LWVUS Convention: Reaching New Heights Together
SEATTLE’S CONTRIBUTIONS INCLUDE NATIONAL BOARD MEMBERS!

By Beatrice Crane, Voter Editor

They haven’t taken “Women” out of the name—the “League of Voters” doesn’t have the same ring—but for the first time in its history, the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWV US) elected a man to the national board. The new board member, Norman Turrill, has Seattle roots; although he is currently a resident of Portland, he grew up in Seattle, where he first joined the League in the 1970s. Turrill also holds three degrees from the University of Washington. Turrill’s interests include open government and campaign finance reform.

For the Seattle delegates, it was no surprise that a former Seattleite broke another gender barrier. After all, don’t we live in a state with not only a female governor, but two female senators? The really exciting event was the election to the board of a current Seattleite, Nancy Eitreim, president of the League of Women Voters of Seattle (LWVS) from 2003–2007, and of its Education Fund from 2007–2008. See page 13 for complete coverage.

LWVS sent a total of nine delegates to the convention, held in Portland June 13–17: President Denise Smith; current LWVS board members Karen Adair, Pat Cleary, Beatrice Crane, Kitty Mahon and Jaclyn Wall; new board members Maria Brusher and Jayne Freitag Koontz; and International Relations Committee chair Ellen Berg, who was presenting a resolution on disarmament on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Washington. The Seattle delegation was disappointed when the resolution was narrowly defeated, but Ellen was encouraged by positive feedback from National Board members, and will continue to pursue the goals of the resolution.

LWVS sponsored a very successful caucus on the Motherhood Manifesto, featuring MomsRising Director Kristen Rowe-Finkbeiner. We are sure that it wasn’t just the free dessert that brought people in!

Highlights of the convention included speeches by two former governors of Oregon. The Honorable Barbara Roberts (1991-1995) addressed the opening plenary session on Saturday. Roberts was the first (and to date, the only) female governor of Oregon. She is a longtime League member and supporter. She shared some thoughts on the changing roles of women—she believes that the fight for the Equal Rights Amendment politicized women and led to more women in elective offices. In answer to a question on election reform, she presented a succinct plan for a six month primary system.

The Honorable John Kitzhaber (1995–2003) was the featured speaker the following day. Kitzhaber also has a League connection; his mother is a former president of the League of Women Voters of Oregon. He spoke about the need for health care reform, emphasizing that the focus should be on the system itself rather than on how it is financed. He ended with a quote from Seneca: “No wind is the right wind if you don’t know what port you are sailing for.”

More coverage of the National Convention begins on page 14.

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President’s Message

In 1991 I stood on an erect telephone pole for 15 seconds before falling to the safety net below. It was a terrifying experience, but despite twittering knees and a persistent protest from my intuition I completed this last task on a team building ropes course. The ropes course was the final part of the King County Land Water Steward program I attended to learn more about environmental issues within King County. The program gave me the theoretical base for my advocacy on water issues, and the “telephone pole” exercise may very well have prepared me for the challenges and anxieties of speaking out on issues and standing up for League principles.

I have thought back to this experience several times during my first year as president of the Seattle League. This is much like the effect different roles of the League have had for many of us as we have participated in studies, testimonies and voter education presentations. This year we have had challenges but also many successes. I think we can all feel confident, with a sense of achievement.

We completed our year with a well attended annual meeting the weekend after a very successful, albeit somewhat controversial, visit from our national president, Mary Wilson. At our annual meeting we thanked our retiring board members for their service and enthusiasm and welcomed a new board, which includes several long time Leaguers. The Carrie Chapman Catt award winner, Janet Perry, was honored for her commitment to her unit and for her success in developing that unit. We have several strong units, and hope to work this year to build their local connections and to coordinate units with the Observer Corps. This year our goal is to broaden our action focus to include suburban cities and other jurisdictions outside Seattle.

Our delegates to the State Council and National Convention were treated to great presentations on League basics on program, voter service and recruitment. Seminars on diversity, outreach through new technology and League program provided hints and techniques for us to incorporate. Presentations by our own Ellen Berg on a resolution for education on nuclear disarmament and by Katie Bethell on the MomsRising group were well received. Statements before the assembly by Ellen Berg and Maria Brusher as direction to the national board represented our League well. We also asked that the National League clearly include the list of corporations from whom the League receives dedicated funds within the National League and Ed fund budgets. And of course, the confirmation of Nancy Eitreim as a National Board member was a highlight for our local delegation and the entire state delegation.

We now begin a new year with enthusiasm and a sense of mission. We have commenced a long-range planning process, and we will hold a special meeting August 23 with the goal of producing a strategic plan that can be used to describe what we are all about to potential members and supporters. We are excited to have board member Dr. Doreen Cato to help guide these efforts, which were begun informally under the leadership of Victoria Bennett and Kitty Mahon. This meeting is open to all League members and we encourage you to attend or to submit your ideas to info@seattlelwv.org or to me.

Mission Statement
The League of Women Voters of Seattle, 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.
**August**

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**AUGUST**
- **September Voter deadline**
  - Monday, August 4
- **First Hill Unit Forum:**
  - King County Initiative I-26
  - Monday, August 4
  - 7:30 p.m.
  - Horizon House
- **Primary Candidates Forum**
  - Saturday, August 9
  - 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
  - Central Area Senior Center
- **Washington Health Care Caucus**
  - Tuesday, August 12
  - 6:30-8:30 p.m.
  - Temple Bnai Torah, Bellevue
- **Primary Election**
  - Tuesday, August 19
- **Strategic Planning Meeting**
  - First Place School
  - Saturday, August 23
- **Ballot Issues Briefing for Local & State Boards**
  - Wednesday, August 27
  - 6:30 p.m.
  - League Office

**September**

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**SEPTEMBER**
- **Forum: Seattle/King County: The Immigration Picture**
  - Thursday, September 4
  - 7:30 p.m.
  - Seattle First Baptist Church
- **Board Meeting**
  - Saturday, September 6
  - 9:00 a.m.
  - League Office
- **October Voter deadline**
  - Monday, September 8
- **International Relations Committee**
  - Monday, September 8
  - 12:45 – 2:45 p.m.
  - League Office (call to confirm)
- **Civics Education Committee**
  - Tuesday, September 9
  - 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
  - League Office
- **Candidates and Issues Forum**
  - Monday, September 29
  - 7:30 p.m.
  - Horizon House
- **Ballot Issues Briefing**
  - 6:30 pm
- **Labor Day**
- **Forum 7:30 pm**
- **Board meeting 9:00 am**
June Board Briefs
By Karen Adair, Secretary

**New and Old:** June’s Board meeting included “new and old” members, welcoming those joining the Board for 2008-2009, and bidding farewell to those leaving the Board.

**Appointments:** Karen Lahey was appointed as our technology consultant and Victoria Bennett as our fundraising coordinator.

**Membership:** Kitty Mahon reported that our membership stands at 834, with 756 in good standing.

**Voter Services:** League volunteers registered more than 220 new voters in the three weeks preceding the Board meeting—at the Folklife Festival, the EMP, and farmers markets. We also have opportunities for registering voters this summer at the July 4 naturalization ceremony at the Seattle Center, Bumbershoot, Hempfest, Mariners games and the Bite of Seattle. We need all League members to help out.

**Fundraising:** Victoria Bennett and the fundraising committee are working to coordinate our fundraising efforts. A new event will be added on February 14 to celebrate the League’s birthday. The Spring Flings for the Ed Fund were successful and everyone enjoyed them. The committee is busy planning for the 32nd Annual Political Party and Auction for October.

**Action:** Harriett Morton reflected on her year as action chair, and suggested we be more targeted in the way the action process works. She asked that committees submit a simple one-page report to the chair and the Board could define focus and priorities. To facilitate this, the Board voted to ask standing committees to make a report to the Board monthly.

Anita Warmflash reported that the past year has been focused on organization of the Observer Corps. Now they will work on making better use of what they are learning.

**Activities:** In May and June Board members attended events for Youth Care, Child Haven Women in Small Business, the Jewish Federation, and the Juneteenth celebration at Pratt Park. This summer we will also participate in Black Dollar Days Festival and the Bothell River Festival.

Denise Smith, Nancy Eitreim, Ellen Berg, and Kitty Mahon represented LWVS at the LWV WA Council held May 31-June 1 in Yakima. Smith reported on the interesting content and the enthusiasm of the delegates from across the state. They attended a parliamentary procedure session, a “League 101” session and a panel on immigration, among other activities.

The Board will have an orientation for new Board members in July and a strategic planning retreat in August.

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**Diversity Policy**

The League of Women Voters of Seattle (LWVS), 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 recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making. LWVS 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 affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of Americans in its membership, board, staff and programs.
Committee Meetings

Local Action and Study Committees
Most of the League committees have worked diligently all year and take a break in July and August. If you want information about the work of a committee, contact the chairperson or watch for announcements in future Voters. You can find contact information for committee chairs on the inside back page of every issue of the Voter.

