Reproductive Choices:
A Perennial Women’s Issue

by Beatrice Crane, Program Co-Chair

Traditionally, the League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County has presented a program focusing on women’s issues in March in honor of Women’s History Month. This year, because we must showcase the state energy study in March, we have moved our special women’s program to February. Our topic is reproductive choices. Our forum could not be more timely, both for symbolic and practical reasons: symbolically, because we are celebrating the fortieth anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the landmark Supreme Court Decision on abortion rights; and practically, because the legislative session that just opened in Olympia will include the reintroduction of an important bill to safeguard women’s choices in Washington State.

Ten years after Roe v. Wade, the League of Women Voters of the United States announced a position supporting the right to make reproductive choices. Since then, the League has been active in resisting attempts to negate or diminish that right. But the fight is far from over.

Since they have not succeeded in repealing Roe v. Wade, opponents have come up with subtle and indirect ways to erode its effects. These have included state laws to restrict abortions or to require mandatory waiting periods or medically unnecessary ultrasounds; cumbersome regulations on abortion providers; attacks, both physical and fiscal, on abortion providers; and the proliferation of “pregnancy crisis centers” which may provide misleading or false information to pregnant women.

Many states have enacted legislation prohibiting insurance plans from covering abortion. As states gear up to implement the Affordable Care Act, more such laws are being introduced. To prevent such restrictions in Washington State, the legislature will once again be considering the Reproductive Parity Act. This act, which passed in the state house last session but did not come to a vote on the senate floor, requires that all insurance policies which cover maternity services also cover abortion services. At our upcoming forum on February 7, we will hear more about the Reproductive Parity Act from our sister organization NARAL Pro-Choice Washington. This information should prepare members who wish to do so to lobby for the passage of the bill. NARAL and allied organizations will be holding a Reproductive Health and Rights Lobby Day in Olympia on February 18. The League of Women Voters of Washington will hold its own Lobby Day on March 4.

Because we are focusing on an active issue, it turns out to be very convenient that we had to move our women’s forum forward. But we will not forget women’s history in March. After all, for the League of Women Voters, every issue that we choose to focus on is a women’s issue.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Reproductive Rights Lobby Day — February 18

Next month:
LEAGUE LOBBY DAY — March 4
FORUM: Renewable Energy in WA — March 7
LEADERSHIP
If you haven’t seen the movie Lincoln, I encourage you to do so. On President’s Day, February 18, we might think back on Abraham Lincoln and the others who have held that weighty position, and look forward to our newly re-inaugurated president’s tenure and consider what kind of leadership is needed.

While we are a nonpartisan organization, we certainly care that sound policies prevail and that our leaders know when to stick to principle, when to compromise for the larger good, and when to be proactive in staving off showdowns. With good leadership, we won’t have to go to the edge of too many cliffs, be they fiscal, environmental, or nuclear. The Civil War, the passage of the 13th Amendment, and the Cuban missile crisis provide lessons that can be applied to action on the economy and climate change today. We can hope that cool heads will find creative and timely solutions and have the political skills to get the necessary support. Doris Kerns Goodwin’s Team of Rivals: the Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln and her other fine books on other presidencies provide lessons.

Divisions are deep even at the state and local levels of government. While some see a role for shrinking government, others recognize the need for a robust governmental role to solve social programs such as education, health care, human trafficking, housing, and hunger. Leaders are needed to provide information, creative solutions, and the skills to negotiate solutions. They need to ply the art of the possible, keeping their values in sight and making incremental, opportunistic progress.

We have our own leadership challenges in the League. There is so much that we care about. We have many dedicated and overworked volunteers. We of course rely on the support of our committed followers, but we always need more people to take on leadership positions. Whether as Board member or president, chair of a committee or a unit, there are numerous opportunities. For instance, we have been unable to influence many social justice and environmental issues for want of a chair with both commitment and time. The nominating committee is now searching for new officers. I encourage you to step up and use YOUR leadership skills and gain new ones to make decisions on the direction of the organization and the implementation of positions. Members are often not of one mind so you can hone your leadership skills and enjoy the challenge of making League a robust organization that can truly help to make Democracy work.

Judy Bevington
President
### February/March

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### FEBRUARY

- **Board Meeting**
  - Saturday, February 2
  - 9:00 a.m. - noon
  - League Office

- **Voter deadline**
  - Monday, February 4

- **International Relations Committee**
  - Monday, February 4
  - 12:45 – 2:45 p.m.
  - League Office

- **League Drinks**
  - Thursday, February 7
  - 6:00 p.m.
  - Jimmy’s
  - 1100 Broadway, Seattle

- **Forum: Reproductive Choices**
  - Thursday, February 7
  - 7:30 p.m.
  - Seattle First Baptist Church
  - Briefing at 6:30 p.m.

- **ELECTION DAY**
  - Tuesday, February 12

- **Transportation Committee**
  - Tuesday, February 19
  - 10:00 a.m. – noon
  - League Office

### MARCH

- **Education Committee**
  - Tuesday, February 28
  - 10:00 a.m. – noon
  - League Office

- **Board Meeting**
  - Saturday, March 2
  - 9:00 a.m. – noon
  - League Office

- **Economics & Taxation Committee**
  - Saturday, March 2
  - 9:00 a.m.
  - 909 E Newton, #D9

- **League Day at the Legislature in Olympia**
  - Monday, March 4

- **Voter deadline**
  - Monday, March 4

- **International Relations Committee**
  - Monday, March 4
  - 12:45 – 2:45 p.m.
  - League Office

- **League Day at the Legislature**
  - Monday, March 4
  - All Day - Olympia

- **Forum: Renewable Energy in WA**
  - Thursday, March 7
  - 7:30 p.m.
  - Seattle First Baptist Church
Forum Schedule

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<td>March 7</td>
<td>Energy Concerns in WA</td>
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<td>April 4</td>
<td>Campaign Finance Reform</td>
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<td>May 2</td>
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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. In May 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

Program and Development

Because of unforeseen circumstances, the topic for February’s forum and unit meetings had to be changed. Alternate topics of Women’s Reproductive Rights and Voter Services were suggested. Program Chairs Karen Adair and Beatrice Crane will prepare a new program for February. The forum topics for the rest of the year are also subject to change. Development Chair Ginna Owens also believes that May will be the best month for the spring fundraising event.

Office Location and Lease

M/S/C The Board approved President Judy Bevington’s recommendation that the LWVS-KC sign a 2-year lease for the current Madison site. While other alternatives included signing a different length lease or moving to the Vance Building and sharing space with the State League, the current location best served the original criteria of cost savings and accessibility, as well as the adequacy of the space. The recommendation noted that there would likely be a cost savings by negotiating new terms at the current space and that the move itself would have costs attached to it.

Action

Nancy Bagley presented the recommendation of the Education Committee in support of the Seattle School District’s proposed Operations and Maintenance Levy and the Building Excellence (BEX IV) Capital Levy. Chris Jackins from the Seattle Committee to Save Schools and Polly Aird presented arguments for opposing the BEX IV Levy.

M/S/C The Board endorsed both Seattle school levies that will be on the ballot in February. Proposition I is a 3-year levy for day to day operations and programs not fully funded by the state. Proposition II is a Capital levy.

While there was strong support for both levies, several concerns were expressed about the capital levy projects as presented. They included a need for the Seattle School District to maintain a high level of transparency, early public involvement, and substantiation that the projects as currently presented support the District’s direction of providing neighborhood schools, including the effects on
neighborhoods of large elementary schools. Members were also concerned about the impact on Native American programs.

