

LWV Mission: The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2005-2006

PRESIDENT

Becky Cox 206-243-4236

VICE-PRESIDENT

Susan Sanders 253-833-9376

SECRETARY

Mary Ellen Hamblin 425-255-6675

TREASURER

Charlotte Sullivan 206-242-1602

OFFICE MANAGER

Becky Cox 206-243-4236

VOTER EDITOR

Betty Colasurdo 206-246-4097

DIRECTORS

Marge Henry - 206-244-1774

Action/Port

Miriam Helgeland - 253-852-4167

King County Government, GMA

Christel Brunnenkant - 425-255-6981

International Relations, KCC

Barbara Norby - 360-825-2895

Environment

Pat McCann - 206-878-2799

Forestry

Enid Dolstad 206-567-4798

Portfolio TBD

Ellen Kritzman 206-567-4837

Environment

Jean Hueston 206-878-8706

Social Concerns; Children's Issues

OFFICE PHONE 206-243-7161

FAX 206-243-7161

E-MAIL: WALWVKCS@JUNO.COM

UNIT MEETINGS IN APRIL

Units in April will be able to choose their own topics for discussion. (See "President 's Musings" page 2.) If your unit does not yet have a topic (at least that the VOTER editor knows about), call your unit chair and offer a suggestion and possibly some reading material to go with it. Ed. note: For example you might refer to this week's *Newsweek* article about the leadership of women in Africa. Or, what's new with electronic voting? Lots on the internet about that. Or, a local issue which needs some light to shine on it.

ANNUAL MEETING - SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, May 6

Enumclaw - at the Danish Hall

Hosted by our Enumclaw Unit

Consider organizing car pools at your April Unit meetings.

More information coming in your annual meeting kit. Look for it in the mail the last week in April.

PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS

By the time this is printed, we will have enjoyed a great evening at the Renton Civic Theatre while raising money for a most worthy cause - the League of Women Voters! A big thank you to all who helped organize the event and attended.

Later this month, you will be receiving by SNAIL MAIL (and that means all of you) the most important document our League produces during the year. It is your Annual Meeting Kit. Even if you never participate in League activities, this document gives you all the information about our local positions, names of officers, and the budget. It will be there for you anytime you need to find out about the League. Keep it where you can find it!! By the way, the annual meeting will be May 6th in Enumclaw at the Danish Hall.

At the April Board meeting, our Budget and Nominating Committees will make their reports. One of our most important portfolios for next year will be Voter Service. The portfolio requires non-involvement in partisan political activities for the duration of the position assignment. A tough call during a busy election year. I am most hopeful that this job has your name on it because we NEED you!

The last unit meetings of the year will be in April and it is "Unit Potluck." (See page 3.) Each unit is responsible for its own program. If you think back to your program go-around and all the action items your unit identified, you may have an idea for a good program. Call me if you are stumped and we will brainstorm.

Becky

Calendar

April Board Meeting: Wednesday, April 5, 9:45 a.m. at our office location, 616 SW 152nd, Burien.

APRIL UNIT MEETINGS:

ENUMCLAW: *First Tuesday, April 4, 7-9 p.m.* High Point - 1777 Highpoint. Contact Cathy Dormaier, 360-802-6799

VASHON: *Third Thursday, April 20, 2:30 p.m.* at the Vashon Library. Contact Jennie Hodgson at 206-463-5408 Discussion topic: "Transportation"

HIGHLINE: *Second Monday, April 10, 1-3 p.m.* at our office site, 616 SW 152nd, Burien. Contact: Christel Brunnenkant, 206-243-4236. **Note change in meeting date, from third to second Monday.** Christel and Mary Ellen Hamblin have chosen a topic for discussion: "Pandemics and Foreign Policy." To ask for time to discuss other matters, call Christel.

FEDERAL WAY: *Third Wednesday, April 19, 7 p.m.* Foundation House, 32290 1st Ave. So. Contact: Kathy Jorgensen - 253-859-8349 in the evening.

