2019 Forum Update

Voter Service committee and many stealth members (see note in last paragraph) of Voter Service sponsored four Candidate forums this Fall. Each had very interesting distinctions:

On September 30 an adventurous group travelled out to Sultan and after being fortified by a delicious meal at the Sultan Bakery joined our very active and supportive partners, Sky Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Sultan branch of Sno-Isle Library and Friends of the Library for a very full night of candidates for numerous races. We heard from Snohomish County candidates for Sheriff, Treasurer, Auditor, and Judges. Then more local candidates for Fire District, Gold Bar City Council and Sultan Mayor and City Council were featured. Of particular interest at this forum were the strong interest in politics of the community, the taping of the forum by the high school students and hearing from the candidates for judge.

On Oct 7 we were back closer to home at the Snohomish County Campus where we heard again from Snohomish County Sheriff, Treasurer, and Auditor candidates and then from Snohomish County Council Districts 2 and 3 candidates. A particularly strong point of this forum was for at least some of us to get to hear the Snohomish County candidates a second time, since there was a forum during the primary race, and thus clarify who we ourselves might vote for.

On Oct 8 we worked with our ongoing partners from the “Snohomish County Forum Coalition” which includes Edmonds Community College, AAUW, Sno-Isle Libraries, Snohomish County Elections and Voter Registration, the Everett Herald and the NAACP. In this partnership we get to use the EdCC Black Box Theater. On the 8th we heard from Lynnwood City Council Candidates and Edmonds School Board candidates. For those of you not in the know, this may seem like an odd partnering, but the Edmonds School district includes Lynnwood schools and so issues overlap.

On Oct 17 we wrapped up the 2019 Forum season with the Coalition partners again at EdCC Black Box Theater. This time we hosted Edmonds City Council and Mayor candidates. Edmonds is up for some interesting changes because at this forum there was only one incumbent in the City Council races and none for Mayor. Both Mayor candidates are familiar faces however, from service on the City Council. Thanks to all of our members who moderated, timed, prepared questions, collected and ran questions, and passed out MANY items. The forum season is a true example of how everyone in League pitches in to produce a great product and active membership on the Voter Service committee is not required. YEA stealth members-those who come out to join us even if they don’t participate in regular Voter Service Committee meetings.

Thank you, Thank you, Jody Trautwein, Chair, Voter Service Committee.
November 3, Fighting Trolls and Taking Names, 2:00 – 3:30PM, Auditorium, Everett Public Library, 2702 Hoyt Ave, Everett, Geraldine DeRuiter shares ideas and experiences about surviving online harassment and making the internet a better place to work and play.

November 4, Centennial Committee meeting, 2:30 - 4:30 PM, Lynnwood Library - Sno-Isle Libraries, 19200 44th Ave W, Lynnwood, contact Vicki Roberts-Gassler for more info.

November 5, General Election

November 5, Civil Discourse Committee meeting, 11AM – 1PM, The Pointe Restaurant, 11817 Harbour Pointe Blvd, Mukilteo, WA

November 5, Health Care Committee Meeting, Stephanie Woerfel for more information.

November 6, Transportation Committee meeting, 10AM – 12PM, Lynnwood Library - Sno-Isle Libraries, 19200 44th Ave W, Lynnwood, WA chair is Eva Mehaffey.

November 7, LWVSC Board meeting, 10AM – 12PM, Snohomish County PUD, 2320 California St, Everett, WA

November 7, North Unit Meeting, 6:30 – 8:00PM, Wrobliski Manor Day Room, 1210 E. 5th St., Arlington

November 11, LWVSC Magazine On the Air 6PM – 7PM, KSER-FM

November 15, Natural Resources Committee, 10AM – 12PM, Lynnwood Library - Sno-Isle Libraries, 19200 44th Ave W, Lynnwood, WA, Contact Kate Lunceford for more information

November 16, Washington’s Undiscovered Feminists, 10:00AM – 11:30AM, Council Chambers, Shoreline City Hall, 17500 Midvale Ave N, Shoreline

November 18, Diversity Outreach Committee 11:30AM – 1:00PM, Lynnwood Library - Sno-Isle Libraries, 19200 44th Ave W, Lynnwood, WA, Contact Jeanne Crevier for more information.

