



The Kitsap

Voter

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KITSAP

MARCH 2010

Health Care: What's Happening In Kitsap County and the State?

Lunch and Public Meeting

Tuesday, March 23

11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Silverdale Beach Hotel

3073 NW Bucklin Hill Road, Silverdale

(11:30 Registration, 11:45 Lunch, 12:30 Program, 1:30 Q and A)

**Speakers: Scott Bosch, CEO Harrison Medical Center
Barbara Malich, Director, Peninsula Community Health Services**

Our speakers will discuss the status of health care in Kitsap County and the state, budgeting problems and the impact of health care reform whether or not it passes.

Entrée: Green Salad

Mushroom and Onion Quiche with Fruit Slices and Roasted Red Potato

Dessert: Tiramisu

Cost: \$25

Reservations Required and MUST be received by Wednesday, March 17.

Send checks payable to LWV Kitsap

to Pam Hamon, 17056 Viking Way NW, Poulsbo, WA 98370.

For more information: 360-598-3508

A community partnership with



Unit Meetings

Tuesday, March 16: Central/South: CK and SK Leaguers are having a joint unit meeting at the home of Loretta Byrnes (formerly Payne), Seaview Drive in Seabeck. The topic will be to discuss the outcome of the County Commissioners meeting and ideas for future general meetings. Coffee at 9:30 a.m.; meeting at 10. Call Loretta for directions.

Wednesday, March 17: Bainbridge BI Leaguers are having a unit meeting at the home of Patsy Campbell. The topic is Governance Review: New Ways of Doing Business. Speakers are BI Interim Deputy City Manager Stan McNutt and Communications Coordinator Cathie Currie. Coffee at 9:30 a.m.; meeting at 10. Call Patsy for directions.

Wednesday, March 17: North Kitsap: North Kitsap Leaguers are having a unit meeting at the home of Pam Hamon. The topic will be a follow-up discussion on the meeting with the County Commissioners, the health care project and suggested topics for next year's general meetings. Coffee at 9:30 a.m.; meeting at 10. Call Pam for directions.

Ambitious Project Needs Your Help

Last May at the Annual Meeting the members voted to do a county-wide health care assessment. A committee was formed and has been working on the project since last September. Early on the committee decided that we needed two years to complete the project and the Board agreed to that change. We will assess the status of primary health care, mental health care and dental health care from the point of view of the providers as well as those agencies that deal with the public who refer to the providers.

We are now in the process of testing the questionnaire before we put it into final form. Because the list of those we need to interview (70 to 100) is so long, we are asking the members to join us in this effort. We welcome anyone who knows a primary health, mental health or dental health care provider or someone who works in one of the various agencies who would be willing to contact them to either interview them personally or send them a copy of the questionnaire. Pam will send those who volunteer the full list of those we feel we should interview. Please call or e-mail Committee Chair, Pam Hamon (360-598-3508 or pchamon@msn.com) if you would like to help. We will provide the volunteers with training and in most cases match up a volunteer with another person to do a joint interview. It's a simple one-page, 10-question format that takes 15 to 20 minutes to complete.

We feel this can be a very exciting and interesting project but one that will take a lot of woman power. So please consider participating. We want to do most of the interviews this spring and summer. We will review the data that we have collected in the fall and try to fill those areas that have not been reached. The project should be completed by the annual meeting in the spring of 2011. We very much appreciate any of you who would like to help.

Making History

Seeking Background on Positions

Did you work on a Kitsap League study to identify one of our positions? We have positions on six issues: Land Use; Open Space, Parks and Recreation; Water Resources; County Government; BI Municipal Government; and Sustainability.

Please call or e-mail Ellen Fisher if you know the year one of these was accepted as a position and/or the names of those who worked on the study.

