Honoring Missouri Hanna and the Suffrage Movement on Sunset Avenue, Edmonds

“It is so nice to have a sunny, warm day here on the Edmonds bluff. If Missouri Hanna were alive right now, she’d probably invite us over for a cup of tea!” I told the 50 attendees on November 8, 2019.

We stood a few feet away from Hanna’s home on the bluff of Edmonds’ Sunset Avenue and Caspers. Wonder what she would be thinking — watching the dedication of a new historical interpretive sign. It is a beautiful interpretive panel that finally honors Edmonds publisher and women’s suffrage champion Missouri Hanna. Some of us from the League were decked out in our period suffragist costumes to help cut the ribbon.

“This plaque is here as part of the centennial observance of the 19th Amendment, ratified in 1920, that gave women the right to vote,” I shared. “Missouri Hanna not only made history; she single-handedly changed the course of history in this state.”

I felt it important to describe how Hanna overcame adversity: she arrived in Edmonds in 1904 from Spokane Falls, widowed with a brain-injured daughter. Intent on starting a new life in this young village, she soon purchased five acres just north of the business district, built her home there, and named it Hanna Park. A few feet from the panel is the street that still bears her name.

She soon purchased the Edmonds Review. Hanna diligently and objectively reported local, national and international news for five years, before selling the paper to devote her energies to the women’s suffrage movement. Hanna then started the monthly journal Votes for Women that became a force in the push to grant Washington women the vote.

“In large part due to her efforts with Emma Smith DeVoe, Washington became the fifth state in the Union to grant women the vote in 1910, a full decade before the 19th Amendment granted it nationwide.”

Vicki Roberts-Gassler, president and chairman of the Centennial Committee presented next.

“Rita oversaw every aspect of this project to inform others about this incredible movement that we unfortunately don’t hear much about,” Roberts-Gassler explained. “Missouri Hanna is one of the foremost figures in Washington State’s women’s suffrage movement, and it’s only fitting that we honor her as part of the Centennial celebration.”

The next speaker was Teresa Wippel, who as founder, editor and publisher of My Edmonds News carries on Hanna’s legacy today.

“I’m so honored to be part of this,” she said. “When Hanna purchased the Edmonds Review, she was mocked by the mill owners and others for stepping out of the traditional women’s role.” Wippel added, “I’m so grateful to Missouri Hanna for her courage, her legacy, and for being such a role model to people like me.”

Last to speak was Edmonds Mayor Dave Earling, who is an avid supporter of history.

It was then time to cut the ribbon, as Vicki and I were joined by fellow League member Phyllis Busch.

If you’re in Edmonds, drive down to the ferry terminal, turn north on Sunset - the street on the bluff. Check out the plaque, placed right at the corner. Check out the scannable QR code for more in-depth information on Hanna and other League grant activities happening now.

Two sets of thanks go to our generous grantors - Snohomish County Historic Preservation Commission and “Votes for Women” Centennial Grant from Washington State Women’s Commission and Washington State Historical Society.

Lastly, thank you to everyone who came to the ribbon-cutting ceremony and to all of you who are volunteering to read to 3rd graders in libraries throughout our county.” It’s really happening!”

— Story shared by Rita Ireland and Larry Vogel, myedmondsnews.com

The VOTER

December 2019
Published by and for the League of Women Voters of Snohomish County
Vol. 61, Issue 5

Table of Contents
Calendar and events ........................ page 2
Full Calendar online
Presidents Pen ................................ page 3
Census Corner .............................. page 5
Action Alert ............................... page 7
Transportation News .................. page 7
Unit News .................................. page 8

LWVSC Email:  lwvscommunications@gmail.com
Editor Vicki Roberts-Gassler, lay-out artist Linda Matthews
LWVSC Message Phone: 425-334-8922
**December 4**, Transportation Committee meeting 10AM – 12PM, Lynnwood Library - Sno-Isle Libraries, 19200 44th Ave W, Lynnwood, chair is Eva Mehaffey.

