

League of Women Voters of Washington State - State Convention Minutes
Best Western Executive Inn, Seattle, WA
June 2-4, 2017

Friday—Plenary Session I

1. **Call to order** 1pm—President Ann Murphy (LWVWA State Board). Thanks to all volunteers, esp. host Seattle-King County members and staff as well as state office administrator Jennifer Brown and Seattle-King County administrator Allison Feher.
2. **Flag salute**
3. **Welcome**—Amanda Clark, President (Seattle-King County)
4. **Welcomes**—
 - a. King County Council Member Rod Dembowski (District 1) who discussed three innovative ways King County is working to increase voter turnout, especially in low income areas and in communities of color.
 - b. Video welcome from Governor Jay Inslee
5. **Opening remarks and welcome**—LWVWA President Ann Murphy
6. **Appointment of Parliamentarians**--Julie Anne Kempf (LWVWA Board) and T. Benny (Seattle-King County) and **Convention Secretary** Sandra Herndon (LWVWA State Board). Thanks to Maurie Louis (LWVWA Board) and Liz Bander (Seattle-King County) for coordinating floor a/v.
7. **Credentials report and statement of quorum**—Nancy Eitreim (Seattle-King County). There are 20 Local Leagues (LLs) and including one Unit at Large (UAL) in WA. Quorum requires 30 members from at least 11 LLs. At this meeting there are 19 LLs present (no UALs) and 17 observers/non-members. There are 92 voting delegates present: 83 LL delegates, 9 Board delegates. Therefore, quorum is met.
8. **Appointment of reading committee for 2017 convention**: Jean Snider (Snohomish), Mary Ehlers (LWVWA Board), and Katherine Murphy (Clark County).
9. **Introduction of Resolutions Committee**: Marilyn Perkins, chair (Benton-Franklin), Maurie Louis (LWVWA Board), Clare Kelm (San Juans), and Sarajane Siegfriedt (Seattle-King County).
10. **Adoption of convention rules**: **M#1 MS- Mary Ehlers** (LWVWA Board) to approve the Convention Rules as printed on page 11 of the Convention Workbook. **M#2 MSP** Sarajane Siegfriedt (Seattle-King County) to amend the rules E.5.b.iv. to delete “requires” and insert “is related to.” **Motion to approve the Convention Rules as amended passes.**
11. **Adoption of agenda**: **M#3 MSP Kathy Sakahara** (LWVWA Board) to adopt the agenda.
12. **Roll call of Local Leagues (part 1)**: Ann Murphy (LWVWA President) introduced the following leagues: Skagit (with special recognition for completing requirements to move from UAL to full local League status), Mason, Kittitas, Kitsap, Cowlitz, Clark, Clallam,

Benton-Franklin, and Bellingham-Whatcom (Grays Harbor and Jefferson UAL were absent).

13. **Presentation of current positions for re-adoption:** Michelle Valentine (LWVWA Board) directed delegates to page 22 in Convention Workbook, Workbook Insert, and LWVWA 2015-17 Program in Action.

14. **Presentation of three recommended new programs:** Michelle Valentine (LWVWA Board) directed delegates to page 21 of the Convention Workbook.

15. **Notice of intent to propose not-recommended program:**

The following indicated intent:

- Martha Burk (Kitsap)—Follow up with next steps on I-735 (WAmend; it encourages our Congressional delegation to amend the US constitution to get money out of politics)—action and citizen education.
- Susan Fleming (Clark)—Administration of justice.
- **M#4 MSP Pat Griffith** (Seattle-King County) to place “Internet Privacy in Washington: Why it Matters” on the not-recommended list as a study. Explanation from Julie Anne Kempf as co-parliamentarian indicated that the Convention rules and LWVWA bylaws leave room for this different process at this time. Chair committed to looking at ways to allow new programs being submitted from the floor, not only three weeks in advance.)

