



# WASHINGTON STATE VOTER

Winter 2006  
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The League of Women Voters of Washington, 4710 University Way NE, #214, Seattle, WA 98105  
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Barbara Seittle, President  
J.C. Sears, Editor

## League of Women Voters of Washington 2006 Legislative Session Issues

### We advocate and support:

#### **Children & Welfare**

- Establish an accountable and coordinated administrative structure for Early Learning and child-care programs which will provide stable and adequate funding
- Provide community resources for children experiencing child abuse, neglect, and domestic violence
- Increase the ability for individuals on T.A.N.F. to get help for additional child care when they are meeting work requirements but are also enrolled in education and/or training.

#### **Education**

- Supports additional funding to ensure all students are given an equal opportunity to reach higher standards and graduate from high school
- Supports a constitutional amendment to allow a simple majority vote for passage of school levies

#### **Energy**

- Incentives for industry, business and individuals to use renewable energy and increase energy efficiency
- Require carbon mitigation of all coal burning for the generation of electricity

#### **Global Climate Change**

- Incentives for businesses and individuals to utilize renewable energy sources
- Increased vehicular fuel efficiency, and funding for mass transit
- Incentives to increase rail transport of goods and produce

#### **Government**

- Promote informed citizen participation by supporting the citizen's right to know, access to initiate or modify legislation, choice of alternative election systems, and the right to exercise his or her vote without undue restriction

#### **Growth Management and Land Use**

- Encouraging provisions that promote the effective implementation of the Growth Management Act
- Emphasize legislation that promotes sustainability in our economic development and in our communities

#### **Gun Control**

- Closing the gun show loophole and reducing illegal access to firearms

#### **Health Care**

- Establishment of a floor for employer-based coverage that will stop the further erosion of employer-based coverage, a critical part of our health care system.
- Expansion of insurance for working people through Basic Health by supplemental budget funding
- Increase coverage for children
- Initiate cost containment measures

#### **Natural Resources**

- Providing protection of water resources; including ground water, surface water, marine water, forested areas necessary for water quality, aquatic wildlife and their habitat.

#### **Reproductive Rights**

- Action to protect the constitutional right to privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices

#### **Taxes**

- Including income as part of the state tax base

#### **Transportation**

- A balanced transportation system, including appropriate infrastructure
- Action to improve governance of regional planning and funding

#### **Your Lobby Team at Work**

Barbara Seittle, **President**  
Marilyn Johnston, **Lobby Team Coordinator**;  
Ann Aagaard, **Shorelines, Wetlands**; Catherine Ahl, **Education**; Ann Brand, **Health Care**; Peggy Bruton, **Forestry Issues**; Chris Chamberlin, **Publicly Funded Elections**; Becky Cox, **Government**; Elizabeth Davis **Natural Resources**; Donna Ewing, Sue Minahan, **Global Climate Change**; Jean Hueston, **Children's Issues**; Nancy Jo Jander, **Education**; Laura McCarty, **Legislative Newsletter Editor**; Tanis Marsh, **Health Care**; Pat Matteson, **Transportation**; Toni Potter, **Energy**; Marjorie Reeves, **Children's Issues, Welfare**; John Roberts, **Home Environment**; Peggy Saari, **Handgun Safety**; Wayne Martin, **Reproductive Rights**; Denise Smith, **Water Resources**; Jean Wells, **Children's Issues**; Lonnie Johns-Brown, **Lobbyist**

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2005-2007

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The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Any person of voting age, male or female, may become a League member.

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*CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

**January 12, 2006** - Lobby Team Meeting, Olympia, WA  
**January 23, 2006** - Lobby Day, Olympia, WA  
**February 5, 2006** - Good in Government Brunch Future of Flight Center, Mukilteo, WA  
**June 2, 3, 4, 2006** - LWVWA Council, Ellensburg.  
**June 10-13, 2006** LWVUS Convention - Minneapolis, Minnesota  
**Don't forget** to check out your local League's websites at [www.lwvwa.org](http://www.lwvwa.org)

**Spring *VOTER* Deadline**  
**Friday, March 10, 2006**

**Board Splinters**  
December, 2005

- Pam Behring is the new State Membership Chair
- Needed: a State Action Chair still needed
- LWVWA co-sponsored a symposium in December on "Exit Strategy – War on Drugs"
- Approved: that LWVWA opposes any proposed takings initiative that is substantially similar to Oregon's Measure 37 or to Referendum 48 in Washington. League will review this position when the initiative has been filed, in order to determine whether this statement of position needs to be revised.
- LWVWA was a co-presenter at a town Hall meeting "Code Blue Now," a forum on health care.
- LWVWA renewed membership in the Washington Alliance for Reproductive Choice
- Download your updated Program in Action from our website at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

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We had a very busy Fall. Even though it was off-year elections, we had some fiercely contested local races, and 5 ballot measures to sort through. That meant forums, initiative pros and cons, and simplified ballot measures. Thank you to all the volunteers that made our active participation possible.