Archives Committee at Work

Cindi Nevins, Emma Iulo and Ellen Fisher traveled to the Kitsap Historical Museum in Bremerton in February to be trained in archival storage methods. Carolyn McClurken, the museum archivist, demonstrated how to prepare our historical files for storage. In March Mary Piette joined us and the four of us began transferring our records into archival storage folders and boxes. We will continue working on the project once a month; if you can help, please give Ellen a call.

Don Ericson, a retired lawyer, is providing legal advice to us on the Deed of Gift we will sign in transferring the files to the museum.

Thank-you to all who have been helping with this project.

— Ellen Fisher

New Members

Welcome Judy and Collette

Judy Spigal moved across country to Bainbridge Island about a year ago. She had been a longtime League member in Connecticut. Before that she lived in New York, and she grew up in Pittsburgh.

The first event she attended here was the Bainbridge Island Candidate Forum. She was impressed that the League seemed so well-organized and chose good questions, and the candidates were cooperative and informative. She hopes to learn more about BI and the rest of her new area through the League.

We hope all members will get acquainted with Judy.

Collette Boucher of Bremerton attended the LWVK Nov.18 Public Meeting with our legislators and found it to be well run and informative. She decided to join LWVK after receiving a warm welcome at the Jan. 27 General Meeting.

Collette and her husband, Dan, have a son in the Army who is scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan in the fall. Their daughter received her master's degree in history last spring from the University of Missouri St. Louis.

Collette left her career in office administration to care for her parents. She's still contemplating whether she'll return. We are looking forward to seeing more of you, Collette.

— Helen Hoover

LWVK Board**Future Members Needed**

Several Board positions will need to be filled for next year. If you are willing to serve or have an idea of someone who would, please let the Nominating Committee know. Margaret Colony is the chair and members are Jean Mochring, Barbara Linsert, and Loretta Byrnes (formerly Payne).

New Membership Rate**Students May Join for \$30**

The LWVKitsap Board recently passed the Membership Committee's recommendation that we offer a Student Membership rate to any student who identifies him/herself as a student and who is 18 years of age or older. The cost will be \$30 and the student will be considered as a full member. Four other Washington State Leagues offer a student rate. When recruiting students we will emphasize that by joining they will be supporting our positions and our lobbyists at both the state and national level. We will note that we understand that they may not be active in a unit, as such; however, they can become informed voters, respond to Internet Action Alerts, and read our website and blog to be kept up to date. So do encourage your student friends to join us.

— Pam Hamon

LWVUS Program Planning**Study of Role of Federal Government in Education approved**

On Jan. 27 we held our National Program Planning meeting and recommended the following study. The Board approved it and will forward it to LWVUS.

A Proposal to study the role of the federal government in public education, with a focus on (1) the basic goals of public education, (2) the role of the federal government in education policy-making, (3) the relationship between national, state, and local levels of education governance including funding, and (4) the development of common standards.

The Purpose (Scope) would be to establish national League positions that would enable the LWV to

- review, consider, evaluate and advocate for or against federal education legislation
- advocate on issues related to what the federal role in public education should be
- join in coalition with other national organizations that speak out on issues of public education.

— Catherine Ahl

Margee Lynch
Silent Auction Chair

It is never too early to begin thinking of what special service you wish to donate to the Silent Auction. I thank all who donated so generously last year to make our auction such a success. I look forward to seeing you at this year's auction at our annual meeting on May 12.

Citizens United Decision Sets Off Revolution in Campaign Finance**Supreme Court Erred, Decision Undermines Basic Pillar of American Democracy**

Washington, DC – The following is a statement by Mary G. Wilson, national president of the League of Women Voters on the Supreme Court's decision in Citizens United v. FEC. The League filed an amicus brief in this case:

“The Supreme Court has made a tragic mistake. Their decision announced today in Citizens United v. FEC is constitutionally irresponsible and will surely bring about an anti-democratic revolution in how we finance elections in this country. Today, basic pillars of American democracy have been undermined – that elections should not be corrupted by vast corporate wealth and that the voters should be at the center of our democratic system.