**December 4**, Central Unit will hold its annual *Holiday Party* at the Everett Public Library in the Auditorium from 1:00 - 3:00 PM, County and City Officials are invited.

**December 5**, LWVSC Board meeting, 10 AM – 12 PM, Snohomish County PUD, 2320 California St, Everett.

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

**December 7**, LWVWA Action Workshop in Seattle, 9 AM – 3 PM, Seattle First Baptist Church, 1111 Harvard Ave, Seattle, Speakers, panel presentations, breakout sessions and more. $30 per person includes lunch. Registration at [https://lwvwa.org/event-3555819](https://lwvwa.org/event-3555819)

**December 9**, LWVSC Magazine On the Air, 6 PM – 7 PM, KSER-FM Everett,

**December 9**, Centennial Committee Meeting, 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM, Contact Vicki Roberts-Gassler for more information.

**December 12**, South Unit Holiday Party, 9:30 - 12:30 PM, Edmonds Sno-Isle Library in Plaza room.

**December 16**, Diversity Outreach Committee 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM, Lynnwood Library - Sno-Isle Libraries, 19200 44th Ave W, Lynnwood, Contact Jeanne Crevier for more information.

**December 23**, Voter Service Meeting, 1pm – 3pm, Lynnwood Library - Sno-Isle Libraries, 19200 44th Ave W, Lynnwood, Contact Jody Trautwein for more information.

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**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 98155

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.

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**What’s Happening**

**January 21, 2020**

9 am – 4 pm

Washington State Capitol - Olympia

Columbia Room, Legislative Building

• Hear from Legislators & Guest Speakers
• Get Training from LWV Lobbyists
• Meet with Your Legislators
• Lunch & Refreshments Served

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**Central Unit Holiday Get Together**

January 31, February 1 & 2, 2020

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**League of Women Voters of Snohomish County’s South Unit**

**Annual Holiday Brunch**

Thursday • December 19th • 9:30am-12:30pm

Through a partnership with the Edmonds Sno-Isle Library, we’re meeting at the Plaza Room above the Edmonds Library.

RSVP to Rosemary Wander
cricketschirping11@gmail.com

Rosemary e-mail is cricketschirping11@gmail.com
As we approach the holiday season our family and friends activities will naturally take a bigger portion of our time, but that doesn’t mean League business stops! I hope everyone is replete after an enjoyable Thanksgiving and looking forward to the end-of-year holidays, however you celebrate. This month I want to highlight the work of our fabulous units. We’re too big and too spread out geographically to meet often as a full League, so we have unit meetings in our local areas. In fact, our Bylaws, which you can find on the members only part of our website, stipulate that “There shall be at least four meetings of the membership each fiscal year. A meeting of the membership may be either by local units or by general membership.” We actually do much better than four meetings, as our North, Central and South units meet once month from September through April or May (unless circumstances like snowstorms thwart our best efforts). North meets on the first Thursday of the month at the Wrobliski Manor Day Room in Arlington, Central on the third Wednesday in the Everett Public Library, and South at the Pancake Haus in Edmonds. For newer members, if you haven’t gotten involved in a unit yet, I hope you can join soon. Each unit has its own membership and character, and no two meetings are alike, but all are stimulating. We learn about other activities of the League and about upcoming legislative issues. Sometimes a unit takes on a project, like the successful Everett Districting drive undertaken by the Central Unit or the long-time water resources work of the North Unit. On many occasions units invite a guest speaker to inform us about local and wider issues, ranging from the Edmonds marsh to the Electoral College. Our units are also in charge of our parties, taking it in turn to plan the Birthday Luncheon celebrating the League’s anniversary in February and our Annual Meeting in May. They also typically plan a holiday party to which they invite local elected officials. See this issue for details!

