**Convention 2019 - “Notes from a First-timer”**

It only happens every two years – the LWVWA convention. I had the privilege of attending as a delegate, representing Whatcom County, which had extra delegate spots. As a relatively new League member, I was curious and eager to see our decision-making processes first hand, and to meet leaders from around the state. Here are some observations:

- **The depth and breadth of our work is impressive.** I attended thoughtful and informative sessions that addressed issues as far-ranging as educating voters, both nascent and knowledgeable, re-imagining our statewide districting process, and creating public banks.

- **The theme of “Looking Back, Moving Forward” was in evidence.** We celebrated and honored our history and the accomplishments of our founders, and heard from impressive current community leaders. Rob Curley, Editor of Spokane’s *Spokesman Review*, ignited the convention with an offer of an innovative, statewide partnership.

- **We know how to have fun.** Snohomish County League members attended the opening reception in full Suffragist regalia, ignited the convention with an offer, and honored our history and the accomplishments of our founders, and heard from impressive current community leaders. Rob Curley, Editor of Spokane’s *Spokesman Review*, ignited the convention with an offer of an innovative, statewide partnership.

- **The depth and breadth of our work is impressive.** I attended thoughtful and informative sessions that addressed issues as far-ranging as educating voters, both nascent and knowledgeable, re-imagining our statewide districting process, and creating public banks.

- **We work to do both internally and externally on the issue of diversity and inclusiveness.** Attendees included a number of younger members (under 40), who proposed new thinking and challenging existing leadership. Some did not feel heard or included. We need to understand why. The plenary sessions were a lesson in how to use work to move forward – or not. We voted on the statewide 2019-20 budget and program, a process that included lively debate. The proposal to increase per-member payments was defeated and an alternate plan enacted. We debated two items ‘not recommended’ by the board. One passed – supporting alternate voting models. One did not – civil discourse. So, it was truly democracy in action.

- **Members across the state share admirable qualities.** As a group, we are curious, informed, articulate, fearless, hard-working, and committed to moving democracy forward.

- **We have work to do both internally and externally on the issue of diversity and inclusiveness.** Attendees included a number of younger members (under 40), who proposed new thinking and challenging existing leadership. Some did not feel heard or included. We need to understand why. The plenary sessions were a lesson in how to use work to move forward – or not. We voted on the statewide 2019-20 budget and program, a process that included lively debate. The proposal to increase per-member payments was defeated and an alternate plan enacted. We debated two items ‘not recommended’ by the board. One passed – supporting alternate voting models. One did not – civil discourse.

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So, it was truly democracy in action. Members disagreed, debated, and wrangled behind the scenes. Objections to proposals included counter-proposals, and members were willing to step up and do the work needed to a take on newly recommended actions. While we were passionate, we were also civil and respectful. We worked hard to listen to each other, but sometimes we failed to hear what was being said. It was messy – and dynamic. Alternately opaque and illuminating. Sometimes frustrating. Often uplifting. Just what a statewide process should be. It was an honor to attend.

Karen Crowley
What’s Happening

Cocoon House Tour in August!
August 20th, Tuesday, 11:00 AM

Our contact, Erwin Saenz, the Cocoon House Community Engagement Officer will lead the tour of the new facility along with extra staff. LWVSC Children’s Committee has worked closely with the U Turn program at Cocoon House.

Please contact Joan Smith, Phyllis Busch or Susan Renhard. Lunch afterward at The Sisters, Grand Ave., Everett.

SUMMER MOVIES

JULY 26TH  11:30 AM
Iron Jawed Angels

AUGUST 30TH  11:30 AM
One Woman, One Vote,

LOCATION
Quail Park Of Lynnwood Theater

RESERVE SPOT WITH
KAY DICHTER

LWVSC PLANNING RETREAT
AUGUST 17TH
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

EDMONDS UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION
8109 224TH ST SW, EDMONDS, WA, 98026

August 10
LWVSC table
at
Edmonds Garden Market
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
5th St and Bell
Edmonds, WA
As our activities of the year wind down, we can be proud of the accomplishments of our League. Our membership grew to nearly 180, the highest our long-term members can recall. We are implementing an ambassador/mentor program to bring new members up to speed on our activities and traditions. Several active committees provide opportunities for members to get involved in meaningful work, with solid achievements in studying and advocating for children, the environment, redistricting and the census, transportation and more. We registered voters at events and at several local high schools, and we hosted candidate forums for primary and general elections. We were represented by our allotted number of delegates plus a few who were given the extra spots of other leagues at the LWV Washington State Convention.

