All Hands were on Deck for National Voter Registration Day

On September 24, 2019 League members and friends were out in force for National Voter Registration Day (NVRD). We had volunteers at the Everett Library, Sno-Isle Library Locations of Arlington, Edmonds, Lake Stevens, Lynnwood, Marysville, Mill Creek, Monroe, Mountlake Terrace, Mukilteo, and Snohomish, and at the Northwest Indian College and Tulalip Administration Center.

We are lucky that in our state it is easy to register online or when getting a driver’s license, and it is easy to vote. Many of the library patrons who pass by our tables are already registered. Our visibility on National Voter Registration Day is a timely reminder to voters to update their address if necessary, and then to take the next step by filling out their ballot when it arrives in the mail. The information handouts that we share are really appreciated!

This year’s most discussed news is that 16 year-olds can now Preregister to Vote and then will be added to Voter Rolls once they reach 18. We had a measurable group of very excited young people!

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League of Women Voters Natural Resource Committee supports Everett 350.org at Climate Die-In on September 20.
Check out this video on YouTube.
**Making Your Vote Count!**

October 27 and November 2

Sno-Isle Libraries and Diversity Outreach Committee

`Join Us`

See Calendar for details!

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**What’s Happening**

**Calendar**

**October 2**, Transportation Committee meeting, 10AM – 12PM, Lynnwood Library - Sno-Isle Libraries, 19200 44th Ave W, Lynnwood, WA

**October 3**, LWVSC Board meeting, 10AM – 12PM, Snohomish County PUD, 2320 California St, Everett, WA

**October 3**, North Unit Meeting, 6:30 – 8:00PM, Wrobliski Manor Day Room, 1210 E. 5th St., Arlington

**October 3**, Civil Conversations in an Angry Age, 6:30 – 8:30PM, Library, Cascade High School, 801 E Casino Rd, Everett, WA

**October 4**, Children’s Services Committee Meeting, 10AM – 12PM, Location may vary, we often meet at Verdant in Lynnwood, 4710 196th St SW, contact Janet Robertson for more information

**October 7**, Centennial Committee meeting, 2:30PM, Lynnwood Library - Sno-Isle Libraries, 19200 44th Ave W, Lynnwood, WA

**October 7**, Candidates Forum-County Council and other positions, 6PM – 8PM, Snohomish County campus, Rockefeller Ave., Everett Candidates for Snohomish County Council Positions 2 and 3, and County Auditor, Sheriff, and Treasurer. Contact Jody Trautwein for more information

**October 8**, Civil Discourse Committee meeting, 11AM – 1PM, The Pointe Restaurant, 11817 Harbour Pointe Blvd, Mukilteo, WA

**October 8**, Candidates Forum-Lynnwood and School District, 6:30PM – 8:30PM, Black Box Theatre, 20310 8th Ave W, Lynnwood, WA

**October 14**, Election Observer Training, 1PM – 3PM, contact Duncan Clauson, duncan.clauson@snoco.org, to register.

**October 14**, LWVSC Magazine On the Air 6PM – 7PM, KSER-FM

**October 16**, Central Unit Meeting, 1PM – 3PM, Auditorium, Everett Public Library, 2702 Hoyt Ave, Everett

**October 17**, Candidates Forum-Edmonds City Council 6PM – 8PM, Black Box Theatre, 20310 68th Ave W, Lynnwood, candidates for Edmonds Mayor and City Council. Contact Jody Trautwein for more information.

**October 18**, Natural Resources Committee, 10AM – 12PM, Lynnwood Library - Sno-Isle Libraries, 19200 44th Ave W, Lynnwood, WA, Contact Kate Lunceford for more information

**October 18**, Effects of the Reversal of Roe v. Wade, sponsored by the Health Care Committee, 1PM – 3PM, Everett Public Library, 2702 Hoyt Ave, Everett, Central Unit and the Health Care Committee are sponsoring a speaker from Planned Parenthood on the effects of reversing Roe v. Wade.

**October 21**, Diversity Outreach Committee Meeting, 11:30AM – 1:00PM, Lynnwood Library - Sno-Isle Libraries, 19200 44th Ave W, Lynnwood, Contact Jeanne Crevier for more information.

**October 27**, Making Your Vote Count, 2PM – 4PM, Mountlake Terrace Library - Sno-Isle Libraries, 23300 58th Ave W, Mountlake Terrace, Guidance for voters who are unfamiliar with filling out their ballots, showing the “Inbound Ballot Processing Video” from the Snohomish County Elections office. We will have activities for kids, treats for all, and a celebration of voting that will conclude with a short “Democracy Walk” to drop completed ballots in the nearby Ballot Box! Instruction in Spanish will also be provided. Sponsored by the LWVSC Diversity Outreach Committee and the Sno-Isle Libraries.


