



KING COUNTY SOUTH

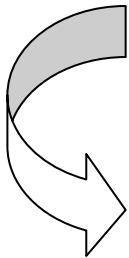
VOTER

January 2011

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?

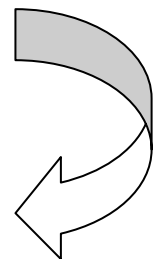


What's your passion?

The State LWV depends on **YOU** to decide what issues are the most important to you!

We tell the state LWV by way of our January Units.
Come to your Units with all your passionate ideas!

Read the President's Message for Local LWV concerns and the story of Justice Madsen's experience with the League!
It may influence your Passion!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I think back on the past few months of our League activities with satisfaction. Many of us participated in Conversation Café training. Two committees are hard at work preparing innovative programs for February and March. Active members enjoyed reading Nine and discussing it at Unit meetings. As always, our Holiday Party brought together members who rarely see each other outside of our Annual Meeting. You graciously accepted our change in venue. Chief Justice Madsen's stimulating talk gave us much to consider. How lucky we were to have a dry sparkling day to walk on the Highline campus!

As you will read in other articles in this VOTER, the new year brings an urgency to addressing concerns about the future of our League. Our precipitous fall in membership and the depletion of financial reserves should challenge every member to participate in our January units. There, in addition to making recommendations for future State League programs, we will take off any rose-colored glasses and put on the table our ideas for the future. Will our members be able to continue with League activities, and if so, how? Your input is vital. Your Board has not chosen any particular path beyond this year, but we are clear that our current level of operation and activities cannot be supported by our membership.

As I looked around at the Holiday Luncheon, I saw so many people who have given so much to make our communities, state, and nation better because of their League involvement. Noticing how every one focused intently to our speaker, I knew sharp minds still dwelled under those grey hairs. Since the day the League was formed, women have been leading the parade for more justice for all. Seeing her mother dress up to go out to a League meeting, Barbara Madsen, as a six-year-old, had an "a-ha moment". Women did not just work at home. They had a place in public life. Their civic involvement mattered. And whatever is the future for our League, our participation has mattered.

P.S. King County's recent actions to preserve Maury Island remind me of the many ways the League fought for this outcome. Our Vashon members have always been involved, and I remember Becky Cox, on at least two occasions, taking the ferry and finding her way to hearings on the proposed gravel mining and LARGE pier which would accommodate the ships and barges needed. She would present our state League's well-studied positions, which were definitely at odds with the proponents. Five years, even one year ago, it seemed like emptying the ocean with a teaspoon!

Betty Colasurdo, Management Team

POINTS TO PONDER REGARDING LWV OF KING COUNTY SOUTH

At the request of the Board, in conjunction with the maturing of our CD, I reviewed the financial position of the King County South League. Based on my analysis and projections presented to the Board, there is a critical concern for the viability of our League after the end of our fiscal year in June 2011. Given our history and current inflows and outflows of cash, we will not be able to continue more than a few months into our next fiscal year. The board has authorized a planning committee to explore options, which will be discussed by the members at the January unit meetings. Further discussions and a possible decision of some kind will be part of our Annual Meeting in May.

Respectfully, Cindy Piennett

LWVWA WINTER VOTER IS ON LINE AT <http://www.lwvwa.org/publications.html>.

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More on Choosing Issues for State LWV Program

Program Planning: the way the League chooses its issues. League members choose issues to place on our public policy agenda, and consider what role your local League will play in addressing those issues during the program planning process. You also decide which items to recommend as state (this year) and national (next year) program priorities. The process culminates when the program is adopted at the local annual meeting and the biennial state or national convention. Our State Convention will be held May 20 – 22 in Richland, WA at the Shilo Inn.