We also started our celebration of the dual Centennial of the League of Women Voters and of US women getting the vote, with a speaker and some of us in costume at the Annual Meeting. Our costumes were on view again at the State Convention and at the Fourth of July parade in Edmonds, attracting positive reactions from a fun audience.

Even though many of us take some vacation time and wind down a bit from the regular activities of our year, there is still plenty going on in our League. We can see films about the suffrage movement on July 26 and August 30, and the first film we saw in June was very informative. A field trip to Clearwater Commons was great fun, and we’ll learn a lot when we visit the new Cocoon House in Everett on August 20.

I’m looking forward to working with our board of directors, with many continuing members and a few returning after an absence or new, all impressive and ready to help move us along in our next exciting year.

Vicki Roberts-Gassler, President  

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2019 Legends of the League Awards

During our annual meeting on May 18, the LWVSC presented its 2019 Legend awards. This year they went to Marian Harrison and Michelle Valentine, both very worthy active, long-time League members.

The person who nominated Marian said the following about her:

Marian Harrison, current North Unit leader, is a woman whose efforts as a voice for inclusion and diversity have spanned decades in the League community. She has:

•  spoken for the League on expanded voter registration and voter suppression;
•  worked diligently to bring about the addition of a Human Rights Commission to the County Charter;
•  focused on water issues and inspired the creation of a forum on the importance of maintaining high water quality for our area;
•  served as Action Chair on our League board;
•  teamed to bring a LWVWA Action workshop to Everett; and
•  frequently tabled at the Festival of the Rivers in Arlington and the Juneteenth celebration in Everett.

Michelle’s nominator said:

I heard recently that Michelle remained president for several years in a row and that she has worked for twenty years on our League’s “Magazine on the Air” program which now airs monthly on our local community radio station, KSER.

She is also committed to leadership at the State League level, currently serving as the program chair for the LWVWA.

All of this has taken place against a backdrop of very significant community service including leadership in her Evergreen Unitarian Universalist Congregation and regular service as a SHIBA (Statewide Healthcare Insurance Benefits Adviser) volunteer guiding Medicare recipients through the myriad of choices for their health care.

I appreciate her calm guidance keeping LWV as a secular, non-partisan force of nature! Congratulations to Marian and Michelle, true Legends of the League!

Karen Madsen, Past President
On a perfect day for a July 4th parade, eleven League of Women Voters of Snohomish County members participated in the Edmonds Kind of 4th of July Parade with assistance from Chuck Smith, who drove Joan and Chuck’s vintage Falcon convertible. League participants included Janet Robertson, Joan Smith, Karen Keenan, Kate Lunceford, Lynn Carpenter, Phyllis Busch, Rita Ireland, Scott Gassler, Sue Renhard, Troy Meyers, and Vicki Roberts-Gassler. The women were dressed as suffragists with their Votes for Women sashes. They were eagerly greeted with applause and cheers from the large crowd as they walked the mile route through Edmonds, handing out stickers to youngsters with the message “Future Voter”, our LWV logo, and a yellow sunflower. The sunflower, the state flower of Kansas, was chosen by Susan B. Anthony and Carrie Chapman Catt as the flower of the suffragist movement. All participants would unanimously say the hardest part was waiting their turn in line to begin as they were number 84, almost at the very end. All participants would additionally agree that they are looking forward to the next year’s parade and are sincerely hoping we can have a very large contingent in 2020 as it will mark the Centennial of women obtaining the right to vote. You do not need a costume (although it would be nice) and sashes will be furnished. Remember women did not have costumes to march in suffragist parades. They wore what they had. The only adornment was the sash. Mark your calendars now for July 4th, 2020. And of course you’ll want a hat to protect your delicate skin from the punishing sun...

