



The Voter

A Publication of the League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County

DECEMBER 2013

VOL. 55, No5

Nonpartisanship — It’s What Sets The League Apart

by Susan Jones, Membership Chair

The women and men who choose to join the League of Women Voters do so because they are interested in a variety of issues and in making democracy work in their communities. They are generally well educated and well read and in many cases fiercely passionate about specific issues and/or political candidates. Yet they are drawn to the League precisely because of its long and well-respected policy of nonpartisanship.

“The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate,” state the LWVUS Bylaws. That principle became one of the League’s most important pillars soon after its founding and continues to ensure that our voice is heard over the cacophony of partisan politics, provocative sound bites, and endless “spin” in the media. What began as a logical outgrowth of the organization’s long struggle to secure voting rights for women has now become one of the League’s most distinguishing characteristics.

Thus, in the wake of our recent election cycle and the unprecedented amount of advertising and heated rhetoric it attracted, (not to mention the general political landscape of rigid partisanship and gridlock,) it seems like an opportune moment to revisit this great and now somewhat novel notion of nonpartisanship. It not only is what sets the League apart from other grassroots organizations working for social change and justice, but it is also one of our strongest selling points when we reach out to potential new members, some of whom

may have attended one of the nonpartisan ballot issue forums conducted across Seattle and King County in the last few months.

This political but nonpartisan ethic can sometimes be confusing to someone unfamiliar with League, especially since our well researched and carefully articulated positions on a wide variety of issues are what garner us the most attention. It is part of the League’s longstanding mission to educate women and men about the political process and the issues having an impact in their communities.

When you talk to your friends or others about the value of League membership, remember to point out its nonpartisan policy and how it provides a strong foundation for the work done in support of issues. League positions are crafted after careful, thorough study and legislators and the public know that, thus ensuring that action on legislation and ballot proposals is more effective. Nonpartisanship has been our signature “trademark” for 93 years now. We should all brag about that whenever we can!

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Postal Regulations

The Voter is published monthly
except June and August by the League of
Women Voters of Seattle - King County,
1620 18th Ave, #101, Seattle, WA 98122.

Periodicals postage paid at
Seattle, WA.

Postmaster:
Send address changes to *The Voter*:

1620 18th Ave, Suite 101
Seattle, WA 98122
The Voter (ISSN 0888-8841)

Connecting with the Leadership

Fall Event: The fall event is over and it was a huge success. We raised \$20,000 from ticket sales, donations, and sponsorships and our expenses were about \$4,000, leaving a net of \$16,000 to support League activities. YAY!! Thank you all for coming and for digging deep to support all that League does. It shows how much you all love League. This makes your Board happy and appreciated for what we do. I also want to thank our Board members and volunteers who all stepped up, gave of their time and their money, and made this happen. It's a lot of work and I still am amazed at how everyone gives so much.

I have heard positive reports about the event from many people - about the food, the topic, and the speakers. Take a look at the photos of the attendees at the event in this issue, so if you couldn't attend, you can at least see how much fun you missed. I hope you will be able to make it next time!

If you have any comments or suggestions about the event - what worked, what could be improved, and what you enjoyed most - please email me at President@seattlelwv.org. We will be having a post-event de-briefing and welcome any helpful comments.

In addition, we owe Starbucks a great big thank you for its awesome sponsorship of \$5,000, thanks to Board member MJ Vigil. So, drink your lattes! Pacific Continental Bank contributed another \$250 and Herb Bridge and Edie Hilliard contributed \$500. We could use more sponsors like them!

Spring 2014 Event: We are already planning the next "Hot Topic" luncheon and will keep you all informed about our plans. It will likely be in April or May, so look for future notices in *The Voter* and by email. We expect that it will again be interesting, informative, and fun.



Leadership Circle: Thanks to all of you who signed up for Leadership Circle and pledged a set amount each month. This provides us with money we can count on and makes our planning easier and our fund raising efforts less stressful. Remember that your contributions are tax deductible. You don't need to have a lot of money to show your support. The donation amount starts at \$20 per month for three years. If you haven't done so already, please consider becoming a monthly contributor.

Legacy Gifting: It's never too early to think about making a legacy gift to the League. If you do include League in your will or estate planning, please be sure to specify that the gift is to the Seattle-King County League.

Program Planning: It is program planning time. Instead of a forum, which we believe is not very productive, we are asking the units to consider what they would like to include in next year's program. We are also asking for input from individual members. Next year is National Convention and we will be considering program items there as well. Although we need to notify National of our suggestions pretty early in the year, it's not too late to have some input.

Leadership Update: I will be taking some time off from my League duties in November and December due to health reasons. Janet Winans, our First Vice President and Action Chair, will be taking over my role until January. You will likely be hearing from her in the next *Voter*. Thank you, Janet.

Ellen Barton
President

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 1	2 Int'l Relations Committee 12:45 p.m.	3 Transportation Committee 10:00 a.m.	4	5 Education Committee 1:30 p.m.	6	7 Action Workshop in Puyallup
8	9 Voter Deadline	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 Transportation Committee 10:00 a.m.	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Christmas	26	27	28 Economics & Tax Committee 9:30 a.m.
29	30	31	January 1 New Year's Day	2	3	4 Board Meeting 9:00 a.m.
5	6 Voter Deadline	7	8	9	10	11

Units meet on shaded dates. See the listings on pages 17-18 for details. The League Office will be closed from December 23rd through January 3rd. Please contact the office in advance to make special arrangements if needed.