16. **Nominating Committee report:** Myra Howrey (Kitsap) announced the slate of officers and directors, and nominating committee, as follows:

Officers

President: Ann Murphy (Spokane Area)

First Vice President: Judith Davis (Grays Harbor County)

Second Vice President: Lunell Haught (Spokane Area)

Treasurer: Joanna Cullen (Seattle-King County)

Secretary: Amy Corley (Mason County)

Directors

Lynn Carpenter (Snohomish County)

Mary Coltrane (Seattle-King County)

Delores Irwin (Kittitas Valley)

Julie Anne Kempf (Seattle-King County)

R. Peggy Smith (Thurston County)

Michelle Valentine (Snohomish County)

2017-2019 Nominating Committee

Chair: Kim Abel (Kitsap County)

Lou Templeton (Seattle-King County)

Karen Verrill (Thurston County)

17. **Bylaws committee report:** R.Peggy Smith (LWVWA Board) outlined changes to accommodate changes in technologies and to stay consistent with LWVUS Bylaws as presented on pages 24-25 in Convention Workbook.
18. **Treasurer report:** Joanna Cullen (LWVWA Board) presented a separate document.
19. **Budget report:** Cindy Piennett (Seattle-King County) presented the c4 budget as printed on pages 26-28 in the Convention Workbook.
20. **Announcements**—Workshop and caucus room assignments given.

A Transformational Journey: Connecting, Engaging, and Leading into the 21st Century (unfortunately the LWVUS video malfunctioned)

Featured Plenary Speaker: Jessica Rohloff, LWVUS Board Member and Liaison to LWV Washington, speaking on “A Transformational Journey”

Workshops and break

**Welcome No Host Reception: Meet Noah Purcell, Solicitor General, State of Washington
Opening Banquet with Noah Purcell, Solicitor General, State of Washington**

Caucuses

Saturday—Plenary Session II, part 1

1. **Call to order** by President Ann Murphy at 8:30am.
2. **Credentials report** by Nancy Eitreim (Seattle-King County): LL 20, Delegates 83 + WA Board 9 = 92. Present 66 delegates = quorum is met.
3. **M#4.1 MS - RPeggy Smith** (LWVWA Board) to adopt recommended bylaws.
4. **M#5 MS - Michelle Valentine** (LWVWA Board) to re-adopt current positions.
5. Motions Michelle Valentine (LWVWA Board) to adopt recommended programs, as follows:
 - M#6 MS – Michelle Valentine** to promote public education and action concerning the status of the health care coverage in Washington state subsequent to the end of the 2017 Legislative session and any resultant fallout from federal actions.
 - M#7 MS – Michelle Valentine** to update the current LWVWA Position HC-1 to focus on behavioral health status with a survey of the status of behavioral health diagnosis, treatment, in-patient and out-patient facilities, and state housing needed in WA state.
 - M#8 MS – Michelle Valentine** public education on tax structure in Washington state.
6. **M#9 MSP** to limit debate on not-recommended program items to three pro and three con speakers, and each to have one minute.
7. **Motion(s) to consider not-recommended program items:**

M#10 MSP Pat Griffith (Seattle-King County) to consider a study on internet privacy in Washington state.

M#11 MS Susan Fleming (Clark County) to consider administration of justice study. Chair ruled that even though the item was on the Not Recommended list, the item did not meet procedural criteria in that the proposed amendment to the Scope was not within the Scope of the item as originally submitted. **Motion ruled out of order**

M#12 MSP Kim Abel (Kitsap) to consider the proposal to follow up with next steps on I-735 (WAmend) with action and citizen education.

