



The Voter

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State Convention 2013

by Amanda Clark, Secretary

Positions, non-recommended programs, resolutions, studies, toolkits, and more, oh, my! As a relative newcomer to the League, and a complete greenhorn to the Board, the 2013 Convention was a whirlwind of motions and debates but by the final session it was clear that we had worked toward setting some goals and priorities. These included allowing local leagues to move forward on educating their members and the public on gun safety and campaign finance.

To me the most interesting and meaningful part of the Convention was the final session on resolutions, where local leagues propose actions for the state League to take. These resolutions were seriously debated - both in the wording, to make sure they were clear and unambiguous, and in their intent. The four resolutions that passed represent the best of the League: recommendations for non-partisan, well-reasoned positions based on evidence, not emotions.

One of the breakout sessions I attended was "How to Win Friends (for the LWV) and Influence Public Policy." One thing to remember is that we already have a lot of friends because of our reputation for knowledge and fairness. If people see us doing good things, they will want to join us, so visibility is important.

Because of the League's credibility, we can reach out to groups such as Rotary or Kiwanis in ways that more one-sided organizations can't, and we can sponsor activities with such potential allies. Caveat: If we co-sponsor events or have our logo on a web site, we must

be sure that the League's reputation isn't compromised. There are rules to follow to ensure that we treat all groups equitably and within the League's guidelines.

But the real trick is finding new friends in unexpected places. One example is in Kitsap County, where League members persuaded clinics and medical offices to let them speak to patients in waiting rooms to sign petitions asking the county government to offer coverage for some specific items that are covered in most other counties.

It's not easy to find these new opportunities, but there are a couple of ways to look for them: Think about smaller issue opportunities, where the intersection of your interests with another's may be on one small issue, rather than on all philosophical views. And finally, think about what the League can offer to others, rather than what you want from them.

Read more about convention on pages 12-15.



Primary Election Info is Now Available on Vote411.org!

Type in your address to receive information about the candidates and issues that will be on your ballot. Thanks to a stalwart team, all races in Washington are covered. Please share this valuable resource with friends, family, and neighbors!

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Connecting with the Leadership

Greetings: Thank you for choosing me as your president to help guide us through the next two years. I look forward to meeting every one of you! I will do my best to map out a future which expands our influence while respecting our past.

Strategic Planning: As you may already know, your Board is moving forward with a strategic planning process to determine where to focus our energy and efforts over the next two years. We requested input from our members and intend to finalize a plan at our Board retreat in August. We are doing this at the same time as both State and National Leagues are focusing on growing membership by increased visibility, partnering with other organizations, seeking out new methods of fundraising, and embracing all forms of communication.



“The Presidents”

Our Strengths: People want to hear what we think. They rely upon us for fact-based, unbiased positions, which are based upon an in-depth study of the issues and reached after consensus. A recent poll conducted by National League found that people ranked us as trustworthy as their mothers! When we speak, people listen.

Challenges: The belief by many that the League of Women Voters is either no longer necessary or no longer relevant is simply wrong. League has unique attributes that make it relevant today and in the future. It is because of who we are and because we have credibility that we have been able to accomplish so much. The issues of today are often the same issues faced in the past: Voting rights, reproductive freedom, the environment, gun safety, and the gender pay gap.

National Council: I recently returned from National Council, where I met many amazing

people and learned a lot about what Leagues are doing around the country. I heard about campaigns against efforts to disenfranchise voters in Wisconsin and Florida.ⁱ I also heard about the power of League to change the conversation. One example was what happened after the airing of the advertisements regarding the votes against the Clean Air Act in the U.S. Senate. You may recall that these ads were aired just prior to the State Convention in 2011 and caused a great deal of controversy.ⁱⁱ I was told at Council that

the commercials effectively changed the conversation from one about jobs vs. the environment, to one about public health. While these ads were controversial, it shows the effect we can have on the debate.

I am ready to move us forward and would love to hear your ideas about where we should go. You may write to me at president@seattlelwv.org or to *The Voter* editor at votereditor@seattlelwv.org.

Ellen Barton
President

ⁱFor laughs, Google “Florida LWV and The Daily Show.”

ⁱⁱTo find these ads Google “clean air ads LWV.”

August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July 28	29	30	31	August 1	2	3 Board Retreat
4	5 Int'l Relations Committee 12:45 p.m. Voter Deadline	6 PRIMARY ELECTION	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 Transportation Committee 10:00 a.m.	21	22 Education Committee 10:30 a.m.	23	24 Economics & Tax Committee 9:30 a.m.
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
September 1	2 LABOR DAY	3	4	5 League Drinks 6:00 p.m. Forum: Ballot Measures 7:30 p.m.	6	7

JULY

Economics & Taxation
Committee
Saturday, July 27
9:30 a.m.
League Office

International Relations
Committee
Monday, August 5
12:45-2:45 p.m.
League Office

Education Committee
Thursday, August 22
10:30 a.m.
League Office

SEPTEMBER

League Drinks
Thursday, September 5
6:00 p.m.
Jimmy Z's on Broadway

AUGUST

Board Retreat
Saturday, August 3
9:00 a.m.
Offsite

The Voter Deadline
Monday, August 5

Transportation Committee
Tuesday, August 20
10:00 a.m.
League Office

Economics & Taxation
Committee
Saturday, August 24
9:30 a.m.
909 E. Newton, # D-9, Seattle

Forum: Ballot Measures
Thursday, September 5
7:30 p.m.
Seattle First Baptist Church

Forum Schedule

September 5 - Ballot Measures

October 3 - General Election

November 7 - Climate Change

December 6 - No Forum

January 9 - Program Planning

February 6 - TBA

March 6 - Women's Issues

April 3 - TBA

May 1 - TBA

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 in other locations and times. The tentative schedule of upcoming forums for 2013-2014 appears at left; check *The Voter* each month or the LWVS-KC website, seattlelwv.org, for up-to-date information.

Board Briefs by Joanna Cullen, Secretary

The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County Board met on Saturday, June 8, 2013. This is a summary of their work.

This was the last meeting of the 2012-13 Board and many of the new members of 2013-14 Board joined them following the business portion of the meeting. The Board presented a gift of appreciation to President Judy Bevington for her service as Board President.

Appointments

The LWVS-KC Board approved a motion to appoint Ed Fund (c-3) Board members Carol Burton and Lisa Unsoeld-Chang Chang to the LWVS-KC (c-4) Board.

Endorsements

Public Financing of Seattle City Council Candidates The motion to consider the public financing of Seattle City Council candidate campaigns was tabled. Board members determined that there was no measure to endorse until the Seattle City Council votes later in June on exactly what will go on the ballot. It is thought likely that the Council will pass such a measure to be placed on the ballot and members of the League

have testified encouraging them to do so. This measure will not be on the primary ballot and the League will have time to consider it before the November election.

King County Parks Levy The Board of the LWVS/KC voted to support the measure commonly known as the King County Parks Levy, with expression of concerns about the method of financing operations and general maintenance of King County Parks. *See the full text of the endorsement on page 8.*

Voter Services

Voter Services Chair Cyndi Woods reported that elections in all jurisdictions across Washington State will be included in the League's Vote411 online voter pamphlet. She also invited all to attend a Voter Registration training on June 20th at 5:30 p.m. Voter Services Chair Julie Anne Kempf reported that she was exploring various opportunities to co-sponsor primary election mayoral forums. Kempf also highlighted how

much she enjoyed working with the Rainier Vista Boys and Girls Club on a mayoral forum.

Program

Program Chair Beatrice Crane reported results of the unit discussions for campaign finance reform and the result of the State study on Conservation Districts.

Other Topics

Current Board members were asked to speak to what they wished they knew before joining the LWVS-KC, and new members were asked to express what they hoped to accomplish as Board members.

Members reviewed the Annual Meeting. Changes to the bylaws, the new budget, and direction to the Board were highlighted. Members also noted that having no new studies proposed was unusual.

Strategic Planning

Mary Jo Vigil presented the outline for updating the LWVS-KC Strategic Plan. The process will evaluate perceived strengths of, weaknesses of, opportunities for, and threats to the organization through a set of exercises for Units, Committees, and the Board. The review of the final document will be completed by the end of June 2013 and ready for a day of facilitation, at the retreat, on August 3.

Diversity Policy

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

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

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

Committees

Meetings can sometimes be subject to last minute changes. Call the LWVS-KC Office at 206-329-4848 to confirm.