DECEMBER

International Relations
Committee
Monday, December 2
12:45-2:45 p.m.
League Office

Transportation Committee
Tuesday, December 3
10:00 a.m.
League Office

Education Committee
Thursday, December 5
1:30 p.m.
League Office

No Forum

No Board Meeting

Action Workshop
Saturday, December 7
9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Pierce Cty Community College
Puyallup

The Voter Deadline
Monday, December 9

Transportation Committee
Tuesday, December 17
10:00 a.m.
League Office

Economics & Taxation
Committee
Saturday, December 28
9:30 a.m.
909 E. Newton, # D-9, Seattle

JANUARY

No Forum this month

Board Meeting
Saturday, January 4
9:00 a.m.
League Office

The Voter Deadline
Monday, January 6

Forum Schedule

<p>December - No Forum</p> <p>January - No Forum</p> <p>February 6 - Gun Safety</p> <p>March 6 - Nat'l Agriculture Update</p> <p>April 3 - Living Wage</p> <p>May 1 - TBA</p>

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 7:30 p.m. Most forums are held at the Seattle First Baptist Church, but occasionally they are scheduled in other locations and times. The tentative schedule of upcoming forums for 2013-2014 appears at left; check *The Voter* each month or the LWVS-KC website, seattlelwv.org, for up-to-date information.

THE SPRING PROGRAM SHUFFLE

By Beatrice Crane, Program Co-Chair

Appearances to the contrary, we don't do our program planning by throwing darts or spinning a wheel. And we do realize that it makes it very difficult for units to plan their discussions when the topics appear in a different order every month. I won't attempt to account for every change – suffice it to say that we want to present the National Agricultural Update, but have had varying reports about when materials will be ready; that we have been trying to reserve March for a women's issue; that we moved gun safety from its original spot in the fall in order to be able to use the state toolkit being developed; and that our Economics and Taxation Committee has recently proposed a very timely topic – the living wage.

According to the latest communication from the National Agricultural Update committee, materials are expected to be available by December,

and the original deadline for consensus, in early April, will hold. However, because we have not yet seen the materials and so do not know how long it will take to adapt them for our *Voter*, we decided that we should put the agricultural forum in the latest possible slot that will allow us to participate in the consensus process. And that is March, our traditional women's issues month. Oh, well. As we keep reminding ourselves, every issue is a women's issue.

So please bear with us. We do hope that this is the last permutation. We can't guarantee that there will not be minor changes. For instance, if possible, we would like to present a program in another part of the county, and we may build the Spring fundraiser around one of the topics. But we will do our best to stick with the current list of topics in the order published in this *Voter*. After all, we need to plan as well – and it is not easy to find speakers when it's not clear when they are expected to speak.

Board Briefs by Amanda Clark, Secretary

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

Treasurer's Report

Because of the fiscal year bookkeeping and the billing cycle, the C4 books show a loss, although it was planned for in the budget. Treasurer Cindy Piennett suggested that the C4 organization bill the Education Fund (C3) twice a year, rather than once, and ask the units to submit their contributions by the end of June, to be credited in the fiscal year. In any case, the fiscal position is sound and will be clearer when the books are balanced at the end of the fiscal year.

Membership and Leadership Development

The National League offers coaching for leadership development and for helping members to be creative in finding potential new members. Some ideas are working with local colleges to engage students as volunteers, and making teachers honorary members so that they encourage their students to become involved in the political process. After the first of the year, a few Board members may participate in the coaching sessions.

The Membership Committee met and identified the piece in the “welcome packet” most needing revision—the form that shows what areas members are most interested in. The problem with the piece is that League members are often interested in everything! The goal is to focus on the level of commitment that new members have and gauge activities from that. The committee is also following up with lapsed members to encourage them to rejoin the League. Even those who cannot participate in committees should retain their “passive” memberships to keep up with League activities.

The Voter

The Voter editor reminded members of the deadline for articles—the Monday following the Board meeting!—and asked that they please try to submit their articles by then, in their final form.

Program Planning

The Program Committee would like to do something to reach out to the rest of the County, possibly in Federal Way or Renton. The programs of most interest might be the ones on gun safety and human sex trafficking. With the right program we could reach beyond our membership to others interested in a topic.

Everyone was reminded about the Legislative Action Workshop to be held in Puyallup on December 7 and encouraged to send in their registration fee. There will be car pools driving down, so anyone interested is more than welcome.

The meeting adjourned to regroup at Town Hall to go over logistics for the Fall “Hot Topic” Fundraising Event.



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.

Committees

Meetings can sometimes be subject to last minute changes. Call the LWVS-KC office at 206-329-4848 to confirm.

Economics and Taxation Committee

DATE: Saturday, December 28

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: 909 E. Newton #D-9, Seattle

Our focus is on the issue of a “living wage.” Anyone interested in attending please call Jeannette Johnson, 206-724-3392.

Education Committee

DATE: Thursday, December 5

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

LOCATION: League Office

Note: The December meeting is on Dec. 5, in the afternoon rather than the usual 4th Thursday. If you have questions or comments, please leave a message for Education Committee Chair Joanna Cullen at info@seattlelwv.org or 206-329-4848.

International Relations Committee

DATE: Monday, December 2

TIME: 12:45 – 2:45 p.m.