**November 1**, Children’s Services Committee Meeting, 10AM – 12PM, Location may vary, we often meet at Verdant in Lynnwood, 4710 196th St SW, contact Janet Robertson for more information

**November 2**, Making Your Vote Count: A Celebration of Voting, 1PM – 3PM, Lynnwood Library - Sno-Isle Libraries, 19200 44th Ave W, Lynnwood, Guidance for voters who are unfamiliar with filling out their ballots, showing the “Inbound Ballot Processing Video” from the Snohomish County Elections office. We will have activities for kids, treats for all, and a celebration of voting that will conclude with a short “Democracy Walk” to drop completed ballots in the nearby Ballot Box! Instruction in Spanish will also be provided. Sponsored by the LWVSC Diversity Outreach Committee and the Sno-Isle Libraries.
President’s Pen

Diversity Outreach Committee
Exciting Updates!

Diversity Outreach committee is presenting a series of workshops to the Spanish-speaking parishioners of St. Pius X church in Mountlake Terrace after the Spanish Mass on Sundays. Described elsewhere in this issue, the series focuses on the importance of voting and how the League stands ready to help raise their concerns and advocate with them to broaden the focus of issues that affect their community.

Also we are co-hosting with Sno-Isle Libraries two workshops to help people understand their ballots and to share information about the ballot counting process. But these serious subjects will be wrapped as a party! “Making Your Vote Count: A Celebration of Voting!” will be held on Oct. 27 from 2 – 4:00 pm at the Mountlake Terrace Sno-Isle Library, and again on Nov. 2 from 1 – 3:00 pm at the Lynnwood Library. Volunteers are needed at both of these events! Please contact Jeanne Crevier to help.

The Diversity Outreach Committee meets on the third Monday of the month at 11:30 am in the Lynnwood library. All League members are invited.

Jeanne Crevier, Chair

It’s time to gear up for State Action!

League of Women Voters of Washington in co-operation with LWV Thurston County has scheduled an Action Workshop near you!

**Saturday, November 9 – 9:00 AM to 3 PM**
South Puget Sound Community College—Lacey Campus
4220 6th Avenue SE, Olympia, WA 98503

Action Workshops include speaker and panel presentations, issue break-out sessions, and lunch. There will be information and aids for your citizen involvement in the advancing legislation on League’s Legislative Agenda.

The $30 registration fee includes lunch and all materials. There is a reduced rate of $10 for those under 24. A limited number of scholarships are available if the registration fee would be a barrier to your participation. Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov 5th. Apply here.

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

[Register now Olympia Action Workshop]

Other workshops are also available around the state if that works for you…

**Spokane Action Workshop** 02 Nov 2, 2019 9:00 AM Washington State University Extension

**Seattle Action Workshop** Dec 7, 2019 9:00 AM Seattle First Baptist Church

**Kingston Action Workshop** Jan 4, 2020 9:00 AM Village Green Community Center
A Petition to Bring Back Salmon to the Edmonds Marsh

In case you haven’t seen it, there’s a petition going around about the Edmonds Marsh. This marsh is one of few remaining urban saltwater estuaries on Puget Sound, but its connection to the Sound has been seriously compromised by development. The petition is asking Governor Inslee to help with efforts to restore that connection. If you live in Washington and haven’t signed a hard copy, you can access it online at http://chng.it/g24dvRhK

What is the petition about?
Currently, instead of the tidal channels that salmon formerly navigated for spawning, there is a 1600-foot pipe – a pipe placed too deep for salmon to access. Land adjacent to the Marsh, purchased by the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) property, is the natural site for the necessary restoration project. However, WSDOT will not commit to allowing a tidal channel to cross the property when they take possession. The City of Edmonds has been stifled in applying for grants due to lack of a landowner agreement for use of the area, commonly known as the old Unocal property.

Therefore, citizens are asking Governor Inslee to intervene and commit to having the WSDOT property used for restoring the Edmonds Marsh-Estuary. Since WSDOT has stated they do not have authority to manage the land as a wildlife reserve, we are asking the Governor to transfer the State property to another State agency, such as the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Why Is This Important?
Restoration of the Edmonds Marsh to a fully functioning saltwater estuary with daily tidal exchange would enhance the health of Puget Sound and benefit salmon and other wildlife such as the endangered resident killer whales. We can restore spawning coho and chum salmon runs and enhance chinook salmon (on the Endangered Species Act list) by replacing the pipe with an open channel to Puget Sound that would be accessible to salmon and other aquatic species. The property on the southern edge of the Edmonds Marsh purchased by WSDOT is the only feasible location for placement of tidal channels to reconnect the Marsh to Puget Sound and bring back salmon.

