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WASHINGTON STATE  
**VOTER**

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Judy Golberg, President  
J.C. Sears, Editor

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**"Diversity"**  
**LWVWA 2005 Convention**  
**June 24-26, 2005**  
**Seattle, Washington**

The theme for this Convention is "Diversity." Based on the strategic plan developed over the past year, starting with the input from our members who attended the June 2004 Council, we will be talking about cultivating and growing our members and being a financially healthy organization. Election of officers, directors and nominating committee, program selection, Bylaws amendments, budget, workshops, caucuses and more will be on the Agenda! Plan to attend your State Convention and participate in the future of our organization.

2005 Convention will be held in Seattle, June 24-26 at Seattle University. The first plenary session will convene at 1 p.m. on Friday, June 24.

Be sure to stop for lunch before coming to Convention on Friday. Meals will begin with Friday evening's dinner.

Bylaws guide our organization. **Article VIII, Section 2: Convention** shall consist of: delegates chosen by the members of local Leagues and MAL units; the president of each local League or an alternate, in the event that the president is unable to attend; one delegate for each recognized ILO within the state of Washington; and the members of the state board.

**Art. VIII, Sect. 4: Representation** Each local League and MAL unit shall be entitled to voting representation in the convention as follows: one delegate for its first 15 voting members, and

one delegate for every 25 additional voting members or major fraction thereof. The official member count shall be determined by state office records of voting members as of January 1 of the year in which the convention is held.

**Art. VIII, Sect. 5: Powers.** The convention shall adopt program; elect officers and directors, the chair and two members of the nominating committee; adopt a budget for the ensuing two years; and transact such other business as may properly come before it.

**Article XIV:** Bylaws may be amended at any convention by a two-thirds vote provided that the proposed amendment was submitted to the state board or proposed by the board.

The official Call to Convention will be mailed by the first week in May.

**League of Women Voters of Washington  
Board of Directors  
2003-2005**

**Officers**

Judy Golberg, President, Benton/Franklin Counties  
Peggy Saari, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Seattle  
Ed Chadd, 2nd Vice President, Clallam County  
Betsy Greene, Secretary, Seattle  
Myra Howrey, Treasurer, Kitsap County

**Directors**

Chris Chamberlin, Methow Valley UAL  
Becky Cox, King County South  
Marilyn Johnston, Thurston County  
Pat Matteson, Seattle  
Laura McCarty, Snohomish County  
Liz Pierini, Seattle  
Barbara Seitle, South Whidbey Island  
Natalie Toevs, Seattle

**Nominating Committee**

Joyce Dennison, Chair, Yakima County  
Wanda Haas, Snohomish County  
Leona Hassing, Benton-Franklin

**Staff**

Claudia Downing, Administrative Director  
Lonnie Johns-Brown, Lobbyist

lwvwa.org member-only site  
To access: lwvwa, voter

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Any person of voting age, male or female, may become a League member.

The *Washington State VOTER* is published quarterly by the League of Women Voters of Washington, 4710 University Way N.E., Suite #214, Seattle, WA 98105. Yearly subscription: \$10.00. Members of the League of Women Voters of Washington subscribe through their annual dues. Call 206-622-8961 for a local League in your area. Send address changes to the League of Women Voters of Washington, 4710 University Way NE, Suite #214, Seattle, WA 98105.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**June 11-13 LWV US Council - Washington, D.C.**  
**June 24-25 LWVWA Convention - Seattle**

**Summer VOTER Deadline  
July 8, 2005**

Board Splinters  
March 12, 2005

- Report on successful Lobby Day with AAUW and NOW members
- Lobby Team meets every Thursday during the Legislative session
- Election Reform has been a major issue. More to come.
- Good in Government luncheon will be sponsored by LWVWA next fall
- Membership 2323, up 245 members. Great job everyone!
- Consensus for the Tax Study (see article)
- Program Planning – Board moved to recommend: Growth Management and concurrence with LWV Seattle’s drug position “Drugs in the Community”. Motion to recommend election reform failed due to the Legislature’s bills. Wait until June to know more.
- Online websites are being maintained by a team.
- The State We’re In teacher’s guide is being revised and will be reissued
- Strategic Plan – finalizing for Convention
- Washington News Service – supported by Education Fund budget this coming year
- Convention – discussed theme, workshops and other details. More to come.
- Coalitions, commissions and boards were reviewed and the list to be updated
- Took a “no position” position on I-330 and I-336
- LWVUS Council – June 11-13, Washington, DC
- Next board meeting May 7

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League is the powerful organization it is due to our reputation for looking at all sides of the issues, studying, researching, asking our members for their opinion, coming to consensus, following process and then taking action to make changes.

