest Hospital Department of Nursing and Physician Education, Joan became concerned with how much pharmaceutical companies invest in influencing physicians.

Joan raised six children and is now babysitting a great-grandchild. She said, “I have known about the League for years, so when a friend invited me to attend the West Seattle Unit I readily accepted. I value the interaction with intelligent women and participating in actions on important issues.”

IN MEMORIAM

Jay Donald Ostrow passed away unexpectedly on January 9 at the age of 83 at home. Don and his wife Judy have been loyal League members for many years. A clinician, gastroenterologist, research scientist, veteran, family man, musician, nature lover, and traveler, Don was an unfailing optimist and unapologetic punster.

Don was born January 1, 1930, in NYC to Herman Ostrow and Anne Epstein. He was educated at Yale University, Harvard Medical School, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, and Boston City Hospital.

Don held many faculty positions at Harvard Medical School, Case-Western Reserve University, University of Pennsylvania, Northwestern University Medical School, and Albert-Ludwigs Universitat, Freiburg, Germany. He was awarded emeritus status by Northwestern in 1995. After retirement, he continued research and teaching opportunities at the University of Amsterdam and the University of Washington.

Don’s impact on the field of medicine is extensive. He served as Chief of the Gastroenterology section at Northwestern University and at two Veterans Administration Medical Centers. He was President of the American Association of the Study of Liver Diseases, and served on the editorial board for five journals and on many committees and review panels. He authored research articles, editorials and review articles, and book chapters. He remained academically active at the UW, organizing and teaching the Gastrointestinal Pathophysiology course until his death.

Don was all about service. He served two years in the Navy and six years in the Naval Reserve. He was involved with the Boy Scouts, the Audubon Society, the Sacred Music Chorale, St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church in Evanston, Illinois, and Christ Episcopal Church in Seattle, not just as a member but a leader. Don was deeply committed to Christ Church as a choir member, vestryman, and committee member, as he helped in outreach activities and did all he could to support parish life. He assisted in the production of the centennial video tape and DVD in 2003, while his wife Judy wrote the parish history. Both were awarded the Parish Cross in 2007 for their many contributions to parish life.

Don did a huge amount of traveling. He went to all seven continents. He could talk with anyone and would strike up a conversation with other passengers when traveling.

Don is survived by his wife of 57 years Judy, brother Stephen, children George, Bruce, and Margaret (Ostrow) Murray, a niece, and four grandchildren.
Kay Bullitt, a former Leaguer who recently joined us again, lent me this book “because it’s important.” I agree, and I also find it a wonderful follow-up after seeing the recent movie, *Lincoln*, with Daniel Day-Lewis.

The book shows how post Civil War decisions by the Supreme Court trod very narrow and meandering paths to interpret new laws. The thirteenth amendment to the constitution brought the end of slavery, and the fourteenth amendment bestowed equal protection under the law. However, cases were brought before the courts in such a way as to ensure that even Jim Crow laws were considered “lawful.”

How could this happen? The sad truth is that the vast majority of white Americans in the North liked the theoretical idea of equality, but was jolted by the thought of uneducated, inarticulate, and seemingly “unfit” blacks actually influencing elections and politics. In the South, many whites didn’t know how to survive without a servant laboring class to harvest cotton and clean their homes.

Plessy v. Ferguson is a famous case about Homer Plessy, a black man who bought a first class ticket for the train but was denied his seat. We learn that the railroad companies actually backed Plessy because they didn’t want to buy extra cars to segregate the races. However, the Supreme Court decided in 1896 that Louisiana’s “Separate Car Law,” providing cars for “Whites” and others for “Blacks,” did not violate the fourteenth amendment. It ruled that the law merely makes a legal distinction between races, much as we might have separate restrooms for men and women, or separate schools for young children and teenagers. The court went on to say that such separation “had no tendency to reestablish a state of involuntary servitude.”

The only justice who dissented in Plessy was John Marshall Harlan, who said, “our Constitution is colorblind” and “The law regards man as man, and takes no account of his color.”

Though this important case would have a profound impact on the nation, it was barely mentioned in the great newspapers of the time. Finally, it “was partially overruled in 1954 by *Brown v. Board of Education* [when] Chief Justice Earl Warren categorically rejected both the wording of the Plessy decision and the reasons behind it. ‘Separate but equal is inherently unequal,’ Warren wrote, at long last capitulating to the obvious.”

What this book makes clear is that the Supreme Court Justices are human beings living in a particular time and are imbued with the values of that time. My own father was partly named after Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, a legal scholar with an immense reputation. However, I now see that Justice Holmes also absorbed the major prejudices of his era, so his opinion on his first Supreme Court case “ingeniously evaded” the idea that the “African American electorate [in Alabama] had been disenfranchised.”

This book suggests that each Justice inevitably deals with the law and the people who come before the Court by looking at them through his or her particular lens. The Justices will not always see things in a similar way, and almost certainly they will not always see things as they will appear in the years to come.

