The League of Women Voters of Washington has a goal for 2020 to support events and programs related to the Women’s Suffrage Centennial. We do this through grants, statewide outreach and keeping this website updated weekly. Check out the events calendar here!

At the national website check out She is me. Explore diverse stories of women who have shaped past and present progress for voting rights and join us in this movement as we approach our 100 years of fighting for democracy.

Central Unit had an early December event to celebrate the holidays and to hear from elected officials including just elected Snohomish County Assessor Garth Fell, County Councilwoman Megan Dunn, just re-elected Everett City Councilwoman Liz Vogeli, and Everett Mayor Cassie Franklin. In addition to enjoying festive decorations and delicious treats, we had a chance to hear from our officials and ask our questions.

2020 will be a big election year for Snohomish County, with five elections including, of course, the presidential election. Another major project will be an update of the Comprehensive Plan due for adoption in 2021. Megan Dunn said each County Council member serves on 10 to 15 committees – and we think we have a lot of committee meetings!

The City of Everett faces huge losses in its budget for road maintenance and para-transit if I-976 takes effect. Homelessness and affordable housing continue to be challenges. Community policing was also discussed.

The Central Unit January Meeting will address the vitally important 2020 Census. Our guest will be Vanesa Gutierrez, Snohomish County Community Relations Manager. Vanesa is in charge of our county’s Complete Count Committee, which is tasked with achieving the most complete and accurate possible count.

Julie Langabeer, Chair

South Pasadena’s 19th Amendment float had changes made to its original design to better depict the efforts women made to win the victory for the vote. Link to South Pasadena Review. Read the article here.
January 9, LWVSC Board meeting, 10 AM – 12 PM, Snohomish County PUD, 2320 California St, Everett.

January 13, Centennial Committee Meeting, 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM, see Vicki Roberts-Gassler for more information.

January 13, LWVSC Magazine On the Air, 6 – 7 PM, KSER-FM Everett.

January 14, Civil Discourse meeting, 11 AM, The Pointe, Harbor Pointe Golf Club, Mukilteo

January 15, Central Unit meeting, 1:00 - 3:00 PM, Everett Public Library, 2702 Hoyt Ave, Everett, Contact Julie Langabeer for more info. Guest speaker is Snohomish County Community Relations Manager in charge of accurate county count, Vanesa Gutierrez who will address the 2020 Census.

January 16, South Unit meeting, 10 AM - 12 PM, Pancake Haus, 530 5th Ave S, Edmonds.

January 17, Natural Resources Committee, 10AM – 12PM, Lynnwood Library - Sno-Isle Libraries, 19200 44th Ave W, Lynnwood Contact Kate Lunceford for more info.

January 20, Diversity Outreach Committee 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM, Caffe Ladro, 6314 196th St SW, Lynnwood, Contact Jeanne Crevier for more information.

January 21, Lobby Day, 9 AM - 4 PM
Washington State Capitol, Olympia, Columbia Room, Legislative Building, hear from Legislators, Contact Kate Lunceford for more information.

January 26, Songs of Suffragettes at Everett Library, 2:00 PM, Linda Adams will sing about the Suffragette Movement.

January 28 & February 4, Legislative Discussion Group, 4:00 – 5:30 PM, Food Court, Alderwood Mall, Lynnwood, Discuss what is happening in our Legislature! Contact Jody Trautwein for more information.

February 5, Transportation Committee meeting 10AM – 12PM, Lynnwood Library, 19200 44th Ave W, Lynnwood, contact Eva Melaeffly for more info.

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

February 7, Children’s Services Committee, 10AM – 12PM, often meet at Verdant in Lynnwood, 4710 196th St SW, see Janet Robertson

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Thank you, generous Leaguers, for your donations of gifts to homeless youth. The Children’s Services Committee wrapped the presents you provided, then Vicki and Sue delivered warm clothes, shoes, leggings, metal water bottles, hand warmers, movie tickets, and several hundred dollars’ worth of gift cards to Cocoon House’s U-Turn drop-in center several days before Christmas. U-Turn staff members use the gift cards to take the youth shopping for needed items. For most of the youth those were the only gifts they received. Your donations made their holiday warmer and a little brighter.

Sue Renhard, Vicki Roberts-Gassler, and the Children’s Services Committee
This next year is going to be action-packed, so I hope everyone had fun, relaxing holidays and that you are all invigorated for the work that lies ahead.

This is it, Leaguers – our 100th Anniversary!!!

We’ll be celebrating all year, between our League birthday and the anniversary of US women getting the vote. Be sure to register for the Birthday Luncheon on February 22.

One prominent theme this year will be our commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, expressed at our national, state and local League levels.