Volunteer Opportunities
We need a courier to deliver voter registration forms to locations in Mountlake Terrace, Lynnwood, Brier area. If you can undertake this key LWVSC task, please contact Carolyn Walker for details, carolyn.c.walker@gmail.com

“League Ambassadors” are needed to welcome new members to our League and help them navigate our complex organization. If you are ready to meet someone new and share your experiences so we can engage and retain new members, please contact Sally Lider, sally.lider@gmail.com

Welcome New Members
Nila Horton
Susan Paine
Susan is a new member of the Edmonds City Council.
Eunice Bonaparte
Eunice served in the Peace Corps abroad and is currently teaching history and global politics
Marilyn Cole
Marilyn ran her own business that supported high tech electronics.
Rebecca Frevert
Rebecca is a Certified Nurse Midwife.

Coming Soon: Program Decisions
January is Program Planning Month for the League. The Program for 2019-2020 is on our website. Our program relates how we choose to devote our time and energies in keeping with League principles and concerns. A program item may consist of a study, and update to a study, action, citizen education, or concurrence with a position held by another league. There is also information about our four active committees and Voter Service on the website. Should you be interested in forming a new committee, refer to the Policies on Committees in the “members only” section of the website. Bring your ideas for Program, new committees, and/or your willingness to work on existing Programs and Committees to your January unit meeting. Sue Renhard, Chair

Census 2020 volunteer opportunities at Sno-Isle Libraries
For the first time ever, the US Census form will be available online. This may make it easier for some, but many people still don’t have computers or the skills needed to fill out the form. Sno-Isle Libraries will be hosting drop-in sessions in several locations during the last week of March and the first week of April when the survey goes live online. LWV volunteers will be needed to staff the drop-in sessions and provide assistance to those that need the extra help. Locations and dates TBD. Other opportunities may include roving assistance in the libraries on or around Census Day, April 1st.
Natural Resources Committee met in November to brainstorm about how to raise awareness of climate change. As Greta Thunberg says, “You must unite behind the science. You must take action. You must do the impossible. Because giving up can never ever be an option.”

The Board of Directors has approved LWVSC co-sponsorship of a group of hyper-local programs next spring called Climate Crisis Solution Project represented by Sierra Club, EUUC Peace & Justice, Interfaith Climate Action, the Snohomish Tribe and LWVSC Natural Resources. The project intends to present programs in different areas around the county next spring with emphasis on current local efforts and challenges to halting climate change.

Natural Resources is also working on a LWVSC program for next fall. The plans are in formation but will likely focus on city and county community health. We will educate ourselves and the public about air pollution effects; greenhouse gas emissions; fuel infrastructure; and tree canopy.

The committee called for approval on two action alerts: To comment to Puget Sound Clean Air Agency on the Clean Fuel Standard before Jan. 6. and to promote attendance at Pilchuck Audubon’s forum on Transportation Nov. 21.

Next meeting will be Jan. 17 at 10:00 am at the Lynnwood Library.

Kate Lunceford, Natural Resources Committee

Civil Discourse Committee Meeting

Joan Smith presented the Civil Discourse members with “Votes for Women” buttons, souvenirs from suffragist Alva Vanderbilt’s Marble House in Newport, RI.

At the November 5 meeting, the committee reported on the Sunday forum presented at Everett Library about “Fighting Trolls… “. After blogging about an online apology for inappropriate behavior, author Geraldine DeRuiter received numerous uncivil responses. She commented that women often are targeted as more vulnerable. She recommended ignoring an online bully, as engaging may escalate the situation. To level a discussion, she suggested (1) asking questions, (2) using humor and (3) giving praise for some element in the other’s statement. She uses her encounters to provide examples for a coming book. The audience discussed social media platform regulation and First Amendment conflict.

The bi-fold “Your Voice Matters” proved popular with city mayors contacted so far – Snohomish, Everett, Mukilteo, Arlington. Linda Matthews will call Evergreen Printers to determine the range of costs/copies. The committee would like to have several copies printed and distributed, perhaps with the voter registration cards delivered by our couriers. The board will be consulted about the possibility of LWVWA funds for printing, and the tri-fold version will be available for copying on our website.