Land Use Committee
Land Use Committee meeting times will vary during the summer months, so please contact Karen Kane at 206-329-4848 for information. Meanwhile, for an excellent weekly recap of land use-related issues and events, as well as alerts about upcoming political actions, please log on to Historic Seattle; http://historicseattle.org and click “Advocacy Update.” There you’ll find preservation news, plus information on a wide range of land-use topics affecting Seattle and surrounding communities. Compiled by Christine Palmer, a Land Use Committee member and the Preservation Advocate for Historic Seattle, a new edition is available every Friday. To receive your own “Advocacy Update”, please contact Christine by telephone at 206-329-4848, or by e-mail at: christine@historicseattle.org. Previous issues can be accessed online at: http://historicseattle.org/inthenews/aspx.

Announcements

CIS Volunteers Wanted!
Do you like to talk on the phone? Want to see what goes on in the Seattle League? Be on the forefront of this year’s elections? Come join us on the CIS (Citizen Information Service) desk! We will train you on the ways of the League and how to respond to questions from the public. We currently have an opening for a three-hour afternoon shift on Wednesdays, and always welcome substitutes whom we can call on an as-needed basis. Come join the fun!

For information email Cynthia Howe at howe.john@comcast.net.

Thanks Janet Lynch!
A big thank you to Janet Lynch, who has served on the CIS desk for many years, fielding calls and helping with mailings even after knee surgery, always with a spirit of good cheer. We will miss her as she turns to other things, but understand that at age eighty, one should be able to relax and smell the roses. May they be sweet for you, Janet!

Primary Candidates Forum
Forum for candidates who will be on the Primary Election ballot August 19, 2008

Date: Saturday, August 9, 2008
Time: 10:00 a.m. –5:00 p.m.
Place: Central Area Senior Center, 500 30th Ave. S

SCHEDULE:
10:00 a.m.
State Official candidates
1:00 p.m.
Superintendent of Public Instruction candidates
2:30 p.m.
State Senator and Representative candidates
4:00 p.m.
Congressional Representative candidates

New State Office Location
The League of Women Voters of Washington office has moved to 4730 University Way NE, #720, Seattle, WA 98105. Phones, fax and email have not changed.
New Wallingford Unit
A new daytime unit is forming in the Wallingford neighborhood. It will meet on the second Thursday of each month in the auditorium at University House, 4400 Stone Way North. The first meeting will be Thursday, September 11 at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome; the University House residents would be delighted to have other friends and neighbors join them. The location is convenient to the Green Lake, University, and Fremont neighborhoods, and is served by the 16 and 44 buses. University House also has a visitor’s parking garage; the entrance is on 44th Street. For more information, please call Mary Slotnick at 206-329-4848.

Voter Service Opportunity
Voter registration is a core activity for the League. This year the request for volunteers to register voters has been huge. We encourage you to sign up. We have several opportunities throughout August and September. Voter registration is one of the best ways to show the League is in the area and active. It is also a great volunteer opportunity. You choose a single 3-4 hour shift that fits your schedule. We provide the training and materials needed, and the newly registered voters will provide that sense of personal satisfaction and pride in the League.

Please call 206-329-4848 or email info@seattlelwv.org to volunteer.

FORUM ON PRIMARY INITIATIVE I-26
Date: August 4, 2008
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Performance Hall, Horizon House, 900 University Street, Seattle

League members are invited to a forum on Primary Initiative I-26, which gives the voters options for making the King County Council elected positions non-partisan. The event is cosponsored by the First Hill Unit of the League of Women Voters of Seattle and the Residents’ Council at Horizon House in order to help us understand the King County Council and its functions, which are so important to the quality of our lives.

King County Councilmember Larry Gossett and Joe Fain, Administrative Assistant to Councilmember Pete Von Reichbauer, will discuss the initiative. Phyllis Lamphere will moderate this event. Contact persons: Dorothy Hopper, and Mary Margaret Pruitt. Please call 206-329-4848.

Health Care Caucus
The Healthy Washington Coalition presents another in a series of community health care caucuses, focusing on the effort to achieve a quality, affordable health care system in Washington State.

Date: Tuesday, August 12
Time: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Place: Temple B’nai Torah
15727 NE 4th St.
Bellevue
For more information, visit healthywacoalition.org

Strategic Planning Meeting
Date: Saturday, August 23, 2008
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Place: TBA

Board member Dr. Doreen Cato will facilitate a one day planning retreat to develop a five year strategic plan for the LWV Seattle. This meeting is open to all League members and we encourage you to attend or to submit your ideas to info@seattlelwv.org or President Denise Smith. Please call the League office for more information or to RSVP.
Using her gavel for the first time at an annual meeting, President Denise Smith called the 2008 Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Seattle (LWVS) to order at 5:30 p.m. on May 22, 2008. Eighty-six members attended to conduct the annual business of the League. At the halfway point, members enjoyed a catered dinner and an opportunity to meet new friends and connect with long-standing acquaintances.

Many members showed their commitment to the League by volunteering for annual meeting tasks. Nan Moore, program chair, organized the facilities and the materials for the meeting. Mary Coltrane, president of LWVS 1989-1991, served as our parliamentarian. Lael Braymer and Barbara Reid read, corrected and approved the minutes of the 2007 annual meeting. Kathleen Randall and Martha Jordan will review the 2008 minutes. Chris Kantor served as timekeeper. Joanne McGaw and Cynthia Howe took on the job of tellers.

League Positions: Members voted to affirm the local positions of the LWVS in their entirety. Nan Moore, program chair, explained that we have had no studies leading to any recommended changes in our current positions.

Program for 2008-2009: The Board did not recommend any new study for the upcoming year in order to focus on completing four current studies: Early Care/Education (a state study), Surface Water Management, Port of Seattle, and Local Immigration. Although there were lively discussions and many ideas coming out of the January program planning meeting, no single topic stood out. Members adopted a non-recommended study on privatization and transfer of government assets and services to the private sector. Linda Brown, chair of the Port Study, reminded members of the scope of the study, but explained that the committee needed people to do the work. She urged members to help her reinvigorate this effort by signing up to help.

Political Party Announcement: Victoria Bennett and Patty Catalano inspired the crowd by singing “Life is a Money Game My Friend” (to the tune of “Cabaret”) and called on everyone to pitch in to make our 32nd Annual Political Party and Auction a success.

Carrie Chapman Catt Award: This award is given annually to a League member who has gone above and beyond the call of duty. Mickey Horwitz, unit coordinator, presented the Carrie Chapman Catt award for 2008 to Janet Perry. Part of Mickey’s eloquent speech honoring Janet, leader of the First Hill Unit at Horizon House for the past four years, appears on page 10.

Election of Officers, Directors and Nominating Committee: Members elected officers, directors and nominating committee members. Officers include 1st Vice President Kitty Mahon, 2nd Vice President Nora Leech, 3rd Vice President Sarah Luthens, 4th Vice President Jayne Freitag-Koontz, and Treasurer Allison Feher. New directors will be Anita Warmflash, Maria Brusher, Pat Cleary, and Vanessa Soriano Power. The 2008-2009 nominating committee will consist of Joan Thomas (chair), Lois Laughlin, Lee Carpenter, Vicky Downs and Mary Coltrane.

Fifty Year Members Honored: Four members, Vera Sanders, Bernice Wheatley, Carol Smith and Naila Harper, have been members for 50 years. Although none of them were able to attend the meeting, they were sent certificates thanking them for their dedication to the League.

Budget: Members adopted the proposed budget for 2008-2009 as presented on pages 26-27 of the Annual Meeting Workbook. This included a dues increase; our finance committee and board felt it was an appropriate time to raise dues since our payment to the national league will soon increase, prices have gone up, and we haven’t raised dues for quite a while.

Volunteers Thanked: President Smith thanked all those who help do the work of the League: volunteers who serve as voter registrars; Betty Sullivan and Victoria Bennett, who train voter registrars, as well as do so many other projects; CIS volunteers and Cynthia Howe; Marilyn Knight for representing the League on the King County Elections Oversight Committee; Annette Holcomb, Linnea Hirst and Carol Hannum, who review the financial records; Linda Snider for chairing the finance committee; Paula Polet and the crew of volunteers who made the Political Party

Two Annual Meetings: LWVS and LWVSEF
By Karen Adair, Secretary
and Auction a success; our newest members attending their first annual meeting; the current Board members; and many others who volunteer their time. She urged attendees to sign up for committees or projects on the sheets available at every table.

**Review of Activities of Past Year:** Smith concluded the meeting by reflecting on her first 12 months as president. She listed the successes the League has had over the year: registering voters, monitoring elections, starting up the Observer Corps, promoting a Newspaper in Education program; taking on homeless issues, King County Charter amendments and locally funded election campaigns. Our forums have been well attended and viewed on TVW and King County TV. Our immigration committee has presented the national study and is getting ready to present the local study in September. Our international relations committee developed a resolution on nuclear disarmament to take to the national convention. Other committees are gearing up to work on the Port Study and Ballot Issues. She praised the talent, commitment and dedication of our behind-the-scenes volunteers, and Monya Noelke, our staff person. She encouraged members to get involved, because there is always something to do. The Board, in turn, presented Smith with flowers in appreciation of her hard work during her first year in office; the audience waved their books to show strong agreement.