The opinions in this review are personal and do not represent those of the LWV.
New Classes of Corporations: Benefit and Social Purpose Corporations
by Susan Sanders, LWVS-KC Southwest King County unit

Washington corporations are created under the laws of our state. By law, the mission of a corporation is to maximize shareholder profit, and the totality of a corporation’s activities must serve that single end. If a corporation fails to conduct itself in that manner, i.e., fails to fulfill its fiduciary duty, it may be held legally liable and face civil penalties.

By contrast, a benefit corporation is required to create a material positive impact on society and the environment by expanding its fiduciary duty to include consideration of non-financial interests when making decisions, and it must report on its overall social and environmental performance using recognized third party standards. A benefit corporation may choose to purchase products for its business at higher cost because it deems the product valuable for its sustainable or local manufacture. When a benefit corporation is sold, the directors may consider factors beyond maximizing shareholder value. A Wall Street Journal article uses Ben & Jerry’s Homemade, Inc. as an example: had benefit corporations been legal in Vermont in 2000, the corporation wouldn’t have been sold to the highest bidder.2

As of December 2012, California, Hawaii, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Vermont, and Virginia have passed benefit corporation legislation. Additionally, benefit corporation legislation has been introduced or is pending in roughly a dozen states. The day California’s benefit corporation status became law, Patagonia applied for the change, stating:

Benefit corporation legislation creates the legal framework to enable mission-driven companies like Patagonia to stay mission-driven through succession, capital raises and even changes in ownership by institutionalizing the values, culture, processes and high standards put in place by founding entrepreneurs.4

On March 30, 2012, Governor Christine Gregoire signed the Washington law creating social purpose corporations.5 Our social purpose corporation law specifies that every social purpose corporation must be organized to carry out its business purpose in a manner intended to promote the positive short-term or long-term effects or minimize the adverse short-term or long-term effects of the corporation’s activities upon any or all of (1) the corporation’s activities upon any or all of (1) the corporation’s employees, suppliers, or customers; (2) the local, state, national, or world community; or (3) the environment.

The corporation must state its social purpose(s) and produce an annual report to its shareholders that includes its efforts to promote its social purpose. The articles of incorporation of a social purpose corporation may require that the corporation’s directors or officers consider and give weight to one or more of the social purposes of the corporation as the directors deem relevant, and may specify that a third party standard will provide the performance measurements that the annual report will address.

The difference between a benefit corporation and a social purpose corporation hinges on an auxiliary verb: a benefit corporation must because the law specifies the requirements; a social purpose corporation may because the articles of incorporation specify the requirements. Testimony in support of the Washington language stated it is consistent with the enabling approach of our basic corporation law. Further, substantial changes to the articles of incorporation require a high threshold of shareholder consent.

Benefit and social purpose corporations are for-profit and not tax exempt. A separate certification, not dependent on a state’s corporation law, is available to companies that modify their charters to reflect the requirements of a third party standard. As of December 21, 2012, 664 corporations have been certified by nonprofit B Lab that promotes benefit corporations for all states, including Harriet Bullitt’s Sleeping Lady Mountain Resort, located just outside Leavenworth, privately owned Moka Joe Coffee of Anacortes, and Seventh

Continued on Page 28
April Program:

Is Money Buying Our Democracy?

A Look at Campaign Finance Reform
Note for facilitators and recorders: Because this is not a study there are no consensus questions and you are not required to reach consensus. Nevertheless, please discuss the following and record the gist of your discussions. These notes help guide the board and the program planning committee in developing future activities on this topic.

Discussion Questions:

What are the pros and cons of public financing of local elections? What are the obstacles to adopting such a program?

In the wake of the decision in Citizens United v. FEC (and cases going back to Buckley v. Valeo, which equated money with speech) one of the only ways to constitutionally regulate money in campaigns is to require disclosure - who spent what on whom? Is disclosure enough to achieve the League’s position on Campaign Finance? (see the position on page 24) Why or why not?

What other means could be used to reduce the impact of large money donations or the overall cost of running a campaign?

What are the pros and cons of pursuing a constitutional amendment to allow regulation of campaign financing?

Would you support a constitutional amendment that allowed the states to regulate campaign financing? That limited the rights of corporations?
Review of Constitutional Amendments Proposed in Response to
Citizens United

Prepared by the LWVUS Campaign Finance Task Force

The following discussion is about federal Court decisions interpreting laws and the Constitution regulating free speech, money, corporations, politics, and elections. Proposals to amend the Constitution arise out of fears that the First Amendment to the Constitution is being interpreted in such a way that our freedom, indeed our democracy, can be purchased. Here’s what the First Amendment says:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or of the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Background of Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission (FEC)

Supreme Court Decision. In Citizens United v. FEC, the Supreme Court struck down long-standing provisions of federal campaign finance law prohibiting the use of corporate general treasury funds for independent expenditures and electioneering communications. The Court found that these provisions constituted a “ban on speech” and were unconstitutional under the First Amendment. The Court held that government could not restrict political speech based on the speaker being a corporation and not a natural person.