As we review our history, we will accept the fact that our suffragist foremothers’ actions were not always in line with our highest ideals for inclusion, that their vision was sometimes limited, and that they compromised even with their own principles in the fight for the vote, as when they asked African-American suffragists to walk at the back of the parade. We will also examine the significant role that women of color played in the suffragist movement.

We still haven’t reached the height of our ideals of inclusion, and we will be examining the issues involved. Your board has approved a major study of diversity, equity and inclusion within our local league, a pilot project whose results we hope can apply to other leagues and other organizations. The project will involve interviews of some members and a survey of our whole membership. We are hiring a consultant to make the project professional and efficient, and there will be some fund-raising involved. Check out the article in this issue, and watch for further details.

Democracy Rocks!

Join the League of Women Voters of Washington and Fix Democracy First for Democracy Lobby Day 2020
A Powerful Day of Advocating for Democracy in Olympia
January 21, 2020 - 9 AM to 3 PM

Last year on Democracy Lobby Day constituents visited their legislator to ask support for a one-year “cooling off” period before high-level government officials, including elected officials can work as a lobbyist influencing state public policy. His response to them was that it would not influence him to speak to a lobbyist who had recently been a legislator. That same year he resigned his senate seat and became a lobbyist and dropped over a million dollars into a local race.

Should we give up?

Your voice is powerful. Legislators advise all the time how important it is to be present to advocate for good government. Democracy bills can help Washington State join other states to move our democracy toward justice. Voting access, census and redistricting, campaign finance, election security, and government ethics make all our other priorities possible!

Join us January 21st in Olympia.
Democracy Lobby Day 2020

• Learn about critical democracy issues and bills
• Be trained by professional lobbyists
• Meet with your state legislators
• Network with others from your area
• Carpooling and homestays available

For more information, contact Kate Lunceford, kurlykate888@gmail.com

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Children’s Services Completing Study

The Children’s Services Committee is in the process of completing the study on children, youth, and families in Snohomish County experiencing homelessness. We are in phase four of the study. With the research, writing, and rewriting complete, it is now on its way to the Board for their approval before it goes to the membership, when they will have the opportunity to read the document and give their input through the consensus process.

We would like to invite members who have an interest in this topic and other issues related to children and youth in Snohomish County to join our committee. Not having participated in the research and writing for this study is not an impediment to participation in the committee. Some current members did not participate in the study process.

New voices, energy, and input are needed as we will be entering the action part of the study when we will be seeking consensus from our local league as a whole regarding a variety of questions related to the study. After we reach consensus, we will be rewriting our position. Then the committee will decide on what action we would like to take. Please consider becoming a member of this committee as we are entering a very dynamic and exciting phase in our study.

In addition to this study, the Children’s Services Committee has been involved with supporting Cocoon House, especially U-Turn, their drop-in center, by providing a simple meal once a month and collecting and wrapping holiday gifts.

We meet the first Friday of the month at 10:00 AM at Verdant in Lynnwood. Please contact Phyllis Busch if you would like more information. Looking forward to greeting new members.

Phyllis Busch, Chair

As we all know, over the course of a life it’s good to stop occasionally and ask ourselves who we are and what would we like to become.

The League is no different from us in this regard, and LWVUS began this self-examination process 18 months ago to review where the League has come from and where it should go. As the process passed from national to the state to the local League level, it was clear that one of the primary tasks to accomplish was to review where each League unit stood in terms of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

First, some definitions: Diversity is when everyone regardless of age, ability, heritage, or background is invited and welcomed to The Big Dance Party. Equity is when all will hear their unique kind of dance music played at the party. Inclusion is when everyone, regardless of their differences, appreciates each other’s rhythm and dances to every song.

Right now, our League song is celebratory for what we’ve accomplished over the past 100 years, and a moving tribute to the courage of those past and present who worked hard for our accomplishments. The rhythm of our future must now reflect the diversity of our population, ensuring that equitable standards are set, and including all in our objectives.

That’s why over the past several months, Michelle Valentine, consultant Meryl Tsukiji, and I developed and proposed an Applied DEI Discovery Pilot Project. “Applied” because, through interviews and surveys, Meryl will listen and discover our current League culture and review our results with us. Then she will help guide us as we apply what we’ve learned, engaging others across diverse communities, sustaining League objectives over time.

For more than 20 years, Meryl has specialized in working with organizations to use their unique cultures to facilitate the change that they want to see. We believe that having an objective and experienced consultant will yield our best and most actionable results and tangible success that would be difficult to achieve otherwise.

It’s also true that we’re pursuing this as a pilot project. We believe that we can share our framework, experiences, and results with other community organizations and other Leagues.

