



The Kitsap

Voter

The League of Women Voters of Kitsap

*We are trying to collect all of our
league's historical records to inventory*

February 2009

PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE BUDGETARY CRISIS

*What Do the Budget Cuts in Mental Health and Public Health Services
Mean to the Citizens of Kitsap County?*

*The programs that have been cut or will be cut, the sales tax option for funding
public health services, what is the future for health services, and
what the public and the LWV can do to help protect our most vulnerable citizens.*

Guest Speakers:

Dr. Scott Lindquist

Director, Kitsap County Health District
and

Joe Roszak

Director, Kitsap Mental Health Services

February General Meeting/ Luncheon

at The Silverdale Beach Hotel

3073 NW Bucklin Hill Road, Silverdale

Wednesday, February 18, 2009

11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

(Lunch served at 11:45; program begins at 12:30, Q & A at 1:30)

Entree: Gourmet Caesar Salad with Blackened Chicken

Dessert: Triple Berry Crepes

Cost: \$23.00 (includes tax and gratuity)

Reservations Required & must be received by February 13.

Send check to Pam Hamon, 17056 Viking Way NW, Poulsbo, WA 98370

For more information: 360-598-3508



President's

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What memorable December weather we had and right at the time of holiday gatherings and celebrations! Now January has arrived and our familiar rain is back again – more welcome than it might have been before we had the excitement of those snowy days.

The first general meeting in February gives us an opportunity to learn what is happening to two important local health organizations in these difficult economic times. We are fortunate to be able to hear from **Dr. Scott Lindquist**, Director of Kitsap County Health District and **Joe Roszak**, Director of Kitsap Mental Health. Each man will inform us about how his clinic is dealing with the funding problems and what we as concerned citizens and members of the League of Women Voters can do to help support these organizations which serve our most vulnerable citizens.

The three Unit Meetings this month are going to deal with health issues at the local levels. North and South Kitsap units will learn more about the planning for School Based Health Centers

in their respective school districts. As we go to press, Bainbridge Unit may be able to hear from **Jeanette Franks**, a gerontologist, who will speak on such topics as housing options and alternative care settings. (There are scheduling problems that we hope to work out so that Jeanette can join us.)

Water issues will be the topic of the March general meeting. We will also have a general unit meeting for consensus on the National Popular Vote Compact. On Page 7 of this *Voter* is a background paper about the NPV Compact. The complete issue, including arguments for and against this proposal, can be found on the National LWV website, lwv.org. You can access all of the material by doing a search for National Popular Vote; read materials there or print out to read.

I feel fortunate to belong to an organization that provides such a wealth of opportunities to help me become informed on a variety of important topics.

Ellen Fisher,
President

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• **Check out our website:** •
• www.lwvwa.org/kitsap •
• **Our Voter is now posted on the website.** •
• • • • •

WASHINGTON STATE FERRY SYSTEM

Most of you have already read a great deal about the Washington State Department of Transportation Ferries Division's Long Range Plan and some of you have participated in at least one of the public hearings conducted by the Washington State Transportation Commission in conjunction with WFS staff. On January 6th, David Moseley, WSDOT Ferries Division Assistant Secretary presented a draft of the plan to the Joint Transportation Committee at which time it became apparent that the major problem facing WSF was adequate sustainable funding for vessels procurement. Two plans were presented; one in which the State would continue to be the principal owner and operator of the marine highway and maintain the current level of service (Plan A) and the other a multi-jurisdictional approach to delivering marine transportation services, with a smaller state ferry system providing the marine highway...augmented by a locally-owned and operated system(s) of passenger-only ferry (POF) services supplementing the core state system. (Plan B). Plan A would require ten new vessels and has a funding gap of 3.5 billion. Plan B would require only five new vessels with a funding gap of 1.4 billion if the excess operating taxes are transferred to support capital.

The Plan B approach is not unlike the approach state government has been implementing in the western part of the State with major highways and bridge projects, requiring local levels of government to pick up part of the tab through local sale and/or property taxes, e.g. Columbia River bridge, the Alaskan Viaduct. Not only is this approach uneven across the State, it is an abdication of the State's responsibility to provide and maintain a safe and reliable highway system for its citizens. Passenger-only ferries should not supplant our marine highways, but can be useful in adding new transit routes between communities across the Sound e.g. Kingston/Seattle and Southworth/Seattle.