In its ruling, the Court invoked its landmark 1976 decision, Buckley v. Valeo, which held that the use of money, for both contributions and expenditures, is a form of speech protected by the First Amendment. In Buckley, the Court found that contributions to candidate campaigns could be regulated because they create a risk of quid pro quo corruption. However, the court found no danger of corruption in independent expenditures or in expenditures by candidate campaigns, which therefore could not be limited. The Court defines corruption narrowly to include votes-for-money quid pro quo or the appearance thereof but generally to exclude the other distorting effects that big money has on politics or government.

Following the Supreme Court’s reasoning in Citizens United, the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ruled in Speechnow.org v. FEC that since independent expenditures do not create actual or apparent quid pro quo corruption, individual and corporate contribution limits to PACs are impermissible if the PACs do not contribute to candidate campaigns but make only independent expenditures.

Impact on Federal Campaign Finance Law. Prior to the Citizens United ruling, corporations and labor unions were prohibited from using general treasury funds to make independent expenditures and electioneering communications. In the new, post-Citizens United world, corporate and labor union general treasuries are permitted to fund independent expenditures and electioneering communications. Subsequent to Speechnow.org, they may also give unlimited amounts to PACs or other entities that make independent expenditures. Corporations and labor unions are still prohibited from making direct contributions to candidate campaigns or political parties.

Prior to Speechnow.org, individuals were allowed to spend unlimited amounts directly on independent expenditures, but they were bound by contribution limits to PACs. After Speechnow.org, individuals are also allowed to make unlimited contributions to PACs that make only independent expenditures.

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1 As of 3/12/2012. Source: Congressional Research Service Memo.
2 Independent expenditures are communications that expressly advocate the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate and are not coordinated with any candidate or party.
3 Electioneering communications are broadcast, cable or satellite transmissions that refer to a clearly identified federal candidate and made within 60 days of a general election or 30 days of a primary.
Amending the Constitution. Since the Court’s decision is one of constitutional (not statutory) interpretation, amending the Constitution is an option for reversing the effects of these rulings. To date, 14 resolutions have been introduced in Congress to respond to Citizens United. Such resolutions require approval by two-thirds of both the House and the Senate, and they require ratification by the legislatures of three-fourths of the states.

Analysis of Proposed Constitutional Amendments

The 14 proposed resolutions vary considerably. For example, some of the resolutions give Congress very broad power to regulate both contributions and expenditures by candidates, political parties, political action committees (PACs), and individuals. Some limit the application of such regulation to corporations and other business-related entities. Because Citizens United invalidated state as well as federal laws, most proposals give both Congress and the states some power to regulate in this area. Instead of permitting Congress to regulate, two of the proposals directly prohibit corporate and labor union expenditures.

Although Citizens United was the flash point for introducing these resolutions, some of them suggest remedies that go beyond merely restoring the prior status quo. Some would affect corporate rights well beyond the sphere of political campaigns. Others would affect the contributions and expenditures of entities beyond those of corporations and labor unions.

Some of the resolutions use terms such as “contributions” and “expenditures” without definition, and it is unclear how the courts will interpret them. Courts may rely on the plain meaning of such terms, but they may also refer to other material including current campaign finance law. How these terms are ultimately understood by the courts will make a critical difference in what type of campaign finance law is permitted. Those resolutions that define key terms and contain the greatest specificity are best positioned to avoid uncertainty.

Furthermore, many of these proposals raise the question of what Congress and state legislatures can or should regulate and what checks would remain on the improper or overreaching use of that legislative power.

The following discussion highlights selected issues raised by the 14 joint resolutions.

Rights of “Natural Persons.” Three resolutions propose to limit the rights protected by the Constitution to “natural persons.” One (H.J. Res. 88) would provide that such protected rights are the rights of “natural persons,” and that the terms “people, person, or citizen” as they are used in the Constitution do not include corporations, limited liability companies, or “other corporate entities.” This means that both for-profit and non-profit corporations could be excluded. Two other resolutions (H.J. Res 90 and S.J. Res. 33) are similar but their effect on non-profits is unclear.

Specifying that rights protected by the Constitution are only those of natural persons, and not of corporations, might not have the effect amendment sponsors intend. According to the Supreme Court, “the First Amendment does not allow political speech restrictions based on a speaker’s corporate identity.” In other words, it is the speech that will be protected, regardless of the identity of the speaker.

In addition, excluding corporations and other entities from all the rights protected by the Constitution might create unintended consequences for property rights under the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments, Fourth Amendment rights against unreasonable search and seizure, and Fifth Amendment protection against double jeopardy.

“Political Speech” of Corporations in Elections. Two resolutions contain provisions that exclude application of the First Amendment to the political contributions and expenditures of corporations and other business entities. This could reverse elements of Buckley and permit limits on independent expenditures made directly with corporate
general treasury funds. It might also strengthen the argument that it is permissible to prohibit the use of such funds for contributions to PACs.