**Ed Fund:** Following the LWVS annual meeting, League of Women Voters of Seattle Education Fund (LW VSEF) President Nancy Eitreim called the annual meeting of the LWVSEF to order. Rules and agenda were adopted. Members elected Betty Sullivan, President (one-year term), Dorothy Sale, Director (two-year term), and Lucy Gaskill-Gaddis, Director (two-year term). Lisa Peterson presented the proposed budget for the 2008-2009 fiscal year (found on page 32 of the annual meeting workbook). This was adopted and the meeting was adjourned.
As you all know, our neighborhood discussion units comprise some of the most dedicated, active members of the League. It’s been my pleasure to get to know many of the Seattle League’s unit members, a group of nearly 200 people! It’s especially gratifying to know that our units are in such good hands, due to the wonderful commitment made by each year’s unit leaders. And this year we are honoring one of those unit leaders.

I can guarantee you that, upon hearing her name this evening, Janet Perry will be stunned, possibly embarrassed, and most certainly speechless, convinced that others should receive this honor before her. But – the facts being irrefutable – Janet is more than worthy of this honor. She is someone who epitomizes the phrase “a giving person”.

Janet serves not only the League, but she serves her community.

She spent 25 years of her life as a Special Ed. Teacher, giving to young people. She was so good at it that when she retired from teaching she was tapped to serve as a Special Ed. consultant for the school district, a position she held for many years. She gave.

And then, fortuitously for us, Janet joined the League. She lives at Horizon House where she has been an incomparable Unit Leader for the First Hill Unit for the past four years. Yes, she’d be the first to remind you that she has assistance from Mary Margaret Pruitt and Dorothy Hopper. But, honestly, wouldn’t you want a bit of assistance while busily working to build a single unit into a 54-member strong discussion group? Janet is a hands-on leader – consistently attentive, always communicative, and ever reliable with the “soft sell” approach to building our League. She makes people feel comfortable. She also makes sure that as soon as a new resident moves into Horizon House, they receive a little packet of information from her in their mailbox, inviting them to join in the next Monday morning unit meeting. She dedicates herself to making sure that her unit members are informed on the issue of the month before each unit meeting. *When I attended the First Hill Unit as a visiting Board member last October – the month we covered the ballot issues – I was wowed by how many people showed up to the meeting, by how organized that huge meeting was, and by the ease with which Janet guided everyone that day. She may speak softly, but every single person listens. Some people simply command that kind of respect. And since she had Dorothy Hopper sitting in the second lieutenant’s chair acting as discussion leader that day, it was clear to me that, as resource person for the ballot issues discussion, I had better know my stuff! Because they certainly knew theirs.

Last month I scheduled a meeting with Mary Slotnick and Marilyn Paulson of University House in Wallingford. The purpose was to give them and some of their fellow residents a briefing on what the League does and what’s entailed in forming a new unit. I knew that I could go alone, but I didn’t want to. I needed someone with the unique perspective as a unit leader of another large housing complex. So, I asked Janet to please accompany me and it’s a good thing I did. I gave my little speech and, maybe it’s because we made our presentation just following the lunch hour and that’s why the audience seemed ready for a siesta, but as soon as Janet came up to the microphone and started her presentation, the audience perked up. They related to her. They had questions for her. They felt comfortable and suddenly really interested in joining the League and joining a unit! Janet gave her time and expertise that afternoon.

Janet serves the League in other ways. Among other things, Janet’s is the first face you see when you walk in the front door of this building for each month’s forum, because she is always there to greet you and help you at the registration table in the lobby.

We are honored to present the Carrie Chapman Catt Award to Janet Perry.
LWVEF/ Allergan Event

By Denise Smith, LWVS president

In April of this year League of Women Voters of Seattle (LWVS) members received invitations to a Get Out the Vote event hosted by Allergan (a leading maker of eye and skin care products including BOTOX®). Because we received notice of the event just before the May Voter went to press, we promised to cover it more fully in this issue.

The League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF) is participating with Allergan on their Freedom of Expression through Film campaign this year. This includes ten Get Out the Vote events across the country targeting young women and men in the beauty industry, a demographic with traditionally low voter turnout. The Seattle event was the second in the series; it attracted 700 attendees who had the opportunity to hear League of Women voters of the United States (LWVUS) President Mary Wilson speak on the importance of the vote to freedom of expression.

The invitations received by LWVS members sparked a flurry of calls and emails; the first call, which came in minutes after the invitation was delivered to a long time member, expressed apprehension that the League had sold its mailing list. Other calls raised the issue of whether the League appeared to be endorsing Botox®; accepting cash for an endorsement is something we speak out against in our elected officials. We received over 30 calls and emails over the next few days—the greatest response to an issue that I have experienced.

As LWVS president, I relayed the concerns of our members to the National office. Nancy Strum, LWVUS Senior Director of Development, acknowledged these concerns, but emphasized the positive aspects of reaching a new audience, receiving a sizable grant to enhance the VOTE411 website, and producing a PSA (public service announcement.)

A letter to members from LWVUS President Mary Wilson giving the National point-of-view follows. We also are including two letters and an email received from local members. We understand the reality of fundraising in the 21st century, but also believe that openness and the ability to voice one’s opinions is an important aspect of our league lives.

Letter from the LWVUS President

Dear League Member and Supporter,

Recently you received an invitation to a Freedom of Expression through Film event in Seattle. We included you among the more than 2,000 individuals invited to attend the event as a courtesy, should you have been interested in attending. But mostly we wanted to let you know about a new and unique election year outreach effort in which the League of Women Voters is participating.

The event is one of ten Freedom of Expression Through Film events being held in cities around the country. The League has joined in this partnership with Allergan, Inc. and actress Virginia Madsen to emphasize the importance of expressing oneself this year through registering and voting.

These local events are hosted by Allergan to explain their products (including BOTOX Cosmetic) to workers in the beauty and cosmetics industry. These events provide the League with an opportunity to reach workers who are largely female, lower wage workers – and hence are among those who are less likely to vote. Typically, 300 or more individuals attend each event. A speaker from LWVUS is present at each event to talk about voting and to promote use of the League’s one-of-a-kind online education resource, www.VOTE411.org. And local Leagues are also invited to be present at the events to: register people to vote; provide information about their local League and its activities; and, distribute their voter service materials. Virginia Madsen is doing press interviews in each city, urging listeners to use VOTE411 as a key election resource. Allergan has produced public service announcements and a short film about the importance of VOTE411 and voting, for use by Leagues around the country. And Allergan has provided direct generous support for VOTE411.

Please be assured that the League will carefully guard its reputation while participating in this campaign to assure that our good name is not “used” to promote Allergan products. At the same time, the national League Board recognizes that in reaching new segments of voters, we need to be willing to try a variety of new approaches and to make thoughtful judgments about when to work with different types of organizations.

Thank you!

Mary G. Wilson, President
Letters to the Editor

As a member of the League for 31 years, I was appalled to receive a bronze invitation to a night at the movies, but more evidently for a free consultation for a BOTOX treatment (complete with a three-page disclaimer from BOTOX), underwritten by the League “in partnership” with Botox and Allergan. Somewhere in the very fine print there is some mention of freedom of expression, the importance of choice, etc., but this message paled beside the blatant intent to advertise a product—cosmetic treatments. Has the League lost its mind, or its soul? What is the image this sends— that the League of Women Voters will do anything to sell itself?

Botox and Allergan have reaped a coup and the League has lost a reputation that was once above reproach. It has decided to lie with a very strange bedfellow and it has given my name and mailing address without my permission to this bedfellow. I will boycott the event and I urge members to voice their disapproval to the national Ed Fund board of directors.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Howe

I was incredulous and remain so that my LWVUS would sell ("rent" is a euphemistic dodge) our names to a commercial medical combine that offers a treatment (Botox) needing lines and lines of small print warning about its effects. (Note a recent Newsweek story about FDA investigations of the drug’s dangers.) The ends (registration of voters) do not justify the means: using your members at possible peril to their health to get money for the education fund ($250,000 to LWVUS and $500,000 for a national publicity campaign about this partnership.)

In addition to pairing us with Botox, it puts us in a position we deplore in electeds: corporations donate to gain access. The “hallmark” of the LWV is our integrity—pairing us with Botox negates this. In fact, two friends I shared this news with could not believe it. They are not members but have had respect for our LWV that this contradicts.

So, in the future, I do not expect to get spam in the US mail from my LWVUS.

Myra Lupton

The apparent connection between LWV and Botox is a NEW WRINKLE and, in my opinion, most unfortunate for the League image. If it’s for real, count me out, along with my 92-year-old skin.

Olive W. Spannaus
LWV member, active 49 years

Dependent Care and Child Care
Reminder: The League reimburses members for dependent care and child care. We want everybody who is the primary caregiver for their loved ones to be able to join us. Call Denise at (206) 329-4848 to find out how we can make it easier for you to attend a meeting.
Nancy Eitreim Elected to National Board

By Pat Cleary

The honor is Nancy’s, the honor is Seattle League’s, the honor is LWVUS’s. National board has recognized and wants Nancy Eitreim’s spirit and energy — Seattle’s secret ingredient is no longer a secret. Nancy’s intelligence, her encyclopedic knowledge of political issues, and her “we can do it” attitude have been working for the League and the community since she first joined in 1975. She was new to town, babies in tow, when a friend, Ellen Zarter, invited her to a unit meeting. And like many of us, she was attracted to the thorough and far ranging discussions, though maybe even more so by the unit child care at $1 per child.

