



KING COUNTY SOUTH

VOTER

March 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?

Violence!

Unit Meetings (no violence, please) will review the work done by the LWVKCS Violence in Public Transportation Committee

Look for Study materials that are being sent by mail, including discussion questions (Page 2).

Voter will come by e-mail or mail, as usual.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you to the Muckleshoot Tribe for their recent grant. They have been a long-time supporter of LWV KCS with three major grants over the past 12 years. Thank you also to the Kollmorgen's for their generous gift. This is the fourth year they have gifted to the LWV KCS. This infusion of funds allows us time to thoughtfully consider our options for the future, while continuing with our normal operations. The Board recently met and spent quite a bit of time taking your inputs into consideration and sorting through options. We plan to continue discussions at the March meeting with the goal of having a well thought out approach for future LWV KCS operations to present at the annual members meeting, May 14th.

The winners from our January unit meetings to determine our state program passions: election issues, education and health care. See details in Voter article by Becky Cox.

Our unit meeting subject for March is Violence on Metro Public Transportation. You will receive your materials for this discussion by snail mail. We want to make sure everyone brings their materials with them to the unit meetings and has the opportunity to view the data in color. The Violence on Metro Public Transportation study group (Ann McNeely, leader, Cindy Piennett, and Mary Ehlers) met with Lindsey Tiroux, Public education Office, Federal Way Police, and Jim Jacobson, Deputy General Manager of King County Metro Transit Division and gathered data on-line as background material for this effort. The next step is to gather public input using the Conversation Café approach. Then a final report will be created.

We think the subject of violence on Metro public transportation is a good one for the Conversation Café approach. If you haven't had the opportunity to experience a Conversation Café we hope you will enjoy it and see the benefits to gathering public input using this format. We are putting invitations to the public in the local newspapers and at the libraries where it makes sense. Please invite anyone you think might have an interest in this subject.

Mary Ehlers

ANNUAL MEETING

Plan for our **Annual Meeting, May 14th**. This is an important meeting. We will be discussing proposals for our League's future.

Did you know that we are down to 41 dues-paying members? Yikes!

What is Your Passion? (or State Program Go-Around)

The following was submitted by our League for proposed program for the LWV of Washington. This was approved by your Board and will be considered by the LWV of Wash as they prepare the proposed program for the next two years. This will be voted on at the state convention in Benton County

Review of Current LWVWA Positions

Nothing recommended.

Listing and Ranking of Issues for State Program 2011-2013

Election Laws	Action	Rank #1
Education	Study	Rank #2
Health Care	Action	Rank #3

Outlook for Work:

#1 Election Laws Action

Scope

- Support consistency of state and county procedures.
- Support enforcement of election rules
- Support reasonable and understandable ballot designs

- Support adequate election worker training
Determine fairness of early primaries and early mail-in times for ballots

#2 Education Study

Scope

Determine the organization of an effective education system and its role in providing a high quality of life through an educated populous.

Outlook for Work

- Evaluate various models of educational organizations for effectiveness.
- Evaluate the relationship between the state education system and the success of the populous.
- Develop consensus on the best model for our state's education organization to meet the needs of our state.

Two year study. No volunteers right now.

#3 Health Care Action

- Support plans for care of vulnerable populations.
- Support comprehensive mental health care for all, including appropriate rules and reporting.
- Work toward the definition of a basic health care plan including priorities.

VOTERS SERVICE

What do Leaguers do in their spare time? They help a disabled person, in a wheel-chair, cast his ballot for the special election by witnessing his signature. The League was alerted to his problem by King County Election office and we made arrangements to witness his signature.

A gold star to the gentleman for going to a LOT of effort to vote!

ELECTION ALERT

Remember the King Conservation District? They are going to be the first jurisdiction in the state (and maybe the nation) to hold an on-line election for their

Board of Supervisors. If you do not use a computer, do you suddenly feel disenfranchised?

Steps to follow for this unusual event:

Log-on to www.kcd.org, send in the signed form from the website to verify eligibility. Wait to receive a PIN number. Vote on-line.

Info on the candidates is on the website. If all this doesn't do it for you, then it's off to their office on Grady Way in Renton to vote on March 15th.

(Ed. Note: I have not tried this yet so you are on your own)

Washington Has A Shur Fellow!

Welcome to the 2011-2013 Class of LWVUS Ruth S. Shur Fellows!

The LWVUS received many applications and nominations of qualified, enthusiastic candidates to become part of our dedicated, elite group of national volunteers, the Ruth S. Shur Fellows. The eight new national coaches will support and work in partnership with state and local Leagues in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions on the League's successful membership/leadership development program. Congratulations to the 2011-2013 class of Fellows: Eileen Burke-Trent (CA), Charolette Fox (CA), Shelia Martin (MA), Eileen Olmstead (PA), Brenda Rogers (NC), Eva Rogers (NC), Elona Vaisyns (CT) and **Penney Van Vleet (WA)**. They join the inaugural class of 2010-2012 who are currently working with 21 states in the Southeast and beyond. Congratulations, Penney.

TRYs Are In the Office

Many of you wait eagerly for the new TRYs (They Represent You) that are published yearly by Seattle. It is a major effort to update this booklet in a timely manner after each election. Many thanks to Susan Sanders who lends her time to this publication. We always receive orders and phone calls for this invaluable tool.

CALENDAR FOR THE MONTH

- Mar 2: Board Meeting, 9:45-12 noon, 616 SW 152nd, Burien, WA. We will be discussing the future organization of LWVKCS with the Seattle President and the State President. Interested members, not on the Board, are welcome.
Contact Co-president, Sande Nelson, 360-825-6771, with agenda concerns.
- Mar 8: Enumclaw Unit, 7-9 p.m., Highpoint Village.
Unit Chair: Cathy Dormaier, 360-802-6799. Topic: Violence in Public Transportation in South King County.
- Mar 14: Highline Unit, 1:30-3:30 p.m., 616 SW 152nd St, Burien. Topic: Same as above.
Unit Chair: Betty Colasurdo, 206-246-4097.
- Mar 16: Federal Way Unit, 7-9 p.m., Foundation House, 32290 First Ave. S. Topic: The same as above. **Unit Chrs: Miriam Helgeland, 253-852-4167 and Cindy Piennett, 253-839-2883**
- Mar 15: Final day for on-line voting for the King Conservation District Board of Supervisors. (It started on Feb 15th) You may vote in person at the KCD office, 1107 SW Grady Way, Ste 130, Renton, WA.
- Mar 17: NO VASHON UNIT this month.
- May 14: **(Note: this is MAY) ANNUAL MEETING. Location TBD**

LWV of KCS
PO Box 66037
Burien, WA 98166
206-243-4236
WALWVKCS@JUNO.COM