When does our League year really begin?
There’s July 1, when we officially hand off to a new board, or the first meeting of that board in August, or September when we all buckle down to the work of the year. Or maybe it’s with the Planning Retreat, this year on August 17, when we share information about the work of our units and committees and learn about what we have in store for the year.

This is an especially big year as we celebrate our League’s hundredth anniversary. The Centennial Committee had a lot of fun rehearsing and presenting the reader’s theater play *Failure is Impossible*, written by Rosemary H. Knower in 1995 and adapted by Kay Dichter, me and other members of the Centennial Committee and performed in costume by members and friends of the committee. This brief account of some of the highlights of the woman suffrage movement in the US from its beginnings through the ratification of the 19th Amendment was well received by the 45 active and new members who attended the Retreat – thank you! - and will be performed again, for our KSER radio show and elsewhere.

We were then honored by a talk about the latest in voting in Snohomish County by County Auditor Carolyn Weikel, who is retiring from her position after a long and successful tenure. She let us know about the new state laws regarding voting, including registration on election day and pre-registration of 16-year-olds. She also answered audience questions, including about election security.

Several committees summarized their ongoing work. All are open to new members, and further information will be found on the website and in articles in the Voters. Members should also be aware that when two people agree that we need a committee to deal with an issue otherwise not covered, they can form a new committee to do so.

In between presentations we enjoyed a lavish salad buffet and yummy desserts. We always knew that letting women have the right to vote would not interfere with our ability to cook!

Vicki Roberts-Gassler, President
What’s Happening

September 24, 2019
Support our League and help register new voters!
Find out more about it!

Global Climate Strike
350.org
EVERETT
September 20
DIE In at Noon
Snohomish County Campus,
3000 Rockefeller Avenue, Everett
https://globalclimatem strike.net/greta-thunberg s-invitation-stand-with-us-on-september-20-and-beyon d/

Civil Conversations in an Angry Age
meaningful respectful conversations on difficult topics
October 3
6:30 – 8:30PM
Cascade High School Library
801 E Casino Rd, Everett, WA
Workshop to follow talk.
Space is limited.
Registration required
Call 425-257-8000 starting
September 3

David E. Smith
David E. Smith holds a Ph.D. in Religious Studies from Temple University. For the past decade he has held roles as Lecturer, Assistant Professor, and Associate Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies, and currently teaches for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Washington.

Rita Ireland (on the left) signs up enthusiastic volunteers, Lynn Lichtenberg, Tori Peters, Eva Mehaffey, at the Planning retreat. Members will read stories to elementary school children this year to teach about the Women’s Suffrage Movement.
In France and Belgium this time of year has a special name, La Rentree or “the return”, when everyone comes back from their summer vacation, the kids go back to school, and the adults resume their work activities. Even though we lack a word in English, we have a concept somehow that after the more leisurely pace of summer we’ll roll up our sleeves and get busy.

Not that we’ve been totally at rest during the last few months in League. In early June a number of us represented our local League at the Washington State League Convention. Our field trips to Clearview Commons and Cocoon House were well-attended and raised our awareness of the environmental and social issues these institutions address. A lively forum in early July gave attendees information about the Snohomish County Council candidates in districts 2 and 3, especially helpful as voters in district 2 had to choose from eight people! Many of our committees met despite the summer holidays, and committee members continued their work, as will be evident from articles in this Voter. Several members have made themselves available to register voters at every possible appropriate event around the county.

At our Planning Retreat in mid-August we had a foretaste of the many activities coming up this year, including several forums and special events spread throughout the year. Units will meet regularly, as will our very active committees. Thanks largely to Mary Ross, our website just keeps getting better; we will soon have the ability to share more detailed information with each other via a blog.

One of my personal goals for this year is to find out and share more about League positions. We know basically how the League arrives at a position: by studying it, sharing information, proposing a stance and then agreeing to a position by a process of consensus. But what are these positions, and where do we find them? We’ll be writing a series of articles for the Voter this year, and much will be revealed!