Phyllis Busch, Centennial Committee

The Centennial Committee has been busy

Centennial committee members are placing the “Donated by LWV” stickers on the 130 books going to school libraries all over our county this fall and next spring. Thanks to state and county grants — honoring our League and the Suffrage Centennial. (Rita’s taking photo on a chair.) by Rita Ireland, Grant writer and member

Not for Ourselves Alone: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony

The Centennial Committee launched a program of summer films with a showing of the documentary Not for Ourselves Alone in June at Quail Park. Written by Geoffrey C. Ward and produced for PBS by Ken Burns and Paul Barnes, the film asserts the friendship between Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony as a key factor in the woman suffrage movement of the 19th century. With many pictures of the two women, of other leaders of the movement, and of contemporary families and homes, it tells the story of how these two became activists first through their involvement in the movement to abolish slavery in the United States, and then also on behalf of themselves and all women. At a time when women were largely silenced, they spoke out for women to have the same civil rights as men, from controlling their own property to voting, the most controversial idea of all. Anthony and Stanton lived out two very different ways of being women. Anthony, raised in rural New York in a strict Quaker household, never married, while the wealthier urban Stanton married and raised seven children. Stanton often avoided going to women’s conventions, which were held almost yearly from 1850 on, but wrote speeches that Anthony delivered. Anthony traveled all over the country, often under hardship conditions, getting petitions signed and giving persuasive talks wherever she was. No one film could do justice to all the twists and turns of the struggle to get women’s rights, but this documentary provides a nice introduction. Quail Park has a lovely small theater for viewing DVDs, and our hostess Kay Dichter then invited us to discuss the film afterwards over a delicious lunch. Everyone is invited to join Kay for the next two films, Iron Jawed Angels on July 26 and One Woman, One Vote on August 30; just be sure to RSVP.

Vicki Roberts-Gassler, President
As we begin the 2019-2020 year, the Diversity Outreach committee is even more dedicated to its goals of allying with underrepresented groups and actively recruiting people of color to the League. Diversity Outreach has continued its research into the communities, civic engagement levels, and voting patterns of the primary groups that we are trying to reach, which are the Latino/Hispanic, Native American, African American, Asian, and Muslim populations in Snohomish County. We have met with community leaders, read research, participated in conferences and webinars, made board presentations to learn how to best design the process.

The plan is now to:
1. Recruit more League members and new League members to support and actively participate in our outreach.
2. Request that the board agree to concur with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy of the League of Women Voters that has been adopted at the national and state levels.
3. Fulfill all the requirements to make the Diversity Outreach work a designated program for LWVSC.
4. Establish a Spanish-speaking unit in LWVSC to develop activism within the League for Latino community leaders with whom Diversity Outreach has formed relationships.
5. Greatly improve our communications and outreach with press releases and presence at cultural community events.

We are rolling up our sleeves for 2019-2020. Contact Jeanne Crevier at jeannem.crevier@gmail.com to find out how you can help!

Jeanne Crevier, Chair

Census Corner

Check this out -

Diversity Outreach Committee News

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Jeanne Crevier, Chair

August 17 is when we’ll all come together to launch our next year of exciting League of Women Voters activities. This is a very big year for us, a year when we’ll mark our first century of existence as a non-partisan organization devoted to Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy. We’ll be looking back at our activist past while moving forward as activists for informed voting.

You’ll soon receive an “e-vite” so you can let us know if you’ll be joining us on August 17 at 10 AM at the Edmonds Unitarian Universalist Congregation. We’ll have time to socialize, reconnect with long-term friends and meet our new members. Bring friends and neighbors who want to know more about us, too – this is a wide-open meeting. We’ll have our traditional potluck, so bring along a salad or a dessert for a tasty lunch break.

We’ll be talking about new voter registration rules, candidate forums in the works for the fall, increased get out the vote efforts, our various committees and their work. Our retreat provides a great opportunity to find out about the breadth of our work and possibly get involved in new projects.

See you there!