The committee is making several contacts to develop plans for a March forum in Snohomish. Possible speakers include Lisa Moran at the Dispute Resolution Center, Volunteers of America, and/or Mary Dumas or Wendy Sanderson in Skagit County. A representative from groups including “Better Angels”, “ Civility”, which brings together people from differing political parties and has them discuss issues, was also suggested. Preliminary contacts are underway.

Linda Matthews reported on the Communities of Color Coalition (C3) meeting she attended. David Ortiz invited LWVSC to participate in their spring forum. The Committee will ask about a Centennial history of the League presentation. It was also reported that KSER plans to do a radio program on Civil Discourse. Joan Smith has contacted Sharon Kimball of LWVSLO to strategize promoting Civil Discourse at National Convention. Linda Matthews will make an easily printable tri-fold version of “Your Voice Matters” to share with LWVWA county leagues.

NEXT MEETING: January 14th, 11 AM, The Pointe, Harbour Pointe Blvd., Mukilteo

Joan Smith, Chair

Join us for Democracy Lobby Day 2020 on January 21st

Does lobbying by good-government groups makes any difference? Absolutely! Noted Law professor Alberto Alemanno says, “If there’s anything we have learned from recent political events, it is that citizens have a growing desire to contribute to the political debate, and that they deserve the means to do so. Research supports this claim by demonstrating that societies which enable citizens to be assertive and critical of public authorities tend to have governments that are more effective and accountable.”¹ That’s us!

Come to Olympia to practice your lobbying skills. Spend an exciting day learning about key democracy bills and meeting with your own legislator.

You can make a day of it or a mini-vacation and come to Olympia the day before. Sign up here and find information about homestays, carpooling, and learning opportunities. https://lwvwa.org/event-3584776

The Children’s Committee asks you to attend the Everett City Council meeting or send your comment in support of a housing project for homeless students before Dec. 4, with a caveat that as much tree canopy as possible should be retained.

Important Housing Meeting - December 4th
The Everett City Council will vote after a hearing at 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 4 at City Council Chambers, 3002 Wetmore Avenue on a project to provide housing for low- to middle-income families.

The Everett School District would lease three acres next to Sequoia High School to Housing Hope for 75 years. The property is in the 3600 block of Norton Avenue. Preliminary plans from Housing Hope called for 34 low- to moderate-income apartments spread across several two-story buildings, each containing three to four units. Families with children at Sequoia High School who are experiencing homelessness would be given first priority, followed by homeless households with students in the school district. Housing Hope is a nonprofit organization with a long history of supportive housing development in Snohomish County.

LWVWA’s position is that the state should “achieve policies and funding necessary to address the homelessness crisis and assure an adequate supply of affordable housing for middle-to-low income people.” There were 1,200 homeless students last year in the Everett School District according to the Office of Superintendent of Public Schools.

If the city approves a request by Housing Hope to upzone the site to allow multifamily buildings, the change wouldn’t be out of character for the parcel, which is lined by both single-family and multi-family housing. Single-family homeowners object to losing what is now open space. There are some trees on the property that should be considered in the redevelopment of the parcels. A 30% tree canopy should be retained.

If you can’t attend the City Council meeting please contact Council Members at:

Scott Bader  sbader@everettwa.gov  425 257-8703
Jeff Moore  jmoore@everettwa.gov  425 257 8703
Scott Murphy  smurphy@everettwa.gov  425 257 8703
Paul Roberts  PRoberts@everettwa.gov  425 257 8703
Brenda Stonecipher  BStonecipher@everettwa.gov  425 257 8703
Judy Touhy  JTouhy@everettwa.gov  425 257 8787
Liz Vogel  EVogeli@everettwa.gov  425 257 8784

See the Herald article at https://www.heraldnet.com/news/everett-reconsiders-where-supportive-housing-can-be-built/

Census Corner
Without exaggeration, it is vitally important that every resident is counted in the 2020 Census. A complete census count is not only for fair representation in our legislatures, or for districts that truly reflect their population mix. For every person NOT counted, the state of Washington loses over $2,800 in federal revenue each year for the next ten years. That’s a huge amount of revenue loss that could support education, services for children, our seniors, and disabled people, and our transportation systems that help people get to work and school.

