

The Voter

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

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Observer Corps: The Eyes and Ears of Democracy

by Cathy O'Shea

What is an "Observer Corps"?

An Observer Corps is a group of League volunteers who regularly attend and observe local government meetings and report on the activities and actions that took place. The observed government entities can be school boards, commissions, agencies, or legislative bodies—any entity that holds public meetings and is accountable to the public.

Traditional Observer Corps required in-person attendance, and while that is still the League's preferred option (for reasons to be explained in a moment), technology makes it possible to be a virtual observer. Observers can report their findings via email, conference calls, or face-to-face meetings. Whatever method is chosen, we want to stay connected.

With so much technology and information available, why do we need an Observer Corps?

When I first wanted to get an Observer Corps going in Seattle-King County, my interest was in learning more about our government. Now I realize that we *need* an observer corps to serve as a government watchdog.

While there are many outstanding journalists and news outlets that cover what their local governments are doing, too many others do not. As news budgets and staffs decrease due to lower ad revenues and subscriptions, the media does less monitoring. There are multiple studies indicating that a lack of local media coverage is associated with less informed voters, lower voter turnouts, and less engaged local

politicians. It also leads to increased government borrowing costs and corruption.

Relatedly, an Observer Corps gives notice to lawmakers and policymakers that the electorate is paying attention to them. This is one of the reasons the League prefers that observation take place in person. The League can provide Observers with something (for example, a clipboard or lanyard) that identifies them as a League Observer.

What does an Observer do?

An Observer will select a public entity that she or he wants to observe. Logistics plays a role here, as it best to attend meetings in person—even if there is an online video of the meeting. Not only for the reasons cited above, but you also get a better feel for the people, processes, and context for many of the decisions being made. Meeting times vary by entity and can be day or night.

Before the meeting, there will be agendas and materials to review. This gives you a feel for what's going to be discussed and approved.

Attend the meeting and write your notes. We have a template for the report, but you can tailor it as you think best. Your notes should be fact-based and complete. Observer reports don't advocate for an issue, nor do they ask questions or make comments during the meeting; it is critical that Observers stay neutral at the meeting itself. However, Observers may (and

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MISSION STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Connecting with the Leadership

Every Election Counts

Depending on when you read this, we are just about to wrap up or will have already wrapped up our February election cycle, which is typically for ballot measures for special purpose districts (SPDs) such as school, fire, water, public utility, hospital, cemetery, irrigation, etc. If it's not yet 8:00 PM on February 12th and you live in one of the four SPDs that have elections this cycle, be sure to vote!

Seattle School District No. 1

- Proposition No. 1: Replacement for Educational Programs and Operations Levy
- Proposition No. 2: Capital Levy, \$1.4 Billion

Renton School District No. 403

- Proposition No. 1: Building for Excellence Bonds to Improve, Construct and Renovate School Facilities
- Proposition No. 2: Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy

King County Fire Protection District No. 16

Proposition No. 1: Benefit Charge Continuation

King County Water District No. 45

Proposition No. 1: Proposed Merger into King County Water District No. 20

In 2015, the voter turnout in King County was 35.75%, so we will be watching carefully to see whether the record midterm turnout from the fall has any spillover to this election. The fact that two out of every three voters may not return their ballots means that the ongoing voter education work of the League of Women Voters is needed now more than ever, as people have busier and busier lives and the news outlets that cover

Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC) estimated that there were approximately 1,670 special purpose districts in Washington, including school districts, as of January 2012. From MRSC: In Washington, special purpose districts are limited purpose local governments separate from a city, town, or county government. Generally, they perform a single function, though some perform a limited number of functions. They provide an array of services and facilities including electricity, fire protection, flood control, health, housing, irrigation, parks and recreation, library, water-sewer service and more recently stadiums, convention centers, and entertainment facilities that are not otherwise available from city or county governments. Over the years, the Washington legislature has enabled more than 80 different special purpose districts.

local government activity continue to scale back. With the tremendous effort that went into thoughtfully crafting positions covering most aspects of government, League members are encouraged to research and provide perspective on upcoming ballot measures in their area.

While national topics garner the lion's share of the news coverage, local elections decide issues that impact people's day to day lives more—transportation infrastructure, land use, criminal processes, education funding, and voting processes. One of the many reasons that we are excited about reconstituting our Observer Corps is to provide visibility to these local decisions for our membership. If you're interested in being involved in the Observer Corps, please contact Cathy O'Shea. We need your help to expand the League's reach and coverage across the county.

February

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--|--|-----------|---|-------------------|--|
| | | | | | February 1 | 2 Board Meeting 10 a.m. |
| 3 | 4 | 5 Int'l Relations Comm. Mtg. 7 p.m. | 6 | 7 Forum: Exploring Racism 7 p.m. | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 President's Day Holiday | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 Econ & Tax Committee Meeting 9:30 a.m. |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 Education Committee Meeting 11 a.m. | March 1 | 2 Board Meeting 10 a.m. |
| 3 | 4 | 5 Int'l Relations Comm. Mtg. 7 p.m. | 6 | 7 Forum: | 8 | 9 |

Units meet during shaded period — see pages 17-18 for details.