NO MAYORS' BREAKFAST THIS YEAR, BUT WE DO NEED A CHAIR FOR NEXT YEAR'S EVENT AND A CITY WILLING TO BE THE HOST. BECKY WOULD BE HAPPY TO HEAR FROM YOU!

ANNUAL MEETING: Saturday, May 6 in **Enumclaw** at the Danish Hall. Exact times and directions will come in your Annual Meeting Packet. Reserve this date!

MATERIAL FROM "WOMEN ENGAGING GLOBALLY: POVERTY, GLOBALIZATION AND TRADE": [Ed. note: I extracted the following information from material sent to me by Susan Sanders, who had in January attended the forum on this topic.]

From Unifem*:

Since poverty traps women in multiple layers of discrimination and hinders their ability to claim their rights, ending feminized poverty has always been a core UNIFEM priority. Not only do women bear a disproportionate burden of the world's poverty, but in some cases, globalization has widened the gap, with women losing more than their share of jobs, benefits and labour rights. From tax systems to trade regimes, however, economic policies and institutions still mostly fail to take gender disparities into account. With too few seats at the tables where economic decisions are made, women themselves have little chance of rectifying the deepening of existing inequalities.

*UNIFEM is the women's fund at the United Nations, providing financial and technical assistance for innovative programs and strategies to foster women's empowerment and gender equality.

The Center for Women Policy Studies : Promoting Women's Human Rights and Equality for Over 30 Years.

"The Center's **Contract with Women of the USA** sets out 12 key principles for women's human rights and equality. The Contract is the US version of the Beijing Platform for Action from the United Nations 1995 World Conference on Women. With our national network of women - and men - state legislators in all 50 states, the Center works to transform these principles into policies and laws that make a difference in women's lives."

The Principles

- Empowerment of Women
- Sharing Family Responsibilities
- Ending the Burden of Poverty
- High Quality Affordable Health Care
- Sexual and Reproductive Rights
- Workplace Rights Educational Equity
- Ending Violence Against Women
- Protecting a Healthy Environment
- Women as Peace Makers
- honor International Commitments and Ratify CEDRAW
- A Long-Term National Plan to Achieve Equality

"InterAction is the largest alliance of U.S.-based international development and humanitarian organizations. With more than 160 members operating in every developing, country, we work to overcome poverty exclusion and suffering by advancing social justice and basic dignity for all."

(Continued on Page 4)

(continued from page 3)

[Ed. note - I have extracted from an article posted on <http://www.soccerphile.com>. Forced prostitution relates to issues of women and poverty, women's health, and violence against women.]
28 November 2005

The World Cup of soccer will be held in Germany in June. In addition to fans, the German organizers are preparing for about 40,000 sex workers during the month of the tournament. Promoters think that, since prostitution is legal in Germany, that number is too low.

Women's and church groups are concerned that many of the women will have been forced into the work and plan to protest during the tournament, asking fans to at least consider the plight of these women. They maintain this is not a demonstration against prostitution but against exploitation.

Others don't see this as such a big problem. "Berlin is a very world-open city. It's always been like that. There have been prostitutes working here for hundreds of years," says Martina Schmidhofer, a Green Party councilor responsible for sexual health issues. "Our main concern is that prostitutes having good working conditions. My message to fans would be: 'Behave sensibly, don't drink too much, use a condom. And don't expect a love relationship.'"

ELEANOR HADLEY RECEIVES THOMAS S. FOLEY AWARD*

(and she's a member of our local league!)

On March 22, 2006, Eleanor Hadley, along with three others, received the newly created Thomas S. Foley Award from the Japan-America Society. The award is named for the Spokane native who was ambassador to Japan after his long stint as Speaker of the House of Representatives, and pays tribute to those who helped to restore the Japan-America Society after World War II.

Before women were easily accepted in that role, Hadley, an economist, worked first for the State Department and then on General Douglas McArthur's staff during the occupation of Japan after World War II. Her specialty was "trust-busting." She helped draft the postwar policy toward dissolving the saibatsu - Japan's family-run conglomerates that dominated the economy. After receiving a doctoral degree in economics from Harvard, she also taught at Smith College, George Washington University and the University of Washington and wrote a seminal book about Japan business.

