



WASHINGTON STATE

VOTER

Spring 2009 The League of Women Voters of Washington, 4730 University Way NE, #720, Seattle, WA 98105 Barbara Seitle, President
Vol. 50, No. 4 Tel: 206-622-8961 FAX: 206-622-4908 (outside toll area 1-800-419-2596) email: lwvwa@lwvwa.org Betsy Greene, Editor

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WASHINGTON CONVENTION - 2009

May 29, 30, 31
Hotel Murano, Tacoma

“Reflections on Democracy”

US Senator Maria Cantwell to be keynote speaker

Pre Convention, tour the glass-art-themed hotel and/or have lunch in the Hot Shop at the Tacoma Museum of Glass while watching glass blowers at work

Enjoy entertainment, speakers and workshops

and attend a special event

Congratulations!

2009 HONOREES GOOD IN GOVERNMENT

Senator Rosa Franklin – turning League principles and policies into legislation;

The Korean Women’s Association – fostering citizenship and serving the special needs of Asian-Pacific Islander immigrants;

The News Tribune – champions of open government and political accountability.

THE GOOD IN GOVERNMENT GALA

Washington State History Museum
Saturday, 6:30 – 9:30 pm

Enjoy a glittering dessert soiree at which Awards will be presented.

The Museum’s timely exhibit, “Women’s Votes, Women’s Voices: Washington Women’s Suffrage Centennial Exhibit will be open for viewing.

There will be a raffle for three art objects. See page 3.

The reservation form for the Gala is on the back page.
The delegate’s packet will contain reservation forms for the Gala and lunch in the Hot Shop.

President's Message

This year's Lobby Day certainly did not disappoint. It was a bit different because both houses of the legislature were "on the floor" voting bills out of their respective chambers. It gave League members a chance to sit in the gallery and watch the action, and to hang out by the doors and catch them one by one as they recessed. Better than watching CSPAN!

Now our thoughts are turning to spring and our biennial Convention. We are venturing to Tacoma and the Murano Hotel this year where the theme of the program is "Reflections on Democracy". The delightful décor of the Murano is based on art glass, and the Chihuly Bridge of Glass and Glass Museum are very close by. Come early enough on Friday to take the tour and enjoy a box lunch in the Hot Shop. The Washington State History Museum is also located in Tacoma, and will be the venue for our Saturday evening, after dinner, *Good in Government* dessert party. We can also tour the current exhibit "Women's Votes, Women's Voices: Washington Women's Suffrage Centennial Exhibit". In between all the fun, we have some interesting speakers and panel discussions lined up for you, and some workshops for everyone to participate in. We will still find time to conduct the business of League; to decide on Program for the next biennium, discuss and pass the budget, present resolutions, give directions to the board and elect officers and directors for the next two years.

I have had the great opportunity of serving as your president for the past four years. I hope you will agree that we have accomplished many wonderful things together during that time and, hopefully, brought the activities of the state League closer to you. We are entering a period of great potential for encouraging civic engagement using new media and social networking to inform and involve a new wave of citizens interested in participating in government. Organizations come and go. The great and lasting thing about League is not that it just continues, but it continues to expand its horizons and embrace new situations as opportunities. These are challenging but exciting times and with all our support, the new board of directors will continue to make the League shine!

In League, *Barbara*

Spotlight on Local Leagues

Yakima Valley – A fundraiser featured the Righteous Mothers music group on March 2.

Whidbey Island – "The State of Farms and Forests on Whidbey" was the focus of a public meeting in February.

Tacoma Pierce County held a public meeting on Ranked Choice Voting. It is studying Affordable Housing.

Spokane Area held unit meetings on the Washington State Court System

Skagit County featured a film "Sick Around the World" from PBS's Frontline Program at a general meeting.

Seattle – the National Popular Vote Compact will be the subject of its April public forum

San Juan County – Dr. John Geyman, retired chair of UW Department of Family Planning, spoke about the US health care system.

Pullman County – Sam Reed, Washington Secretary of State, gave a public lecture followed by questions on the responsibilities of the office at the invitation of the LWV, Foley Institute and Neill Public Library

Kitsap County is combining its public general meetings with a lunch; in February on public health and the budgetary crisis and in March on local water issues.

Clallam County celebrated Women's History month with eighth grader Hillary Smith presenting her paper on Belva Lockwood, the first woman attorney given the privilege of practicing before the US Supreme Court in 1879, at a social dinner.

Bellingham-Whatcom County - global health care was the subject of a general meeting and their VOTER included an article "Four Basic Health Care Models" from PBS Frontline Website.

CELEBRATE!

