

The Voter

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

SUMMER 2017

VOL. 59, No. 1

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

by Cathy O'Shea, Membership Chair

Hello! I'm honored to be on the LWVS-KC Board and particularly as Membership Chair. I joined the League in January 2016 after an inspiring Action Workshop. I'm new to civic engagement in my life and I learn something new at each League activity. At AT&T, where I work, my focus has always been on project management in marketing and product development. Now I find myself working with Android apps! You never know where life will take you.

It is not lost on me that we are in a period of increasing membership, so my goal is to engage all members, whether you've been with League for a few months or a few or even many years. There are 750 of us now, and together, we are invincible. I look forward to continuing the new member events. The first, earlier in the spring, was very successful.

Many thanks to Becky Cox who has been wonderful in getting me up to speed. I look forward to consulting with her as we move forward in this new year. There is a wonderful team of people working on membership every week, Joan O'Reilly and Carol Goldenberg. They greet new members and keep all the records up to date!

Every August, our family made the pilgrimage to visit Grandma O'Shea. There was unlimited lemonade, ice cream, pool time, beach time,

and unconditional Grandma Love. This time became my New Year. In between summer book reading, I would plan the school calendar and my goals in sports, education, arts, family, and church. What did I want to look back on in June of the next year as accomplishments, experiences and growth?

League is on a similar schedule and summer is a good time to reflect on where each of us

want to be in terms of our civic engagement. Is it about learning, policy, the players, a new source for news? Put our forums and unit meetings on your calendar now. Do you want to go deeper and develop speaking points for the League on current initiatives? Recruit voters and increase voter education through candidate forums? Consider the various committees and

watch for volunteer opportunities. Do you see something missing, perhaps an observer corps or a committee on a new topic? The possibilities are endless and we're excited you're here.

I hope you have some great summer books, some light, some not. I hope you make plans for your civic engagement for fall and beyond. The league is here to help you learn, grow, laugh and Make Democracy Work. Have a great summer!



Members Judy Deiro and Sarah Phillips registering voters.

Contents

President's Message	3
Calendar	4
Forum Schedule.....	5
Board Briefs.....	5
Committees.....	6
King County Connects	
Internet Privacy Studies.....	7
Updates from State and National LWV	
Olympia and Our Washington.....	8
National News.....	8
Action	9
Voter Service.....	10
Membership News	
New/In Memoriam	11
Features	
League Lingo.....	13
Year End Wrap Up	15
Book Review	16
Unit Meetings.....	17
Board and Committee Contacts	19

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.

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Connecting with the Leadership

Welcome to Volume 59 of the *Voter*! It is an incredibly humbling honor to serve as your next President of the League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County—thank you for having the confidence in me to lead this great organization for the next two years. I follow in some very accomplished footsteps, and I am tremendously grateful to have the wisdom and experience of the women who came before me to guide me on this exciting journey.

This is a different League of Women Voters than it was a year ago. At our annual meeting in 2016, President Amanda Clark talked about how our membership had been seriously declining, and about the challenges of getting people to vote. Although the work of the League was as important as ever, it struggled to prove its relevance in a society that had become somewhat complacent about voting, democracy, and good government. Our once-powerful voice had been quieted to a whisper.

All that changed with the presidential election last November. In the months since then, our membership has increased by nearly 25% to approximately 700 members—making us one of the largest local Leagues in the nation.

And while we can attribute some of that increase to the outcome of the election, I'd like to think that it is also because of the collective realization that we still have a long way to go with respect to expanding voters' rights, getting out the vote, and educating voters. These activities are at the heart of the League of Women Voters, and we must continue to vigilantly and doggedly pursue them in the months ahead.

Another challenge in the months ahead will be to maintain the momentum that our new members have brought to us, and engage them in ways that are meaningful to them.

We've already gotten started: If you attended the inaugural Voices of Democracy Gala in May, you heard the incredibly energetic

Colleen Echohawk, Executive Director of the Chief Seattle Club, talk about the importance of resiliency and community. We now have an incredibly robust Social Justice Committee that is tackling difficult issues like youth incarceration, equal rights, and intersectionality.

Later this year, we're going to be refreshing the look of *The Voter*, and hopefully our website after that to make them more interactive and better reflect our dynamic organization. We'll also be partnering with King County Elections to ramp up our social media presence.