We held our annual Action Workshop. The International Committee convened the forum Women Engaging Globally, with Zaida Arguedas joining us to represent National League. We co-sponsored a Symposium on Judicial Independence with assistance from National. In December, we co-sponsored two workshops: one with the Drug Policy Project of the King County Bar Association, and one with Code Blue on the status of health care in Washington State.

You have all received your copy of the Action letter in the mail. You will note that we responded to your request to distribute the Legislative Newsletter free of charge to all those who sign up to receive it electronically. We hope great numbers of you will use it to respond to requests from our portfolio chairs to contact your legislators about bills passing through the legislature this session. We hope that you will help bridge the gap in funding for our action program by contributing what you can as well.

Come to Olympia for Lobby Day! The legislative session will be in full swing, and we will have a better idea of what actual bills have been prioritized for working on. It is a great opportunity see your legislators at work and establish a rapport with their office staff. It is another opportunity to network with and learn from our Lobby Team and professional lobbyist. If you didn't hear Rep. Sharon Tomiko Santos at Convention, this is your chance. The focus at the moment is on the high schools and the WASL, which makes the presentation by representatives of the Gates Foundation very timely. And it is a chance to meet and share experiences with friends in AAUW, many of whom are also League members.

Mark your calendars! February 5, 2006. The Good in Government Brunch promises to be a wonderful event. Kay Maxwell, our National League president, will be our keynote speaker. William H. Gates Sr. and Hugh Spitzer will be our honored guests. Be among the first to tour the brand new Future of Flight Interpretive Center. Look for your invitation in the mail very soon. I hope to see you there.

And last on our agenda this time is Program. You have all received your program planning materials from National. Keep in mind that we have four studies to review next year. The GMA committee plans to have their study ready for your review in September; the others early 2007. You will hear more about this from the Program Chair by early 2006.

Barbara Seitle  
[bseitle@whidbey.com](mailto:bseitle@whidbey.com)

## **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY SELECTS PRIORITIES FOR 2006**

*Elizabeth Davis*

Nineteen organizations, which work entirely or in part on environmental and natural resources issues, have selected their legislative priorities for the 2006 session in Olympia. LWVWA has been part of this collaborative effort for four years.

### **€ Protect Kid's Health by Eliminating Toxic Flame Retardants**

PBDEs have been found in orca whales, ospreys, salmon, and in the breast milk of Washington mothers. PBDEs are found in countless consumer products, including TVs, computers, furniture and carpets (they are no longer used in clothing).

### **€ Promote Energy Independence through Renewable Fuels**

This priority encourages the development of a Washington biofuels industry. It would require a minimum percentage of renewable content (biodiesel and ethanol) in all gasoline and diesel fuel sold in the state. Biofuels provide a significant reduction in emissions of polluting toxins and global warming gases.

### **€ Launch Electronics Waste Recycling**

This legislation will require electronics manufacturers to fund convenient electronic waste (e-waste) recycling programs at no cost to the consumer. Electronic waste is the fastest growing portion of the waste stream. Millions of unwanted computers, monitors and TVs are sitting in homes waiting for disposal, or are being thrown out in the ordinary trash. They contain substantial amounts of toxic metals and chemicals.

### **€ Clean up Puget Sound**

The goals of this priority are: to achieve a clean and healthy Puget Sound by 2020; to accelerate toxic cleanups; to address stormwater contamination; and to appropriate significant funds from a variety of sources to accomplish these goals. The need is great: from endangered orcas and salmon, to dead zones in Hood Canal, from stormwater carrying industrial chemicals and pesticides, to destroyed wetlands and eelgrass beds.

### **€ Uphold Land Use Protections**

This priority has two goals: halting aggressive efforts to roll back land use protections; and enacting legislation to resolve long-standing legislative conflicts over the Growth Management Act. Growth management, land use protections, and the GMA will all be severely threatened in 2006 with the filing of a takings initiative similar to Ref. 48 in WA (1995) and/or Oregon's Measure 37 (2004).