Members also noted that the League of Women Voters’ positions have long maintained that maintenance and operations costs of local school districts should be fully funded by the state. Local levies for maintenance and operation should be used only until the state adequately finances local school districts.

Action Chair Ellen Barton will draft a letter on behalf of the LWVS-KC urging the Port Commission to be careful of the appearance of conflicts of interest in the future.

Membership

The total membership of LWVS-KC was 693 as of 12/31/2012 and represented a total gain of 2 members since the same date in 2011. Membership Chair Susan Jones reported that new member mentorship will be rolling out in February.

Voter Services and Vote 411

Vote 411 has become a very successful and important activity of the LWV at all levels. Keeping the database up to date and accurate is complicated and labor intensive. Voter Services Chairs Julie Ann Kempf and Cyndi Woods will be working with the State League on a proposal for the LWVS-KC involvement in Vote 411.

Local Units

All Board members have enjoyed visits with the local units. Unit Coordinator Lindsay Cummings thanked Board members who have attended unit meetings and stressed that it is important to do so more often.

Board members were encouraged to continue to contact the nominating committee with names of likely candidates.

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, MARCH 2
TIME: 10:00 A.M. - NOON
PLACE: 909 E NEWTON, #D9

The committee is not meeting in February; instead they are meeting the first Saturday in March.

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**
DATE: THURSDAY, JANUARY 31
TIME: 1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
&
FEBRUARY 28
TIME: 10:00 A.M. - NOON
PLACE: LEAGUE OFFICE

Interested in public schools? Please join us for an update on the Seattle Public Schools Operations Levy and BEX IV Capital Levy (recently endorsed by the League) and a review of our action priorities for the upcoming year. This is an excellent time to join the committee as we are re-organizing and considering what we’d like to do next.

On Wednesday, February 6 - 6:30-8:30 p.m. the League will be phone banking (at the Schools First office) to support the levy. Training, script, phones and pizza provided - it’s easy. All are welcome!

Schools First Campaign Headquarters
McKinstry Innovation Center
210 S Hudson St
Call Kelly Powers for more info
206-484-2858

**INTERNSHIP RELATIONS COMMITTEE**
DATE: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4
TIME: 12:45 - 2:45 P.M.
PLACE: LEAGUE OFFICE

The agenda will include our traditional rousing “Hot Topics” discussion and developing study and program ideas around this year’s focus: China.

**TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**
DATE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19
TIME: 10:00 A.M. - NOON
PLACE: LEAGUE OFFICE

Subject: Continuing FREIGHT 101
Speaker: Nicholas Barta, Chief Council, and Julie Tolefree, VP Corporate Services for AMERICAN FAST, Freight Forwarders

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

**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.
King County Connects - Announcements

Our 2013 TRY (They Represent You: Directory of Elected Officials) is ready! League members and donors to the Education Fund will automatically receive a copy. If you would like additional copies just contact us at info@seattlelwv.org or call 206-329-4848. We will mail up to three copies free of charge. You can order larger quantities and pick them up at the office.

Check out the new features this year: Maps of the legislative and congressional districts, information about the Top Two primary system, and color throughout. Special thanks to volunteers Candis Litsey, Amelia Woolley and especially Marianne Scholl for their hard work updating this year’s edition.

There is also an electronic version available on our website: www.seattlelwv.org

Exploring Public Financing in Seattle Elections

Hosted by Councilmembers Sally J. Clark, Nick Licata, Mike O’Brien and Tom Rasmussen and the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission

Join national experts at two panel discussions on the benefits and challenges of publicly financed elections.

   Part 1: Public Election Financing In Practice
   Thursday, Jan. 31, 6 - 8 p.m.
   Seattle University, LeRoux Conference Center
   Part 2: Public Election Financing in Research
   Wednesday, Feb. 13, 6 - 8 p.m.
   Seattle Central Library, 1000 Fourth Ave.

For more information visit www.seattle.gov/council

Special Election on February 12

On January 23, ballots were mailed; voters’ pamphlets and ballots will arrive in the same envelope. If you live in Seattle and did not receive a ballot, please call 206-296-VOTE (8683).

The Seattle School District is the only jurisdiction participating in the special election, with two measures: Proposition 1, an operations levy, and Proposition 2, a capital levy.

Ballots must be postmarked by Feb. 12 or returned to any of seven ballot drop-off locations or two accessible voting centers by the same date. Ballot drop boxes at the Ballard Library, King County Administration Building in downtown Seattle and at Magnuson Park are open 24 hours a day until 8 p.m. on election day. Drop off vans will be located at the Rainier Community Center, Red Square on the UW campus, and the West Seattle Stadium on Saturday, Feb. 9 and Monday, Feb. 11 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on election day, Feb. 12. An accessible voting location at Seattle’s Union Station will be open Monday, February 11 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Tuesday, February 12 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

A ballot drop box and accessible voting are also available at King County Records and Elections in Renton.
League Day at the Legislature
March 4

Join League members from around the state at the Legislative Building in the Columbia Room from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Attendees will hear from legislators, the League lobbyist, and members of the lobby team. There will be time in the afternoon to visit with your legislators and make your voice heard in Olympia. If you do plan to attend, it is a good idea to contact your legislators in advance to schedule a meeting.

Lunch is included with the $25 registration fee. See the Washington State League of Women Voters website www.lwvwa.org for the registration form, details, and directions.

Seattle School Levies Endorsement

At its January 5 meeting, the Board of the League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County endorsed both Seattle school levies that will be on the ballot in February. Proposition I is a 3-year levy for day to day operations and programs not fully funded by the state, including teachers, textbooks, full-day kindergarten, special education and bilingual education services, bus transportation and security, and student activities such as athletics and music. Proposition II is a 6-year capital levy (BEX IV) which will provide funds for safety and security (seismic upgrades), building maintenance, remodeling, and construction. Both are replacement levies.

While there was strong support for both levies, several concerns were expressed about the capital levy projects as presented. These concerns included a need for the Seattle School District to maintain a high level of transparency, early public involvement, and substantiation that the projects as currently presented support the District’s direction of providing neighborhood schools. The School District should consider the effect on neighborhoods of large elementary schools. Board members were also concerned about the impact on Native American programs. If the capital levy passes, we trust that the School Board will take these into account as it is implemented.

Members also noted that the League of Women Voters’ positions have long been that the state should fully fund maintenance and operations costs of local school district. Local levies for maintenance and operation should be used only until the state adequately finances local school districts.
LWV INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

By Becky Castilleja, Chair

The problems which challenge us as a nation today are not packaged neatly within our borders and neither are the solutions. Globalization has knitted the world together into an international community. In the International Relations Committee, we examine and explore our interactions with the rest of the world and how they affect us here at home and others abroad.

Lively discussions result as we address “hot topics” such as Iran and the “Arab Spring,” our use of drones in Pakistan, the abuse of women, and the impacts of multi-national corporations on local economies. Our nation’s policy decisions related to issues such as trade, water, energy, human rights, and global warming, as well as those involving international treaties, both signed and unsigned, have an impact on communities around the world.

Committee members share information and perspective gained from topical books, magazine articles, and other resources. We also benefit from the input of members involved in organizations such as the United Nations Association and the World Affairs Council.