Economics And Taxation Committee

DATE: Saturday, July 27

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: League Office

and

DATE: Saturday, August 24

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

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

Education Committee

DATE: Thursday, August 22

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION: League Office

We will be planning our calendar for the coming year.

International Relations Committee

DATE: Monday, August 5

TIME: 12:45 – 2:45 p.m.

PLACE: League Office

Call the League Office to confirm that this meeting will take place.

Transportation Committee

DATE: Tuesday, August 20

TIME: 10:00 – 12:00

PLACE: League Office

Subject: Organizing ourselves for Action

Speaker: Legislative organizer from Transportation Choices Coalition

We encourage participation by all interested members in our committees. Its 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 in a more informal manner without regularly scheduled meetings. If not, we may be able to help connect you with like-minded people to 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

Action News - For the Primary Election

The Board of the LWV Seattle-King County voted to support the measure commonly known as the King County Parks Levy, with expression of concerns about the method of financing operations and general maintenance of King County Parks. The LWVS-KC believes that parks are a critical part of a County's core infrastructure and that operations and general maintenance should be funded through the general fund. Recognizing King County's budget challenges, along with past decisions to separate funding for parks from the general fund and to require parks to self-generate funds through fees and approved special levies, the LWVS-KC is endorsing the 2013 King County Park levy as a temporary measure to ensure that public parks remain available for use by the public and are properly maintained.

LWVS-KC positions strongly support full funding of public parks. However, the LWV does not support the use of special levies to fund the parks system on a permanent basis.

Volunteers wanted!

Are you interested in:

Gun Security?
Campaign Finance Reform?
Current Election Issues?

Then we want you! We are doing research and preparing materials on all of the above and we could use your help. If you are interested, please contact the office and we will connect you to the person coordinating the issue.



Check your Email!

Every week we hear about action in D.C., local events, changes to our current activities and more. We want to be able to bring you that information in time to use it - so reading *The Voter* is good, but it's not enough. Watch for our weekly emails for the latest news.

If you don't get email from us, please call the office and make sure we have your correct address - 23% of you don't have an email address on file.

WHAT'S NEW WITH THE LWVS EDUCATION FUND?

BOOTS WINTERSTEIN, PRESIDENT 2012-13

At the May 16, 2013 Annual Meeting of the Education Fund, several changes were approved.

A. In the Bylaws and the Articles of Incorporation, the name of the Education Fund was changed to League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County Education Fund, making the name and geographical scope of the Fund consistent with that of the League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County.

B. In response to recommendations from the LWVS-KC Financial Review Committee, several changes mark the approved 2013-14 LWVS-KC Education Fund budget, reflecting the increasing importance of the Education Fund to the support of the education and voter service activities of the LWVS-KC:

Major fundraising events now have their "home" in the Education Fund, making it easier for those who wish to support the education and voters service activities of the League with tax-deductible contributions to do so.

The Leadership Circle, the League's pledge program, will now be a part of the Education Fund budget.

Half of the Per-Member-Payments (PMPs) to the LWVUS will be paid from the Education Fund.

And, of course, the contributions from the Education Fund to the LWVS-KC in support of its education and voter service activities will be commensurately higher.

C. Responding to increased responsibilities, the Education Fund membership elected an expanded Board of Directors, whose composition and meeting schedule will be patterned on the current, successful model of the state League's Education Fund.

The 2013-14 Board of Directors will include, in addition to the minimum number of members required by the Education Fund Bylaws (three LWVS-KC representatives--President, Voters Service Chair, and Program Chair-- and four elected directors), all members of the Board of Directors of the LWVS-KC, with the exception of the treasurer. The Education Fund treasurer, will, as required by the LWVS-KC Education Fund bylaws, be neither a director nor treasurer of the LWVS-KC.

It is expected that the Education Fund Board will meet on the same day as the Board of LWVS-KC, thus minimizing numbers of meeting days for those on both boards and maximizing alignment of vision and goals.

D. Remaining a separately incorporated and IRS-designated 501 (c) (3) organization, the Education Fund's specific reporting and financial relationship to the LWVS-KC, as spelled out in the Fund bylaws, is unchanged.

Also unchanged is its purpose of supporting the education and voter services activities of the LWVS-KC, enhancing the League's capacity to serve the residents of King County and beyond. To that end, the Education Fund board will remain a diligent and careful steward of the tax-deductible contributions entrusted to it.

2013-14 will likely be a transition year for the board, learning how best to operate in a changing environment. As always, observations and suggestions from the membership are welcomed!

(Additional note: Quite separate from the changes noted above, we will also, in conjunction with the state League, be studying the possibility—including legalities and pros and cons—of organizational reconfiguration between the League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County and the LWVS-KC Education Fund, as has been done by a few Leagues elsewhere. In the current climate, members can be assured, the study will be cautious and thorough. Stay tuned!)

2013 ANNUAL MEETING REPORT BY JOANNA CULLEN

During the May 16 Annual Meeting, the LWVS-KC reviewed and reaffirmed 2012-2013 activities, amended the bylaws, established the League program for the coming year, adopted a budget, elected officers, directors and a nominating committee, and gave direction to the Board.

The Articles of Incorporation were updated to include King County as part of the name of LWVS-KC. This was a housekeeping action.

The proposed bylaw changes that appeared in the Annual Meeting Workbook were amended to require six elected directors, a first vice president, a second vice president, a treasurer and a secretary to make up the Board of LWVS-KC who will meet a minimum of six times a year. The original proposed change was to reduce the required number of elected directors from eight to four and the number of minimum of meetings from nine to four. The proposed change to the number of members from seven to five serving on the Nominating Committee was approved.

There were no new program items this year, meaning no new studies were adopted.

2013 CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT AWARD

The following are introductory remarks by Kelly Powers at the presentation of the Carrie Chapman Catt Award at the LWVS-KC Annual Meeting.

I met Nancy Bagley, this year's recipient of the Carrie Chapman Catt award, when we worked together on a study. I whipped out my iPod and showed her how to use it to time our interviews and she was off and running.

Traveling to our interviews, we bonded as we talked about our commitment to public education and how challenging that ideal is when your own kids are involved. She shared her experiences with her two boys -- and now her grandchild - in the neighborhood Seattle Public

In honor of many contributions to the League, Nancy Bagley was presented with the Carrie Chapman Catt Award and the new 50-year members were recognized. [*See their bios on page 22.*]

Cafe Stellina Catering again worked with the League to provide a delicious dinner at cost. Ruthie Dornfeld played a little violin music. Roberta Goodnow presented information on and encouraged all to join the Leadership Circle fundraising effort.

President Judy Bevington highlighted many of the accomplishments of the year and opportunities for the LWVS-KC in the future. President-elect Barton then outlined her vision of the strategic planning process as an opportunity for members to decide what they want and to determine a primary focus for the future. She pledged to do her best to take League in the direction that members want it to go, while at the same time ensuring its continued viability.

Schools, and I shared my experiences with my two girls.

Given her work on the Education Committee, it is not surprising that she and her husband are unfailingly supportive of public education and child welfare. She has served on the Board of Directors of the Children's Alliance, a statewide advocacy group for children, youth, and families. She and her husband make time for nitty gritty campaigning. They roll up their sleeves and phone bank for the school levies with a gen-



Nancy Bagley

tle, persuasive touch. They make it look easy.

She has served the Seattle League in so many ways. She has been on the Board in one capacity or another from 1977 to 1985, including as President from 1983-85, and Program Director. She has served on the State board as well. She is a dedicated, effective League Leader.

It was surprising to learn the depth of her interest and experience in natural resources, land use, and energy -- she chaired each of those committees at some point. She was very active working against the Takings legislation that would have rolled back environmental, health, and safety regulations.

Special League projects she has worked on include the recent Fostering Teaching Effectiveness study and the Downtown Task Force in the 80s which tackled development issues such as zoning, building heights, neighborhood preservation, the central waterfront, and transportation planning. She worked on the Hazardous Waste Management study, and she organized the League's Regional Resource Management Issues for the Columbia River System.

After serving on the League Board, she worked for Leaguer Astrid Berg as the Co-Director of

the Environmental Health Programs for the American Lung Association, with a particular interest in indoor air quality, which is also of great interest to our League.

The Governor appointed her to the Washington State Energy Advisory Council. She advised Seattle City Light, the Mayor, and City Council on electrical rates as a member of the Citizens Rate Advisory Committee. She also worked on low-income housing policy as well as global perspectives on renewable energy.