February

Board Meeting
Saturday, February 2
10:00 a.m.
League Office

Internat'l Relations Committee
Tuesday, February 5
7:15 p.m.
909 E. Newton #D-9, Seattle

Forum: Exploring Racism
Thursday, February 7
7:00 p.m.

The Voter Deadline

Friday, February 8

Education Committee
Thursday, February 28
11:00 a.m.
League Office

Econ. & Tax. Committee
Saturday, February 23
9:30 a.m.
909 E. Newton #D-9, Seattle

March

Board Meeting
Saturday, March 2
10:00 a.m.
League Office

Internat'l Relations Committee
Tuesday, March 5
7:15 p.m.
909 E. Newton #D-9, Seattle

Forum: Women in King Cty.
Thursday, March 7
7:00 p.m.

Winter Weather Reminder!

If Seattle Schools are delayed or closed, then the office will delay opening or be closed.

Call the office or check the website for the status of forums or other events. Check with committee chairs and unit leaders to verify if those meetings will be cancelled.

Please stay safe!

Forum Schedule

February 7: Exploring Racism
March 7: Women in King County

The League frequently presents public forums on issues of public interest. Check the *Voter* each month or the LWVS-KC website, seattlelwv.org, for up-to-date information. Past forums are frequently televised and can be accessed from the resources page of the website.

Board Briefs by Katie Dudley, Secretary

The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County and Education Fund Boards met on January 5, 2019. This is a summary of their meetings.

Heather Kelly provided a recap of the November Action Workshop, and the group discussed what went well and what could improve, particularly given that another action workshop is coming up in January. During this same discussion, the upcoming February election was discussed, and how best the Board can approach endorsement decisions when there is a short turnaround between a board meeting and an election.

The planning forum is upcoming and will involve a variety of elevator speeches to drum up enthusiasm and also help gauge interest in topics over the coming year. During this portion of the meeting, the Board also discussed how best to use the time of volunteers and what kind of material the membership has expressed interest in. Additionally, the topic of changes to voter registration laws was broached, as was the topic of how the League of Women Voters can approach it.

Stephanie recapped the Unit Leader Retreat to the Board and discussed the cadence of these types of retreats, how

the Board can support units, what kinds of materials units need from the Board, and whether monthly questions in *The Voter* are still the tools necessary for a successful unit meeting or whether other means of communication and support are necessary.

Before the C4 meeting came to a close, an announcement regarding an Awards committee was made, since nominations for awards are required for the next state convention.

In the C3 meeting, the board discussed how the C3 can continue to receive payments, including whether a card reader will be available for the spring event. Additionally, fundraising methods were discussed, particularly in regard to how best the League can use its talent and energy effectively for this cause. With that in mind, discussion shifted to Voices of Democracy, which has been smooth in regard to planning and incidentals.

Committees

Economics and Taxation Committee

DATE: Saturday, February 23

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

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

Education Committee

DATE: Thursday, February 28

TIME: 11:00 a.m.

PLACE: League Office

International Relations Committee

DATE: Tuesday, February 5

TIME: 7:15 p.m.

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

We encourage participation in our committees by all interested members. It's a great opportunity to meet and talk to community leaders, stakeholder organizations, and experts where you can have direct input on local issues that affect you.

Don't see a committee that covers your issue? Call the office and let us know. Sometimes people are working more informally without regularly scheduled meetings. If so, we may be able to help connect you with them or help you start your own.

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

Diversity Policy

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

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

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

King County Connects — Announcements

Exciting News from the Redmond/Kirkland/Bellevue Unit!

By Rita Schulte

Starting in January 2019, we are offering an additional Eastside Unit meeting during evening hours on the same day as the daytime unit meeting, the third Tuesday of the month. We meet at 6:00 PM at Rita Schulte's home, 16802 NE 35th Street in Bellevue. The next meeting is February 19th. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Cathy O'Shea at coshea120@gmail.com. These are current unit activities:

Redistricting

We are planning a presentation on this topic by Allison McCaffree at the Bellevue library. Day and time will be announced as soon as possible.

Transportation

Since this is a "hot topic" not only in Seattle but also on the Eastside, we are planning a workshop with officials from Redmond, Kirkland, and Bellevue. Day and time will be announced as soon as possible.

Homelessness

Current data about homelessness on the Eastside needs to be updated and passed on to the LWVS-KC.

Observer Corps

We are excited to have several members who will be involved in Observer Corps for our Eastside communities. We will discuss their findings at our meetings.

Elections Headquarters Tour

The daytime unit is planning a tour of the Renton Elections HQ in February. We can take up to 15 people. Look for forthcoming information in the weekly email.

If you have any questions or if you are interested in learning about any of these activities, please let us know!

Save the Date for the March Forum: March 7, 2019

To celebrate National Women's History Month, the March forum will be a panel discussion highlighting women in King County whose voices are having an impact on our region. Invited speakers include women elected officials, community activists, and other professional women from a variety of disciplines. The speakers will be announced when they are confirmed.

Areas of focus will include what it's like to be a woman in a male-dominated (or traditionally male-dominated) field, the power and importance of women's voices in leadership roles, and how we can all be more supportive of women's success.

March 7, 7:00 PM, at Atlas Workbase in Lower Queen Anne. Free parking is available in the building.