At the New Year, we are working toward organizing a “hot topic forum” on the use of drones, a new and controversial technology now being deployed in Pakistan and in Seattle in a different form.

Our special focus for the next couple years will be China. We will be exploring the complexities of problems facing this vast, changing nation, and how their evolving cultural, political, and economic life affects us here in the U.S. We will be working closely with the Economics and Taxation Committee as we endeavor to grow in our understanding of this endlessly fascinating country.

Developing program ideas to inform the League membership and larger community will be an important part of our discussions. We invite you to join us. Our meetings are held in the League conference room on the first Monday of the month, from 12:45 – 2:45 p.m.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT: FREIGHT 101 MOVING AHEAD FOR PROGRESS IN THE 21ST CENTURY (MAP21)

By Janet Winans, Chair

As we build a foundation of information during these Freight 101 sessions, the idea of 18 or more 125-car coal trains has served as a useful example of the complications that confront shippers, suppliers, and the general public. It has provided a view into how access to the infrastructure, through which and by which cargo moves, is prioritized. The concern about shipping massive amounts of coal across many states to ports for export demonstrates the complexity of relationships between the public and the for-profit entities involved with both the interstate commerce of freight and the contests for use of infrastructure that can be either public resources or privately owned. The railroads began as private entities that were granted vast public lands by the US government in return for their building the infrastructure that opened “the West” to interstate commerce. Federal, state, and local governments have funded and controlled almost all roads and bridges, but the decision making about which roads and bridges have been built seems to involve a contest among powerful interests and powerful legislators, in which legislators exchange one bargain for another. The result is what we call “earmarks.”

Washington State Freight Systems Manager Barb Ivanov gave our December Transportation committee meeting a perspective of the transport infrastructure very different from that of our first
speakers and WSDOT, the state government agency that must implement the decisions of the legislature and is responsible for building and maintaining the entire transport infrastructure in our state. That infrastructure includes any rail crossing anywhere in the state. Of course, money is the most critical asset that WSDOT must manage and must deal with the lack of it.

Stimulated perhaps by the fact that the last Congress intended to eliminate “earmarks,” the Federal Department of Transportation (USDOT) introduced MAP21 in 2012 as the guiding document for all future requests for any federal transportation funding. That same Congress only just barely reauthorized the six-year Federal Transportation Bill, four years into its current six-year cycle.

The MAP21 project comes with no funding to implement it and is, at the same time, a very significant change to the status quo. It changes the very rationale for funding any particular project. In the past the earmark was funded because its advocates said it needed to be done. The determining issues were how much money was needed and when the project would be finished. Success was measured by whether the project was done “on time and under budget.” MAP 21 requires “performance based benefits” as the measures of success. All future funding requests must include quantifiable measures describing the problem that exists and equally quantifiable measures of the predicted changes that the investment in infrastructure will provide. It sets forth very specific demands that will require states to invest in new means of data collection and analysis in order to provide those data based measures. The criteria for approving funds will include: improving economic efficiency, productivity, and competitiveness; reducing congestion; improving safety and resilience; improving maintenance; using advanced technology and accountability; improving environmental impact; and mediating community impact.

As State Freight Systems Manager, Ms. Ivanov has assembled a team of professionals with very different skills from those of the civil engineers who are the traditional designers of such projects. It includes a PhD computer analyst and an MA economist. The responsibilities for this team include designing and implementing the data collection and analysis system.

By October 2013, USDOT will designate the primary national freight network that will also include the entire interstate highway system and critical rural freight corridors. By October 2014, USDOT will establish performance measures and standards for truck freight on the interstate system. The measures must be “externally focused and meaningful to users.” For instance, the standard for total annual truck delay and reliability might be set at the 80th percentile. USDOT will also set standards for the condition of pavements and bridges in the national highway system, highway safety, congestion mitigation, and air quality.

By October 2015, the State teams will have provided the information required for the National Freight Plan that will identify highway truck bottlenecks that create congestion problems based on the quantitative method; provide an estimate of the cost of addressing each bottleneck and operational improvements; and include strategies to improve intermodal connectivity such as train, truck, and port transfers.

While Ms. Ivanov is the director of this project, it involves every freight stakeholder in Washington, and requires coordination with Idaho and Oregon DOTs, truckers and owners from Charley’s Produce to Boeing and Safeway, local governments to the far corners of the state, the ferry system, barge owners on the Columbia River, apple farmers in Wenatchee, and the ports. The Freight Mobility Roundtable is one such multi-stakeholder entity that already exists in Washington, giving us a head start on many of the requirements of MAP21. The 2011 Governor’s Connecting Washington Task Force began the kind of data collection MAP21 demands.

As we think of the conflict about the coal trains, it is intriguing to imagine how the requirements of MAP21 will affect the development and implementation of such a project.
Getting Connected  Membership News

NURTURE NEW MEMBERS BY BECOMING A MENTOR
BY SUSAN JONES, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Ensuring that our Seattle-King County League chapter remains viable and strong will always depend on two fundamental strategies: (1) continuously recruiting more dues paying members and; (2) encouraging those same new members to become engaged in League activities to whatever degree is comfortable or feasible for them. That not only adds value to their own membership but also improves the odds that a new member today might be recognized for outstanding dedication and longtime participation many years down the road.

It is that second strategy, then, that I want to focus on here. An aggressive recruiting campaign might be hugely successful in terms of raw numbers but unless a certain number of those new members not only renew their memberships in future years, but also choose to participate in League functions in one or more ways, the vitality of our chapter would likely be diminished. Rather than leave that to chance, our leadership proposes starting a pilot mentor program for at least the remainder of this calendar year. If the program proves successful, it could be expanded.

Any new member who is interested would be paired with a volunteer mentor from among our existing members after indicating their specific areas of interest, level of involvement they can commit to, and their personal objectives regarding what they want to get out of their League membership. Those goals could be as simple as building a new network of friends and like-minded colleagues to something more ambitious such as intense committee work. Ideally each new mentee would be paired with a mentor whose interests and goals were a close match, but most importantly, a mentor who is first of all a good listener. The role of the mentor is not to overwhelm or pressure the mentee but to understand her or his individual desires and to make it easier for them to explore the many possibilities open to them. If a new member has joined only to make some new friends, the mentor might begin by taking that person to a unit meeting in their neighborhood and/or inviting him or her to work the registration desk at a forum or two.

In the coming month or two, we intend to post some guidelines on the LWVSKC website for the mentor program with information pertinent to both mentors and mentees. But before we do that, we need to put out the call for volunteer mentors from among our existing members, preferably those who have been active in the League for at least six months. If you think you might be interested in the mentoring role, please contact me by phone or email and I will be in touch. (See contact information below.)

Like anything else you are involved with at the League, your commitment is pretty much what you want to make of it. In any event, you will be serving as a resource, advisor, teacher, coach, model, sponsor, or guide to your mentee for as long as it is mutually beneficial and productive. At the very least, you will have the satisfaction of making a new member feel more welcome and valued and in the best-case scenario, the mentoring relationship may even evolve into a lifelong friendship. In the end, of course, you can take credit for playing a key role in building a stronger and larger membership organization.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Susan Jones
Membership Chair
susan@monckjonescom
206-478-1617
MOVIE NIGHT AT SOUTHWEST KING COUNTY UNIT by Mary Ehlers

The documentary *Blue Gold: World Water Wars* was a hit with the Southwest King County unit meeting in December. Seven members were surprised at the politics surrounding water issues. Also, we learned that a small group of international companies exerts widespread control over the water supplies around the world. We were sobered by the implications of what this means in some of the developing nations where the cost of water can affect your very ability to survive. The movie addressed not only companies that own the water in some communities, but companies that have control over the quality of the water. This is not going on just overseas. We learned it is happening right here in our country and specifically the Puget Sound where RWE/Thames Water Company controls the quality of our region’s water through a public/private agreement.