For more information about these priorities, visit [www.environmentalpriorities.org](http://www.environmentalpriorities.org)

## Judicial Independence Summit in a Nutshell

Cameron A. Johnson, LWV Snohomish County

“As the cost of running for a seat on the state Supreme Court continues to climb, more candidates must engage in fundraising tactics that blur the line between judicial ethics and backroom politics.” *The New Politics of Judicial Elections*, 2004. Washington, DC: Justice at Stake Campaign, 2005.

—*Handout at the Washington State Summit on Judicial Selection and Judicial Independence, 2005.*

Concern about politicization of judges was the primary focus of the Washington State Summit on Judicial Selection and Judicial Independence, held November 11, 2005 at the Seattle University School of Law. The president of the American Bar Association was there, along with an audience of 140, most of whom were lawyers and judges.

The lawyers and judges present at the daylong event repeatedly voiced concerns that judicial candidates taking money from interest groups might be seen to favor those groups in their rulings. Even the *appearance* of such favoritism might dilute the authority of judges in citizens’ eyes. Most would prefer that judges be selected by a commission, then face periodic recall elections, as is done in some states. But all felt that Washington voters would not give up their right to vote for judges.

WSU professor David Brody cited the “axiom of 80%” to illustrate the electorate’s indifference to judicial races nationwide:

- 80% of voters don’t vote in judicial races
- 80% can’t identify the candidates in judicial races
- 80% believe judges are influenced by campaign contributions
- 80% of judicial elections are uncontested
- 80% of the voters want to retain judicial elections

Brody and fellow WSU professor Nick Lovrich cited studies they have done showing that since 1994 73% of superior court judges in Washington state have been appointed (due to mid-term vacancies) and 43% have never faced a contested election.

Brody and Lovrich also found that judicial candidates are unknown to most Washington voters, that voters tend to avoid casting ballots for judicial candidates (31% of registered voters voted in judicial elections), and that when facing an electoral contest, incumbents nearly always win.

Washington State Supreme Court candidates are more visible, and draw greater voter interest and – increasingly – large infusions of campaign money. Last year’s Supreme Court race by Jim Johnson drew a lot of criticism. Two large donors - construction industry and realtors - contributed \$300,000 to Johnson’s campaign. Johnson won. Johnson wasn’t there, but Supreme Court Justice Richard Sanders defended him and big campaign contributions. “Judges don’t change their minds based on donations,” he said, adding that he favors no limit to such contributions. He said he tells voters what he stands for, and they either vote for him or don’t. He said “everyone in this room” has their own special interest. He said they should “donate and donate big” to that interest.

Since voters will not relinquish their right to vote for judicial candidates, what can be done to preserve the public’s confidence in the system? Some suggestions came forward during the “report out” phase of the breakout sessions.

- Establish minimum qualifications for judges
- Cap campaign contributions
- Establish a confirmation process for appointees

In all, the summit emerged as an insular event for the legal profession. It appeared that the attorneys were more interested in talking to each other than in talking to the public. This seemed odd in an event in which both speakers and audience members repeatedly stated that public education was vital in protecting the integrity of the bench.

The event was sponsored by the King County Bar Association, the Seattle University School of Law, the American Judicature Society, and the League, among other groups. Thanks to the League for sending me to this event.

**“Of the People, By the People, For the People”**

**EXCITING GOOD IN GOVERNMENT EVENT PLANNED**

**William H. Gates Sr. and Hugh Spitzer** will be honored with the LWVWA Good In Government Award at the annual GIG Brunch, Sunday, February 5, 2006. **Kay Maxwell, national LWVUS President,** will make her first visit to LWVWA as the featured speaker for the event to be held at the new Future of Flight Aviation Center at Paine Field in Mukilteo. Mssrs Gates and Spitzer are being honored for their leadership of the Washington State Tax Structure Study Committee. Both will attend.

Mrs. Maxwell’s remarks and the awards presentation will carry out the event’s theme, **“Of the People, By the People, For the People.”**

Tickets for the event will be \$50. Brunch and ceremony are scheduled from 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. with registration at 10:30. Attendees are invited to tour the Flight Center and the nearby Boeing assembly plant after the brunch and awards ceremony. Event tickets and free passes to the Flight Center will be held at the door.