November 20, Central Unit Meeting, 1PM – 3PM, Activity Room, Everett Public Library, 2702 Hoyt Ave, Everett

November 21, South Unit meeting, 10AM – 12PM, Pancake Haus, 530 5th Ave S, Edmonds


Help Our Homeless Youth this Holiday Season

Please bring gifts for U-Turn to November or December unit meetings

or mail gift cards to Sue Renhard's locked mailbox at:

Sue Renhard
17704 25th Ave NE
Lake Forest Park, WA

Suggested items - sneakers(all sizes), make-up, leggings, metal water bottles, travel mugs, wallets, and rain gear.
also gift cards to Ross, Target, Goodwill, Kohls, Fred Meyer, or fast food restaurants.
Movie tickets are also appreciated.

SAVE THE DATE! January 21, 2020
9 am – 4 pm
Washington State Capitol - Olympia
Columbia Room, Legislative Building

Watch for registration news to come. If you would like to help out with this event please contact Kate Lunceford at kur-lykate88@gmail.com. We need help making appointments with legislators, arranging carpools and homestays, videography, graphics, painting rocks and other adventures!

Rosemary Wander at crickschirping11@gmail.com
President’s Pen

Our year seems to keep getting busier, with our units and committees meeting and pursuing their objectives. In October Voter Service ran four very successful forums for candidates for local offices, giving candidates for city councils, the county council, the county Auditor, school boards, judges and sheriff positions a chance to publicize their views and intentions for interested voters in an informative, non-confrontational way.

The civility that is modeled in our League forums is sometimes felt more by its lack in the public realm these days. Our Civil Discourse Committee, which I am highlighting this month, is addressing this lack. The positions of LWVSC can be found on our website in the Members Only section under Positions and Programs. The first of these is: “CITIZEN PARTICIPATION Support of citizen participation in local government by advocating that county and local government branches provide adequate notice of proposed actions, hold open meetings, and make public records readily accessible.” Last year at the prompting of the Civil Discourse Committee we added: “Promote civil discourse through action and education for all government bodies, staff, and citizens for the purpose of improved public policy decisions and processes. Civil discourse means, at a minimum, mutually respectful, courteous, constructive, and orderly communication.”

The statement was developed by the San Luis Obispo League. In a process led by Civil Discourse Committee Chair Joan Smith, the statement was publicized, explained, discussed and agreed to by consensus within our units and then added to our official positions. Later the word “citizens” was replaced by “the public”.

At the LWV Washington State Convention in June 2019 our local league submitted our position for adoption at the state level. When the state board decided not to recommend its inclusion, we pursued the matter within the complex rules of the state convention, but ultimately it failed. The major arguments against it that were advanced were that on the one hand we model civil discourse in our activities and that should suffice, and on the other hand that this model of civility is culturally determined and has been used to promote exclusivity by shutting down alternative voices. Although we were not successful, we learned a great deal about the program process at the state level.

The Committee will continue to work on understanding the objections to the position. In the meantime, committee members continue to promote civility, notably through the forums described in this Voter.

Vicki Roberts-Gassler, President

Democracy in Action Award Nominations Due Now

At our Birthday Luncheon each February we recognize an outstanding person or organization for their contributions to our democracy. Your board of directors needs to decide upon this year’s awardee soon. Nominations can be made in the form of a letter to the board.

As we say on the website, “The award recognizes outstanding achievement or long-term commitment to enhancing democracy in Snohomish County.

“The award is presented to an individual or group in Snohomish County. Actions recognized include: serving as an elected official at the local, state, or national level; promotion of voter’s rights; advancing issues consistent with the League’s position; and promoting citizenship development.

“Nominations are accepted from the broad community, including Washington State as well as Snohomish County; from individuals, LWVSC current and past members, other groups and organizations, or from friends, family, and spouses of nominees. Self-nominations are not accepted.”