Vicki Roberts-Gassler

Census Corner

Electorate Profile: Washington
Selected Characteristics of the Voting-Age Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Voting-Age Population</th>
<th>Washington 5,458,809</th>
<th>U.S. 245,273,418</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18 to 44 years</td>
<td>47.8%</td>
<td>47.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 to 64 years</td>
<td>34.0%</td>
<td>34.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 years and over</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
<td>18.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race and Hispanic Origin</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White*</td>
<td></td>
<td>76.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black*</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asian*</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian and Alaska Native*</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander*</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Household Income (all households)</td>
<td>$61,366</td>
<td>$53,657</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poverty Rate</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree or Higher (population age 25 and older)</td>
<td>33.1%</td>
<td>30.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Alone or in combination, non-Hispanic.

Notes: In combination means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race.

This graphic shows the voting-age population. An estimate of the number of the state’s eligible voters (i.e., citizens aged 18 and older) is available via 2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.


Jeanne Crevier

More info about Centennial

Come Help Us Plan!
LWVSC Action Alert Policy and Procedure

Your board adopted a new LWVSC Action Alert Policy and Procedure at the June meeting. The policy outlines the way a League member can go about publicizing the need for action on an emergent issue which is supported by League positions. Please make good use of this policy to continue our efforts to empower voters and improve democracy!

Policy:
LWVSC members who become aware of an emergent issue for which action by the LWVSC membership is needed may propose an Action Alert.

Action may include:
• participation in an event or
• making comment to legislators or other government entities in support of or opposition to an issue.

An Action Alert can help call members to make a comment or participate in an event that is appropriately aligned with LWV Positions. The Action Chair will assist committee members to bring the request to the full membership through all LWVSC avenues.

Procedure:
1. Contact the action chair and the president with information about the emergent issue. Describe the event or provide the script for comment for which you want support and the LWV position(s) supporting the comment or event. You can find League positions at https://lwvwa.org/league-positions or you can ask the action chair to help you locate the appropriate position.
2. If approved by the president, send a short article (150 words or less) for the Voter to the action chair by the 24th of the month that includes specific details about your request including an end date.
3. The action chair will send information to the communications team who will disseminate to all appropriate outlets: Voter, media, Twitter, website and Facebook.
4. The action chair will contact each of the unit leaders for promotion at unit meetings.
5. Should you find you need more immediate help from LWV members, the action chair can request that the communications team.

Get Out the Vote

On May 30 the Get out the Vote Committee held a meeting at the Mariner Library in Lynnwood. Pam Somers, Laurie Schreiber, Tori Peters, Jeanne Crevier, Kathleen Ferrara and I (Judy Skorka) had a fruitful discussion.

We discussed our objectives. Where else can we go and what can we do that hasn’t been done before by the League to get out the vote? We need to open the paths of communication to those who do not vote.

Ranked Choice voting was a predominant part of the discussion. Finding out what the Fair Vote people are doing and working with them was one suggestion. Lynn Carpenter previously mentioned that she would find out more about these voting methods. Because we would like to help get the Legislature more involved, we need to involve Jody Trautwein in the discussion of our options as this is her area of expertise. We also need Board approval. This fall, after the Primary, we would like to start investigating what we can do to push forward Ranked Choice voting in Washington State. Because this issue is a major one and will involve a lot of time and energy, the possibility of having a separate group work on Ranked Choice was mentioned.

Because of time constraints and the fact that Ranked Choice voting is not an option for WA voters at this time, a decision was made to contact Duncan Clauson to get a list of 600 names of registered voters in underperforming precincts so we can send out postcards to them after they have received their ballots as a reminder to vote on August 6. Judy offered to contact Duncan and make the request. Jeanne volunteered to create an Excel file to house this list and keep track of the information we gather. Other items involving the postcards were: get approval to purchase (who would pay for them); how and where to order the stamped postcards (ask Lynn Carpenter); were the names and addresses on stickers and who did this last year; what would we like to say on them; could we attach a sticker(s) in the message section of the postcard in different languages, what would it say and where would we get them; postcard parties or do alone at home?

Judy Skorka, Get out the Vote Committee

This Week in the League (TWIL)

Technology & Communications Webinar Recording: VOTE411 Intro

The July 9 Technology & Communications Webinar is now available as a recording on the League Management Site. Register to hear the recording to learn about all VOTE411.org has to offer. Thank you to all participants!