Here are some questions to consider in selecting an issue for League work:

- Which issues are of such vital concern to our members and our community that they demand attention now?
- Which issues will benefit from the League’s special expertise or perspective?
- Is there a real possibility that citizens working on this issue can bring about positive change?
- Will League work on this issue have a measurable impact on our community or state? How will results be evaluated?
- Will working on this issue give the League opportunities to collaborate with other groups and individuals?

Susan Eidenshank, State Program Chr.

Legislative Priorities

The State LWV Board and the Lobby Team have set their priorities for the 2011 legislative session. The priorities will be posted on LWVWA.ORG. If the printed version comes before the paper Voter is mailed, it will be included in that mailing.

With this Voter is a coupon for subscribing to the Legislative Newsletter (an awesome publication—non-biased info on the doings in Olympia). Note: If you subscribed by e-mail last year, you will get it this year, too. The coupon is for those who have never subscribed or want it mailed to them.

FOLLOW THE LEAGUE'S PROGRESS IN OLYMPIA

SUBSCRIBE TO THE LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

During the legislative session you will receive information about League support or opposition to bills, pertinent committee hearings, status of bills and Action Alerts. **If you are willing to receive the newsletter via email it's free!** If you prefer to have it mailed to you there is a \$15 charge. Please specify which version you wish to receive - mail or email. **\$15 Mail Free via Email**

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Make your check payable to and return to: LWVWA, 4730 University Way NE, #720, Seattle, WA 98105

PH: 206-622-8961, outside toll area, 1-800-419-2596, email: lwvwa@lwvwa.org, www.lwvwa.org

VOTER TURNOUT

The Secretary of State reported that more than 7 out of 10 registered voters statewide turned out for the Nov. 2 election. The turnout exceeded the Secretary of State's predictions. The last time we had such a large turn-out was in the 1970's.

There were some very competitive races and there was a lot of high-spending as a result of a recent US Supreme Court decision regarding campaign financing.

Columbia County had the highest turn-out with 85 % and Pierce County was the lowest (?) with 66.6%.

Crisis in Governance, Vashon – Part II

It's been a roller coaster ride, and perhaps more soap opera than saga. Part I ended before the September regular VMICC (Vashon-Maury Island Community Council) meeting took place. The meeting was wound up in process, not goals, but held together under the able facilitation of a well respected former Chair, and with at least 85 residents present. Formal acceptance of the Board resignations in August was called for. The former Treasurer stepped forward to "unresign" and have care-taker status only until a new Board could be installed in December. COULD a Board of one exist? Motions to install an interim Board of five (quorum) or nine (full) failed -- there was unease in having only one, but more unease in a larger Board not chosen by the community. A Nominations Committee was formed.

At the October meeting the former Chair again facilitated, and all seemed relatively normal. Three motions passed and one was indefinitely postponed (to sever UAC ties). Seven of ten Board candidates were present and spoke about why they were running. Among them was the Islander whose actions to sue, and to pursue PRA requests, had triggered the crisis originally.

Later in the month the Outreach Committee held a forum to discuss short and long term goals. One of the latter was that "VMICC retains Town Hall character while maintaining the relationship with King County, with a goal of sustainability for Vashon".

Prior to the November 4 election, the "crisis precipitator" ran ads in the newspaper and sent an Island wide mailing promoting his candidacy. He was among the nine elected, but then declared the election should be nullified because the online Rank Choice Voting option had no security against multiple votes cast by one person.

Monday, November 15, the VMICC meeting was chaired by the single existing Board member. The first announcement was made by a King County UAC staff support person: the previous Friday the County Council adopted a budget which cut out UAC staff salaries, proposed rolling the six UACs into one large one, and hadn't clearly allocated any UAC funding. The Transportation Committee announcement was of proposals to drastically cut ferry service. Attendees were somewhat rattled at this point. Then the Outreach Committee report was given. The authorized awarding of a contract to design a new website for \$3,000 had occurred, and work was progressing. Two Board members-elect protested they had not been advised of who got the contract, and believed it could be done much more cheaply. Despite being told this was past business, no longer open for negotiation, one member made a motion to stop the work and revisit the issue. When the Chair ruled the motion out of order, he threw his new Board notebook back on the table, and walked out. Was our Council even salvageable? One

Board member-elect made a motion to disband the Board (all motions are brought to the floor the following month).