The Hilton Garden Inn, located next door to the Flight Center, is offering a room rate of \$99 for people attending the event. You can contact them at 425-423-9000.

Look for your invitation in early January, and reserve quickly for this exciting event!

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The Future of Flight Aviation Center has created a unique interpretive center to help visitors look into the future of commercial aviation. Its goal is to engage its visitors in the wonders of flight and the impacts of commercial aviation on the global community. The center offers tours and opportunities to interact with the displays, such as digitally designing and testing your own jet, taking an exhilarating ride aboard a multi-passenger XJ5 Flight Simulator, trying out the next generation of in-flight entertainment systems or touching the high-tech “skin” of Boeing’s new 787 Dreamliner. Visitors will learn how technology and aviation have become change agents to connect people and cultures around the globe.

The Center’s 73,000 square foot facility features an Aviation Gallery with exhibits and displays; a rooftop observation deck overlooking Paine Field; a new tour center for the nearby Boeing assembly plant; conference space; a 240 seat theater; and, a hotel and restaurant next door.

**PRIVATE-PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS:****WASHINGTON STATE PARKS COMMISSION BEGINS A NEW PROCESS  
FOR RECREATIONAL AND NON-RECREATIONAL USES OF STATE PARKLAND***Ann Aagaard*

The Parks Commission has a contract with the Kirkbride group (TKGI), part of a development group providing professional and financial support to a variety of real estate investment and development interests. Numerous state park projects have been identified by the Commission for privately funded projects. The criteria for these direct-lease (non-competitive bid) projects is that these new partnerships involve many unknowns and therefore do not lend themselves to the current competitive bidding policy (thus the direct lease). The projects involve substantial expense to be incurred by the proposing partner, and potential partners believe that a competitive bid process will place them at a disadvantage relative to other competitors. One of the first projects this development management firm has brought forth to the Commission is the renovation of the seminary building at St. Edward State Park which involves several public areas, and includes overnight lodging, restaurant, brew pub, a movie theatre, and other improvements. As part of the process, a Commission approved land classification and zoning plan (CAMP) is conducted under the Commission review with the public.

League members may remember the CAMP (Commission Approved land classification and zoning Plan) process conducted on Lake Sammamish State Park in the Seattle area. Washington State Parks is now conducting a similar CAMP for Saint Edward State Park, one of our urban parks near Kenmore at the north end of Lake Washington. The park's extensive natural Lake Washington shoreline is backed by a glorious forest laced with several miles of hiking/biking trails, and an upper meadow playfield/playground area that shares and contributes to the peaceful recreational qualities of the Park. The park comfortably harbors wildlife that is unique to our area. The old seminary building is an asset to the Park, but largely because its seminary architecture and history contribute to the peaceful feeling and atmosphere of physical and spiritual refreshment that the Park offers. The unique value of the 316 acre urban park - its 1,100 feet of natural shoreline for outdoor recreation, and its natural amenities - were well recognized by outdoor developmental experts when, under the leadership of State Senator Alan Bleuchel, the park was purchased from the Archdiocese of Seattle in 1977.

In this case, State Parks is advocating a 35 year lease for the large seminary building and surrounding lands for commercial development with McMenamin's brew pub, movie theatre, restaurant, and extensive hotel facilities. The impetus comes from this new proposed direct brokered lease agreement (non-competitive bid), and is a public/private partnership. Across the state, other projects have been identified by State Parks for direct lease proposals that include high levels of private investment and substantial costs on the part of the investor. In August, when the direct lease proposal was before Parks Commission, Ann Aagaard raised concerns regarding the direct lease proposal and the lack of details regarding the public process (CAMP). This is a precedent setting process, and League members should be interested, because this process will be duplicated for many other park areas of the State. A web page is now in place at <http://www.parks.wa.gov/plans/> where you may see what proposals are planned, receive advance notice of meetings, or sign up for e-mail and direct mail contact information. You may also contact Ann Aagaard (Bothell) at [aagaarda@nwlinc.com](mailto:aagaarda@nwlinc.com) phone: 425-488-8418 .

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN OF WASHINGTON  
and LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WASHINGTON**

## LOBBY DAY

Monday, January 23

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 1224 LEGION WAY S.E., OLYMPIA, WA

Check-in and Coffee 8:00a.m. - 8:30a.m.

League members may choose to meet with legislators, attend hearings or committee meetings - 9:00am  
- 11:30am

Program - Morning 8:30a.m. - 12:45p.m.