PLACE: League Office

Vicky Downs will lead the discussion on China. Bring articles and books to share.

Transportation Committee

DATE: Tuesday, December 3

TIME: 10:00 – 12:00

PLACE: League Office

Speaker: Judy Clibborn, the Chair of the House Transportation Committee.

and on:

DATE: Tuesday, December 17

TIME: 10:00 – 12:00

PLACE: League Office

Speaker: A member of the Seattle Waterfront Planning Committee.

We encourage participation by all interested members in our committees. 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 in a more informal manner without regularly scheduled meetings. If not, we may be able to help connect you with like-minded people to start your own.

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.

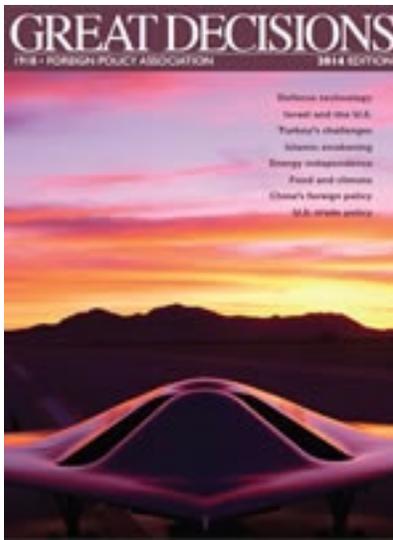
King County Connects — Announcements

GREAT DECISIONS DISCUSSION GROUPS by Carol Goldenberg

Great Decisions is a national grassroots discussion program of the Foreign Policy Association (FPA). It was founded in 1918 as the League of Free Nations by 141 Americans to support President Woodrow Wilson's effort to achieve a just peace. In 1923 it became the FPA with a commitment to careful study of all sides of international questions affecting the U.S. Among the incorporators were John Foster Dulles and Eleanor Roosevelt. Founded in the same era as League, FPA shares League's belief that, although foreign policy is made by the executive branch, an informed and attentive public is necessary to set the parameters for policy decisions. Topics for 2014 include:

- Turkey
- U.S. and Israel
- Climate Change and Food Shortages
- Political Islam Post Arab Spring
- U.S. Defense Policy, with a Focus on New Technology, i.e., Drones
- U.S. Energy Independence and Its Effect on Foreign Policy
- China's Foreign Policy
- The Global Economy and U.S. Trade Policy

Participants are assisted by a briefing book containing up to date information on the eight compelling foreign policy issues written by experts selected by the FPA. The 2014 Great Decisions book should be ordered from FPA at 1-800-477-5836 or www.fpa.org. The \$20.00 book will be mailed after December 15, 2013.



Capitol Hill Area Great Decisions Group

For League members and friends wanting to take part in lively discussions of current foreign policy issues, LWV/S-KC offers a Great Decisions discussion group beginning January 28 and continuing on alternate Tuesdays through May 6 at the home of Vicky Downs, 909 East Newton #D9, 7:15 to 9:00 p.m. Call Vicky Downs at 206-328-3926 or Carol Goldenberg at 206-527-8589 to let us know you plan to participate in this group.

South King County Great Decisions Group

Another Great Decisions discussion group is forming in the Southend co-sponsored by Wesley Homes Retirement Community. It will meet on alternate Wednesdays beginning January 8 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at Wesley Homes in Des Moines. Call Mary Ehlers, 253-941-1930, for more information.

West Seattle Great Decisions Group

You can find an additional Great Decisions discussion group meeting in West Seattle on selected Fridays beginning January 17. The first meeting will be at Ethel Williams' home, 5905 Beach Dr. SW, Seattle. We will sign up for locations for the other dates. You are welcome at 12:30 if you want to visit over a cup of tea (& brown-bag sandwich if you bring one). The discussion runs from 1:00-2:30 p.m. Call Adele Reynolds at 206-621-4867 for more information.

Mercer Island Great Decisions Group

Also, the Mercer Island Great Decisions discussion group is reforming. It will meet at Island House, 7810 SE 30th. Contact Lael Braymer, 206-275-1452, for more information.

ISSAQUAH UNIT HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

DATE: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12
TIME: 11:30 a.m.

All Eastside units and members living on the Eastside including Mercer Island members of LWV Seattle-King County are invited.

WHAT TO BRING: Please bring \$6.00 to reimburse those who are supplying or buying food for our lunch.

Please let either Dorris Martin, dorrismrtn@aol.com, or Gaby Metzger, gabymetz@aol.com, know by email if you plan to attend.

WHERE: Gaby Metzger's home, 4073 173rd Place SE, Bellevue. 425-746-0878.

Driving directions on page 18.
Carpooling will help with parking.

Final Action Workshop of the Year!

Featured speakers are our new lobbyist, Rebecca Johnson Alredge (she gets rave reviews!), State Representatives Wilcox (2nd), Morrell(25th), and Green (28th), and Tacoma City Councilmember Ryan Mello who will speak about coal trains.

This is a great opportunity to hear from a variety of perspectives about what's going to happen during the legislative session, how League can continue to impact outcomes, and what local League members can do to help with action. Plus, you can explore Puyallup after the workshop! It's interactive, with lots of opportunities to ask questions! Come on down!!

-hosted by LWV Tacoma-Pierce County

Saturday, December 7, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Pierce College Puyallup
College Center Building Room 102
1601 39th Ave SE, Puyallup, WA

Call the state League office or go online to sign-up. If you're interested in carpooling, call or email the LWVS-KC office.