But in the midst of all of these changes and new developments, it's critical that the League doesn't forget its history. The thoroughness with which we study issues from all sides; the thoughtful and methodical analysis; the deliberate, careful way we reach our conclusions and make our endorsements ... These are all the hallmarks of the League of Women Voters, and if we lose these traditions, we lose everything that makes this such a special organization.

This is why our longtime members are so important. These members are the backbone of our organization, and it is their hard work and experience that gives the League its credibility. For those of you who have been with the League a long time, I hope you are as excited as I am by the direction we are headed and will share your knowledge with our newer members, whether it's by regularly attending a unit meeting, joining a committee, contributing to *The Voter*, or even just reaching out to another member to share your stories.

I always joke that one of the reasons I joined the League was so that I get to hear people call me a "younger" member of an organization. In my middle age, I don't get to hear that very often. But our newer members are truly the young ones, and they're very passionate, energetic, and motivated. They are represented on the board by nine newer members who I'm very excited to work with: Liz Bander; Carla Chavez; Bridget

Continued on page 14

July/August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July 23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	August 1 Primary Election Day	2	3 Civil Discourse Working Group 6:30 p.m.	4	5 Board Meeting 10:00 a.m.
6	7 Voter Deadline	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Education Comm. 11:00 a.m.	25	26 Econ. & Tax. Comm. 9:30 a.m.
27 Social Justice Comm. 3:00 p.m.	28	29	30	31	September 1	2

AUGUST

Civil Discourse Working Group
Thursday, August 3
6:30 p.m.
League Office

Board Meeting
Saturday, August 5
10:00 a.m.
League Office

The Voter Deadline
Monday, August 7

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

Econ. & Tax. Committee
Saturday, August 26
9:30 a.m.
909 E. Newton #D-9, Seattle

Social Justice Committee
Sunday, August 27
3:00 p.m.
League Office

SEPTEMBER

Forum: General Election Races
Thursday, September 7
7:00 p.m.
Seattle First Baptist Church

Board Meeting
Saturday, September 9
10:00 a.m.
League Office

The Voter Deadline
Monday, September 11

Forum Schedule

Sept 7 — General Election Races

Oct 5 — General Election Races

Nov 2 — TBD

Dec 7 — TBD

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 7:00 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 2017-18 appears at left; check the *Voter* each month or the LWVS-KC website, seattlelwv.org, for up-to-date information. Past forums are frequently televised and can be accessed from the resources page of the website.

Board Briefs by Katie Dudley, Secretary

The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County and Education Fund Boards met on July 1, 2017. This is a summary of their work.

The new board met for the first meeting of the 2017-2018 year on July 1. Notably, this was also the first endorsement meeting for new board members. After a nomination by president Stephanie Cirkovich, Barbra Chevalier was welcomed to the board.

In accordance with the inauguration of the new board, C4 Treasurer Linda Snider reminded everyone of their fiduciary duty to the League and the responsibility that they share to ensure the continued financial stability of the Seattle-King County League of Women Voters.

With Proposition 1 on the primary ballot this summer, Emily Dennis spoke to the board in favor of Access for All, a proposed small sales tax increase with inclusion and arts education in mind. After lengthy round table discussion, the board then discussed Proposition 1 at length but was unable to ultimately come to a decision in regard to whether to endorse the proposition. Abigail Doerr introduced the new board to the

forum calendar for the upcoming year as well as discussing what kind of event programming the League can expect in the coming year.

Liz Bander provided the board with input regarding social media, the website, and technology that the board uses, with the intent of improving the League's online presence and using social media effectively.

Barbra Chevalier discussed her hopes for the upcoming year, including volunteers who will be working on Voter Services as well as a new Ballots and Baristas event. Additionally, county-wide candidate forums will be required, given this year's election slate.

In the C3 meeting, the board discussed the end of the 2016-2017 fiscal year, though given the date of the meeting (7/1), the accounting for the prior year wasn't entirely complete.

Also discussed was the Leadership Luncheon. This year, instead of a luncheon, the event will be a tea at Horizon House.

Committees

Economics and Taxation Committee

DATE: Saturday, August 26

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: TBA

Education Committee

DATE: Thursday, August 24

TIME: 11:00 a.m.