"Justice Stevens had it right when he said, in his dissent, ‘The Court’s ruling threatens to undermine the integrity of elected institutions across the Nation. The path it has taken to reach its outcome will, I fear, do damage to this institution.’

“In creating a new constitutional right for corporations to spend unlimited amounts of their shareholder’s money to determine the outcome in candidate elections, the Court has unleashed into our elections tremendous sums of money from for-profit corporations that cannot possibly be matched in quantity by contributions from ordinary citizens. The only possible outcome of this is that big money and special interests will have an even tighter grip on our democracy.

“Congress and the President enacted campaign finance laws over a series of decades for a reason – to protect our democracy from the perverse influence of big money in our elections. In making this decision, the Court has ignored the best interests of the American public and our representative form of government.”

Court Ruling Affirms State Constitution

On Feb. 4, Superior Court Judge John Erlick ruled that the State is in violation of Article IX, Section 1 of the State Constitution, "It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders..." The lawsuit, brought by the McCleary and Venema families and the Network for Excellence in Washington Schools (NEWS), a coalition of which LWVWA is a member, asked the court to define paramount, ample, all and education.

Judge Erlick reaffirmed the Supreme Court's 1978 ruling that paramount means "preeminent, supreme and more important than all others" and that funding education is "the State's first and highest priority before any other State programs or operations." Ample means "considerably more than adequate or sufficient" – "to be ample so no public school has to rely upon local levies, PTA fundraisers, private donations, or other non-State sources." All means "each and every child... not just those children who enjoy the advantage of being born... more privileged, more politically popular, or more easy to teach." Education means "the basic knowledge and skills needed to compete in today's economy and meaningfully participate in this State's democracy."

As the plaintiffs asked, the Judge ordered the State to determine the actual costs of providing all children with an education and to fully fund that actual cost with stable and dependable State sources – and to proceed with real and measurable progress. It was a total victory for Washington's school children.

For more information: www.waschoolexcellence.org

LWVWA Lobby Team Contact: Catherine Ahl, 360-697-7924, cathahl@hotmail.com

LOBBY DAY 2010

'League of Women Voters Day' a Big Success in Olympia

Lobby Day, held Jan. 19 in Olympia, was publicized as "League of Women Voter's Day" and was a huge success. The atmosphere was festive. Not only was it a day to lobby members of the legislature, but also a celebration of the 100th anniversary of Washington women's suffrage with some league members costumed like the suffragettes of 1910. The walls were festooned with a display that recorded Washington State's historical involvement in the women's suffrage movement. We owe that effort to Sue Lean who arranged for the display.

The day was sponsored by Secretary of State Sam Reed who came and graciously welcomed the group of over 60 league members. Linnea Hirst, LWVWA president greeted the attendees and thanked all who worked to make the day possible. Special kudos go to the Thurston County League and to Karen Verrill and her team who made all the preparations at the Capitol for this event. Karen read a proclamation from Governor Christine Gregoire in which the governor declared January 19, 2010 "LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTER'S DAY."

The program continued with LWVWA lobbyist Lonnie Johns-Brown speaking on the perspectives for the 2010 legislative session. Kim Abel, Lobby Team Chair and LWVKitsap member, introduced the lobby team and others who got up and outlined their issues and briefly explained the bills they are following: Jane Freitag-Koontz spoke on housing; Catherine Ahl on Education; Pat Dickason on Early Learning; Susan Eidsenschink with Lounette Templeton on Health Care; Katy Sheehan on Campaign Finance Reform; Nora Leech on Taxation; Betty Sullivan on Housing; Elizabeth Davis on Natural Resources; Donna Ewing and Toni Potter on Climate Change; Denise Smith on Water Issues; Wayne Martin on Reproductive Rights. Betty Tabbutt announced that there were no state bills on Nuclear Energy.