Vicki Roberts-Gassler, President

Civil Conversations in an Angry Age

Philosopher David E. Smith takes a deep look at those moments when civility breaks down. By mapping the structure of how we converse, and digging into the root causes of both civility and incivility, Smith explores how we can have meaningful, respectful conversations on notoriously difficult topics like politics, religion, and morality. In our increasingly polarized political environment, Smith provides participants with the tools needed to embark upon more thoughtful, fruitful discussions. An interactive workshop will follow the talk. Space is limited. Advance registration is required and begins September 3 by calling 425-257-8000. Hosted by Everett Public Library, City of Everett Community Development and the League of Women Voters of Snohomish County, with support from Humanities Washington.

Welcome New Members!

R. J. (Roberta Jean) Clemons

Roberta is a retired mental health professional and former member of League in Spokane. She led a unit in the Spokane LWV. She is interested in voter registration and turnout.

Leslie Raphael

Leslie is a retired mental health professional and counselor. She is also a writer and artist. She attended the August Planning and will attend the Central Unit.

Lael Fournier

Lael is interested in national voting rights and voter registration.

Take Action at the National Level on Gun Control!

Look for the email from Celina Stewart Senior Director of Advocacy and Litigation

https://www.lwv.org/league-supports-passage-hr8-bipartisan-background-check-act?_ga=2.10819059.6731196835.1567611342-799397334.1535468251
**Committee Reports and More**

**Fall Candidate Forums**

Want to know who to choose on your ballot? Come to, or better yet volunteer to help at one of the following Candidate Forums sponsored by LWVSC and other Community partners.

Forums typically run from **6:30 to about 8:30 PM**, but double check the League calendar close to the actual date.

- **September 30** Sultan High School, Sultan, WA: Features Sultan and area candidates and candidates for Snohomish County Auditor, Sheriff, Treasurer and Judges
- **October 7** Snohomish County Campus, Everett: Features Candidates for Snohomish County Council Positions 2 and 3 and Auditor, Sheriff, and Treasurer
- **October 8** Edmonds Community College Black Box Theatre: Lynnwood City Council and Edmonds School District
- **October 17** Edmonds Community College Black Box Theatre: Edmonds Mayor and City Council  **THIS DATE WAS CHANGED FROM OCTOBER 15**

(If you already signed up you will get an email from Jody)

If you can help and you haven’t already signed up please contact Jody Trautwein at JDTrautwein@semo.edu

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**Women’s History and Nineteenth Amendment Centennial Quarter Dollar Coin Program Act**

Support H.R. 5308

“This bill proposes a series of quarters, beginning in 2021, that would feature a 19th Amendment icon on one side. On the other side, a noteworthy woman, now deceased, would be highlighted. Each state and all of the territories would select one of its outstanding women to be honored in this series.” See link below for a letter template to contact your representative!


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**August 19, 2019 Everett Districting Commission Meeting**

The eight member Everett Districting Commission met at 6:00 in the Everett Council Chambers at 3002 Wetmore Avenue in Everett. The meeting was led by the Mayor’s Administrative Staff member Nichole Webber.

Nichole asked the eight Commission members who have been selected by the Everett City Council members and Mayor Franklin to introduce themselves. The names of the members selected and their respective neighborhoods are located on the City of Everett website.

After the introductions, Nichole shared that training for the nine Commission members will follow the selection of the ninth Committee member. Voting methods, agreed upon by the eight Commission members, included using a transparent hand vote, rather than paper vote, when voting. Both the importance of consensus and majority were discussed for determining the results of the votes. Following a discussion, it was determined that when official voting was required, the results would be confirmed by a majority of votes.

A main purpose of this meeting was to select the ninth Commission member, selecting from those individuals who had applied for a position on the Commission. Each Commission member had an opportunity to put forth his/her name/s and the reason/s for her/his selection. Dialogue between Commission members regarding their candidates added to the selection process. The culmination of the process which included taking an unofficial vote yielded a request to invite two candidates for the Commission to share their reasons for applying for a position on the Everett District Commission. A broadly discussed reason for asking these two individuals to come and share their reasons for applying for a Commission position is that these two applicants represent neighborhoods/areas of Everett which are not, at this time, represented by the eight Commission members. These individuals are Julius Willison (Westmont Neighborhood) and Glen Kadish (Harborview Neighborhood).