PLACE: League Office

International Relations Committee

DATE:

TIME:

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

Next meeting in September

Social Justice Committee

DATE: Sunday, August 27

TIME: 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

PLACE: League Office

Transportation Committee

DATE:

TIME:

PLACE: League Office

Next meeting in September

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

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.

Diversity Policy

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

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

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

King County Connects — Announcements

Civil Discourse Working Group – Mary Coltrane, Chair

The Civil Discourse Working Group is an ad hoc committee working to present an event in which people with strongly differing views will come together to discuss health care reform. This event, Civil Discourse in Action: A Dialogue on Health Care Reform, will take place in the 8th Congressional District. We anticipate the event will occur sometime in the early fall.

We schedule meetings to accommodate the calendars of our group members; the meetings are always at 6:30 in the Seattle league office. The next meeting will be Thursday, August 3rd, where we will discuss questions and meeting structure.

If you would like to help with this project, or to know more about it, please e-mail me at Coltran_e@icloud.com. We can use help in outreach, which will involve contacting groups to develop our participant pool. And we'll also be looking for help at the event, e.g. event coordination and facilitators. So if you would like to hone your facilitation skills or develop new ones, or help with event logistics, please e-mail me and let's chat. Thanks!

JOIN US TO STUDY INTERNET PRIVACY

Our internet-dependent society means new opportunities to explore news, ideas, and relationships, but it also exposes us to privacy intrusions. Privacy issues can have serious impact on the education of our children, health care, employment opportunities, and voter participation.

Interest in internet privacy surged in Washington State and nationwide with the Federal Communications Commission proposed rules on privacy and net neutrality in October 2016. However, in March 2017 Congress repealed these new protections for neutrality and privacy. The repeal was strongly supported by internet service providers (ISPs) and data collection and advertising interests.

What this means to internet users is that ISPs can collect and sell data, including very personal information based on their browsing history. Issues needing resolution are those regarding what personal data should be protected and who should have control over that data.

Washington State legislators have responded, as have legislators in 25 other states, by proposing legislation that requires ISPs to obtain explicit written permission from customers before their browsing history can be sold. House Bill 2200, with 74 cosponsors from across the political spectrum, passed the House and will be continued in the next legislative session.

The League does not have a position on privacy. A study was proposed and passed at the LWVS-KC annual meeting and at the LWVWA state convention. Liz Bander will chair the LWVS-KC study, which will be limited to local issues and what local entities are doing. The state study will be more expansive and cover current laws concerning privacy as well as legislation pending in other states and privacy protections in the European Union.

You don't have to be a techie to join the study. Please contact Pat Griffith at pgseattle@q.com or Liz Bander at lizhill@outlook.com if you would like to join the study team.

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, whose work focuses on issues of state and national concern, respectively. Be sure to sign up for weekly email newsletters and/or visit their websites: www.lwvwa.org and www.lwv.org for the latest information.

Olympia and Our Washington

Convention '17 was very well received by the attendees! Thank you to all our local volunteers who helped make it a successful event. In addition to electing a board and setting a budget, five program items were adopted. Those will also need volunteers to be a success. The items are action on universal health care, update on behavioral health, a civic education effort on the state taxation system, follow-up action on I-735 (calls for constitutional amendment to overturn *Citizens United*), and internet privacy. If you are interested in working on any of these or want more details, please contact the LWVWA program chair at program@lwvwa.org.

Our action team continues to follow one of the longest legislative sessions in Washington and had the following to say about the budget:

Keeping the budget under wraps until the last moment, denying the public a full hearing of the details shows that legislators have become tone deaf to the rising calls for transparency in politics today. This is not good democracy. The League of Women Voters urges legislators to end the partisan battles and adopt a method of proposing a budget for the residents of Washington that would avoid this end-of-the-year showdown secrecy. There are other, more open and transparent, ways to run our state government.

At press time, the capital budget had not been passed and we await the Supreme Court's decision on whether the operating budget sufficiently addresses its ruling in *McCleary*.

National News

The "Elections Integrity Commission," set up to investigate the issue of alleged voter fraud has sent a request to all 50 states asking for information about each voter.