Don't forget: if your unit doesn't get a chance to do this or you didn't get to a meeting, you can always send us your thoughts as an individual!

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM PLANNING

What topics would you like to see on the program in League year 2014 – 2015? Ideas may include hot topics for forums and possible subjects for studies and updates to our positions. A list of the most popular topics generated by units, individual members, and committees will form the basis for our program planning discussions in January.

Please submit to info@seattlelwv.org or snail mail to the office by December 16th.

Voter Services

TIME TO REFLECT, RECRUIT AND PLAN

I want to thank all the volunteers who helped to make Voter Services' late October and early November efforts successful. Requests for speakers and for help with voter registration are always more numerous before an election than they are later. Still we have had recent requests from a PTA and a Senior Fair to help register voters, and another for a presentation. Thank you to Marcia Brown, Amanda Clark, Carol Goldenberg, Susan Jones, Julie Anne Kempf, and Hazel Thomas for volunteering for these.

With the November election in the past and the holiday season upon us, it is a good time to reflect. Cyndi Woods before me did such a fantastic job that I have big (not in the literal sense) shoes to fill. Building the core group of presenters is central to our mission to do voter education, and soon after the first of the year most of you will be hearing from me to build up that core group. Without volunteers it would be impossible for the League to accomplish this part of its mission. A greater number of active volunteers will also increase the number of opportunities the League has to be of service to our members and to the community. Please, if you are interested in registering voters or in becoming one of our presenters or if you have ideas about some strategies for building this area of Voter Services, call the office and leave a message for Joanna Cullen or email at voterservices@seattlelwv.org. This is the time to expand our trained volunteer base in order to serve our requests in the future.

Joanna Cullen
Voter Services Co-chair

Other Voter Services Volunteer Opportunities

Election Monitors - housing boards, condo associations, unions and more call on us year round to provide impartial monitors for their elections.

Ballot Issue Research - it's not just a summer/fall activity. Special elections happen in February and April too!

Not sure you're up to the task? Don't worry! We provide training and resources to guide you along the way.

Time to update the TRY - our ever popular directory of elected officials!

We have several people interested in helping us get the 2014 edition rolling but we could still use more help. In addition to updating and verifying the data, someone with technical expertise with pdf files and someone to help design the cover are still very much needed. Call the office for details.

Getting Connected Membership News

NEW MEMBER BIOS

Jessie Attri recently joined but is not entirely new to League as she was vice president of the Kitsap County League in the 1960s. She remains a “strong believer” in the goals of LWV. Jessie likes to travel and learn. She is especially interested in art and classical music. She lived in Europe for three years where she was a Fulbright Scholar in Heidelberg.

Jessie taught seventh grade in the Highline School District before retiring. Now living at Horizon House, she volunteers three days a week at Mary’s Place, a shelter for women and children.

Riley Abel has been a Puget Sound resident for most of his life, but has lived in Seattle for slightly over a year. After graduating from the University of Oklahoma with a degree in mathematics, he moved to Ballard where he is currently a gymnastics coach. Although he has been familiar with League for quite some time because of his mother’s involvement, it was not until he began living on his own and entering adult life that he started to become interested in civic activities, beginning with a special interest in the environment and human impact on climate change. This has morphed into a general interest in how democracy works, and how people can better live together effectively, which led him to membership in the League. Although he is unsure of his ultimate future with the League, he hopes to become involved in as many ways as his schedule permits, and to take advantage of all the resources the League offers about how government works.

Riley’s mother, Kim Abel, was head of the state League’s lobby team and is currently president of the League of Women Voters of Washington.

IN MEMORIAM

Marjorie Rae Henry, a lifelong political activist, an enthusiastic cook, and avid arts patron, died in Seattle on October 22 at the age of 90 from complications of a stroke. She is survived by her three daughters and two grandchildren.

Born in New York City in 1923, Marjorie attended Black Mountain College in North Carolina before attending the University of Montana where she met her husband James W. Henry, Jr. In 1968 she graduated from the University of Washington with a Masters in Library Science and soon thereafter went to work for Seattle Public Library as a reference librarian specializing in maps. She retired 20 years later as map librarian.

In addition to her political work with the local Democratic Party, Marjorie was on the Board of the South King County League of Women Voters for a number of years (before its merger with the Seattle League.) She was also active in the Auxiliary of the Seattle Art Museum.

Marjorie’s family describes her as “learned and witty with a keen intellect.” She loved music, especially jazz, was an accomplished dancer, and was particularly fond of both live theater and film. Her passion for cooking is remembered by many friends and family members who were often recipients of Marjorie’s homemade baked goods, especially Christmas cookies and lemon meringue pies.

We are also saddened to note the passing of **Estelle Wertheimer** and **Susan Sanders** in November. We were not able to obtain memorial information prior to going to press but will pass that along when we can and will have more about these wonderful Leaguers next month.

Features

A Successful and Informative Fall Luncheon...