Both will be invited to the next Everett Districting Commission meeting. The ninth Commission member will be selected at that time.

The next meeting of the Everett Districting Commission will be on Monday, August 26 in the Everett Council Chambers at 3002 Wetmore Avenue, Everett, Washington beginning at 6:00 pm. At that time the ninth Everett Districting Commissioner will be selected and discussion of the selection of a Chair from among the nine Commission members, by the nine Commission members, will follow.

Also at the August 26 meeting, future meeting times will be approved. Once a Chair is elected, that individual will lead the Commission meetings. In the interim, Nichole Webber will lead the meetings.

Finally, once the Chair of the Everett Districting Commission is selected, a timeline of 90 days will begin in which to select, from a list of approved District masters, an Everett Districting Commission master. The agenda for the meeting on August 26, 2019 is printed on the City of Everett website.
Census Corner

Fair Redistricting Relies on an Accurate Census!

Making sure that all people in all communities are counted in the 2020 Census could dramatically change the ways in which the districts are drawn. The redistricting process can keep communities together or split them apart. The decennial census plays a pivotal role in collecting and reporting data that is essential for the government, business, and nonprofits (like the League!) to function in supporting services for communities across Washington state. The consequences of not having accurate data are not just data—it means real people’s lives that could be affected for an entire decade. (excerpted from http://www.winwinaction.org/, click on Census 2020 under Strategies)

Jeanne Crevier
LWVSC Districting Committee Update

The process of creating five new districts in the City of Everett for fair and equitable representation on the Everett City Council has begun. You will recall that City Council districting was approved by Everett voters in November of 2018. Members of the LWVSC worked to gather signatures for the two rounds of petition gathering that were needed to advance the initiative for districting to the ballot.

On May 29, 2019, Mayor Franklin and the City Council selected the first eight members of the districting commission. The eighth Districting Commission members will choose a ninth member. The nine-member commission will hire a “Districting Master” who will help develop a district plan, including a map for the creation of five districts. The Districting Commission will also engage the community and solicit feedback as they develop the draft plan. The draft plan will be shared with the public for comment with at least six meetings. These meetings will start no later than Sept. 2020. The final map must be approved by the Districting Commission no later than Nov. 2, 2020.

Please refer to the following website for a broader review of the Districting Commission process. https://everettwa.gov/1856/Districting

Our LWVSC Districting Committee will be asking for volunteers from LWVSC to help with participation at these public meetings as observers. Thank you, in advance, for your assistance when asked! (If you know in advance that you are willing to be called to help as an observer at least once, please email me at bgbjeklund@frontier.com)

Our LWVSC Districting Committee members continue to meet with the Everett Districts Now newly reformed ad hoc committee (once a month). This is an open meeting for all: The next meeting will be on Sunday, August 26 at the Everett Public Library, main branch, from 1:00 – 3:00.

LWVSC Districting Committee Members: Paula Townsell, Brenda Bolanos-Ivory, Barbara Eklund

Update respectfully submitted on behalf of the Districting Committee by Barbara Eklund, July 13, 2019

What do we think about Gun Control?

As a League member, you inherit an organization that has spent nearly one hundred years educating the public on important issues. We have a rich history of positions, statements on issues that have been studied and discussed and then agreed to by a process of consensus.

The best source for the details of our national positions is a book called Impact on Issues, which is updated every two years following the national conventions. It can be ordered from Amazon, or it can be consulted or downloaded from the www.lwv.org website. On the website go to League Management at the bottom of the opening page, then look for the box that says Impact on Issues.

This year we’ll have a Voter article each month summarizing one of these positions. If you are especially interested in a particular issue, let me know and I’ll be happy to share the writing ;-) This summer has seen the lamentably familiar number of gun deaths in the US, including many especially heinous mass shootings, so I will start with gun control. Our first statement was adopted by the 1990 Convention, updated in 1994 and 1998. “The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the proliferation of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons in the United States is a major health and safety threat to its citizens. The League supports strong federal measures to limit the accessibility and regulate the ownership of these weapons by private citizens. The League supports federal strong measures to limit the accessibility and regulate the ownership of these weapons by private citizens. The League supports regulating firearms for consumer safety.” The position goes on to specify
• Licensing,
• Waiting periods,
• Identity verification,
• Education in gun safety,
• Annual renewal of licenses.