**The League of Women Voters became 89
years old February 14, 2009**

OF INTEREST

Washington News Service, in a feature on Sunshine Week, March 9-13, interviewed Nancy Eitreim, LWVUS board member and past LWV/Seattle president, who stressed transparency in government, "It means that in the last bills that were passed, information about the earmarks - their sponsors, where they're going, who's getting them and who the contractors are - will be on the Internet." Eitreim suggested looking at www.OpenTheGovernment.org and www.WhiteHouse.gov. She went on to say, "Our democracy really depends on our citizens participating in government. Dig deeper! Go to the library, get online, write a letter or a note or a postcard. After you've done it once, you feel a whole lot better."

League of Women Voters of Washington Officers and Directors 2007-2009

Officers

Barbara Seitle, President, South Whidbey Island
Barbara Bush, 2nd Vice President, Snohomish County
Myra Howrey, Secretary, Kitsap County
Dorothy Spadoni, Treasurer, Tacoma-Pierce County

Directors

Pam Behring, Spokane Area
Susan Eidschink, Tacoma-Pierce County
Betsy Greene, Seattle
Linnea Hirst, Seattle
Judy Ostrow, Seattle

LWVUS Liaison

Norman Turrill

Staff

Claudia Downing, Administrative Director
Lonnie Johns Brown, Lobbyist

BOARD ACTIONS

1. Reconsidered the position for Early Child Care and Education adopted in January and agreed to include, as originally proposed: Expanding the definition of Basic Education to include the birth to five years.
See Winter VOTER for complete position.
2. Agreed to recommend to the convention statewide action on the Civic Engagement Project on state government and fiscal issues.
3. Agreed to not recommend a new study at convention.
4. Agreed to propose the following amendments to the Bylaws:
Article IV, Organizations.
New Section 5. The League of Women Voters of Washington is the sole and only member of the League of Women Voters of Washington Education Fund.

Article VI, Board of Directors

Section 1. Selection, Qualifications and Term.
Add sentence at the end: "At least two members of the LWVWA Board of Directors must also be members of the Board of Directors of the Education Fund."

Article VI Board of Directors

Add new Section 5.b: "Emergency meetings may be held by electronic means providing all board members are notified before the meeting."

Section 5c: add a sentence at the end: "The board shall meet immediately following the LWVWA convention for the purpose of electing the board of directors of the LWVWA Education Fund."

Convention Final call packets will be mailed to all local League presidents April 10 and will be available at www.lwvwa.org in the Members Only section

INVITATION TO CONVENTION...

The League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County is excited to invite you to the 2009 LWVWA State Convention. We fully intend to dazzle you with the vibrant Tacoma Downtown Cultural and Art District.

Tacoma is now a shining, exciting city in South Puget Sound. The beautiful Hotel Murano - in the heart of the revitalized downtown – will serve as our elegant home base while we host a memorable weekend.

Speakers and panels:

Craig Salins - Washington Public Campaigns

Curt Jacobson & others – Marketing & Effective Use of Technology for NGOs

Norman Turrill, LWVUS liaison – Voter Service, Development Planning

Ranked Choice Voting – LWV Tacoma-Pierce County

Lucy Copass, et al – Civic Engagement Project.

Be entertained by actress/historian Tames Alan in her dramatized history “Soldiers in Petticoats.

...AND DON'T MISS THE RAFFLE AT CONVENTION WITH GREAT PRIZES!

The raffle will benefit the Education funds of LWVWA and LWV/Tacoma-Pierce County

1st prize - a **large footed bowl created by Czech artist Petr Novotny** in the Hot Shop at the Museum of Glass, Tacoma. Donated by the Museum. Valued at \$1100.

2nd prize - a **Hale Mantel clock, made by Denby Studios**. Donated by The Art Stop at LeRoy Jewelers, Tacoma. Valued at \$315.

3rd prize - a **stunning beaded bracelet created by Lyz Kurnitz Thurlow**, T-PC League president: Valued at \$80.

Details and tickets will be sent to local League Presidents in mid April.

**Good in Government Awards Gala
and Women's Suffrage Centennial Exhibit
Saturday, May 30, 2009 – 6:30-9:30 PM
Washington State History Museum, Tacoma**

I want to attend the Good in Government Awards Gala during Convention (see page 1)

Please reserve _____ places @ \$40 per person

___ I am planning to attend the convention as a delegate. I will reserve my place for the Awards Gala through the convention registration process

___OR: I am reserving NOW at the special delegate-only cost of \$20.

Guests' names at the \$40 level are: _____

My name _____ phone _____

Address _____

___ I am sorry I am unable to attend but would like to make a tax- deductible donation to the League's Education Fund to recognize the honorees and to promote the educational work of the League.

My check is enclosed, payable to LWVWA Education Fund: \$ _____

Please charge my credit card: ___ Visa; ___ Mastercard

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Name as it appears on card _____

Please return payment to the League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County, 702 Broadway, Suite 105, Tacoma, WA 98402. See www.lwvwa.org for more information about Convention and Good in Government Awards. The League of Women Voters of Washington Education Fund is a 501(c)(3) entity of the IRS Code



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