This past fall, the Education Committee wrapped up a study and several forums and some school levy campaigns. We were tired and needed a break. Nancy starting making calls asking the committee to reconvene to take a look at the upcoming Seattle Public Schools Operations and Capital levies. She persuaded us to consider whether or not to recommend endorsement. We did, and then she presented the school levy to the Seattle-King County League Board and asked for their endorsement. Her persistent, positive approach was successful and has re-energized the Education Committee.

You can see that she is a leader who actively works to make her local community, her state, and her world a better, fairer place for all -- and on a broad range of issues.

She has a disarming leadership style that's a combination of authoritative with a lot of heart. When she asks "What do you think?" she really means it.

She's so humble, she's probably thinking "I didn't know there was another League member who was a former French teacher who hails from Minnesota and is interested in electricity rates."

It is with pleasure that the LWVS-KC presents the 2013 Carrie Chapman Catt award to Nancy Bagley.

Notes from State Convention - June 2013

Convention Highlights

by Allison Feher

Almost two dozen members of our local league attended the biannual League of Women Voters of Washington (LWVWA) state convention this June including: Your incoming/continuing board members, Ellen Barton, Amanda Clark, Beatrice Crane, Joanna Cullen, Susan Jones, Julie Anne Kempf, Marianne Scholl, Lisa Unsoeld-Chang, and Janet Winans; state board members Glenda Carper, Becky Cox, Ginna Owens, and Kathy Sakahara; members Mary Ehlers, Allison Feher, Raelene Gold, Judy Ostrow, Toni Potter, Denise Smith; and of course, **Linnea Hirst** - outgoing state League president who we thank for her four years of excellent leadership!

Convention was a nice mix of business, social time and education as you can see from the articles written by a few of our delegates.

Here are some additional highlights:

LWVWA will be developing two “toolkits,” which will serve local leagues in presenting public education forums and materials on both gun security issues and campaign finance reform. In addition, we adopted a study on the effectiveness of our state’s current campaign finance laws.

Lucy Steers, longtime member and past local and state League president was presented with the Dorothy Roberts Award for her many contributions to League.

There were workshops on everything from legislative action, to tips for board members, and social media and technology strategies, as well

as membership development, civics education, and Vote411.

Many of the handouts and resources used at convention are available to members on the state League website: www.lwvwa.org.

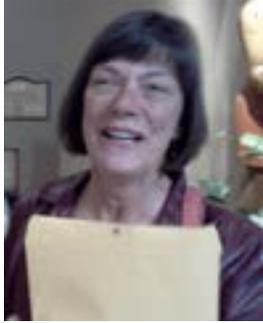
Also adopted were four separate resolutions asking for: 1) increased action on coal trains, 2) priority lobbying for reasonable gun regulations, 3) the addition of faith-based health care concerns to the lobby team’s priorities, and 4) calling on the national League to reinstate the Presidential Debates in 2016. Mason County League prepared an excellent video calling for League to retake its role in the debates. To watch it go to: www.lwvmasoncounty.org/resolution.html.

If you’ve never attended a state convention, consider putting it on your calendar for June 2015. It’s an eye-opening experience and really enhances your understanding and appreciation of all that League does.



Joanna Cullen and Susan Jones

The impressions that linger most about convention are these: I realize how little I know about the fine points of parliamentary procedure and I continue to be impressed, even amazed, at the true grassroots nature of the League. I loved getting to meet and listen to the ideas and opinions of all those other people. Susan Jones, Membership Chair



Mary Ehlers

This is my second convention. It was much more understandable this time around. I helped R. Peggy Smith, Thurston County, put on the agriculture caucus. We had 10 times more show up than we expected since we only expected one person. It was great. Folks asked good questions and we had about 10 people sign up to help with the upcoming National Agricultural Study. We were pleased with the end result. Mary Ehlers, Delegate

Squaxin Island - a Fascinating Location by Janet Winans

Our LWVWA 2013 convention took place at a remarkable resource in Mason County: the Squaxin Island Tribe with its Little Creek Resort outside of Shelton. I was amazed to see how the tribe has created a major public resource by luring outsiders onto their reservation. Just imagine, large sums of money flow IN to the reservation. I learned about important Washington State history and Native American history, and information about shore and water reclamation, the incredible resources at risk in Puget Sound, and small regional economic development enabling people to begin to thrive.

The Squaxin Island Tribe is an organization of native people who have lived on the inlets of the South Sound, the Salish Sea, for centuries. They called themselves the People of the Water. By the terms of the Medicine Creek Treaty in 1854, the maritime people of the South Sound were required to move onto Squaxin Island offshore from Olympia. The native people believe they were called the Squaxin because it is the only name that the white settlers could pronounce. The Peoples considered themselves to be families, not tribes, who lived in the various inlets and traveled the water to fish and exchange the bounty of the land and sea with the other families of their waters. The island became a prison to them. According to our guide in the Squaxin Island Museum, there was no source of water on the island and men had to go out at night to fish

and obtain other essentials for their families. Despite sharpshooters watching from Olympia to kill anyone seen leaving the island, the People found ways to escape and resettle in their traditional inlets. Today Squaxin Island is a native reserve where no one lives. Tribal members can escort visitors who want to explore.

I have driven SR101 many times and have seen the “Shaker Creek Road” sign. I had no idea that in 1881 Squaxin John Slocum experienced conversion to Jesus and “invented” a religious practice that involved shaking, as with tremors, and healing, which is unrelated to the New England Shakers. He organized it with aspects of Christianity in a kind of defiance of the evangelizing that the settlers brought with them, and by doing so protected their ancestral practices. Their religion has survived to the present day in spite of the fact that, in the late 1800s, their lodge Church Point was removed from the Slocum family by order of the President of the United States and deeded to a ship captain under the Oregon Donation Land Act. Indian access to the sacred site was restricted. The tribe bought the Church Point Lodge in June of 1995, and the acquisition was celebrated by the tribe and the Shaker Church.

Currently, the tribe is buying back and restoring many of its traditional resources. Our speaker Friday evening was Kelly Croman-Neelands, CEO, Island Enterprises, Inc. Tribal businesses use the money earned from the casino to invest in other small businesses and services on the

reservation. The tribe is the largest employer in Mason County and is in the process of creating a thriving economy; money flows in and circulates to the benefit of the tribe as well as other citizens of Mason County.

Our speakers Saturday night focused on the Skokomish Estuary that was the Water People heritage. Because of a 1974 court decision, the tribe regained the ability to fish in their traditional waters. Now, with casino money and the grants that are available for habitat and estuary restoration, the tribe is creating jobs as they restore the South Sound. They have begun to remove the systems of farmland-creating dikes that have disrupted the normal circulation of streams, rivers, and tidal action in the Sound, and have contributed to dead zones and the deterioration of the shellfish population. Now the tribe is returning the native plants that thrive in the estuary and new species of critters are returning. One of the jobs available now is counting every one of the critters in grids of the estuary. Isn't it wonderful to think that money is circulating into the estuary, too?

New and Improved Study Guidelines

by Beatrice Crane

If you have considered getting involved in a League study but aren't sure what you would be getting into; if you have agreed to chair a study committee but don't quite know what that means; if you have been named to a reading committee but aren't clear what your responsibilities are — rejoice! The League of Women Voters of Washington has released its updated and expanded “Guide to Effective Studies.” The guide covers the study process from planning to publication to adoption of positions. It includes discussion of League criteria for studies and new considerations, such as the implications of the use of the Internet for research.

LWVWA Committee Chair Ann Murphy presented the new guidelines, which are designed to be used for studies at both state and local levels, at a workshop at the state convention. They are now available on the state website, lwvwa.org, in the members section, under Helpful League Resources.



Lisa Unsoeld-Chang and Marianne Scholl



Annette Holcomb and Linnea Hirst

Updated State Energy Position by Beatrice Crane

At the 2013 State Convention, the League of Women Voters of Washington released its updated position on Energy. The new position is based on the response of Leagues throughout the state to the consensus questions posed with the state Renewable Energy Report.

The Seattle-King County League considered these questions last March. Responses from the units were remarkably consistent, so the League was able to reach consensus on all questions. The units found that the most important characteristics of energy use and production were energy efficiency, level of resulting greenhouse gas emissions, and environmental effects, and that least important was noise. They ranked energy sources as deserving of support in the following order, from highest to lowest: Solar, wind, hydropower, biomass/biofuel, geothermal, wave. They did not consider that concerns of expense and privacy outweighed the benefits of the smart grid. The trade-offs in energy use mentioned most often were to drive less and use public transportation more; to use energy-efficient lights; to use high-energy appliances at off-peak hours; and to lower the thermostat, using timers to adjust it to time of day.