Strict penalties for infringement against such regulations are also supported.

As for each position in Impact on Issues, there’s a brief history of how this position is arrived at. In this case LWVUS debated the gun issue and voted to concur with a statement originally proposed by LWV Illinois. It included letters to all members of Congress, support for the Brady bill passed in 1993, the ban on assault weapons enacted in 1994, support for actions from the Mother’s Day 2000 Million Mom March to the 2018 March for Our Lives, and weighing in on related bills and court cases. We have supported measures that have not passed in Congress, such as closing loopholes that allow gun purchases at gun shows, requiring child safety locks on guns, and renewing the assault weapons ban that expired in 2004.

Vicki Roberts-Gassler, President
National Voter Registration Day, September 24, 2019

Yes, NVRD is upon us! This year it is on Tuesday, September 24th. Every year we try to be a presence for as many hours as possible at Sno-Isle and Everett libraries. (The Evergreen branch is closed for renovations.) I love what former League President Joan Smith reminds us of: Voter Registration and Education are the heart of the League and on this day, we are ALL members of Voter Service—even though we also have multiple other responsibilities within League.

Please join Leaguers and others across the country on this National Day. If you can help, but were not able to sign up at the Planning meeting, please contact Jody Trautwein at JDTrautwein@semo.edu. (Let Jody know if you could help but you need transportation; sometimes other members can give people rides.) Jody Trautwein, Voter Service

Get Out the Vote

(Pictured above are members Kathleen Ferrara, Nancy Johnson, friend of the League Eileen Carter, and members Jeanne Crevier, Tori Peters, and Pam Somers)

Members of the Get Out the Vote (GOTV) team of the Voter Service committee applied their friendly, vote-generating voices to postcards sent to one precinct, reminding registered voters to return their primary election ballots by August 6. A reminder postcard was sent to all 406 residences in Lynnwood’s precinct 33 where someone at that address had registered to vote, reaching the 900 registered voters in Lynnwood 33. The postcard project was conducted as a test to find out if sending them would produce an uptick in voter response.

And guess what -- it worked! The County Auditor’s office reported an increase in ballot return rate of one point over the average in Lynnwood 33. While that may not sound like much, it means that if this GOTV effort were applied countywide, it could result in at least 1,136 voters in an off-year election. Just think of the possibilities for the 2020 election year!

We’re still digesting our success from this experiment, but future plans will likely include expanding the project and requesting funding to help with costs. Watch for further developments… Jeanne Crevier

Transportation Committee News

Transportation in Snohomish County is a busy changing animal. The Green Swift Line continues to attract more riders. And our population is forever growing.

In July, we attended public outreach forums that were held regarding the situating of the future light rail stations for 128th and 164th streets in Everett. Two possibilities were presented for each station’s site. For the Mariner station on 128th Street, 62% of voters preferred to see the stop located on 130th street because of the rail alignment and the bike, pedestrian and bus connections. On the other hand, 20% favored the convenience and the lack of noise at the possible location on 8th Avenue.

For the Ash Way station on 164th Street, 55% voted for a location on Ash Way because it has infrastructure and land available, it would cost less and it has more parking. However, 36% preferred to see the new station built to the east of I-5. This location would require access built to light rail, but it has better bike and pedestrian connections via the Interurban Trail.

Our State Department of Ecology is holding a public hearing of the Chapter 173-182 WAS Oil Spill Contingency Plan Rule on September 17, 2019, 1:00 PM, at the Courtyard Seattle-Everett Downtown. The address is 3003 Colby Avenue in Everett. Public comments will be considered for the draft recommendation to the Ecology’s Director for adoption. This contingency plan rule requires large commercial vessels, oil handling facilities, and pipelines to have detailed contingency plans and to contract for appropriate equipment and trained personnel to respond to spills that may occur.