LWVUS President Chris Carson issued a press release stating: "There is no justification for this giant fishing expedition. The Commission itself is a distraction from the real issue of voter suppression, and that efforts to 'investigate voter fraud' threaten our most fundamental voting rights."

Washington Secretary of State Kim Wyman responded appropriately by sending the commission link to make a public information request. Our state's Public Records Act, which LWVWA played a lead role in crafting and getting passed, does require her to share that publicly available information such as name and address. Secretary Wyman has also stated that she will not share any private information such as Social Security or drivers license numbers, phone numbers or email addresses and language preferences. The Secretary is not alone in her response.

The League of Women Voters appreciates the Secretary's response and we urge you to call her office (360-902-4151) and thank Secretary Wyman for complying only with that part of the request that is covered by the Public Records Act and for refusing to disclose private information including Social Security numbers and language preference.

Action

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS REMAINS NEUTRAL ON ACCESS FOR ALL BALLOT MEASURE

The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County (LWVSKC) Board has carefully considered King County Proposition 1, also known as the “Access for All” measure, and recognizing both good and bad aspects of this measure, has decided to remain neutral on the matter. If passed on August 1, the measure would increase the sales tax by .1% to fund arts, culture, and science programs throughout King County.

“While the League of Women Voters generally supports arts education and community involvement in cultural activities, it firmly opposes a regressive tax structure that unfairly impacts low and middle-income families,” said Stephanie Cirkovich, LWVSKC President. “Unfortunately, the League Board could not reach consensus on whether the benefits of ‘Access for All’ outweighed the harms of enacting yet another regressive tax in King County.”

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS SUPPORTS THE SEATTLE INCOME TAX VOTE

The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County sent a letter to the Seattle City Council in support of the city income tax which included the following:

The League of Women Voters has long held that inequities in the distribution of the tax burden should be removed, and that ability to pay is an important criterion. As proponents of a state income tax, the League has repeatedly criticized Washington’s regressive tax system, which places the heaviest tax burden on those residents who are least able to pay, perpetuates inequality, and makes our region inhospitable to low- and middle-income families.

We recognize that a graduated income tax is likely to be challenged in court, based on precedent set in 1932. At that time, an initiative passed by 70% of state voters enacting a graduated net income tax was declared unconstitutional by a 5-4 decision of the State Supreme Court. The Court ruled that income was property and, according to the state constitution, all property must be taxed at the same rate. However, the League is hopeful that today’s State Supreme Court is likely to rule very differently than the bench did 85 years ago.

Voter Service

Ballot Summary: King County Proposition 1

Sales Tax for Cultural Access Program

Ballot Language:

The King County Council passes Ordinance No. 18513 to establish and fund a cultural access program. The program would expand access to arts, science, and heritage programming throughout King County. The program would include cultural education in schools and transportation to cultural venues for public school students. The program would also provide funding for cultural organizations to expand programming, including to serve diverse and underserved populations. The cultural access program, including administrative costs, would be funded by a county sales tax increase of one-tenth of one percent for seven years beginning January 1, 2018. Should this proposition be: _____ Approved or _____ Rejected?

Explanation:

King County would impose a sales tax increase of one-tenth of one percent, or XX per dollar, to provide funding for community-based cultural organizations to increase their programming and to make it more accessible to underserved populations. It would also provide funding for larger cultural organizations to offer free and reduced prices to their programs, as well as bring art, science, and cultural education to public schools, especially in rural areas. Schools would receive funds for transportation to programs at various venues and facilities.

The sales tax revenue would also be used for start-up funding and administrative expenses.

The program will have an advisory board, and the program administrator will report to the King County Council each year on the program, its finances, the number of people served, and the performance of the funded organizations.

Statements For	Statements Against
Public funding for arts and science education has been cut in half over the past decade, despite evidence that hands-on arts and science education improves a student's chances of success.	Now is not the time to impose another regressive tax on King County taxpayers.
This proposition provides funding for every school district in the County, with a priority on low-income schools.	This tax will disproportionately fall on low-income and working class taxpayers.
It will provide free school bus transportation to major institutions in the City, such as the Pacific Science Center, Museum of Flight, the Seattle Symphony	Higher priorities for our tax dollars are housing, homelessness, roads, and education.
It will allow these larger institutions to offer free or reduced admission to people on a fixed income, including seniors and people with disabilities.	Most of the money will subsidize large, well-funded organizations with wealthy patrons, which do not need the money.
At an estimated \$30 per year for an average household, it will improve equity and expand access to important arts, science, and heritage activities for students and families.	An unelected board, which lacks accountability, would control half a billion dollars of taxes.

