



# KING COUNTY SOUTH

# VOTER April 2008

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

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- OFFICE MANAGER** Becky Cox  
**PHONE, FAX** 206-243-7161  
**E-MAIL** [WALWVKCS@JUNO.COM](mailto:WALWVKCS@JUNO.COM)  
**LOCATION** 616 SW 152nd, Burien  
**MAIL** PO BOX 66037, Burien, WA 98166-0037



## Program Go Around for Local Positions

Our Board condensed the unit local positions at its March meeting. Local Programs for Review: Water rights and ground water protection, especially section IV. No NEW Study/Program Item, nor Concurrence with another study (We await the Port Study currently being prepared). Board discussed the topic of judges (election/appointment/independence); this was suggested for attention next year. The program go around for national positions was reported in the March Voter.

### A few Birthday wishes sent to LWV-US:

*88 keys on a piano. 88 years of League. Let the music continue.  
We've come a long way baby!!!! The clothing changed, but not the sentiments!!!  
At 88 you still have the "it factor" and still rock.  
Happy Birthday to a group that still believes in the "high road" and making things transparent, honest, and positive.  
To the best darn organization that ever was created in these United States. Happy Birthday, women.  
We are so proud to be a small part of this big, beautiful picture of democracy in action.*

Sent to Maggie Duncan, Communications and Online Outreach Manager, League of Women Voters of the United States

Links are active on Voter at our online site > <http://www.lwvwa.org/king-co-south/index.htm>

## President's Musings



April is a momentous month for our League. After many years, we are actually publishing a locally researched report on the state of public transportation in south King County. The committee decided that the direction from the annual meeting pointed toward a report rather than a "study." It was exciting to see a committee of our own League members actively engaged in researching and putting together the report you are receiving. Many thanks to

all who completed the survey and those who slaved over the data!

Coming right on the heels of our "report" is our Annual Meeting. Put the date May 24<sup>th</sup> on your calendar. We are going to have a special program featuring Debbie Dimitre who is going to do a portrayal of Rachel Carson. I have heard reports that she does an outstanding job.

We will be ably represented at the national convention by Pat McCann as official delegate and Sande Nelson as an observer. The convention is in Portland this year.

I will be attending our state council in Ellensburg on May 31<sup>st</sup> through June 1. We can have two representatives. Anyone interested in a trip over the mountains? Let me know. You do not have to be a Board member.

I hope all of you who attended the performance by John Keister had fun. It seemed like a jolly crowd. We had a goodly number of people attending who are not League members. Guess that proves that getting the word out via the newspapers helps! I have to give high praise to Irene Peyton who planned out the whole affair, did the negotiating and made sure all bases were covered with the theater and John. She was ably assisted by Pat McCann. Thanks, Irene and Pat.

*Becky*

## King County Charter Review Commission

King County Charter Review Commission will present final recommendations to the public for comment this month. Miriam Helgeland attends these commission sessions and suggests we should get people there to speak as individuals so the public hears us as well as the Commission members. The Commission has discussed several possible charter changes on which the League has positions.

Non-partisan election for county offices. The Commission has not taken this up because of the initiative that is circulating. Electing the Director of Elections. Charter Review Commission suggestions should go directly to the ballot. Apparently this can't happen unless the Commission is an elected body. Strengthen the Regional Committees.

		<b>Meetings 6:30 - 8:00 PM</b>
West Seattle	April 8 at	Fauntleroy Hall, Emerald Room, 9131 Calif. Ave. SW
Kent	April 15 at	Riverview Grill and Ale House, 4050 Maple Valley Highway

The Commission will report to the Council in May. The Council decides what will go to the ballot. More of the commission material at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/exec/charter.aspx>

## Books

*Have you read a book on a topic other Leaguers might be interested in? Send your review to the office to have it included in the Voter. And if you own the book, and are willing to loan it to a member, include that comment.*