Are you a rider of public transportation? Do you use/possess an Orca card? The Transportation Committee would love to have your feedback on your experiences using public transportation. This would help us to focus on “hotspots” as we gain more knowledge and experience.

Eva Mehaffey, Transportation Committee

Black Women in the Woman Suffrage Movement

As we celebrate this Centennial Year of women in the US having the right to vote, as well as our League of Women Voters’ hundredth anniversary, historians are reflecting on the contributions of Black women to the movement. At the time these contributions were not always recognized, and Black women were often excluded, sometimes under the pretext that Southern white women would not be in favor of the vote if it also applied to Black women. As we in the League work on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, we need to acknowledge the negative aspects of our history. One of our realizations is that we must be actively anti-racist, working against prejudice in ourselves as well as in our culture. One facet of this is a re-evaluation of what votes for women meant to Afro-Americans and how they participated in the woman suffrage movement.

Fortunately, historians have been at work on this question. Increasingly, the general works on the movement include Black leaders; Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman are well-known from the first generation, and many are aware of the journalist Ida B. Wells-Barnett, and perhaps even Mary Church Terrell, but others are harder to find in the historical records. In 1998 Rosalyn Terborg-Penn published African American Women in the Struggle for the Vote, 1850-1920. By going through primary sources including letters, petitions, membership lists, and newspaper accounts, she and other historians have uncovered many African-American women who actively supported woman suffrage in many ways.

Terborg-Penn points out that life for these women was different from the conditions that affected the middle-class white women who launched the push for votes. The vast majority of them worked outside their homes, whether in professions or as household help, and cared for their own homes and children in their scant non-working hours. Before and following the Civil War, however, there were African-American families that thrived economically, and even some that became wealthy, and their daughters were educated and used that relative privilege to start schools and teach, to become physicians, to campaign for an end to atrocities against Black people, especially lynching, in short, as they said, to work for “the improvement of the race.” In an astonishingly short time, after being forcibly deprived of formal education, African-Americans were prepared to integrate into the mainstream, but of course they faced extra barriers beyond what the poor European immigrants of the time were dealing with. While many middle-class white women who lived privileged lives were recruited to the anti-suffrage movement, their African-American counterparts always knew that they needed the vote to accomplish the reforms needed for their people, women and men as well.

African-American women were sometimes able to join the major woman suffrage organizations, but in many instances they were not welcomed. So they formed their own organizations. Terborg-Penn points out, “Segregated unions allowed African American women the autonomy and leadership opportunities they would not have had if they were integrated into mainstream unions; nonetheless, segregation as a policy, nation-wide, perpetuated the aura of Blacks as second-class citizens, which was how many white Americans perceived African American women.” (page 86) Over the decades from the 14th to the 19th Amendments, Black women formed a dense network of associations to reform conditions for themselves and their people, which supported woman suffrage among their other issues. As we know, even after the 19th Amendment was ratified, white supremacists managed to deprive Black women and men of actual access to the vote. Don’t we all wish this were simply a problem of the distant past?

Vicki Roberts-Gassler, President
Snohomish County’s Global Climate Strike – Die In Event

The LWVSC Natural Resources Committee asks League members to participate in the Global Climate Strike Friday September 20th.

Inspired by the youth climate activist Greta Thunberg’s Fridays for Future movement, additional worldwide events are being organized by various organizations including our community ally – 350 Everett.

Members are encouraged to attend 350 Everett Die In
Snohomish County Campus,
3000 Rockefeller Avenue, Everett.

Please arrive by 11:45 AM, wear black, and grab a sign or bring your own!

Event details on the LWVSC Facebook page. The Die In is a peaceful action to call attention to the climate crisis. The bells chime at noon and the Die In will last 11 minutes, signifying the 11 years that climate scientists believe we have to avert climate disaster.

The Natural Resources committee will staff a table to engage voters from 11 AM to 1 PM at the event.

Action Alert – Vision 2050

The Puget Sound Regional Council is seeking comment on its VISION 2050, the region’s long-range plan for growth before Sept. 16th.