### “PREPARING FOR ACTION”

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| 8:30  | Welcome and Announcements   |
| 8:45  | Greetings from Carolyn Hayek, AAUW President, and Barbara Seitle, LWVWA President   |
| 9:00  | Representative Sharon Tomiko Santos - The Issue of Diversity: Ethnic Groups and the Impact of WASL or Health Care: Legislators Faced with Complex Issues (Note: The uncertainty of Representative Santos being called to the Legislature will determine when she speaks.)   |
| 10:30 | Break   |
| 10:45 | Becoming an ACTION Lobbyist:: A Role-Play Presentation by two League Lobbyists and a Former State Senator   |
| 11:30 | Pick up lunch (League members should return to the church by 11:30).  |
| 12:00 | A Case for Restructuring High Schools: A Presentation by Mr. Tom Vander Ark, Gates Foundations  |
| 12:45 | AAUW members adjourn to meet with legislators or attend committee meetings or hearings.   |
| 1:00  | LWVWA members begin their afternoon program: Information gathered by League members who met with legislators, attended committee meetings or hearings will be reported out for the purpose of gaining further knowledge of what Legislators wish to address during the 2006 session; repeat of the role-play presentation with more in-depth analysis; a brief outline as to how the Lobby Team will function during the session. |
| 3:00  | Adjourn   |

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**Directions to the church:** From the North take 105B, Port of Olympia. From the South, take exit 105, then take the first right, and follow Port of Olympia sign. You will be on Plum St. Go South on Plum to the fourth (4) light - Legion Way, going up the hill. After the first stop light, there is a school on the right and the church is on the left.

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**Overnight Accommodations:** Thurston County League will prepare a list of private homes where members may stay the evening prior to Lobby Day. The cost will be \$15.00. All members wishing to stay in a private home will notify the Accommodations Chair, Marilyn Funk, 360-357-7967, one week in advance of meeting, and will be notified quickly of available space. A list of commercial accommo-dations will be sent to all members upon registration.

**TO REGISTER: PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN COUPON ON FOLLOWING PAGE (PAGE 9)**

## Memories of Membership

At the 1997 LWVWA State Convention, a plan was adopted to increase membership in this organization. Some may have that plan gathering dust in a file but, thanks to Alice Stolz, it has seen the light of a new day. I don't have the figures to determine how well the plan succeeded in increasing membership, but we deserve some encouragement for implementing some of the recommendations in the plan, if we were not doing so already.

We do, for example, recognize membership as a total board responsibility, as well as the responsibility of each member. Asking people to join, being action-oriented and involved in compelling issues, allowing innovative ways to be involved in studies, are part of what we do. We may not do as well developing a recruitment plan or launching a recruitment campaign, but we try to be flexible.

Our challenge is: how do we attract new members in the competitive world of "busy" people?

Perhaps we could begin by digging out another piece of our history, a 1998/99 LWVUS Education Fund publication #1090 titled "Diversity Tool Kit, Build the Foundation for Change". This might be the tool we need as we begin reaching out in directions we began at Convention. Who knows, we might come up with some pretty clever ideas for growth and retention of League members.

Pam Behring, LWVWA Board Member  
[behring@gonzaga.edu](mailto:behring@gonzaga.edu)

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### AAUW / LWVWA LOBBY DAY REGISTRATION

Monday, January 23, 2006 Cost: \$15.00

Organization - Check one or more: AAUW\_\_ LWV\_\_ BPW\_\_ Other\_\_\_\_\_

NAME:\_\_\_\_\_ Phone\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS:\_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL\_\_\_\_\_

A box lunch will be available for pick-up at 11:30.

**Make all checks for \$15 payable to AAUW.**

**Do not plan to pay at registration time, as this complicates the ordering of lunch.**

**It also means when the AAUW member picks up the order, she must pay for any unpaid lunches out of her own pocket.**

Mail your check with this form to: Sue Schaufler, 4813 - 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave SE, Lacey, WA 98503.  
Call for information 360-491-5000.

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 16, 2006. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED.**

**BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE EVOLUTION  
OF THE MUNICIPAL WATER LAW**

**Denise D. Smith**

The State Department of Ecology manages water for multiple uses, including water for human consumption or domestic water supply. The Department of Ecology approximates that an average household in Washington State uses about 300 gallons of water a day. Individuals or groups are granted rights to use water for domestic use under water rights for municipal supply or, in the case of small private wells, under water right exemptions. The Department of Health estimates that “about five million of the state’s six million residents are served by 16,900 regulated public water systems.” Of these, just over 4,100 systems are group A Public Water systems. These Group A systems, with 15 or more connections for year-round residents for 180 or more days, or at least 25 residents for 180 days or more, provide water for almost 90% of public water customers. These are the systems and water users covered under the Municipal Water Law of 2003.