Tuesday, July 30, 12-1 pm — LWVUS Policy and Action: Census 2020. Register here!

Tuesday, August 6 — Voting Rights Vigils

Monday, August 12 — Deadline to request Action Workshop date (earlier is better!) Options: October 26, November 2, 9, 16, 23, December 7, 14. Email Ann Murphy, Lobby Team Chair, at action@lwvwa.org
Running and voting, schools from across Snohomish County participated in the Girls on the Run event, designed to show all girls their power to achieve. The LWVSC booth demonstrated ranked choice voting by having the girls vote for their favorite ice cream. Young voters heard the bell jingle as they placed their ballot in the box. They walked away proudly showing their “I Voted” stickers with a separate League website sticker for finding out the results.

One cheering bystander held up her encouragement with a sign that asked “Who runs the world?” The obvious answer this day? “Girls!”

Representing our League were Lynn Carpenter, Kate Lunceford, Jeanne Crevier, Debbie Wade, Judy Skorka, Kim Baumgartner, Sue Renhard, Tori Peters and Joan Smith.

Thanks to Mary Ross the results of the ice cream vote were on our website quickly. It was truly an inspiring day for all participants. Jeanne, Kate, Judy and Tori counted the votes quickly – the Elections Office may be calling them soon! Kim provided a cute ballot box. She asked the girls the signature question, “How old do you have to be when you actually get to vote in an election?” It was heartening to hear how many could shout out “18!” Debbie was especially great at interacting with the youngsters. “She must be a teacher!” was an overheard comment. Kate got us on the field early and set up a very welcome canopy.

Lynn Carpenter deserves our thanks for getting the League involved in this fun and useful event. This is precisely the kind of public relations we want for our League and for getting kids excited about voting.

Lynn Carpenter, active member

Applause! Applause! Once again, LWVSC’s amazing Voter Service Team pulled off a very successful Primary debate to expose the differences among the wide field of candidates for Positions 2 and 3 for County Council. Many thanks to all, especially to Chair Jody Trautwein, whose organizational genius make this complex event appear effortless! Duncan Clauson’s influence, too, could be felt in the choice of the county meeting room, a space that was well designed for the debate.

Good thing all those extra chairs and the security were available. This event was packed! Lynn Carpenter’s smile and grace kept all the contestants and the audience feeling comfortable even through the “challenging” final 45-second segments. I saw so many of you during the set up and take down smoothly pitching in! The friendly greeters by the door were welcoming. Those question takers and sorters are amazing. Michelle Valentine with the aid of Ed Bremer had worked all afternoon to make certain the technology on microphones was right for KSER recording. Cyndy Norman, Julieta Crosby, Scott Gassler, Vicki Roberts-Gassler, Steve Trautwein and Linda Hjelle were part of the team, and Paula Townsell and Julie Langabeer joined the very attentive audience. Great, too, to see M.J. and Bob Creamer. Many to thank for this successful evening!

I must add that I have officially discovered the most fun job of the entire event. As a timer trainee, I held the role of “dingy” - or is that “dingy”!? Informative to the contestants, Mim Edelstein held up the caution and red stop cards as official and highly responsible timer and flagger. Truly a test for the contestants to fit their ideas into that time frame but one rewarding to observe. The “ding” message sent with a happy face bell is the enforcer and helps provide equal time for all voices! Ask for a chance at this job Great work, All! Thanks for your work for “Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy!”

Joan Smith, the Dinger

Listen to the candidates responses on our website before August 6th!
Communications - Help Needed

Communications committee needs your help - PLEASE?! Lena Stavig, our Twitter handler is starting college in the fall and she will not be able to continue updating our Twitter account. We are grateful for her help in establishing our presence on Twitter and we would like to continue using it to build our social media profile. We would love to have you join our team to help spread the word about Snohomish County League of Women Voters. Please email Linda Matthews@comcast.net if you would like to help. BTW - we'll help :-)

Clearwater Commons – Easy on the Environment

Our first League field trip for the summer was perfectly aMAZING! The weather cooperated; we found the location; our host is a font of knowledge and fun to learn from as a speaker; and our hungry stomachs were sated with our nearby lunch at Lombardi’s in Bothell!