If you know of such a person or organization, please send the board your nomination.

Vicki Roberts-Gassler, President

Welcome New Members

Pam Erickson

Pam works full time for the Zesbaugh Construction Co. as an accountant. She has been a host family for over 17 years and has hosted 75 kids. She is a Mountain-eer and has walked Caminos all over the world.

Jean Hopper

Jean is a social worker whose specialized in domestic violence problems. Advocating is a core value for her.

Missouri Hanna historical interpretive panel to be revealed on Sunset Ave. and Caspers St. in Edmonds.

Friday, Nov. 8th at 2 PM.

Guest speakers — Vicki Roberts-Gassler, Rita Ireland, and Teresa Wippel, Edmonds publisher of myedmondsnews.

The article “Coverture: Restrictive Marriage and Property Laws of the Past” that appeared in the October 2019 Voter was researched and written by Barbara Mitchell-Szwec. Thank you for this eye-opening piece, Barb!
Natural Resources Committee Meeting

Present-Sally Lider, Rita Ireland, Nancy Johnson, Wendy Wyatt, Kate Lunceford

Nancy said the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency will be presenting an updated clean fuel standard for the Puget Sound Region. They are taking comment for 90 days from the public. Sierra Club is reviewing the standard and will make their recommendation. We should evaluate and take action to educate our membership. We should evaluate and take action to educate our membership. We should evaluate and take action to educate our membership. We should evaluate and take action to educate our membership. We should evaluate and take action to educate our membership. Nancy said it’s easier to make a book mark with a bit of info. Sally will ask the board if there is funding. Sally said we can print color up to $7.00 free at library. They would be distributed at events. We might try as a pilot project to see if we get attention. We could ask people why they pick it up.

We discussed our meeting with Nate Nehring. We had very little time. We may want to try to focus on the questions and not be diverted to other topics. It might be better to have fewer questions and set an agenda of 5 minutes per questions, etc. It’s very useful to let council members know we are engaged with climate change issues. We also need to help elected officials educate their constituents on climate change issues.

Kate described the development of some new groups aligned in climate change. Livable Snohomish County through Google Groups and Snohomish County Climate Alliance Facebook page are working on networking among groups. The effort is the keep each other educated and to amplify our voice to the county government. A September date for the Climate Forum/Program would be better so it won’t interfere with candidate forums but would get the climate change issue into election discussions. A date and outline should be approved by the Board. A speaker is less work. A possible central location would be NW stream center which holds 150. Tom Murdock is interested in having the forum there. There is plenty of parking in McCollum Park. EUUC Peace & Justice would like to partner with us.

Sally is still working on a speaker from DNR on urban forestry. Kate will work on a speaker from Verdant, Public Health Office and Puget Soundkeepers policy analyst.

We discussed our tree canopy project. For now we will focus on changing the ordinance for tree canopy in unincorporated urban growth area. That does not include cities or agriculture or forest lands. Kate suggested we still consider doing a study on tree canopy. We can still try to find a study.

Right now there is no way to know how tree canopy changes after the Tree Canopy Report is published. No one knows when a tree is removed. Once we have a position we could change the ordinance to include a mandatory reporting of tree removal. It would be online and free. Also, new developments with CC&Rs would be required to have households report tree removal. There would be a $5,000 penalty for failing to report. Money from penalties would fund the administration of the reporting program. There would need to be public education about the program. Citizens (we) would probably be the main source of enforcement.

We will meet again November 18 at 10:00 am at Lynnwood Library. Kate reserved the room.

Kate Lunceford, Chair

Join us in Olympia for a powerful day of advocating for democracy.
January 21, 2020, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

On that day we will be meeting with legislators to advocate for bills that will protect our democracy.
You will also:

• Hear from legislators and guest speakers
• Learn about critical Democracy issues and bills
• Be trained by professional lobbyists
• Meet with your state legislators
• Network with others from your area

Register and learn more about the event here!
Support Salmon Recovery

LWVSC’s Natural Resources Committee asks you to take action on salmon recovery in the southwest corner of Snohomish County. Send your comments to Snohomish County Council Members within the next 60 days to support funding to rejoin the Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 8 Salmon Recovery Council. County Executive Dave Somers submitted a budget that includes $64K in funding in the Surface Water Management portion of the budget for the County’s 2020 WRIA8 interlocal agreement cost-share. You can communicate directly with County Council members to support the funding included in the Surface Water Management portion of the County Executive’s proposed 2020 budget.

