



## KING COUNTY SOUTH

# VOTER

September 2008

### WANTED: A VOTER EDITOR

Computer knowledge needed. We can't do the voter on parchment scrolls anymore! This Voter is being done in an e-mail friendly (I hope) manner on the Word program. The program Publisher is also available on the League computer. Call the office, 206-243-7161, to volunteer!

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As you probably have noticed—this Voter is different! I am the one using the computer the most in the office but I do not have the time to set up a Voter as we have done in the past.

One of the most interesting things I have done this summer is getting involved with registering veterans to vote. There has been a lot of chatter about the Director of the VA not allowing people in the hospitals to register veterans. To make a long story short, a coalition of Leaguers, the Paralyzed Veterans of America, the VA and King County Elections found a way to register veterans using the existing system. We have not been overwhelmed with requests. I officially registered ONE veteran who was bed-ridden at the VA hospital in Seattle. I have assisted two outpatients with registration information. However, we all are pleased that we have found a method that works. It is a bit labor intensive but being a patient is no picnic, either.

*Becky*

### PROPOSED CALENDAR FOR 2008-09

- September: Unit Meetings: Topic: Review local position on Judicial Selection/Ethics. (Adopted at our annual meeting.)
- October: General Meeting, **October 23**. Topic: State Ballot Issues. Time: 7-9. Co-Sponsors: AAUW. Location: Normandy Park Congregational Church, 19247 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. So, Normandy Park.
- November: Unit Meetings. **Consensus Meeting**. Topic: "Early Care and Education of the Young Child." Update of "Day Care for Children" adopted in 1984. State LWV Action Workshop, November 15<sup>th</sup>.

December: Holiday Party and Silent Auction. Speaker and Date: TBD

January: Unit Meetings. Topic: Program go-around for state and local LWV.

February: Unit Meetings. Topic: “**National Popular Vote.**” (Adopted at National Convention in June) **Consensus Meeting!!**  
Theater Party: Renton Civic Theater (If the play is good)

March: TBD

April: General Meeting: Mayor’s Breakfast. Date and location TBD.

May: Annual Meeting

### Unit Meetings

**Highline:** Second Monday, 1:30-3:30PM. League office at 616 SW 152<sup>nd</sup>, Burien.  
Contact MaryEllen Hamblin, 253-255-6675

**Enumclaw:** Second Thursday, 7-9PM, 1777 Highpoint. Enumclaw. Contact Cathy Dormaier, 360-802-6799.

**Federal Way:** Third Wednesday, 7-9PM, Foundation House, 32290 1<sup>st</sup> Ave So, Federal Way. Contact: Barbara Cornwall, 206-870-2042.

**Vashon:** Third Thursday, 2:30PM, Vashon Library. Contact Ellen Kritzman, 206-567-4837

<h3 style="margin: 0;">September Units IS JUSTICE BEING SERVED?</h3>
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**ACTION** is where the fun comes in League! Our September units will examine current state and county positions, determine if these positions should be examined or retained as is, and we will consider options for taking action or for educating citizens under these positions.

**BE PREPARED!** Talk to friends, lawyers, judges and bring stories about any interactions with the justice system...positive and negative.

League of Women Voters of Washington Court System Positions (1977) ( in brief)

Our courts should be accessible, impartial, non-partisan, flexible, have uniform rules and procedures which prevent undue delays, and provide compensation adequate to attract the best judicial judges and staff.

A non-partisan nominating commission composed of both lawyers and laymen should present names of judicial candidates to the Governor for appointment. Voters should have the opportunity for periodic review of judges.

King County South established these positions in 1999. Units held in 2005 discussed the

selection of judges, the resources available to voters to help evaluate candidates and other options for the selection of judges. (These positions may amplify some of the state positions.)

### COURTS

Support implementing a strong court administration responsible for unified customer service, efficient management systems and coordinated technology. (1999)

Support reducing jurisdictional overlap except to provide flexibility in dealing with case overloads. 1999

Support changes to the judicial selection system that would ensure qualified judges, increase public awareness of judicial elections and provide the public the information needed to make informed decisions 1999

### UNIT CHAIRS

Barbara Cornwall, FW Chair: cornbd@hotmail.com

Ellen Kritzman, Vashon Chair: ekritzman@centurytel.net

MaryEllen Hamblin: Highline Chair: hamboni@g.com

Cathy Dormaier: Enumclaw Chair: dkdenny@foxinternet.com

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**\*\*The estimated dollar value of volunteer time is \$19.51 per hour for 2007.** From the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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### LONG TIME MEMBER OFF TO GREENER PASTURES

Georgette Valle, an active member for many years, is now running for a Senate seat from Green Valley in Arizona . She was a member of the Washington State Legislature for 12 terms and now is turning her attention to Arizona. Water seems to be a major issue in Green Valley. We are always proud of our League members when they seek elective office!