Ten of us, Daniela Birch, Jeanne Crevier, Kate and Wayne Lunceford, Linda Matthews, Jilda Nettleton, Vicki Roberts-Gassler, Shirley Sutton, Michelle Valentine, and Wendy Wyatt, met Tom Campbell at his pride and joy Clearwater Commons in Bothell for a tour and in-depth description of this project in Snohomish County. Tom bought 11 acres in 2006 with the intent of building homes that hit the trifecta of building: Five Star Built Green, high energy efficiency with low impact features that are energy sustainable, and environmental restoration. Within this community he and his wife also started a K-12 school across the road for children of the residents to walk to school, come home for lunch, and use the neighborhood as a classroom laboratory for exploring through their curiosity, respect, and creativity. With pervious paving, rain gardens that return cleansed water to the water table, and removing invasive species to allow salmon and native plants to return to the shores of North Creek, this intentional urban density option showcases what developers can and should be doing to improve our county’s future for the long term.

You can learn more at his Clearwater Commons website (clearwatercommons.com) with a short video and photos of the homes and read his commentary from the Everett Herald in January 2018.

Michelle Valentine, active member

Clearwater Green House

Civil Discourse: Still Implicit

The LWVSC Civil Discourse Committee addressed the last minute details on June 4th for their caucus for Civil Discourse at the 2019 LWVWA Convention in Tacoma. After receiving the news that the position that they had put forth for Program was a Non-recommended item, the committee had to learn the procedures involved in trying to carry this position to the membership. First, after voicing intent at the first plenary session, the position had to be moved at the second plenary and approved to go forward by 50% of the delegates. This passage allowed for explanation, the caucus and a full debate on Sunday to try to win 60% of the votes. The LWVSC position put forth for concurrence follows: “Promote civil discourse through action and education for all government bodies, staff, and the public for the purpose of improved public policy decisions and processes. Civil discourse means, at a minimum, mutual, respectful, courteous, constructive, and orderly communication.”

The Civil Discourse caucus team consisted of Janet Robertson, Jeanne Crevier, Karen Crowley, Karen Madsen, and Joan Smith, Chair. Delegate supporters were Vicki Roberts-Gassler, Kate Lunceford, Lynn Carpenter and Susan Renhard. The popular stickers proclaimed “I Heart Civil Discourse” and the pamphlets served as an invitation to the “Beyond Implicit” caucus on Friday night. Linda Matthews designed both. Attendees at the caucus enjoyed a PowerPoint and the chance to address questions. Several County Leagues came and spoke positively during debate - Skagit, San Juan Islands, Thurston, Yakima, Mason, some from Tacoma-Pierce and Bellingham-Whatcom and our own. The tremendous caucus and dynamic speeches did not gain the 60% delegate votes needed. However, at closing the directive to the Board was to keep Civil Discourse openly addressed by all County leagues. National noted the widespread interest in a lead article that appeared recently in This Week in League. Our Civil Discourse Committee holds that modeling and openly advocating for civil discourse remains fundamental to healthy exchanges within our democracy and encourages wide and diverse civic participation.

Next Meeting: 11 AM, July 30th, The Pointe, Harbour Pointe Blvd., Mukilteo

Joan Smith, Civil Discourse Committee Chair
Centennial Committee Report
During the last year the Centennial Committee has continued to research the history of the suffrage movement in the US. We’ve shared some of our new knowledge through articles and book reviews in the Voter. Links on our website page lead to four lists of useful sources for the curious, including general woman suffrage history, more specialized books, biographies, and children’s books. League members were impressed with the Ken Burns film Not For Ourselves Alone: The Story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony shown on June 28. All are invited to the upcoming viewing of the feature film Iron-Jawed Angels (July 26) and the documentary One Woman, One Vote (August 30), arranged by Kay Dichter at Quail Park of Lynnwood.