8. **Roll call of Local Leagues (part 2):** Sandra Herndon (LWVWA Board) introduced the following Leagues: Yakima County, Whidbey Island, Thurston County, Tacoma-Pierce County, Spokane Area, Snohomish County, San Juans, Pullman, and local convention host Seattle-King County.
9. **Presentation of Strategic Plan:** RPeggy Smith (LWVWA Board) amplified the efforts to develop and implement a strategic plan, as printed on page 35 of the Convention Workbook

Plenary Session II, part 2

10. Karen Verrill (Thurston) introduced ***The State We're In: Report and Update --Josh Parker, former civics teacher in Shelton, sharing his teaching methods on civics.*** (He mentioned the bill in the legislature that would result in funding for TSWI teacher training.)
11. **Other LWVWA Reports**
 - a. **Climate Change Toolkit Team Report:** Jean Carmean (Bellingham-Whatcom County) and Ellyn Murphy (Benton-Franklin) presented web based toolkit.
 - b. **Redistricting Committee Presentation:** Linnea Hirst (Seattle-King County) provided look at redistricting workshops and caucus at this convention.
 - c. **Voter Turnout Toolkit:** Kim Abel (Kitsap) provided update on the toolkit – to be ready in coming months.
 - d. **Vesting Committee Report:** Mary Coltrane (Seattle-King County) presented written report (one provide per local League) which documents Land Use/Growth Management issues around the practice of vesting in the permitting process. Mary requested that any questions be sent to Lunell Haught (LWVWA Board)

Lunch Speaker: **State Representative Gerry Pollet—Update on the Hanford contamination crisis.**

Local League Awards: Outstanding Local League projects presented by Sandra Herndon (LWVWA Board):

Honorable Mentions:

Snohomish County--Districting Committee

Seattle-King County—Ballots and Baristas

Awardees:

Tacoma-Pierce County—Civility Forum Series

Pullman-Whitman County—Observer Corps

Kitsap County—Voter Registration Project

Local League Presidents: certificates presented by Ann Murphy (LWVWA President)

Lobby Team: certificates presented by Kathy Sakahara (LWVWA VP-Action Chair)

Membership-Leadership-Development Coaches: certificates presented by Jayne Freudenberger (Bellingham-Whatcom County and state MLD Team)

Workshops

Saturday—Plenary Session III

12. **Credentials Report:** not needed, no votes to be taken
13. **Budget Discussion:** Cindy Piennett (Seattle-King County)
14. **First Reading of Resolutions:** Marilyn Perkins (Benton-Franklin) Four were received; one was withdrawn; the following three to be considered by Resolutions Committee Saturday night.

Resolution 1. *Be it resolved that the LWVWA urges all members to read and discuss the soon to be released Review of the Washington State Redistricting Commission report and to consider appropriate local and state actions.*

Resolution 2. *Be it resolved that the LWVWA expresses appreciation and a sincere thank you to Governor Inslee for forming a United States Climate Alliance to convene US states committed to upholding the Paris Climate Agreement and taking aggressive action on environmental protection. We support Governor Inslee's continued efforts to obtain agreement from additional states to join Washington, California, and New York in upholding the Paris Climate Agreement and protect our environment.*

Resolution 3 *Be it resolved that the League of Women Voters of Washington concur with and thereby adopt the following position of the Connecticut League of Women Voters (LWVCT) on Internet Neutrality: "A Neutral Internet: "Net Neutrality" The [League of Women Voters of Washington] believes that a free and open Internet is increasingly important to the protection of individual liberties – freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and freedom of association – guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and by the [Washington State Constitution]. The League also believes that net neutrality protections are essential for political discourse, dissemination of news, and democratic participation. Therefore, the [League of Women Voters of*

Washington] supports the 2006 LWV [national convention resolution] to protect the open, neutral, nondiscriminatory nature of the Internet. To further this position, the [League of Women Voters of Washington] supports efforts by [government entities within the State of Washington] to protect the open, neutral, nondiscriminatory nature of the Internet.” (edited language in brackets)

Featured Speaker: **Cheryl Stumbo—*Becoming Present—Personal Journey to Activism.***

Workshops

Evergreen Award Honoree Reception

Saturday Banquet—Speaker: **Sahar Fathi—*Finding the American Dream***

Awards: Evergreen Award—Cynthia Stewart (Tacoma-Pierce): **Dorris Martin and Wayne Martin** (Seattle-King County)

Dorothy Roberts Award—Ann Murphy (LWVWA President): **Linnea Hirst (Seattle-King County)**

Good Citizen Award—Amanda Clark (Seattle-King Co): **Starbucks for the Ballots and Baristas program (partnering with Seattle-King County League)**. Accepting on behalf of Starbucks was Pat Griffith (Seattle-King Co) who was an organizer of the project.