Getting Connected Membership News

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

The following are among our newest members:

Anne Udaloy
 Anna Black
 Tahla Bowen
 Tema Nesoff
 Heather Kelly
 Harriette Blye
 Susan Nevins
 Denice Carnahan
 Crystal Fewtrell
 Ruth Beckett
 Mary O'Loughlin
 Mary Kay Lanier
 Nan Cohen
 Kathleen Gregg
 Molly Morse
 Maureen Brinck-Lund
 Jo Evans
 Chris Christensen
 Christine Zenner

If you know someone on this list, welcome them and invite them to your unit, forum, committee meeting or another activity.

IN MEMORIAM, DOROTHY SWARTZ

Long time League member Dorothy Swartz passed away unexpectedly on June 9. A steadfast member of the Mercer Island unit, she attended unit meetings as long as she could. She always had interesting insights and worthwhile comments.

Dorothy was a great-great granddaughter of Charles and Agnes Olds, the first family to settle and stay on Mercer Island back in 1884. She was born March 12, 1957, in Seattle to David and Betty (Wolfe) Garrison. A Mercer Island resident for most of her life, she grew up at Appleton on East Mercer Way, and was a 1975 graduate of Mercer Island High School.

A graduate of the University of Washington, Dorothy was an R.N., working in hospitals and hospice programs. She was very active in the community, not only in the League of Women Voters, but also in PTA and as a youth soccer coach. For years she was a regular sight alongside Mercer Island roads, first on her bicycle, riding with her husband, Geoff, then on a tricycle, and finally on her electric tricycle. She had an amazing positive attitude that kept her going even as the Multiple Sclerosis slowed her body down. A fellow League member, Rivian Smith, who volunteered as a bus driver for Senior Social Services, remembered her like this: "Dorothy was a lovely person who always greeted me with a smile, and even though she was in a wheel chair, she always insisted on transferring to the bus seat without any help from me."

Dorothy and her husband, Geoff, were the parents of four daughters, Laura Regan, Sarah Simmons, Tanya Brown, and Jessica Swartz. She was thrilled to have two wonderful grandchildren, Izzy Simmons and Chuck Regan.

A memorial service has been held.

Know someone who always has questions about government and elections? Offer them a League membership so that they can get all our information first hand!

Join the League!

Take part in informed discussions of the issues facing our communities. Members automatically receive the VOTER, either in print or electronically, for the latest updates on current studies and action, monthly forums, committee activities, voter registration, and other volunteer opportunities. In addition, members receive action alerts about legislation in Olympia and Washington, D.C., as well as publications from the state League.

League membership is open to men and women.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Dues and contributions:

- \$75 one year individual membership
- \$110 one year household membership
- \$40 low or fixed income
- \$35 student
- Enclosed is a contribution of \$ _____

Please make your check payable to LWVS-KC and return with this form or go online to www.seattlelwv.org/membership.

Membership dues and contributions are not tax deductible; however, eligible tax deductible contributions may be made to the LWVS-KC Education Fund.

Thank you for supporting the work of the LWV!

Please return this form to:
League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County
1620 18th Avenue, Suite 101
Seattle, WA 98122-7007



Celebrating 97 years of educating voters, improving elections, and making democracy work!

Features

LEAGUE LINGO

There are certain terms that are unique to the League of Women Voters. Some of these terms can be ambiguous or confusing to new members. Here is a list of some of these terms to help new members and to remind other members of what some of these terms mean.

ACTION: Promoting the League's positions on local, state, and national public policy issues to government officials, the media, and the public.

ACTION ALERT: Request from the LWVUS or the state League to take action in support of a League position.

ANNUAL MEETING: Local year-end business meeting to elect officers and directors, vote on bylaw changes, and adopt a budget and program of work for the next year.

CONSENSUS: Collective opinion of a substantial number of League members, representative of the membership as a whole, after objective study of an issue.

CONCURRENCE: Agreement by League members with a position on an issue reached by a small group of members or by another League.

