



KING COUNTY SOUTH

VOTER

May 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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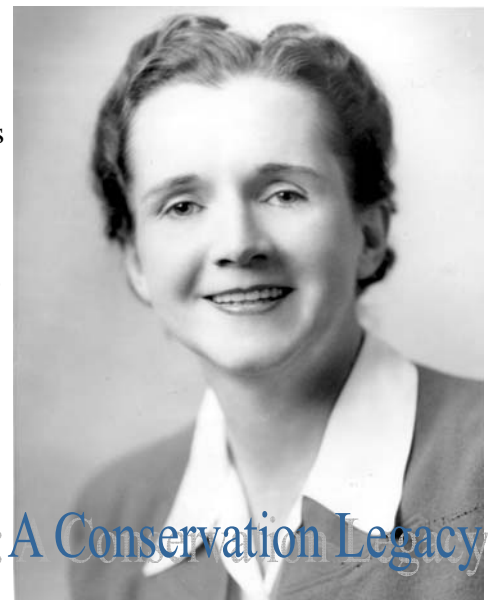
Annual Meeting

May 24th 9AM—2PM

Potluck Lunch

Annual Meeting Kit will be mailed May 2nd.

Debbie Dimitre, an actress and storyteller, will present a program as Rachel Carson, the marine biologist at US Fish & Wildlife who produced pamphlets on conservation and wrote *The Sea Around Us* and *Silent Spring*.



Rachel Carson: A Conservation Legacy

See annual meeting kit.

<http://www.fws.gov/rachelcarson/>

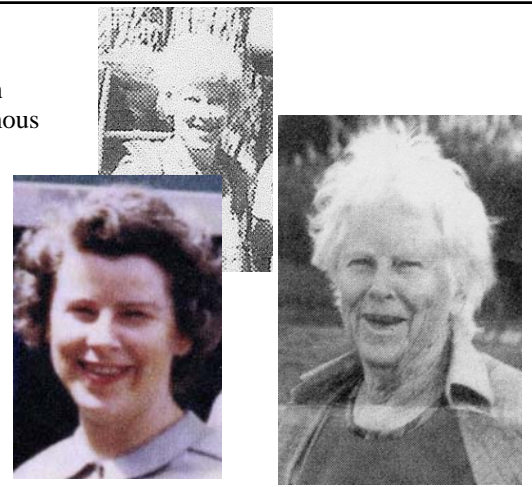
Enid Dolstad

We are certainly going to miss this cheerful, energetic, smart woman from the ranks of the League. Enid passed away the night of March 24th at her home from cancer. She did so many important things with her life including supporting the League with her time and energy. I remember her descending with dogged determination on the Legislature in Olympia with a League publication she thought every legislator should have. She was a great Board member and

outstanding Unit Chair for the Vashon Unit. She also hosted Vashon's infamous summer picnics on occasion.

Join in a celebration of Enid's life on May 4th at the Burton Conference Center-Main Lodge, starting at 4PM. Address is 9326 SW Bayview Drive, Vashon Island, 98070.

Also see page 4.



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

President's Musings



I hope that you all have read our "Report to the League" about transportation issues in south King County and that many of you attended the unit meetings to engage in "face to face" conversation on the subject. We aren't quite ready for "Facebook." We still like to talk to each other in person! Kudos to the committee that met monthly to put the

report together with Betty Colasurdo's lead. She even took a trip to India right in the middle of the research and the committee carried on with interviews, data gathering and writing. Thanks to all of you who were involved! It has been a LONG time since we published anything. Yahoo!

Now, watch for your annual meeting kit. In it you will find program recommendations, budget, nominating committee report and by-law changes. Don't look too hard for the by-law changes—there are none! If you keep anything related to League during the year, keep this! It tells you all our positions, program, officers, budget for the coming year. You never know when you might feel compelled to take action on something and want some backup material!

So, what have I been up to? Denise Smith, President of Seattle LWV, and I worked on a response to the King County Charter Review Commission suggested amendments for the charter. Our first foray was to a hearing

in West Seattle. As Denise and I went over our statement, we found what Denise called a "fatal flaw" in our presentation. We had intended to hand out copies of our statement (with a flourish) at the hearing but we quickly changed that plan. The corrected copies were handed out at the next hearing in Maple Valley. See page 6.

On Income Tax Day I participated in a Volunteer Fair at Highline Community College. We displayed some of our publications, including our clever 211 cards, and, of course, membership applications. I think we need to consider a student membership. One League has a very low fee and the students are not considered voting members. Interesting!