Marjorie Fields

Report on Voter Registration Collaboration with the NAACP

The NAACP held its monthly members’ meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 24 at Everett Community College. Leah Timberlake, a LWVSC member (Diversity and Outreach Committee), and NAACP member, attended the meeting.

During the proceedings, Dr. Janice Greene, the president of the executive committee, announced that the national NAACP asked local chapters to promote voter registration. Leah shared that “...the League would like to support Black communities in any voter registration or voter education efforts you are doing.” Beth Lucas, the secretary, asked for voter registration materials. In the absence of paper registration forms, Leah sent Beth voter registration information from the Snohomish County government website, the October 28 deadline, and information on how to find information about candidates. Beth is sending all NAACP members in Snohomish County an email with this information.

Five women, including Beth, took the last of our final run of (old) membership flyers. Beth is scanning the flyer to send to NAACP members along with our invitation to join. Dr. Greene is already a member.

Leah Timberlake
Immigration is another very timely topic for a discussion of League positions. The actions of the current administration are not in line with our LWV position on the subject. Following a study started in 2006, in 2008 the League adopted a position that begins: “The League of Women Voters believes that immigration policies should promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business, and employment needs of the United States; and be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises. Provision should also be made for qualified persons to enter the United States on student visas. All persons should receive fair treatment under the law.” The position lays out “Criteria for Legal Admission to the United States” including family reunification, “Flight from persecution or response to humanitarian crises in home countries”, and educational and business needs of immigrants or of the U.S. Open borders are not the intent of the position, which in fact advocates for increased border staff, improved tracking of those entering, and penalties for companies employing undocumented workers. On the other hand, in 2016 the clarification was made that simply entering or re-entering the country illegally should not be considered a crime, and no person should be deported who does not have a criminal record. The League also advocates a system to allow foreign workers entry for seasonal work.

In 2009-2011 we lobbied in favor of the DREAM Act (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors). It passed the House but was filibustered in the Senate. An iteration of this bipartisan bill began in 2001. President Obama’s DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) was in response to repeated failures to overcome Senate filibusters. The League marched in protest of the separation of children and the southern border wall at our 2018 Convention, and we have also opposed the “Public Charge Rule” by which the current administration would block immigrants felt to be at risk of dependency on government services.

Vicki Roberts-Gassler, President
Looking back on American history, women’s lives in most states were controlled by the common law brought to America by English colonists hundreds of years ago. Marriage and property laws known as “coverture” stated that a married woman did not have a separate legal existence from her husband. The wife’s legal status was referred to as feme covert. An unmarried woman, feme sole, did have the right to own property and to make contracts under her own name.

The coverture doctrine arose from the legal idea that a husband and wife were one person—that one person being THE HUSBAND. (Interestingly, a queen of England was exempt from coverture laws.)

The following is a list of coverture requirements for married women which was enshrined in common law for centuries and throughout the 1800s:

* When a husband died, the wife did not become the legal guardian of their children.
* Widows did not have “dower” rights to property that they brought into the marriage.
* Widows were denied life usage of one third of their husband’s estate.
* A married woman’s status was likened to that of a dependent child or slave.
* A married woman could not own property or hold patents in her own name.
* A married woman could not sign legal documents or enter onto contracts on her own.
* A husband could deny his wife the right to an education.
* If a married woman earned any money—her wages were kept by the husband. (For example, author’s commissions.)

So how did these coverture laws originate? It began in the late Middle Ages under King Henry II, and other English kings continued this tradition. A medieval legal treatise known as “Bracton” was initiated stating that a husband and wife were to be considered as one single person. The legal existence of the wife was suspended because she was considered to be under the protection and “cover” of her husband. Thus, this condition was called her “coverture”.

Although historical studies have shown some flexibility in implementing coverture, it took many years for these coverture laws to erode. Most famously Abigail Adams in 1776 implored her husband, John Adams to “remember the ladies; remember all men would be tyrants if they could.” John Adams’s curious response to her plea was “I cannot but laugh.”

Gradually men started to realize a downside to coverture. (Husbands being legally responsible for their wives’ misdeeds.) Finally by 1800 people began to speak out against coverture as “legal fiction” and by the mid 1800s the American Women’s Rights Movement made property rights for women their primary goal and became an impetus in securing the right to vote in the U.S. In 1966 the U.S. Supreme Court stated that “the institution of coverture is obsolete”. Justice Hugo Black described modern coverture as an “archaic remnant of a primitive caste system.” Many states passed Married Property Acts and other states abolished coverture through many court cases.