And add your personal note here such as:

- I think it is essential that local governments in WRIA 8 remain committed, even during budget challenges, to implementing the WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan. Without a partnership that includes both of the counties in the watershed—especially in our rapidly-urbanizing landscape—implementation of salmon recovery in WRIA 8 will be hampered and effective implementation of Puget Sound recovery will be put at risk.

More information is included in Key Messages Regarding WRIA 8 Interlocal Agreement Cost-Share by Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz of the Salmon Recovery Council. Try this website for more information: https://www.govlink.org/watersheds/8/

Contacting Snohomish County Council members is important, and emphasis should be placed on Councilmembers Ryan, Wright, and Sullivan, whose districts include portions of WRIA 8. Phone calls are especially helpful, in addition to emails and in-person communications. jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov

Kate Lunceford, Action Chair

League Supports our Natural Resources

Protection of the environment has a sad history in the United States. In the 1970s early legislation put us in the forefront of environmental issues as our Congress passed the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and other key legislation, but since then there have been constant efforts by special interests to undermine regulations that protect our environment. League of Women Voters volunteers have worked at all levels of government to maintain a clean, safe environment for ourselves and our posterity, backed up by solid study and by positions adopted by our membership through consensus.

The League of Women Voters began studying natural resources and developing positions in the 1950s. These positions are covered in several pages in Impact on Issues 2018-2020, including most aspects of the natural environment, from water and air quality and land management to disposal of nuclear waste. “The League’s approach to environmental protection and pollution control is one of problem solving. The interrelationships of air, water and land resources should be recognized in designing environmental safeguards. The League’s environmental protection and anti-pollution goals aim to prevent ecological degradation and to reduce and control pollutants before they go down the sewer, up the chimney or into the landfill.” (p. 54)

League members have lobbied Congress and successive presidential administrations in favor of sensible policies. One example: The Clean Air Act has been under attack by special interests since the early 2000s using energy policy. In 2006 the League worked with other organizations to urge the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to strengthen standards, issuing a statement of principles stressing the reduction of climate change. In 2012, when Congress did not act on climate change, LWV urged the President to use his executive authority to “lead the world in the right direction” regarding climate change. (p. 56) League has held forums, published studies and toolkits for activists, and worked with like-minded organizations. As we know, “Efforts by the 115th Congress (2017-2019) were primarily focused on repealing, replacing, and modifying many of the regulations that the League supported and acted on during the previous decade.” However, we continue our efforts as we always have.

Vicki Roberts-Gassler

Census Corner

Map shows the “Hard To Count” (HTC) areas in Snohomish County.

We’re looking forward to co-sponsoring nine Census sessions with Sno-Isle Libraries in January and February of 2020.
In the seven decades of the struggle for woman suffrage in the US, thousands of women and men joined clubs, made speeches, wrote articles and books, traveled, and finally marched, picketed and even served jail sentences. While remembering all of them would be impossible, a few who were central to the cause are unjustly neglected. One such leader is Matilda Joslyn Gage.

Mrs. Gage was one of the most radical of the fighters for women’s rights in the 19th century. Born into an abolitionist family in 1826, she grew up in a house that served as part of the Underground Railroad, and after she married at age 18 she and her husband also opened their home to escaped slaves, at great risk to themselves. Over her lifetime she advocated for Blacks, Native Americans and all aspects of women’s rights. She attended her first women’s rights convention in New York in 1852 and spoke, as one of the younger women present. When the movement split after the Civil War and one faction was willing to wait for women’s suffrage while pushing for the vote for Black men, Gage became a founding member of the other, more radical faction, the National Woman Suffrage Movement, along with Stanton and Anthony. For several years she alternated between serving as vice-president and on the executive committee of the National. She published a suffrage paper, the National Citizen and Ballot Box, from 1878-1881.