The proposed new language does not restrict regulation to the brief periods before a primary or a general election. However, there are ambiguities in the language of the resolutions. Precisely what is covered by the terms “contributions,” “expenditures,” and “disbursements . . . in connection with public elections” would be open to interpretation by the courts.

Regulate Expenditures or Disbursements by Corporations. Two resolutions permit regulation of expenditures and disbursements by corporations. Determining what type of corporate activity would be affected by these resolutions depends on interpretation of the language. Under a legalistic interpretation, one of these resolutions (H.J. Res. 82) could permit regulation only of coordinated expenditures, as well as independent expenditures. Under a plain meaning interpretation, the language may be broad enough to allow for the regulation of all contributions, not just coordinated expenditures, and it might permit regulation of both independent expenditures and electioneering communications, as well.

The other resolution (H. J. Res. 92) allows regulation of “the disbursement of funds for political activity.” This broad terminology might permit the regulation of funds spent not only for independent expenditures, but also for electioneering communications and contributions. The term “political activity” is very broad and might allow for regulation of activity not usually associated with elections or campaign finance, such as true issue ads. This proposal specifies the types of entities that could be regulated, specifically, “for-profit corporations, other for-profit business entities, or other business organizations,” thereby exempting those non-profit corporations that are not business organizations.

Both of these resolutions also might permit regulation beyond the scope of the law prior to Citizens United, including restrictions on spending at all times, not just during the periods immediately prior to an election.

Ban Corporate Contributions and Expenditures. In contrast to resolutions that provide Congress and the states with the power to regulate, two proposals directly ban corporations and other business-related entities from making “contributions” or “expenditures” in any candidate election or ballot measure. While the terms “contributions” and “expenditures” are subject to interpretation by the courts, these provisions leave little room for Congressional regulation.

Regulate Expenditures and Contributions. Going beyond Citizens United, nine of the resolutions contain provisions that authorize Congress and the states to regulate both expenditures and contributions. Of these, only two (H. J. Res. 78 and S. J. Res. 35) attempt to limit the entities that could be regulated. The other seven seem to permit restrictions on expenditures by candidates, parties, political action committees (PACs), and individuals, as well as corporations and labor unions.

With all nine of these resolutions, determining how they would work will depend largely on how a court defines “expenditure” and “contribution.”

Expenditures Not Protected Speech. One resolution contains very broad language that would exempt expenditures in almost all political contexts from First Amendment protection and thereby permit spending limits. Excluding all political expenditures from the protections of free speech, without limitation as to the source of expenditures, could mean that spending limits would apply not only to corporations, but also to candidates, political parties, political action committees (PACs) and individuals. Additionally, the expansive language of this resolution could permit legislation to restrict currently protected independent expenditures and electioneering communications, which refer only to candidates without expressly advocating for or against the candidate, and it could allow such legislation to restrict electioneering communication at any time during the
election season, not just in the 30-day period before a primary or the 60-day period before a general election.
The very broad language of this resolution gives unlimited regulatory power to state and federal legislatures,
which could no longer be checked by the judiciary.

**Freedom of the Press.** Five resolutions seek to explicitly protect the free speech rights of the press while
permitting regulation of other political speech. “Freedom of the press” is currently a protected right under the
First Amendment separately from “freedom of speech” – “Congress shall make no law . . . abridging the freedom
of speech, or of the press.” Until now, courts have not treated them separately.

However, with the proposals to restrict corporate “speech,” the exemption for “freedom of the press” brings
challenges. One issue is how a media corporation is differentiated from other types of corporations, particularly
with the proliferation of the Internet, Twitter, and other modern media and the decline of print and broadcast
media. Another press exemption conundrum is how to carve out the press exemption for a “media” corporation
that is part of a conglomerate owning other unrelated businesses, using its media outlet to promote its agenda,
when other corporations do not have the same opportunity to speak.

**Conclusion.** These proposals illustrate the complexity of this issue, the risk of unintended consequences, and
the difficulty of crafting precise language in the form of a constitutional amendment.

**Overview of Proposed Congressional Resolutions responding to Citizens United**

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<th>Bill #</th>
<th>Rights of “Natural Persons”</th>
<th>“Political Speech” of Corporations</th>
<th>Regulate Expenditures and Disbursements by Corporations</th>
<th>Bans Corporate Contributions and Expenditures</th>
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4 HJR 88 is very close in text to the amendment being proposed by Free Speech for People.
5 Move to Amend’s proposal has different language but covers the same areas as HJR 90 and SJR 33.
Public Financing for Seattle City Council Elections

Members of the Seattle City Council are campaigning to bring public financing back to the city council elections. It is not a new idea. The city had a successful public financing program from 1978 until 1992, when voters passed Initiative 134, a measure which was designed primarily to restrict private contributions to state campaigns, but which also contained a provision banning public financing for local campaigns. Then, in 2008, the State Legislature passed a law allowing publicly financed campaigns at the local level, if approved by a public vote. The city council responded by setting up a Campaign Public Financing Advisory Committee that recommended public financing for Seattle election campaigns, beginning with a ballot measure in 2009, estimating the cost for the election in 2011 at between $2.3 and $3.2 million. However, when the Great Recession hit and city revenues plummeted, the issue was postponed indefinitely.