Wednesday, March 27, 2019

Cocktails at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m.
The Palace Ballroom
2100 5th Avenue, Seattle

TICKETS

\$115 for members
\$125 for non-members

After February 27, tickets are \$130
Members / \$150 non-members

For more information and to purchase
tickets, visit seattlelww.org
or call the office at 206-329-4848.

Call for Nominations: Making Democracy Work Awards

This award recognizes individuals and organizations who have helped King County residents find and raise their voices with respect to civic and community engagement. Nominations are open to anyone who has made contributions to King County's civic life. Individuals can nominate themselves or may be nominated by a friend, colleague or organization. The ideal nominee is an individual or organization with a strong commitment to democracy who has:

1. Made a significant contribution to promoting equality in King County; and
2. Mobilized community members to raise their voices in civil and civic discourse toward that goal.

Nominations must be received by 11:59 p.m., February 22, 2019. Send to info@seattlelww.org.

About the Speaker



Sally Jewell grew up in King County and graduated from Renton High School before receiving a degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Washington. After working in the energy and banking industries, she served as Chief Executive Officer of REI from 2005 to 2013. In 2013, she was nominated by President Barack Obama to serve as United States Secretary of the Interior, where she expanded access to national parks and acted as steward for 20% of the nation's land. She was the second woman in history to hold the position. A lifelong outdoors enthusiast, Sally has been recognized for her leadership in conservation and environmental protection efforts. Sally currently lectures at and advises EarthLab, a University of Washington institute that seeks to connect scholars with community partners to solve our most difficult environmental problems.

Features

A Public Bank: Risky Business or Smart Government Policy?

By Dianne Ramsey, Toyoko Tsukuda, and Adele Reynolds

The 2007-2008 financial crisis and reckless banking practices resulted in huge losses of revenues to states and a loss of public confidence in private banking institutions nationwide. This event triggered the idea and movement for establishing public banking systems that would work for the people; state revenues would be deposited in a state-owned bank, enabling the state to directly manage its own money (i.e., write its own checks), provide loans to local governments at lower interest rates, and collect loan interest, which could then be reinvested in state projects. The stated purpose of the legislation is to “facilitate investments in and financing of public infrastructure systems that increase public health and safety; leverage the financial capital and resources of the State to create jobs and economic opportunities.”

Sen. Bob Hasegawa introduced his first bill for a Public Bank in Washington State in 2010, and in the 2018 Washington State Legislative Session, he reintroduced SB5464 (2017): Establishing the Washington Investment Trust. These efforts were not successful. However, in 2018, SB 6375: Developing a Publicly Owned Depository, was the first public banking bill advanced out of the policy committee with bipartisan support. This bill will move forward to assess the risk and develop a business plan for the bank proposal.

Additionally, SB 6032: Supplemental Budget passed and committed \$480,000 to those activities. It also changed the scope of the bank from one that would have received only the state’s tax funds as deposits, to a “‘co-op’ that would be open to membership not just by the state, but by all ‘political subdivisions that have a tax base.’” This

means the combined revenue deposits of cities, counties, ports, and utility districts as well as the state would have access to the public bank. It is reported that the business plan is due no later than June 30, 2019, and legislators expect to vote on the bill no later than 2020.

If successful, Washington State would be the third publicly owned depository of a state’s financial assets in the United States. Currently, the Bank of North Dakota (BND) and the Bank of American Samoa are the only public banks in the United States, with federal approval, one owned by the state and the other by a territorial government trust.

While there is growing support among Washington residents and state legislators, there’s also opposition. Bankers associations and financial lobbyists have expressed public policy concerns and ask if state-sponsored financial institutions should be created to compete directly with the private sector and financial institutions. Should government be granted competitive advantages to do so?

They also express concern that this will open the door for the Trust created to compete on an array of financial products; it allows the Trust to accept public funds, which would directly compete against both financial institutions and credit unions, with significant advantages. They say it would not be a level playing field.

Some believe a public bank is unnecessary and others suggest the existence of the Public Works Board and Public Works Assistance Account, which provide financial and technical assistance to communities in

the state is sufficient. Our strong economy, “reliable private banking industry,” and the unfair competitive advantage with private banks are often cited. Duane Davidson, Washington State Treasurer, commissioned a “Study of The Studies” of Public Banks. That study now completed, he concludes that a state bank is not needed

We propose a League study of this issue to determine whether a public bank would be of benefit to the people of the state of Washington. Is this risky business and unnecessary or responsible fiscal administrative policy? Please help adopt Public Bank as an issue for a LWVWA study with your vote at the state convention in June 2019.

If you have questions about the study or

want to join our Public Banking Committee, please contact Toyoko Tsukuda of Benton-Franklin at lwvbf.pbstudy@gmail.com or Dianne Ramsey at Ramsey98122@gmail.com. Other committee members include Adele Reynolds, adelereynolds@netscape.net, and Marcia Brown, rabrown@uw.edu.

