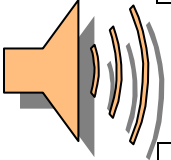




KING COUNTY SOUTH VOTER

May 2010

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.



WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH?

ANNUAL MEETING

"TAKE A STAND FOR LEAGUE"

SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2010

9:45 a.m.-2 p.m.

Location: Matt Griffin YMCA

3595 S. 188th St.

Sea Tac, WA 98188

We will set the tone for 2010-2011 by choosing program, electing new Board members, adopting a budget and thinking ahead for next year.

Potluck lunch: Bring salad, dessert or a hot dish that can be kept warm on a warming tray. (No ovens)

Tour of the NEW YMCA will be available at 2:15 p.m.

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PRESIDENT PRO TEM MESSAGE

For the first time in many years, our League is not sending a delegate to National convention. We did do our job and submit our suggestions for national program. We just won't be voting on anything this year! I thought you might be interested in seeing what the national board is proposing as program for 2010-12.

“The (national) Board is recommending retention of all LWVUS positions, a concurrence to amend and update the Arms Control position on the floor of Convention, and a study of the ‘Federal Role in Public Education.’ Details will be included in the Convention ‘Workbook,’ which will be posted on the website at the end of April.”

Our League strongly urged support of the updated Arms Control position mainly as a conduit for action. The study of public education was a strong second in our program go-around. We could only recommend one item and it was a study of financial institutions.

Next up is our **ANNUAL MEETING** and you will see in the enclosed annual meeting kit that we are proposing TWO study items. We also have a slate of officers with ONE big hole—president. All of you should be thinking of ways you can support our League. It doesn't take much if everyone does a little. Come to the annual meeting and Take a Stand for League!

Last item, the national League is dropping the “nationally recruited members” program. I have always felt this was a very difficult program to administer. We have about 20 national members on our roster but we have been unsuccessful in getting any of them to join our local League (not that we didn't try). In fact, some didn't even know they were members! A strange program indeed and I am not sorry to see it go. If you are a national member, getting this Voter, please consider joining locally. (We don't bite and your participation level is up to you)

See you at the Annual Meeting and “**Take a Stand for League.**”

Becky Cox, President Pro Tem

ANNUAL MEETING-WHAT IS IT?

Annual Meeting is where the League:

- Adopts by-law changes (we have none this year)
- Adopts a budget (we have one of those, for sure)
- Adopts program (we have two proposed study items)
- Elects officers
- Gives direction to the new board (that is fun!)
- Celebrates its accomplishments of the past year

To support the meeting the League publishes an "Annual Meeting Kit" that is enclosed with this Voter. All our local positions, agenda, reports, budget are in this publication. All good Leaguers hang on to their kit for future reference!

GOOD HAIR

Dear League Leaders,

I just read an article in a magazine that listed 5 steps to get better looking hair. League is never far from my thoughts and somehow these steps seemed appropriate to promote a healthier League as well.

1. Ban breakage.

In the League membership world, I would liken this statement to how we keep our members happy...that means all our members.... those that want to "do" something, those that want to learn something, those that want to "be a part of something" and those that are merely curious.

You can't keep members if your League is filled with people who are unhappy (or bored or not connected). There is a human element in League...big surprise. This is as important as finance, membership and marketing.

2. Put a stop to split ends.

In this framework, this speaks to the hopeless attitude of so many leaders. Replace the "woe is me" approach with an approach that shares enthusiasm for all the great developmental opportunities for new leaders. This will strengthen your League's ability to do great things. Your League can be even more productive if you get playful.

3. Skip daily sudsing.

Don't do it all - delegate! League stuff shouldn't consume each day! Give yourself a break.

4. Fend off fly-aways.

Train. It is ongoing, just as it is in the corporate world. If you don't engage many members, they will never be leaders and eventually will leave.

5. Enhance shine.

Celebrate your successes!

If you need resources in any of these areas, check our website or contact me!

Warmly,
Marcia

Marcia A. Merrins
LWVUS Board

LWVUS Membership Services Committee
716-672-4275
mmerrins@netsyncnet

The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. Join us in making democracy work!

Sign up for our LeaguE-Voice newsletter at www.lwv.org

VOTE SMART

Member Alert: "Vote Smart" K-12 curriculum will be distributed throughout the Nation's schools by the Council for Social Studies. I think it said August. Vote Smart is a good source of information on candidates and issues--

MaryEllen Hamblin

INTERESTING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

To Whom it May Concern:

I work at the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center (KCSARC) in Renton, and I am coordinating the organization's new court monitoring program called "CourtWatch." Court monitoring is a way to gather information about the courts through observing legal proceedings. In order to accomplish this, we will be recruiting volunteers (starting in late summer/fall 2010) to observe proceedings where there are victims of sexual assault to observe both procedural and substantive information such as whether court starts on time, how often attorneys are involved, case outcomes, victim safety issues, and more. Monitoring will be done at King County Superior Court, primarily at the Regional Justice Center in Kent.

Is this volunteer opportunity something that your club members may be interested in?