Nancy swears she didn’t speak at the unit meetings for the first six months or year. That may take those of you who know Nancy by surprise, but those of us who joined then can remember those stalwart unit members being just a bit intimidating.

But by year two she was unit leader, working on the They Represent You brochure, and serving on the education committee. There had been two school levy losses in 1975 and someone had to make sure that the League supported the levy.

By 1977, a long two years into her brilliant League career, Nancy was tapped for the board. The then president, Astrid Berg, asked Nancy what she would like to do, saying “Nancy, you need to have a portfolio.” Well, it turns out Voter Service was available, and though Nancy had only that brief experience helping with TRY, Astrid, ever the iron fist in the velvet glove, was quick to volunteer, “Nancy, I’ll teach you.”

It was Nancy’s first lesson in collaborative and affirming leadership. You don’t need to know everything, you just need a leader who supports you.

A big issue for the Voter Service chair that year was Proposition 13, which would have eliminated sexual orientation from the City of Seattle’s fair housing and employment ordinance. It may not seem that radical now, but protecting gay rights was a new focus for League back then, and considered controversial. Thanks to Nancy we were there, presenting ballot information and forums all over the city.

Another life long commitment for Nancy has been housing, and another mentor appeared — Gail Crouch, who was on the LWVUS National Urban Development Committee and chair of our local housing committee. In 1978, Mayor Charles Royer appointed Nancy as the League representative to the Multi-Family Technical Advisory Committee. In 1979, League hired Nancy to staff the Women and Mortgage Credit project, a national pass-through grant, and she took her first League trip to D.C. for training on that project. By now, she was on the board of Seattle Emergency Housing, where she worked for nearly twenty years. This was another cutting edge concept — to provide emergency housing for families.

And that’s not all. Since it is true that all politics is local, Nancy was active in her community club, worked for the co-op preschool, was president of the local PTA when they fought against the busing of students out of a racially- and income-mixed neighborhood, and was straw boss of a local food co-op formed in response to the dearth of grocery stores in the southend.

In the eighties, Nancy was back on the League board under President Nancy Bagley, serving as co-vice president for Voter Service. She left League to work outside the home for pay, as we liked to say in those days, to run a zillion projects at KING-TV Public Affairs, like Count Yourself In and Project Home Team. That was a professional relationship that began with her voter registration drive work with KING and the League.

Nancy came back to the League board again in the nineties, working with President Dorothy Sale. And then, in 2003, she was elected League president and served two terms, bringing her positive energy and can do spirit to every corner of League. We were all the beneficiaries of her smile and her booming “well it’s Jack” or “it’s Ellen,” as volunteers or board members arrived in the office — she always found the time to help us find the time to make League work.

Now she will do that for us on National.

Thanks, Nancy, and we look forward to all you will do.
Solving the Primary Mess!

By Ellen Z. Berg

Former Oregon Governor Barbara Roberts spoke at a plenary session; almost as a footnote, in the Q and A period, she laid out a plan for solving the primary mess.

The primary season would extend from January through June, with one primary in January, one in June, and two in each of the in-between months. The states would be divided into six groups of equal size. In every important way they would be diverse: each group would include red and blue states, large and small states, rural and industrial states, and states from every part of the country. In January and June the whole group would vote on a single day; in the other months they would be divided into two voting clusters – allowing candidates to get around more easily and allowing events to shape the contests more frequently.

From election to election, the groups would remain the same, but they would move through the schedule: for instance, the group which voted in January the first time, would vote in February next, then March and so on. In this way, every state would experience being first to vote, being part of a small cluster in the middle months, and being last to vote. Neat, isn’t it?

Podcasts of Convention Coming

Go to the members section of the LWVUS website, lwv.org, for reports of all convention action. In addition, podcasts of speeches and presentations at the convention will soon be available on the website.
The program adopted at the National Convention included three items recommended by the LWVUS Board, as well as four not-recommended items. The procedure to include a not-recommended item required that it first be approved for consideration, and then voted on.

The convention used a three-level voting system. In most cases, a voice vote was sufficient. If that was not considered decisive, the president called for a standing vote. If the result was still too close to call, she requested members to use designated voting cards (green for yes, red for no).

The LWVUS Board’s recommended Program motion to amend the Principles by adding, “The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that all powers of the U.S. government should be exercised within the constitutional framework of a balance among the three branches of government: legislative, executive, and judicial” was approved.

The LWVUS Board’s recommended Program motion to adopt a Health Care program to educate members and communities in order to be better prepared to do health care advocacy as needed was approved.

The LWV of Deerfield/Lincolnshire, IL’s motion to adopt “a Multi-Level Education and Advocacy Campaign to promote solutions to global climate change” as an amendment to the proposed program was approved.

The LWV of Saratoga County, NY’s motion for adoption of the non-recommended study item entitled “The advisability of using the National Popular Vote compact among the states as a method for electing the President” was approved by a card vote: Total Votes 643, Yes 363, No 273.

According to the National Popular Vote website, “The National Popular Vote bill would guarantee a majority of the Electoral College to the presidential candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The bill would reform the Electoral College so that the electoral vote in the Electoral College reflects the choice of the nation’s voters for President of the United States.”

“Under the U.S. Constitution, the states have exclusive and plenary (complete) power to allocate their electoral votes, and may change their state laws concerning the awarding of their electoral votes at any time. Under the National Popular Vote bill, all of the state’s electoral votes would be awarded to the presidential candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The bill would take effect only when enacted, in identical form, by states possessing a majority of the electoral votes—that is, enough electoral votes to elect a President (270 of 538).”

See www.nationalpopularvote.com for additional information.

The LWV of CT’s motion for adoption of the resolution that “A resolution procedure shall be proposed by LWVUS for discussion at Council 2009 as a possible rule for Convention 2010” was approved.

The LWV of Ames, IA’s motion “Be it resolved that within 12 months, LWVUS redesign its fundraising requests so they cannot be misconstrued as membership recruitment or dues notices. Be it further resolved that: LWVUS enlist the help of representative state and local Leagues to review or revise any fundraising or recruiting letters.” was approved by card vote: Total Votes 497, Yes 273, No 224.

The LWVUS Board’s Motion to recommend that Program retain all current LWVUS Positions in the areas of Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources, and Social Policy was approved.
The International Relations Committee authored a resolution on nuclear arms control and disarmament which the League of Women Voters of Washington presented at Convention. To our disappointment, it failed narrowly on the floor. This resolution grew directly out of two League of Women Voters of Seattle (LWVS) events— a report and forum on nuclear terrorism that we presented in 2006, and a lecture on non-proliferation which we sponsored for opinion leaders in 2007. One of those leaders, Fran Korten, the publisher of Yes!, was prompted by our program to include two pieces on disarmament in the magazine’s summer issue. She generously donated dozens of copies to us, for distribution at the Convention; we will make the remaining copies available to members at our next forum.

Our initial idea for the resolution was to ask the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) to be alert to the nuclear issue, as it seems to be moving up on the national agenda, and to take opportunities as they arise to educate and advocate on the basis of our very sound positions. In the course of drafting the resolution, we talked with members of the national staff and board from whom we learned that they have decided they cannot use our current positions for advocacy. The positions were written in the cold war era, and the leadership is concerned that members might not concur with their application to current post-Soviet, post-9/11 circumstances.

In light of this, we drafted a resolution asking for a nuclear arms control and disarmament task force. The heart of the resolution reads:

Resolved, that the League of Women Voters of the United States establish a Task Force on Nuclear Arms Control and Disarmament composed of experts drawn from the membership of the League, in accordance with LWVUS task force guidelines, the purpose of which is to review the adequacy of League’s positions in the current geo-political era, to educate the membership about the issue, and, if necessary, to make recommendations to the 2010 LWVUS Convention.

In support of the resolution we argued that it would fulfill the part of our Mission Statement which says that it is a purpose of League to “work to increase understanding of major public policy issues.” This is certainly a major issue, and a complex one – especially now. The current moment is one of peril and of promise. Peril because of new proliferation and the threat of nuclear weapons in the hands of terrorists; and promise because the perils have reinvigorated arms control discussions at high levels. The major candidates for president say that the issue will have priority, and a bipartisan group of four elder statespersons has begun a movement to strategize about eventual disarmament. But the debate has also been joined by an international group of four elder generals who have argued to NATO that pre-emptive nuclear strikes are a key part of defense strategy. League belongs in the mix in order to help the public understand this multi-faceted issue.

Arguments against the task force clustered around expense (it was learned at Convention that League’s investments have done poorly this year, requiring the organization to dip into its rainy day funds), and around using a task force to review and potentially revise positions.

This last point was one of the reasons (along with the substantive concern with the nuclear issue) that the national board was unanimously in favor of the resolution. They are eager to find ways to expedite the process by which we achieve member consensus and thought that this task force, which it was anticipated would bring very minor re-wording of positions to the next Convention for concurrence, might be a model for doing that.