Here are some good sources for an introduction to public banks:

YouTube, “An Introduction to State Banks (In Context),” 2011, 2011, <https://youtu.be/xiYaEIwbwbg>

YouTube, “Bank of North Dakota,” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L75oinBuY1g>

Washington Post, “When Banks abandoned American Samoa...,” May 9, 2018, <http://bit.ly/pub-banks>

International Relations Committee Report

By Kim Peterson, Committee Chair

The overall goals of the International Relations (IR) committee are to

1. Educate ourselves on pressing foreign policy issues
2. Educate the membership of the League on these issues

Our goal this year is to do a deep dive into the issues of

1. Cyber weapons, software that changes the functioning of computers to injure a nation or organization
2. Cyber war, the deliberate use of cyber weapons against a nation

Cyber weapons have become a new dimension in international relations, but people know very little about them. We now know that the U.S. has used cyber weapons against other countries, and other countries have used cyber weapons against the U.S.

Thanks to our governmental, industrial, and overall dependence on computers, cyber weapons have become a new way of causing death and destruction, and nations are using them.

How do we as a nation handle cyber weapons? We don’t know, because they are deployed in secret. How much money do we spend on these? We don’t know, because they are developed in secret. How do we detect cyber warfare when it happens? We don’t know, because cyber weapons work silently and anonymously.

We as voters already know the answers to the above questions for chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons, which are similarly destructive. We know the answers because we have discussed, and continue to discuss, the policy for them and the financing of them. League even has positions on them.

Similarly, we as voters must discuss and set policy on cyber weapons and cyber war, so that this terrible new dimension to international relations can be managed according to our needs.

But are these the right questions to ask? What other questions need to be asked? What is known, and what should be known? The IR committee needs help in further investigating these issues, and in disseminating what we find out. We need more members' knowledge and viewpoints to make further progress. If you are interested, please contact the committee chair (contact information is in *The Voter*) or just come to the next meeting (see below).

International Relations Committee and Great Decisions 2019

The International Relations Committee of Seattle-King County League of Women Voters has sponsored a Great Decisions group for over 20 years. This is the largest group of people in the world discussing foreign policy at approximately the same time based on the same information in the Foreign Policy Association briefing book. Great Decision groups are great discussions. Please join us.

Eight topics are discussed over eight meetings beginning in February and meeting every other week through May. The briefing books are shipping now. To order a briefing book contact the Foreign Policy Association at fpa.org or google Great Decisions. Videos of each the topics are available on YouTube. Search for Great Decisions 2019. For more information contact Rosalie McCreary at 206-687-7415.

National League position: "The League of Women Voters USA promotes peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international organizations." The Foreign Policy Association shares these goals and provides timely information for discussion.

Meeting Information

The next meeting of the IR committee is Tuesday, February 5, at 7:15 PM at 909 East Newton St, #D-9.

The first meeting of 2019 for one of the Great Decisions groups is Tuesday, February 12, at 7:15 PM at the same location.

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Democracy Vouchers are Coming!

City of Seattle residents will once again have the opportunity to use Democracy Vouchers to support candidates of their choice for Seattle City Council. Vouchers are a taxpayer-supported form of public campaign financing. Candidates for city council may choose to participate but do not have to. If they do opt-in, they agree to certain requirements including participating in public forums and spending limits.

Vouchers come in increments of \$25 with each person able to redeem up to \$100 total. All \$100 may be given to a single candidate, or multiples of \$25 may be given to 2 or more candidates.

All Seattle residents who are at least 18 years old and a citizen or legal permanent resident are eligible to receive vouchers. Registered voters will automatically be sent vouchers starting February 12. Persons who are not registered can apply to receive them.

Visit the website at www.seattle.gov/democracyvoucher or call (206) 727-8855 to apply and for more information about the program.

Don't forget to vote in the February Special Election by February 12!

BOOK REVIEW by Vicky Downs

Leadership in Turbulent Times

By Doris Kearns Goodwin

Having written their biographies, Goodwin reports that she was occupied for more than 50 years by the lives and times of Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt, and Lyndon Johnson. However, when she viewed them through the “exclusive lens of leadership,” she realized she was “engaged in an unexpectedly personal and emotional kind of storytelling.”

She shows us these men as they first entered public life. “Their paths were anything but certain, and they made mistakes from inexperience, cockiness, lack of caution, outright misjudgment” and even selfishness. They differed in background and personality. The Roosevelts were born to “extraordinary privilege and wealth,” whereas Lincoln endured “relentless poverty,” and Johnson “experienced sporadic hard times.” Yet all were recognized leaders well before they reached the presidency.

Early in their political careers, each one suffered “dramatic reversals that shattered their private and public lives.” When Lincoln lost his “public reputation along with his sense of honor, he became severely depressed,” and his friends searched his room to remove knives and scissors to prevent him from suicide. Theodore Roosevelt lost his wife and mother on the same day in the same house. Polio struck Franklin Roosevelt, leaving him paralyzed from the waist down. Lyndon Johnson lost his first campaign to become a U.S. Senator and “construed rejection by the people as a judgment upon himself,” resulting in deep depression.

Each of these men while in his “crucible of crisis” found ways “to sustain ambition in the face of frustration,” and eventually “decisively molded his leadership.”

