

The Voter

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League Supports Parks But Recommends a NO Vote on Seattle Proposition 1

by Carol Burton

On August 5, Seattle voters will be asked to vote on Proposition 1, the creation of a Metropolitan Park District (MPD), a new taxing district. The Seattle-King County's Board of Directors recommends a NO vote on this Proposition. Here's why:

The study began with research:

- Our 94-year old grassroots organization has a long history of supporting parks and open spaces that contribute to healthy neighborhoods and enhance the quality of life.
- The League believes that representative government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens, including accountability and oversight.
- Seattle voters have supported their parks with continuous property tax levies over many years.
- The League believes that the City should have control over matters that are of local concern.

In reading the Proposition text, League found the following:

- The expiring levy adds .18 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. The new MPD assessment will begin at just over double that amount: .37 per \$1,000, up to a (currently-proposed) maximum of .75 per \$1,000 without an additional vote of the people.

- In addition to parks funding, it will also fundamentally change the oversight relationship between Seattle Parks Department, the Mayor and the City Council. The Council chose a Board for this Proposition composed of City Council members instead of an elected MPD Board.
- The proposed MPD is permanent and not subject to referendum or initiative. It can only be dissolved by the Park District Board, which is the City Council.
- The MPD would be a state entity with wide powers, pursuant to RCW 35.61. Many of these powers are in opposition to City ordinances.
- An Inter-Local Agreement (ILA) between the City Council and the MPD Board attempts to address city vs. state conflicts. However, the ILA can be revoked or changed by the City Council with 180 days notice and may not be enforceable. Also, note that the ILA is between the Seattle City Council and itself (as members of MPD Board).
- At current home values, the maximum MPD property tax (.75 per \$1,000) would raise \$100 million per year. However, the Park's Department budget is currently \$135 million per year, meaning that money from Seattle's General Fund will still need to be directed to Parks this is address by the ILA providing for \$89 million per year from general fund.
- This will be the largest levy in Seattle history.

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Contact Information

President: Ellen Barton
Voter Editor: Lisa Peterson

League of Women Voters
of Seattle-King County
1620 18th Avenue, Suite 101
Seattle, WA 98122

Phone: 206-329-4848
Fax: 206-329-1273
info@seattlelww.org
www.seattlelww.org

Office Hours:
Weekdays, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

League of Women Voters of Washington
1402 Third Avenue, Suite 430
Seattle, WA 98101
206-622-8961
lwwwa@lwwwa.org
www.lwwwa.org

League of Women Voters of the United States
202-429-1965
lww@lww.org
www.lww.org

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Connecting with the Leadership

Hello, I am glad to be back as your President. I am sorry that I missed so much time last year. Fortunately, we had an excellent 1st Vice President, Janet Winans, and a board that filled in while I was gone. I have had an experience not to be wished on anyone, but many have been through what I have and come out the other side. I finally feel healthy again, and am told that I can consider my cancer “cured,” which is cause for celebration!

Fund Raising: My absences over the past few months have allowed our board members to learn how important they are to League. They had a chance to take charge of activities that they otherwise might not have. For example, Julie Anne Kempf took on our summer fundraising effort, “Toast to the Candidates.” I am writing this column before the event, but I expect that it will have been a lot of fun and that we will have raised valuable funds for our important voter education activities, including candidate and issue forums, Vote 411, ballot summaries and the speaker’s bureau. We hope to make this an annual event.

Board Work: The new team approach to working on portfolios has helped spread responsibility, but the process needs further refinement. We intend to focus on that this year. Currently, we have a mix of board members responsible for individual portfolios, as well as board members who are sharing portfolio responsibility with others.

Development: We are looking for people to assist with development, which includes fundraising, membership development, donor development, Leadership Circle, legacy gifting and other outreach activities. If any of these areas interest you, please contact me, Janet Winans, Paneen Davidson or Allison Feher to discuss how you might become involved.

National Convention and State Council: As you will see elsewhere in this Voter, the National Convention was held this year in Dallas, Texas. We sent 7 delegates: Janet Winans, Julie Anne Kempf, Jayne Freitag, Amelia Woolley, Joanna Cullen, Amanda Clark, Linnea Hurst and our invaluable Administrative Manager and former League President, Allison Feher. Also, earlier in June, several of us attended State Council. We learned what other local leagues are doing, about “mini fundraisers,” the National Voting Rights Task Force, how to grow our League, maximize our resources and communicate more effectively.

Office Staff: The Board has been talking about adding a part-time staff member to assist Allison and the Board in accomplishing everything on our agenda. The Board voted last month to hire someone to help when Candis Litsey leaves us to live abroad for a year. She has been taking care of our bookkeeping, i.e., depositing checks, balancing accounts, and writing checks. We expect the job to be just a few hours per week.

Personnel Committee: We have also appointed a personnel committee to look into hiring a permanent staff member, either to take over routine office tasks, which would free Allison up to do more outreach and development, or a professional to do fundraising and development. Adding this position will depend on reaching our fundraising goals this year.

More Fundraising: Speaking of, we are on track to meet our fundraising goals with the aid of an additional event this coming fall or winter. Under consideration are various activities and venues, with an eye to making it fun for our members and their friends to attend. More on that later. Of course, if you have ideas for, are interested in working on or participating in events, please contact me, Janet Winans, or Allison.

July/August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2 Board Retreat 9:00 a.m.
3	4 Voter Deadline	5 Primary Election	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28 Education Com- mittee Meeting 10:00a.m.	29	30

AUGUST

Board Retreat
Saturday, August 2
9:00 a.m.
Horizon House

The Voter Deadline
Monday, August 4

Education Committee
Saturday, August 28
10:00 a.m.
League Office

SEPTEMBER

Forum: Early Childhood
Education
Thursday, September 4
7:30 p.m.

Board Meeting
Saturday, September 6
9:00 a.m.
League Office

Econ. and Tax. Committee
Saturday, September 6
9:30 a.m.
909 E. Newton #D-9, Seattle

The Voter Deadline
Monday, September 8

Climate Change Committee
Thursday, September 18
10:00 a.m.
League Office

Forum Schedule

Sept 4 - Early Childhood Education

Oct 2 - Ballot Measures

Nov 6 - Campaign Finance

Dec - No Forum

Jan 8 - Program Planning

Feb 5 - Hospital Mergers

Mar 5 - Human Trafficking

Apr 2 - Reauthorization of the Columbia
River Treaty

The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County (LWVS-KC) presents a public forum most months between September and May, generally on the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Most forums are held at the Seattle First Baptist Church, but occasionally they are scheduled at other locations and times. The tentative schedule of forums for 2014 appears at left; check *The Voter* each month or the LWVS-KC website, seattlelwv.org, for up-to-date information.

Board Briefs by Amanda Clark, Secretary

The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County Board met on Saturday, May 3 and Saturday, June 14, 2014. This is a summary of their work.

May Meeting

Treasurer's Report: The reports for both the c(3) and c(4) were mainly concerned with reviewing the proposed 2014-2015 fiscal year budgets to be presented at the annual meeting. Also, at the c(4) meeting, Cindy Piennett reported that the Bridge Fund had been transferred to the General Fund, as approved by the Board previously. She noted that the League may choose to set aside or earmark certain funds in the future and may decide at that time to account for such funds separately on the balance sheet.