Following the defeat of our resolution, we made several suggestions in the form of directions to the board which will keep the issue moving ahead. In one we asked the board to create a task force on its own authority; in another we asked them to consider publishing a Voter article which would educate the membership about the status of nuclear arms control and disarmament. We hope, at the least, to have a listserv on the issue and are submitting a starter list of names of interested people which was generated at our caucus. If you would like your name to be included, please contact ellenzberg@msn.com.
Focus on Climate Change
By Beatrice Crane, Voter Editor

Climate change is a high priority issue for the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS), and it was a major focus of the National Convention. The LWVUS Climate Change Task Force sponsored a caucus on the subject, and LWVUS board member Sarah Diefendorf, a member of the Task Force, moderated a panel presented at the beginning of Monday’s plenary session.

The climate change caucus attracted more members than the room assigned to it could comfortably hold; those who did not arrive in time to get seats perched on tables or stretched out on the floor. Members of the task force explained its history and how it works. It is a virtual group formed in 2007, consisting of two members of the National board and eight state/local members, which communicates by email and meets occasionally by conference call. Members work on producing materials which can be used by all levels of the League; papers on the National website are available for reprinting in Voters. One issue on which the task force would welcome member feedback is nuclear power; another subject of interest is the relationship between population growth and climate change. The task force also works on legislation, taking into account political realities. For example, two possible approaches to controlling emissions are a carbon tax and a cap-and-trade system; while the task force prefers the former solution, the latter currently has more support, so task force members are working to improve proposed legislation.

One goal of the task force is either to establish a climate change listserv or to adapt the existing national resources listserv.

Two panelists participated in the panel on climate change. Professor V. Ramanathan of UC-San Diego gave an overview, while Heather Kaplan of Oxfam America spoke on climate change as an environmental and global justice issue, focusing on the effect on the developing world.

LWVS/MomsRising Caucus
By Maria Brusher

The LWVUS convention offered several opportunities to reach out to people from across the nation. LWVS and MomsRising, an organization which promotes family issues, took advantage of the opportunity and held an evening caucus focused on family-friendly policies. We enticed people to join us Sunday evening by offering dessert, film and conversation with Kirstin Rowe-Finkbeiner, Executive Director of MomsRising and coauthor of the documentary film, Motherhood Manifesto.

The turnout was good (about 30), and all who attended went home inspired to share the free copies of the film with their local leagues, families and friends. Kristin also provided great insight on how to reach out effectively to younger generations, specifically noting MomsRising’s success in providing quick, fulfilling actions that people can take to make an immediate difference. MomsRising also uses humor to get past any emotional barriers politicians and policy makers may have. One example is a cute Mother’s Day e-card that has an animated tune reminding candidates and politicians of the family-friendly policies they should support. Go to MomsRising.Org for more fun, creative e-cards that can be used to get people’s attention on serious matters.

At the final plenary session, there was the opportunity to provide guidance to the board, and I mustered up enough courage to stand up and request the LWVUS board to consider partnering with MomsRising on voter service, specifically via the momsvote08 campaign and the League’s vote411 tool, which MomsRising.org could potentially have a link to.

The Seattle delegates were also able to hand out ALL the DVDs of the Motherhood Manifesto, advocating that fellow Leaguers use it for program material, share it with their friends and family and get members excited about advocating for family-friendly policies.
COME BID THE NIGHT AWAY!

Save the date – Sunday, October 26! Excitement is building for the League’s 32nd Political Party and Auction. “Vote to Make a Difference!” resonates as the auction’s rallying theme in a year in which young voters are showing a vigorous interest in the fall election.

What’s new? The evening’s festivities will take place at the Brockey Conference Center at South Seattle Community College. The change of venue fits well with the League’s mission of education. Ample free parking will appeal to auction guests and volunteers. Lower costs will help the League gain more from the auction’s proceeds.

Why do we hold an auction? Most of our member dues go to the national and state levels to build a strong League of Women Voters. While we at the League of Women Voters of Seattle (LWVS) gain a lot from this arrangement, every year we raise two-thirds of our operating costs by holding an auction. The Political Party and Auction not only helps to meet our budget requirements, but it also provides an entertaining and energizing way to bring community members together to celebrate a good cause. We invite all the local candidates and office holders to attend, giving our members and guests a chance to influence politics and to bid on interesting items offered by the politicians, local businesses and talented members.

Though a core group of volunteers starts the ball rolling, LWVS as a whole participates in making the evening a success. Units take on big jobs such as making the bid sheets and labeling the auction items. Individuals have a blast covering a gamut of jobs such as serving as table captains, building a donor list or baking desserts. Some of the jobs that are available are listed under volunteer opportunities. Pick a job you’d like to do or suggest a job that isn’t on the list. Learn a new skill. Your energy and talents will be appreciated!

By far the most popular task is hunting for auction items. Units and members enjoy bringing in unusual items, unique experiences, special getaways, baked goods and tickets to cultural events. You, too, can have the pleasure of putting together a great auction item! All you need is a good imagination and a mindset that says “Treasure hunt!” Use the procurement form you’ll be sent, then ask for additional forms from the office.

Another job that a lot of people enjoy is that of table captain. Table captains recruit people to come to the auction and sit at their table. It’s fun to introduce new people to the League in a festive atmosphere. Table captains are only responsible for filling a table with guests who pay their own way. Table captains do not have to pay for anyone other than themselves.

Any auction requires a preliminary investment, usually defrayed by sponsors. This year, five sponsorship levels—from $750 to $5,000—are available. If you, someone you know, or a corporation you work for would like to be a sponsor, you can make a huge difference to the League! Shoot off an email to funddevelopment@seattlelwv.org, or leave a message for Victoria at (206)329-4848.

We’re all in this together. The more we ALL participate, the greater our success. Join the fun!
Volunteer for our October 26th Auction!

There are lots of fun jobs you can do! Take a look, see what you’d like to do, then get in touch. If there’s a job you don’t see below, give us a shout anyway. We don’t have room to list everything!

_____ What would an auction do without anything to sell? Join our procurement team! You’ll have fun finding interesting items to put in the auction. When it comes time to bid, you’ll have an extra edge after seeing the merchandise at close range.

_____ Do you like to be the town crier? You can brainstorm ideas to publicize the auction, then put the best ones into practice.

_____ Are you talented at coaxing people to give to a good cause? Cement relationships while bringing in sponsors. Enjoy learning about the League while developing a strong case for giving. Be a member of the sponsorship group!

_____ Introduce your friends and power centers to the League. Surround yourself with action-oriented community members and inspire them to give at the auction. Be a table captain!

_____ Do you like to paint pictures with words? Write tantalizing descriptions of our auction items. Get people fired up to bid!

_____ We have mailings that will go out in September and October. Be the mailing coordinator. It’s a great way to meet people! You’ll also learn the ins and outs of non-profit mailings.

_____ What’s the first impression people will form of the auction? You can help create that initial response. Design the auction catalog!

_____ Make dessert a priority. Coordinate people to bring desserts and start a bidding war!

_____ Tantalize everyone’s palate by baking an extraordinary dessert! See if you can bring in the top bid!

_____ Get a sneak preview of what’s on offer at the auction. Learn the tricks of proper presentation. Be on the set up team the day of the auction!

_____ The party may be over, but the fun isn’t. Coordinate the clean up crew and enjoy everyone’s auction stories! Feel the satisfaction of a job well done when the last light is turned off.

Contact Victoria at (206)329-4848 or at funddevelopment@seattlelwv.org. Alternatively, sign up at www.seattlelwv.org.
First “top two” primary

The primary election scheduled for August 19 is the first “top two” primary in Washington State. This primary system was established by initiative I-872 in 2004, but was subsequently challenged in court. The law was upheld by the Supreme Court in March.

The “top two” primary system applies only to elections for partisan office, such as governor, U.S. senator and representative, state legislator, and county commissioner. Voters are allowed to choose among all candidates running for office; the two candidates that receive the most votes will qualify for the general election. Voters need not declare a party affiliation in order to vote. Ballots may list party preferences of candidates; however, these preferences do not imply official endorsement or approval by that party.

Non-partisan offices; primary may be decisive

Races for non-partisan offices, such as Superior Court and Appeals Court and Superintendent of Public Instruction, can be decided in the primary election if one candidate receives a majority vote. If no candidate receives a majority, as may happen if there are three or more candidates, the top two candidates will appear on the ballot in November.

Non-partisan races on the ballot

On August 19, two State Supreme Court positions as well as six Superior Court positions will be potentially decided in the primary. These races have two or more candidates running for each position. Superintendent of Public Instruction is also a non-partisan office.

Partisan races with more than two candidates

In the following races, the top two vote getters in the primary regardless of political party will move to the general election.

- US Representatives, Districts No 2, 7, and 8
- Governor
- State Treasurer
- Lieutenant Governor
- Secretary of State
- State Auditor
- Insurance Commissioner
- State Senator, District 11
- State Representatives, Districts 31, 32, 36, 39, 46, 47

In addition, ballot measures such as King County Initiative 26 will be decided in the primary election.