I found Franklin Roosevelt’s development especially interesting. His “greatest growth as a man and a leader” led through Warm Springs, Georgia. He went there “believing he would learn to walk again.” Instead he rebuilt the ramshackle resort, turning it into a “vibrant community [that] he created with his fellow polios.” He had experimented with many methods to improve his mobility, but at Warm Springs he tried out numerous ways to help other patients. They needed to *want* to live, so he designed a place with recreational and social activities to help them live normal lives even as they received the best possible medical treatment at a reasonable cost. He became their beloved leader whom they affectionately called “Doc Roosevelt.”

When he was ready to campaign for the presidency, the country had entered the Great Depression. He “built on his own encounter with adversity” and argued that “the country demands bold, persistent experimentation.” The idea was to try *something*, and if it fails to try another, much as he had done in his efforts to improve his physical condition, and to find ways to help his fellow polios learn to lead full lives.

While the era any leader occupies profoundly influences the nature of leadership needed, the leader himself must be ready to move when the opportunity arrives. Goodwin says, “James Buchanan was temperamentally unfit to respond to the intensifying crisis over slavery,” but Lincoln stood up to the challenge, finding and working with the best men available.” She quotes Ralph Waldo Emerson, who observed, “Rarely was a man so fitted to an event.”

Similarly, Theodore Roosevelt, “whose

spiritual combativeness was perfectly fitted to the task of mobilizing the country and the press,” vigorously dealt with monopolies and the inequities of the industrial era.

Lyndon Johnson’s “southern roots and legislative wizardry ideally fitted him for the great civil rights struggle” that had changed the country.

These are stories of leadership in turbulent—even critical—moments in American history. I found them inspiring, and am grateful they also provide hope for our own era.

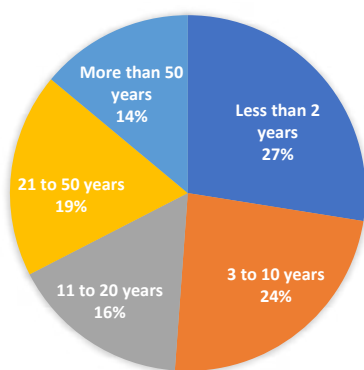
Opinions in this review are personal and do not necessarily represent those of the League.

And the Survey Says...

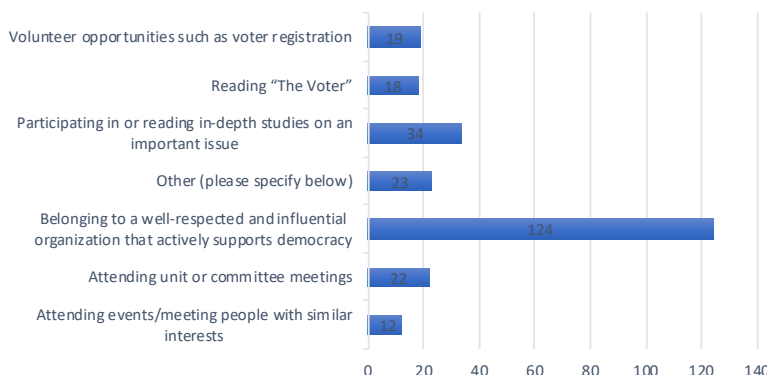
Last fall, the League sent a member survey to its 700 members across King County. About 250 members returned the survey either in the mail or completed it online—about a 35% response rate. While we would have liked to have more of our members participate, it was a good sample size, and it was interesting to see where our respondents agreed and where they didn’t.

We learned that most of you read *The Voter* regularly, you want us to provide more topical speakers at our events, and we need to include more calls to action and advocacy on our website. Not surprisingly, the majority of respondents were female, tended to be older, and are very educated. A few of the questions and responses are below. For an interactive look at ALL the survey responses online, visit <http://bit.ly/LWVsurvey>. Special thanks to Lisa Ballard, our data guru who analyzed and compiled all the data!

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER OF THE LEAGUE?

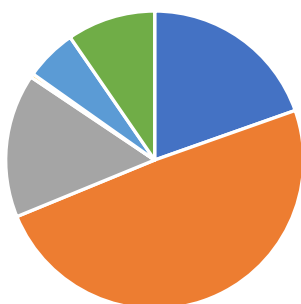


WHAT DO YOU FIND MOST VALUABLE ABOUT BEING A LEAGUE MEMBER?

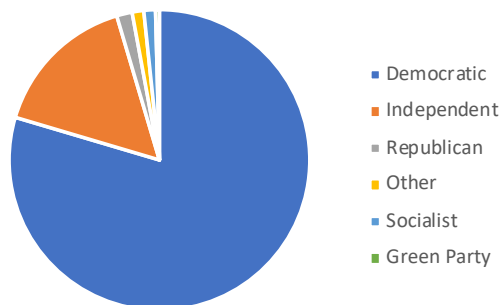


WHAT IS THE PRIMARY REASON YOU JOINED THE LEAGUE?

- Actively register, educate voters
- Learn more about voting and government
- Participate in and influence government
- Professional/networking
- Social/Meet People
- Other



POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION



Leadership continued:

Lastly, in one of the more anomalous special purpose districts, the King Conservation District (KCD) will be holding an election for one of its commissioner positions in March. From their website:

Since 1949, KCD has been helping the people of King County manage their natural resources. KCD staff educate landowners, schools, scientists, consultants and agencies in how to recognize problem situations and how to avoid creating them. KCD also provides technical assistance in solving their problems. KCD promotes conservation through demonstration projects, educational events, providing technical assistance and, in some cases, providing or pointing the way to funds which may be available for projects.