Membership: Susan Jones reported that there is now a good system for following up on late dues and lapsed memberships—they are called once a month. When members are three months in arrears on their dues, they no longer receive the *Voter*, so they often call the office—and then pay their dues.

Fundraising: In the c(3) meeting, progress was reported on the two fundraising events, the

breakfast and the Leadership Circle event. There was a good response to the early-bird price for the breakfast, and “save-the-date” cards for the Leadership Circle were to be sent in June.

The board is having an ongoing discussion about fundraising and development, especially about who should be responsible. Should it be a board member's portfolio? Should we hire a professional development expert to oversee our efforts? How can board members be involved? Should we concentrate on fundraising or more generally on “development,” and what exactly does development and outreach mean? We will continue to have this discussion, but we do hope to involve more member participation in all our activities.

June Meeting

This is the annual “in and out” meeting, welcoming new board members and thanking de-

Continued on next page

Board Briefs continued:

parting ones, which allows new board members to get tips and information from their predecessors as well as announce their portfolios to the Board. Pat Griffiths will work with Janet Winans on Action, Paneen Davis will handle Membership, Joan Lawson will work on Program, and the new *Voter* editor is Lisa Peterson. Continuing board members will keep their current responsibilities.

Treasurer's Report: Cindy Piennett reviewed the budget forecast, shown through the fiscal year end of June 30. The c(4) receives funds from the c(3) [Ed Fund] for its share of overhead and other expenses, so the deficit shown will end up nearly matching the projections.

Endorsement Discussion: Janet Winans presented a summary of the pros and cons from her committee that studied the Seattle Metropolitan Parks District measure appearing on the August ballot as Proposition 1. The measure's goal is to provide the park system with stable funding, with the proposed district being similar to a school board as a separate taxing district. Unlike a school board, however, it would not have a separate elected board or commission. Instead, the City Council would oversee it under an interlocal agreement.

The League has positions that support parks and "feasible" means of financing them. However, the League also supports open and transparent governance with citizen input. After a spirited discussion, the Board could find no requirement in the Proposition for the MPD's accountability, either financially or to citizen input, and unanimously voted to recommend "No" on it. The League will publish a clear statement of its recommendation and why it recommends that vote.

Fundraising: Two major fundraising events are planned: the Toast to Candidates breakfast on July 16, and the Leadership Circle social event in August. The board discussed potentially hiring a development professional, recognizing that good outreach and fundraising are major re-

sponsibilities. For now, President Ellen Barton stressed both individual member's support and all unit's support criticality in participating in and attending League fundraising events.

Connecting with Leadership continued:

Board Retreat: This annual event is coming up in August. New board members are introduced to our policies, practices, and procedures, and ongoing board members are reminded why they agreed to serve the League. One topic will be continuing to brainstorm is how to enhance our relevance in our increasingly complex world.

Leadership Circle: We will be hosting the annual Leadership Circle luncheon in August. The Leadership Circle consists of members who have committed to making regular donations on a monthly, yearly or triennial basis. This type of donation commitment is especially valuable to League for planning purposes. This event is to thank members of the Leadership Circle, and to have a venue for discussion about issues they believe important, as well as ongoing matters pertaining to League governance. We would like to increase the numbers of participants in this program so that we can rely less heavily on annual or semi-annual fundraising events, which are not as stable a source of funding. If you would like more information about this program, please contact me or Allison.

Thank you all for being members of this proud and venerable organization. I look forward to this next year.



Ellen Barton

Committees

Only the Education Committee is meeting this month. Meetings can be subject to last minute changes. Call the LWVS-KC office at 206-329-4848 to confirm.

Climate Change Committee

DATE: Thursday, September 18

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: League Office

Raelene Gold and Judy Bevington invite you to the first meeting of the new Climate Change Committee in September. Cutting carbon is essential to curbing climate change. How can we make a meaningful contribution to this effort? Bring your ideas and energy as we begin exploring the topic and options for change.

Economics and Taxation Committee

DATE: Saturday, September 6

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

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

Anyone interested in attending please call Jeanette Johnson, 206-724-3392.

Education Committee

DATE: Thursday, August 28

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: League Office

If you have questions or comments, please leave a message for committee chair Joanna Cullen, at 206-329-8514.

International Relations Committee

DATE: Monday, September 8

TIME: 12:45 – 2:45 p.m.

PLACE: League Office

Transportation Committee

DATE: To be determined

TIME: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

PLACE: League Office

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

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



Mission Statement

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

King County Connects — Announcements



Congratulations to Carolyn Hale!

Our own Carolyn Hale, a 50-year member of the League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County (see separate article in this *Voter*), was given the Woman of the Year for Mental Health Award by the National Association of Professional Women.

For many years, she has labored tirelessly to bring mental illness out of the shadows. Carolyn works with Circle of Friends for Mental Health; find them on the web at: cofmentalhealth.org. This year's annual fundraising walk for them is in September at Magnuson Park in Seattle; if interested, please visit their website at: www.stampedeoverstigma.org.

Carolyn is currently working to establish the first annual Mental Health Awards event for all of Washington State, to be held on October 23, 2014. This award will honor people in various agencies throughout the state for outstanding work on mental wellness.

Carolyn invites you to join with Circle of Friends "to make a real change in mental wellness and to understand the wonderful people they befriend and share so many art activities with". She continues, "The 'freedom' to be wandering the streets, psychotic, ill, deteriorating and untreated, when there is a reasonable prospect of effective treatment, is not freedom; it is abandonment."

Past President and longtime advocate **Nancy Smith** celebrated a great success in May with the opening of Argonaut House. A six-year project of Plymouth Healing Communities, it adds much-needed housing and services for the mentally ill in Seattle.

On June 25, 2014 League member **Ann Aagaard** was presented with the Ralph W. Johnson award by the Center for Environmental Law and Policy. For over 40 years, Ann has been a faithful and wise steward of our state waters and land.



Her landmark achievements include:

- 1) Victory in the 1978 Washington Supreme Court decision in *S.A.V.E. vs. City of Bothell* which broadly defined legal standing for environmental advocates.
- 2) Successful negotiations with the Washington Department of Ecology that culminated in adoption of the Shoreline Master Program Guidelines in 2003.
- 3) The tenacious advocacy in King and Snohomish counties over three decades that saved North Creek Valley from being turned into regional shopping centers. Instead the valley now has a nationally-recognized 58-acre wetland restoration abutting salmon-bearing North Creek, an integral part of the University of Washington Bothell and Cascadia Community College.



Plymouth Healing Communities board member Nancy Smith (left) and Seattle City Councilmember Sally Bagshaw. Credit: Elizabeth Maher

Updates from our State and National Leagues

All members of the LWV of Seattle-King County are also automatically members of the LWV of Washington and the LWV of the United States. Their work focuses on issues of state and national concern, respectively. Be sure to sign up for weekly email newsletters and/or visit the websites: www.lwvwa.org and www.lwv.org for the latest information.