Dr. Terri Klinger and Ashley Ahearn

Thanks to Ashley Ahearn of KUOW radio and Dr. Terri Klinger, we had a highly informative if sobering presentation on *The Other Side of Carbon Emmissions: Ocean Acidification and the Salish Sea*. Dr. Klinger, UW Barer Professor of Sustainability Science, spoke to our very interested audience about the ever growing evidence that ocean acidification is a very serious LOCAL issue. Ocean acidification is a companion response of our planet to the very serious evidence demonstrating carbon dioxide's effect of global warming on the atmosphere. We learned that as carbon dioxide is spewed up into the air, the same cycle that turns lifting moisture into rain precipitates carbon dioxide into the oceans, lakes, and rivers. Our Puget Sound, Hood Canal, and the entire Salish Sea are particularly vulnerable to the amount of atmospheric carbon dioxide that is entering those waters. In the Salish Sea, because the water way is long, deep, and narrow and ends with no drain at "the bottom," the concentration of carbon dioxide is changing the pH balance that has been so excellent for our shellfish populations. It is becoming acidic enough to seriously damage those populations at critical stages in their development. Oyster farmers on Hood Canal are seeing that in their declining harvests, and scientists like Dr. Klinger are measuring it in their many research projects.

Ashley Ahearn, environmental reporter for KUOW, served well as emcee, asking questions from her own experience working in the field. We are very fortunate that such interesting and busy people are so willing to offer their time to us, both to bring their expertise to our audiences, and to participate in raising the money necessary to keep our many important services available to the community.

Reports from the unit meetings indicate a strong desire for us to continue to educate and lobby on this issue. We'd love to get a team together to lead us in that effort - please contact one of our program chairs, Carol Burton and Beatrice Crane or our action chair Janet Winans to put your name on the list.

If you didn't get a chance to attend, we now have available on our website an audio recording of the presentation and a copy of the info sheet handed out at the event.



Dr. Klinger, Program Co-chair Carol Burton, and Sue Barton

Thanks to our sponsors, attendees and a compelling pitch for your support by President Ellen Barton we raised over \$16,000 to support the League's Education Fund. These funds are critical to the support of our voter services programs such as TRY, public forums and other voter outreach and education activities.



Barbara Reid, President Ellen Barton and Boots Winterstein



Thank you to: Sponsors Starbucks Coffee Company, Herb Bridge & Edie Hilliard, and Pacific Continental Bank. Donors Kim Abel, Karen Adair, Martha Aldridge, Anne Anderson, Seth Armstrong, Charles and Nancy Bagley, Marge Baker, Lydia Balk, Virginia Barker, Sandy Barney, Ellen, Mary and Sue Barton, Kay Beck, Helen Bereiter, Judy Bevington, Elaine Birn, Jeanne Bourget, Lael Braymer, Robert and Marcia Brown, Mary Burki, Carol Burton, Kris and Alan Bushley, Jean Carlson, Alice Chew, Amanda Clark, Suzanne Clark, Susan Cotterell, Beatrice and Peter Crane, Joanna Cullen, Paneen Davidson, Elizabeth Davis, Jo Dawson, Nancy Debaste, Barbara Denis, Kay and Doug Dicharry, Vicky Downs, Mary Ehlers, Hilke Faber, Karen Falkingham, Eleanor Fordyce, Lucy Gaskill-Gaddis, Amy Godes, Raelene Gold, Carol Goldenberg, Anna Haman, Judith Hance, Therese Hansen, Miriam Helgeland, Elly Hoague, Dorothy Hopper, Cynthia Howe, Jeanette Johnson, Susan Jones, Jeannette Kahlenberg, Marilyn Klepper, Marilyn Knight, Sandra Kraus, Pat Lane, Karen Lahey, Ann Lange, Carol Larsen, Lois Laughlin, Eleanor Laxdall, Rita Lee, Monica Leigh, Anne Lester, Candis Litsey and Ted Young, Carol Long, Judy Love, Myra Lupton, Dorris and Wayne Martin, Pat McCann, Vivian Montoya, Linda Murtfeldt, Monya Noelke, Joan O'Reilly, Jan Orlando, Ginna Owens, Alice Paine, Suzanne Papcun, Janet Perry, Alice and Jack Peterson, Joan and Kim Peterson, Cindy and Mark Piennett, Toni Potter, Carolyn Rasch, Alice Rasp, Barbara Reid, Josephine Roskin, Nancy Rust, Peggy Saari, Marianne Scholl, Celia Schorr, Dorothy Schott, Joan Scott, Jane Shafer, Gail Shurgot, Nancy Silk, Elsie Simon, Shirley Skeith, Denise Smith, Jack Smith, Helen St. John, Lucy Steers, Lorna Stern, Jane Stevens, Betty Sullivan, Hazel Thomas, Peggy Tlapak, Eden and Dave Toner, Lisa Unsoeld-Chang, Laraine Volkman, Sarah Weems, Laura Weese, Janet Winans, Gail Winberg, Boots Winterstein, and Marian Wolfe.

Finally, thanks must go to all the volunteers who worked to make this event happen. From planning and recruiting the speaker, to rounding up attendees, to setting the tables - without them it wouldn't have been possible. We can't name you all because some of you just showed up and pitched in but for those we can, a really big thanks to:

Karen Adair, Anne Anderson, Ellen Barton, Sue Barton, Marcia Brown, Carol Burton, Jean Carlson, Susan Cotterell, Beatrice Crane, Mary Ehlers, Carol Goldenberg, Miriam Helgeland, Julie Anne Kempf, Lois Laughlin, Rita Lee, Candis Litsey, Rose McCoo, Cindy and Mark Piennett, Marianne Scholl, Lisa Unsoeld-Chang, MJ Vigil, and Janet Winans.