Final note: I am very sad to report that Enid Dolstad, Vashon Island, passed away the night of March 24 from cancer. See pages 1 and 4 for more information about Enid and the memorial service.

Becky

Books

The End of America: Letter of Warning to a Young Patriot, by Naomi Wolf, details ten steps to get from democracy to fascism and describes how far we've come so far. Steps are: invoke an external and internal threat, establish secret prisons, develop a paramilitary force, surveil ordinary citizens, infiltrate citizens' groups, arbitrarily detain and release citizens, target key individuals, restrict the press, cast criticism as "espionage" and dissent as "treason", subvert the rule of law. Library call no. 323.490973 WOL, ISBN 9781933392790 (pbk)

Our Undemocratic Constitution: Where the Constitution Goes Wrong (and How We the People can Correct it), by Sanford Levinson, describes areas of our Constitution that need to be rethought and recommends a scheduled, iterative convention (as called for by Article V) be approved as is done by some state constitutions. Abolishing the Electoral College, an LWV position, is on his 'list'. Library call no. 342.7302 LEV, ISBN 9780195365573 (pbk)

Command of Office : how war, secrecy, and deception transformed the presidency from Theodore Roosevelt to George W. Bush, by Stephen Graubard, relates the enormous shift of power to the presidency over the last century. Library call no. 973.099 GRA, ISBN 0465027571

Above three submitted by Susan Sanders.

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

May Annual Meeting on May 24th at Normandy Park Congregational Church—*see Kit, mailed separately.*
No planned unit meetings this month — if in doubt, check with your unit leader.

- 1 **Seattle Forum:** Usually 1st Thursday 7:30PM Seattle First Baptist Church 1111 Harvard Avenue (corner of Harvard & Seneca on First Hill) May Forum: Voting Issues Always check <http://seattlelwv.org>
- 4 Celebration of Enid Dolstad's life at 4PM Burton Conference Center-Main Lodge, 9326 SW Bayview Drive, Vashon Island, 98070
- 5 **Social Justice Committee** (Ending Homelessness): 1st Monday, 5:30PM, Seattle League Contact: Pat Cleary 206-725-9002
- 7 **Board Meeting:** 1st Wednesday, 9:45-12 Conference room, 616 SW 152nd, Burien. All members welcome.
- **ENUMCLAW meeting:** Second Thursday, 7-9PM High Point - 1777 Highpoint. Contact Cathy Dormaier, 360-802-6799
- **HIGHLINE:** Second Monday, 1:30-3:30PM at our office. Contact: Jean Hueston, 206-878-8706
- 15 **North Highline UAC Election** 6-8 PM, Mount View Elementary School
- 20 **King County Coordinating Committee:** Third Tuesday, 12:30PM, Seattle League Office Contact: Miriam Helgeland, 253-852-4167
 Tracks what is happening in county government
- **FEDERAL WAY meeting:** Third Wednesday, 7-9PM Foundation House, 32290 1st Ave. So. Kathy Jorgensen - 253-859-8349
- **VASHON:** Third Thursday, 2:30PM at Vashon Library. Contact Ellen Kritzman, 206-567-4837
- 24 Annual Meeting, 9AM - 2PM at Normandy Park Congregational Church—*see Kit, mailed separately.*
- 31 LWVWA Council in Yakima (thru June 1st). Delegate Cox plus one other person.

Upcoming

June 13-16 LWVUS Convention in Portland. Delegate McCann and Observer Nelson.
 June 19 Vashon Annual Picnic is a potluck on Maury Island beginning at noon. Contact May Gerstle for location and directions—206-463-0974.

May 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Seattle Forum	2	3
4 Enid Dolstad	5 Social Justice	6	7 Board	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 N Highline UAC Election	16	17
18	19	20 KCCC	21	22	23	24 Annual Meeting
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 LWVWA Council Yakima

In Memoriam
Enid Dolstad

It's a world that will have to spin on its course without her, for our mother, Enid Dolstad, has stepped off. On March 24, 2008 15 years and within hours to the moment her beloved husband Jack was suddenly taken, Mom succumbed to what she learned was "a strangely aggressive form of squamish cell skin cancer." Despite her illness, Mom continued many of her volunteer activities right to the end - even combining radiation treatment appointments with picking up pet food in Bellevue for low income seniors.