Currently, four city council members – Nick Licata, Sally Clark, Mike O’Brien, and Tom Rasmussen – are working with the Seattle Ethics and Election Commission to recommend a public financing model that meets the goals of:

- Increasing electoral competitiveness;
- Reducing financial barriers to entry of candidates;
- Increasing the role of small donors in the electoral process.

They believe that, in pursuit of electing a city council government that better reflects the priorities of a one-person-one-vote democracy, some public funding of campaigns would increase the role and emphasis of small donors and, by extension, broaden the public’s influence on the Council’s decision making.

The team of council members organized two panel presentations open to the public to learn from experts. The first, on January 31, featured speakers from San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Portland – cities which have implemented public financing. The Portland speaker, Debbie Aiona, is a member of the League of Women Voters of Portland. The second presentation, on February 13, featured academic researchers into aspects of public campaign financing, including the current legal environment. Both presentations can be viewed on the Seattle Channel.

The team expects to receive and evaluate recommendations from the ethics and election commission in time for the full council to consider a potential ballot measure in either the primary or the general election of 2013.

Washington Public Campaigns

Washington Public Campaigns (WPC) is a statewide, volunteer, 501(c)(3) organization that “promotes democracy by ensuring that election results and government policies reflect the will of the people and not the power of money” (WPC mission statement). WPC is working closely with several members of the Seattle City Council who are proposing a program of public funding for city elections. Last year WPC supported a successful proposal that limits the period for fundraising for city election campaigns and prohibits rollovers of campaign contributions from one election to another.

One of WPC’s major current projects is working with other groups to seek a constitutional amendment to overturn the 2010 US Supreme Court case of Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, which has allowed corporations and individuals to spend unlimited amounts of money in all aspects of electoral politics.

The five justice majority declared that the First Amendment protects “associations of individuals,” a category which includes corporations. It found limiting a corporation’s ability to spend money unconstitutional on the grounds that spending money is essential to disseminating speech. It also stated that there is no “distorting effect” to unlimited campaign spending unless there is direct and obvious quid pro quo.

WPC has organized a focused and sustained campaign in Washington State to confront the consequences of this decision. An early step has been to encourage state legislators, as well as local governments and civic-minded private groups, to call on the US Congress to propose and initiate an amendment to the Constitution that would overturn the decision.

WPC also advocates for focused election reform measures such as public funding of Congressional campaigns, more thorough and informative disclosure of the sources of campaign contributions and election expenditures, and expanded availability of voters’ pamphlets.

For more information, go to www.washclean.org.

By Janet Winans, LWVWA CU Committee
LWVUS IN ACTION ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE

The League's Position

Statement of Position on Campaign Finance, as Announced by National Board, January 1974 and Revised March 1982:

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the methods of financing political campaigns should ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and allow maximum citizen participation in the political process.

This position is applicable to all federal campaigns for public office — presidential and congressional, primaries as well as general elections. It also may be applied to state and local campaigns.

The League's History

The League's position on Campaign Finance reflects continuing concern for open and honest elections and for maximum citizen participation in the political process. The League's campaign finance reform strategy has two tracks: 1) achieve incremental reforms where possible in the short term, and 2) build support for public financing as the best long-term solution.

To varying degrees, current law reflects some League goals: full and timely disclosure of campaign contributions and expenditures; one central committee to coordinate, control and report financial transactions for each candidate, party or other committee; an independent body to monitor and enforce the law; and the encouragement of broad-based contributions from citizens.

The League continues to look for ways to limit the size and type of contributions from all sources as a means of combating undue influence in the election process. League action on this issue is built on a careful assessment of all proposed changes in campaign finance law. The League continues to assess proposals that allow challenger and incumbent candidates to compete more equitably. The League favors shortening the time period between primaries and general elections.

Year in and year out since 1974, the League has fought for comprehensive campaign finance reform to address the abuses in the existing system, supporting bills that curbed special-interest contributions and provided public financing for candidates who accepted voluntary spending limits. The League has called for limits to PAC and large contributor donations, for closing the soft-money loophole and for public benefits for candidates, such as reduced postage and reduced broadcasting costs. It also strongly supports a strong and effective Federal Election Commission.

The League continues its support for comprehensive reform through multiple channels: lobbying, testimony, grassroots action, and work with the media. Members push for
voluntary spending limits; public benefits, such as reduced-cost broadcasting and postal services, for participating candidates; aggregate limits on the total amounts candidates could receive in PAC and large individual contributions; and closing the loopholes that allow huge amounts of special-interest money to influence the system.

The League has also worked at the state level, which has contributed to real progress. Public financing, the "Clean Money Option," has been adopted in several states, including Connecticut, Arizona, and Maine; other state reform efforts have made progress in Massachusetts and Vermont. Reform measures were on the 2000 ballot in Missouri and Oregon but fell short.