Kay Beck, Marianne Scholl, Rose McCoo and Joan Lawson

...And A Good Time Was Had By All!

NEWS FROM THE ECONOMICS AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

By Jeanette Johnson, Chair

This is the fourth in a series of articles about America's growing economic inequality crisis and what we can do about it based on Timothy Noah's book, *The Great Divergence*. This month I look at trade globalization and offshoring.

Trade Globalization and Offshoring of Manufacturing Jobs

No one can deny we've been going through some tough economic challenges. One of these challenges – not talked about much these days – is the globalization of trade and the offshoring of American manufacturing jobs that has taken place over the last 30 years or so. In the 1950s and 1960s the U.S. was an economic powerhouse and ran trade surpluses. Since the 1970s, however, the U.S. has moved from trade surpluses to trade deficits.

Trade deficits cause money to flow out of the country. They also destroy jobs, especially in the manufacturing sector which, as Joseph Stiglitz notes in his book, *The Price of Inequality*, was “the very sector that ... helped create a broad middle class in the years after World War II.” This was because manufacturing offered workers with only a high school education jobs that paid better wages and benefits than they could find elsewhere in the economy.

Of course, not all manufacturing jobs lost over the past few decades have been due to trade. Technological changes have also displaced workers. Nonetheless, the globalization of trade has been a significant factor, especially since the institution of “free trade.”

In the 1990s free trade was presented as beneficial to everyone. Trade barriers needed to be eliminated to allow the free-flow of goods between all countries, it was said. Even if highly-paid American workers were pitted against lower-paid workers in less developed countries, American workers were supposed to benefit because they would be paying less for consumer goods. The resulting drop in prices was

supposed to so outweigh any cut in wages that workers would, for all practical purposes, net out with the equivalent of a raise. Theoretically, anyone who lost a job would be compensated and helped to find a new one. Of course, “theory” is not the same as practice.

What has been the net effect of free trade on economic inequality? Opinions vary. Noah concludes that “trade with low-wage nations, which was negligible until the 21st Century, is responsible for 12 to 13 percent” of the increase in economic inequality, and maybe more. On the other hand, Robert Scott of the liberal Economic Policy Institute testified before the Committee on International Relations Subcommittee on International Economic Policy and Trade in 1999 (before the entry of China into the World Trade Organization) that trade is responsible for about 20 to 40 percent of the increase in income inequality. He attributed the balance to other factors such as the decline in unionization “and inflation erosion in the value of the minimum wage.”

Offshoring of Service Sector Jobs

Economists have increasingly become concerned about the offshoring of service sector jobs. Service sector jobs range from low-skilled data entry positions to more highly-skilled computer programming jobs. Estimates of the number of U.S. service jobs lost to offshoring to date vary wildly – from about 16,000 annually to just under one million annually, according to Noah. “But we're still in the early innings,” he warns. Any impersonally delivered service that can be performed by an English speaker at a fraction of the U.S. pay is vulnerable.

How offshoring of service sector jobs will affect income inequality in the future remains to be seen. Princeton economist Alan Blinder concluded that more high-skilled jobs are vulnerable to offshoring than low-skilled jobs. Computer operators are difficult to offshore, but computer programmers are easily offshored, he noted. If this proves to be true, offshoring of service sector jobs may actually reduce income inequality by displacing highly-paid U.S. jobs to lower-wage countries.

FAMILIES AND EDUCATION LEVY UPDATE

by Lucy Gaskill-Gaddis

It has been two years since Seattle voters approved a seven-year \$231million levy to support services to Seattle School District students and their families. This amount was double what the previous levy funded, and there are a variety of new programs, in addition to an expansion of previous ones. Here is a rundown of new programs by age group:

- Early Learning covers birth to five years old. In addition to continuing the Step Ahead preschools and the Home Visiting program, the levy focuses on improving the quality of preschool teachers and home providers of care. This includes those family, friends, and neighbors who take care of children in their homes. Research has shown that the quality of a program or care is the determining factor in its success, so the focus on professional development is a key strategy in this levy.
- Support for elementary schools is focused on “innovation grants” of \$250,000 or more. All 23 Title One schools (schools that have high poverty rates) are eligible and will be funded over the seven years of the levy. Each school prepares a plan on how to meet the academic and social needs of their students and families. Based on the plans, four schools are chosen each year to receive the

grant. A new summer learning program for some elementary students began last summer.

- For middle schools, the main change is to expand from three to five the number of schools that receive “innovation grants.” Mercer Middle School received a student health clinic last year as part of this levy. A new summer learning program for middle school students began this past summer.
- High school programs continue to focus on 9th grade students, more college and career planning, and summer learning programs. The World School received a new student health center to be used by Nova students also.
- The Health Investment area has several new programs to provide services for elementary and preschool students. It also is expanding mental health and dental services.
- Overall, the levy focuses more on students of refugee and immigrant families, low income families, and English Language learners.

More information on the levy programs can be found online on the Office of Education website. The office is part of the Department of Neighborhoods. The Oversight Committee of which Lucy Gaskill-Gaddis is a member meets monthly to be kept abreast of levy programs and to approve implementation plans. Lucy reported on the levy to the LWV/S-KC Education Committee on October 24, 2013.

BOOK REVIEW by Vicky Downs

THE BLACK COUNT: GLORY, REVOLUTION, BETRAYAL, AND THE REAL COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO By Tom Reiss

This Pulitzer Prize winning biography introduces us to the first Alexandre Dumas, the father of the man who wrote *The Count of Monte Cristo* and the grandfather of the playwright of *La Dame aux Camelias* on which Verdi based his opera *La Traviata*.