CONVENTION: A state or national League meeting held every other year at which delegates elect officers and directors for the biennium, adopt program, make bylaw changes, and adopt a budget, usually for one year. Local Leagues send delegates to state convention, and local and state Leagues send delegates to national convention.

COUNCIL: An assembly of delegates held in alternate years to adopt a budget and assess program developments. Local Leagues send delegates to state council, and state Leagues send delegates to national council.

EDUCATION FUND: The tax-deductible arm of national, state and large local Leagues, handling funds to be used only for educational purposes, not for action on issues.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBER: A person who has been a member for 50 years or more. Life members are excused from dues payment and their Leagues pay no per member payment (PMP) for them.

ILO: Acronym for an Inter-League Organization, formed by local Leagues within a county, metropolitan area or region to act on issues that are beyond the local League area in scope.

PMP: Acronym for Per Member Payment, the amount of money paid to the LWVUS and the state League on behalf of each member.

POSITION: A statement of the League's point of view on an issue, arrived at through member study and agreement (consensus or concurrence), approved by the appropriate board and used as

a basis for League action.

PRINCIPLES: Governmental standards and policies supported by the League as a whole. They constitute the authorization for adoption of program at all levels.

PROGRAM: Selected governmental issues chosen by members at the local, state and national levels for study and action.

PROGRAMS: Plans for speakers, discussion, or other activities for League meetings.

UNIT: Groupings of members within large local Leagues to provide more opportunity for discussion. Units may be time-oriented (day, evening, lunch hour), geographically oriented, or both. A member can attend any unit meeting.

VOTERS GUIDE: Nonpartisan publication giving candidates' qualifications and positions on selected issues.

VOTER SERVICE: Year-round activity to help citizens be politically effective and to encourage their participation in the political process. Registering voters, presenting factual, nonpartisan information on election issues, and sponsoring candidate forums are basic voter service activities.

VOTING MEMBERS: All League members who are at least 16 years old.

Leadership continued:

Kruszka; Cathy O'Shea; Janna Rinker; Anastasia Samuelson; Melissa Taylor; Alyssa Weed; and Christy Wood. They have already brought new energy and so many fresh and creative ideas to our organization.

They join six other board members who are established members of the League. These are women who understand the League's history and traditions and generously share their wisdom with all of us: Abigail Doerr, Katie Dudley, Pat Griffith, Kiku Hayashi, Zara Kublin, and Linda Snider. I'm very grateful to have their wise counsel, and the counsel of Allison Feher, who herself is a former League President and

does a wonderful job of keeping us organized.

Together, this team is building a bridge between the League's past and its future, and at a very pivotal time in the League's history. I could not be more proud to be a part of it, and I look forward to working with you, getting to know you, and most of all, sharing with you the joy of belonging to this great organization.

Thank you for everything you do to promote democracy in King County and beyond!

Stephanie Cirkovich
President

YEAR END WRAP UP

by Amanda Clark

Two events rounded out the end of our 2017 fiscal year: our Annual Meeting in May and the State Convention of the LWVWA, which the LWVS-KC hosted.

The Annual Meeting is our business meeting, where we come together to make decisions that affect the following year: We approve the C3 and C4 budgets, determine the program for the coming year, and elect new officers and directors to the Board. At this meeting, past president Amanda Clark handed over the reins to the incoming president, Stephanie Cirkovich, who introduced her plans for the coming year.

A highlight of the Annual Meeting is the giving of the Carrie Chapman Catt Award to a member who has made significant contributions to the League over many years, often an unsung hero who quietly served in many roles without expecting a reward. Such was the case of this year's recipient, Laura Weese, who has contributed much to the various committees she has served on, and who helps out whenever she can, whether helping individuals or broader League aims. It's always a pleasure to see the look on an unsuspecting recipient's face when it finally dawns on her that the accomplished person being talked about is—her!

State Convention

A League's state convention is, like the local League's annual meeting, a business meeting, where new officers and directors are elected, the program is determined, and studies may

be adopted. But it's more than just a business meeting. There are a number of interesting workshops, late evening caucuses for those interested in pursuing various issues, and meal times with fascinating speakers.