The State Energy Position, with its recent additions and revisions, reveals similar priorities. The existing position already emphasized efficiency and environmental concerns. Language was added to support the production and use of solar, wind, and hydropower. In addition, two new sections were added, expressing support for development and implementation of a smart grid, and for a variety of energy conservation choices.

New State Position on Conservation Districts by Allison Feher

As a culmination of the Conservation District Study done in 2012, a new state position and an update to an existing position was developed.

The text of the new position reads as follows:

Conservation Districts (2012)

The League of Women Voters of Washington

CD-1: Believes that Conservation Districts have a unique role with landowners to encourage conservation of all resources and the League supports that independent role.

CD-2: Supports any independent group, separate from the state regulatory departments, which supports and encourages landowners' conservation work and assists landowners' efforts to develop sustainable business practices.

An amendment to the Election Methods positions was also adopted (the new text is underlined):
EM-2: Believes that consideration should be given when evaluating election systems to how well they promote "representative-ness", citizen participation and accountability as well as keeping the cost of elections within range by holding them in regularly scheduled General or Special Elections.

All of the current state positions can be found in the publication "Program in Action." A new edition which will include these changes and the updates to the energy position described above will be available soon on the state league website, lwvwa.org. Members may call the office to receive a print copy.

Committee Reports

Seattle/King County Board of Health Passes Drug Take-Back Program

BY HELEN BAKER ST. JOHN, LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVE
ON THE TAKE BACK YOUR MEDS COALITION

According to the American Medical Association, deaths from drug overdoses are up for the eleventh straight year and 38,329 people died of drug overdoses in the United States in 2010. About 75% of all prescription drug deaths were accidental, and only 17% of the overdoses were suicide. Drug overdoses in Washington have surpassed car crashes as the leading cause of accidental deaths. Prescription and non-prescription medications are the leading cause of poisonings reported to the Washington Poison Control Center and have been rising. Fatal poisonings have increased almost 400% from 1990 to 2006; 85% of these deaths involved prescription opiates.

By one estimate, about 30% to 40% of prescription medications are not actually used. These are the ones sitting in kitchen cupboards, bathroom shelves, or Grandma's handbag. The majority of accidental ingestions involve either children or the elderly. In 32% of child poisoning deaths in Washington, the child took someone else's prescription medication and in an additional 26% of poisonings, the child took over-the-counter medications. In 2009, there were 3,855 emergency department visits in King County related to opiate and sedative drugs, and 209 overdose deaths. Teenage and young adult abusers of opiates often report that they initially got the drugs from friends or relatives.

What to do with these left-over dangerous substances that contribute to accidental deaths and addictions? The public has often heard recommendations to dump unused medications down the toilet or mix them with coffee grounds and discard them in land-fill trash. These methods are not satisfactory; treatment facilities are not designed to remove pharmaceuticals or other

chemicals from wastewater, so that they end up in waters that lead eventually to Puget Sound or the Columbia River. Fish in some areas of these waters have been sighted with abnormalities believed to be related to these toxicities. Leaching of discarded medications from land-fills has also become a problem.

A group of concerned citizens has been working intensively to increase the community's awareness of this problem and they have formed a Take Back Your Meds Coalition. For several years, they have joined with the King County Board of Health Hazardous Waste Management Program to work on this problem. This program, now under the title of Secure Medicine Return Subcommittee, is chaired by King County Council Member Joe McDermott.

Programs to dispose of toxic substances must meet the requirements of the Washington State Board of Pharmacy and the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). This requires very high temperature incineration. The regular Household Hazardous Solid Waste sites in King County do not have adequate facilities. The only such incinerator in Washington is in Spokane. Even the Spokane facility does not do as complete a job as one would like; the preferred one is in Utah.

The Secure Medicine Return Subcommittee has looked into how other states or counties have been handling such problems and found satisfactory programs in British Columbia, Canada, and Alameda County, California. The Alameda County program has been challenged in court by the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) and has not gone into effect.

In Seattle, Group Health has been running a program successfully for 6 years. It has collection boxes in clinics and has never had any incidence of the medications getting into the

wrong hands. They offer it as an important service to the community. Group Health covers the expense, which is kept low because their vehicles go regularly between Seattle and their clinics in Spokane, and their meds for disposal can be transported without additional expense. Last year they sent over 20,000 pounds of medications to the incinerator. Nevertheless, their pharmacist states that the cost of transporting their returned meds to Utah would be prohibitive. Bartell Drugs also has collection boxes in some of its pharmacies and appears to be making good steps forward in this project.

In October and April, Seattle sponsored a Saturday drop-off drug collection which was announced in advance. While the event was considered a success, DEA was concerned about security because controlled drugs were also accepted and protection was not adequate. I visited one site to drop off a few meds and to observe the procedure. The door to the police station was standing wide open. A police officer was sitting at a table in the lobby with a large red plastic tub near by. When I asked what to do with the meds, she said, "Just throw them in there." I felt that there needed to be better security.

The cost of such a program also came under much discussion by the Coalition and the subcommittee. The expenses involved include transportation of the medications to the incinerator, cost of collection containers, the personnel involved at the local pharmacies, and supervision en route to make the program secure enough to be acceptable to the DEA. Although the County and Seattle claim to have no funds for it, the County is establishing some funding for the initial collection boxes, which at present cost about \$700.

The King County Board of Health and the Take Back Your Meds Coalition believe that the cost of the program should be borne by the produc-

ers of the medications, just as the manufacturers of electronic equipment take back outdated electronic materials. But PhRMA feels that "take back programs should not shift program costs to others who are not directly served."

On June 20, acting on a Seattle City Council resolution encouraging the Seattle/King County Board of Health to establish a secure return program for unwanted and expired medications from households, the Board of Health passed a rule and regulation to create a drug take-back program for King County residents. The new program will be funded and operated by drug manufacturers. Residents may dispose of unwanted medications at pharmacies and other secure locations around the county at no charge.



While we await details of the program, the Secure Medicine Return subcommittee indicated in its discussions that the program would not accept herbal medicines, vitamin and mineral supplements, homeopathic medicine, cosmetics, sunscreens, and other personal care products. The subcommittee has spent considerable time examining and developing a uniform collection box which would be easily recognized and readily utilized by the public. They would be located in pharmacies and law enforcement locations and available when these buildings are open for business. Hospital pharmacies will not be involved. The medicines would not need to be returned to the pharmacy from which they were bought. An effort will be made to locate the pick-up boxes in relation to population centers and convenience of location throughout the county. Plans for a mail-back service are being developed to address specific concerns of the rural population. They often buy their meds through a mail service and may live miles from a pharmacy.

The Take Back Your Meds Coalition looks forward to seeing a successful program in King County.

News from the Economics & Taxation Committee

BY JEANETTE JOHNSON

This year we are reading and discussing Timothy Noah's book, "The Great Divergence" about America's growing economic inequality crisis and what we can do about it. Here are some interesting facts from the first three chapters:

Over the past three decades, there's been a fundamental shift between the haves and have-nots in America, where people at the top have seen their share of the nation's total income increase while the rest have seen their share of total income shrink. Paul Krugman, the Nobel Prize winning economist, coined the term "The Great Divergence" to describe this period.

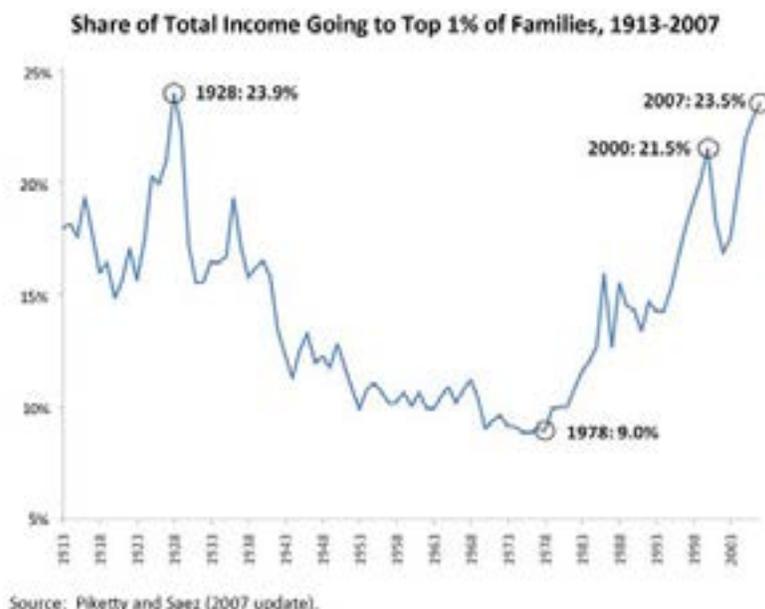
The trend toward greater economic inequality is a global phenomenon; however, the extent of inequality in the U.S. is extreme. In 2005, the U.S. ranked 27th out of 30 nations rated by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) for equality of income distribution. The only countries with more unequal income distribution were Portugal, Turkey, and Mexico.