Olympia and Our Washington

LWV of Washington is busy prepping the **Vote411.org** website with questions for candidates in the primary election and ballot summaries for measures on the ballot. Once again our small but stalwart team of volunteers is working to cover every single race and issue for every jurisdiction in the state. While the local leagues try to help out - half the counties in Washington don't currently have a local league so it's up to them to bridge the gap. Information for the August 5 Primary Election went live on the website on July 10.

This is the third year the Vote411 team has put this together, which led to their being a finalist for the LWVUS High Impact Visibility Award at national convention in June. Congratulations! The award went to the well-deserving New Jersey League that did amazing work to assist voters in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

The lobby team is also active during the "off season." In addition to following developments on issues, and planning for possible proposed legislation next year, they are also planning for three action workshops to train local volunteers. Two of these will take place in our area: October 4 in Kitsap County and November 1 in Snohomish County. More details will be provided as they become available.

Also busy this summer is the LWVWA Nominating Committee. If you know of someone, including yourself, that would be a good candidate for state board, please contact nominating committee chair Michelle Valentine at emvalentin@aol.com or 425-350-5969.

National News

The convention in Dallas dominated the work of the LWVUS board members and staff for the past couple of months - you can read more about convention on pages 23-24.

Nonetheless, other national action continues and the LWVUS continues its lobbying work, including attending a rally on the Voting Rights Amendment Act on June 25, the one year anniversary of the decision in *Shelby County v. Holder* that gutted key provisions of the original Voting Rights Act. Go to www.lwv.org to see the latest and find out what you can do to support our national efforts.

In other areas, the LWVUS continues with its Membership Leadership Development (MLD) program which provides coaching to state and local leagues. LWVUS-KC members Nancy Eitrim and Therese Hansen are Shur Fellows in the MLD program. Shur Fellows support the coaches in each state who in turn work with the local leagues.

Voter service projects at the national level include providing the framework for Vote411.org, now used in 24 states around the country. The LWVUS is also a key partner in the National Voter Registration Day project, which coordinates with hundreds of groups and thousands of volunteers across the country to register voters. This year national voter registration day is Tuesday, September 23. Mark your calendar now and come be a part of it with us! Email: voter-service@seattlelwv.org.

Action

May and June were busy months for action - from the waterfront to campaign finance to transportation we've been lobbying the city and the county. As described in the cover article, the board voted unanimously to oppose Seattle's Prop. 1 for a Metropolitan Park District. In addition, we took the following action:

After King County Proposition 1 failed to pass at the polls, the County Council has been considering action on how to cut Metro bus service. On May 27 we sent a letter to the King County Council urging them to limit cuts to Metro service until more information and possible funding could be developed. During June, League members Allison Feher, Pat Griffith and Jean Carlson provided in-person testimony in front of the Council. They advocated for Metro to take time to explore all possible funding sources and implement a more in-depth collaborative process with the public before deciding how to cut to Metro service in 2015. The Council adopted our recommendation but unfortunately it was vetoed by King County Executive Dow Constantine.

In tandem with the above, League also testified at the June 26 meeting of Seattle's Transportation Benefit District (STBD). That is the resolution proposing to use the Benefit District's taxing authority to place Proposition 1 on the November 2014 ballot. This would implement Mayor Ed Murray's plan to retain Metro service within Seattle. League advocated that resolution language should be reviewed to express clear intent and priorities; voters should not have to decipher what the intent may be or may not be. Some funds generated would also be used to create regional partnerships, so the League advocated for language that would set forth clear oversight along with setting principles, priorities, and processes for evaluating the region-

al partnerships regarding the public benefit to Seattle. We also again encouraged that the City provide opportunities for rigorous public process as a part of any City plan to change service.

Allison Feher and Jean Carlson also attended and testified at hearings at the Seattle City Council on June 4 and 30 to support putting public financing for city council races back on the ballot this fall, but unfortunately these efforts were not successful.

Members Charles and Nancy Bagley have been keeping a close eye on the Seattle waterfront. With their help, we sent a letter to the mayor and the city council in March regarding the proposed expansion of the Seattle Aquarium. On June 5 we sent a follow up letter thanking the mayor for his response and encouraging a broad outreach to residents before developing a preferred design and site. Read more about the latest on the waterfront in their article on page 18.



Go to the Advocacy tab on our website to see copies of recent statements, letters and press releases. www.seattlelwv.org/advocacy

Continued from the front cover

The Seattle Parks Department has never undergone an external audit, either of its finances or performance, and the proposed MPD provides no mechanism for either of these audits. The Oversight Committee proposed in the ILA can only review an annual report prepared by the Department of Parks and Recreation for the Seattle Park District and the City, and cannot perform or commission a full performance and/or financial audit.

League is concerned that this legislation creates a separate entity with its own disproportionate taxing authority in addition to the existing City levy lid, but drawing on a property tax that will increase the burden to all property owners. There are several property tax measures proposed or up for renewal this fall that would, if approved, increase property taxes on Seattle residents. These measures include: transportation, low-income housing, pre-kindergarten for all, a families and education levy, the Pike Place market and school district measures.

The levy process has enabled communities to provide funding as well as meaningful input to the Parks Department on neighborhood projects; the MPD does not provide citizen involvement. The list of items proposed for funding under the MPD includes money for large projects such as the Waterfront, the Woodland Park Zoo, and the Aquarium, but nothing is specified for smaller or neighborhood parks.

For all of these reasons, the Board of Directors recommends a NO vote on this measure.

Voter Service

FIRST HILL REVS UP VOTER REGISTRATION

With the registration deadline looming for the August primary, members of the First Hill unit went into high gear, holding three events in four days on nearby Capitol Hill. Sunday, June 29, we staffed a table at the Broadway Farmer's Market. Then (quick breath!) we set up shop Tuesday and Wednesday, July 1-2, in the main building of Seattle Central College. Both venues were productive, but with interesting differences. The outdoor Market yielded almost entirely address changes, while more than a third of Seattle Central registrants were new to the voting rolls.

Altogether, our team registered or updated 52 voters on the spot, of which 14 were newbies. Several other potential registrants took forms home to complete at their leisure. Kudos to First Hill volunteers Lou Templeton, Jean Carlson, Ruth and Al Eller, Connie Wentzel, and Joey Gray. Our next focus: the October 6 deadline for the November 4 general election.

Connie Hellyer
Voter Registration Coordinator
First Hill unit

Getting Connected Membership News

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Joey Gray says she joined the League of Women Voters because of the League's eminent history and the importance of gender balance in politics. She grew up in a political family in Thurston County, where, when her father ran for the state legislature, he would not take over \$100 from anyone. He narrowly lost that election, but went on to serve on the Lacey City Council for 12 years.

When Joey was at the Jackson School of International Studies at the University of Washington, she interned for Congressman Don Bonker in Washington, D.C. She holds three degrees from the UW: a Bachelor's degree in International Studies, another Bachelor's degree in German, and a Master's degree in Library and Information Science. Her involvement with the UW included working in Admissions, Advising, the UWired office, and Student-Athlete Academic Services. Thanks to a Rotary Club scholarship, she attended teachers' college in Switzerland and has also studied in Germany and Canada.