Thank you,

Laura Jones, JD | CourtWatch Manager
King County Sexual Assault Resource Center | END THE SILENCE

Direct: 425-282-0425
Main: 425-226-5062
Fax: 425-282-0925
Email: ljones@kcsarc.org
Web: www.kcsarc.org

24 Hour Resource Line: 1.888.99VOICE

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STATE AND NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

Both state and national Leagues are printing League information on-line on the League websites. If you are using a computer, be sure to check both of the sites for up to date information. The suspension of printing of the Voters is due to an unprecedented lack of funds at both levels. Websites are lwvwa.org and lwv.org.

(Don't type in a .com address-I did that once and wondered where in the heck I was! Ed.)

SINGLE-PAYER VASHON, WEST SEATTLE/BURIEN

There are a number of SP events and meetings happening in the next few weeks. A good summary of most of them can be found at the current HCFA-WA Single-Payer Action Teams Update here: www.healthcareforallwa.org/action-team-updates/

A FIFTY YEAR MEMBER

Congratulations to JANE FITCH who celebrated her 50th year as a League member. Excerpts from a letter that Jane sent to her original League home in Bozeman, MT, follow:

In the fall of 1959, I attended an open house introducing me to the LWV. I was interested in finding a group that would give me a "break" from child-talk (and I had three children).

Among other "duties" within League, I became president in 1969. Also, I attended my first National Convention-in Chicago. I remember quite well our tour of the devastation caused by protests against the war in Vietnam.

While a member of League, I was privileged to be selected to serve on the City-County Planning Board. I'm certain I was selected because of my connection with LWV.

I moved to the San Diego, CA area in 1976 and immediately (within 2 months) became a member of their League. I was honored to serve two years as president of the San Diego County LWV.

I continued with the League after to moving to Seattle, 20 years ago. (Ed. Note: She served admirably on the Board of LWV of KCS) Although I'm no longer active with League, I now use my energies in a program called Senior Rights Assistance.

Jane Fitch

KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Remember talking about this last month? Did you vote? The King CD had almost twice the number of voters than last year. Due to the League's interest, I am sure!
The new board member elected was Max Prinson.

The report from our units will be added to other reports from around the state to see what issues the League should be concerned about. The report is as follows:

KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT UNIT REPORT

LWV of King County South
March 2010

Mission, Vision, Values

The King Conservation District's (KCD) mission and vision gives the appearance of duplication of efforts by other governmental agencies and environmental groups. By actively pursuing their value of transparency, through all media outlets, they could better explain how they are meeting their mission, vision and values.

KCD Election

The cost of elections should not be borne in their entirety by the KCD or any special district.

The process of using a private company to conduct the conservation district's elections does not guarantee ballot integrity and security. The process used currently limits wide participation due to lack of knowledge of the election, availability of polling places and knowledge about the candidates. The Secretary of State should assure the election's integrity and security.

Elections should not be limited to the first quarter of the year.

Funding

The funding of KCD seems reasonable but there is a lack of awareness by the public that this group is financed to a great extent by the county property tax.

Opt-Out Cities in King County

No factual information available about why cities opted-out of the conservation district. It is speculated that Federal Way opted out at the time of incorporation 20 years ago.

POLITICAL MUSICAL CHAIRS

The Vashon Beachcomber reports that the 34th Legislative district will be an interesting place for candidates this fall. (Don't forget, the primary is in August!)

The senator from that district is going to run for King County council so that seat will be open. One of the current state representatives is going to run for the state senate so that seat will be open. Many candidates are lining up to run for those two positions as there will not be a true incumbent for either position.

ON-LINE CALENDARING FOR THE LEAGUE

A Reminder

KCS now has an electronic calendar accessible by any league member on the internet. If you want to look at the calendar, type in the url:

**www.google.com/calendar (to go to the website)
sign in (upper right corner) with: walwvkcs@juno.com
password: consensus**

Mary Ehlers has agreed to be the "calendar master" so if you want her to add events or make changes please send her an e-mail (maryehlers@comcast.net) or call her at 253-941-1930.

We have not been overwhelming Mary with data to be entered.

TRYs Are Here

Seattle LWV, with the diligent help of our own, **Susan Sanders**, has launched the 2010 edition of **They Represent You**. A must have for everyone! Take them to your friends and organizations to which you belong. Call the office for arrangements to get them.

We receive many several calls from citizens who eagerly await their copies!!!

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CALENDAR

- April 30-May 2: Household Hazardous Wastemobile, Vashon
Tjomsland Gravel Pit, 17001 107th Ave. SW. Time: 10 am to 5 pm.
- May 5: Board Meeting, League office, 616 SW 152nd. 9:45-Noon. All are welcome.
President Pro-Tem, Becky Cox
- May 15: ANNUAL MEETING. Matt Griffin YMCA, 36th So and 188th St., Sea-Tac,
WA. 10:00 to 2:00. Potluck lunch. Hot trays for warm things. Desserts and
salads are good!
- May 21-23: LWV of Washington Council Meeting, Bellingham. Delegates will be Mary
Ehlers and Becky Cox
- June 2: Organizational Meeting for LWV of KCS (No meeting in July) Location:
Becky Cox's home. Lunch will be served.
- June 11-15: LWV of US National Convention, Atlanta, Georgia. You should be able to
follow the proceedings on the LWV.org website.
- June 29: Vashon Island (location TBD) King County Shoreline Master Program
Subject Review: Docks, piers, environmental designations and stabilization
(including bulkheads.)

LWV of KCS
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