The Washington Water Code established rules for granting water rights in 1917 for surface water withdrawal and expanded those rules in 1945 for groundwater withdrawal. These rules had remained fundamentally the same, although major demographic, economic, and policy changes occurred in the state. The Municipal Water Law of 2003 was a legislative fix to many of the issues and conflicts that had arisen between the established water code and other state policies such as the Growth Management Act, the Water Resources Act, the Instream Flow rule, and the Endangered Species Act responses for listed salmon.

Water Rights certificates have been granted to an applicant if: 1) water was available; 2) water was put to beneficial use; 3) the water being used would not affect existing water rights; and 4) the water use would not be detrimental to the public. Water Permits are granted specifying the amount to be used, the place of use, the purpose of use, and the point of diversion or withdrawal. The water permit holder was given time, usually 6 years with possible extensions, to “perfect” these rights by putting the water to beneficial use and receive a certificated right. A water right is essentially a right to use water that belongs to someone else, in this case the citizens of the State of Washington. If the permitted water was not put to beneficial use, it would then be relinquished to the state for another’s use. There were sufficient cause exceptions for relinquishment, such as drought or military service and, most significantly, water for municipal water supply.

The water promised and exempted from relinquishment as municipal supply was called “Inchoate Water”. This was water that communities could count on as their populations grew. It was theoretically “paper” water: it had not been put to use, so it had no impact, and did not influence how much water was available for the next applicant. Water was thought plentiful, particularly in Western Washington, and the system worked fine until forces from different directions added additional demands.

In 1969 the Legislature enacted a statute authorizing the setting of minimum instream flows and lake levels to protect these resources and the natural habitat from over appropriation. The Water Resources Act of 1971 established the connection between instream flows and water rights and expanded the concept of beneficial use to providing adequate water for fish, wildlife and other aesthetic uses. The listing of certain species of salmon under the Endangered Species Act added a federal requirement to maintaining adequate fish habitat.

The Growth Management Act added additional pressure to water resource management by directing the unprecedented growth to areas that met growth management criteria but did not have sufficient long-term water supply, or would soon have constraints due to limited supply, competing needs such as unmet instream flow levels, over-appropriation, or endangered fish species. Several fast growing areas were forced to establish moratoriums on growth and increased conservation measures to fit within their water allotments.

The Public Water System Coordination Act of 1977 had begun to address the issues of Critical Water Supply Service areas, and to identify strategies to meet the anticipated water needs of high growth areas such as suburban Puget Sound. Many of those solutions, such as inter-ties and cross-basin water transfer, did not fall within the parameters of water rights. Large water purveyors (such as Seattle) used many of these conventional solutions, but their water came from water claims predating the current water codes.

The Coordinated Plans added the element of designated service areas. For these areas, the specific utility accepted responsibility for development of cost-effective and efficient service to accommodate the future growth in the area. This guarantee of customers also included a duty to serve, which the purveyors took seriously. It seems this element was the primary conflict of interests and purposes between the Department of Ecology and the Water Purveyors, and caused the tense relationship leading up to the municipal water discussions. This may explain why water purveyors believed they could work better with the Department of Health, and why, under the Municipal Water Law, issues of expansion became the purview of DOH within the Water Supply Plan process.

The Municipal Water Law of 2003 was the outcome of several years of advisory group meetings, stakeholder hearings, interest group lobbying, as well as strong commitment by the governor to reach a compromise. The primary issues of conflict that were the focus of compromise were validating the inchoate water rights, allowing cross-basin transfers and transfer of rights. Many groups - including the League, environmental groups, and several tribes - believed these water right fixes should be accompanied by strict enforceable measures to assure protection of the natural environment and fisheries.

As far back as 1971, in the Water Resources Act and the Public Water System Coordination Plan, the concept of increased water efficiency and conservation was discussed as a potential source of future water, and means of protecting the resource. In the 1990's, the City of Seattle developed a Conservation Potential Analysis to address conservation seriously as a potential source of future water. Small water utilities participated in programs that exchanged low flow toilets and showerheads for water conservation.