Coverture laws originally concocted to “protect women” actually had as its main purpose the legal subordination of women. Thankfully coverture has just about disappeared from the lives of modern American women, and in 1980 the Supreme Court declared the practice of male rule in marriage unconstitutional!
Transportation Committee News

With I-976 initiative vote coming up on November 5, the committee decided to do presentations at the local units. Steve Trautwein took on this activity and presented to the South Unit and the Central Units. Steve had handouts that gave more detailed information of the damage of I-976. It is our intention to send out an action alert to League members regarding the seriousness of this initiative in the near future. It cannot be emphasized enough how damaging the consequences of a yes vote will be on the economic future of our state.

The Herald will begin running editorials concerning the impact of I-976. The tolling by WSDOT on the SR 99 tunnel will begin on Nov. 9th; concern was raised that it might negatively affect the vote on I-976. The System Access Fund was presented which gives funds to cities to enhance pedestrian/bike movement to transit centers.

The League of Women Voters of Washington State opposes I-976, which would drastically reduce the transportation budget for the State as it would “repeal, reduce, or remove authority to impose certain vehicle taxes and fees.” The idea of $30 car license tabs sounds attractive, but the consequences would be dire.

Eva Mehaffey, Chair

Transportation Committee Discussing I-976

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Eva Mehaffey, Chair
Thirty-five members attended the South Unit meeting on Sept. 19 at the Pancake Haus in Edmonds. Co-chair Jeanne Crevier opened the meeting with this pertinent quote by American Writer, David Foster Wallace.

“In reality, there is no such thing as not voting; you either vote by voting, or you vote by staying home and twaddly doubting the value of some (other person’s) vote.”

by American Writer, David Foster Wallace

Committee Reports from nine different committees informed us of so much exciting work that our League is accomplishing—hopefully recorded elsewhere in this newsletter!

Duncan Clauson, Elections and Voter Outreach Specialist from the Snohomish County Auditors Office, helped us understand the work of the Get Out the Vote committee. He showed statistics that the postcards we sent to one precinct in Lynnwood increased the participation of registered voters by 1% in this last election. He had ideas for that sub-committee of Voter Service to do follow-up in this underperforming precinct in the near future.

Duncan also demonstrated the new website to replace myvote.wa.gov to which the League has referred voters for several years. Now, to find out if they are registered, what their ballot will include, etc. we need to refer voters to the new site: voter.votewa.gov. (And, of course, the LWV site: Vote411.org is also an excellent site to allow voters to compare their candidates’ replies to League questions.) The next meeting of the South Unit is October 17th at which we will discuss any League positions on ballot issues. The speaker will be Ginna Hernandez with the US Census Bureau.

Lynn Carpenter, Co-chair

The Central Unit had a speaker from Planned Parenthood, Clarissa Thompson, Regional Field Organizer for East King County and Snohomish County. She was very informative.

Our Washington State Constitution recognizes a woman’s right to choose, so we are protected if Roe v. Wade is overturned. The bigger issue for our state is the fact that Planned Parenthood is no longer accepting Title X funding because the Trump Administration put in a gag rule. In order to receive this funding, medical personnel are not allowed to let patients know that abortion is an option. This is unacceptable to medical personnel who feel it is their obligation to give patients all their options. Title X covers poor people who seek health care. Title X patients made up 41% of Planned Parenthood’s patient population. In Washington State the legislature has authorized emergency funds to cover these patient visits to Planned Parenthood. However, the funds are only authorized until March of 2020.

Clarissa is asking everyone to thank Senator Patty Murray for being a strong advocate for choice in Washington, D.C. Planned Parenthood’s candidate endorsements for this current elections are coming out in early October. (To view endorsements, search for Washington Candidate Endorsements Planned Parenthood.) Planned Parenthood is forming an Action Committee and is encouraging League members to join. The association is encouraging people to visit their local web site https://www.plannedparenthood.org to find out about how we can further help with continued funding and to volunteer.