At the first meeting of the 2010-2012 Board (not full Council) last night, officers were chosen, and the gentleman who walked out in a huff in November threw his hat in the ring for Chair (he is a previous chair) and got the position. Our "crisis precipitator" was denied every position he ran for (Chair, VP, Treasurer), having only two supporters, but may have a new focus for his complaints -- the County Council, which voted to defund and re-organize the UACs. So Part II ends with a glimmer of hope, at least, and the certainty of more fireworks ahead.

Ellen Kritzman
Dec. 7, 2010

ETC

Interesting Links

New York Times: nytimes.com

Washington Post:

Washingtonpost.com

National League: lwv.org

Washington League: lwvwa.org

Member News

- ❖ Barbara Norby, Enumclaw Unit, has moved to 15501 62nd Ave NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332. Phone #s are: (H) 253-857-4033 and (C) 206-910-2895. She is being attentively watched over by her son.
- ❖ Dave Lilly is now home and doing well. He claims that Dorothy has become a "drill sergeant!"
- ❖ Jennie Hodgson, a longtime Vashon member, had been in a rehabilitation center in Maryland for a while. She recently sent a letter telling her friends on Vashon how she was doing. Sadly, things got worse instead of better, and Jennie died Nov. 30th in her sleep. Jennie was talking and laughing with at least one of her relatives the day before she died, so at least she was still the Jennie we all knew and loved. A memorial service will be announced soon. Jennie was a key member of the Vashon community in many different capacities for many years.

PRELIMINARY 2010-2011 CALENDAR

February 2011

- Feb 2: Board Meeting
Feb 24: State LWV Lobby Day, Columbia Room, Capitol, Olympia
Units: Local study: Storm Water Management in KCS

March 2011

- Mar 2: Board Meeting
Units: Conversation Café: Violence on Our Transportation Systems. Public is invited. Watch for changes in meeting places.

April 2011

- Apr 6: Board Meeting
Units: Education Issues-Subject TBD

May 2011

- May 4: Board Meeting
Annual Meeting

June 2011

- June 2: Theater Party, Renton Civic Theater. Play, "Run for Your Wife"

BOARD ACTIONS

At the December Board Meeting, the Board agreed to support Washington News Service. WNS assists nonprofit organizations like ours by producing radio news stories on issues we consider important. Radio stations (mostly small) routinely air WNS stories. Our League has regularly supported WNS.

The Board also authorized payment of \$250 to the Seattle Ed Fund for publishing and distributing the pamphlet "They Represent You."

Our Ed Fund account at the state LWV will be used to cover these costs.

Happy New Year

CALENDAR FOR THE MONTH

- Jan 5: Board Meeting, 9:45-12 noon, 616 SW 152nd, Burien, WA.
Contact Co-president, Betty Colasurdo, 360-825-4240, with agenda concerns.
- Jan 10: League of Nations started, 1920
- Jan 10: Highline Unit, 1:30-3:30 p.m., 616 SW 152nd St, Burien. Topic: Be Passionate about the League. Share your ideas for state program and our own League. Unit Chair: Betty Colasurdo, 206-246-4097.
- Jan 11: Enumclaw Unit, 7-9 p.m., Highpoint Village. Unit Chair: Cathy Dormaier, 360-802-6799.
Topic the same as above.
- Jan 12: Federal Way Unit, 7-9 p.m., Foundation House, 32290 First Ave. S. Topic: The same as above. Unit Chairs: Miriam Helgeland, 253-852-4167 and Cindy Piennett, 253-839-2883
- Jan 17: Martin Luther King Holiday

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