The water conservation requirement became the section of the new law to address the issues of those concerned about environmental impacts. The Department of Health convened a Water Use Efficiency Workgroup to advise the development of new regulations to ensure serious water conservation is addressed and implemented by the water purveyors. The conservation rule is in development, and a hearing should be held this spring. The impacts and consequences of this new law, and the effectiveness of the water-use efficiency program in maximizing current water supply and protecting vital resources, will be the focus of League's oversight and work for many years to come.

**GROWTH MANAGEMENT STUDY COMMITTEE IS AT WORK**

The Committee began meeting in September, co-convened by Ann Aagaard, Seattle League (Lake Washington East unit), Rashida Harris, member-at-large, and Elizabeth Davis, South Whidbey League. We have had three meetings as we planned for our study activities, compiled some of the resources we would be using in the study, developed the questions we would be asking each of the people we hoped to interview, and then prepared a list of people we wanted to interview.

We have had several interviews so far, and over the next six weeks we will be having more interviews and gathering more information.

Currently, the committee has twenty-one members from thirteen local Leagues. It would be wonderful to have a representative from every local League at least to the extent of being on the list-serve for the committee. That way each local League will have someone (or more than one) in that League who will know about the progress of the committee, will be able to give input to the committee, and will be able to inform the local League about the study. This will also be very helpful if and when, after our report is published, the local League decides to hold unit meetings on growth management.

If your League already has a representative on the committee, great! If it doesn't, please let me know who would like to be your local League contact for the state League's growth management study committee. This study is certainly developing into a good learning experience for all of us.

Come join us!

Elizabeth Davis  
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**A DRY-LAND GARDEN FOR KARA**

Kara Kondo, a decades-long member of the League of Women Voters of Yakima, died in August. Kara's measured, League-like sensibilities were present in all her endeavors.

Her work on water issues at the state, regional, and local levels is an enduring but unfinished effort.

Kara's concern for the finite water resources in Eastern Washington will be remembered by a dry-land garden developed by the Yakima Arboretum. It will include both native and adaptive plants, and will survive with only natural (from the sky) watering. As with other aspects of the Arboretum, this will have an educational factor: teaching how to landscape beautifully without irrigating.

LWV Yakima would like this garden to be named for Kara, and this requires the contribution of a dedicated endowment to finish and maintain the garden.

For those of you who knew and cherished Kara and her work, a contribution may be made to the LWVWA Ed. Fund noting Kara Kondo Dry-Land Garden, and mailed to LWV Yakima, at P.O. Box 723, Yakima 98907. It will be deposited in an Ed. Fund account, making it tax deductible.

## **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE OFFERS PROGRAM ON "NEUTRALIZING NUCLEAR TERRORISM" TO LEAGUES IN STATE**

Carol Goldenberg

The International Relations Committee of LWWVA has prepared a program on "Neutralizing the Nuclear Threat." This program will be available to all Leagues in the state. It will be used in Seattle for the February forum and unit meetings.

In 1983 LWWUS established a position urging the U.S. government to give the highest priority to arms control including nuclear, chemical, biological, or radiological weapons. This position provided a sound basis for lobbying the government on arms control issues. Our history reveals some successes and some disappointments. The post Soviet era has brought new threats with unsecured stockpiles scattered around the former Soviet States; and about a hundred civilian laboratories and reactors in dozens of countries, including the United States, all containing bomb grade material. This situation commands our attention because we know that terrorists are trying to acquire nuclear weapons. The 9/11 Commission reports that Al Qaeda has been seeking nuclear weapons for the last ten years. How can responsible citizens respond?

League's program is designed to complement a film "Last Best Chance," produced by The Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI). NTI is headed by former Senator Sam Nunn, who co-authored with Senator Richard Lugar the legislation in 1991 that launched a program aimed at giving the Russians financial and technical aid in "locking down" their bombs and other weapons-adaptable material subject to theft or diversion. Yet today, fourteen years later, half of Russia's material is still unsecured, and at the present rate, the job won't be finished until 2022. NTI brings together people with different views around a common mission to take immediate action to reduce the threats from nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons. NTI combines its voice with direct action projects to catalyze more effective action by governments, international organizations, and other private organizations.