All the speakers at this year's convention brought insights into different areas of government. The speakers at the two evening banquets were especially enlightening: the first, Washington's "rock star" Solicitor General, Noah Purcell, told the fascinating story of how the Attorney General's office worked to nullify President Trump's travel ban on people from some Muslim majority countries. To be ready for court, and team worked 24/7 for a week. The other speaker, Sahar Fathi, is a Director of Leadership in the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods. She talked about the difference between equality and equity—they are not the same thing. A simple example she gave, but one important analogies is: imagine a line of people of different heights standing behind a tall fence. So they can watch what's on the other side of the fence, everyone is given a one-foot-tall box to stand on. But the six-footer may not need the box, while the shortest person may need an even higher box. This is equal but not equitable. Fathi argues that we need to look more closely at equity in society.

Many people commented on the workshops about legislative redistricting in Washington State. While we may think our system is much more equitable than many other states' gerrymandering ways—and it is better—it's far from perfect. League recommendations for changes will be announced later in the fall.

BOOK REVIEW by Vicky Downs

LIFE REIMAGINED: THE SCIENCE, ART AND OPPORTUNITY OF MIDLIFE

By Barbara Bradley Hagerty

NPR correspondent Barbara Bradley Hagerty uses scientific research in biology, psychology, and neuroscience to help show us how to live long, healthy, and happy lives. Using her own experience and insightful analyses and memories, she shows how science plays out in real life.

She says the concept of a “midlife crisis” is a misnomer. “Researchers today who have examined people across their life spans, peered inside their brains, uncoiled their hopes and fears and observed how they deal with love and alienation, trauma and death, good and evil; say that midlife is about renewal, and not crisis.”

In fact, themes in this book seem appropriate to all ages, not just to midlife. Hagerty shows that exercise, for example, is important for the brain as well as the rest of the body. Regular exercise helps “preserve brain tissue . . . increase the size of the prefrontal cortex, [the part of the brain] that allows us to plan and set goals . . . improve one’s memory [and] even physically changes our brain.”

Altruism turns out to be “deeply wired in us and is essential for survival.” When we perform acts of generosity, our levels of oxytocin tend to increase. The author quotes research saying that the way to increase altruism is to “exercise it like a muscle.” Helping people creates happy interactions, which in turn “prompts [us] to more acts of altruism [leading to] a virtuous circle.”

Empathy is also hard wired in us. Researchers visited homes to see “how young children respond to family members’ emotions.” When adult family members were “instructed to cry, sob or choke . . . the children responded—and so did the pets.” The children tended to move closer to the adults who were seemingly

in distress. When researchers yawned in the presence of dogs, “the dogs yawned back nearly three quarters of the time—much more than humans.” Fake yawning did not fool dogs! Like our pets yawning along with us, empathy exists when we identify with the feelings, thoughts, and attitudes of others. It is normal and we improve our own lives as well as others when we use it.

Hagerty tells us, however, when “doctors distanced themselves, patients responded at the molecular level.” Distancing might be normal, but it is unhelpful for the patient. Clearly, finding an empathic doctor is important for everyone.

Most of us love our routines, which allow us to relax into autopilot. However, it seems that finding or developing a purpose in life is especially important in our later years. It is worth the effort to get off autopilot and find a “hobby that stretches your brain and gives you something to look forward to each day or week.” It need not be something grand, “but a little purpose in life” can make a huge difference to each of us.

Hagerty shares research regarding those “who can control their impulses, who are dependable and goal oriented.” These people “had 89 percent lower risk of developing symptoms of Alzheimer’s than the least conscientious people.” But the “big surprise—almost magic bullet—is purpose in life.” People leading a purpose-filled life find each day meaningful and look forward to the next day well into their eighties and nineties.

Barbara Bradley Hagerty helps us find ways to live more deeply and to more fully enjoy continuing on our life’s path.

Unit Meetings

League unit meetings (small discussion groups) generally do not meet during the summer and will resume in September. The exception is the First Hill Unit which will meet on Monday, August 14 at 10:30 a.m. at Horizon House, 900 University St, Seattle.

Check the September *Voter*, which will come out in late August, or contact the unit leader for the location, date, and time of upcoming meetings. 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.