Our celebration of the 100th anniversary of women voting in the US is underway, with an inspiring talk about local suffragists by historian Dr. Karen Blair, who was our invited speaker at our Annual Meeting in May. In June several us attended the League of Women Voters of Washington State convention. We attracted a little attention in our suffrage costumes with Votes for Women sashes and fine hats, and we were entertained with a program including folk songs and historical information at the opening program and in several breakout sessions. Programs for all attendees included presentations on African-American activists and suffragists Dr. Nettie Craig Asberry of Tacoma, and Ida B. Wells. Karen Keenan put together a very professional looking three-part panel for our Snohomish County League that covers general and local history of the suffrage movement and the activities of our local league; the panel premiered at the State Convention, and will be on view at appropriate locations for the next year.

The Centennial Committee has more planned for upcoming year, culminating in celebrations of the League in February and of the 19th Amendment at the LWVUS Convention in June in Washington, DC, with events in August 2020 as well.

Children’s Services Committee
The Children’s Services Committee has finished the draft, with footnotes, for the study of homeless families and unaccompanied minors in Snohomish County and is ready to have it read by the Readers Committee of Ruth Brandon, Stephanie Woerfel and Eva Mehaffey. We are still completing the Fact Sheet(s) and refining the consensus questions.
We also collected holiday gifts and gift cards from our generous members for the homeless youth at U-Turn.
The last Monday of the month we provide a hot meal for 15-25 youth at U-Turn. We have no chair, instead sharing tasks among the members of the committee. The contact person is Phyllis Busch.

Sue Renhard, Children’s Services Committee

Children’s Services Making Progress

First Women’s March on Washington
Many of us clearly remember the women’s march on Washington on January of 2017, some of us may have participated in it. This was not, however, the first time women have shown their strength for a specific purpose. In 1913 thousands of women marched for the right to vote as part of a multi-year campaign. “Despite being heckled and harassed by the crowd, the march was enormously memorable; six years later Congress passed the 19th Amendment, extending the franchise to women nationwide.”

Read more: https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/original-womens-march-washington-and-suffragists-who-paved-way-180961869/#WGlybEw82OmUXRkJ.99
North Unit Concentrates on Census and Redistricting

The North Unit’s usual vibrant activities were restricted by the inclement weather in the winter time, but we did meet several times. Our unit focus was on redistricting and the census. I joined Lynn Carpenter’s group to help plan the Redistricting event held at the PUD in Everett.

Redistricting has been a focus as we watched what was happening in the East. Arlington was gerrymandered in the last redistricting. After the district lines were drawn and voted on, the Legislature redrew lines north of Arlington, giving that territory to the 10th Legislative District, which already included some of Snohomish County, Skagit County and all of Island County. This led to immediate changes in the legislature.

Our Unit has already been in contact with the census people in our planning department. We have had the Census coordinator of Snohomish County come and talk to us about the County’s action in preparing for the Census. She brought hand-outs. After I contacted the State Census office, the coordinator, Lisa McLean invited me to sit on the Snohomish County Complete Count Committee, which will meet July 22, 2019. We learned that a county census office will be open in July.

Our members attended the Action Day at Shoreline Community College, the Annual Birthday celebration, and the Annual Meeting. We continue to do our courier routes handing out voter registration forms, and we staffed the Marysville and Arlington libraries on National Voter Registration Day. We tracked the action legislation and had Ken Dammand come and speak to us about the legislative bill to help get big money out politics.

Pat Fogarty-Cramer and I attended the unit leader meetings held by Karen Madison. I also attended a Children’s Committee meeting and shared my materials about ACES, that I had from working with the State Family Policy Council.

We do not keep formal minutes as a unit, but we have had some very in-depth discussions on what is happening in our communities, such as the new school funding formula and why school levies are not being funded equally for schools in the same school district. The North Unit has one school counselor and one who works in a high school counselor’s office, so we are concerned about the “Levy Cliff” which restricts how much money can be raised to fund schools.

Marian Harrison, North Unit Chair

Transportation Committee Report

The committee meets on the first Wednesday of the month from 10 until noon at the Lynnwood Sno-Isle Library except in July and August. It is our belief that transportation systems are the skeleton upon which our society runs. We focus on learning about the various stakeholders involved in moving people more efficiently and economically. We study and follow these main groups: Community Transit, Everett Transit, Sound Transit, Swift bus lines, Light Rail, I-405, and Oil and Train issues. As one can imagine, this is a full plate.