Occasionally we are accused of being a “front” for one of the political parties. Not true. Our membership is as diverse as our faces. However, we need to continually focus on remaining non-partisan by watching what we say in our public communications and in our positions. Our webmaster has taken care to see that we reflect this non-partisan stance. Our lwvwtotopics communication has not always honored our non-partisan position. Please, please: keep in mind that when you have an opinion that is partisan, take care to keep it from our League communication process. We encourage our members to be politically active but we must keep our own organization free from political bias to stay strong.

Last year at Council, the process of asking our members what they saw as our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats was begun. Based on the responses we received, a draft Strategic Plan was written. In the fall, we gathered several members involved in the first session together again, and took the next step to plan how our organization would solve some of the issues brought forth. Convention will highlight our responses to some of these issues. A copy of the Strategic Plan will be available at that time. This document should be seen as a working plan that is revisited and revised each year.

Our members are our strength. We need to cultivate and honor those members we have, and continue to grow new ones. Convention will focus on membership as well as being a financial healthy organization.

As my two-year term comes to a close, I reflect on the fact that without a “little help from my friends,” the responsibility of serving a President of LWVWA would not have been easy. Keep in mind I live in Eastern Washington, work full time, and remain active in many community organizations. In December I had the honor of being nominated by Brian Sonntag, State Auditor and selected by then Governor Locke, to serve a 5-year term on the Executive Ethics Board. What an honor! It is through my involvement with LWVWA that I was chosen.

Your Board of Directors has worked hard and takes their responsibilities seriously. Peggy Saari, 1<sup>st</sup> VP, has served as Program Planning chair, attended many meetings in my place, served on the LWVWA Education Fund Board of Director, and keeps on giving. Ed Chadd, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, reminds us of our need to address our diverse membership’s opinions, served on several committees, and helps us with our English skills! Myra Howrey, Treasurer, handles our finances with the same dedication as if it were her own, always reminding us “How much will that cost?” Betsy Greene, Secretary, always has the resources at hand that are needed when a question of policy, position or Bylaws comes up and spends one day a week volunteering in the office. Betsy and her husband Carol have been gracious hosts to me on several occasions when I needed a place to stay over night.

Liz Pierini, Action Chair, knows Olympia, how to get things done, is great at organizing events, finds the best speakers for our Action Workshop, Lobby Day and other events, and guides our Lobby Team -- our portfolio chairs who, while keeping League positions in mind, are dedicated members diligently following their issues. Liz and her husband Bruno have also welcomed me in their home for over night stays. The Pierini’s recently became new grandparents!

Pat Matteson has dedicated herself to transportation issues; Marilyn Johnston provides us with thorough reports when she represents our organization in Olympia; Chris Chamberlain has followed the issue of Campaign Finance Reform; Laura McCarty is great at research, has served as Editor of the Legislative Newsletter, and has now picked up some of the website responsibilities; Natalie Toevs volunteers in the office one day a week and helped update our Policies & Procedures—not an easy tasks. She and her husband Fritz help keep our office in good repair. Fritz built a table for the conference room that allows our board to meet there rather than paying for an off-site meeting room. Becky Cox has become a whiz at dealing with attorneys, the Governor, and following legislation. Becky has also served as membership chair. Barbara Seitle has been willing to step in whenever needed, is serving as the Development chair, and has a great future ahead of her!

Please take time to thank these dedicated people. It is hard job when people accuse state Board members of not understanding the local Leagues. Who are our Board members? They ARE local League members, and remain involved locally. The Board does listen to the local members but do remember our diverse membership — we don't always agree with one another, but have been able to come to consensus on our positions.

There are so many others of you to thank. Jocelyn Marchisco for her endurance chairing the VIOB study; Barbara Bush and Virginia Mattson, Tax study; our *VOTER* editors; Karen Verrill, President of LWVWA Education Fund, and Education Fund Board members; the Nominating Committee (hard work!); and our many willing volunteers. The chance one takes naming people is the fear of forgetting important people — please know each of you is so very much appreciated.