Please go to this site to make comment https://www.psrc.org/draft-vision-2050-plan-comment-form

Your comment could be something like: “I am concerned about adding 25,000 new residents to rural areas of Snohomish County by 2050. I do not believe the region has the resources to provide the necessary public facilities, including transportation facilities, to these areas. The increased growth in rural areas will also increase greenhouse gas pollution, reduce instream flows, increase water pollution, and adversely impact fish and wildlife habitats.”

Rapid growth has affected housing affordability, cost of living, transportation, and the environment in Snohomish County. Vision 2050 recommends growth along major transit centers. But the plan supports increasing population growth of 25,000 in rural areas. It predicts 4,000 jobs in rural areas with no proposed transit.

Futurewise Director of Planning and Law, Tim Trohimovch has said, “We also support the transit-focused growth alternative, so in that regard our policy position is similar to the Snohomish County’s. However, we do not support the county’s suggestion to increase the growth allocations to the rural areas and unincorporated urban growth areas. We do not believe the region has the resources to provide the necessary public facilities, including transportation facilities, to these areas. The increased growth in rural areas and unincorporated urban growth areas will also increase greenhouse gas pollution, reduce instream flows, increase water pollution, and adversely impact fish and wildlife habitats.

We are working with our allies to discourage the increased growth targets to rural areas and unincorporated urban growth areas region-wide.”

Kristin Kelly has said, “I think Futurewise is correct and the more support they have the better…there is way too much growth in rural area which has already impacted transportation and the environment. It’s way past time we stopped sprawl and focus on current cities and transit centers and corridors.”

You can read the plan at https://www.psrc.org/vision

Kate Lunceford
MJ (Mary Jayne) Donovan-Creamer died peacefully at home on August 13th, 2019. It was 1 year, 2 months and 6 days since she had a seizure which was diagnosed to be caused by a brain tumor. She was diagnosed to be terminally ill in March 2019 and was in Hospice care until she died. She is at peace now.

MJ was born on April 12th, 1945 (same day FDR died) to Hope Silbaugh and George Donovan in Yakima, Washington. She was raised in Matton, Washington by her mother, where she excelled in school. MJ attended Yakima Community College after high school for a brief period then decided to move to Oakland, California. She met her husband Robert Creamer at the First Baptist Church in Alameda, California where they both worked with youth groups. MJ and Bob were married on March 21th, 1980 in Alameda and had 39 years together.

MJ followed Bob for his engineering career from Alameda, California to St. Louis, Missouri, San Diego, California and finally to Everett, Washington, where they lived for over 20 years. While in San Diego, MJ graduated from San Diego University with a BS and honors from their Business School. In Everett, MJ was very active in local community and city activities including being the Chair of the Riverside Neighborhood Association, where she oversaw the upgrade to Garfield Park. After working or being in school most of her life, MJ retired in 2014. MJ spent her last years mostly serving in several capacities with the League of Women Voters of Snohomish County, from which she received several awards for her service. She will be cremated; friends are planning to have a life celebration at her home in late September or early October (TBD). In lieu of flowers, please send donations in MJ’s name to KSER, Providence Hospice, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Everett Gospel Mission or your favorite charity.

**It’s Time To Gear Up for Action!**

By Ann Murphy, LWVWA Lobby Chair

How do you want to make your voice heard in Olympia in the 2020 legislative session?

League of Women Voters of Washington of Washington has scheduled four separate workshops around the state to provide information and aids to your citizen involvement in the advancing legislation on League’s Legislative Agenda. Mark your calendar for at least one session and stay tuned for additional information.

- November 2, Spokane (LWV Spokane Area)
- November 9, Olympia (LWV Thurston Co)
- December 7, Seattle (LWV Seattle-King Co)
- January 4, Kingston (LWV Kitsap Co)

All workshops are on Saturdays, with registration and networking beginning at 9 a.m. and will include speaker and panel presentations, issue break out sessions, and lunch. Workshops will end at 3:00 p.m. and may have slight timing adjustments to accommodate ferry schedules. Lunch and all materials are included in the $30 registration fee.

Registration information will be available at [www.lwvwa.org](http://www.lwvwa.org) soon.

Information from LWVWA Voter