KCD has no regulatory or enforcement authority and only works with those who choose to work with KCD. The voting period will be from Monday, March 18, 2019 at 9:00am through Friday March 29, 2019 until 5:00pm. The primary method of voting in this election will be by mail-in, paper ballot that must be requested by the voter using an online or telephone ballot application process.

You can learn more at: <http://kingcd.org/about/board-of-supervisors/elections-and-appointments/>.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to voter engagement and education!

Melissa Taylor
Outreach and Events Chair

Program Planning Forum a Great Success

By Heather Kelly

This year's Program Planning Forum was a veritable rodeo of activity! On January 10, Seattle-King County members came out in droves to learn about the new format for programming, hear from committee chairs about their topics, and connect with those who share their interests. Before the venue was even set up, over a dozen members had arrived to hear a short presentation by Adele Reynolds on public banking. People were eager to dive in!

After an introduction by Program Chair Alyssa Weed, committee chairs were invited to speak briefly about their topic. These "elevator pitch" presentations were quite creative and enjoyed by all. Members were also invited to propose new topics for committees or revive dormant ones on topics such as transportation, the

environment, land use, homelessness, and of course public banking.

After hearing from committee chairs, participants broke off to search for the groups that aligned with their interests. Long-standing committees like Waterfront and International Relations attracted new members and enthusiasm. A study on homelessness took on new life as members gathered together to brainstorm next steps. Action proposals included events such as hosting forums, conducting research studies, and drafting articles for *The Voter*. Suggestions for new collaborations with Washington State League were also offered. It was exciting to see so many members transforming passion into action!

A big thanks to all who came. If you were unable to attend and would like to connect with a committee, contact information for each current committee can be found at the end of *The Voter*. For an official updated list of committees, please see the next issue.

Continued from front page:

should!) flag issues that the League should take separate action on, based on our League positions. An example of a report is below.

Submit your written report and we'll share it with all members. Reports will be edited for grammar and general content, as this is a public document of the League. Reports will then be posted on our website for all members and the public to view.

The League has been a champion of government transparency since its founding in 1920. Many Leagues across the country have Observer Corps. In fact, the Pullman League won the Washington state Local League award in 2017 for its Observer Corps. Thus, we have a lot of information we can pull together to get our Observers up and running.

We have six people already interested and hope to get to around 15. We'll focus on covering councils and school boards first, but an Observer can select any group that she wants to observe. Some of the committees are where a lot of action gets started.

Become an Observer by contacting Cathy O'Shea at coshea120@gmail.com or 425 753 4182.

Example of an Observer Corps report.

LWVS-KC Observer Report: King County Council Meeting, January 7, 2019

Present: Ms. Balducci, Mr. Dembowski, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Kohl-Welles, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Upthegrove, and Mr. von Reichbauer (7)

Excused: Mr. Dunn and Mr. McDermott (2)

CM Kohl-Welles reported from the Puget Sound Regional Council on the work to update the Vision 2040 plan to Vision 2050 regarding demographic and transportation changes since 2009. Sections on climate change, sustainability, social equity, and health are being added to the plan. One issue discussed is the annexation of unincorporated areas. Skyway, a large working class, mostly people of color community, is in unincorporated King County, even though it lies between Seattle and Renton. Skyway has voted twice against annexation. The Council feels that it cannot provide the government services that a city would provide this area and supports annexation.

The Council approved a motion to organize the Council committees and assigned a council member to each committee. These committees are organized to support the key priorities for 2019.

Priorities for 2019

- Solid waste comprehensive plan update
- Charter review commission recommendations to put to voters
- Emergency Services levy
- Parks levy
- Criminal justice reform
- Affordable housing task force
- Homelessness
- Setting up new department of local services
- Accountability legislation for Puget Sound taxpayers
- Census work
- Immigrant refugee work

Committees for 2019

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Committee of the Whole | Joe McDermott |
| Budget and fiscal management | Claudia Balducci |
| Employment and administration | Rod Dembowski |
| Government accountability and oversight | Pete von Reichbauer |
| Health, housing and human services | Jeanne Kohl-Welles |
| Law and justice | Larry Gossett |
| Local services, regional roads and bridges | Kathy Lambert |
| Mobility and Environment | Dave Upthegrove |
| Regional policy | Pete von Reichbauer |
| Regional transit | Claudia Balducci |
| Regional water quality | Kathy Lambert. |

Thanks to Our Members for Supporting Dignity for Divas!

The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County has joined forces with Dignity for Divas (www.dignityfordivas.org), a nonprofit that supports women experiencing homelessness. We kicked off our partnership at the Forum on January 10 with collection boxes for their two areas of focus: the “Diva Survival Kit” and the “Welcome Home Kit.” We will be collecting new and unused items at all League-wide events, including the February 7 forum. The following are some of the suggested items; see their website for complete lists.