In terms of the WSF service, the approach is more drastic in that part of the marine highway system will be completely eliminated or closed at times. This would be analogous to the possibility of closing the 520 Bridge and replacing it with passenger-only ferries across Lake Washington. An example closer to home would be the permanent closure of the Hood Canal Bridge. As to reducing the number of vessels on key routes thereby reducing the frequency of service, I can't think of an example when some of our highways would be closed to traffic during off peak times. Some folks in Olympia contend that this approach is no different than reducing the number of lanes planned for construction on major bridges and highways. My contention is that there is a big difference between reducing lanes on a highway or bridge and doing away with the highway altogether or restricting the frequency of use. If Plan B becomes the accepted Plan by the Legislature, it will have a negative impact on the delivery of services and goods to and from communities that rely solely or heavily on the system.

All of our legislators and local officials representing Kitsap are in agreement that Plan B is not acceptable and need our support in Olympia to get that message out. Margaret Colony and Luella Wells have been working with the LWVWA lobby team, the PSRC and the League's Puget Sound sub-committee on transportation to garner support for our perspective. This has not been an easy task, since many folks, including our members living on the other side of the Sound have shown little interest in the WFS. However, at a recent meeting of the PSRC, of which Luella is a member, the Kitsap contingency was able to convince the Policy Board, while developing language for their legislative agenda, to the possibility of supporting an increase in the gas tax to support transportation projects including vessel procurement for WSF. The Legislature needs to address the necessity for adequate funding for transportation projects, including WSF, without passing down the responsibility to local level of government.

To read more about the details of these plan, just Google WSDOT Ferry Division, then Draft Long-Range Plan. To keep you up to date during the next few weeks, you will be hearing from Luella via the legislative newsletter and a very good daily source of information is Ed Friedrich's column in the Kitsap Sun. You may even want to watch some of the committee hearings on TVW. Monday is the day on which the schedule for the week is listed on-line. Anyone interested in working with Margaret and Luella on our transportation committee, please let us know.

Luella Wells,
Action and Transportation Chair
and
LWVWA Transportation Chair

Personalia

*Annamarie Lavieri.
Membership Chair*

Clip & Mail

We have two new members. Please add them to your directory and welcome them at the Jan. 21st and Jan. 28th meetings.

Jeannette Franks (National member)
6522 NE Bayview Blvd,
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110
206-855-0911
jfranks@bainbridge.net

Shelley Kneip
10796 Wicks Lake Road SW
Port Orchard, WA 98367
360-337-4975
skneip@co.kitsap.wa.us

Here's a brief bio of Joan Hento, aka Pepper Jones, a new member listed in the January *Voter*:

Joan, "call me Pepper", was raised in Eastern Washington and describes her family as one which fostered strong convictions and a desire to advance social justice. While other siblings took this mandate in more serious directions, she chose to teach elementary school, doing so with a whimsical, creative touch. Pepper says she conducted her classes with great decorum but couldn't help but interject humor and fun into her lesson. She wore many hats, literally, and played many characters in an effort to amuse and educate her students. Pepper values a good sense of humor and fun but she also says she has a serious side. Since her retirement from 32 years of teaching in Yakima, she has moved to Kitsap to be closer to her family. One of her local projects has been the creation of the KNW, the Kitsap Network for Women.

The League of Women Voters of Kitsap County invites you to join us.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

e-mail _____

Membership Categories
(please circle one):

- \$15 *Voter* subscription only
- \$50 Basic Membership
- \$75 Household (two or more members at the same address)
- \$100 Carrie Chapman Catt Member
- \$150 Jo Huey Member

\$ _____ Donation to Operating Fund*

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Please make checks payable to:
LWV Kitsap

Membership/Dues should be mailed to:
P. O. Box 564
Kingston, WA 98346

Send other correspondence to:
P. O. Box 1524
Poulsbo, WA 98370

* Dues and Donations to the Operating Fund are not tax-deductible.

+ Donations to the Education Fund are tax-deductible.