The League expended incredible effort in the five-year campaign for the McCain-Feingold-Shays-Meehan bill, which reached fruition when President Bush signed the legislation into law. The bill, known as the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA), closed the most significant loopholes in campaign finance regulation – the "soft money" loophole that allowed unlimited corporate, union, and individual contributions, and the "sham" issue ad loophole that allowed undisclosed contributions to campaign advertising advocating particular candidates. The League was instrumental in developing this approach and pushing it – at the grassroots and in Congress – to final enactment.

The League has also used litigation strategies to advance and protect campaign finance reform by filing amicus briefs or joining in those of others.

Of course, litigation has recently overturned significant aspects of what has been achieved over the years with the Citizens United v. FEC case. The impact of Citizens United has dramatically changed the political landscape, and the League’s current work is directed towards finding feasible ways to correct the massive problems created by the decision.

[For a more complete and detailed history of the League’s activities in the area of campaign finance reform, consult “Representative Government” in “Impact on Issues.” http://www.lwv.org/content/impact-issues.]
LWVUS Activities Underway

1. We are continuing the fight to pass the DISCLOSE Act of 2012. This essential legislation will require financial disclosure for all campaign advertising. No longer will trade associations, corporations, and wealthy individuals be able to make secret contributions to run election ads. Our volunteer national Lobby Corps is working both the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives on the bill, we made a statement to the Senate Rules Committee, and you can expect a series of up-to-the-minute action alerts. The national office will also be working with Leagues in key states both to lobby directly and to reach out to the media in support of the DISCLOSE Act.

2. With a grant from the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Shelter Rock, NY, we have joined with the state Leagues in Tennessee and Maine to bring the reform message to the public through paid radio advertising calling on the Senators from those states to fight to stop the secret money in elections. Elisabeth MacNamara spoke at an exciting event at the church recently and reported great enthusiasm for challenging secret money in politics.

3. The LWVUS has joined an amicus brief urging the Supreme Court to take up the case of *American Tradition Partnership v. Bullock*. This is the case in which the Supreme Court of Montana challenges the Supreme Court’s assumptions in *Citizens United* by showing that the historical record of corruption in Montana justifies that state’s ban on corporate participation in candidate elections. The brief outlines how the Supreme Court’s theories about “independent” spending in *Citizens United* have proved to be factually incorrect and how secret spending denies voters the information they need to make informed decisions on Election Day.

4. As you know, the Federal Elections Commission is not enforcing current law on campaign finance, so we and our sister organizations have been pressing for big changes. As a start, we’ve called on the President to appoint five new commissioners to the agency. With the strong support of thousands of League members, our efforts on the petition to the President on the FEC reached its goal of 25,000 signers, and we are anxiously awaiting his promised response to the petition and the continuing problems at the FEC.

5. A new League Campaign Finance Task Force is now up and running, which includes nine knowledgeable and committed League members from around the country. The Task Force will serve as a resource to the LWVUS Board and will provide information and input on campaign finance issues, including short and long-term strategies for reform. In the short term, the Task Force will be researching and providing information to members on the proposed constitutional amendments that have been introduced in the U.S. Congress.

6. Senior staff is participating in an Independent Sector working group, whose focus is on developing a response for the non-profit community on the increasing use of
existing and new 501c(4), social welfare organizations, to engage in electoral activities. The League is a member of Independent Sector (IS), which is a national organization that speaks for the non-profit sector on a number of issues. One concern of the IS working group is that the valuable role played by social welfare organizations will be tainted by new groups that are being created under section 501(c)(4) of the tax code but whose purpose is primarily to funnel funds into electoral races.

7. The Board is recommending to Convention a comprehensive program to educate members and communities on the issue of campaign finance in order to inform our education and legislative efforts as needed.

What Local and State Leagues Can Do Now

1. Engage in the League’s Money in Elections reform campaign. Call on your Senators and Representative to support the DISCLOSE Act. Respond to LWVUS action alerts, reach out to your members to engage them in this topic, especially to meet with your federal representatives or their staff in the state or district. Write a letter-to-the-editor of your local papers and call attention to the problems of secret money in campaigns. Voters deserve to know where the money is coming from.

2. Participate in the “Stations: Stand by Your Ad” campaign. LWVUS is encouraging Leagues to participate in a project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania that identifies ways TV and radio stations can reduce the number of erroneous campaign ads run by third party organizations. A description of the campaign and how Leagues and others can get involved will be available on our website. See also: http://www.annenbergpublicpolicycenter.org/NewsDetails.aspx?myId=475 and http://www.flackcheck.org/stand-by-your-ad/

3. Engage in public education about how to watch TV campaign ads – particularly those sponsored by third party (and supposedly independent) organizations – with a critical eye. This effort can build on work already done by many Leagues to develop skills on “Debate Watching 101” and “How to Judge a Candidate”. LWVUS/EF hopes to produce some tips on this topic, but we need your help! If your League has developed materials on how to watch campaign ads, please send them to Pam Sterner at psterner@lwv.org, so that we can compile information that can be shared with all Leagues.
Benefit Corporations - Continued from Page 14