Alexandre Dumas was born on Saint-Domingue, now Haiti, in 1762, the child of a feckless French aristocrat who called himself Antoine de l'Isle and a black freed slave. De l'Isle sold the boy, his favorite son, into slavery when lacking passage money for his return to France. After reclaiming his title and recovering part of his fortune, the "marquis" brought Alexandre to France, dressed him as a young gentleman and sent him to an elite school in Paris.

There were a few other mixed race students like Alexandre, and he thrived at the school where he preferred to be called Alex. He was intelligent, good looking, exceptionally athletic, a gifted horseman and a formidable fencer. He moved "easily in Paris society, admired for his grace and polished manners." However, as soon as he graduated, his father remarried and immediately dropped him without a sou. Alex quickly joined the French army, using his mother's maiden name and leaving behind any claim to nobility through his father.

In the 18th Century, France seemed to have been at war all the time, and Alex fought many battles, making a name for himself as a tough and fearless fighter. As he rose through the ranks he showed his skills as a leader and a tactician, along with his ability to organize and execute a military engagement. In hand-to-hand combat he was unbeatable. His colleagues admired him, and one, who watched him fight against heavy

odds defending a bridge, described seeing him "lift his saber as a thresher lifts his flail, and each time the sword was lowered a man fell." In less than three years, he became a general.

His military career took place during a momentous time for France, and the author takes us through the never-ceasing wars in Europe, the French Revolution, and the disruptive times that followed including the Reign of Terror, a democracy of sorts, another monarchy, and a dictatorship. All of this is seen from the perspective of Alex Dumas, who was an ardent believer in equality and fraternity. I found that reading French history in this way made it wonderfully real.

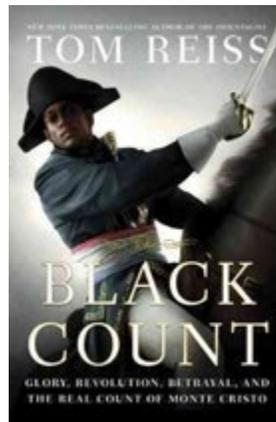
Alex Dumas comes across as an admirable person, and it is easy to sympathize with his point of view of

events, such as the changes in the ways people did or did not accept racial equality or the rise of Napoleon. Dumas' life was full of adventure, including his participation in Bonaparte's effort to conquer Egypt and his imprisonment in Tarento on his way back to France.

Reiss shows us that when Alex Dumas' son, known today as "Dumas père," grew up to write his swashbuckling novels, he drew heavily on stories he had heard about his father. Though much was imagined, Reiss points to parallels between fiction and real life. Clearly the author's father was the model for the fictional Edmond Dantès in *The Count of Monte Cristo*.

This is a delightful book and a good choice for any history buffs on your gift list!

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



Unit Meetings

(Not all units meet in December and some have scheduled special events and times. Please check the schedule carefully and RSVP where requested to be sure you have the most current information.)

Unit Leader email	Phone	Time	Location
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Monday, December 2

SOUTHEND – Marian Wolfe and Vivian Montoya

hedgwolfe@aol.com	206-763-9430	7:30 p.m.	Hostess: Kris Bushley
montoyaviv@yahoo.com	206-695-2620		2330 34th Ave S, Seattle 206-723-6939

Wednesday, December 4

NORTH KING COUNTY – Toni Potter

antoniapotter@comcast.net	206-365-8949	10:00 a.m.	Hostess: Raelene Gold 4028 196th St, Lake Forest Park 206-363-4107
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Luncheon - Please RSVP to unit leader.

Monday, December 9

FIRST HILL – Joan Lawson

joanvlawson@gmail.com	206-382-3147	10:00 a.m.	Horizon House, Forum & Social Room 900 University St, Seattle
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CAPITOL HILL/MONTLAKE

No unit leader	206-322-3076	7:15 p.m.	Hostess: Linnea Hirst 1602 E McGraw St, Seattle
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Tuesday, December 10

WEST SEATTLE – Amanda Berry and Ethel Williams

amandaberry@earthlink.net	206-724-7518	1:00 p.m.	The Kenney
etheljw1@q.com	206-932-7887		7125 Fauntleroy Way SW, Seattle

State Representative Eileen Cody will be our guest.

Wednesday, December 11

VIEW RIDGE – Gail Winberg

winbergeng@q.com	206-524-7801	12:45 p.m.	Brig Bldg. (6344) in Magnuson Park 7400 Sand Point Way, Seattle
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Directions: Go into the Park through North entrance at 74th and drive EAST toward water. At the STOP sign, turn LEFT to park in front of the Brig, or RIGHT, for more parking.

Will be having a speaker on the transportation of coal.

Thursday, December 12

SOUTHEAST KING COUNTY/ENUMCLAW – Cathy Dormaier

clcathy@skynetbb.com	360-802-6799	11:30 a.m.	Hostess: Cathy Dormaier 42108 200th Ave SE, Enumclaw
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Light lunch, and then viewing a DVD on a current LWV topic.