Here’s what you can do to help – LWVSC is co-sponsoring information sessions about the Census in nine libraries throughout Snohomish County in January and February 2020. Watch The Voter and the Calendar on the website for dates and places, and show your support by showing up.

In late March and early April, we will be asking for volunteers to help people complete their Census forms at the library branches in your communities. There is more information about this in this issue of The Voter.

There’s only about 120 more days until the Census – let’s get the job done in Snohomish County!

Jeanne Crevier

December 2019 VOTER 5
Due to the Electoral College, in the last five presidential elections in the US, the person inaugurated was not the person who won the most votes two times, in 2000 and in 2016. This also happened three times in the past. The League of Women Voters examined our presidential election system in a study and the following position was adopted in 1970:

“The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice President is essential to representative government. The League of Women Voters believes, therefore, that the Electoral College should be abolished.”

Besides advocating for a direct popular vote for the president and vice-president, the League also supports “uniform voting policies and procedures for presidential elections,” throughout the entire system. If no candidate receives 40% of the vote, there should be a national run-off election. As always, the League also favors making information about candidates and policies available to the public using all possible methods.

Taking action in support of this position, in 1971 the League lobbied and testified in favor of a constitutional amendment, which passed in the House of Representatives but failed in the Senate. Similar measures have been proposed in most congressional sessions since then, with the same result. The problem with the Electoral College is that small states are overrepresented in comparison to their population, with two senators for each state regardless of their numbers, but two-thirds of these same senators would have to vote for the amendment basically to reduce the power of their own states. In the absence of any likelihood of a Constitutional amendment, reforms have been proposed. Currently 48 states assign all their electoral college votes to the winner of the popular vote in their state. One proposal has been to require that electoral college votes be assigned proportionally according to the vote in each state, but this would make the vote even less representative. It would increase the likelihood of no candidate receiving a majority of the electoral votes, and in such a case the Constitution mandates that the House of Representatives would decide on the president. This removes the process further from the people, and therefore the League rejects this reform.

Since 2010 the League has supported the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPV) as a way to reform the system in advance of the more difficult constitutional amendment. Under the compact, when states representing the 270 electoral votes required to elect the president have signed on to the compact, all the states in the compact will cast their electoral college votes for the winner of the national popular vote. In 2018 the League strengthened its advocacy for the NPV and established a task force to work on the issue. By July 2019, 15 states and the District of Columbia, representing 196 electoral college votes, had signed on to the compact, including Washington State.

In November, the South Unit heard from Maria Montalvo, who teaches a two-session course on the Electoral College for the Creative Retirement Institute at Edmonds Community College. She discussed the history of the Electoral College and showed graphically the imbalance that can lead to the discrepancy between the actual vote of the people and the result of our 18th century legacy system.
The LWV Transportation committee will take a bus ride on the Green Swift Line on Tuesday, November 26, 2019. They will be reporting back their observations about traveling on this line. In December, the committee plans to draft questions to legislators and obtain meeting times with them for their Olympia trip on Lobby Day. The committee attended the November 19th SCCIT meeting. Mike Cotten, the Regional Administrator for WSDOT, spoke extensively and answered questions about the repercussions of I-976. The main points are listed here:

1. I-976 cut off the funds from vehicle tabs, but doesn’t touch the revenue coming in from fuel taxes. The 18th Amendment of the WA State Constitution restricts gas tax revenues to be used for “highways.”
2. Gov. Inslee is not stopping all projects. A hold will be put on capital improvement projects that have not been started. Those where the design process is already underway will be pursued.
3. WSDOT will not decide which projects will be funded by money available from cancelled projects. The legislature will decide and prioritize those related to safety, preservation and fish passage.
4. Fish passage projects are not well known by the public. This is a high priority because it is under federal injunction to be 90% completed by 2030. It is the result of a lawsuit brought by tribes and other interested organizations for the State to fix fish passage barriers. Most of the projects are small but they are numerous with a cost of $3.4 billion.