We are looking forward to beginning the Applied DEI Discovery Project in January. Watch your email for your opportunity to participate!

Jeannne Crevier, DEI Committee
LWVSC Transportation Committee Update

The committee attended the December 17, 2019 meeting of the Snohomish County Committee for Improved Transportation (SCCIT) held at the Community Transit offices in Everett. The agenda included legislative updates, the latest on I-976, the future of transportation funding and SCCIT’s role, and hand-outs of projects being affected by I-976 in Snohomish County.

Again, it was emphasized that the Federally-mandated Fish culvert issue must be addressed at a cost of around $3 Billion by 2030. The Connecting Washington funds need to be completed on time or that money is sent to other states. Across the board cuts were discussed by Senator Hobbs at a December 13, 2019 meeting. It will be challenging to meet obligations for finishing projects if this approach is used to determine what to prioritize.

There is strong frustration around the Kelly Blue Book by voters. Because of the passage of I-976, the road usage tax is being considered as an alternative funding source. Preservation and maintenance of existing highways, bridges and roads in Washington State have been sorely neglected at a deferred cost of between $21 and 22 million. The Council recommends a public education campaign around these issues.

The committee met at Starbucks following the SCCIT meeting to discuss their trip to Olympia in January and to create new questions for legislators. The January meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at the Lynnwood Library from 10 AM to noon. We welcome visitors to our discussions.

Eva Mehaffey, Chair

Join Seattle King County League of Women Voters
January 14, 2020
6:30 - 8:00 PM
Shoreline Community College
to discuss
Mandatory Comprehensive Sex Education and the Protect Patient Care Acts featuring Brett Niessen from the UW School of Health Marcy Bloom, a leader in reproductive freedom

Census Corner

Sno-Isle Libraries will conduct two informative forums on the 2020 Census in January.

They will be held --
Thursday, January 16 7:00-8:30 PM at the Lynnwood library, 19200 44th Ave W, Lynnwood; and
Saturday, January 25 2:00-3:30 PM at the Mariner library, 520 128th St SW, suite A9-A10, Everett

Encourage friends and neighbors to attend to learn why a complete Census count is so important!

Thanks to Lynn Carpenter for coordinating with Sno-Isle Libraries to make these events happen. There will be more forums in February, watch your local library for schedules.

Jeanne Crevier
League of Women Voters Position on Climate Change

League of Women Voters policies regarding climate change have become stronger over the last several years. Our position is summarized as follows: “Support climate goals and policies that are consistent with the best available climate science and that will ensure a stable climate system for future generations.”

In more detail, “The League believes that climate change is a serious threat facing our nation and our planet.” (Impact on Issues, pg. 63) We advocate a multi-pronged approach to mitigating climate change, including conserving energy, reducing air pollution, and promoting the use of renewable resources. Among the solutions proposed, the League advocates tax incentives to encourage moving away from fossil fuels toward clean energy. The League has worked together with like-minded organizations to support strict Environmental Protection Agency standards. The League supported the Climate Action Plan of the Obama administration, and successfully pressured the Senate not to undermine solutions to climate change. The League supports Juliana et al v. United States, the lawsuit filed by 21 young people against the federal government for failure to deal appropriately with climate change.

In 2017-18 the League argued against measures of the current administration to undermine efforts to deal with climate change. “This includes the withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Climate Agreement, the plan to gut the Clean Power Plan, the rollback of the clean cars standards and methane regulation, and the approval of the Keystone XL pipeline.” (Impact on Issues, pg. 64)

Photo taken from https://www.lwv.org/other-issues/environment
Vicki Roberts-Gassler, President

Ida B. Wells, Activist and Suffragist

Ida B. Wells was an African American activist, journalist, and suffragist who led a campaign against lynching in the 1890s. Born a slave in Mississippi in 1862, she was later educated at Fisk and Rust universities. Wells worked as a teacher in Memphis, Tennessee to support her siblings after her parents died when she was 16, but she also wrote articles about issues of race and politics in the south that were published in Black newspapers and periodicals. Eventually she became the owner of the Memphis Free Speech and Headlight. Wells became known for her investigative journalism and especially her campaign against the lynching of Black men, which she exposed through The Red Record, a pamphlet with statistics detailing this outrageous practice. She also traveled to Britain twice to raise awareness of lynching. In 1892, while she was away, her newspaper office was burned; she never returned to Memphis.