Caucuses

Sunday—President’s Breakfast and Networking Breakfasts for Similar Office-Holders

Plenary Session IV

1. **Call to order** 10am by President Ann Murphy.
2. Speaker-- **Benjamin Anderstone—*How did the Electoral College get so screwed up?*** (speaker was unable to attend, Julie Anne Kempf (LWVWA Board) presented speaker-provided notes and video: ***National Popular Vote Compact***)
3. **Credentials report:** Nancy Eitreim (Seattle-King County): Present: 83 LL delegates + 9 Board delegates = 92. Present: 90 delegates. Quorum was met.
4. **Resolutions Report:** Marilyn Perkins (Benton-Franklin): Resolutions 1 and 2 are advanced (*Washington State Redistricting Commission Report*, and Thank You to Governor Inslee). Resolution 3 was not recommended because it did not meet the criteria. Resolutions to be voted on later in agenda.
5. **Adoption of Program:**

M#5 MSP Michelle Valentine (LWVWA Board) to readopt current LWVWA positions as printed in the 2015-17 Program in Action.

M#6 MS Michelle Valentine to promote public education and action concerning the status of the health care coverage in Washington state subsequent to the end of the 2017 Legislative session and any resultant fallout from federal actions.

Amendment: MSP Kathy Sakahara (LWVWA Board) to amend the title to include the words “universal health care” after concerning.

Amendment: MSP Kathy Sakahara (LWVWA Board) to amend the Scope by adding “and other currently proposed Federal legislation” after ACA.

Motion passed as amended: To promote public education and action concerning universal health care, the status of the health care coverage in Washington State subsequent to the end of the 2017 Legislative session and any resultant fallout from federal actions.

M#7 MSP Michelle Valentine (LWVWA Board) to update the current LWVWA Position HC-1 to focus on behavioral health status with a survey of the status of behavioral health diagnosis, treatment, in-patient and out-patient facilities, and state housing needed in WA state.

Amendment – MSP Kathy Sakahara (LWVWA Board) to amend the Outlook for Work, changing “One-year” to “Two-year” study.

M#8 MS Michelle Valentine (LWVWA Board) public education on tax structure in Washington state.

Amendment – MSP Kathy Sakahara (LWVWA Board) to amend title to insert “Promote” before public.

Amendment – MSP Joanna Cullen (LWVWA Board) to amend Scope: “to promote materials to educate the public on Washington state tax structures and the LWVWA positions.”

Motion passed as amended: Promote Public Education on tax structure in Washington State.

6. **Adoption of Not-Recommended Program** (requires 3/5 vote):

M#10 MSP Pat Griffith (Seattle-King County) to adopt a study on internet privacy in Washington state to include:

- privacy regulations in force pre- and post-March 2017
- relationship to the Washington state constitution
- who should own and control personal information
- what information is currently being tracked
- what is and can be done by local governments
- privacy laws in Washington, other states and the European Union

Outlook: Estimated 1- 1-1/2 yrs. We have a core group of interested volunteers and can be on King County study.

M#12 MSP Kim Abel (Kitsap) to adopt a follow up with next steps on I-735 (WAmend) with action and citizen education.

SCOPE: This is to take action to move I-735 forward. We propose that Congress people be contacted to share how their District voted and how the whole State voted and with that information in hand, how they propose to institute the will of the people of the State of Washington. Additional Action would be Citizen Education in each Congressional District on the same topic with a call to Action to contact their Congress person to move forward in Washington DC with a constitutional amendment. Because Initiative 735 won 30 out of 39 counties, 47 out of 49 Legislative Districts, and all 10 congressional Districts, this is an issue that could also work to allow the state League to work to build new Leagues across the state. OUTLOOK FOR WORK: Developing the process to best contact and share information with Congressional Representatives and local communities would be the upfront work, likely taking 3 months once a committee was formed. Working to take this information forward to all 10 Congressional Districts would entail reaching out to local League members and other partners to reach citizens for action.