The U.S. tops all other advanced democracies

in the share of national income going to the top one percent of families. In 2007 (just before the financial crisis), the richest one percent of families got nearly 24 percent of the nation's pretax income. This mirrors almost exactly the share of income by the richest one percent of families in 1928, just before The Great Depression. (See graph.)

We like to think that every American has a shot at the top. But the truth is that Americans have less mobility than do people in most other advanced democracies. A 2007 study by the OECD found that economic mobility was lower in the U.S. than in Denmark, Australia, Norway, Finland, Canada, Sweden, Germany, Spain, and France. Italy and the U.K. were slightly less mobile than the U.S. Other studies have placed the U.S. either tied with the U.K. or dead last.

Not too long ago, economists thought that advanced industrial democracies like the U.S. were destined to become more equal or at least remain stable in their distribution of income. In fact, between 1932 to about 1979 that was the case in the U.S. This period – known as "The Great Compression" – included an era when the minimum wage was born, unions were at their zenith, the manufacturing sector was booming, and there was a huge demand for college-ed-



ucated workers. It should be pointed out that many of the college-educated during this era were WWII veterans who obtained their degrees by virtue of funding provided by the G.I. Bill.

So what caused things to change around 1979? Some say it was globalization, others say technology, or immigration, maybe teenage pregnancy, or divorce. Still others blame Ronald Reagan. Follow along with us as we learn more in the coming months.

Education Committee Report

BY JOANNA CULLEN

The LWVS-KC Education Committee met with Seattle Education Association (SEA) President Jonathan Knapp and this is only a brief sampling of the information we exchanged. SEA and the committee identified many common priorities and issues that both are watching: adequate funding of schools and the *McCleary* decision; good measures of student achievement; early childhood education; professional development for teachers; the status of charter schools; and class size.

Knapp acknowledged that teachers' unions are often hammered by criticism that all they do is protect bad teachers and try to get more money and benefits for their members. He asserted that teachers should be recognized for supporting and leading innovation and advocating for the development of the profession and high quality public education. Teachers' unions will never match the money the private sector and foundations spend on public relations for their agendas. Organizing effectively and developing teachers as leaders and collaborators in creating new and better strategies for education policy and implementation is the key to success in collaborating with others who care about education.

SEA recently received a National Education Association organizing grant to facilitate a con-

tinuing effort to reach out to natural partners who support public education to create common agendas and messages.

SEA partnered with others to create the "Finland Education Conference" featuring the Director of Finland's Ministry of Education and plans another similar conference on assessment in fall 2013.

SEA supported and continues to support Creative Approach Schools to provide educators opportunities to step up and come forward with innovative ideas.

SEA and the Washington Education Association are working on strategies to offer in-house support for national board certifications for their members. The demand is there; meeting the demand is not easy.

SEA worked with the school district, the University of Washington, and the Alliance for Education to create an apprentice program to recruit highly skilled teachers for the Seattle Teacher Residency Program beginning in 2013-14.

Knapp was not at liberty to discuss in any detail SEA's contract negotiations with the Seattle School District. The controversial MAP test is not and will not be contractually required; the current contract simply calls for two measures of student achievement. Teacher evaluation has recently been a difficult part of bargaining between districts and teachers. SEA supports the use of the Danielson Framework, as do most educators. The training of evaluators, in addition to the subjective aspects that can enter the process, is often the Achilles heel of teacher evaluation. SEA attempts to protect the process and does not expect to conduct the evaluations.

Knapp also noted that SEA believes that what has been defined as central staff has been cut too much at Seattle Public Schools. SEA is looking into why Seattle School District Human Resources (HR) is not conducting exit interviews.

Is it that HR does not have the staff? The new Gradebook software was delayed until midyear due to short staffing during the summer. As far as he knows, the District and SEA were taken a bit off-guard by the Department of Justice probe, and likely the SPS staff is stretched thin to do this response well. There are 108 fewer employees in teaching and learning than there were in 2009 when there was general acceptance that SPS was top heavy. Districts need data and adequate staff to analyze it in order to set policy.

According to Knapp's notes on charter schools, the Seattle School District has not signed on as a charter school authorizer; good and innovative programs that prove to be effective and desirable within each District decrease the desire or the likelihood that charter schools would be considered a great option. Sustaining funding for charter schools is a problem. Often a high percentage of the funding for the model comes from philanthropic sources.

The Education committee welcomes new members. Please keep an eye on *The Voter* for our meeting dates.

Transportation Committee Report

BY JANET WINANS

Because our Puget Sound Regional Transportation Committee has spent the year studying Freight 101, we were ready for our April and May speakers who led us to a new understanding of the state legislature's two proposed transportation budgets.

In April, Auburn Mayor Peter Lewis discussed the efforts he and other mayors of the Green, Duwamish, and Puyallup river valleys have been making to demonstrate just how important the business of freight is to the economy of their cities and the state. He echoed the view of our February speaker, Nicholaus Barta, who told us that extending SR 167 from where it now ends near Puyallup to the Port of Tacoma was

the most important issue he wanted us to know about. Mayor Lewis also emphasized how critical extending SR 509 is. Trucks bearing freight travel a very convoluted loop that includes I-5 and I-405, the industrial areas north and south of the Port of Seattle, SRs 167 and 509, and the Port of Tacoma. (That backup on I-405 South that builds from Bellevue thins significantly as trucks bypass I-5 and exit onto SR 167.) The Senate and the House were working with plans that were different in important ways for the state transportation budget. Mayor Lewis feared that SRs 167 and 509 would not be included in the budget at all. Our committee was energized to learn about those budgets and how we could use the League to communicate with the Legislature.

Our May speaker, Christina Van Valkenburgh, mobility manager for Seattle's Department of Transportation, made clear the importance of how legislative decisions impact transportation issues for the city. She and the head of "Traffic Engineering" discussed the city's Strategic Plan to Support Freight as an essential part of their comprehensive plan. The movement of trucks through the city greatly impacts and is impacted by other uses of the city's roads and bridges and its efforts to provide safe passage for pedestrians and bikes. The city has its own authority to levy some transportation taxes, but it depends on the legislature for both funding and the authority to levy local taxes. Mass transit is essential to Seattle and King County, but many of the state's legislators were refusing to include the necessary legislation to allow local levies or funds for transit in the budget.

We began to understand that the House and Senate budgets were very different. While the House budget included the legislation for SRs 167 and 509 and mass transit, the Senate budget omitted that legislation and the legislation Seattle and King County need to be able to fund existing transit. Because it fears a severe loss of funding, Metro Transit held hearings in May to educate the public about the cuts they will have

to make to their current services.

Cynthia Stewart is the LWVWA transportation lobby representative and a member of our committee. Using her, the resources of the State lobby team, and the League's positions, members of our committee wrote letters to legislators and attended various community forums to rally support for the House Transportation Budget. The legislative session was extended three times until a budget deal was reached. Our experience with these issues has provided impetus to look to our Transportation Committee meetings next year for ways to be better prepared to engage the legislative session in 2014. We will know, of course, how the issues of this legislative session relate to future plans for the agencies that provide transportation services.

The Transportation Committee, like all our LWVS-KC committees, welcomes new members and visitors. Please join us as we begin our new year on the third Tuesday of the month, August 20. Our next year's reports in *The Voter* will attempt to connect our speakers to issues that will be important in the 2014 legislative session.



Thank you to all for a great event!

Our May 5th Spring into Action Membership Celebration was a fun and successful event. We had sunny weather, interesting presentations from past presidents and future leaders, and good food and lively conversation.