It has become something of a tradition to show a documentary at our unit meeting when no specific material is provided by the League office. In addition to *Blue Gold*, we have watched *Waiting for Superman*, *Gasland*, and *Inside Job*. We have found these movies provide a different way to look at League program issues and appeal to a wider audience.

FIRST HILL UNIT HONORS LIFE MEMBERS

by Judy Bevington

I attended a meeting of our huge First Hill/ Horizon House unit to honor 10 of their members who are life members, having been in League from 50 to 65 years. Virginia Bigelow, almost 100 years old, said, “Anything the League does, I am for!” How about that for loyalty!

These terrific ladies have made countless contributions to the League and to our communities. Members enjoyed hearing of the experiences of these ladies from service on the Seattle City Council and state legislature to League presidencies and board membership to lifelong friendships they have made through the League.

NEW MEMBERS by Carol Goldenberg

Marianne Scholl joined Seattle King-County League of Women Voters in the autumn of 2012 and almost immediately began sharing her skills by working on the League’s 2013 issue of They Represent You: Directory of Elected Officials (TRY). Marianne has extensive experience in publishing and communications, having co-founded Seattle Woman Magazine in 2004. She was the magazine’s first publisher and became its editor in 2007 until it closed last year. League members may remember that the very first issue of the magazine featured then Seattle LWV president Nancy Eitreim.

Marianne currently works as a communications and marketing consultant and a project manager for Washington Lodging Association. Her background also includes community relations for Seattle’s Child Magazine and lots of freelance writing.

Before becoming a business owner, Marianne served on PTA boards at her children’s schools and has been active in Ballard’s 15th Ave NW Association which she helped found to advocate for pedestrian improvements on the busy arterial. Marianne says her mother, who is active in the Marin County LWV, inspired her to get involved with the League. In addition to the TRY, she...
Kristina Keogh describes herself as a political neophyte seeking to assuage her ignorance by joining the League of Women Voters. She has been a high school teacher around the world for the past eleven years and is currently on a leave of absence to write a book, blog about her political journey at www.pokylittlepundit.com, and be a better mother to her three year old son, George. She lives in Queen Anne with her husband Ben and hopes to make a positive change in Seattle Public Schools so that her son gets the best education possible.

Web Hutchins has been teaching English and History in Seattle Public Schools since 1990. “Hutch,” as he is called, is the founder and executive director of the Civics for All Initiative. His students’ enthusiasm for civics, political action, and social change inspired him to write the proposal. The initiative proposes that, among other things, civics instruction will occur across the K-12 curriculum. Social Studies K-12 classes would be required to do two civic projects/units each year. Voting is also a major part of the proposal, emphasizing voting by staging mock elections appropriate to each school and encouraging students to register family members and others. Hutch says the proposal has been well received. It can be viewed in full at www.civicsforall.org.

Hutch writes about the convergence of politics and education and has had pieces published in Educational Leadership, Education Week, Northwestern Sportsman Magazine, the Seattle Times, and Wall Street Journal.com. He connected with the League when he presented the proposal to Washington LWV Voter Education Committee in the fall of 2011.

Hutch complements his passion for civics education with fishing, especially rivers for steelhead trout, and bird hunting with his English setter, Bomber.

Hutch looks forward to working with LWV Seattle-King County education committee.

Happy Birthday to the League!

The League of Women Voters was founded by Carrie Chapman Catt in 1920 during the convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. The convention was held just six months before the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, giving women the right to vote after a 72-year struggle.

The League began as a “mighty political experiment” designed to help 20 million women carry out their new responsibilities as voters. It encouraged them to use their new power to participate in shaping public policy. From the beginning, the League has been an activist, grassroots organization whose leaders believed that citizens should play a critical role in advocacy. It was then, and is now, a nonpartisan organization. League founders believed that maintaining a nonpartisan stance would protect the fledgling organization from becoming mired in the party politics of the day. However, League members were encouraged to be political themselves, by educating citizens about, and lobbying for, government and social reform legislation.

This holds true today. The League is proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, but always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public. The League has a long, rich history, that continues with each passing year.

Source: www.lwv.org/history
Features

BOOK REVIEW by Vicky Downs

THE POWER OF HABIT: WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO and HOW TO CHANGE IT by Charles Duhigg

This informative and entertaining book teaches us how to break bad habits or develop good ones. It also shows why understanding how habits work can and does change group behavior and why it helps companies to grow profits.

Duhigg starts by explaining “the habit loop.” Habits start with a cue, followed by a routine, and ending in a reward. Those who love shopping malls will understand the power of an enticing cinnamon aroma wafting “down hallways and around corners uninterrupted,” so that customers eagerly and unthinkingly arrive at Cinnabon with their hands already on their wallets, ready to enjoy the first bite. The cue is the smell, the routine is the walk toward an irresistible aroma, and the reward is the purchase. Stores are good at getting you to buy things you didn’t realize you “needed.”

What you might not realize is how very sophisticated some stores are. I had not known that Target hires statisticians to learn as much as possible about their customers. Andrew Pole is one such “data muncher.” Soon after he was hired, Target asked him, “Can your computers figure out which customers are pregnant, even if they don’t want us to know?”

I learned that pregnant women and new parents are “the holy grail” of retail. “There is almost no more profitable product-hungry, price-insensitive group in existence.” “Figuring out who was pregnant…could make Target millions of dollars.” By analyzing data, they learned that “women in the baby registry were buying unusually large quantities of unscented lotion around the beginning of their second trimester [as well as] large quantities of vitamins such as calcium, magnesium, and zinc.” It isn’t Big Brother who is watching us, it’s Target, and Target watches very well!

I found the chapter on Paul O’Neill especially interesting. Before becoming President George W. Bush’s Treasury Secretary, he was CEO of the Aluminum Corporation of America, usually called ALCOA. He startled everyone who knew the company was floundering because in his first conference he announced he would focus on employee safety and didn’t mention sales or profitability. His focus on safety, a hot topic in this dangerous business, caught the interest of everyone in a personal way. In short order he empowered employees to hand in suggestions for safety and made sure executives knew about and reported on accidents immediately. The result was that communications within the company improved and other suggestions led to greater efficiency. When O’Neill retired in 2002, the company stock was worth over five times what it had been when he started.

This is a fascinating read in many ways. I learned to figure out how to change my own habits and no longer eat too much cheese and crackers before supper! Duhigg shows how changing and managing habits during the Montgomery bus boycott worked to change the local society itself, and how Rick Warren developed habits in his congregation which led to its becoming the biggest church in the US.
One of the most moving chapters dealt with Seattle’s Starbucks’ training program. We learn that Travis, a depressed high school dropout, started using drugs, when someone urged him to try working at a newly opened Starbucks. He did and six years later was the manager.

How did this happen? Starbucks has a training program “that began on his first day” and continues as long as he works for them. The course teaches exactly how to deal with difficult customers and essentially succeeds “in teaching the kind of life skills that schools, families, and communities have failed to provide.” They develop useful habits that soon become automatic. As Travis says, “Starbucks is the most important thing that has ever happened to me.”