My local League has pitched in and helped raise funds with the wine raffle and put up with my absences or wanting to share during our meetings (more than my allotted time). All the others who donated to make the wine raffle a success, thank you.

Claudia Downing, Office Administrator, is a gem, friend, advisor, lifesaver, and more! Our organization works like a well-oiled machine due to her knowledge, skills and organization. Thank you, thank you!

Finally, my thanks to my family for supporting me throughout these two years. After 42 years, my husband is still by my side, and our sons and grandsons keep me grounded.

Come to Convention and join us. LWV of Seattle is planning a great Convention for you.

Have you checked the website lately? [www.lwvwa.org](http://www.lwvwa.org)

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**MEMBERSHIP SURVEY**

LWV/Washington received notice that we have had 6 years of continued growth, and LWV/US wanted to know how we did it! The information was submitted on a survey form through the National League website.

The questions were pretty generic, and I used my own judgment on how to answer the questions. My answers indicated that the one-on-one or small informational meetings approach was still the most successful way to gain new members. I was surprised that all our Voter's Service activities before this last general election did not bring a surge of membership. I was brought up short by a question about our average age. Of the choices, I gave some of us the benefit of the doubt and selected the 50-60 year age group.

Our State League reported a 245 member increase over 2003-4. It is a few across many Leagues. Remember, report those new members and national members to the state office. Let's go for year #7!

Becky Cox, Membership Chair

**NOMINATION SLATE, Forthcoming Elections**

President - Barbara Seitle\* - South Whidbey

1st VP: Peggy Saari\* - Seattle

2nd VP: Chris Chamberlin\* - Methow Valley

Treasurer: Pending

Secretary: Myra Howrey\* - Kitsap

Directors:

Marilyn Johnston\* - Mason

Laura McCarty\* - Snohomish

Liz Pierini\* - Seattle

Natalie Toevs\* - Seattle

Pam Behring - Spokane

Barbara Bush - Snohomish

Linnea Hirst - Seattle

Nominating Committee for 2005-7:

Chair: Mary Kohli - Tacoma-Pierce

Leona Hassing - Benton-Franklin

Betsy Greene - Seattle

Submitted by: Joyce Dennison, Yakima

Liz Pierini, Seattle

Leona Hassing, Benton- Franklin

Myra Howrey, Kitsap

Wanda Haas, Seattle

\* Current board members

**MUSINGS FROM A NEW LOBBY TEAM MEMBER**

With all the excitement over our gubernatorial race and our new consensus on election reform, I naively agreed to take the Government portfolio for the Lobby Team. Lobbying, how hard can that be? Oh my!

Liz Pierini and I took a quick trip to Olympia to prowl around the newly opened capitol building and gather up information for our Lobby Day. The Capitol building has been newly configured in the lower reaches and Liz and I spent a goodly time being lost or disoriented. I did pick up a booklet on writing bills. Okay, you don't just "write" a bill. There are prescribed phrases and formats that undoubtedly pass legal muster, and there are people who write the bills.

Once the legislature began, it was Legislative meeting schedules for the week, daily meeting schedules, daily revisions to the daily meeting schedules, Legislative Digests, weekly Legislative Digests and History of Bills, bill analyses, fiscal impact statements, public hearings, and on, and on! Most all of this paper work is handled with aplomb by the Bill Room, now renamed the Information Center.

I discovered, to my horror, that many hearings are held at 8 a.m. (I am not a morning person). I testified at some hearings and used the "Signing In" technique for other hearings as recommended by our lobbyist, Lonnie Johns-Brown.

I mentioned to some of my Lobby Team compatriots, who are far more seasoned, that I felt like I was chasing bubbles from a bubble machine! Fortunately, I had Marilyn Johnston to help me focus. The volume of bills relating to election reform (79 House bills at one count) cover every aspect you can imagine. I was SO glad to have our new VIOB consensus, and I used it whenever I could.