The daughter of Professor William Stull Holt and Lois (Crump), Enid Holt came west from her childhood home in Baltimore, MD, when her father accepted a position as the Chairman of the Department of History at the University of Washington. She took eagerly to the mountainous environs of the Puget Sound country and joined the Mountaineers in the 1940's while still in high school. Enid climbed Mt. Rainier twice as a young woman as well as several other local peaks. Enid graduated from Stanford cum laude in 1951 and married Jack Dolstad, son of early Vashon "second wave pioneer" Mary Walls later that same year. Their first summer was spent together at the Sol Duc Ranger Station in Olympic National Park where Jack was a seasonal ranger. A few years later, Enid and Jack were tapped to become the first crew supervisors for the newly formed Student Conservation Association, a program they had tremendous influence upon and worked with for about 15 years as supervisors and later as Co-Executive Directors. From the late 50's, through the 60's and into the 70's many groups of young people ages 16 - 18 from all over the US went with Enid and Jack (and their three kids who were 2, 4, & 6 that first year in 1958) into the wilderness to build and repair trails, construct shelters and otherwise tend to the needs of Olympic National Park. If you've hiked any of the trail from 3rd Beach to Hoh head or stayed in any of the shelters along that strip of ocean, or the shelters and cabins of the Elwha, Bogachiel, Hoh, Queers, Duckabush or Quinault rivers, you've been sheltered and/or hiked upon the unseen labors of these crews supervised by Enid and Jack. Later, as Co-Executive Director she helped the program expand greatly to provide conservation work in cooperation with many Department of Interior agencies across the US.

Choosing to settle on Vashon in 1952, Enid was involved in many community activities - often behind the scenes. She was an early member of the Vashon Island Unitarian Fellowship, active in the Democratic Club, the League of Women Voters, Senator Patty Murray's Seattle office, Vashon Community Council, Vashon Pony Club, Girl Scouts, the Vashon "Jigsaw" study of the mid 60's, the Island Groundwater Committee, Vashon Trail subcommittee, helped found and run VIVA (Vashon Island Volunteers Association), ...on and on. She took meals to shut in seniors through the Meals on Wheels program, she and Jack cut and took fire wood to people who needed it (this up to the time of Jack's death in 1993), provided transportation to medical services and acted as an informal medical advocate for many of those same people. Many were touched by her generous kindness, keen intelligence, high integrity, even temperament and pragmatic approach to living. Her twinkling eyes and full and hearty laugh underscored her delight in living. Enid had the enviable wisdom of a person who has lived life thoughtfully and close to the bone. She was the kind of person who would bend over a man slumped on the street to ask if he needed help even while others passed by. She cared and she acted.

Mom loved tennis, hiking, partner dance (a la Scandinavian or Square Dance style) sailing (an acquired love from Dad), the political process, cats and, above all, horses. When asked to think of her favorite place that would bring her peace and comfort she would visualize being upon her horse Mokai. She rode horses throughout life from childhood through college and years of packing supply horses for the SCA programs, participating in Pony Club and taking horse riding vacations to Ireland and France. Over the last 15 years she enjoyed regular trail rides with her good friend Joan Benjamin.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a contribution to one of Enid's favorite causes: preserving Vashon's unique community (Wolf Town and Preserve Our Islands were two of her favorites), assisting seniors, promoting democracy or protecting our environment. A celebration of her life will be held May 4th at the Burton Conference Center, Main lodge starting at 4 PM. Come prepared to dance Scandinavian style.

Excerpted from family memoriam.

LWV-KCS April Board Meeting

Treasurer's Report Wilkinson: Checkbook balance as 3/31/08 is \$7342.94, which includes \$396 Memorial Fund. Accrued expenses \$1,100; Reserves \$5,846.94. March Income \$1,034.50; Outgo \$424.92. Faye moved to reimburse Becky Cox for 300 "forever stamps" from our reserves.

Correspondence

Thank you note from Lucy Copass, LWVWA Ed Fund, for the two \$25 contributions to support the league's membership in the Washington News Service.

Enid Dolstad obituary, Vashon unit member.

Announcements Becky participated in a national conference call about why members will not take leadership positions

April 8th: KC Home Rule Charter Review Commission Hearings-West Seattle. Miriam Helgeland reviewed proposed testimony for the commission. April 15th: Same-Kent

March 24: Kent Senior Center meeting reported by Mary Ellen Hamblin "Town Hall Meeting" on social services availability.