For changing the habits at a personal, group, or even large population level, this book will certainly entertain you, and might help too!

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

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**JOIN US FOR GREAT DECISIONS 2013 by CAROL GOLDENBERG**

It is not too late to sign up for Great Decisions 2013. Another League-associated discussion group has formed in Southwest King County. The group will meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month January through May from 10 to 11 a.m. at Wesley Gardens, Cottage 48, 815 S. 216th St., Des Moines. Call Mary Ehlers, co-chair of the Southwest King County unit, at 253-941-1930 for more info.

A Seattle group, meeting at the home of Vicky Downs, 909 E. Newton will commence on February 19, 7:15 p.m. and continue on alternate Tuesdays to complete the eight topics. Call Vicky Downs at 206-328-3926 or Carol Goldenberg at 206-527-8589.

A West Seattle group meets on the first and third Fridays of the month at 12:30 p.m. Call Adele Reynolds at 206-937-9757 for the location and other details.

An afternoon group will meet on Mercer Island beginning in February. Call Susie Anschell at 206-232-2640.

See the January Voter for more details on the Foreign Policy Association and the 2013 topics. Books can be ordered through the Foreign Policy Association www.fpa.org or 800-477-5836.
February Program: Reproductive Choice

Why the Reproductive Parity Act?
The Affordable Care Act and Abortion

*Background readings:*

- [National and Local League of Women Voters Positions on Reproductive Choices](#)
- [Overview of the Reproductive Parity Act](#)
- [Senate Bill 5009 - The Reproductive Parity Act](#)
- [How Viable Does Roe v. Wade Remain?](#)
NOTE TO UNIT & DISCUSSION LEADERS: There will be no discussion leaders’ briefing, but the speakers at the forum will provide additional information that will contribute to meaningful unit discussion. Please plan to attend!

The questions below are designed to stimulate discussion and are not intended as consensus questions. They are suggestions only and are not meant to limit your unit’s discussion of this issue. Please feel free to add your own questions, skip questions, or discuss relevant articles that members might bring to the meeting.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What are your memories of the campaign for reproductive rights over the years?

2. Did you participate in League studies, forums, committees, etc. that examined the topic of reproductive rights?

3. Were you active in other organizations that dealt with the issue? How did their efforts compare with those of the League?

4. How does the Affordable Care Act provide coverage for abortions?

5. Why do the League and its sister organizations believe that the Reproductive Parity Act is important to pass in this year’s legislature?

6. Do the current LWVS-KC positions seem adequate to continue promoting reproductive choice?

7. It has been 40 years since the passage of *Roe v. Wade*. What are your expectations for the next 40 years? Will the issue of reproductive choice ever be put to rest?
The League’s Position

Statement of Position on Public Policy on Reproductive Choices, as Announced by National Board, January 1983:

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that public policy in a pluralistic society must affirm the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

Public Policy on Reproductive Choices

The League’s History

The 1982 Convention voted to develop a League position on Public Policy on Reproductive Choices through concurrence. That fall, League members studied the issue and agreed to concur with a statement derived from positions reached by the New Jersey and Massachusetts Leagues. The LWVUS announced the position in January 1983.

In 1983, the LWVUS successfully pressed for defeat of S.J. Res. 3, a proposed constitutional amendment that would have overturned Roe v. Wade, the landmark Supreme Court decision that the right of privacy includes the right of a woman, in consultation with her doctor, to decide to terminate a pregnancy. The League joined as an amicus in two successful lawsuits challenging proposed regulations by the federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), thus thwarting attempts to implement regulations requiring parental notification by federally funded family planning centers that provide prescription contraceptives to teenagers.

The League has joined with other pro-choice organizations in continuous opposition to restrictions on the right of privacy in reproductive choices that have appeared in Congress as legislative riders to funding measures. In 1985, the League joined as an amicus in a lawsuit challenging a Pennsylvania law intended to deter women from having abortions. In 1986, the Supreme Court found the law unconstitutional, upholding a woman’s right to make reproductive choices.

In 1986, the League opposed congressional provisions to revoke the tax-exempt status of any organization that performs, finances or provides facilities for any abortion not necessary to save the life of a pregnant woman. In 1987, the League unsuccessfully opposed regulations governing Title X of the Public Health Service Act. The League reaffirmed that individuals have the right to make their own reproductive choices, consistent with the constitutional right of privacy, stating that the proposed rule violated this right by prohibiting counseling and referral for abortion services by clinics receiving Title X funds.

In 1988 and 1990, the League urged congressional committees to report an appropriations bill for the District of Columbia without amendments limiting abortion funding. The League also supported 1988 legislation that would have restored Medicaid funding for abortions in cases of rape or incest.

The League joined an amicus brief to uphold a woman’s right of privacy to make reproductive choices in Webster v. Reproductive Health Services. In July 1989, a sharply divided Supreme Court issued a decision that severely eroded a woman’s right of privacy to choose abortion. Although Webster did not deny the constitutional right to choose abortion, it effectively overruled a significant portion of the 1973 Roe decision by upholding a Missouri statute that prohibited the use of public facilities, employees or funds for counseling, advising or performing abortions and required doctors to conduct viability tests on fetuses 20 weeks or older before aborting them.

The League supported the “Mobilization for Women’s Lives” in fall 1989. Also, the League joined an amicus brief in Turnock v. Ragsdale, challenging an Illinois statute that would have effectively restricted access to abortions, including those in the first trimester, by providing strict requirements for abortion clinics. In November
1989, a settlement in the case allowed abortion clinics to be defined as “special surgical centers,” and to continue to perform abortions through the 18th week of pregnancy without having to meet the rigorous equipment and construction requirements for hospitals.

In 1990, the LWVUS joined the national Pro-Choice Coalition and began work in support of the Freedom of Choice Act, designed to place into federal law the principles of Roe v. Wade.

In 1990-91, the League, in New York v. Sullivan, opposed the HHS “gag rule” regulations that prohibit abortion information, services or referrals by family-planning programs receiving Title X public health funds. The Supreme Court upheld the regulations; Leagues nationwide responded in opposition, and the LWVUS urged Congress to overturn the gag rule.

The 1990 League Convention voted to work on issues dealing with the right of privacy in reproductive choices, domestic and international family planning and reproductive health care, and initiatives to decrease teen pregnancy and infant mortality (based on the International Relations and Social Policy positions). The LWVUS acted on a series of pro-choice legislative initiatives. It supported the International Family Planning Act, which would have reversed U.S. policy denying family planning funds to foreign organizations that provide abortion services or information. It opposed the Department of Defense policy prohibiting military personnel from obtaining abortions at military hospitals overseas and supported the right of the District of Columbia to use its own revenues to provide Medicaid abortions for low income women.

In 1991 and 1992, the League continued to fight efforts to erode the constitutional right of reproductive choice by supporting the Freedom of Choice Act and attempts to overturn the gag rule. In coalition with 178 other groups, the League filed an amicus brief in Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey, arguing that constitutional rights, once recognized, should not be snatched away. In June 1992, the Court decision partially upheld the Pennsylvania regulations, seriously undermining the principles of Roe. In response, Leagues stepped up lobbying efforts for the Freedom of Choice Act. The 1992 LWVUS Convention voted to continue work on all domestic and international aspects of reproductive choice.