- Dish Soap/Dishwasher Detergent
- Laundry Soap/Bleach
- Towels/Washcloths
- Dish Set (4 count)/Glassware
- Pot and Pan set/Bakeware (basic)
- Glassware/Tupperware
- White shower curtain/liner/shower rings
- Sanitary Napkins
- Underwear/Socks
- Comb/Brushes
- Trial size lotions/deodorant
- Trial size shampoo/conditioner
- Individual cleansing (“baby”)wipes
- Lip Balm/Lipstick/Makeup

Discussion Questions for Unit Meetings

1. Were you surprised to find out that many of our suffragist heroines were actively or passively racist in their fight to secure voting rights?
2. What, if any, implications do you think this has for us as an organization?
3. Of all of the famous suffragists that you know of, how many of them are women of color and how many are white? If can only name one or two women of color who are suffragists, why do you think that is?
4. How should we honor the women that fought for our right to vote, but also acknowledge the ways they abandoned women of color, poor women, and other minority women in the process?
5. “White feminism” is a term used to describe feminist theories that focus on the struggles of white women without addressing distinct forms of oppression faced by ethnic minority women and women lacking other privileges. What examples of white feminism do you see in pop culture, the media, and activism today?
6. Does discussing the racism of the suffragist movement make you uncomfortable? If so, why do you think that is?

Action suggestion: Research a cause or problem that affects women who are of a different ethnic, religious, or socioeconomic group than you (ex: Islamophobia, Antisemitism, pipeline construction in Tribal lands, anti-black racism, unfair labor practices). Bring a summary of findings to your unit meeting to discuss ways you can use your privilege to bring awareness to these issues. Send them to info@seattlelwv.org and we’ll publish them in the next *Voter!*

Unit Meetings

We invite you to check out neighborhood discussion groups, called unit meetings, to meet people passionate about League and our community. Units meetings are a great way for new members to learn about League. Discussion usually focuses on the topic which is discussed at the monthly forum. In addition, background materials are generally included in our newsletter, *The Voter*.

(Unit times and locations subject to change; please verify with unit leader.)
Meetings are open to all.

| Unit Leader email | Phone | Time | Location |
|--|--------------|------------|---|
| Wednesday, February 13 | | | |
| NORTHEAST SEATTLE (formerly View Ridge) – Cynthia Butler | | | |
| cjbutler14@gmail.com | 206-359-0340 | 12:45 p.m. | Brig Bldg. (6344) in Magnuson Park 7400 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle |
| <i>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.</i> | | | |
| QUEEN ANNE/MAGNOLIA/BALLARD Evening - Kathy Pugh and Marlis Worthington | | | |
| ckp1966@comcast.net | 503-580-1240 | 7:30 p.m. | Magnolia Church of Christ |
| marliswrt@hotmail.com | 206-283-7147 | | 3555 W McGraw St, Seattle |
| Thursday, February 14 | | | |
| MERCER ISLAND – Paneen Davidson and Toni Okada | | | |
| paneenie@gmail.com | 206-466-2023 | 9:30 a.m. | Emmanuel Episcopal Church |
| td.okada@yahoo.com | | | 4400 86th Ave SE, Mercer Island |
| ISSAQUAH – Judy Love | | | |
| judysteveL@gmail.com | 425-417-8600 | 10:00 a.m. | Issaquah City Hall, Coho Rm. 2 nd Flr. 130 E Sunset Way, Issaquah |
| SOUTHEAST KING COUNTY/ENUMCLAW - Cathy Dormaier | | | |
| clcathy@skynetbb.com | 360-802-6799 | 12:00 p.m. | Location: <i>contact unit leader</i> |
| Friday, February 15 | | | |
| UNIVERSITY HOUSE/WALLINGFORD – Janet Kime | | | |
| kraftyjane@comcast.net | 206-588-0988 | 2:00 p.m. | University House, San Juan Room 4400 Stone Way N, Seattle |

Continued on next page

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

| Unit Leader email | Phone | Time | Location |
|-------------------|-------|------|----------|
|-------------------|-------|------|----------|

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|----------------------------|
| Monday, February 18 |
|----------------------------|

FIRST HILL – Adele Reynolds

| | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|------------|--|
| adelereynolds@netscape.net | 206-621-4867 | 10:30 a.m. | Horizon House, Forum & Social Room 900 University St, Seattle |
|----------------------------|--------------|------------|--|

SOUTH SEATTLE - Vivian Montoya

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------------|-----------|--|
| montoyaviv@gmail.com | 206-695-2620 | 5:30 p.m. | Raconteur at Third Place Books 5041 Wilson Ave S, Seattle |
|----------------------|--------------|-----------|--|

CAPITOL HILL/MONTLAKE –

| | | | |
|--|--------------|-----------|--|
| | 206-329-4848 | 7:15 p.m. | Hostess: Linnea Hirst 1602 E McGraw St, Seattle 206-322-3076 |
|--|--------------|-----------|--|

| |
|-----------------------------|
| Tuesday, February 19 |
|-----------------------------|

BELLEVUE/KIRKLAND/REDMOND Day– Cathy O’Shea

| | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|------------|---|
| coshea120@gmail.com | 425-753-4182 | 12:00 p.m. | Kirkland Public Library 308 Kirkland Ave, Kirkland |
|---------------------|--------------|------------|---|