The film, "Last Best Chance" is a scary film about a scary topic made to increase awareness of the problem and motivate people to action. It dramatizes the chillingly plausible scenario in which terrorists acquire nuclear weapons. The International Relations Committee has assembled a reading packet to put the issue into the larger context of League's position on Arms Control, and to suggest individual action. The material raises questions about governmental commitment to fund and expand the Nunn-Lugar program; whether the legal framework of treaties and agreements reflects current reality; and what creative diplomacy might be employed for dealing with increasing global tensions in preference to repeating a nuclear arms race. The film and the reading packet can be used together or independently. We highly recommend previewing the film before showing it. The DVD "Last Best Chance" can be obtained free of charge from International Relations chair, Carol Goldenberg. Email [samgo@u.washington.edu](mailto:samgo@u.washington.edu) or telephone (206) 527-8589.

## WOMEN ENGAGING GLOBALLY

“Women Engaging Globally” is a collaborative project of the League of Women Voters Education Fund, the Center for Women Policy Studies, and the Women’s Environment and Development Organization (WEDO). The project is composed of a series of thirteen town hall meetings across the country, covering a variety of topics designed to engage women in a discussion of U S foreign policy and its global impact on women. Washington State League was awarded a grant to convene a local forum on Poverty, Globalization and Trade.

The forum was held in Kane Hall at the University of Washington November 12, 2005, with nearly 200 people in attendance. More than a dozen organizations co-sponsored the event. Public radio station KUOW donated over 30 radio spot announcements.

The program opened with a welcome message from Zaida Arguedas, Deputy Executive Director and Director of the Global Democracy Program of the National League. She introduced Leslie Wolfe, President of the Center for Women Policy Studies, and Nadia Johnson, Economic and Social Justice Program Coordinator for WEDO, who joined us from Washington DC and New York, respectively.

Debra Glassman, PhD, Professor at the University of Washington Global Business Center, began the forum with an overview of the basic components of macroeconomics and how they are linked together. She discussed the political shifts and influences on trade policies, the impact of our current account deficit on trade policies, how national security interests affect trade policies, and the overall effects of our trade policy on developing countries.

Our second presenter was Pamela Spaar, Program Manager, Trade Initiative for InterAction - an alliance of more than 160 US based humanitarian organizations serving in more than 100 countries. Ms. Spaar followed up on the theme of US macroeconomic policies and discussed some of the reasons why they should be changed. She pointed out that economic liberalization in foreign assistance, loans and trade agreements have not made much impact on reducing poverty worldwide, and that inequalities of wealth among and within countries has only increased. She discussed the concept of gender equality and the effect of trade policy on both men and women. She introduced the concept of gender audits and budgeting to help redefine what constitutes success of a program, and spoke of the need to educate governmental and non-governmental organizations on the gender effects of their policies and programs.

Sutapa Basu, PhD., Executive Director of the University of Washington Women's Center and Affiliate Professor of Women's Studies, had planned to discuss the actual, on the ground policy impacts on a variety of women's issues, including human trafficking. Unfortunately she was not able to attend, but sent a colleague, Norma Timbang, who read Dr. Basu's paper and provided added input. The presentation indicated that gender equality has in fact suffered as world economic growth increased. While a rising tide may lift all boats, some people have very leaky boats, and others have none at all. She discussed how trade liberalization and the privatization of land and water in developing countries hurts women, and about how some women are fighting back. She went on to discuss the trafficking in persons in both the sex trade and labor. It is becoming increasingly more lucrative, and there is no effective control of the crime. Washington State is working to counter these activities.

Following the last presentation, there was a question and answer period, with exchanges between the audience and the presenters that significantly enhanced the forum.

The program ended with a discussion on local aspects of the issues and ways to influence US policies. The panel consisted entirely of Washington State women legislators: State Senators Karen Fraser, Karen Keiser and Jean Kohl-Welles, State Representative Phyllis Gutierrez Kenney, and former State Representative Velma Veloria. The panel was moderated by Leslie Wolfe, President of the Center for Women Policy Studies. The discussions centered on the issues of disconnect between domestic and international policies; how state legislators cannot only make laws governing trafficking and other criminal acts against women, but how they can work on influencing our national lawmakers to change policies that disadvantage the already disadvantaged at home and throughout the world. Another series of questions to the panel contributed to the event.

More specific detail on the program "Women Engaging Globally," and further development of the topics, may be found at [www.wedo.org](http://www.wedo.org). Copies of Pamela Spaar's remarks, Dr. Basu's paper, and an outline of Dr. Glassman's presentation are available by contacting [lwwa@lwwa.org](mailto:lwwa@lwwa.org).

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