Daytime Units:

BALLARD/MAGNOLIA/QUEEN ANNE DAY – Janet Anderson
janetranderson@msn.com, 206-285-2460

BELLEVUE/KIRKLAND/REDMOND – Cathy O’Shea
coshea120@gmail.com, 425-753-4182

FIRST HILL – Adele Reynolds
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ISSAQUAH DAY – Margaret Austin
margaret.austin@comcast.net, 425-392-5760

MERCER ISLAND - Cynthia Howe
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NORTH CENTRAL SEATTLE– Jan Orlando
orlanre@aol.com, 206-524-0936

NORTH EAST SEATTLE – Gail Winberg
winbergeng@Q.com, 206-524-7801

SOUTHEAST KING COUNTY/ENUMCLAW - Cathy Dormaier
lcathy@skynetbb.com, 360-802-6799

UNIVERSITY HOUSE/WALLINGFORD
info@seattlelwv.org, 206-329-4848

WEST SEATTLE – Ethel Williams & Pat Lane
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pgblain11@gmail.com, 206-932-1578

Evening Units:

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

DOWNTOWN/PIONEER SQUARE – Carla Chavez
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NORTH KING COUNTY – Judy Deiro
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QUEEN ANNE/MAGNOLIA/BALLARD EVENING – Kathy Pugh & Marlis Worthington
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SOUTHEND SEATTLE – Marian Wolfe & Vivian Montoya
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SOUTHWEST KING COUNTY – Kathy Jorgensen
kjorgensen@juno.com, 253-859-8349

Board & Committee Contacts

Term	Executive Committee			
2017-19	<i>President</i>	Stephanie Cirkovich	206-329-4848	president@seattlelwv.org
2016-18	<i>1st VP - Action</i>	Pat Griffith	206-285-2452	pgseattle@q.com
2017-19	<i>2nd VP - Program</i>	Abigail Doerr	206-329-4848	abigail.doerr@gmail.com
2017-19	<i>Secretary</i>	Katie Dudley	206-329-4848	kate.c.dudley@gmail.com
2016-18	<i>Treasurer</i>	Linda Snider	206-329-4848	treasurer@seattlelwv.org
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2017-19	<i>Technology</i>	Liz Bander	206-478-7335	lizhill@outlook.com
2017-19	<i>Development</i>	Carla Chavez	206-329-4848	carla.chavez.board@gmail.com
2017-18	<i>Voter Service</i>	Barbra Chevalier	425-445-2281	barbra.n.chevalier@gmail.com
2016-18	<i>Development</i>	Kiku Hayashi	206-329-4848	kikuhayashi1@gmail.com
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2017-19	<i>Voter Service</i>	Bridget Kruszka	716-783-2407	bkruszka3@gmail.com
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2017-19	<i>Outreach & Events</i>	Janna Rinker	206-329-4848	janna.rinker@gmail.com
2017-19	<i>Action</i>	Anastasia Samuelson	206-329-4848	anastasia606@gmail.com
2017-19	<i>Outreach & Events</i>	Melissa Taylor	206-329-4848	melissataylor.lwvskc@gmail.com
2017-19	<i>Program</i>	Alyssa Weed	206-329-4848	afweed1@gmail.com

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

Education Fund Officers - same as above except Treasurer

2017-19	<i>Treasurer</i>	Christy Wood	206-707-3845	eftreasurer@seattlelwv.org
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Nominating Committee

2017-18	<i>Chair</i>	Amanda Clark	206-236-0517	amandac5@comcast.net
2017-18		Amelia Woolley	206-329-4848	woolleyamelia@gmail.com
2017-18		Judy Love	206-329-4848	judysteveL@gmail.com

Off Board Positions

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

<i>Economics & Taxation</i>	Nora Leech		nleech2002@yahoo.com
<i>Education</i>	Joanna Cullen	206-329-8514	jfoxcullen@gmail.com
<i>International Relations</i>	Carol Goldenberg		carolsamgo1@gmail.com
<i>Transportation</i>	Abigail Doerr		abigail.doerr@gmail.com
<i>Social Justice</i>	Nikki Hurley		nhurley1009@gmail.com
<i>Social Justice</i>	Melissa Taylor		melissataylor.lwvskc@gmail.com
<i>Waterfront</i>	Nancy & Charles Bagley	206-282-1578	candnbagley@comcast.net

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August 1 - Primary Election Day!

Don't forget to return your ballot by Tuesday, August 1 at 8:00 p.m.

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