### WOLVES!!!

Conservation Northwest tells us that wolves are back in Washington. There has been a pack confirmed in the Methow valley. DNA samples from the alpha male and female taken by state biologists indicate that the male came from the coast range of British Columbia and the female from the Canadian Rockies. Conservation Northwest attributes

this to the fact that the habitat corridors are both protected and connected.

Information provided by Conservation Northwest.

### WHO IS DOING WHAT?

Unit Organization: Irene Peyton  
Action: Marge Henry, assisted by Karen Lunder  
Holiday Party: Pat McCann and Ellen Kritzman  
Judicial Selection/Ethics: Irene Peyton and Pat McCann, Mary Ehlers  
Mayor's Breakfast: Irene Peyton  
Annual Meeting: Pat McCann

#### UNIT CHAIRS

Barbara Cornwall, FW Chair: [cornbd@hotmail.com](mailto:cornbd@hotmail.com), Phone: 206-870-2042  
Ellen Kritzman, Vashon Chair: [ekritzman@centurytel.net](mailto:ekritzman@centurytel.net), Phone: 206-567-4837  
MaryEllen Hamblin: Highline Chair: [hamboni@g.com](mailto:hamboni@g.com), Phone: 425-255-6675  
Cathy Dormaier: Enumclaw Chair: [dkdenny@foxinternet.com](mailto:dkdenny@foxinternet.com), Phone: 360-802-6799

### MARGARET COX

One of League's strongest advocates, Margaret Cox, passed away quietly on July 20, 2008 at the tender age of 96. Quoting from the program from her services, "To many people she defined the word 'active.' Margaret also embodied such fancy terms as self-realization, enfranchisement, equal opportunity, social conscience, reformation. She walked the walk. She never stopped questioning, never stopped learning, never stopped teaching and never stopped smiling." The Federal Way Unit and our League as a whole will miss her unbridled enthusiasm.

### Observer's Report of the 48<sup>th</sup> National Convention of the League of Women Voters of the United States

June 13-17, 2008, Portland, Oregon

The Pre-event, 2 to 5 PM, "THE League-How to Stand Out and Be GREAT in 2008" was an explanation of the Membership Recruitment Initiative". QUICK TIPS for Recruiting Members included 1.) Make a connection (tell your personal story), 2.) ASK. Include an invitation in any conversation. Don't assume that it is implied. 3.) Make it easy. Have a brochure ready or other info (i.e. [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)) to join. 4.) Avoid jargon. It is exclusive.

*Breaking News:* MEMBERSHIP Recruitment Can & Should Be Done at Voters' Service Events. "This is not the advice that we have always given Leagues," admits Greg

Leatherwood, LWVUS CFO. “But,” he adds, “after consultation with an attorney and careful review of recent IRS publications, this is the appropriate advice for how we should operate now—especially now during this important election year.” (from LWV Membership Recruitment News, Special edition, Convention 2008.) A sheet of ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES THAT LEAGUES MAY UNDERTAKE USING CHARITABLE 501©(3) MONIES is also available. Impermissible advocacy activities include 1.) Direct lobbying, and 2.) Grassroots lobbying.

*And all of this was before the convention really began!*

Sandra Nelson

More personal observations from Sande next month!

Below you will find what was adopted as program at the National Convention

### **LWVUS National Popular Vote Compact Study (NEW)**

Delegates at Convention 2008 adopted a study of the feasibility of using the National Popular Vote (NPV) Compact among the states as a method for electing the president. A [study committee has been formed](#) and will produce background materials to be posted on the LWVUS Web site in the next few months. As the NPV Study Committee proceeds with its work, the LWVUS will provide consensus material to the Leagues. Because the study will be proceeding on a compressed schedule, Leagues should be aware that the deadline for submitting consensus forms will be May 1, 2009.

### **LWVUS Health Care Education Task Force**

The LWVUS Board has approved formation of a Health Care Education Task Force to initiate the Health Care Education project, which was approved by delegates to Convention 2008. [Click here](#) to apply for membership on this Task Force.

## **BOOK REVIEW**

The book is **DESERT QUEEN** by Janet Wallach, Anchor Books 1999, 2005.

The brilliant mind of Gertrude Bell from Newcastle, England served her country superbly well for 10 years at military intelligence and political acumen during the time of World War I and thereafter. She was fluent in 5 languages including Arabic and Turkish and made her way against strong odds in the male world of the British Empire abroad. She was well known in her own country and recognized for what she did. She was a contemporary of Lawrence of Arabia. She believed the Arab people were capable of governing themselves. She worked extensively to set up the government of Iraq after the war. Britain chafed under the expensive burden of maintaining a stable Mesopotamia (Iraq) as we are now. What a sense of *deja vu* I had. Gertrude Bell was born in 1868 and died in 1926. She was NOT a feminist because while she considered herself the equal of men, most women were not, in her opinion. Always the foreign powers wanted the oil in

Iraq and would harm their own best interests in the long run to get it.

Reviewed by Faye Wilkinson

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*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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**For member information: call the LWV office at 206-243-7161.**