# Calendar

**April** Unit topic: *Local Transportation Study Report—see pages 6-9*

- 2 **Board Meeting:** Usually 1st Wednesday, 9:50-12 Conference room, 616 SW 152nd, Burien. All members welcome.
- 3 **Seattle Forum:** Usually 1st Thursday 7:30PM Seattle First Baptist Church 1111 Harvard Avenue (corner of Harvard & Seneca on First Hill) April Forum: UN’s Millennium Development Goals Always check <http://seattlelwv.org>
- 7 **Social Justice Committee** (Ending Homelessness): 1st Monday, 5:30PM, Seattle League Contact: Pat Cleary 206-725-9002
- 10 **ENUMCLAW meeting:** Second Thursday, 7-9PM High Point - 1777 Highpoint. Contact Cathy Dormaier, 360-802-6799
- 14 **HIGHLINE:** Second Monday, 1:30-3:30PM at our office. Contact: Jean Hueston, 206-878-8706 [Presidential Signing Statements](#) (Feb 2007 National Voter or <http://www.lwvwa.org/king-co-south/KCS2007-10Voter.pdf#page=6>)
- 15 **King County Coordinating Committee:** Third Tuesday, 12:30PM, Seattle League Office Contact: Miriam Helgeland, 253-852-4167  
Tracks what is happening in county government  
Volunteer Recruitment Fair, Highline Community College, Cafeteria, 10AM-2PM. LWVKCS will have a table there.  
TAXes Due
- 16 **FEDERAL WAY meeting:** Third Wednesday, 7-9PM Foundation House, 32290 1st Ave. So. Kathy Jorgensen - 253-859-8349
- 17 **VASHON:** Third Thursday, 2:30PM at Vashon Library. Contact Ellen Kritzman, 206-567-4837
- 22 Earth Day

**Upcoming**

- May 24th 9AM-2PM Annual Meeting Normandy Park Congregational Church, 19247 1<sup>st</sup> Ave So
- May 31-June 1 LWVWA Council (Yakima)
- June 13-16 LWVUS Convention (Portland)

# April 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Board	3 Seattle Forum	4	5
6	7 Social Justice	8	9	10 Enumclaw	11	12
13	14 Highline	15 KCCC Volunteer Recruit	16 Federal Way	17 Vashon	18	19
20	21	22 Earth Day	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

## FIRST CALL FOR ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting will be held May 24<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 2 pm. This includes a fun and educational program from 1 to 2 p.m. Yes, education CAN be fun!

The meeting place is: Normandy Park Congregational Church, 19247 1<sup>st</sup> Ave So. (We have met there before)

We adopt program, approve a budget and elect officers for 2008-2010. We will have a potluck lunch after all our hard work.

*Put this on your calendar.*

## GOOD IN GOVERNMENT BRUNCH

Miriam Helgeland, Jane Shafer and Becky Cox attended the gala at Bell Conference center, February 20. It was well attended by many Leaguers from all over the state. The Good In Government award went to Kristin Rowe-Finkbeiner who established an internet organization called "MomsRising" that deals with social issues like paid family leave.

Lael Braemer was honored for her long time commitment and help to the League.

The featured speaker was Margaret Larson, noted journalist and aid agency consultant. She has been all over the world working to encourage women to help women. She has even been shot at in Afghanistan!

As usual with the League, it was a stellar event.

## THE BEAT GOES ON!

Our League provided testimony AGAIN to the Army Corps of Engineers regarding the proposed gravel mine and dock that would affect the water and the uplands of Maury Island. We are urging the Corps to require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which, of course, they don't want to do.

We also contacted our Legislators who were on committees involved with issues surrounding Maury Island. No legislation we supported passed. One bill, HB2514, did pass and may prove interesting to the whole process. Its title is "Protecting orca whales from the impacts of vessels." It specifically singled out the south sound orcas that frequent the Maury Island area.



## INDIA

On our tour of the "Golden Triangle" in India, I spent a lot of time looking out the bus window. To get to the amazing places we visited we used secondary roads that went through farmland and small villages. The men I saw outnumbered the women 10 to 1. I suspect the women were working behind the scenes. However, when these rural women do go to town they are 10 times more colorful!

Betty Colasurdo

## LWV-KCS March Board Meeting

Board consolidated the units' Local program go Around – see page 1.

Susan Eidenschink, Tacoma/Pierce Co LWV is a new member of the state board and Liaison to LWVKCS.

The State Board has decided to join the Fisher Group (KOMO) for publicity. LWVWA is applying for a grant to produce a voter's guide for judges. That information is not available to the public at the present. Several judges will be on the primary ballot.