Her first job was as a page in the State Senate and her first successful advocacy was for Lacey's I-5 freeway bike and pedestrian trail. You may also remember her as one of nine candidates for Seattle Mayor in the 2013 primary.

As an athlete, Joey ran track and cross-country, and went on to play and coach in national and world championships in the sport of Ultimate Frisbee. She co-founded and directed many tournaments, leagues, and events, was Executive Director of USA Ultimate, the sport's national governing body, and implemented mixed gender ultimate championships in The World Games held under the patronage of the International Olympic Committee.

Now working as both the Director of Information Technology at Zeno, a nonprofit focused on transforming cultural attitudes about math, and as a consultant to non-profit organizations, she

specializes in computer information systems, organizational change, and event management, with clients including education, environment, social services, and advocacy groups.

Among Joey's other interests are gardening in her P-Patch and playing the fiddle with friends. In keeping with her concern for the environment, she stopped flying and owns no car, preferring to get around by scooter, bike, foot, bus and train.

In joining the League, Joey is most interested in membership recruitment, voter registration, climate-related issues, and the speaker's bureau.

Ruth Fliegel is a retired elementary school teacher with a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Redlands in California, and a Bachelor of Arts in Romance Languages from Penn State University.

She says that when she and her husband returned from their honeymoon, their next door neighbor at the State College of Pennsylvania took her hand and said, "There is a League of Women Voters meeting tonight, and you're going". That was the beginning of Ruth's League membership. Ruth served for several years as editor of the League's publication, "Who's Who in Government: Local, State and National".

Ruth became fluent in Portuguese when she, her husband and two children lived in Porto Alegre, Brazil in 1964 and 1965. Ruth is active in Sigma Alpha Iota, a professional music fraternity. Her hobbies are reading and collecting jokes. She looks to League for information to acquaint her with her new home in Seattle.

Some new members are shy about doing a bio, or we may still be drafting one, but please welcome these additional new members: Jane Cardell, Robyn Grad, Babits Faires, Bernice Kastner, Heidi C. Miller, Sarah Petrie and Monica Shah. If we've missed you, please let us know!

LIFETIME MEMBERS (50 YEARS AND MORE!):

Jo Bennett Mitchell is a 60-year member! She grew up in a rural area near El Paso Texas, earning a Bachelor's Degree at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces in 1949. She received a Master's Degree in Human Development in 1983 from Pacific Oaks College and Children's School in Pasadena California. She taught nursery school and pre-kindergarten as a faculty member of Central Washington State University in Early Childhood Education. She also coordinated an Extension Center in Seattle for San Francisco Theological Seminary.

Jo's membership in League began in Las Cruces in 1954. When she moved to Washington in 1964, she transferred her membership to the Kittitas County League. After retiring to Seattle in 2009, she said, "Of course I joined the local chapter."

During her years in Ellensburg, Jo became one of a small group of citizens in the 1960's who seized the opportunity offered by the first Head Start legislation to bring the program to their county. Friends of the League assisted, and encouraged this effort. Jo wrote the first application grant, which brought them funding to begin with one classroom of 25. The program continues to flourish today with four classrooms, a permanent building, and in-home programs for mothers and babies. It has improved lives for many hundreds of families since its inception.

Jo says that throughout her adult life, "The League of Women Voters has been a steady companion and a source of both information and inspiration".

When **Betsy Darrah** attended her first unit meetings, she was pregnant with her first son. Jan O'Connor was also there, also pregnant. Betsy's son turned 52 recently.

As Chair of the Transportation Committee, Betsy remembers taking the bus to Puyallup with other League members to demonstrate that public transportation was a good thing. She marched with another child on her back along

with other League members, lobbying for what became Discovery Park.

Betsy's work with the Seattle League led to her appointment as a Seattle Public Library Board Trustee. At the same time she served on that Board, she also attended a graduate program in librarianship at the University of Washington. After graduating, she worked for 20 years as a Reference Librarian in the UW's Suzzallo Library.

At age 23, **Carolyn Hale** arrived in Seattle during the summer, after teaching at one of the poorest schools in Washington, D.C. She loved the beauty and weather of the Northwest, and found a job teaching at Medina Elementary School in Bellevue.

Carolyn was struck by the signs she saw urging people to vote for candidates or issues. She had never seen such signs before, as she had lived in Washington, D.C. where there was no vote. Carolyn thought she should find out what voting was about and joined the LWV to be educated. She says, "They are still educating me."

Carol Kane joined LWV Lake Washington East in 1963, becoming a member of the Kirkland unit. She joined the Education Committee, and also a committee studying King County services. She also served as an observer at the Kirkland City Council meetings and as a volunteer in the League office.

Before joining League, Carol was a typing and English teacher in Snohomish. Later, at Renton Technical College and Bellevue Community College, she taught both typing and computer subjects.

Carol's full life includes her husband, two children and one grandchild. She says, "The biggest thing I gained from League was to be a better voter and citizen".

Marilyn Knight joined LWV Lake Washington East in 1962, after reading a story in the local paper inviting interested people to a membership recruitment tea at the home of Carol Lade.

An error in the paper led Marilyn to arrive half an hour early, only to be met at the door by the hostess in her slip! Obviously the first to arrive that day, she enjoyed it so much she continued attending twice a month and then once a month for many years. She had just moved with her family from Olympia to Kirkland and knew no one, so the League provided a ready-made group of friends with similar interests.

She was invited to join the local board to do public relations, which she continued until after her third daughter was born. In fact, she left the board meeting, gave birth that night, and was back at the next board meeting with baby in tow! After leaving the board, she continued to attend unit meetings and serve on committees. In 1972, she joined the Washington State League Board, where she served for seven years, the last two as president. After leaving the state board, she was hired by Planned Parenthood of Seattle-King County as their public affairs and media director, where she remained for 20 years, retiring in 2002.

Following retirement, Marilyn returned to the League in a more active way, serving on the state committee for Initiative and Referendum study, on the Election Laws study committee and on the Board of Directors for the LWVWA Education Fund. More recently, when Lake Washington East League merged with the Seattle League, she served on the Nominating Committee. Marilyn followed Joan Thomas as Seattle League's representative on the King County Election Advisory Committee, still serving in that capacity.

Marilyn grew up in a small town near Spokane, graduating from Washington State University in Journalism, then moved to Olympia to be "society editor" for the Daily Olympian. "Actually," Marilyn says, "I was the only one doing society/women's news, so naturally I was the editor." She covered fashion shows, weddings, teas, and wrote a column detailing goings-on about town. "Much has changed since that time for women in journalism."

Marilyn says, "The League and the friends I've made through that association have been an in-

tegral part of my adult life, and I wouldn't trade it for anything. League members are the best!"

Ingrid Lynch has led a productive life both politically and professionally. Active in the Parent/Teacher/Student Association, she served as a voter registrar in the Lake Washington School District, knocking on doors "even into the deep dark woods" to insure no potential voter remained unregistered. She also worked on the legislative campaign of Alan Blueschel.

Obtaining her first degree in Nursing from Barry University in Miami, Florida, she went on to earn her Master's degree, ultimately becoming a pediatric nurse practitioner. In addition to working with her pediatrician husband, Ingrid worked for the King County Department of Public Health at Columbia Health Center. She finished her career with Group Health in their school-based health clinics.