Generation, a maker of household products in Vermont. A few other third party standards organizations are: the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), GreenSeal, Underwriters Laboratories, ISO2600, and Green America. B Lab reported to the California Assembly that it and GRI offer companies the use of their reporting (GRI) and assessment (B Lab) tools for free.7

Public benefit or social purpose corporations give us some more food for thought as we consider campaign finance. Public financing of elections is intended to reduce the power of the few and restore power to the voters so that government can focus on the good for the people rather than the good for special interests. Benefit corporations permit corporations with that same interest in the public good to pursue goals beyond profit, which is not legal in the standard corporation charter. While these newly created corporations have not been in existence long enough to evaluate whether they have any effect on political campaigns, we should monitor them in the months and years ahead.

The opinions in this article are personal and do not represent those of the LWV.

1A third party is an independent entity that defines and assesses overall corporate social and environmental performance. Benefit Corp Information Center, http://www.benefitcorp.net/selecting-a-third-party-standard
3Benefit Corp Information Center, State by State Legislative Status, http://www.benefitcorp.net/state-by-state-legislative-status

Transport. Comm. - Continued from Page 10

learned about in his job working with trucking companies and haulers.

While the FMCSA is an important regulatory body, what is most important to Mr. Barta at this time is the state of Highway SR167. His company transports cargo from Seattle and from the Kent/ Fife valleys into the Port of Tacoma. The industrial traffic accessing the port uses Pacific Highway, and is specially routed around all residential areas. Truckers are often backed up for hours waiting for their turn into the Port. That sends congestion back along Pacific Highway to the 167 corridor near Puyallup. It often takes four hours for a truck to move through that congestion. Mr. Barta explained that the planned extension of SR 167 will shorten that wait time to one hour.
# Unit Meetings