In 1993, the League continued to support legislative attempts to overturn the gag rule. In late 1993, President Clinton signed an executive order overturning it and other restrictive anti-choice policies. The LWVUS continued to work for passage of the Freedom of Choice Act and against the Hyde Amendment. The LWVUS supported the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act, a response to escalating violence at abortion clinics. The FACE bill passed and was signed by the President in 1993.

During the 1993-94 health care debate, the League pressed for inclusion of reproductive services, including abortion, in any health care reform package. In 1995, the League joined with other organizations to oppose amendments denying Medicaid funding for abortions for victims of rape and incest.

In 1998, the LWVUS opposed the “Child Custody Protection Act,” federal legislation designed to make it illegal for an adult other than a parent to assist a minor in obtaining an out-of-state abortion. The League also worked against proposals that would ban late-term abortions as interfering with a woman’s right of privacy to make reproductive choices.

In spring 2000, the LWVUS joined an amicus brief in Stenberg v. Carhart, urging the Supreme Court to affirm a U.S. Court of Appeals ruling that a Nebraska law criminalizing commonly
used abortion procedures was unconstitutional. The Court’s affirmation of the ruling in June 2000 was pivotal in further defining a woman’s right to reproductive freedom.

As Congress continued to threaten reproductive rights with legislative riders to appropriations bills, the League lobbied Congress in opposition to these back door attempts to limit reproductive choice.

In 2002, the LWVUS lobbied extensively against attempts to limit funding for family planning and, in 2003, the League lobbied the House to support funding for the United Nations Population Fund, which lost by just one vote. The League strongly opposed the passage of the so-called Partial-Birth Abortion Act in 2003, but it was passed and signed into law.

In March 2004, the LWVUS lobbied in opposition to the Unborn Victims of Violence Act (UVVA), which conveys legal status under the Federal Criminal code to an embryo and fetus, but Congress passed the bill and the president signed it.

The League cosponsored the March for Women’s Lives in Washington, DC, on April 25, 2004, which demonstrated and drew widespread support for the right to make reproductive choices, including many state and local League delegations.

In 2008, the League filed official comments with the HHS, voicing concern over “conscience” regulations that would limit reproductive health care options for women by allowing physicians, pharmacists and other providers to sharply limit their services according to their own views on reproductive health care.

In 2009, the League joined other groups urging rescission of the “conscience” regulations. The HHS subsequently modified the regulations to preserve women’s reproductive health care and the doctor-patient relationship.

updated 09/21/2011 by Gretchen Knell
source: www.lwv.org

 LWVS-KC POSITIONS

In addition to the national position, the League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County studied reproductive rights in 1993 and adopted the following position:

Support policies that promote reproductive choice.

A. Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices. Restrictions impose undue burdens on the right to an abortion.

B. Government should provide public funds for family planning, prenatal care, childbirth, abortion education and assistance, and contraceptive research, development and usage.

C. School sex education programs should include information about family planning and about abortion.

20 states currently have laws that would make abortions illegal if Roe v. Wade were overturned.

135 laws aimed in some way at restricting access to abortion were enacted in 30 states in 2011 and 2012.

Only 7 states have laws that protect a woman’s right to chose.
This Washington State legislation will empower women to keep their families strong by ensuring that insurance plans in Washington cover abortion if they cover maternity care. Denying insurance coverage for abortion interferes with a woman’s ability to make these important choices for herself and her family. The Reproductive Parity Act sponsored by Senator Hobbs SB5009 and Representative Cody HB1044 will ensure that a woman’s decision about her pregnancy be made by herself and her family, not her insurance plan.


This legislation was made necessary by anti-choice politicians in the U.S. Congress who tried to undermine the Affordable Care Act by inserting a provision to roll back reproductive health care. This Washington State legislation addresses that problem and guarantees access to a full range of reproductive health care including abortion.

Abortion in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act was enacted on March 23, 2010, to restructure the private health insurance market and reduce the number of uninsured individuals. Individuals who qualify will receive a premium tax credit or cost-sharing subsidy to purchase health plans on exchanges beginning in 2014. The subsidization of health care on the exchanges has prompted lawmakers to debate abortion coverage through these subsidized health plans.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) makes reference to previous legislation known as the Hyde Amendment to distinguish between elective abortions for which federal funds may not be used and abortions resulting from rape or incest or ones that would save the life of the mother for which federal funds appropriated for the Department of Health & Human Services are permitted. Under the ACA, individuals who receive a premium tax credit or cost-sharing subsidy will be permitted to select a qualified health plan that includes coverage for elective abortions. However, the ACA also permits a state to prohibit abortion coverage in exchange plans by enacting a law with such a prohibition.

The ACA states that the issuer of a qualified health plan that provides coverage for elective abortions cannot use any funds attributable to a premium tax credit or cost-sharing subsidy to pay for such services. The issuer of a qualified health
plan that provides coverage for elective abortion will be required to collect two separate payments from each enrollee in the plan and deposit them into two separate allocation accounts. Under the ACA, a qualified health plan that provides abortion coverage to enrollees must provide notice of this coverage as part of a summary of benefits and coverage explanation at the time of enrollment.¹

Abortion Coverage Bans in the States

Since the ACA permits states to prohibit abortion coverage in exchange plans, a wave of restrictions swept state legislatures across the country. Eighteen states (Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, and Wisconsin) have enacted laws prohibiting insurance coverage of abortion in their state’s exchange. Six of those states (Idaho, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Utah) ban insurance coverage of abortion in plans outside the exchange as well. Kentucky and North Dakota do not specifically mention the exchange but prohibit insurance coverage of abortion in all private health insurance plans.²

So in these twenty states, women are not permitted to purchase an exchange-based health plan that provides coverage for abortion even if she is using her own private money to pay for it. Alarmingly, several of these states also prohibit insurance coverage for abortion in extreme situations such
as when a woman’s life is endangered or when the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest.

In the 2012 these bills continued to be introduced in state legislatures across the country and, in those states that had existing bans on coverage in the exchange, anti-choice lawmakers sought to widen the reach of these bans. These bans single out abortion in health coverage by imposing new barriers and restrictions which can postpone abortion care while a woman attempts to find the necessary funds. The delay in accessing abortion care results in increased cost and health risk.

What Will Insurance Providers Do With This?

Previous to the Affordable Care Act’s passage, 87% of employer-based insurance policies covered abortion care. All employer based insurance providers in the state of Washington currently provide coverage for abortion care.

However, the provision in the ACA that requires insurance providers to collect separate payment for abortion coverage and deposit this separate payment in a separate allocation account creates an administrative burden that could effectively create a disincentive to provide coverage of abortion care at all. Another reality of the insurance market is that there are cost-savings to the insurance provider to have simplified and streamlined coverage of services in a health policy. Anti-choice provisions in the ACA provide a disincentive for insurance coverage of the procedure by singling out abortion care as controversial and administratively burdensome.