Ingrid and her husband retired to the San Juan Islands for 14 years, until health issues brought them back to Seattle where Horizon House is now home. They have two children and now enjoy five grandchildren as well.

Kay Shoudy joined the League a year after her marriage. Two children later, she says she wanted some intelligent conversation, which she got from special women in her Eastside chapter. She served on the Board of Lake Washington East for two years, also working on issue papers relating to federal anti-poverty programs and Model Cities. She served as League representative on an Eastside committee that was looking into busing to relieve school segregation.

Kay returned to college in 1968, earning a Master's Degree in Urban Planning, which led to a career working on the Community Development Block Grant program and later as Planning Director for the cities of Redmond, Federal Way and Renton.

Kay says, "Thanks!" to Model Cities and her League friends.

In Memoriam

MEMORIAL FOR PEGGY SAARI BY CAROL GOLDENBERG

Editor's note: Peggy passed away in May. Thank you to Peggy's family and friends who have donated more than \$2,000 to the League in her memory. This is Carol's tribute to her, read at her memorial service.

Peggy Saari was so much fun one could forget what a fine mind and deep sense of social responsibility she possessed, but members of the League of Women Voters knew this very well.

In 1975, Peggy and husband Jack and their two little boys returned to Seattle after living for two years in Paris and New York. Peggy joined the League and has been working on League projects ever since. LWV, a non-partisan, political organization encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influence public policy through education and advocacy. Peggy chaired and worked with many League study committees including Early Childhood Education, Natural Resources where she worked on air quality issues for the State League (Peggy said she was called "The Clean Air Lady), Transportation and Washington State Water Rights Study update. She co-chaired the International Relations Committee and participated in the Great Decisions program sponsored by the League.

Before finally accepting the presidency of Seattle LWV Peggy had filled nearly every position of responsibility from unit leader, action chair and vice president for Program (two two-year

terms). I had the privilege of working with Peggy as her Vice President for Program and I have memories of her lugging two heavy bags of files from meeting to meeting. She was always prepared. I marveled at all the information she carried in her head and how she retrieved it as needed. She spoke with authority for League. In Voter Pamphlets she gave League endorsements on Library Facilities Bonds and the Washington Radioactive Waste Initiative.



You can see with all this information and her daily companions at NPR, Peggy always had something interesting to talk about. We teased her about her addiction to NPR but she always knew what was going on.

One of her most enduring commitments concerned gun safety. She lobbied at the League's state convention for a state study on gun control, which she chaired. Peggy worked with Washington Cease-Fire on a state referendum that would have required gun owners to use trigger locks. The referendum failed but Peggy didn't stop working on the issue. In 1998 Peggy testified on behalf of CeaseFire in the legislature against H.B. 1408 which authorized carrying concealed pistols by certain persons from out of state. Unfortunately, the bill passed but Peggy kept on working, most recently on Initiative 594. At the June 2 Yes on Initiative 594 Kickoff Campaign for background checks for gun buyers, the League sponsored six luncheon tables to honor Peggy Saari.

Peggy received the Carrie Chapman Catt Award for Leadership from the League but she was also honored by other civic groups, including the Children's Alliance as an outstanding advocate

of children in 2001. She was honored to serve on a citizen's task force appointed by then-Mayor Paul Schell, King County Executive Ron Sims and the Public Health Department, to work on the heroin problem in King County.

In one of Peggy's last days, she said to League member Peggy Morrow, sitting at her bedside, "I have a philosophy for League. If we are not studying problems and making progress we don't deserve public support. It is important that we get information to the public and we must use modern methods of communication." Peggy was proud that she played an early role in developing League's excellent website. This is our challenge from Peggy.

When Peggy accepted League's Carrie Chapman Catt Award, she shared a personal story, "In 1897, my grandmother gave a graduation speech at her commencement. The subject was Shall Women Vote." Her grandmother would surely be pleased with how far women have come in the last century, and she would certainly have been proud of the life her granddaughter lived. Peggy said, "I joined League to further my interests in government, history and current events and have found it to be a wonderful source of education and a training ground for political and personal development."

Many League members have sent messages, nearly all using the same words saying how much they appreciated Peggy's warmth, graciousness, leadership and willingness to take on any task that needed to be done. One member added, "classy". She would have appreciated that. Peggy has been our model and teacher for a life well lived.

Catherine (Cathie) Moody, of Redmond, Washington peacefully passed away on June 8, 2014 at the age of 96.

Cathie was born on November 15, 1917 in San Antonio, Texas. She married husband Alf Moody in 1942, and the two of them settled in Seattle with their three kids in 1952.

Cathie was a dedicated wife, mother and grandmother who also focused on giving back to her community. She was an active member of the League of Women Voters of Lake Washington East for 30 years. Cathie also served as president of the Residents' Council at the Emerald Heights Retirement Community. She enjoyed traveling to different parts of the world and watching sports, especially her alma mater U.C. Berkeley's football team.



The League lost two additional long-standing and hardworking members of the League in the last month: Margaret "Peg" Williams and Mary Ellen McCaffree. We will have more about them next month.

Features

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

This summer, the Education Committee will be intensively planning the September 4 League forum on Early Learning and could use your help. We will be meeting at the League office at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 28, with possible additional meetings. Following the September Forum, the committee will be setting goals for 2014-2015.

While the forum will look at the subject from a broad perspective, at our last meeting we decided to also include the two measures headed for the November ballot in Seattle, plus answering these questions about early learning: What exists now? What are some existing successful delivery and funding models? What are some local challenges and initiatives?

We will deliver the answers to these questions at the forum, along with providing opportunity for audience engagement, all in only 90 minutes! Again, please contact me and plan to join us if you are interested in helping.

Joanna Cullen
206-329-8514
jfoxcullen@gmail.com

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE by Janet Winans, Chair

The Transportation Committee ended the year about the same as we started it: working on the ongoing efforts to fund our rapidly-deteriorating transportation infrastructure. We spent March and April preparing for the Seattle-King County League's endorsement of Proposition 1. If you recall, this was King County's effort to obtain voter-approved funding after the state Legislature failed to pass a state-wide transportation budget. League endorsed Proposition 1,

and, along with Town Hall, presented a forum on the issue. Unfortunately, while a majority of Seattle voters approved it, the majority of King County voters defeated it.

(Note: The King County Proposition 1 from April should not be confused with the current Seattle Proposition 1. This is to be voted on in the August primary, and will create a Metropolitan Park District and a separate property tax to fund Seattle parks; see cover article in this *Voter*).

The committee's April speaker from Transportation Choices shared their post-vote analysis: voters outside of Seattle do not see a gain by funding Metro, and that the idea of a Motor Vehicle Excise Tax is an anti-tax trigger for many. Of course, the proposition's rejection does not do away with the very real need for major funding. Our committee, led by Joanna Cullen, continues to work with the King County Council as they develop their plan to implement the necessary cuts in services. (Please see the action article on page 10). In the meantime, the Mayor and the City Council are working on a proposal to fund bus service for the city, but the effort is complicated because what bus service IS for the City must first be defined. Does it include express buses that come from Park and Ride lots outside the city? Should the routes that provide connections within Seattle be reduced to fund routes from the county? As you can see, the questions are many and complicated.