On January 28, our committee traveled to Olympia to meet with legislators from our county regarding transportation concerns. We were able to contact Senator John McCoy, Representative Shelley Kloba, Senator Jesse Salomon (actually his assistant), Representative Lillian Ortiz-Self, and Representative Mike Sells. We were unable to meet with Representative Jared Mead but left our League positions on transportation and a League newsletter with his office. At this time, we plan to visit Olympia again early in 2020 to discuss transportation issues affecting our county.

After some reflection upon our ability to gain information, the committee decided to attend the monthly SCCIT (Snohomish County Committee for Improved Transportation) meetings. Bob Creamer and Steve Trautwein have been attending. This group meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month from 7:30 to 9 AM. There is always a speaker presenting to the group. Executive Director Craig Kenworthy from Puget Sound Clean Air Agency spoke on May 28, 2019. Randy Harlow of Sound Transit and Steve Wood of Stacy and Witbeck gave a report on the light rail construction project from Northgate to Lynnwood on June 25, 2019. The Board of Directors includes Andy Thompson from Granite Construction, Emmett Heath from Community Transit, Debora Nelson from the Arlington City Council, Steve Thomsen from Snohomish County Public Works, Dan Hansen from Perteet Inc. (he serves as secretary and treasurer), and Michael Pawlak from HDR. About 35 people come to these meetings. There is an opportunity to attend and participate via phone. We are on a steep learning curve, especially with the acronyms. Erik Ashlie-Vinke is the contact person for SCCIT and makes an effort to speak to anyone new attending the meetings. This is a vital group of people who have a genuine concern and interest in transportation for Snohomish County.

Eva Mehaffey, Transportation Committee
The South Unit meets at the Pancake Haus on 5th Ave. in Edmonds on most third Thursdays. Our numbers vary from 20 to 30 per meeting with most of the attendees coming from South Snohomish County. We start at 10 am sharp with a quote or a poem that is apropos to the purpose of the League.

Some highlights of the 2018-2019 year included a successful transitioning of leadership from co-chairs, Rita Ireland and Kate Lunceford, to Lynn Carpenter and Kate Lunceford. In September, as Kate moves on to President Elect of the LWVSC, Jeanne Crevier will co-chair with Lynn. We intend to initiate a new co-chair each year.

We marveled as Cathy Liu Scott spoke about a non-profit she co-founded, The Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI) is a free, 11-week civic engagement program that teaches parents to become leading advocates for children in their schools and communities. Graduates of that program are presented with the League’s They Represent You brochure as a tool. Cathy has recently retired, the non-profit is still going strong, and in May she was elected as treasurer for LWVSC.

Another fall program our unit enjoyed was by Lindsay Cortes, Program Director of Snohomish County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). In 1977, a Seattle juvenile court judge concerned about making drastic decisions with insufficient information conceived the idea of citizen volunteers speaking up for the best interests of abused and neglected children in the courtroom. From that first program has grown a network of nearly 1,000 CASA programs across the US.

In November we spent our meeting discussing the ballot issues, where to find the League of Women Voters of Washington’s position on those we had studied, and how to find out which organizations were financing some of these initiatives on the ballot from the Secretary of State’s website.

Our annual Holiday Brunch to which we invite state and local elected officials was held at the Edmonds Senior Center on December 13. Each official spoke briefly to the group gathered. January was spent on planning program ideas to be sent to the Board and for the whole membership to decide with a vote in May. In February we celebrated the League’s 99th Birthday with a luncheon. Later that month many of us attended Lobby Day in Olympia—which our own Kate Lunceford helped the LWVWA organize.

In March we welcomed FairVote WA President Lisa Ayrault to educate us about ranked choice voting (RCV). Washington was considering a bill, which did not make it to the floor that would allow local jurisdictions to choose their voting method. The idea behind RCV stimulated a lot of interest as we moved around the room from our first choice to our second, or even third to determine a winner in our simulated vote for the new welcome sign for Edmonds.

Lynn Carpenter, Unit Co-chair

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