7. Adoption of Bylaws Revisions

M#4.1 MS RPeggy Smith (LWVWA Board) to adopt recommended bylaws

Amendment #1, MSP Karen Funston (Bellingham-Whatcom County) to amend Bylaws Section 5.3 as follows to bring into compliance with RCWs.

5.3 Action without a Meeting. Any corporate action required or permitted by the Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws, or by the laws of the State of Washington, to be taken at a meeting of the board of directors (or its committees) may be taken without a meeting, by electronic transmission when conducted in compliance with the notice requirements described in this Article, Section 3.2. Each director entitled to vote with respect to the subject matter thereof must consent in the form of a record setting forth the action so taken. Such consent shall have the same force and effect as a unanimous vote and may be described as such.

AND Add the following paragraph to Article IV, Section 3.2:

A director who has consented to receipt of electronically transmitted notices may revoke the consent by delivering a revocation to the corporation in the form of a record. The consent of any director is revoked if the corporation is unable to electronically transmit two consecutive notices given by the corporation in accordance with the consent, and this inability becomes known to the secretary of the corporation or other person responsible for giving the notice. The inadvertent failure by the corporation to treat this inability as a revocation does not invalidate any meeting or other action.

Motion passed - to adopt recommended bylaws as amended.

8. Adoption of PMP for 2017-2019:

M#13 MSP Mary Ehlers (LWVWA Board) to adopt the Per Member Payment rate for the next biennium at the same rate of \$19.

9. Adoption of Budget:

M#14 MSP Cindy Piennett (Seattle-King County) to adopt the proposed budget.

10. Election of Officers:

M#15 MSP Myra Howrey (Kitsap) to approve the election of the 2017-2019 slate of officers and directors.

M#16 MSP Myra Howrey (Kitsap) to accept the 2017-2019 nomination committee (two additional members will be approved by the new board).

11. Introduction of the new board:

Officers

President: Ann Murphy (Spokane Area)

First Vice President: Judith Davis (Grays Harbor County)

Second Vice President: Lunell Haught (Spokane Area)

Treasurer: Joanna Cullen (Seattle-King County)

Secretary: Amy Corley (Mason County)

Directors

Lynn Carpenter (Snohomish County)

Mary Coltrane (Seattle-King County)

Delores Irwin (Kittitas Valley)

Julie Anne Kempf (Seattle-King County)

R. Peggy Smith (Thurston County)

Michelle Valentine (Snohomish County)

2017-2019 Nominating Committee

Chair: Kim Abel (Kitsap County)

Lou Templeton (Seattle-King County)

Karen Verrill (Thurston County)

12. Adoption of Recommended Resolutions:

M#17 MSP Marilyn Perkins (Benton-Franklin) to adopt **Resolution 1**. *Be it resolved that the LWVWA urges all members to read and discuss the soon to be released Review of the Washington State Redistricting Commission report and to consider appropriate local and state actions.*

M#18 MSP Marilyn Perkins (Benton-Franklin) **Resolution 2**. *Be it resolved that the LWVWA expresses appreciation and a sincere thank you to Governor Inslee for forming a United States Climate Alliance to convene US states committed to upholding the Paris Climate Agreement and taking aggressive action on environmental protection. We support Governor Inslee's continued efforts to obtain agreement from additional states to join Washington, California, and New York in upholding the Paris Climate Agreement and protect our environment.*

13. Directions to the Board: New President Ann Murphy invited members to submit advice to the new board. The following individuals presented oral comments