When the National merged with the American in 1890, Anthony was ready to narrow the focus of the merged association to voting rights for women in order to work with more conservative organizations like the Women’s Christian Temperance Union. Gage objected to the way the merger was conducted, feeling that the National had given up too much, and she withdrew from active participation in the movement. However, she continued her work, writing articles and books in support of women’s rights until her death in 1898.

Gage’s striking contribution was to women’s history, which barely existed prior to her. From that first speech in 1852, she invoked great women of the past to show that there had always been outstanding women in every field, including politics. Working with Stanton and Anthony, she wrote several chapters of the first three volumes of the massive History of Woman Suffrage. In her book Woman, Church and State she asserts that women have been oppressed for millennia due to Judeo-Christian thinking and church manipulation of biblical interpretation and laws, and supports her claims with thorough scholarly evidence. Like Stanton, she felt that a revolution in religious thought would be necessary if women were to gain equality.

Vicki Roberts-Gassler, Committee Chair

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Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity: The fight against discrimination heads to the Supreme Court

“This may seem surprising, given the social change we’ve seen over the past few decades, let alone the past couple centuries, but the truth is that the United States doesn’t have a great track record with equality. “All men are created equal” and “we the people,” while beautiful sentiments, were never intended to be truly inclusive at the time of their creation. As a nation, we have made efforts to rectify that, but it has not been a short or easy road. It took almost a century for the United States to get from the Constitution to the 14th Amendment, about 50 more years for the 19th Amendment, and another 50 years to get the Civil Rights Act of 1964, including Title VII enshrined in law. Now 55 years after that landmark legislation, the Supreme Court will hear Bostock v. Clayton County, et al, to evaluate whether sexual orientation and gender identity are included in Title VII’s prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex. It’s not enough to create an inclusive definition and hope that people will abide by it—there is plenty of evidence that it doesn’t work that way.”

Read the rest of the article from Liz Bander at https://www.lwv.org/blog/sexual-orientation-gender-identity-fight-against-discrimination-heads-supreme-court
For the 60 individuals who missed cheering on the Seattle Seahawks as they edged the Los Angeles Rams 30-29, David Smith, Ph.D. Philosophy, gave tips for conflicts on the field of life at Cascade High School Library on October 3, 2019, 6:30-8:30. The Civil Discourse Committee of LWVSC arranged to partner with the Office of Neighborhoods, City of Everett and Everett Library to host Dr. Smith. His presentation was followed with table discussions on questions designed to spread the ideas of civility within Everett. A new LWVSC Civil Discourse bi-fold brochure “Your Voice Matters” sat on those tables! What skills did Dr. Smith coach? First, self-knowledge and understanding the other - your and their skills and limitations. If seeking truth is important, identify what type of truth is most meaningful and when. Is it the truth found in words? In science and data? In cultural norms that cause you to judge what works for your life – religion, economics, politics, ethics, etc.? Do you want truth or are you looking to uphold your beliefs? Run plays through forms of incivility that you have encountered. Try to objectify and depersonalize whenever possible. Think, “She votes for Independent candidates.” Not “She is an Independent.” Knowing the causes of incivility allows quick sidesteps. From his playbook, Dr. Smith outlined a Recipe for Civility. Ingredients included Virtue such as trusted character, humility and courage, seeking commonality and understanding the intention of a conversation. He described agreement in debates as delightful appetizers. Adroit communication quarterbacks the conversation—both speaking and listening with proper timing. Curiosity and humor add spice. He ended by asking, “Is incivility ever appropriate?” Want more information? Stay tuned for a KSER program featuring Dr. Smith. Go to our webpage for photos! You may also ask other Leaguers about the night: Mary Ross, Debbie Wade, Barbara Eklund, Karen Crowley, Kate Lunceford, Karen Madsen, Michelle Valentine, Linda Matthews or Joan Smith. Next in the “Civil Everett” series will be Geraldine DeRuiter sharing, “Fighting Trolls and Taking Names”, confronting online abuse, on Sunday, Nov. 3rd, 2-3:30 pm, Everett Main Library. Joan Smith, Civil Discourse Chair