An injunction against I-976 was filed on November 19, 2019, the same day as the SCCIT meeting. Hopefully a rapid judicial response will be given.

The following alternate sources of funding and approaches were noted:

- Road-usage fees (already under discussion)
- Local sales taxes (to be determined)
- Educating the entire state as to the broad consequence of this loss of revenue.
- Need for responsiveness and creativity by the legislature. The voters just told them: “You haven’t been listening!”

The committee attended the Audubon forum on transportation held at the PUD on November 21st. The panelists were Paul Roberts, a Board member of Puget Sound Clear Air Agency, newly elected Council member Megan Dunn, Jon Witte of WA Physicians for Social Responsibility, and Brock Howell, a Community representative. Predetermined questions were given by Joshua Swift from Audubon. The original 2050 plan for transportation did not have a clean air plan but now it does. Uniformity is needed for measuring greenhouse gases in order to manage, monitor and develop strategies for adapting to climate change. The group agrees with SCCIT that transportation is grossly underfunded. A political disconnect exists between health outcomes, land use, and modes of transportation. The one suggestion for supporting change was to “SHOW UP” for meetings and voice concerns.

Eva Mehaffey, Chair

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Eva Mehaffey, Chair

LWV Transportation Report

LWV at the Rose Parade!

The League of Women Voters leaders will ride on a Rose Parade float to commemorate women’s suffrage

WASHINGTON & Pasadena, CA – The League of Women Voters is proud to announce the League will be featured on the Pasadena Celebrates 2020 float in the Rose Parade on January 1, 2020.

“Like the League of Women Voters, the Rose Parade is an iconic tradition and it is an honor to participate as we kick off our centennial year,” said Chris Carson, president of the board of directors of the League of Women Voters of the United States. “As a life-long Californian, the parade has a special place in my heart. I am looking forward to kicking-off 2020 by celebrating the brave suffrage women who fought for the right to vote.”

New Years’ Day 2020 marks the 131st Rose Parade presented by Honda, and this year’s theme is ‘The Power of Hope’. “As we ring in 2020, the League of Women Voters is proud to celebrate the power of women,” said Virginia Kase, CEO of the League of Women Voters of the United States. “I can’t think of a better way to kick off this important election year than by honoring the activists who came before us and encouraging every eligible voter to make sure they are ready to cast their ballots in 2020.”

Riding along with League president Chris Carson and League CEO Virginia Kase, the Pasadena Celebrates 2020 float will include a “Bouquet of Suffrage Descendants” - those in direct line to Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Ida B. Wells, Susan B. Anthony, and Fredrick Douglass.

“Pasadena Celebrates 2020 is honored to have the League of Women Voters participate with us in this Historic event and Celebration of Women Winning the right to vote,” said Sylvia Guerrero, Executive Committee member of Pasadena Celebrates 2020. “We Celebrate and honor the League’s 100th Year Anniversary in empowering voters and moving our democracy forward. We acknowledge their history of growing out of Woman Suffrage politics and are excited to have the LWV join us for this momentous occasion, as Notable Women on our centennial woman suffrage on the Pasadena Celebrates 2020 float: Years of Hope. Years of Courage.”

For more information about Pasadena Celebrates, check out pasadenacelebrates2020.org.