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SENATE BILL 5009 - THE REPRODUCTIVE PARITY ACT
TEXT AS INTRODUCED ON JANUARY 14, 2013

AN ACT Relating to preserving health insurance coverage for the voluntary termination of a pregnancy by requiring health plans issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2014, that provide coverage for maternity care or services to provide a covered person with substantially equivalent coverage to permit the voluntary termination of a pregnancy, by prohibiting a health plan from limiting in any way a woman’s access to services related to the voluntary termination of a pregnancy other than terms and conditions generally applicable to the health plan’s coverage of maternity care or services, by not limiting in any way a woman’s constitutionally or statutorily protected right to voluntarily terminate a pregnancy, by clarifying that health plans are not required to cover abortions that would be unlawful under RCW 9.02.120, by providing an exemption for a multistate plan that does not cover the voluntary termination of pregnancy, by making the provisions of this act inapplicable to the minimum extent necessary to avoid noncompliance with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state, and by clarifying that nothing in this act affects the statutory right of objection based on conscience or religion as set forth in RCW 48.43.065 or 70.47.160; and adding a new section to chapter 48.43 RCW.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. A new section is added to chapter 48.43 RCW to read as follows:

(1) Except as provided in subsection (5) of this section, if a health plan issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2014, provides coverage for maternity care or services, the health plan must also provide a covered person with substantially equivalent coverage to permit the voluntary termination of a pregnancy.

(2)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, a health plan subject to subsection (1) of this section may not limit in any way a woman’s access to services related to the voluntary termination of a pregnancy.

(b)(i) Coverage for the voluntary termination of a pregnancy may be subject to terms and conditions generally applicable to the health plan’s coverage of maternity care or services, including applicable cost sharing.

(ii) A health plan is not required to cover abortions that would be unlawful under RCW 9.02.120.

(3) Nothing in this section may be interpreted to limit in any way a woman’s constitutionally or statutorily protected right to voluntarily terminate a pregnancy.

(4) This section does not, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. Sec. 18054(a)(6), apply to a multistate plan that does not provide coverage for the voluntary termination of a pregnancy.

(5) If the application of this section to a health plan results in noncompliance with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state, this section is inapplicable to the plan to the minimum extent necessary for the state to be in compliance. The inapplicability of this section to a specific health plan under this subsection does not affect the operation of this section in other circumstances.

(6) Nothing in this section affects the right of objection based on conscience or religion as set out in RCW 48.43.065 or 70.47.160.

There is a companion House Bill, HB 1044.
You are invited to join NARAL, Planned Parenthood and others for a special Lobby Day in Olympia in support of Reproductive Rights.

In addition to attending this event, or the League’s lobby day (see page 9), another way you can help keep this legislation moving forward is to stay in touch with your legislators. Keep an eye out for the legislative newsletter and action alerts so you can respond quickly when the bills have critical hurdles to pass. Don’t forget to thank your legislators as they sign on and vote yes.

You can contact them online at or via the legislative hotline:

www.leg.wa.gov or 800-562-6000

This, and other information about communicating with your representatives is included in TRY 2013, our directory of elected officials.

And finally, please be sure to share this information with family and friends!
The following is a summary of the article “A History of Key Abortion Rulings of the U.S. Supreme Court.” from the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life.

Public Opinion on Abortion: Fifty-four percent of the U.S. public thinks abortion should be legal in all or most cases. Four out of ten Americans say abortion should be illegal in all or most cases. These numbers have been steady since the mid-1990s. More than six out of every ten people say they do not want Roe v. Wade to be completely overturned. Sixty-two percent of Americans know that Roe v. Wade dealt with the issue of abortion. But only 44 percent of those under the age of 30 can correctly say what the Supreme Court decision was about.


Roe v. Wade: In 1973 the U.S. Supreme Court considered the case of Roe v. Wade, a challenge to a Texas statute outlawing abortion in all cases except those in which the life of the mother was at risk. The court, in a 7-2 vote, concluded that constitutional rights to privacy and liberty (found in several amendments of the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment) protected a woman’s right to terminate her pregnancy. Access to abortion was a fundamental right, according to the court. In another decision on the same day in Doe v. Bolton, the court ruled that state regulations that created procedural obstacles to abortion (in this case requiring an abortion to be performed in a hospital or be approved by two doctors) violated a woman’s right to terminate her pregnancy.

Post-Roe Court: “Roe proved to be one of the most significant decisions ever handed down by the Supreme Court . . . . [H]owever, Roe has remained controversial in the decades since it was decided.” In the early years following the decision in Roe, the court ruled on a number of laws requiring informed consent, parental consent, spousal consent, and waiting periods. The court generally struck down most laws regulating abortion and affirmed the original decision. However, in 1989, a new majority on the court was willing to uphold state restrictions. In Webster v. Reproductive Health Services (1989), a divided court decided in a 5-4 vote to uphold a Missouri law that barred public facilities from being used to conduct abortions and prohibited public health workers from performing abortions unless the life of the mother was at risk. In 1992, in Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey, the court ruled that states could enact laws such as requirements for pre-abortion counseling and waiting periods affecting any stage of a pregnancy, as well as requiring minors to get parental consent before receiving an abortion. In addition, in this case the court established a less rigorous standard for determining whether state abortion laws are constitutional. Although abortion opponents hoped this case would overturn Roe, the court ultimately affirmed Roe, and therefore the decision, although weakened, gained greater protection from further challenges.

Recent Decisions: In 2000 in Stenberg v. Carhart, the court struck down a Nebraska law prohibiting partial-birth abortion. Laws in 30 other states were invalidated. In 2003 Congress passed the Federal Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act; four years later the Supreme Court upheld the ban in Gonzales v. Carhart. The decision reflected changes on the court with the retirement of Justice Sandra

Only 44 percent of those under the age of 30 can correctly say what the Roe v. Wade decision was about.
Day O’Connor. After this decision, several states enacted laws to further regulate abortion: ten states have passed laws requiring physicians to perform ultrasound procedures before an abortion; a number of states outlaw abortion beginning at 20 weeks into a pregnancy. Some of the new laws require a woman to see an image of the fetus or listen to its heartbeat. Several of these laws have been challenged in federal court. Nine states have new laws that prohibit abortions at 20 weeks based on the theory that a fetus at that stage can experience pain. Reproductive-rights groups assert that no scientific evidence supports this theory. Arizona’s law is particularly rigorous, and a challenge has been heard in the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. A ruling is expected in 2013. Eventually these controversies will produce petitions to the U.S. Supreme Court to resolve the constitutional issues involved.