Seeking Kitsap League Archival Materials

We are trying to collect all of our league’s historical records to inventory and organize them.

Do YOU have any local studies, publications, reports, pictures or other records? Please contact me if you have publications or other materials from earlier years.

We do have the files that the Kitsap League presidents kept for us year by year and that Mary Ellen Madison housed for many years. Those files include copies of the more recent “Know Your County, 1989 & 2005,” “Know Your City, Bremerton, 2006,” and “Know Your City - Bainbridge Island, 1992 to 1998,” (the last publications thanks to Lois Andrus.) We have not yet found earlier publications in the files. Maybe they are there. We are planning to inventory our files this summer. If you would like to help with the inventory, please let me know!

Ellen Fisher
206-842-3548

Patricia Campbell **Honorary Life Member of the League of Women Voters**

Patsy joined the League of Women Voters about 1952 when she lived at Port Washington on Long Island. She wanted to learn, among other things, why we should pay taxes.

When she moved to Mercer Island she served as Unit Chair. Subsequently she also served on the Seattle Board, the State Board and the Eugene, Oregon Board.

For many years, Patsy worked in support of family planning and was on the Board of Planned Parenthood of Western Washington.

We would like to thank the following people who donated to the Kitsap League since July 1, 2008:

Operating Fund

Kim Abel
Catherine Ahl
Elisabeth Bondy
Frances Burress
Margaret Colony
Renee Eberharter
Cora George
Judy Matchett
Jim Sharpe & Martha Bird
Joy Wilson

Education Fund

Lois Curtis
Alice Harris
Darlene Kordonowy
Judy Matchett

In Memoriam gifts were received from:

Catherine Ahl
Christie Perkins (a non-member,
in memory of Nancy Jander)

One Call For All donors (names not known)

Background for the National Popular Vote Compact

The League has a long-standing position in support of the direct election of the president by popular vote. Now, League members have the opportunity to consider whether to support the National Popular Vote Compact (NPV Compact) as a viable process to achieve that result. The NPV Compact would avoid the need for a constitutional amendment abolishing the Electoral College (EC), and would assure that the individual receiving the most votes would become president.

The NPV Compact proposal uses the mechanism of the EC. States that legislatively enact the NPV Compact would agree that their state electors would vote for the individual that received the most votes nationwide. Thus, the popular vote count from all 50 states and the District of Columbia would be added together. State elections officials in all states participating would award their electoral votes to the presidential candidate who receives the largest number of popular votes.

This alternative method of assigning a state's EC votes would take effect only when enacted by states collectively possessing a majority of the electoral votes. This 270-vote threshold also corresponds essentially to states representing a majority of the people of the United States.

The plan includes procedural provisions to help assure smooth functioning of the agreement – conditions that deal with states deciding to withdraw from the Compact at the last moment, enforcement issues and recounts.

Currently four states have passed legislation to enact the NPV Compact.

There are pros and cons to this plan, which are discussed in full in papers found on the LWVUS Web site. Summaries of these papers are also available. League members can learn more about the plan from these sources and consider its ramifications at consensus meetings across the country. Be sure to participate! Who better than the League to be ready to speak to this good-government issue?

To prepare for the consensus meeting, please read the complete version of this paper (available at www.lwv.org) by the LWVUS National Popular Voter Compact Study Committee.

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Look inside for —
 Background for the National Popular
 Vote Compact
 Donors to LWV-Kitsap
 Honorary Life Member Patsy Campbell
 Personalia
 President's Corner
 Seeking Archival Materials
 Upcoming Events
 Washington State Ferry System

February 2009 Voter

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February

2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Board Meeting 9:30 a.m. at Poulsbo Library Meeting Room	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 General Mtg./ Luncheon on Budget Cuts to Health Services - See Page 1	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 9:30 a. m.- Unit Mtgs. on Health Services (see Page 2 for details)	26	27	28
Plan Ahead for March: 4th - Board Meeting at Poulsbo Library; 12th - Lobby Day in Olympia; 15th - 21st - Sunshine Week; 18th - General Meeting on Water Issues; 25th - Combined Unit Meetings on National Popular Vote Compact consensus.						