It is important to be informed when you vote. Excellent resources for information include:

- General
  King County Elections
  metrokc.gov/elections

- Secretary of State
  secstate.wa.gov/elections/

- Judicial
  King County Bar Association
  kcba.org/ScriptContent/KCBA/judicial/ratings/ratings.cfm

- Voting for Judges
  votingforjudges.org/08pri/div1/king/index.html
MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Kitty Mahon, Membership Chair

The ASK

I’m going to issue you a challenge. In this Presidential election year, civic engagement takes a front row seat in conversations everywhere. Take advantage of these conversations over the summer: with friends, family, co-workers, neighbors. Wherever you meet people: at the grocery store, the coffeehouse, school, business, or a playgroup for your dog. Invite people to join you at upcoming forums. Immigration, ballot issues, and candidate forums are all on the horizon. You attend because you value being involved with an organization that takes on issues to keep our community strong and vibrant. They will too. ASK, ASK, ASK.

CONVENTION and MEMBERSHIP

Over the past several years, membership in the League of Women Voters has been declining at about 3% per year. Currently, there are more than 1.6 million non-profit organizations in the United States. Even with its strong reputation, the League is up against some fierce competition for membership.

Two very strong projects resonated with regard to reversing the decline at this year’s national convention in Portland: the ongoing Membership Recruitment Initiative (MRI) and the introduction of the Leadership Development Project.

1. THE MRI WAS INTRODUCED IN 2005, WITH GUIDANCE GIVEN TO PARTICIPATING LEAGUES IN BUILDING THEIR MEMBERSHIP.

The key findings at the end of Phase I:

- There is a need to foster skills and develop ease with outreach: asking is critical.
- Training is essential to membership building.
- Teams are important.
- Coaching really helps.
- Personal stories make a difference.
- It is critical to focus, and choose a target audience.

Focus is needed in order to succeed. We can all contribute to strengthening our numbers:

- Be intentional about membership – make the ask.
- Underscore the value of membership in LWV.
- Share your passion for League and your personal story.

2. LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT: THE FUTURE TRAINING GROUND

In the 2009-10 League year, the League will be launching a three-year Leadership Development Project. The project is still under development, but $80,000 has already been contributed by key League leaders toward the continuation of the MRI and the new Leadership Development project for the next three years. In addition, LWVUS has established a Leadership Fund, with 5% of all bequests from estates going toward the fund, in combination with other contributions.

Dues Increase

At the May annual meeting of the League of Women Voters of Seattle (LWVS), a majority of the voting attendees approved an increase in dues to $60 for individual membership and $90 for household membership. The dues for low income ($35) and student ($25) remain unchanged. The increase was proposed in response to higher expenses for member support. For the fiscal year 2007-2008, the per member payment (PMP) was $26.30 to the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) and $17.00 to the League of Women Voters of Washington (LWWA).

LWVS has been able to support 92 low income or no fee memberships and 17 student memberships due to the generous contributions of our members, through their dues payments and supplemental funds.
“The League of Women Voters is the organization where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.”

CONVENTION REPORT – FY 2007/2008
FINANCIALS WITH REGARD TO MEMBERSHIP
LWVUS and LWVEF Combined Operating Income, Including Restricted Grants
For the 10 months ending April 30, 2008 the unaudited total combined operating income of the LWVUS and the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF) was $5,772,364. Of that, PMP and payments in lieu of PMP contributed $1,303,515 (23% of the total). For fiscal year 2008-2009, it is projected that per member payments will continue to contribute 23% of the combined operating income.

LWVUS and LWVEF Combined Expenses, Including Restricted Projects
For the 10 months ending April 30, 2008, the unaudited total combined expenses amounted to $5,020,174. Combined LWVUS and LWVEF member services expenditures came to $418,514 (8%). The proposed 2008/2009 member services expenditures are projected to be 6% of the total.

On Sunday, June 15th, the following motions passed in support of increases to the PMP:
Motion to adopt a PMP rate of $28.00 for FY 2008-2009.
Motion #1389, LWVUS Board.
Motion to adopt a PMP rate of $29.20 for FY 2009-2010
Motion #1391, LWVUS Board.

For additional information regarding the LWVUS budget go to
lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Council_and_Convention&CONTENTID=11416&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm
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OUR MEMBERS
MEMORIALS

Shirley Bridge
Committed and dedicated League member Shirley Bridge, a Seattle philanthropist and retired pharmacist, died June 1st. Shirley is survived by her husband of 60 years, Herb Bridge; two sons, Jon Bridge and Rabbi Dan Bridge; daughters-in-law Simcha Bridge and Bobbe Bridge; four grandchildren and a great-granddaughter.

A long-time volunteer, Shirley is probably best remembered in League for over 30 years of spending Wednesday mornings at the CIS desk. She could be counted on to bring an eclectic assortment of “noshes”. But it was her sharp wit, depth of knowledge and generosity that served both as support and tremendous inspiration to all who knew her. Even those who knew her only casually felt that they received special attention from her. Shirley and her husband, Herb, were and continue to be generous supporters of the League of Women Voters. Their financial contributions helped seed the “Bridge Fund”. The fund was established with the goal of supporting and encouraging the active involvement of members of the League in the present and into the future.

Shirley was an activist in many areas of the community, known for her work on social issues, particularly those dealing with women, children, health care, human rights and projects in the Jewish community. She helped create the Women’s Endowment Foundation of the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle, and inspired the foundation’s “Shirley Bridge Power of One Award,” which spotlights outstanding contributions by Jewish women. We reported in the April Voter on the receipt of the award by another League member, Alice Siegal.

After Shirley graduated from Seattle’s Broadway High School on Capitol Hill, she enrolled at the University of Washington. She graduated magna cum laude with a degree in pharmacy, becoming one of the state’s first female pharmacists. She worked in the profession for 40 years.

In the early 1970s, when a bank would not give her a loan in her own name, Shirley worked to bring about the change in the law resulting in financial credit standing for women independent of their marital status.
In memoriam and with gratitude for their contributions and commitment to the League and the community at large

Shirley was a founding member of the Seattle Women’s Commission in the 1970s and served as its second president. She also helped start the Diabetes Research Council, as well as Voice for Choice, a political-action committee supporting a woman’s right to an abortion.

A founding board member of AIDS Housing of Washington (recently renamed Building Changes), Shirley co-chaired the $8.5 million campaign that built the group’s Bailey-Boushay House in 1992. A video about Bailey-Boushay, showing at the current Seattle International Film Festival, is dedicated to her.

In recognition of her support, the agency named a project in the Alki neighborhood for her — the Shirley Bridge Bungalows for families and single adults with AIDS, opened in 2002.

Shirley also served on the boards of Harborview Hospital, the Seattle Opportunities Industrial Council, the University of Washington Development Board, the Northwest Women’s Law Center and Hadassah, the Women’s Zionist Organization of America.

Charlotte Clark

Charlotte Clark died March 28, 2008. LWVUS records show that she originally joined the League of Women Voters October 1, 1948. She was very active in the League in the Dayton/Kettering, Ohio area. She served as a unit leader at times, and otherwise she remained active as a study leader and participating member. She was a very intelligent woman who by circumstance, and five children, was never in the workplace. When Charlotte and her husband moved to Seattle in the 1980’s, she became active again and attended the First Hill Unit meetings, although she did not participate at the same level as she did in Ohio. Charlotte is survived by her five children, three in the Seattle area, and two on the east coast.

Elizabeth Munn

Elizabeth (Betsy) Ann Munn, died May 17, 2008 at Providence Mt. St. Vincent Hospital in Seattle. Betsy was an active member in the West Seattle Unit after joining the League in 1980, and even after moving to Mt. St. Vincent she maintained her contact with League friends. Besides raising her four children with her husband Ben, Betsy worked at the Commission on Professional and Hospital Activities and for the college of LS & A at the University of Michigan, as well as working on the Kellogg Project at the U of M. After moving to Seattle in the early 1980s, she completed her Master’s Degree in Public Administration at Seattle University when in her late 60s. She worked in Seattle for eight years after receiving her degree.

Betsy was involved with church and civic organizations in Ann Arbor and Seattle. In addition to the League of Women Voters, she was a member of American Association of University Women and the Parish Council at Guadalupe Catholic Church in West Seattle. She also served on the mayor’s committee on issues related to West Seattle. In addition to her children, Betsy is survived by five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Alice Sandstrom

Alice Sandstrom, who died March 3rd at her home, lived her 94 years by five rules: Be passionate about what you do; be a mentor; cherish your friends; always be positive and enthusiastic; and dream big. Alice joined the League of Women Voters on September 1, 1996.

As a YWCA board member in the 1990s, Alice Sandstrom helped plan a Redmond transitional-housing project. She persuaded the board to buy not just the property for the building but the lot next door as well. In her work with the YWCA, she has focused on transitional housing for women coming off the streets.

She was one of only two women in the University of Washington Business School, and became the 7th woman in the state to be a certified public accountant. She retired from a 33-year career as head of finances for Children’s Hospital & Regional Medical Center in 1982. Alice then spent 25 years volunteering for the YWCA — taking a leadership role in the creation of Angeline’s Day Center for Homeless Women, the YWCA Family Village in Redmond and YWCA Opportunity Place in downtown Seattle. In 1997, Alice received the Jefferson Award for her community involvement in Washington State.
New Members

A very warm welcome to these new and returning members of the League of Women Voters of Seattle.