About to accept a position working for the CIA, she found the offer rescinded. She had been blacklisted by a senior member of McArthur's staff, who did not like her style or politics. It took many years to have her name cleared so she could become a Japan specialist for the U.S. Tariff Commission. She also worked as assistant director of the General Accounting Office's international division.

After she returned to Seattle to teach, she received an award for meritorious service from the emperor of Japan and, in 2003, wrote her life story, "Memoir of a Trustbuster: A Lifelong Adventure with Japan." (The King County Library System has one copy of this book, which is presently checked out and put on hold for the next possible reader. Amazon.com also has this book listed. A local League member who has read it found it most readable and illuminating.)

THIS AND THAT

Why do we have a new masthead and new print face for the titles on the articles? The Board was reminded that when the VOTER is sent electronically, those receiving it usually print a copy and the thick print of the masthead and the titles take up quite a bit of ink. Not such a big deal, but since there are alternatives, why not try them? Would you like to design a new masthead for us, using less ink? We are open to suggestions. And, by the way, each time I do a VOTER, some new wrinkle develops in the process of sending it electronically. I tried to send the March VOTER as an e-mail attachment to the state League office, where Claudia Downing, the jill of all trades, puts it onto our website. It would not transfer. Turns out that this incarnation of the masthead took up many megabytes and was taking its own sweet time getting there, like hours!! Ed. note: Also consider printing out the VOTER using the “draft” preference. The print is usually very readable.

The theatre party was a great success, and since your editor was the one who insisted that Agatha Christie and Hercule Poirot were bound to produce a hit, what a relief to see how well the play was cast and how well the audience responded. The League netted \$970, very much needed and very much appreciated. Thank you all who bought tickets — and brought cookies! My oh my!

Christel Brunnenkant and Mary Ellen Hamblin are the members who donated the rug for our raffle. Thanks to them for always thinking about ways to help our treasury.

Christel has a suggestion for a slogan for the League: “Energize - Expand - Explore - Experience.”

In case you missed it, LWV of KCS needs YOU. People are needed for VOTER SERVICE as we look toward a summer of registering voters and a fall with candidates’ forums and issues forums. Someone needs to head up this effort, and there is **no** VOTER SERVICE chair at present. It’s also not too soon to plan for the: HOLIDAY PARTY, MAYORS’ BREAKFAST, AND 2007 ANNUAL MEETING. Each one needs a coordinator.

DUES: The first formal *opportunity to pay your 2006-2007 dues* will be at the Annual Meeting. A few months ago the Board authorized the dues year to be standardized from July 1 to June 30. You will receive your formal dues request in the May VOTER (with a gentle reminder in June.) This method will be a great help in planning our payments, including our substantial obligations to the state and national leagues.

At the April Board Meeting the Board will be asked to consider a proposal to direct a member’s extra contributions to the League’s Education Fund, if the member so desires. These contributions would have to be made with a separate check written to the League of Women Voters Education Fund. Doing so would make them tax-deductible. (Our dues and other contributions made directly to the League, as you know, are not.) One example of how our League could use the funds would be to fulfill our yearly commitment to help with printing the “The Represent You” pamphlet. All donations to assist with that printing are funneled through the Ed Fund.

What newspaper has given local league activities the most coverage? You are correct if you guessed the Vashon Island *Beachcomber*.. There’s a lot to be said for an island, and for our League members there who take the lead in organizing important forums for the Vashon community.

RUG RAFFLE to benefit the LWV/King County South

Handmade rug from village of Teotitlan, Oaxaca, Mexico

Tickets are \$1.00 each or 12 for \$10.00

Tickets will be available at the annual meeting and at most Unit Meetings. Drawing at the Annual Meeting in May. Or - call the League office at 206-246-7161 and leave a message.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS KCS
PO Box 66037
SEATTLE, WA
98166-0037

206-243-7161

***UNIT
MEETINGS
THIS MONTH!***

***SEE PAGE 1 AND
2 FOR DETAILS.***

***ANNUAL
MEETING - MAY 6***