Thank you to our all our donors and supporters:

Karen Adair, Anne Anderson, Nancy Bagley, Margaret Baker, Ellen Barton, Mary Barton, Carol Burton, Glenda Carper, Rebecca Castilleja, Beatrice Crane, Joanna Cullen, Cathy Dormaier, Vicky Downs, Mary Ehlers, Kathryn Garcia, Helen Goehring, Raelene Gold, Roberta Goodnow, Marjorie Hawkes, Linnea Hirst, Jeanette Johnson, Susan Jones, Jeannette Kahlenberg, Joan Lawson, Rita Lee, Candis Litsey, Judy Love, Meaghan Luthin, Patricia McCann, Gabriella Metzger, Ginna Owens, Barbara Pistoressi, Toni Potter, Kelly Powers, Connie Reed, Judith Richerzhagen, Peggy Saari, Gail Shurgot, Elsie Simon, Lucy Steers, Betty Sullivan, Lounette Templeton, Lisa Unsoeld-Chang, MJ Vigil, Laraine Volkman, Laura Weese, Peg Williams, Janet Winans, Gail Winberg, Boots Winterstein, and Marian Wolfe.

And to the volunteers who organized and put on the event:

Karen Adair, Judy Bevington, Linette Bixby, Carol Burton, Beatrice Crane, Joanna Cullen, Lindsay Cummings, Susan Jones, Laraine Volkman, Cyndi Woods and especially Lisa Unsoeld-Chang who put all the pieces together.



Lina Ali

Getting Connected Membership News

Celebrating Fifty Years of League Membership

BY JOANNA CULLEN

Pat Matteson grew up on a ranch in Colorado, graduating in a high school class of 12. She earned a BS in Business Administration from the University of Colorado and attended Columbia University in New York City. She spent a year doing graduate work in Urban Land Development, a far different world from her rural background driving a tractor and herding cattle on horseback. Returning to Colorado, she met and married her husband who was a pilot for the Colorado Fish and Game Department. In the early 1960s, his engineering degree led him to Boeing in Seattle.

While she was raising six children on Mercer Island, Pat's father encouraged her to join the League of Women Voters, "claiming I needed to do something to make them proud of me," Pat says. She truly did that. In the last 50 years, Pat has served on the Seattle and State Boards and chaired the King County Coordinating Committee several years before moving on to chair the Puget Sound Transportation Committee. Among other contributions to LWV, she worked on two comprehensive studies on Transportation and Land Use and the merger of METRO into King County. Later, she joined the League's lobby team traveling to Olympia each Thursday during the legislative sessions. They were able to stop several bills to "kill Sound Transit" and the Regional Transit Authority was established. The result was Sound Transit building its three categories of light rail, commuter rail, and regional buses. Pat represented the League by testifying at Sound Transit Board meetings and helped in appointing an oversight committee.

Adequate funding for transportation and maintenance is a continuing effort. While she was on

the State Board, LWVWA filed an *amicus curiae* brief to declare Initiative 695 ((limiting license tab fees to \$30.00) unconstitutional. The Court agreed but the legislature reversed the decision. This cost the state nearly one billion dollars a year.

Kate Hemer joined the League as a stay-at-home mom when her first child was a year old and soon found herself leader of the East Central Unit. She later joined the Board with various portfolios including the newsletter, government chair, and treasurer.

In 1972, Kate was appointed by the mayor to chair the city task force on noise control, which developed performance standards for noise emissions. LWV participated by developing consensus supporting the work. Between 1974 and 1976, the League sponsored Election Alert, a nightly candidate and ballot issues forum, which Kate frequently moderated. Kate also volunteered with the Municipal League and served as a trustee for several years.

Deciding to work "outside the home for money," Kate started part time with FIUTS, a UW based foundation which places foreign students for homestays. She next filled in for vacationing staff as legislative aide for city council presidents Phyllis Lamphere and John Miller. The "real" job Kate says came with a block grant project to simplify Seattle's land use and environmental permits and appeals procedures. Her last position was as manager of King County's Board of Appeals and Equalization, a legislative branch agency of County Government. Kate says she found her League background essential to understanding and working with citizen board members as well as government officials and organizations. Kate is most grateful to the League for her education, many opportunities, and lifelong friends.

Eleanor Fordyce joined the League of Women Voters in 1963 and was actively involved for 10 years, including serving on the Board. Even though she did not participate as actively in later years she wanted to be part of "this remarkable organization and always paid the dues to retain my membership and read *The Voter*."

Eleanor has lived most of her life in Seattle, attending the University of Washington and raising her family here. She and her husband were married for 63 years at the time of his death in 2009. Because of his expertise in pain management, they traveled world-wide and enjoyed a year's sabbatical in Europe. Since 1977 they enjoyed a condo in Kauai and after retirement spent winter months golfing, snorkeling, and exploring the Island.

Eleanor has been involved in charity groups, the UW Faculty Auxiliary, and the UW Retirement Association. Her enduring interests include Seattle Symphony, Seattle Opera, Pacific Northwest Ballet, and the theatre.

Eleanor says she is grateful to the League for contributing so very much to her life. Residing in Horizon House now, she attends that vital, energetic League unit regularly.

New Members by Carol Goldenberg

Marlis Worthington has retired from University Hospital where she worked for many years as a registered nurse. She grew up in Germany and, after becoming a flight attendant, immigrated to Canada and from there to Seattle. Marlis has two grown children living in the area. Loving to hike and snowshoe, she appreciates what the region has to offer. Marlis is pleased to be a member of the Queen Anne/Magnolia/ Ballard evening unit.

Doris Ray says, "Education and the politics of education has long been a major part of her life." She and her husband met at the University of Colorado. Upon graduation, they went off to St. Lawrence Island in the middle of the Bering Sea to teach for three years. From there they took a giant step across continent and culture to Co-

lumbia University in New York City where Doris earned a second MA in Historical Foundations of Education.

Returning to Alaska, Doris taught high school and served as Coordinator of Secondary Education in Fairbanks. She also served on the School Board there, on the board of directors of the National Education Association, and on the steering committee of the Education Commission of the U.S., and participated in the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory. In Seattle, Doris served on the Board of Trustees of the Women's University Club. Now retired, Doris lives at Horizon House and attends the League's First Hill Unit there.

Lori Kessler was recently hired as an administrator for the League of Women Voters of Washington. She previously served as operations coordinator for the Council on American-Islamic Relations. Lori earned a BA in International Studies at American University in Washington, D.C., in 2009 and a Certificate in Non-Profit Management from the University of Washington in 2011. Lori found student life in politically charged Washington, D.C., full of stimulating possibilities. A semester abroad at the American University in Cairo deepened her interest in Egyptian politics.

Her husband's studies and family brought her to Seattle. Lori loves music; singing and playing together has always been one of her favorite ways to spend time with her family. She likes to read historical mysteries, exercise, and cook yummy whole foods.

You might have seen **Jill Hill** at the Fremont Solstice Parade. She was the farmer with the pitchfork protecting Mother Earth from the poisons and genetically engineered seeds of the chemical companies. She is an activist on food issues concerned with biodiversity and GMO contamination of organic crops. Jill said "participating in the parade was a playful way to get the message across." An organic vegetable gardener

herself, Jill has a blog lillyandcoyote.wordpress.com on growing food and cooking.

Jill volunteers with Food and Water Watch of Washington, part of a national organization working on environmental issues and the I-522 bill, up for a vote in November, which will require labeling of GMO foods in Washington. "Although there is controversy regarding GMOs people need information to make up their own minds."

Jill is a photographer, both portrait and art, with her own company Lilly West Photography. She looks to League to learn "how to organize and take action." Some days you can find her working at Caldwell's in University Village.

Thank you!

Our members provide support in so many ways - both with their time and financially. Recently Lee Carpenter, Peggy Garber, Sue Mecklenberg, and Georgette Valle all renewed at the booster level and Linda Boxleitner, Alice & Jack Peterson, and Tony Romano all made an extra contribution with their dues. One member gave a gift membership - what a great idea for recent graduates. We also want to thank our units for passing the hat or putting on an event to help raise money for the League - a big thank you to the First Hill, North Central and Queen Anne/Magnolia/Ballard units.

In Memoriam

Anne Conkle, long time League member and pillar of the North End unit for many years, died April 3, 2013, at the age of 92. According to Jo Dawson, North End unit leader, Anne was one of those loyal but low key members who could always be counted on to lead unit discussions, often as the resource person, or host meetings at her home. Only a year ago, she was her unit's resource person for the Teacher Study.