NANCY A. FEDERICI
Nancy has always been active in politics in Oregon, from the local to state level. She received a BA in music education and vocal performance, and did graduate work at Willamette University. She has worked as a music teacher, singer and conductor, and has been on the stage most of her life. Nancy is currently retired. She is interested in music, reading, travels and speaking. Nancy was Democratic precinct chair in Columbia County, Oregon, and worked on or chaired many Democratic campaigns. She has also served on many boards, including the Willamette University Alumni Board and the Oregon Cancer Society Board. Her husband, now deceased, served as a member of the Oregon House of Representatives. Her son is a lobbyist for many 501(c)(3) groups in Washington. Nancy joined the League to become acquainted with the Washington political scene.

DENISE CANTWELL
Denise has expressed interest in becoming involved with the health care committee. She is a RN and full-time student at the School of Pharmacy at UW. She received her BA in nursing in 1994 and worked in the US Army and at various hospitals in Seattle as a nurse. Denise is a member of UPPOW (Unified Professional Pharmacy Organizations of Washington). She enjoys hiking, running, reading, and learning, and is interested in educating people on health/nutrition/medications and supplements. She would like to learn and grown with the League as well as learn to educate others on topics that are covered by the League.

BETTY LANG
Former President of the San Juan, Washington LWV and a member of the League of Women Voters of Washington (LVWWA) Board from 1995 to 1998, Rosalie Lang comes to the Seattle League with a wealth of experience. She has been involved in the League in Washington and Connecticut off and on from 1968 through 1998. She has an MA in political science and public administration, and is a specialist in health policy. Rosalie served on the lobby committee for LWVWA with a portfolio in children’s issues. She was the representative of the State Board to the Children’s Alliance and was honored by the Seattle LWV for contributions to issues relating to children. Rosalie is also a member of People for the American Way, Move-On, True Majority, ACLU, musical performance groups (including as a member of the Board of Seattle Chamber Players) and the Ladies Musical Club. Rosalie is especially interested in Seattle politics as a returning resident and wants to continue to pursue learning about candidates and issues.

MARGARET KITCHEL
Margaret is a psychiatrist currently working at Group Health. She received her MD in 1974 and has worked at mental health centers and Harborview. Margaret joined the League through her friend and League member Nora Leech, and was a guest at the March New Members Dinner. Margaret has served as a board member and secretary of Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility. She is also on a community action and social action board through her church. Among her skills and interests she lists enjoyment of computers, with some program skills. Margaret has also enjoyed public speaking and is knowledgeable about health care issues. She is looking forward to the chance to discuss issues with other women and learn about issues in depth.

JEANETTE D. KAHLENBERG
Already a volunteer at the Seattle CIS Desk, Jeanette is retired as a civic executive. She has a BA from Wellesley and an MA from Columbia. Jeanette is no stranger to the League of Women Voters. She was
a member of the League in North Plainfield, NJ from 1965 to 1970, a member of the White Bear Lake, MN League from 1970 to 1980, and of the Ridgewood, NJ League from 1980 to 2007. She also served as the local LWV president for White Bear Lake, Minnesota and Ridgewood, New Jersey. While in Minnesota, she served on the state board for LWV Minnesota and was also a staff member for LWV Minnesota.

CHARLES L. ROXIN

Charles (Chuck) Roxin is a past chairman of the Monroe County, NY Housing Commission, and was policy advisor to New York Congressman John LaFalce, ranking Democrat on the House Banking Committee. Chuck has a BMUS from Oberlin College, and graduate degrees from SUNY, Brockport and the University of Pennsylvania. Among his interests are public speaking, political systems and public policy development. Chuck learned about the League from his mother and looks forward to an opportunity to serve and participate with the League.

LAURETTA ANDERSON

Lauretta “Laurie” first learned about the League through a presentation at Horizon House. A graduate of Ballard High School and former student at the UW, Laurie is retired as an executive assistant to the chairman of BNSF Real Estate Subsidiary. She was the first woman president of NDTA (National Defense Transportation Association), the president of the Women’s Traffic and Transportation Club of Seattle, and was named Seattle’s Transportation Woman of the Year. Laurie has already become involved with the League by serving on the fund development committee. Her talents and interests include: organizational skills, photography, some computer knowledge, water color painting and public speaking. Laurie and her husband live in Maui for five months of the year. She hopes to stay informed on local issues through the League.

BRITNEY STRAUS

Britney is new to the League but knew of it through her best friend’s mother who is a member. She attended Mercer Island High School and received her BA in political science and history at Washington State University. She has worked as a nanny and for many years was a buyer’s assistant at Nordstrom. Britney’s interests include the visual arts, art appreciation, reading, running, yoga and travel. She would like to become informed about local and national politics and also get involved in politics and community events.

SUSANA SCHUARZBERG

Susana is a Finance Director with degrees as an MPA and CPA. She is new to the League, having joined at the invitation of member Ellen Berg. Susana is an avid reader and speaks Spanish as her first language. She joined the League in order to become involved in community issues and voting issues. She is interested in immigration issues and participating in voter registration.

JULIA MAY SCHILLER

A new resident on Mercer Island, Julia belonged to the League of Women Voters in Connecticut from 1969 to 1988 and in Virginia from 1988 to 2006. While in Connecticut, Julia held all League offices with the exception of President. She also wrote the newsletter for many years. She continued to be active in Virginia, where she held some minor offices, acted as a discussion leader, and participated in other activities. Julia is a former high school and grade school textbook editor. She has been involved with multiple PTAs and arts programs for schools. Initially, Julia would like to stay informed on relevant issues through the League; perhaps later she will become more actively involved.

MAE BENNE

Mae is a retired librarian and a member of American Library Association and the State and Regional Library Association. She has served on many boards and chaired divisions, etc. on faculty groups. She has a BA from the University of Nebraska and an MSLS from the University of Illinois, and she did advanced studies at the University of Chicago. Mae served as the assistant director and acting director of the UW Library School for a year, as well as a couple of decades as a professor. Her skills and talents include volunteering in the UW libraries, doing special bibliographic work in special collections (children’s literature areas) and at SPL following her retirement from the Graduate Library School at UW – now called the Information School. It’s not surprising that Mae’s expectation of the League is an opportunity to learn and study.
**BOOK REVIEW** by Vicky Downs

**The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl**

By Timothy Egan

Steinbeck’s *The Grapes of Wrath*, describing the Joad family’s journey from Oklahoma to California, has always seemed the quintessential story of the Dust Bowl era. Fortunately, we now have Egan’s book to tell us what happened to those who stayed behind. For starters, Egan sets us right by pointing out the Dust Bowl’s true size: from the southern part of Nebraska to the northern tip of Texas, and from the eastern edge of New Mexico and Colorado well into Kansas. Basically, this was the Great Plains, which farmers in the late 19th and early 20th century plowed up to plant corn and wheat.

As for the plains inhabitants, this National Book Award winner is a can’t-put-down history full of interesting information and by turns appalling and inspiring stories of families doing everything they could think of to survive a natural disaster no American had ever experienced before. There is much to learn, and Egan makes it fascinating. I hadn’t realized that 1914 was the peak year for homesteads in the 20th century, with 53,000 claims in the Great Plains. The Federal government was eager to settle “No Man’s Land” in the Oklahoma panhandle, and offered free train rides to folks who could “prove up” a piece of dry land. Windmills pulled water from aquifers, and with the start of WWI, farmers could make fortunes. “In less than ten years [wheat farmers] went from subsistence living to small business-class wealth.” When the war “pinched” grain supplies, the price of wheat doubled.

Land that “had been an anchored infinity of grassland just a generation earlier became a patchwork of broken ground.” Millions of acres of wheat were harvested. However, within a decade everything changed: rains disappeared and without the prairie grass that had taken a thousand years to develop, “there was nothing to hold down the sod. The soil calcified and started to blow. The dust penetrated everything. Dust clouds boiled up, ten thousand feet or more in the sky, and rolled like mountains — a force of its own.”

“Dust pneumonia” killed vulnerable children and elders whose lungs clogged with airborne dirt. Cattle went blind and suffocated out in the open, but some people survived. Hazel Lucas Shaw lost her first child to dust pneumonia, but her son Charles, born a few years later, survived, probably because his parents moved out of the Dust Bowl.

Why didn’t more people leave? The barren earth was all that most farmers owned, and they didn’t dare leave. The inescapable dust that comes right into a house—through crevices between the boards, around the windows and under doors—frightened them. Eventually, the huge dark clouds reached New York and Washington, D.C., making the daytime dark as night. This galvanized a disbelieving Congress into sending out agricultural specialists who helped find ways to hold down the earth.

This is American history at its best, and it’s written by one of our own: Egan lives in Seattle.
Immigration law is a complex mixture of administrative and criminal law, and the legal procedures that have evolved for arresting, incarcerating, and trying suspected violators of those laws are similarly complex. There is controversy over the extent to which these procedures comply with constitutional guarantees of due process and protection against unreasonable search and seizure, and whether application of these procedures has been in the best interest of the community.

Because of the constitutional guarantees, agents of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) cannot simply stop anybody on the street and ask for proof of legal status – there must first be factors that would lead them to believe that a person has violated an immigration regulation. However, ICE agents who are conducting raids because of suspected criminal activity can take into custody any undocumented person at the site of the investigation.