What I deduced from a few weeks on the Lobby Team is that it is imperative to know your legislators BEFORE the Legislature convenes! You (I) need to know what they are thinking and on what committees they want to be. Pre-legislative meetings and hearings are really where ideas are formed and decisions made for the up-coming session. Those meetings are open, and you should attend. When the Legislature convenes, you are lucky to see a legislator outside a hearing room. I discovered the merits of "lurking" near someone to whom I wished to speak.

By the time this VOTER is published, the Bubble Machine should be pretty well turned off, and we will be able to see those issues that may have a chance for passage.

Lobby Team has been a great experience. We should have a good summary of all our successes (?) for you in the summer Voter.

Becky Cox, Government Portfolio

**TAX STUDY CONSENSUS**

Fifteen out of 23 Leagues responded. The consensus of those 15 Leagues shows that we have an excellent position on taxes as it stands. The changes made to the Program in Action under "Tax Structures" (see attached) were in compliance with the answers to the consensus questions.

There were suggestions for future studies.

The program for education on state taxes based on the 2005 study will be presented at Convention. All Leagues will be given information and materials to use in their communities.

**Tax Structures (1959, 1965)**

*The League of Women Voters of Washington believes that:*

Inequities in the distribution of the tax burden should be removed. Ability to pay is an important criterion. Flexibility and recognition of changing times and needs is important in tax policy. Only broad general principles of taxation should be included in the constitution. Income should be part of the tax base, preferably through a graduated net income tax. The sales tax should not be levied on food. Business should be taxed on net income rather than gross ~~sales~~ receipts.

**Your LWVUS Nominating Committee's Search For Leaders**

The LWV offers its members exciting challenges and opportunities for personal growth at all levels. The challenges and rewards of serving at the national level are particularly significant. Your LWVUS Nominating Committee needs your assistance in its search for leaders. As presidents of state and local Leagues, you know who among your Board members and the leaders you meet from other Leagues has the potential for national leadership. **We want to hear from you about potential candidates for the LWVUS Board and Nominating Committee for 2006-08.**

We met many local and state League leaders at the LWVUS convention in Washington, D.C. last June, and look forward to getting to know others at Council 2005. We hope to attend (budget permitting) some state and regional meetings to meet more leaders and see them in action. If you wish to **invite a committee member to your state or multi-state meeting**, please e-mail Trudy Jarratt, Nominating Committee Chair at [ftjarratt@charter.net](mailto:ftjarratt@charter.net), or phone her at (805) 489-1772.

**Please add your assigned nominating committee liaison to your mailing lists for VOTERs, special publications and state Board minutes.** These publications will introduce us to League leaders, and to local and state League issues. The list below provides contact information for each committee member and the list of states with which we will be communicating.

You will have an essential role to play in our process -- nominating people for consideration by the committee. We'll make the process as easy as possible by providing information and forms in the *VOTER*, LWVUS mailings, the website, and make ourselves accessible for questions. All nominations will be carefully reviewed and evaluated based on the needs, skills, and balance needed for our national Board.

We look forward to working in partnership with you in our search to find leaders who will inspire and serve the LWV. If you have any questions please contact Trudy Jarratt or your state's liaison. (LWVWA liaison Sarah Diefendorf, [SDief@aol.com](mailto:SDief@aol.com) )

Thank you for joining us in this most important task. Together we will find the best possible candidates for LWVUS Board and Nominating Committee to serve as our future leaders.

## **LWVUS ACTION ALERT: SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY –**

Congress is considering proposals that would privatize the Social Security system. Social Security is one of the most successful social programs of the 20th Century. The system's financing problems are manageable and can be addressed by reasonable adjustments over time. Rushing into private accounts does not solve the so-called Social Security crisis, but rather would add to the cost of the program.

Now is the time to tell Congress not to put those who will depend upon this safety net at risk!

### **ACTION NEEDED**

1. Contact your U.S. Senators and Representatives now, by phone and by email, and urge them to oppose attempts to privatize Social Security. The Social Security system is not in crisis and any changes should make the safety net more solvent, and more dependable, not less secure. Phone calls can be made through the Capitol Hill switchboard at 202-224-3121 or 202-225-3121.
2. Forward this email to other concerned citizens—your grassroots network, your friends, family and co-workers. Encourage them to contact their Members of Congress today.
3. The House and Senate will be in recess until April 4. Try to meet with your members of Congress or attend public meetings to tell them to oppose attempts to privatize Social Security.



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