WEST SEATTLE – Ethel Williams/Pat Lane

| | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|-----------|----------------------------|
| etheljw@comcast.net | 206-932-7887 | 1:00 p.m. | Daystar Retirement Village |
| pgblain11@gmail.com | 206-932-1578 | | 2615 SW Barton, Seattle |

BELLEVUE/KIRKLAND/REDMOND Evening – Rita Schulte and Cathy O’Shea

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|-----------|----------------------------|
| rita.schulte@comcast.net | 425-445-4371 | 6:00 p.m. | Hostess: Rita Schulte |
| coshea120@gmail.com | 425-753-4182 | | 16802 NE 35th St, Bellevue |

| |
|------------------------------|
| Thursday, February 21 |
|------------------------------|

NORTH KING COUNTY – Lea Galanter

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------------|-----------|--|
| leagal99@hotmail.com | 425-820-9096 | 7:00 p.m. | Church of the Redeemer 6210 181 st St, Kenmore |
|----------------------|--------------|-----------|--|

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|------------------------------|
| Saturday, February 23 |
|------------------------------|

BALLARD/MAGNOLIA/QUEEN ANNE Day – Judy Ostrow

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------------|------------|--|
| 2jostrow@comcast.net | 206-922-2678 | 10:00 a.m. | Hosts: Alice & Jack Peterson 5245 Pullman Ave. NE , Seattle 206-524-5530 |
|----------------------|--------------|------------|--|

Board & Committee Contacts

Term Executive Committee

| | | | | |
|---------|-----------------------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| 2017-19 | <i>President</i> | Stephanie Cirkovich | 206-329-4848 | president@seattlelwv.org |
| 2018-20 | <i>1st VP - Development</i> | Christy Wood | 206-707-3845 | christywood@hotmail.com |
| 2017-19 | <i>2nd VP - Program</i> | Alyssa Weed | 206-329-4848 | afweed1@gmail.com |
| 2017-19 | <i>Secretary</i> | Katie Dudley | 206-329-4848 | kate.c.dudley@gmail.com |
| 2018-20 | <i>Treasurer</i> | Cathy O'Shea | 425-753-4182 | coshea120@gmail.com |

Directors

| | | | | |
|---------|-------------------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 2018-20 | <i>Voter Service</i> | Barbra Chevalier | 425-445-2281 | barbra.n.chevalier@gmail.com |
| 2018-20 | <i>Development</i> | Kiku Hayashi | 206-329-4848 | kikuhayashi1@gmail.com |
| 2018-20 | <i>Action</i> | Heather Kelly | 206-329-4848 | hejokelly@gmail.com |
| 2017-19 | <i>Committees & Units</i> | Zara Kublin | 206-276-2831 | zkublin@hotmail.com |
| 2017-19 | <i>Outreach & Events</i> | Melissa Taylor | 206-329-4848 | melissataylor.lwvskc@gmail.com |

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

Education Fund Officers - same as above except Treasurer

| | | | | |
|---------|------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| 2018-19 | <i>Treasurer</i> | Jessica Forsythe | 206-329-4848 | eftreasurer@seattlelwv.org |
|---------|------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------------------|

Nominating Committee

| | | | | |
|---------|--------------|------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 2018-19 | <i>Chair</i> | Amanda Clark | 206-236-0517 | amandac5@comcast.net |
| 2018-19 | | Julie Sarkissian | 206-329-4848 | juliesarkissian@hotmail.com |

Vacant seat

Two boardmembers will be appointed to the committee later in the year.

Off Board Positions

| | | | | |
|--|---------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| | <i>Voter Editor</i> | Amanda Clark | 206-236-0517 | votereditor@seattlelwv.org |
|--|---------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------------|

Committee Chairs

| | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| | <i>Economics & Taxation</i> | Nora Leech | | nleech2002@yahoo.com |
| | <i>Education</i> | Joanna Cullen | 206-329-8514 | jfoxcullen@gmail.com |
| | <i>International Relations</i> | Kim Peterson | 206-789-7447 | |
| | <i>Waterfront</i> | Nancy & Charles Bagley | 206-282-1578 | candnbagley@comcast.net |

League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County
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Seattle WA 98101

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Paid at Seattle, WA

Moving? Prefer the online edition? Let us know!

Call the League office at (206) 329-4848 or
email info@seattlelwv.org

LWV SEATTLE-KING COUNTY:

Exploring Racism in the Women's Suffrage Movement Thursday, February 7

6:30 p.m. — Doors open
7:00 p.m. — Program begins

Seattle First Baptist Church
1111 Harvard Ave (at Seneca)
Seattle, WA 98122

*Panel discussion with Seattle City Councilmember
Debora Juarez; Jamila Taylor, Attorney and
Founding Board Member of BlackPast.org; and
La Rond Baker, Assistant Attorney General in the
Civil Rights Unit of the Washington State Attorney
General's Office. Moderated by LWVS-KC Vice
President Christy Wood.*



Free and open to the public thanks to the generous support of the
ACLU-WA

For accessibility information, please reference the Ground Floor map on this
webpage: <http://www.seattlefirstbaptist.org/buildings--accessibility.html> or call
the church: (206) 325-6051.