The first week of October, I returned to the classroom to read with third grade students in the Lake Stevens School District. It was an invigorating experience to share with young minds the powerful story of American women fighting for the right to vote and finally achieving it nearly 100 years ago in 1920. Armed with two excellent books—Around America to Win the Vote by Mara Rockliff and Kirsten Gillibrand’s Bold & Brave, Ten Heroes Who Won Women the Right to Vote. We started by defining suffrage and suffragists and talking about how women were only granted the right to vote at the beginning of the 20th century. Students are acutely aware of the concept of fairness. The fact that only white men were originally granted the right to vote in the U.S. Constitution struck all students as unfair. With Around America to Win the Vote, we appreciated together the struggle the two women faced as they drove a small early model car made by Saxon Motor Car Company (who’s even heard of that?) over very basic roads, without a map. We also discussed how people got their news 100 years ago across this vast country. No television, Internet, cell phones, and not even widespread radio coverage. Every group knew that newspapers provided the most easily accessible news and some even mentioned giving speeches and making personal appearances, establishing a good foundation for reading the story. As I read aloud, I would have students call out at every opportunity the reason why Alice and Nell were making such an arduous journey that took six long and dusty months. VOTES FOR WOMEN! We also noticed all the times the color yellow appeared in their travels; yellow car, yellow clothes, yellow lunch, yellow cake, etc. which led to the question—why so much yellow? After reading Around America to Win the Vote, I briefly shared the other book about ten Bold and Brave women who contributed historically to giving women a voice in our country’s government. We talked about the importance of having and using our voices, as well as being informed and taking part in our civic duty to vote. When asked how old someone needs to be to vote, at least one student in each group knew it was 18. I concluded the lesson with in 10 years be sure to USE YOUR VOICE, MAKE IT COUNT BY VOTING! Laurie Schreiber, League member

Centennial Book Reading Begins!

“Civil Conversations in an Angry Age”

“Your Voice Matters” sat on those tables! What skills did Dr. Smith coach? First, self-knowledge and understanding the other - your and their skills and limitations. If seeking truth is important, identify what type of truth is most meaningful and when. Is it the truth found in words? In science and data? In cultural norms that cause you to judge what works for your life – religion, economics, politics, ethics, etc.? Do you want truth or are you looking to uphold your beliefs? Run plays through forms of incivility that you have encountered. Try to objectify and depersonalize whenever possible. Think, “She votes for Independent candidates.” Not “She is an Independent.” Knowing the causes of incivility allows quick sidesteps. From his playbook, Dr. Smith outlined a Recipe for Civility. Ingredients included Virtue such as trusted character, humility and courage, seeking commonality and understanding the intention of a conversation. He described agreement in debates as delightful appetizers. Adroit communication quarterbacks the conversation—both speaking and listening with proper timing. Curiosity and humor add spice. He ended by asking, “Is incivility ever appropriate?” Want more information? Stay tuned for a KSER program featuring Dr. Smith. Go to our webpage for photos! You may also ask other Leaguers about the night: Mary Ross, Debbie Wade, Barbara Eklund, Karen Crowley, Kate Lunceford, Karen Madsen, Michelle Valentine, Linda Matthews or Joan Smith. Next in the “Civil Everett” series will be Geraldine DeRuiter sharing, “Fighting Trolls and Taking Names”, confronting online abuse, on Sunday, Nov. 3rd, 2-3:30 pm, Everett Main Library. Joan Smith, Civil Discourse Chair

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Twenty-one people at the October South Unit meeting heard Kate Lunceford pay tribute to the passing of Congressman Elijah Cummings, and our own remarkable League member Peggy Trahar, whose past work in the League was truly notable.

Steve Trautwein provided League-approved talking points when writing letters to the editor about I-976, and Tori Peters cleared up many questions about Referendum 88 on I-1000. Tori also shared several sources of information to encourage attendees to write letters to the editor in support of I-1000.