- a. Mary Ehlers (Seattle-King County) Work harder to be non-partisan. We have positions on both sides of almost all issues. Present them all, not just the one side that supports our more left leaning positions.
- b. Judy Hopkinson (Bellingham-Whatcom County) Provide more objective information on Hanford. State board needs to ensure adherence to LWV Mission and process. How can our board maintain our integrity as a non-partisan organization that (at least tries) to base decisions on careful study of issues?
- c. Jayne Freudenberger (Bellingham-Whatcom County) In this time when our country is extremely divided, when we have had national leaders who do not share our values, it is difficult, but incumbent for the board to set an example of nonpartisanship. I urge the board to make sure we have balanced presentations on the issues and to seek the views from people who share our values regardless of party affiliations.
- d. Zara Kublin (Seattle-King County) Make clear explicitly how our PMP goes to support Local Leagues on an ongoing basis; this helps LL leaders explain cost sharing.
- e. Clare Kelm (San Juans) This comes out of the resolutions committee: What if a topic comes up that needs to be dealt with in a very timely manner? A study would take too long. What can be done instead? The topic that brought this up is “net neutrality.”
- f. Sarajane Siegfriedt (Seattle-King County) Urge the Observer Corps programs to post their notes publicly to provide a service to the community, not just League members, that is missing in today’s media. State program on housing (p. 39) hasn’t been updated since 1970. It was defunded by HUD in the ‘80s and has never recovered. Funding is best done at the Federal (not local level). Local govt (not state) sets “minimum standards for safe and decent housing...” The state government should provide funding (via State Housing Trust Fund), assistance and seed money to coordinate and validate needs across the state. Local government should provide funding, identify needs and strategies to address different populations. That is, the position statement is both badly dated and incorrect.
- g. Cheryl Mann (Tacoma-Pierce County) Create a website link in which items of common interest could be posted and shared, i.e., google drive. We must find a way to help LLs not reinvent the wheel.
- h. Dianne Ramsey (Seattle-King County) Provide a list of state positions and explain how they are used to guide the actions and work of the League.
- i. Toyoko Tsukuda (Benton-Franklin) Communicate the process of recommendation of new programs by the state board. Please notify chosen programs as a recommended program to Local Leagues as soon after board decides on it. The Local Leagues need to act on programs that are in the Not Recommended category.

- j. Joanna Lalos (Seattle-King County) Partisan—be careful, SCIENCE is not partisan. Address issue based on science and study. The LWV, of course, should use appropriate language.
- k. Toni Potter (Seattle-King County) Keep asking for units to send in suggested studies and programs. I hope the board will decide to let unrecommended positions be proposed at the Convention.
- l. Zara Kublin (Seattle-King County) Reconsider the advice to make public all Observer Corps notes. Leaders of the Pullman Observer Corps make those notes accessible on their website only to members because of the possibility of partisan opinions or attitudes, or the appearance thereof, consciously or unconsciously seeping into the Observer’s notes.
- m. Sandra Herndon (Thurston County) Urge the board to continue current work on the Strategic Plan
- n. Nikki Hurley (Seattle-King County) Suggests anti-racism training for board members and local Leagues.

Additional comments were submitted on the “Advice to the Board” forms (27 individuals in five topic areas) to be reviewed by the Board.

14. Invitations to 2017-19 Council and Convention—Host Committees:

Marilyn Perkins (Benton-Franklin) invited LWVWA membership to attend the 2018 Council, to be held at some time in June 2018 at a place to be announced in the Tri-Cities area.

Ruth Ann Hatchett (Tacoma-Pierce County) invited LWVWA membership to attend the 2019 Convention in Tacoma. She asked for volunteers to work on the centennial celebration of the 19th amendment ratified in 1920. (Initial Legislation passed Congress on June 4, 1919, prior to going out for ratification by the states)

15. Closing Remarks and Acknowledgements by President Ann Murphy
Special thanks to the host committee.

16. Final Announcements

17. Adjourn: Convention adjourned at 12:05pm.

Post-convention Facilitated Discussions
LWVWA In and Out State Board meeting at 1:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Herndon, Secretary

Reading Committee approved on 8/28/17