Julie Langabeer, Chair
After determining that key questions of data remained, the committee outlined the following work for 2019-2020:

• Seek expert speakers for meetings
  o Department of Urban Forestry, part of Forestry at DNR
  o Climate Solutions from Seattle
  o Plant Amnesty
  o Health issues

• “Get to Know County Council” and local officials at City Councils
  o Arrange to meet with Lisa Du lude and Kevin Ruuhela at Office of Energy and Sustainability to discuss upcoming BUDGET for Climate issues
  o Attend Council Meetings as observers – 10/2/2019 and 10/16/2019 – determine if climate action is placed into upcoming budget
  o Arrange appointments with Council members to discuss climate solution planning – two or three at a time/ list of questions provided

• Plan a Climate Change Forum for October, 2020 with partners and Voter Service team
  o Place – Colleges as options
  o Program ideas so far
    • Include Tree Canopy
    • Student leaders of “Die In”
    • Ask Hilary Franz for keynote speech

3. What types of partnerships do you see yourself framing with other districts to promote climate mitigations?
4. What policies and procedures in regard to tree canopy preservation or restoration would you initiate or support?
5. What steps or procedures do you suggest to add language of climate change mitigation to county planning and codes? What influence can you provide?

Members used remaining time to make signs for the Climate Change “Die In” event. Joan contacted Library office to gain permission. Staff and security supported effort as long as Not Blocking. At noon, members “Died” for 11 minutes at library entry. Joan Smith

Presenting the Spanish Mass at St. Pius X Church in Mountlake Terrace, representatives from the Diversity Outreach committee offered some information and points for discussion to the 20-30 adults who stayed to hear our reinforcing message.

Diversity Outreach Reinforces Civic Engagement to Latino Community

Julia Altamirano Crosby spoke to the group in Spanish, covering subjects that included the importance of voting, the significant growth of the Latino electorate, and how voting determines important issues that they face in the everyday world. The audience paid close attention, as evidenced by the questions that they asked. The listeners represented multiple generations of voters and potential voters, stressing the importance of family in the Latino community. The importance of faith also plays an important role in this community. This became apparent when one man who had been a citizen for 12 years but had never registered to vote asked for help registering, because the priest had told him that morning that it’s his spiritual responsibility to vote! We couldn’t agree more.

We received warm applause when the presentation concluded, many thanks, and requests to return to the Church for more sessions. We are already scheduled to present our Celebration of Voting at the Church on October 20, and we’ll discuss future plans with parish administrators. This was a truly gratifying experience on many levels. We are honored to share our thoughts with this amazing community that so quickly realizes the good that can come for all people when they apply the power of the vote.

Jeanne Crevier, Chair
The committee organized plans for the Civil Discourse forum on October 3rd in partnership with City of Everett, Office of Neighborhoods. Joan will contact Debby Wade to determine library capacity. Joan had posters for members to distribute. Debby Wade has several for Cascade. Some went to Barbara Eklund and to Julie Langabeer of Central Unit. Jody Trautwein has placed one in each binder for Voter Registration Day on September 24th. Joan will contact Michelle Valentine about doing a KSER phone interview with David Smith. Members will phone and make reservations to attend.

The committee considered various draft trifolds on “Your Voice Matters: Tips for Civic Engagement.” Each had positive attributes. “Keeping the flow” of information was a priority. Linda offered to create a bi-fold version.

Chair of the Community of Colors Coalition David Ortiz’s call with Joan sparked discussion. He envisions a “Citizen College” to promote leadership skills among the community. He liked the “World Café Model” for encouraging dialogue. He wants to invite us to reach out to the eastern sector of the County. He seeks ideas to get our organizations better known among young adults.

His gravest concern is finding ways to address racism in the schools. Linda suggested that a strong approach may be to contact districts and ask how we may support what they are already undertaking. Joan will contact Barbara Eklund to find out what C3 is initiating.

Our brainstorming for future efforts included a speaker series and using “Ballots and Baristas” in Snohomish, Monroe and Arlington for ballot issues. Karen Madsen offered to contact Starbucks about their process. Pat Fogarty-Cramer mentioned that Island County LWV had a wonderful speaker series on the Constitution. She will contact them. Jeanne Crevier said that Kristi Busch of Creative Retirement Institute had done a great class on “The Writing of the Constitution.” She will make preliminary contact. Maybe a speaker for “Gaining the 19th Amendment”? Joan will consult the Centennial Committee.

NEXT MEETINGS: Tuesday, 11 AM October 8th and November 5th, 11 AM at The Pointe, Harbour Pointe Blvd., Mukilteo
Joan Smith, Chair

Our fabulous web master, Mary Ross, has completed a new feature on our League’s website. Two blogs are now available for you to use. Our Take Action blog will inform us about current events and actions for us to participate in that will help support various organizations. Our Centennial blog includes various current and historical events related to the Women’s Suffragists movement as part of our one hundred year anniversary celebration for the nineteenth amendment to our constitution.

Thank you Mary Ross for making this happen!
Linda Matthews