## APRIL UNIT INFORMATION
(Unit times and locations subject to change; please verify with unit leader.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit Leader email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:joanvlawson@gmail.com">joanvlawson@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>206-382-3147</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Horizon House, Forum &amp; Social Room 900 University St., Seattle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:downsvdowns@aol.com">downsvdowns@aol.com</a></td>
<td>206-328-3926</td>
<td>7:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Hostess: Linnea Hirst 1602 E McGraw St., Seattle 206-322-3076</td>
</tr>
<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>Hostess: Mary Barton 1129 16th Ave., Seattle 206-328-9710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:bonnierim@aol.com">bonnierim@aol.com</a></td>
<td>425-820-7127</td>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Lake Hills Library 15590 Lake Hills Blvd., Bellevue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:amandamberry@earthlink.net">amandamberry@earthlink.net</a></td>
<td>206-724-7518</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>The Kenney 7125 Fauntleroy Way SW, Seattle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:winbergeng@q.com">winbergeng@q.com</a></td>
<td>206-524-7801</td>
<td>12:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Hostess: Gail Winberg 6004 NE 60th Street, Seattle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:tgeokezas@msn.com">tgeokezas@msn.com</a></td>
<td>206-782-5036</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Hostess: Eileen Bleeker 7317 Mary Ave. NW, Seattle 206-789-9155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Unit</td>
<td>Leader</td>
<td>Email</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Thursday, April 11 | **ISSAQUAH DAY** – Margaret Austin | margaret.austin@comcast.net | 425-392-5760 | 10:00 a.m. | COHO room, Issaquah City Hall  
130 East Sunset Way, Issaquah |
|              | **UNIVERSITY HOUSE/WALLINGFORD** |                            | 206-329-4848 | 10:00 a.m. | University House, Auditorium  
4400 Stone Way N, Seattle |
|              | **SHORELINE** – Juliet Beard | juliet@windermere.com | 206-715-5531 | 4:30 p.m. | Richmond Beach Cong’l Church  
NW 195th St &15th Ave. NW, Shoreline |
|              | **NORTH CENTRAL** – Jan Orlando | orlanre@aol.com | 206-524-0936 | 7:30 p.m. | Hostess: Bonnie Bizzell  
2526 NE 108th Pl, Seattle  
206-239-8049 |
| Tuesday, April 16 | **SOUTHEAST KING COUNTY/ENUMCLAW** - Cathy Dormaier | clcathy@skynetbb.com | 360-802-6799 | 7:00 p.m. | To be announced  
contact unit leader |
| Wednesday, April 17 | **NORTH KING COUNTY** – Toni Potter/Marjorie Hawkes | antoniapotter@comcast.net | 206-365-8949 | 9:15 a.m. | Third Place Commons Mtg Room  
17171 Bothell Way NE, Lake Forest Pk. |
|              | **SOUTHWEST KING COUNTY** – Mary Ehlers and Kathy Jorgensen | maryehlers@comcast.net | 253-941-1930 | 7:00 p.m. | Foundation House  
32290 1st Ave S, Federal Way |
| Saturday, April 20 | **BALLARD/MAGNOLIA/QUEEN ANNE DAY** – Joan Peterson | joanmepeterson@gmail.com | 206-789-7447 | 10:00 a.m. | Northeast Branch Library  
6801 35th Ave. NE, Seattle |
## Board & Committee Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Executive Committee</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011–2013</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>206-329-4848</td>
<td><a href="mailto:president@seattlelwv.org">president@seattlelwv.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1st V.P. Voter Service</td>
<td>206-329-4848</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cyndiwoods@comcast.net">cyndiwoods@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012–2013</td>
<td>2nd V.P. Action</td>
<td>206-321-7362</td>
<td><a href="mailto:eeb0825@yahoo.com">eeb0825@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012–2014</td>
<td>3rd V.P. Program</td>
<td>206-783-8485</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bscrane@comcast.net">bscrane@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012–2013</td>
<td>4th V.P. Development</td>
<td>206-323-7992</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ginnao@earthlink.net">ginnao@earthlink.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011–2013</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>206-329-4848</td>
<td><a href="mailto:treasurer@seattlelwv.org">treasurer@seattlelwv.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012–2013</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>206-329-8514</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jfoxcullen@gmail.com">jfoxcullen@gmail.com</a></td>
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<th>Term</th>
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<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012–2013</td>
<td>Program</td>
<td>206-283-3242</td>
<td><a href="mailto:adairk303@gmail.com">adairk303@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012–2014</td>
<td>Voter Editor</td>
<td>206-535-7299</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bakermargaret16@yahoo.com">bakermargaret16@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012–2014</td>
<td>Unit Coordinator</td>
<td>406-546-9314</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lindsaycummings@hotmail.com">lindsaycummings@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012–2013</td>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>206-725-2902</td>
<td><a href="mailto:susan@monckjones.com">susan@monckjones.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012–2014</td>
<td>Voter Service</td>
<td>206-329-4848</td>
<td><a href="mailto:julie@kempf.com">julie@kempf.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011–2014</td>
<td>Development</td>
<td>206-318-6939</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mjvigil@starbucks.com">mjvigil@starbucks.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011–2013</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>206-323-4825</td>
<td><a href="mailto:janetwinans@earthlink.net">janetwinans@earthlink.net</a></td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Education Fund Board</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012–2014</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>206-762-1362</td>
<td><a href="mailto:paulwinterstein@q.com">paulwinterstein@q.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012–2014</td>
<td>Carol Burton</td>
<td>206-691-1298</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cbrutton7@gmail.com">cbrutton7@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011–2013</td>
<td>Ellyn Swanson</td>
<td>206-722-2820</td>
<td><a href="mailto:guselwyn@comcast.net">guselwyn@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012–2014</td>
<td>Lisa Unsoeld-Chang</td>
<td>206-329-4848</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lisac@seattlelwv.org">lisac@seattlelwv.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011–2013</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>206-281-7944</td>
<td><a href="mailto:laraine.volkman@att.net">laraine.volkman@att.net</a></td>
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<th>Term</th>
<th>Nominating Committee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012–2013</td>
<td>Chair</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:jaybetty2@msn.com">jaybetty2@msn.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012–2013</td>
<td>Becky Cox</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:cgcox@nwlink.com">cgcox@nwlink.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012–2013</td>
<td>Carol Goldenberg</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:carolsamgo@q.com">carolsamgo@q.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012–2013</td>
<td>Laura Weese</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:laura899@earthlink.net">laura899@earthlink.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>Off-Board Positions</th>
<th>Campaign Finance</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jean Carlson</td>
<td>206-774-6649</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jean.carlson@att.net">jean.carlson@att.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>KC South Liaison</td>
<td>253-941-1930</td>
<td><a href="mailto:maryehlers@comcast.net">maryehlers@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CIS Coordinator</td>
<td>206-236-0593</td>
<td><a href="mailto:howe.john@comcast.net">howe.john@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Observer Corps</td>
<td>206-878-2799</td>
<td><a href="mailto:thomaspa@centurylink.com">thomaspa@centurylink.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Committees

- **Economics & Taxation**: See page 7 for more info
- **Education**: See page 7 for more info
- **International Relations**: Rebecca Castilleja telbalto@yahoo.com
- **Central Waterfront**: Jan O’Connor 206-328-6330 oconnor.js@gmail.com
- **Social Justice**: Jayne Freitag 425-922-9501 mjafreitag@comcast.net
- **Transportation**: Janet Winans 206-323-4825 janetwinans@earthlink.net
- **Vote by Mail Study**: Julie Anne Kempf julie@kempf.com
LWV OF SEATTLE-KING COUNTY

April Forum: Campaign Finance Reform

Seattle First Baptist Church
1111 Harvard Ave., Seattle WA
(Corner of Harvard and Seneca)

Thursday, April 4

6:30 p.m. - Discussion Leader Briefing
7:30 p.m. - Forum

All forums are free and open to the public.

Speakers:

- Alice Woldt, Executive Director of Washington Public Campaigns
- Nick Licata, Councilmember, Seattle City Council
- Allison Feher, LWVUS Campaign Finance Task Force