A native of Cleveland, OH, Anne was born July 23, 1920, and received her undergraduate degree from the College of Wooster in the same state. She went on to Yale where she earned her Masters of Public Health degree in nursing, thus launching her career in public health and administration, first at Rainbow Hospital in Cleveland and later at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle.

One of Anne's many passions was music; she learned to play piano and violin at a young age and often joined her brother in a string ensemble accompanied by their mother on piano. She continued to play the baby grand piano in her living room well into her later years. In 1970 Anne married Howard Conkle, a forestry worker who shared her love of the outdoors. Together they hiked and traveled the west coast and when

she wasn't traveling, Anne was often on the golf course. She had minored in physical education in college and liked to participate in a variety of athletic endeavors, including fencing at one time.

After Howard died in 1996, one of her two beloved stepsons came to live with her in her home overlooking Lake Washington. Brian Conkle remembered Anne as "the best mom in the whole world, strong and independent, and at the same time a real sweetie." Throughout her life she also remained interested in politics, current affairs, and music. She read the newspaper daily and watched PBS, especially Bill Moyers, but otherwise rarely watched TV, preferring instead to listen to classical music or play the piano. She also was a dog lover, owning two beagles together with her husband and later adopting two rescue dogs on her own.

Even though the North End unit of the League disbanded at the end of last year because of declining participation, Jo Dawson remembers Anne as one of the real stalwarts who accomplished much in her lifetime, but was always so modest that many did not even know about all the things that she did.

Jan O'Connor was one of the Wise Elders of the Seattle-King County League of Women Voters. She was one of our smartest and fiercest advocates of and for the public good, committed to land and water resources, transportation solutions to save the planet, social contracts made with elected and professional public servants. She was an essential, nonrenewable resource to us all. We must remember to celebrate the incredible cultural knowledge our Elders possess. They have much to teach us as we look at the incredible busy-ness of our current lives and commitments.

I wish I had known Jan, and her cadre of young, dedicated, smart and progressive women joining together, children along, to confront the roaring challenges of the 1960's and '70's. Some of their causes began in the '50's like The Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle, or Seattle Metro, that was created by a local referendum in 1958 and authorized to manage regional wastewater and water quality issues in King County. Some of their causes had begun with Women's Suffrage. For their generation it was the fight for the Equal Rights Amendment. Every one of their pursuits laid layer upon layer of careful research to the studies, and positions that continue to guide the League today. How many of those issues, like a clean Lake Washington, do we take for granted without imagining our lake could ever have been stinking with the sewage of all the surrounding communities?

Lois Laughlin remembers: "The issues were cleaning up Lake Washington, making city government more responsive and transparent, school desegregation, fair housing." And, after the in-between years of a teaching career, "when Jan retired from teaching, she became very active in League, going on Board, then be-

coming Seattle League President. For LWV she wrote studies on economics and on water (perhaps others), and followed land use, transportation, and waterfront planning issues."

And Lois added the many other interests that Jan shared with many friends: "She also (for a time) was bookkeeper for the Retired Teachers Association, followed Great Ideas, was active in 43rd District politics, chaired her book club, changed churches, held season tickets for music and theater groups, played bridge, began painting (took part in a local show at Madison Park Café) and traveled."



Nancy Bagley said, "I admired Jan for her breadth of interests and her willingness to tackle tough issues and write about them in a clear, concise style. One area of interest we shared over the decades was downtown land use. She attended countless meetings and urged League to get involved and act on our positions. Even in the last year of her life she was actively representing League as a member of the citizens committee on the new waterfront park."

Sue Gregory's description of Jan is the same as my experience of her: "She was not a person that only asked questions but diligently searched for answers. Once she had thoroughly researched her topic of interest she eagerly shared what she had gleaned. Jan would passionately educate us as it applied to our city, state or nation. Fearless in asking questions of those in positions of leadership or those seeking office through election her aim was always to seek justice for those disenfranchised, to champion the cause of the poor, and to seek quality education for all people. We have lost one of our gladiators. I am so sorry she is gone."



Pat Matteson's memories were echoed by Peter Hahn, the head of Seattle's Department of Transportation: "Jan's cutting logic helped many a testimony in favor of Sound Transit. I am so glad she got to see it implemented. Her contributions to good government in our state are innumerable. League will miss her."

Allison Feher remarked: "It seems impossible that Jan only had the same 24 hours in a day that the rest of us do - on top of all the committee work, studies, and community advocacy that she did, for years she was the unit leader for Capitol Hill/Montlake, organized the monthly past presidents' lunch, and was one of the driving forces that made the annual auction a success."

Lucy Steers: "I knew her and worked with her for a very long time, and I liked and admired her very much. She did not have an easy life, but she was strong and gutsy."

Linnea Hirst's memory seems a good way to end: "I worked with Jan on several studies. She was terrific--always insisted on doing it well, getting it right, and including all that was important. And she didn't give up until it was up to League standards. I also worked with her on the land use and transportation committees, and appreciated her hard work, and her deep knowledge of whatever subject was at hand.

AND SHE WAS DEFINITELY A BETTER BRIDGE PLAYER THAN I."

- written by Janet Winans



*June 2007 Presidents' Lunch
Ruth Schroeder, Jocelyn Marchisio, Sandy Barney, Gunbjorg Ladstein, unidentified, Dorothy Young Sale, Pat Emerson, Liz Pierini, Nancy Eitreim, Jan O'Connor, Margaret Colony, Lois North, Denise Smith and Ann Sandstrom (kneeling).*

We have received several gifts in memory of Jan — Thank you to all who have honored her work by supporting the organization that she was so devoted to.

BOOK REVIEW by Vicky Downs

EINSTEIN'S GOD: CONVERSATIONS ABOUT SCIENCE AND THE HUMAN SPIRIT by Krista Tippett

My daughter strongly recommended this book, which is made up of excerpts from the Peabody Award-winning program *Speaking of Faith* on NPR. I have never heard Tippett's radio program, but her interviews in the book with scientists and biographers of scientists bring out remarkable and thought-provoking connections between science and spirituality. Although the introductions to each of the chapters are rather repetitive, the interviews are varied and stimulating.

One guest, Freeman Dyson, is a theoretical physicist and author who knew Albert Einstein at Princeton University. He urged Tippett to read aloud a section from Einstein's autobiographical notes published in 1949:

I think wondering to one's self occurs when an experience conflicts with our fixed ways of seeing the world. I had one such experience of wondering when I was a child of four or five and my father showed me a compass. The needle behaved in such a determined way and did not fit into the usual explanation of how the world works. I still remember now... that this experience made a deep and lasting impression on me. There must be something deeply hidden behind everything.

"After seeing that compass," Dyson tells us, "Einstein became mesmerized in turn by light and gravity. He spent his life seeking to comprehend the order 'deeply hidden behind everything,' and to describe it mathematically. Einstein often spoke of this and of his longing to understand what God was thinking."

As Dyson and Tippett continue their conversation, we learn that Einstein had no belief "in a personal God who was interested in human affairs." However, "[h]e did believe in nature as some sort of universal spirit...or some sort of

universal mind, which ruled the universe and which was far beyond our comprehension."

In an interview with Mehmet Oz, a cardiovascular surgeon and author, we learn that Oz believes in "global medicine," which integrates medical practices from many cultures. He believes there is much that we can learn from "prayer, meditation, reflection and worship" that will help us improve the more scientifically oriented Western practices. He also reports on examples of times when being ill offers one an opportunity for psychological or spiritual growth.

Sir John Polkinghorne is a Cambridge quantum physicist who became a theologian in midlife and who finds "both science and religion necessary" to interpret the "rich, varied and surprising way the world actually is." I found the conversation with Polkinghorne especially provocative when he quotes approvingly of another theologian whose understanding is that Darwin's *The Origin of Species* in 1859 shows that "God had done something cleverer than [one might have supposed]: God had made a world in which creatures could make themselves."

This is not a book for everyone, but I wish I'd had it years ago when I belonged to a discussion group in which five couples met once a month. At each meeting one of the members brought a piece of writing that he read aloud to the group. This was followed by discussion over a simple dinner. The talk sometimes went on for several hours. We would have delved enthusiastically into the chapter on Einstein's view of the world and of his statement that "God does not throw dice!" We were a diverse group, and the discussion might well have lasted until late at night.