April 15th: HCC Volunteer Resource Fair. (10 – 2 in the cafeteria) League will use trifold for display to include with membership applications, TRYs, other general information.

May 15th: Highline Unincorporated Area Council Election. Becky needs help at Mountainview Elementary, 6 – 8 PM. **Nominating Committee Report** from written report.

Budget Committee Report income and expenses from Peyton. REMINDER: We need to use Education Fund money for program studies and postage to mail them (and other items where applicable).

Budget accepted as edited and recommended to the Annual Meeting. Balanced at \$7668.00.

By-Laws Committee Report: No bylaws changes recommended. Helgeland

Action Report bills and other things acted on. No report. Henry **Presidential Signing Statements** One question about a "pocket veto". Look to the VOTER for answer!

Local Transportation Study Colasurdo

Resource people for units: Kritzman for Vashon; Helgeland for Federal Way; Colasurdo for Highline; McCann for Enumclaw

Suggested the study be made available to the South KC libraries and wherever we present information.

Annual Meeting: Anne McNeely will be "Event Planner".

Meeting Kit must go out about 5/2: meet at 11 AM to prepare kit.

South King County Town Meeting on Equity and Social Justice Initiative

Over 200 people attended a Town Hall meeting at the Kent Senior Center to discuss a new county initiative to end long-standing inequities and injustices, and to promote fairness and opportunity for all residents. The emphasis is not to increase funding as much to recognize that South King County has two needs:

- Recognition by the Council of the imbalance in funding versus needs in South King in contrast with Seattle and Eastside. Admittedly the taxable income in East King and North Seattle provides the most funds but the population of South King has far greater needs.
- Wiser planning of land use, city and community planning, both location of residents, facilities, collaboration, and efficient ways to improve transportation, location of services and food without heavy use of gas and other energy needs.

Council Chair Patterson told the audience that a child in South King County was twice as likely to drop out of high school as one in East King County, and a child of color in South King County is six times as likely to spend time in a state or county correctional facility as a child on Mercer Island.

Panelist Dr. James Krieger, Chief of the Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention Program for Public Health and Safety in Seattle and King County, shared a television clip from *Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick* that showed examples of supportive communities versus trashed communities. Panelist Mike Heinisch, Executive Director of Kent Youth and Family Services (KYFS), described the new Youth and Family Services building in Springwood Housing complex that provides healthy activities and after school help for youth and families including English, computer skills, and job training for parents. Our South King League of Women Voters was able to help with this: Mike Heinisch called me to ask our League to request \$25,000 from Council member Julia Patterson to help pay off the KYFS construction mortgage and thereby release funds for services. The Council contributed the funds, and therefore we all helped KYFS expand their services. [The facility is inspirational: a beautiful place youth can enjoy as their own in contrast with being in leftover or inadequate facilities.]

Jean Hueston. [Read more at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/equity/> and <http://www.unnaturalcauses.org/>]

Comments for King County Charter Review Commission from League of Women Voters of Seattle and League of Women Voters of King County South

Introductory statement that these LWVs *support a Home Rule Charter free of statutory law*. We believe that *King County Metropolitan Government should have public involvement as a core value*. We commend you for your participation in this Charter review process.

We would like to submit the following comments on the proposed amendments.

Charter Amendment by Citizen Initiative

The Leagues of King County support measures that *provide ways for citizens to amend the charter*.

Council Action on Charter Review Recommendations

We have a long-standing position that *Charter Review recommendations to the council should be placed automatically on the ballot*. This position was developed in response to the concern shared by the commission that the County Council ignores amendments. We support this amendment that requires the Council to act on recommendations as a possible solution to the Council's past "pick and choose" approach to the commissions amendments.

Regional Committees

The League *supports a countywide policy making body with legal authority to establish policy for functions which require area wide solutions*. We understand quite well the importance of regional planning and governance for some of our most important issues. We support efforts of the Commission to enhance the effectiveness of these committees.

Open Space Protection

The League Women Voters of Washington supports establishing *priorities for open space that are based upon the character and needs of the population*. The Leagues of King County support the amendment providing additional protection over open space land owned by the county acquired for their high conservation value.

Anti-Discrimination

The League believes that *all levels of government share the responsibility to provide equality of opportunity for education, employment and housing for all persons regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation or disability*. We support adding sexual orientation and gender identity to the classes protected from discrimination.