The committee will meet again on Tuesday, August 19, from 10 a.m. - noon at the League office. For ongoing voter information, watch for our weekly emails on upcoming events and activities. Also, check out the online voters guide at Vote411.org.

SEATTLE WATERFRONT UPDATE

by Charles and Nancy Bagley

THE HIGHWAY 99 TUNNEL continues to be plagued by multiple problems with the “Big Bertha” boring drill.

As followers of the tunnel project may know, in April the plan for the stuck drill was to bring its moving parts up to the surface to investigate the source of the problem and replace the giant bearing that holds the rotating head, which at 57 feet, is the biggest in the world. Repairs were expected to cost \$125 million, per the *Seattle Times* article on April 23, 2014. The contractors filed a claim with the State for this cost. Other potential payment sources are the company’s insurer and/or withdrawing money from the contingency fund, which is money the State has on hand pay for unforeseen cost overruns. These funds, however, total only \$78 million. Originally, the work contract had specified a contingency fund of \$210 million, but shortly after contract signing, the State removed most of the cash from this fund and gave it to the contractor to cover “inflation”!

More bad news followed: on April 26, the cost of repairs was reported in the *Times* to be \$190 million. And the contractors demanded another \$51 million for other costs, in addition to the drill. The State Transportation Managers say that little or none of this is valid.

From the June 17 *Times*: The 7,000 ton drill will have 216 new steel plates added, and a new bearing will be inserted. This bearing will have better seals that keep dirt and sand from damaging the bearing surface. As of this writing, the estimate for the date of resumption of the drilling is March 2015.

WATERFRONT PARK faces severe view blockage from a proposed expansion of the Seattle Aquarium to the south, directly in front of the north side of the planned Park. This Aquarium expansion has been planned for years, as shown on their website, and it appears that City officials and the Waterfront Committee expect it to be built as proposed.

Recently, the Seattle Aquarium Society contracted with EHDD Architects of San Francisco to draw up site and design options for the expansion, expecting to have options ready to show the public in December 2014. In the near future EHDD will be gleaning advice from various “stakeholders”.

The League opposes blockage of Waterfront Park’s views. President Ellen Barton has written a letter to Mayor Murray emphasizing that every Seattle resident is a “stakeholder” in our City parks, and that the LWVS-KC specifically wishes to be consulted by EHDD. League members who want to become active in saving Waterfront Park’s views should email us for information: candnbagley@comcast.net.

BOOK REVIEW by Vicky Downs

THE BOYS IN THE BOAT: NINE AMERICANS AND THEIR EPIC QUEST AT THE 1936 BERLIN OLYMPICS

By Daniel James Brown

Two Leaguers suggested that I read and review Brown's book. It is a terrific choice because it offers so many things: a sense of Seattle during the Depression, a good look at an elite sport that attracted the sort of attention football does today, a love story, extraordinary "good guys", as well as Hitler and his "bad guys." It also explains what made rowing almost magical in the 1930's, and shows how coaches at the University of Washington changed the sons of lumberjacks, farmers and fishermen into an athletic force of world significance.

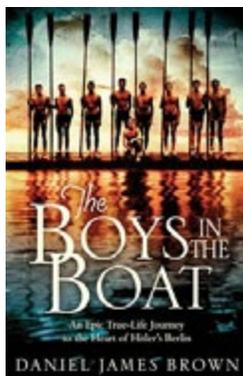
The author focuses on Joe Rantz, a poor boy whose father and stepmother literally abandoned him to live alone in Sequim when he was still in junior high school. Joe searched for ways to make money to survive, and learned that he could depend on his own skills and ability to make friends. Thanks to his high school chemistry teacher older brother, Joe moved to Seattle, attending Roosevelt High School and then the University of Washington along with its freshman crew.

Rowing was a serious sport on the East coast, where newspapers made the names of the Harvard or Princeton crews familiar to sports fans. This was not yet true for West coast crews. However, Al Ulbrickson, the head coach of the U.W. rowing program, was born in Seattle, and graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University while excelling on the rowing crew. He wanted U.W. to shine at the most prestigious sport of the time: if only he could find the men and train them, he knew his crew would be better than any others.

He was helped by George Pocock, a British-born boat builder who learned his craft under his father's tutelage making racing shells for Eton students before coming to Seattle. To Pocock,

creating a boat was a quasi-religious experience, and rowing was profoundly important. "When [Pocock watched] the Washington oarsmen on the water, he quickly spotted inefficiencies and deficiencies in the mechanisms of their strokes that no amount of fiddling with [the boat] could fix." Though he was initially reluctant to speak, the coaches learned to ask for his advice; many young athletes sought his opinion out as well.

I loved reading that the UW crew, on a free afternoon during the championship race in Poughkeepsie, took a motor launch and headed up the Hudson River to Hyde Park. To their surprise, the young athletes had no problem reaching President Roosevelt's home and were delighted when Franklin Junior opened the door. The young Roosevelt had crewed at Harvard, and enthusiastically welcomed the Washington men and gave them a tour of the mansion while discussing their competition!



I read faster as I learned how each race was special, culminating in the Berlin Olympics. Hitler and Joseph Goebbles knew that hosting the Olympics presented them with the perfect opportunity to show the world how modern and strong Germany had become since the end of World War I, and give notice that the world would do well to give their country the respect it deserved. To ensure that they won the Olympics and the respect they felt they deserved, the Germans gave the U.S. crew the most difficult course, which included heavy crosswinds.

This is a superb story with a thrilling finale. It's no surprise that a film version is already in development!

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

Annual Meeting

This year's annual meeting was a lively event with President Ellen Barton co-chairing with First Vice-President Janet Winans for the evening. Members were delighted to see Ellen doing so well, and she expressed her appreciation for Janet's help, stepping up as Acting President and gratitude for the support she received from the members.

Our current positions were readopted with no changes and no new studies were adopted, although we do have an exciting agenda of programs for the coming year (see page 5).

A bylaw change was approved that allows for a one-year term for elected board members as an option to a two-year term. This change allows greater flexibility for recruiting to the board and shifting board members to officer positions without extending their term. We welcomed five new members to the

board: Paneen Davidson, Pat Griffith, Joan Lawson, Lisa Peterson and Amelia Woolley, and we thanked outgoing boardmembers Marge Baker, Carol Burton, Susan K. Jones, Pat McCann, Lindsay Soyer, and Lisa Unsoeld-Chang for their service.

Members who reached their 50 year anniversary with League in the past year were recognized. You can read more about these amazing women on pages 13 and 14.

As always, a highlight of the evening is the presentation of the Carrie Chapman Catt award. This year there were two recipients: Lois Laughlin and Pat McCann. Unfortunately, Pat was unable to attend but got a private presentation which you can read about below. Lois' presentation is on the following page.

CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT AWARD WINNERS: LOIS LAUGHLIN AND PAT MCCANN

Although Pat was not able to attend the Annual Meeting to receive her award, three Leaguers visited her at her home in June, presenting her with the lovely engraved crystal vase and a bouquet of flowers. It was fun to watch her surprise and humility as I read the commendation about her at May's Annual Meeting. She felt truly honored to receive this award.

Pat joined the League in 1959, and served in various positions in the Highline League. Later, after that League merged with the Renton and Federal Way Leagues, she served on what became the King County South League Board.

Pat taught journalism, among other subjects, for a number of years, and was active in a forestry study. Pat chaired the study on Storm Water Runoff Management in South King County that was published in January 2011.

Pat has been active in Voter Services, and has also led forums. She served on the Board for the first year of the newly merged Seattle-King County League and

was on the Education Fund Board this past year. She helped to stimulate the Observer Corps and hopes it may be utilized to serve League.

People who have known Pat for a long time are impressed with her spirit of volunteerism and willingness to extend a helping hand wherever needed, actively volunteering at King County South annual meetings and holiday parties with set up and clean up.

Thank you to Pat for her service to the League and her community!

by Cindy Piennett





Janet Winans (right) made the following remarks when presenting the Carrie Chapman Catt award to Lois Laughlin (left) at the annual meeting on May 15:

These awards, recognition of 50 years of membership and service to the League and the Carrie Chapman Catt award, serve two purposes: they give very deserved recognition to remarkable women, and they remind all of us of the ageless demand for passionate commitment to friends, community and society.

Consider the challenges of the 1960s and '70s when you think of our challenges today.

Lois Laughlin was there at the founding of things like Head Start, the campaign for the Equal Rights Amendment, the Forward Thrust ballot initiatives that created the King County Metro Sewer District that cleaned up Lake Washington (and tried to give us mass transit), and voluntary busing of Seattle school children so that our schools in all areas had a fair mixture of all the city's children. Her children were among those who were "voluntarily" bused. She was one of those who came with young children to League meetings and worked to produce the very professional studies that are the basis of our

positions. She has served on the LWV board and been vice president as well as LWV observer of the Seattle Public Library board and the Seattle school board. Her son, Graham, wrote that dinner was always laid out defrosting with instructions about how to cook it. Her granddaughter Ellen wrote an essay about her titled, "Someone Influential."

I know Lois in the present. She has been my ally on the Transportation Committee. Her long history advocating for pedestrians and for fair access to transportation for the elderly, disabled and those who can't afford a car gives her warrior status. She has been my best gracious support, car pool companion and, in addition to all that, my most admired gardener. She and neighbor friends took over a space whose use seemed to be the place everyone dumped their fall leaves and yard debris when I moved into the neighborhood. Her team created a "secret path" into a green space of native plants nestled against the Russian consulate that won a Mayor's award.

State Council

State Council is held every other year and like convention (without the motions, budgets, etc. to deal with) provides League members from around the state a chance to get together to brainstorm, share successes (and failures) and catch up with friends we see only occasionally.

This year's convention was held in Lynnwood, so several of the LWVS-KC members took advantage of the opportunity to attend.

We started with the roll call of Leagues which is always fun because we hear all the great work our fellow leaguers are doing. Next, there were workshops on holding candidate and educational forums, fundraising and development, and evaluating our work so we can develop priorities and focus on League's mission.

In addition, we got an update on the projects and resolutions that were adopted at last year's convention and a had meeting with the members present who were going to be delegates to the national convention.



Our Snohomish County hostesses - showing League pride!



*LWVWA President Kim Abel with
Tim O'Brien of LWVUS*

At lunch we heard from Tim O'Brien, LWVUS Director of Public Advocacy for the Voter Protection Project. Tim gave us a good overview of all the work the LWVUS, in conjunction with state and local leagues across the country, is doing to help fight voter ID and other laws that are unfairly restricting some voters' access to the polls and working with others to improve their situation.

At dinner Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles gave an impassioned presentation about human trafficking, which includes far more than the sex trade, and described how Washington, thanks to several laws she sponsored, is now the leader in the nation in efforts to eliminate human trafficking.

National Convention

Your national delegation for the 2014 convention included Joanna Cullen, Allison Feher, Jayne Freitag, Julie Anne Kempf, Janet Winans and Amelia Woolley. What follows are reports from some of them to give you a flavor of what happened in Dallas!

Amelia Woolley:

This convention is the first one I've ever attended, so it was a new and exciting experience for me. I attended caucuses on various issues that were being presented from other Leagues, and it was interesting to hear about issues that are facing other states and how they are trying to handle them.

One theme I heard about from other delegates was regarding voting rights and voting at the polls. While that is not something that we deal with in Washington, since we vote by mail only, it was good to have a reminder of how important the right to vote is and what continues to stand in the way of citizens trying to practice that right.

There was a lot to take in, the biggest thing for me being plenary sessions. I enjoyed the debate and discussion and witnessing how the process works to adopt new studies, resolutions, and bylaws. However, it was also the most overwhelming part for a first-timer because of how the motions and amendments changed exactly what was being debated. Once I kept track of which parts and sections we were discussing it was a lot easier to follow.

By the end of the convention, I understood how things worked and am excited to attend more in the future.

Joanna Cullen:

This was my second convention and it really is wonderful to be in the same space for a few days with people from all over the USA who care about and work on the same League issues we do. It is also very reassuring to see that areas of disagreement seem to wisely resolve through parliamentary procedure, along with the business where there has been mainly general agreement. The Board is elected, a budget is passed, bylaws are updated, and a program is adopted.

My most memorable workshops were on education and redistricting. Following one that focused on education choices and the multitude of problems around the country involving charter schools, Washington State President Kim Abel turned to me and said that maybe underfunding of education is the worst problem we could have. I have to say that after watching that presentation, I could not disagree with her.

Our own Julie Anne Kempf is part of the national group working on redistricting and was the organizer of one of the panels. I have to say that the variety of systems that exist and how they came into existence in each state is fascinating. Ohio is particularly unique, and seemingly straightforward, but this is a



The Washington State Delegation

result of the courts becoming involved. Considering many happenings there prior to 1980, it is not surprising that a court-ordered redistricting was necessary. But, the result seems to be a better system than most.

At the dinner banquet, I very much enjoyed NPR's Wayne Goodwyn as the speaker.

Allison Feher:

I'm a convention junkie! This was my fifth national convention and while some of it becomes routine, I always love connecting with Leaguers from around the country and seeing what surprises are in store. The big thing in Dallas for me was the contest for LWVUS president; in my prior conventions the whole slate was simply elected with no challengers. This gave us the opportunity to see (and demonstrate) how to hold a fair and civil campaign, debate, and election for office. If only more elections were handled this well!

In addition to the election of the board and the adoption of the program as Janet described, here are some additional highlights of items adopted at the plenary sessions:

- A new position opposing all forms of domestic and international human trafficking
- A surprisingly uncontested update to the agriculture positions
- A resolution to support a price on carbon emissions
- A resolution to support federal felon voting rights restoration
- The per member payment that local leagues provide to national will remain \$31 for the 2014-15 fiscal year and will increase to \$32 in 2015-6.

Some technology changes that are coming our way include a new national member database that we hope will eliminate some redundancies/errors in data entry and possible changes to the website that will allow for more and easier sharing of information.