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

Primary Election - Ballot Measures

KING COUNTY

Proposition No. 1 - Parks Levy

The King County council has passed Ordinance No. 17568 concerning funding for parks, trails, recreational facilities and open space. This proposition would replace two expiring levies and fund maintenance and operations of the King County parks system; trails and open space for recreation, habitat and water quality; city parks; and zoo programs, all subject to citizen oversight. This proposition authorizes an additional property tax of \$0.1877 per \$1,000 of assessed value for collection in 2014 and authorizes increases by the annual percentage change in the CPI or the limitation in 84.55 RCW, whichever is greater, for five succeeding years.

Should this proposition be:

- Approved
- Rejected

Background: This is the third levy for funding of county parks. The first was approved in 2003 and was 4.9 cents/\$1,000 of property value and lasted for 4 years. It paid 57% of operating funds for the parks. The remaining funds were self-generated, out of the general fund and real estate excise taxes. The assessment on a \$340,000 home was \$16.60 annually.

The second levy, passed in 2007, was for 6 years and was separated into a levy for operations and maintenance and for capital projects. They started at a combined 10 cents and increased to 13.4 cents/\$1,000 of property value. They paid 70% of park funding. The remainder was self-generated and from the general fund. The general fund contribution ended in 2011. The assessment on a \$340,000 home started at \$34 and increased to \$47.60 by 2011.

The proposed levy combines operations and maintenance with infrastructure investments and acquisitions into one levy of 18.77 cents/\$1,000 of assessed property value. This is an increase of 5.37 cents over the amount currently being paid. For the first time annual increases based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) is included. Based on the last five years, using the CPI would mean an average increase of about 2%. This levy will fund 77% of park expenses, with the rest to be self-generated. The assessment on a \$340,000 home will initially be \$64.00.

Effect if passed: Property owners in King County would initially pay 18.77 cents/\$1,000 of assessed property value with inflation adjustments to be made in the succeeding five years.

Pro Argument: Maintaining our parks and open spaces is vital to the health of our communities and residents. There are critical repairs needed that the general fund does not have the capacity to cover and failure to maintain the existing parks could lead to greater expense down the road or the loss of some parks altogether.

Con Argument: While the economy may be improving, many families continue to struggle to remain in their homes. Increasing the levy is not appropriate at this time. Moreover, maintenance and operations expenses should be paid from the general fund.

CITY OF DES MOINES

Proposition No. 1 - Utility Occupation Tax for Des Moines Streets

This proposition increases the City Utility Occupation Tax to pay for paving existing City streets. The Des Moines City Council proposes to improve City streets to prevent their further deterioration. This proposition increases the current 6% Utility Occupation Tax to 8% for twenty (20) years authorizing 2.0% for paving existing City streets.

Should this proposition be:

- Approved
- Rejected

Background: Due to declining property values and reduced real estate excise tax revenue, the City is seeking an additional source of revenue to maintain city streets. The utility occupation tax is levied on all private utility companies operating in Des Moines, including telephone, cable television, electricity, natural gas, and garbage collection. Public utilities are not subject to this tax. The additional funds raised would be used to pay for paving, rehabilitation, and reconstruction of city streets.

A utility occupation tax increase was proposed in 2011 and was defeated by the voters. That proposal would have increased the tax by 3%, with 1.5% going to fund Beach Park capital improvements and maintenance and the remaining 1.5% going to fund street paving.

Effect if Passed: The effect depends on the amount currently being paid for utilities. The City estimates that this measure would cost a typical family of four an additional \$10/month (assuming \$500/month in utility costs). This tax is itemized on utility bills. To determine an individual estimate, add amounts currently being paid for the utility occupation tax and multiply by 1.33.

Pro Argument: The City is already years behind schedule on street paving and needs a more stable source of revenue to provide needed maintenance. Well maintained streets are essential for the safety of residents and the city's economy.

Con Argument: The City had funds it could have used for street paving but choose to spend them elsewhere. Moreover, this measure does not require that the funds raised be used exclusively for street paving and repair.

Note: All efforts are made to present nonpartisan, objective, and accurate information when preparing ballot measure summaries. The information is current as of 7/22/2013. The arguments presented do not necessarily represent those of the League of Women Voters.

LWVS-KC UNIT INFORMATION

League unit meetings (small discussion groups) begin in September. 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. Lindsay Soyer is our unit coordinator. Please contact her if you have updated information or information to share with the units as a whole.

BALLARD/MAGNOLIA/QUEEN ANNE DAY – Joan Peterson

joanmpeterson@hotmail.com 206-789-7447

BALLARD/MAGNOLIA/QUEEN ANNE EVENING – Teddy Geokezas

tgeokezas@msn.com 206-782-5036

BELLEVUE – Bonnie Rimawi

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CAPITOL HILL/MONTLAKE – Vicky Downs/Zita Cook

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zzitamcook@comcast.net 206-374-0369

FIRST HILL — Joan Lawson

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ISSAQUAH DAY – Margaret Austin

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NORTH CENTRAL – Jan Orlando

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NORTH KING COUNTY - Toni Potter

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SHORELINE – Juliet Beard

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SOUTHEAST KING COUNTY – Cathy Dormaier

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SOUTHEND — Marian Wolfe/Vivian Montoya

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SOUTHWEST KING COUNTY – Mary Ehlers/Kathy Jorgensen

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VIEW RIDGE – Gail Winberg

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WEST SEATTLE – Amanda Berry/ Ethel Williams

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etheljwl@q.com 206-932-7887

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
2012-14	<i>2nd VP-Program</i>	Beatrice Crane	206-783-8485	bscrane@comcast.net
2013-15	<i>Secretary</i>	Amanda Clark	206-236-0517	amandac5@comcast.net
2013-14	<i>Treasurer</i>	Cindy Piennett	206-329-4848	treasurer@seattlelwv.org

Term	Directors			
2012-14	<i>Voter Editor</i>	Marge Baker	206-535-7299	votereditor@seattlelwv.org
2012-14	<i>Program</i>	Carol Burton	206-691-1298	ctburton7@gmail.com
2013-15	<i>Voter Services</i>	Joanna Cullen	206-329-8514	jfoxcullen@gmail.com
2013-15	<i>Social Justice</i>	Jayne Freitag	425-922-9501	mjafreitag@comcast.net
2012-14	<i>Membership</i>	Susan K. Jones	206-725-2902	susan@monckjones.com
2012-14	<i>Voter Services</i>	Julie Anne Kempf	206-329-4848	julie@kempf.com
2013-15	<i>Outreach</i>	Marianne Scholl	206-329-4848	outreach@seattlelwv.org
2012-14	<i>Unit Coordinator</i>	Lindsay Soyer	406-546-9314	lindsaysoyer@gmail.com
2012-14	<i>Development</i>	Lisa Unsoeld-Chang	206-329-4848	lisac@seattlelwv.org
2012-14	<i>Outreach</i>	Mary Jo Vigil	206-318-6939	mjvigil@starbucks.com

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

Term	Education Fund Officers			
2013-14	<i>President</i>	Ellen Barton	206-329-4848	president@seattlelwv.org
2013-14	<i>1st VP</i>	Lisa Unsoeld-Chang	206-329-4848	lisac@seattlelwv.org
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
2013-14	<i>Director</i>	Pat McCann	206-878-2799	thomaspa@centurylink.net

Term	Nominating Committee			
2013-14	<i>Chair</i>	Judy Bevington	206-329-4848	judybevington@q.com
2013-14		Judith Hance	206-329-4848	judithhance2@gmail.com
2013-14		Cynthia Howe	206-329-4848	howe.john@comcast.net
2013-14		Lisa Peterson	206-329-4848	

Note: Two members of the board will be appointed to serve on the nominating committee when meetings begin.

Off Board Positions

Campaign Finance	Jean Carlson	206-774-6649	jean.carlson@att.net
KC South Liaison	Mary Ehlers	253-941-1930	maryehlers@comcast.net
CIS Coordinator	Cynthia Howe	206-236-0593	howe.john@comcast.net
Observer Corps	Pat McCann	206-878-2799	thomaspa@centurylink.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	425-922-9501	mjafreitag@comcast.net
<i>Transportation</i>	Janet Winans	206-323-4825	janetwinans@earthlink.net

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Moving? Let us know!

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

LWV SEATTLE-KING COUNTY:

Check Inside for Meeting Dates

No regular forum
this month.

The Primary Election is
August 6, 2013.

Check the website regularly for
updates - new meetings and
forums will be announced as we
confirm them.