Qualifications for Assessor and/or Elections Director

We also support *a system of clearly fixed responsibilities* and that we believe *jobs requiring technical skills should be appointed*. Since the Office of Assessor and/or Director of Elections may become an elected position before the next Charter Review, we support the amendment that minimal qualifications be required for this increasingly technical position as they are for Sheriff.

Charter Review Commission Appointment/Confirmation Process

We support the Charter Review Process but we agree there must be a *clear, consistent and open process for appointing and confirming the Review Commission members*.

New Commitments to Unincorporated Area Residents

We commend you for acknowledging the concerns raised by the unincorporated areas residents regarding representation. We support the changes made to the preamble .

Amendments on which we are taking no position

Sheriff's Office and Collective Bargaining, , Budget Timeline, Elections Division Deadlines, Transitory Provisions and Budget Allotment Requirements

Issue of concern

In light of the recent campaign financing reform at every level of government recommended with the passage of ESSB 5278 by the state legislature, *we recommend that the commission address public funding of campaigns for King County office during this review session*. We believe the commission has the opportunity to influence this important reform process within King County.

[Thanked commission for accepting comments and for their accomplishments; signed by Presidents Denise Smith, Becky Cox.]

Alert for Signature Gatherers

All people working on gathering signatures on any state initiative **MUST** sign the oath on the **BACK** of the initiative or all signatures will be invalidated. **Do not leave it to others!**

Presidential Signing Statements

The June Voter will include the answers to discussion questions and solutions to be considered for Presidential signing statements by those units that participated.

During the Highline Unit's discussion of the signing statements, the question came up about the "pocket veto." None of those present were exactly sure just how it worked. Bob Fithian volunteered to do some investigative work. The following is his offering as found on Wikipedia (for those of you not on the Web, this is an online encyclopedia and the information is not necessarily admissible in court!)

A pocket veto is a legislative maneuver in American Federal lawmaking and is a process of indirect rejection. The US Constitution requires the President to sign or veto any legislation placed on his desk within ten days (not including Sundays)

while the United States Congress is in session. The US Constitution, Article 1, Section 7 states:

"...if any Bill shall not be returned by the President within ten Days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the Same shall be a Law, in like Manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress by their Adjournment prevent its Return, in which Case it shall not be a Law."

If the President does not sign the bill within the required time period, the bill becomes law by default. However, the exception to this rule is if Congress adjourns before the ten days have passed and the President has not yet signed the bill. In such a case, the bill does not become law; it is effectively, if not actually, vetoed. If the President does sign the bill (sign into law), the bill becomes law. Ignoring legislation, or "putting a bill in one's pocket" until Congress adjourns is thus called a *pocket veto*. Since Congress cannot vote while in adjournment, a pocket veto cannot be overridden. James Madison became the first president to use the pocket veto in 1812.

Progress on Public Financing of Local Political Campaigns

The Governor signed legislation allowing local governments to establish programs to publicly finance local political campaigns on March 17, 2008. However, a local government can not establish such a program until it has submitted a proposal for public financing to the voters for their approval or rejection.

The Seattle City Council and Mayor Greg Nickels announced plans for a joint task force to begin work on developing proposals for public financing of campaigns. Councilmember Phillips introduced legislation (2008-0147) which would establish November, 4, 2008 as the date for an election on the question of using local public matching funds to finance the campaigns for the offices of the King County executive, prosecutor, sheriff, assessor, county council, district court judges, and superior court judges. Above from <http://mkcclegisearch.metrokc.gov/attachments/29314.doc>

See also <http://www.seattle.gov/council/newsdetail.asp?ID=8271&Dept=28> and

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/Phillips/legislation.aspx>.

That Chain E-mail Your Friend Sent to You Is (Likely) Bogus. Seriously.

by Lori Robertson http://www.factcheck.org/specialreports/that_chain_e-mail_your_friend_sent_to.html

I've noticed that chain e-mails, particularly those about politics, have a lot of things in common: urgent and frightening messages; spelling errors; a tendency to blame mainstream media for not telling the real story; and false, misleading, utterly bogus, and completely off-base claims. If there was ever a case where readers should apply a guilty-until-proven-innocent standard, this is it. We at FactCheck.org ask the public to be skeptical about politicians' claims. With these e-mails, outright cynicism is justified. Assume all such messages are wrong, and you'll be right most of the time.

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LEAGUE Positions

LWV-US Impact on Issues 2006-2008 > http://www.lwv.org/Content/ContentGroups/ImpactIssues/2006_Impact_web.pdf
 LWV-WA Positions > 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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