The assembly had the good fortune to receive a briefing from Representative Marko Liias, 21st District who spoke on good government.

Before the Leaguers set out to visit their representatives, everyone had the opportunity to gather in groups according to their particular issues of interest and to review talking points and hone the messages they would bring to their legislators.

Lobby Day was held in the midst of the 60-day legislative session when the entire capitol campus was active with legislators, lobbyists and guests from across Washington State, a stimulating and exciting day indeed.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MARCH

March 3: LWVKitsap Board Meeting, Poulsbo Library 1-3 p.m.
 March 5: Deadline for March Voter
 March 16: CK/SK Unit Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Loretta Byrnes'
 March 17: BI Unit Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Patsy Campbell's
 March 17: NK Unit Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Pam Hamon's
 March 23: Lunch and Public Meeting on Health Care
 Silverdale Beach Hotel, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

APRIL

April 20: Public Meeting on Education Funding, 7-9 p.m.
 Location to be announced

League Contacts

| | | |
|--|---------------------------------|--|
| President | Catherine Ahl | (360) 697-7924 cathahl@hotmail.com |
| 1st Vice President/Voter Education | Ann Smith | (360) 871-3993 smith9797@wavecable.com |
| 2nd Vice President/Policies&Procedures | Barbara Linsert | (360) 779-5553 blinsert@comcast.net |
| Secretary | Ann Rudnicki | (360) 895-2746 annrud@q.com |
| Treasurer | Myra Howrey | (360) 621-2752 mhowrey@hotmail.com |
| Membership Chair | Pam Hamon | (360) 598-3508 pchamon@msn.com |
| Program Chair | Loretta Byrnes (formerly Payne) | (360) 509-2695 Lpaync43@hotmail.com |
| Communications/Voter Editor | Ann Strosnider | (360) 471-6184 astrosnider@mac.com |
| Natural Resources | Judy Matchett | (360) 830-4154 |
| Archives | Ellen Fisher | (206) 842-3548 ellenfishe@gmail.com |

Unit Leaders

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Bainbridge Island | Madelyn Fox | (206) 842-5360 madelyn.fox@gmail.com |
| North Kitsap | Pam Hamon | |
| Central Kitsap | Loretta Byrnes (formerly Payne) | |
| South Kitsap | Ann Smith | |

Update Your Contact List

New Member

Collette Boucher
 7488 Wembly Avenue NE
 Bremerton, 98311
 360-692-9030
colletteboucher@hotmail.com

National Members

Jocelyn Horder
 16813 Lemolo Shore Dr. NE
 Poulsbo 98370
 360-779-7583

Celia Grether
 36511 Hood Canal Drive NE
 Hansville 98340

Clip & Mail

Join the League Or Make a Donation

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

e-mail _____

Membership Levels

___ \$50 Basic

___ \$75 Household

(2 or more members at the same address)

___ \$100 Carrie Chapman Catt Member

___ \$150 Jo Huey Member

___ \$30 Student Member

___ \$30 Non-member local newsletter subscriber

\$ ___ Donation to Operating Fund*

\$ ___ Donation to Education Fund+

Please make checks payable to LWV Kitsap

Send to:

LWV Kitsap

PO Box 1524

Poulsbo, WA 98370

* Dues & donations to the Operating Fund are not tax-deductible.

MARCH

2010

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

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|----|----|--|--|----|----------------------------------|----|
| 28 | 1 | 2 | 3 LWV Kitsap Board Meeting | 4 | 5 Deadline for April Voter | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 CK/SK Unit Meeting | 17 NK Unit Meeting BI Unit Meeting | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 Public Meeting on Health Care | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 |

**League of Women Voters
of Kitsap County, WA
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**March 2010 Voter
Look inside for:**

- Health Care Lunch & Public Meeting**
- New Member Profiles**
- Ambitious Project Needs Your Help**
- Court Ruling Affirms State Constitution**