Central Unit
At our October meeting the Central Unit had an in-depth discussion of the ballot issues. We also welcomed a new member, Phyllis DeCarlo, who joined us after attending her first meeting in September. She has already volunteered to help with some things - welcome, Phyllis!

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday Nov. 20, 1 to 3 pm at the Everett Public Library. Our guest speaker will be Erwin Saenz from Cocoon House, which provides housing and services for homeless teens and young adults.

Julie Langabeer, Chair

South Unit Meeting
Our featured speaker was Ginna Hernandez, Partnership Specialist with the US Census Bureau. Ginna took the group through the what, when, and how of the 2020 Census, which sparked questions and answers in a lively discussion. Participants seemed to be energized to spread the word and help ensure a complete Census count.

Sue Renhard reported that we already have a Holiday Wish List from U-Turn that will be posted on the website, so that Leaguers can continue their support of this important facility. Sue also reminded us – and for some it was news – that the Children’s Committee of the League delivers an end-of-the-month dinner for the kids at U-Turn, Cocoon House's drop-in center for homeless teens. Since the committee is very small, more people are needed; contact Sue if you can help.

Jody Trautwein detailed the results of National Voter Registration Day (69 registrations), Rita Ireland updated us on the events of Suffrage 100, and Pam Somers appealed for help with addressing GOTV postcards, happening the next day.

Our next meeting will be November 21 at 10:00 AM at the Pancake Haus in Edmonds.

Jeanne Crevier, Co-Chair

North Unit
North Unit met with Steve Trautwein as our speaker on I-976. Steve and I brought handouts for everyone.

I shared information about all the Advisory votes that will be on the ballot and about I-1000. There was a lively discussion about the difference between I-200 and I-1000. We agreed that advisory measures are meaningless because they are already signed into law.

Quite an unnecessary cost to the taxpayer to print this oversized ballot!

We also talked about the need to renew one’s medical carriers and insurance including what needs to be done and what affects the coverage. It was interesting to note how two of our members, who retired from the same school district, had two different medical plans. One of us was a teacher under the TRS Plan and I was under the PERS 1 Plan; both of us were covered under the Public Employment Benefit board.

Our debate emphasized the need for everyone to choose a medical plan that truly fits one’s needs. The deadline to enroll or change coverage for many people is in December.

I hope you do not miss your deadlines.

Marian Harrison, Chair

Civil Discourse Meeting
4. Committee lauded Linda Matthews and committee editors for fine bi-fold. Linda presented it to the Board, but their agenda was otherwise filled. We used it at the forum and plan to begin distribution. Karen took some for meetings in Snohomish. Joan took four to the Mukilteo Library and Linda took some to the Mukilteo City Hall.

5. Committee will encourage the Civil Everett concept to be used by other cities around the County. We will encourage cities to begin meetings with a Civility Pledge. Joan will locate one that could be useful and adopted broadly. Joan will write a letter to City Mayors to request that they lead the effort to promote civility at their meetings.

6. Plan for Spring (March or April) appears to be following format of last forum but using a speaker from the Dispute Resolution Center, perhaps Jacqueline Styrra, would come again.

7. Coordinating with C3 meetings – Linda Matthews may try to attend meeting on 10/15.

8. Committee discussed ways to take our educational forums and candidate forums to a wider audience. With some type of visual filming (YouTube/video) ideas could be spread and repeated. Karen will look into A/V class being offered by LWVWA.

9. Jeanne said coaches for “Girls on the Run” offered tips for better communication that used a construct: “If you say (do) this, I feel _______. Can we agree…”

NEXT MEETING: Nov. 5th, 11 AM The Pointe, Harbour Pointe Blvd., Mukilteo

Joan Smith, Chair

ATTENDANCE: Linda Matthews, Karen Crowley, Jeanne Crevier, Janet Robertson, Joan Smith

1. Review of the forum with David Smith, PhD Philosophy – academic and full of informative perspective, an intensive analysis but needed more practical tools

2. Partnering with Office of Neighborhoods, City of Everett, Everett Library created a positive shared experience – Wendy McClure and Mindy provided a sense of inclusion - Joan will inquire about our role for the next event in Civic Everett, “Fighting Trolls and Taking Names”, Nov. 3rd. We also need to confirm the venue!