Ms Eidenschink also mentioned the Ranked Voting session held in March to educate Pierce County voters for their next election.

Bob Richie of Fairvote would detail the ranked voting process.

For more on this topic, see <http://www.fairvote.org/>

Fundraiser was discussed—see below.

*They Represent You* (TRYs) are available through the KC Library branches, Seattle Public Library branches, King County, Seattle Department of Neighborhoods' Centers, Real Change, and the office of LWV of Seattle. For bulk orders, contact LWV (206) 329-4848.

Response from Ron Sims, KC Executive, RE: Shoreline Management Act stating he does not believe there is a clear reason to delay transmittal to Council at this time as we had requested. Becky states she has heard the Council did override his statement and the hearing time is now set through 2008. (State law puts deadline as 2009.)

Excerpted from Secretary Sande Nelson's minutes.

## Local Option Public Campaign Financing

I thought you'd be interested in the latest radio news story from the Washington News Service. It reports on the passage of local option public campaign financing -- a piece of good-government legislation for which the League has worked long and hard. The LWVWA portfolio chair for campaign finance issues, Chris Chamberlain, was interviewed for the story.

I'd also like to express appreciation to the many local Leagues that have contributed to the League's 2007-08 membership in WNS -- making stories like this one possible. Participating local Leagues (to date) include Bellingham, Clallam, King Co. S., Kitsap, Pullman, Snohomish, Tacoma/Pierce and Thurston. Thank you!

Lucy Copass Community Relations, LWVWA Education Fund

## Climate Action & Green Jobs

The Climate Action & Green Jobs bill passed! This bill is a critical step forward in reducing our state's global warming pollution while building a clean energy economy and green-collar jobs in Washington. Whether you sent emails, made phone calls, testified, wrote letters, or met with your legislators-- **you helped pass one of the most ambitious climate laws in the country!** Governor Gregoire signed this bill into law on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

## Fundraiser

Thank you, League members, for making our fundraiser a success, despite the greater basic cost, with the fee for John Keister. We met John in his role as as father of four boys who are in their teen years along with the old Keister who reminisced about foibles of our local governments and recent contentious community projects.

Becky Cox reports that the total income is \$2100 with \$1100 in expenses. This includes donations made by members not attending the event. 81 tickets were collected that night. The Keister fee and theatre rental came to \$900.00. Eighteen bottles of wine were served ably by Mr. Cox, as members and guests enjoyed an amazing array of pot luck finger foods. Sande Nelson assisted at the buffet table. Karen Lunder distributed flyers and Bill Hulz, manager of the Renton Civic Theatre, displayed flyers and mentioned our event in his newsletter to members. Several notices appeared in neighborhood newspapers and on event lines on the internet. Susan Sanders designed the flyer sent to members and Karen Lunder prepared the member letter.

Pat McCann and Irene Peyton, co-chairs, send thanks to ticket takers, clean up crew, finger food contributors and all who attended or otherwise supported this year's fundraiser. Irene Peyton

**JOIN US AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE, ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE (INCLUDE AREA CODE) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

ANNUAL DUES	INDIVIDUAL	HOUSEHOLD
SUSTAINING	\$75.00	\$112.50
BASIC	50.00	75.00
LIGHT	35.00	52.50

Voting Districts U.S. _____ Washington State _____ King County _____
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PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO LWV-KCS AND MAIL TO; P O BOX 66037, Burien, WA 98166-0037

DUES \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 DONATIONS (always appreciated) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

League of Women Voters of King County South is a 501 (c) 4 organization and donations are not tax deductible. To make a tax deductible contribution prepare a separate check made out to LWVWA Education Fund Memo: For Account of LWV of KCS

Do you want to receive Voter and study material by Email?  Yes  No

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

**LEAGUE Positions**

LWV-US Impact on Issues 2006-2008 > [http://www.lwv.org/Content/ContentGroups/ImpactIssues/2006\\_Impact\\_web.pdf](http://www.lwv.org/Content/ContentGroups/ImpactIssues/2006_Impact_web.pdf)  
 LWV-WA Positions > [http://lwvwa.org/advocacy/advocacy\\_index.html](http://lwvwa.org/advocacy/advocacy_index.html)  
 LWV-KCS Positions (and Summary of Positions at all levels) > <http://www.lwvwa.org/king-co-south/index.htm>



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