Janet Winans:

As part of the ongoing work as a result of the *Citizens United* U.S. Supreme Court decision, the Board and members of the League of Women Voters U.S. approved, "A comprehensive three-part program combining study and review of key, specific structures of American democracy. These consist of: A study of the process of amending the U.S. constitution, a review and update of the League position on campaign finance in light of forty years of change, and a review of the redistricting process of the U.S. Congress."

This motion laid the necessary validation for the adoption of the following resolution: "We, the representatives of the local and state Leagues assembled at the 2014 LWVUS Convention, call upon the national Board to quickly appoint the committees to review our campaign finance position and to study the process of amending the Constitution, in order to arrive at a comprehensive national action program that will support the aspirations and content of our position and mobilize our members. We call upon those committees, as well as the newly-formed committee on redistricting, to move quickly, deliberately, and collaboratively to produce results that will allow the League, unified and strong, to participate fully in local, state and national efforts to reclaim our democracy."

Members clarified that the motion to adopt the study also provided that League members, identified as such, can now join ongoing efforts by groups such as WAMEND in these efforts.

Local League members have been working since the 2010 *Citizens United vs. the Federal Elections Commission* in an effort to persuade the National Board to authorize this process. We have formed the study committee for the "Impact on Washington State of the *Citizens United* Decision," authorized at the LWVWA convention in 2011 and again in 2013. We are ready to prepare, organize and present forums around the state using material provided by the LWVUS Campaign Finance Task Force, and the information gathered by the committee.



Unit Meetings

League unit meetings (small discussion groups) generally begin in September. The exception is the First Hill Unit which will meet on Monday, August 11 at 10:00 a.m. Check the September Voter, which will come out in late August, or contact the unit leader for the location, date, and time of the meeting. LWVS-KC unit meetings are free and open to the public. Each month, units discuss a topic which corresponds to the monthly forum or study; the *Voter* for the month provides discussion materials. We encourage League members to join any convenient unit; see list below. The information below is current as of publication. Please check the September Voter for possible updates in unit leadership or contact information.

Monday, August 11

FIRST HILL – Joan Lawson

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

Daytime Units:

BALLARD/MAGNOLIA/QUEEN ANNE DAY – Alice Peterson

peterson-alice-jack@msn.com 206-524-5530

BELLEVUE/KIRKLAND/REDMOND – Bonnie Rimawi

bonnierim@aol.com, 425-820-7127

ISSAQUAH DAY – Margaret Austin

margaret.austin@comcast.net, 425-392-5760

MERCER ISLAND - Cynthia Howe

howe.john@comcast.net, 206-236-0593

NORTH CENTRAL SEATTLE– Jan Orlando

orlanre@aol.com, 206-524-0936

NORTH EAST SEATTLE – Gail Winberg

winbergeng@q.com, 206-524-7801

NORTH KING COUNTY – Toni Potter

antoniapotter@comcast.net, 206-365-8949

SOUTHEAST KING COUNTY/ENUMCLAW - Cathy Dormaier

clathy@skynetbb.com, 360-802-6799

UNIVERSITY HOUSE/WALLINGFORD – Alice Chew

achoo92@q.com, 206-547-5395

WEST SEATTLE – Ethel Williams

etheljwl@q.com, 206-932-7887

Evening Units:

CAPITOL HILL/MONTLAKE
info@seattlelwv.org, 206-329-4848

QUEEN ANNE/MAGNOLIA/BALLARD EVENING - Teddy Geokezas and Elsie Simon
tgeokezas@msn.com, 206-782-5036
elsiesimon@comcast.net, 206-283-6297

SOUTHEND SEATTLE - Marian Wolfe and Vivian Montoya
hedgwolfe@aol.com, 206-763-9430
montoyaviv@yahoo.com, 206-695-2620

SOUTHWEST KING COUNTY – Mary Ehlers and Kathy Jorgensen
maryehlers@comcast.net, 253-941-1930
kjorgensen@juno.com, 253-859-8349

Diversity Policy

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

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

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

Board & Committee Contacts

Term Executive Committee

2013-15	<i>President</i>	Ellen Barton	206-329-4848	president@seattlelwv.org
2013-15	<i>1st VP-Action</i>	Janet Winans	206-323-4825	janetwinans@earthlink.net
2014-15	<i>2nd VP</i>	Mary Jo Vigil	206-783-8485	mjvigil@starbucks.com
2013-15	<i>Secretary</i>	Amanda Clark	206-236-0517	amandac5@comcast.net
2014-16	<i>Treasurer</i>	Cindy Piennett	206-329-4848	cindypiennett@gmail.com

Directors

2013-15	<i>Program/Outreach</i>	Joanna Cullen	206-329-8514	jfoxcullen@gmail.com
2014-16	<i>Membership</i>	Paneen Davidson	206-329-4848	membership@seattlelwv.org
2013-15	<i>Social Justice</i>	Jayne Freitag	425-223-5827	mjafreitag@comcast.net
2014-16	<i>Action</i>	Pat Griffith	206-285-2452	pgseattle@q.com
2014-16	<i>Voter Services</i>	Julie Anne Kempf	206-329-4848	julie@kempf.com
2014-16	<i>Program</i>	Joan Lawson	206-329-4848	joanvlawson@gmail.com
2014-15	<i>Voter Editor</i>	Lisa Peterson	206-329-4848	votereditor@seattlelwv.org
2014-16	<i>Voter Services</i>	Amelia Woolley	206-329-4848	voterservice@seattlelwv.org

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

Education Fund Officers

2013-15	<i>President</i>	Ellen Barton	206-329-4848	president@seattlelwv.org
2014-15	<i>1st VP</i>	TBD	206-329-4848	
2013-15	<i>Secretary</i>	Amanda Clark	206-236-0517	amandac5@comcast.net
2013-15	<i>Treasurer</i>	Ginna Owens	206-215-1408	ginnao@earthlink.net

Nominating Committee

2014-15	<i>Co-chair</i>	Susan Jones	206-329-4848	susan@monckjones.com
2014-15	<i>Co-chair</i>	Jeannette Kahlenberg	206-329-4848	kahlenb@gmail.com
2014-15		Carol Goldenberg	206-329-4848	carolsamgo@q.com

Note: Two board members will be appointed to serve on the nominating committee in January.

Off Board Positions

Campaign Finance	Jean Carlson	206-774-6649	carlson.jean@gmail.com
KC South Liaison	Mary Ehlers	253-941-1930	maryehlers@comcast.net
CIS Coordinator	Cynthia Howe	206-236-0593	howe.john@comcast.net

Committees

<i>Economics & Taxation</i>	Jeanette Johnson		jeanettejohnson10@msn.com
<i>Education</i>	Joanna Cullen	206-329-8514	jfoxcullen@gmail.com
<i>International Relations</i>	see page 7		
<i>Social Justice</i>	Jayne Freitag	425-223-5827	mjafreitag@comcast.net
<i>Transportation</i>	Janet Winans	206-323-4825	janetwinans@earthlink.net

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Upcoming forum on September 4:

For election information:

**Early Childhood
Education**

More details in the next edition.



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