3. Karen Madsen and Michelle Valentine confirmed a time/way to interview David Smith for KSER.
Transportation Committee News

The committee has decided to make a trial run on the Green Line. We will research the best locations for departure, times, Orca cards, how to board, etc. Hopefully, we can include a sightseeing tour of Paine Field.

We will be studying Rep. Hobbs’s ten-year transportation plan to see how best we can support, help and advocate for it. The trestle remains a hot topic for fixing a traffic bottleneck. We plan to visit Olympia in January to talk with local legislators regarding Snohomish County transportation issues including coal and oil trains.

We attended the Oct. 22, 2019 meeting of SCCIT (Snohomish County Committee for Improved Transportation). The main discussion revolved around I-976 with yard signs available. It was noted that if I-976 passes the road charge usage will come quicker to fill the gap in funding. The cost of building legs to Ballard and West Seattle is a stumbling point because of ridership numbers. Recently, Sound Transit decided against building a tunnel to Ballard because of the cost. A wish list of traffic projects was presented to the group for Snohomish County. If I-976 passes, it will be difficult to pursue these. The I-5 corridor is literally falling apart. It is over capacity and in dire need of upkeep. The buses are full and feature a “vertical trip” if all seats are taken. The issue of geographical equity was brought to the attention of the group. Is SCCIT looking long term at its future? It was recommended that the Board needs younger members. A suggestion was to reach out to Edmonds Community College for an internship student in communications.

Eva Mehaffey, Chair

This is what democracy looks like

After the Supreme Court’s disappointing decision in the Rucho case this past June—failing to take a stand for voters and establish limits around when partisan gerrymandering goes too far—we promised we wouldn’t throw up our hands and just give up, but we’d roll up our sleeves and fight harder than ever.

And that’s exactly what we’re doing with the launch of the People Powered Fair Maps™ campaign: a massive, nationwide campaign designed to reform redistricting strategically, state by state, once and for all. This unprecedented effort is called “People Powered” because this campaign is designed to empower people—millions across this country—who’ve told us they feel their votes don’t matter.

Our state leaders met earlier this month in Dulles, VA, to learn and strategize on how they could organize, empower, and mobilize to accomplish our goal. By helping voters feel ownership of—and the ability to have a say in—what their electoral maps look like, we’re ensuring they also feel empowered to hold their leaders accountable! That’s the stamp of a functioning democracy.

Together, we have the power to not just change how district maps are drawn, but the power dynamics in our state to make our democracy more reflective and representative of the people it serves.

States nationwide are already taking the fight for fair maps to the courts: “Oklomans deserve fair and equal representation across the state, and partisan gerrymandering is keeping that from happening.” This week LWV of Oklahoma, as part of the People Not Politicians coalition, filed an initiative petition to end gerrymandering in OK. And, in North Carolina, the state court blocked the state from holding another congressional election on the current map because of illegal partisan gerrymandering. This is an important victory for NC voters and the fight for fair maps!

Taken from the LWVWA October Highlights.

LWVSC member Margaret “Peggy” Trahar died of metastatic melanoma on September 29. If you remember the quiet, elegant lady with the bright red hair, that was Peggy. Originally from Massachusetts, Peggy was a retired nurse, a world traveler—she spoke seven languages—and president of the League of Women Voters on the East Coast before moving here in the early 2000s. She served as our Public Relations Chair for several years before she moved to a retirement community in Mountlake Terrace. Her daughter’s mother-in-law, Laurie Mauney, who is also a member of LWVSC—probably at Peggy’s urging—said that when she moved here a few years ago, the first thing Peggy did was to be sure she immediately changed her voter registration. A true Leaguer, Peggy will be missed!

Lynn Carpenter, League member and past president