## Unit Meetings

### FEBRUARY UNIT INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit Leader email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday, February 8</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BELLEVUE/KIRKLAND/REDMOND</strong> – Bonnie Rimawi</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bonnierim@aol.com">bonnierim@aol.com</a></td>
<td>425-820-7127</td>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, February 11</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FIRST HILL</strong> – Joan Lawson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:joanvlawson@gmail.com">joanvlawson@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>206-382-3147</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CAPITOL HILL/MONTLAKE</strong> – Vicky Downs and Zita Cook</td>
<td><a href="mailto:DownsVdowns@aol.com">DownsVdowns@aol.com</a></td>
<td>206-328-3926</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:zzitamcook@comcast.net">zzitamcook@comcast.net</a></td>
<td>206-374-0369</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SOUTHEND</strong> - Marian Wolfe and Vivian Montoya</td>
<td>hedg <a href="mailto:Wolfe@aol.com">Wolfe@aol.com</a></td>
<td>206-763-9430</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:montoyaviv@yahoo.com">montoyaviv@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>206-695-2620</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, February 12</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WEST SEATTLE</strong> – Amanda Berry and Ethel Williams</td>
<td><a href="mailto:amandamberry@earthlink.net">amandamberry@earthlink.net</a></td>
<td>206-724-7518</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:etheljw1@q.com">etheljw1@q.com</a></td>
<td>206-932-7887</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SOUTHEAST KING COUNTY/ENUMCLAW</strong> - Cathy Dormaier</td>
<td><a href="mailto:clcathy@foxinternet.com">clcathy@foxinternet.com</a></td>
<td>360-802-6799</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, February 13</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>VIEW RIDGE</strong> – Gail Winberg</td>
<td><a href="mailto:winbergeng@q.com">winbergeng@q.com</a></td>
<td>206-524-7801</td>
<td>12:45 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>QUEEN ANNE/MAGNOLIA/BALLARD EVENING</strong> - Teddy Geokezas</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tgeokezas@msn.com">tgeokezas@msn.com</a></td>
<td>206-782-5036</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Leader email</td>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Location</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, February 14</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BAYVIEW</strong> – Elizabeth Mark</td>
<td><a href="mailto:elizabethcmark@gmail.com">elizabethcmark@gmail.com</a> 206-691-1074</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Bayview Retirement Community, 10th Floor West 11 W Aloha St., Seattle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ISSAQUAH DAY</strong> – Margaret Austin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:margaret.austin@comcast.net">margaret.austin@comcast.net</a> 425-392-5760</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>COHO room, Issaquah City Hall 130 East Sunset Way, Issaquah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNIVERSITY HOUSE/WALLINGFORD</strong> – Barbara Denis</td>
<td>206-547-2042</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>University House 4400 Stone Way N, Seattle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SHORELINE</strong> – Juliet Beard</td>
<td><a href="mailto:juliet@windermere.com">juliet@windermere.com</a> 206-715-5531</td>
<td>4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Richmond Beach Cong’tl Church NW 195th St &amp;15th Ave. NW, Shoreline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday, February 16</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BALLARD/MAGNOLIA/QUEEN ANNE DAY</strong> – Joan Peterson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:joanmepeterson@gmail.com">joanmepeterson@gmail.com</a> 206-789-7447</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Hosts: Alice and Jack Peterson 5245 Pullman NE, Seattle 206-524-5530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, February 20</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NORTH KING COUNTY</strong> – Toni Potter</td>
<td><a href="mailto:antoniapotter@comcast.net">antoniapotter@comcast.net</a> 206-365-8949</td>
<td>9:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Third Place Commons Mtg Room 17171 Bothell Way NE, Lake Forest Pk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SOUTHWEST KING COUNTY</strong> – Mary Ehlers and Kathy Jorgensen</td>
<td><a href="mailto:maryehlers@comcast.net">maryehlers@comcast.net</a> 253-941-1930</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Foundation House 32290 1st Ave S, Federal Way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, February 21</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NORTH CENTRAL</strong> – Jan Orlando</td>
<td><a href="mailto:orlanre@aol.com">orlanre@aol.com</a> 206-524-0936</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Hostess: Gail Shurgot 6536 31st Ave NE, Seattle 206-522-8265</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Board & Committee Contacts

## Executive Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Executive</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011–2013</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Judy Bevington</td>
<td>206-329-4848</td>
<td><a href="mailto:president@seattlelwv.org">president@seattlelwv.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011–2013</td>
<td>1st V.P. Voter Service</td>
<td>1st V.P. Voter Service</td>
<td>Cyndi Woods</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>2nd V.P. Action</td>
<td>Ellen Barton</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>3rd V.P. Program</td>
<td>Beatrice Crane</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>4th V.P. Development</td>
<td>Ginna Owens</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>Treasurer</td>
<td>Kati Ortiz</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>Secretary</td>
<td>Joanna Cullen</td>
<td>206-329-8514</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jfoxcullen@gmail.com">jfoxcullen@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011–2013</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Kati Ortiz</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>Secretary</td>
<td>Joanna Cullen</td>
<td>206-329-8514</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jfoxcullen@gmail.com">jfoxcullen@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Directors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Directors</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012–2013</td>
<td>Program</td>
<td>Program</td>
<td>Karen Adair</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>Voter Editor</td>
<td>Marge Baker</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>Unit Coordinator</td>
<td>Lindsay Cummings</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>Membership</td>
<td>Susan Jones</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>Voter Service</td>
<td>Julie Anne Kempf</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>Development</td>
<td>Mary Jo Vigil</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>Transportation</td>
<td>Janet Winans</td>
<td>206-323-4825</td>
<td><a href="mailto:janetwinans@earthlink.net">janetwinans@earthlink.net</a></td>
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</table>

## Education Fund Board

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Education Fund Board</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012–2014</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Boots Winterstein</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>Vice President</td>
<td>Carol Burton</td>
<td>206-691-1298</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cburton7@gmail.com">cburton7@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011–2013</td>
<td>Ellyn Swanson</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Ellyn Swanson</td>
<td>206-722-2820</td>
<td><a href="mailto:guselyn@comcast.net">guselyn@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012–2014</td>
<td>Lisa Unsoeld-Chang</td>
<td>Treasurer</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>Treasurer</td>
<td>Laraine Volkman</td>
<td>206-281-7944</td>
<td><a href="mailto:laraine.volkman@att.net">laraine.volkman@att.net</a></td>
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## Nominating Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Nominating Committee</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011–2012</td>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Betty Sullivan</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:jaybetty2@msn.com">jaybetty2@msn.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011–2012</td>
<td>Becky Cox</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Becky Cox</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:cgcox@nwlink.com">cgcox@nwlink.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011–2012</td>
<td>Carol Goldenberg</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Carol Goldenberg</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:carolsamgo@q.com">carolsamgo@q.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011–2012</td>
<td>Laura Weese</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Laura Weese</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:laura899@earthlink.net">laura899@earthlink.net</a></td>
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</table>

## Off-Board Positions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Off-Board Positions</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Campaign Finance</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>KC South Liaison</td>
<td>Mary Ehlers</td>
<td>253-941-1930</td>
<td><a href="mailto:maryehlers@comcast.net">maryehlers@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIS Coordinator</td>
<td>Cynthia Howe</td>
<td>206-236-0593</td>
<td><a href="mailto:howe.john@comcast.net">howe.john@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observer Corps</td>
<td>Pat McCann</td>
<td>206-878-2799</td>
<td><a href="mailto:thomaspa@nwlink.com">thomaspa@nwlink.com</a></td>
</tr>
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</table>

## Committees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committees</th>
<th>See page 7 for more info</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economics &amp; Taxation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Relations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Waterfront</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Justice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vote by Mail Study</td>
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## Contact Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economics &amp; Taxation</td>
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<td>International Relations</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committees</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economics &amp; Taxation</td>
<td><a href="mailto:telbalto@yahoo.com">telbalto@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Relations</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Waterfront</td>
<td><a href="mailto:oconnor.js@gmail.com">oconnor.js@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Justice</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mjafreitag@comcast.net">mjafreitag@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td><a href="mailto:janetwinans@earthlink.net">janetwinans@earthlink.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vote by Mail Study</td>
<td><a href="mailto:julie@kempf.com">julie@kempf.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
February Forum: Why the Reproductive Parity Act? The Affordable Care Act and Abortion

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

Thursday, February 7

7:30 p.m. - Forum
No briefing this month

All forums are free and open to the public.

Speakers:
➢ Tiffany Hankins, Field Director, NARAL Pro-Choice Washington
➢ Shannon Rush, Hotline Coordinator, The CAIR Project

Moving? Let us know!
Call the League office at (206) 329-4848 or email info@seattlelwv.org