What constitutes probable cause for arrest is subjective. An investigation must proceed along what an ICE agent termed “building blocks”, until there is probable cause. An investigation can start with information from anybody, and information from watchdog groups such as the Minutemen is not treated differently from information provided by any other source. Whether ICE pursues a tip is a matter of time and priorities. ICE’s top priority is criminal activity and national security; thus, it may choose not to pursue minor immigration violations.

Although how to handle dependent children can be a problem in any arrest, it may be greater for immigration violations because sometimes both parents are detained. Additionally, relatives are likely to have immigration issues of their own, and so may be reluctant to step forward. Some discretion is therefore allowed to leave parents with children until they receive a Notice to Appear. But if at that time no one can be found to take custody of dependent children, then Child Protective Services is called.

Immigration violations are administrative violations rather than criminal violations. People charged with immigration violations may have no idea what their legal options are, and may have no opportunity to find out. They are entitled to a translator, but, while they may see a judge, they are not entitled to a public defender, and may not even have the right to a hearing if they cannot establish a basis for being in this country. On the other hand, people charged with criminal offenses are entitled to due process, which includes an attorney and a hearing before a judge. An immigration enforcement action may result in both types of charges: for example, if someone is smuggling people across the border, the smuggler may be charged with a criminal violation and face jail time, while the people he is smuggling simply face deportation. However, if one of the people being smuggled has previously been deported, then that person can be charged with a criminal offense (violation of a deportation order). Although the defendant is then entitled to due process, including a hearing before a judge, the very fact that the person is in the courtroom may be construed as evidence of violation of a deportation order.

The complexity of immigration laws makes it difficult for defendants to defend themselves without legal assistance, but few immigrants facing deportation can afford to hire their own attorneys.
an individual hearing within 3-4 months; the person may also be allowed to post bail, and may be provided with an interpreter, but these processes rarely occur without legal representation. This is a critical problem: there were about 9,000 deportation cases last year in Seattle alone, which is far too many for NWIRP to handle (they have to pick the ones with the greatest likelihood of success), and only about 10% of the detainees have legal representation from someone other than NWIRP.

A person can appeal an adverse deportation ruling to the Board of Immigration Appeals, but that generally means being detained throughout the entire appeal process, which can take years. The Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma was built in 2004, and while the average stay there is 24 days, there are people who have been jailed there since the facility was built. This includes persons in “indefinite detention”, who are held because their home country will not accept them. The Detention Center has a capacity of about 1,000 beds, and when it is full, local jails may be contracted with to hold the overflow. On a typical day last year (November 8, 2007), the Detention Center held 973 inmates from 85 countries. Over half were from Mexico; other countries of origin with more than 20 inmates were Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, China, and Vietnam. Over 80% were men.

Controversies about due process are not confined solely to alleged violations of immigration law, but also apply to the processes of obtaining citizenship and seeking asylum. According to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), after a qualified legal immigrant has applied for citizenship and passed the exam, the government has 120 days to approve or deny that application. However, in recent years the government has delayed such decisions, sometimes for years, in order to conduct additional “name checks.” In October 2007 the ACLU filed a lawsuit seeking compliance with the 120-day deadline.

Asylum seekers, who unlike refugees do not arrive in the country with approved status, can file for asylum before either a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) asylum officer, or an immigration judge within the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR). In either case, the burden of proof is on the asylum applicants to “credibly” establish past persecution or a “well-founded” fear of future persecution based on the applicant’s race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. This is apparently a difficult standard to meet: in FY 2006, nationwide, there were 58,040 asylum cases decided, of which 13,343 (23%) were granted asylum. In the Seattle immigration court in FY 2006 there were 1553 asylum requests filed, and 956 decided, of which just 182 (19%) were granted asylum. Adverse rulings can be appealed to the Board of Immigration Appeals, and to higher federal courts.

Of the successful applicants nationwide in FY 2006, the largest number (about 30%) came from China. Over the last five years, the countries with the highest number of asylum grantees have been China, Columbia, Albania, Haiti, and India.

The complexities of immigration law and its application can be illustrated by the following interesting case examples, all of which occurred in the Seattle area.

**Safouh Hamoui** was the owner of a market in Edmonds who had fled from Syria with his family in 1992. Due to mistakes made by his attorneys, who filed papers late and failed to invoke the Convention Against Torture in his appeal for asylum, he was not granted legal asylum (even though he had been interrogated and threatened by the Syrian government), and he was ordered to return to Syria in 2000. His attorney advised him that he could ignore the order while it was being appealed, but on February 22, 2002 he, his wife, and his daughter were arrested. His wife and daughter were held at the detention center in Tacoma for 9 months, but were released after his wife had a seizure that resulted from Crohn’s Disease. Safouh was released a month later, but the deportation
order still stood. On November 8, 2004, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the Board of Immigration Appeals had abused its discretion by denying Hamoui relief under the Convention Against Torture, threw out his deportation order, and ordered immigration officials to give his family any relief required by that treaty. Finally, after further reviews, on August 15, 2006, Safouh received his green card, granting him permanent residency, which protects him from being deported if there is a change of government in Syria. In the course of the appeal, Safouh’s grocery store went under, and he now works at a gas station in east King County.

The case of Josaia Gucake is superficially similar to that of Safouh Hamoui, but the outcome was much different. Josaia Gucake was a native Fijian, a member of the Fiji senate, and a member of the governing party, which was dominated by non-native Asian Indians. In 2000, native Fijians staged a coup, and, because Josaia was considered a traitor to his race, he was, according to his nephew, targeted by natives to be killed. So Josaia and his family fled to the U.S., and applied for political asylum. Gucake’s application for asylum was denied, and the EOIR refused to discuss the basis. Gucake said he was told only that he did not make a strong enough case. He could then have returned voluntarily to Fiji without being deported (deportees typically can’t return to the U.S. for 10 or more years), but he chose to appeal the decision. During this time Josaia served as a church pastor, his wife worked as a caregiver for the elderly, and his children attended high school. In December, 2003, his appeal was denied. On October 6, 2004, Josaia, his wife, and several other relatives were arrested and taken to the Tacoma detention facility, and the entire family, including five children, was deported to Fiji on November 2.

According to a spokesman for the U.S. embassy in Fiji, the Gucake family has nothing to fear in Fiji. The Embassy claimed that democracy has been restored to Fiji, and that there has not been any politically motivated killing since the coup.

In contrast to the two asylum cases described above, Lucy Bottomley was an illegal alien without knowing it. Lucy was born in England, and moved to the U.S. at age 10, when her mother married an American. She was brought up in eastern Washington, and attended Washington State, where she was an honor student. When she was 21, her parents were arrested for embezzlement, and police discovered, to Lucy’s surprise, that her parents had never filed the papers to make her an American citizen. Now that she was 21, and living in the U.S. without a valid visa, she was officially an illegal alien. And, as an illegal alien, she had to be deported back to her native England (which was essentially a foreign country to her), where she would have to wait at least 10 years before she could even think of returning to the U.S., let alone get citizenship. The government set her deportation date at September 15, 2007.

At that time, Lucy was five units short of completing her degree at Washington State, and she was not without her own resources. She rallied her friends and neighbors, as well as the Washington congressional delegation, and was able to get the government to grant her an extension, to January 8, 2008. Congress was at that time considering legislation that addressed cases like hers. That legislation, however, was defeated, so the January 8 deportation date remained in effect. Then, on December 29, 2007, Lucy married an American citizen. Although her marriage does not automatically mean she can stay in the U.S., on January 8, 2008 the government granted her an indefinite extension while her marriage paperwork is being processed. The deportation threat, with the 10-year ban on returning, is therefore still alive, but Lucy continues to reside in the U.S.

Immigrants, both legal and illegal, face a labyrinth of legal obstacles when they come to the United States. The League of Women Voters of the U.S. has adopted the position that all persons have the right to a fair hearing, right to counsel, right of appeal, and right to humane treatment. For immigrants, this would require some changes in legal procedures, and massive increases in their levels of legal representation.
Unit meetings begin in September. See the upcoming September Voter or contact local unit leader for location and time of the next meeting. The League of Women Voters unit meetings are free and open to the public. Units discuss a different topic each month that corresponds with the monthly forum or study.

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# Board & Committee Contacts

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<td>2008–2009</td>
<td>* 1st V.P. Membership</td>
<td>Patti Catalano</td>
<td>Dorothy Y. Sale</td>
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<td>Beatrice Crane</td>
<td>Vanessa Soriano Powers</td>
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<td>* 3rd V.P. Voter Service</td>
<td>Pat Cleary</td>
<td>Annette Holcomb</td>
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<td>Immigration Study Co-chair</td>
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<td>4th V.P. Action</td>
<td>Vanessa Soriano Powers</td>
<td>Barbara Reid</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Jaclyn Wall</td>
<td>Ellen Berg</td>
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<td>International Relations</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Lucy Gaskill-Gaddis</td>
<td>Karen Kane</td>
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<td>Nora Leech</td>
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</table>

* Indicates LWVS Board Representative on the Education Fund Board
Moving? Let us know!
Call league office (206) 329-4848 or
email info@seattlelwv.org

NEXT FORUM

Seattle/King County: The Immigration Picture
Thursday, September 4, 2008
7:30 p.m.

6:30 p.m. Briefing for discussion leaders
7:00 p.m. Come a half hour early and play the immigration game!

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

All forums are free and open to the public.