Contact: Sarah Courtney | 202-263-1332 | scourtney@lwv.org
Central Unit Meeting

Our November meeting featured Cocoon House staff member Erwin Saenz sharing the many ways Cocoon House helps homeless and at-risk youth at their residential facilities in Everett, Arlington & Monroe, and at U-Turn, the drop-in center in Everett. Erwin emphasized the high degree of cooperation among various service providers in this community. Apparently this is not the case in some places. The food our Children’s Services Committee brings to the U-Turn drop-in center is much appreciated – and essential to motivate young people to come to U-Turn where they can build trust and gain access to needed services. Members had many questions and comments. In response to a question about sex trafficking, Erwin said Cocoon House had just hired three additional staff to deal with this issue.

The Unit also discussed the supportive housing ordinance which will be considered at a public hearing, followed by a probable vote at the Everett City Council on Dec. 4 at 6:30 pm.

Our next meeting will be a holiday get-together on Dec. 4 from 1 to 3 pm at the Everett Public Library auditorium. Members volunteered to bring cookies and other treats. We are inviting county and city elected officials.

Julie Langabeer, Central Chair

South Unit Meeting

Thirty-one League members and guests attended the South Unit meeting held on November 21st and heard committee reports, a guest speaker, and the upcoming calendar of events.

Among the committee updates, Steve Trautwein provided some interesting insights into how the passage of I-976 for $30 car tabs will negatively affect roads maintenance in Washington state.

Guest speaker Maria Montalvo gave a fascinating talk about the history and effects of the Electoral College. The League has had a position since 1970 that supports a popular vote for the President and Vice President and the abolition of the Electoral College. Maria’s talk was a much-condensed version of the two-session class that she teaches at the Creative Retirement Institute through Edmonds Community College, but that class is full so having her at our meeting was a bonus!

There are several upcoming events that deserve our attention, and generated a lot of discussion at the meeting:

• Remember to make the holidays special for the homeless children at U-Turn. Look for details in this issue of The Voter, or contact Sue Renhard to donate.

• On Wednesday, December 4th at 6:30 PM the Everett City Council will meet to determine whether to support a Housing Hope plan to build housing for homeless families of students. The League position on the question of homelessness is strengthened by the work of the Children’s Services committee that favors creating the 34-unit housing development that will include a child development center, a playground, and a community garden. You are encouraged to attend this meeting and voice your support for homeless children.

• Two upcoming Action Workshops will remind attendees how to make their voices heard in Olympia. On December 7 in Seattle and January 4 in Kingston and for only $30 each, which includes lunch, you will learn the most effective ways to hold your legislators accountable.

• Voter Services’ Legislative Discussions will begin again on January 7th at 4:00 pm in the Alderwood Mall food court. These lively discussions are always rewarding, and make us better informed voters. Join us!

Our next meeting will be the Holiday Brunch on Thursday, December 12 in the Plaza Room at the Edmonds Sno-Isle Library. Members are asked to be there at 9:30 AM. Please contact Rosemary Wander to RSVP and/or bring a finger-food brunch item at cricketschirping11@gmail.com.

Jeanne Crevier, Co-Chair

North Unit Meeting

The North Unit has been working on the Birthday Luncheon. It is scheduled for February 22, 2020 at Everett Community College in the Jackson Center.

It will be a catered lunch. As more develops we will have more specifics.

We also have been given permission to put up a display in the large showcase by the Auditor’s Office in the Snohomish County Administration Building. This will be in conjunction with the Snohomish County Black Heritage Committee, as February is Black Heritage month. The display will be from January 31, 2020 to February 28, 2020. This gives us a chance to show how many women of different races took part in the movement to secure the vote.

The Rankin Family in Darrington has been contacted to see if there is any connection between them and Jeanette Rankin of Montana, who was the first women elected to Congress, before women in the United States as whole had the right to vote. They are very aware of her, and her family, but have yet to find a relationship.

Working on this project has been quite an experience and we hope to make it memorable.