In 1895 Wells married Ferdinand Barnett, an attorney and a widower with two sons in Chicago who was well-known for his civil rights work, including journalism. They had four children of their own. Barnett was the founder and owner of The Chicago Conservator. Ida Wells continued to write and organize, encouraged by her husband, who supported her work. Eventually she became the editor of their newspaper. Much of her work was for the advancement of her race. In 1896 she founded the National Association of Colored Women. In 1909 she became one of the founding members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Ida Wells also worked for women’s suffrage, organizing women’s clubs in Illinois and working with other prominent African-American women like Harriet Tubman and Mary Church Terrell. She joined in the 1913 March for Suffrage in Washington D.C. Defying the request of the organizers that colored women march in the back of the parade, Ida marched up front with the rest of the Illinois delegation.

Ida B. Wells and Jane Addams successfully blocked the establishment of separation of races in the Chicago public schools that was proposed in 1900. In 1915 the Alpha Suffrage Club that Wells organized helped Oscar De Priest become Chicago’s first African American Alderman. He was elected to U.S. House of Representatives in 1928, where he served three terms. Wells herself ran for the Illinois State Senate in 1930. Although she lost the election, she was one of the first African American women to run for public office.

She died in 1931 at the age of 69, leaving an impressive legacy.

Sue Renhard, Centennial Committee Member

https://www.biography.com/activ-
Little Women, the newest film adaptation

Greta Gerwig’s new film adaptation of Louisa May Alcott’s beloved novel is fascinating, both for its structure and for the portrayal of women's lives in mid-nineteenth century America. Several impassioned speeches about the limitations unfairly placed on women made me wonder if Gerwig had added the feminist perspective, but then I remembered Jo is always challenging the norms for women. The film is quite beautiful and feels true to the time and to the novel.

A quick Wikipedia search on Alcott revealed that there was much more to her than I realized. Yes, after Little Women and the first time I sobbed over a passage in a story – you all know which passage – I did read every other book of hers that I could lay hands on, but I didn’t realize that she also published dozens of short stories. She wrote melodramatic novels for adults quite different in tone and content from the children's stories, some published under a pseudonym or anonymously.

Alcott was an abolitionist and a feminist. Although she is not one of the well-known suffragists, she was impressed by the Declaration of Sentiments published after the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848. She was the first woman to register to vote in a school board election in Concord, Massachusetts. She was acquainted with many of the leading New England thinkers of the era, including Margaret Fuller and Julia Ward Howe.

If you haven’t seen the film yet, there’s a treat in store for you.
Vicki Roberts-Gassler, President

Important Edmonds School District Vote on February 11


Relief on the horizon for aging district buildings

Nathaniel Reyes is the News Editor at the Hawkeye, and a sophomore at MTHS. He joined Hawkeye to see what journalism is like, how it works and to be a part of it. He hopes to better his writing skills, so he can write in a professional tone as well as learn photography and learn how to use the various programs associated with the publication. In his free time, Nathaniel studies various transit systems around the world and is a 2-year member of the Technology Student Association.

By Nathaniel Reyes, News Editor

December 2, 2019

On Wednesday, November 6, representatives from the Edmonds School District came to the MTHS career center to inform community members of the upcoming Bond and Capital and Technology Levy that will be on the ballot for the February election. The presentation was attended by several teachers and lasted around forty minutes.

The representatives from the ESD were Assistant Superintendent Greg Schwab, IT Manager Chris Bailey and Equity Outreach Manager Kim Armstrong. The presenters handed out pamphlets containing current information about the district as well as info about the 2020 Bond and the next Capital and Technology Levy.

The 2020 Bond will provide revenue that the district needs primarily for infrastructure upgrades. They include the completion of the new building for Spruce Elementary, as well as new buildings for College Place Middle School and Oak Heights and Beverly Elementary schools, a new middle school on the site of the old Alderwood Middle School and a new elementary school near Lynnwood High School. The bond will also include upgrades to existing infrastructure and will also maintain the same tax rate from previous years. The bond’s approval by voters in February will therefore not result in an increase in property tax rates within the ESD’s boundaries.

The Capital and Technology Levy will include continued support for 1:1 Chromebook devices for students and teachers as well as an expansion of the instructional technology coach program. It will also fund upgrades to classroom displays and audio systems as well as new security systems for many schools. A few infrastructure upgrades for various schools are also included in the levy. Lastly, the levy will include continued funding for back end technology such as the district’s operational systems and software license subscriptions.

Infrastructure improvements that will come to MTHS include an upgrade to exterior surfaces and the surface, dugout and bleachers of the softball field. Additionally, the bleachers in the Terraceum and the HVAC system will be replaced.

The representatives emphasized their confidence that the 2020 Bond and Capital Technology Levy will pass despite it being the largest educational bond and levy that will be put on the ballot for Snohomish County in the February election.