Unit Leader email	Phone	Time	Location
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Thursday, December 12 continued			
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ISSAQUAH – Margaret Austin

margaret.austin@comcast.net	425-392-5760 206-695-2620	11:30 a.m.	Hostess: Gaby Metzger 4073 173rd Place SE, Bellevue 425-746-0878
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Directions: Take I-90 exit 13 towards West Lake Sammamish Parkway. Follow the road to West Lake Sammamish Parkway, pass the school on the left, then pass Camp Sambica. Go to 40th Place and turn left. There is a stone sign that reads 41.5, the name of her development. Turn left there and turn again left immediately behind the sign. You are then on 173rd Place SE. The number is 4073. Please see announcement on page 9 for more information and to RSVP.

BELLEVUE/KIRKLAND/REDMOND – Bonnie Rimawi

bonnierim@aol.com	425-820-7127		
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Meeting with the Issaquah Unit this month - see above.

NORTH CENTRAL – Jan Orlando

orlanre@aol.com	206-524-0936	7:30 p.m.	Hostess: Jan Orlando 5026 36th Ave NE, Seattle
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The following units will not be meeting this month:

BALLARD/MAGNOLIA/QUEEN ANNE DAY – Joan Peterson

joanmepeterson@gmail.com, 206-789-7447

QUEEN ANNE/MAGNOLIA/BALLARD EVENING – Teddy Geokezas

tgeokezas@msn.com, 206-782-5036

SOUTHWEST KING COUNTY – Mary Ehlers and Kathy Jorgensen

maryehlers@comcast.net, 253-941-1930

kjorgensen@juno.com, 253-859-8349

UNIVERSITY HOUSE/WALLINGFORD – Alice Chew

achoo92@q.com, 206-547-5395

Board & Committee Contacts

Term Executive Committee

2013-15	<i>President</i>	Ellen Barton	206-329-4848	president@seattlelwv.org
2013-15	<i>1st VP-Action</i>	Janet Winans	206-323-4825	janetwinans@earthlink.net
2012-14	<i>2nd VP-Program</i>	Beatrice Crane	206-783-8485	bscrane@comcast.net
2013-15	<i>Secretary</i>	Amanda Clark	206-236-0517	amandac5@comcast.net
2013-14	<i>Treasurer</i>	Cindy Piennett	206-329-4848	cindypiennett@gmail.com

Term Directors

2012-14	<i>Voter Editor</i>	Marge Baker	206-535-7299	votereditor@seattlelwv.org
2012-14	<i>Program</i>	Carol Burton	206-691-1298	ctburton7@gmail.com
2013-15	<i>Voter Services</i>	Joanna Cullen	206-329-8514	jfoxcullen@gmail.com
2013-15	<i>Social Justice</i>	Jayne Freitag	425-922-9501	mjafreitag@comcast.net
2012-14	<i>Membership</i>	Susan K. Jones	206-725-2902	susan@monckjones.com
2012-14	<i>Voter Services</i>	Julie Anne Kempf	206-329-4848	julie@kempf.com
2013-15	<i>Outreach</i>	Marianne Scholl	206-329-4848	outreach@seattlelwv.org
2012-14	<i>Unit Coordinator</i>	Lindsay Soyer	406-546-9314	lindsaysoyer@gmail.com
2012-14	<i>Development</i>	Lisa Unsoeld-Chang	206-329-4848	lisac@seattlelwv.org
2012-14	<i>Outreach</i>	Mary Jo Vigil	206-318-6939	mjvigil@starbucks.com

Note: All board members listed above, with the exception of the Treasurer, are also members of the Education Fund Board

Term Education Fund Officers

2013-14	<i>President</i>	Ellen Barton	206-329-4848	president@seattlelwv.org
2013-14	<i>1st VP</i>	Lisa Unsoeld-Chang	206-329-4848	lisac@seattlelwv.org
2013-15	<i>Secretary</i>	Amanda Clark	206-236-0517	amandac5@comcast.net
2013-15	<i>Treasurer</i>	Ginna Owens	206-215-1408	ginnao@earthlink.net
2013-14	<i>Director</i>	Pat McCann	206-878-2799	thomaspa@centurylink.net

Term Nominating Committee

2013-14	<i>Chair</i>	Judy Bevington	206-329-4848	judybevington@q.com
2013-14		Judith Hance	206-329-4848	judithhance2@gmail.com
2013-14		Cynthia Howe	206-329-4848	howe.john@comcast.net
2013-14		Lisa Peterson	206-329-4848	

Note: Two members of the board will be appointed to serve on the nominating committee when meetings begin.

Off Board Positions

Campaign Finance	Jean Carlson	206-774-6649	jean.carlson@att.net
KC South Liaison	Mary Ehlers	253-941-1930	maryehlers@comcast.net
CIS Coordinator	Cynthia Howe	206-236-0593	howe.john@comcast.net
Observer Corps	Pat McCann	206-878-2799	thomaspa@centurylink.net

Committees

<i>Economics & Taxation</i>	Jeanette Johnson		jeanettejohnson10@msn.com
<i>Education</i>	Joanna Cullen	206-329-8514	jfoxcullen@gmail.com
<i>International Relations</i>	see page 7		
<i>Social Justice</i>	Jayne Freitag	425-922-9501	mjafreitag@comcast.net
<i>Transportation</i>	Janet Winans	206-323-4825	janetwinans@earthlink.net

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LWV SEATTLE-KING COUNTY:

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Wishing You And Yours
The Very Best This Holiday
Season And A Wonderful
New Year!

The League Office will be closed from
December 23rd through January 3rd.