Marian Harrison, Chair
NPR introduced me to Frederick Law Olmsted, FLO (1822-1903), by suggesting a reading of *A Clearing in the Distance*, a biography by Witold Rybczynski. Afterward, I elected to also read Justin Martin’s *Genius of Place*. While not as carefully authenticated, this version flowed more smoothly. My acquaintance with the Olmsted name was “Central Park”. Closer to home, the Olmsted Landscape Company under his namesake son Frederick, his step-son John and daughter Marion did Seattle work. John was the principal planner for what has been called one of the best preserved Olmsted park systems in the country — more than 37 parks, including its largest, Discovery Park.

Rybczynski describes Olmsted as one of the most influential, least appreciated social reformers of the 19th Century. He chronicles the numerous failed careers of this largely self-taught, tiny giant — sailor, bookkeeper, garden and political writer, farmer, gold mine manager. Far into adulthood Olmsted depended on his indulgent father, a successful businessman. However, even his failures provided important stepping stones for the future. His abridged version of a three-volume travel log on slavery in the South sold well as *The Cotton Kingdom*, exposing the economic failures and injustice of the slave system. It influenced England’s failure to recognize the Confederacy.

Before the Civil War, his promotion of scientific farming on his own struggling farm landed him a job as the Superintendent of NYC Parks and by chance launched his true calling. Having entered the contest for a large park for New York City, architect Vaux sought Olmsted’s knowledge of the place to substitute for his partner, who had tragically drowned. Vaux, who had an awful stutter, possessed artistic drafting skills. Olmsted had aesthetic sense, plant knowledge, management experience and marketing skills. Above all for these partners, the design of Central Park would hold a moral purpose as a great equalizer where rich and poor together could breathe and frolic in nature’s beauty.

Throughout the remainder of his life, this theme permeated Olmsted’s landscape designs for parks or private estates and conservation or restoration efforts. At the culmination of the World’s Fair in Chicago, one of the architects who had helped in the design of buildings for the White City, largely planned by Olmsted, lauded him as the father of landscape architecture for America, “An artist, he paints with lakes and wooded slopes; with lawns and banks and forest-covered hills; with mountain sides and ocean views.”

Meet the remarkable Frederick Law Olmsted through one of these worthy biographies - the meticulously referenced *A Clearing in the Distance* or the livelier *Genius of Place*!

Joan Smith

As a footnote, I became intrigued after comments by President Vicki about growing up near Lincoln Park, to explore more of the Olmsted company’s influence on the Seattle landscape. Every time we visit Discovery Park, Volunteer Park, Green Lake or Magnolia Bluff and others we honor Frederick Olmsted’s original vision of green, natural space available to the entire public. As the principal designer for Seattle, John actually hated the intrusion of the buildings such as the Conservatory and Wing Luke Museum onto the grounds of Volunteer Park. FOL would have applauded John’s concept of “playgrounds” for all young children as an extension of his original vision of space for all to appreciate nature.

Joan Smith

Are you confused about what is happening in our State Legislature? Would you like to know more and get more involved? Here are some ways prepare yourself and to participate?

Last year a small but active group of Leaguers met weekly during the Legislative Session at Alderwood Mall Food Court on Tuesdays from 4 (until we were done) to discuss what was going on in Olympia. We plan to do this again this year. BUT, in the meantime, to help ourselves get a good start on knowing what to expect of the Legislative session, many of us plan to attend an Action Workshop sponsored by LWVWA. There are two more: one in Seattle on Dec 7 and one in Kingston on Jan 4. For details and to register go the LWVWA website at: https://lwvwa.org/. On the front page of the website both Action Workshops and Lobby Day (Jan 21) are discussed.

We also plan to go to Lobby Day.

Sooooo… we encourage all of you to attend an Action Workshop AND Lobby Day. AND then join us for discussion throughout the session.

Our first Alderwood Mall meeting will be on January 7 to set the stage for the remainder of the session which begins on Jan 14, and then we will reconvene on Jan 28 after many of us have attended Lobby Day. Our Alderwood meetings are super fun and pretty casual. You don’t have to register - Just come! Many of us grab some food at some point and the conversation is always VERY lively.

Jody Trautwein and Jeanne Crevier