



The Voter

February 2017

The League of Women Voters of Tacoma—Pierce County

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Forum: Civility—Whose Role is It Anyway?

What is civility in public discourse? Is civility important to sustaining democracy? Why is it important? Who is responsible for assuring that our public discourse is civil? How can the public communicate with people of opposing viewpoints in these intense times? What is civil disobedience and how does it fit on the spectrum of civility and incivility? Is civil disobedience ever necessary? These are all questions that the American public has been grappling with in the last few months. These are also questions that will be discussed in a forum series that begins February 4.



See the flier on page 4 for more information—invite your friends, and plan to attend!

League Takes Action

By Cynthia Stewart, Action Chair

The League of Women Voters is well known for its meticulous studies of issues as well as its voter services efforts. But League is less well known for its political action. Once a study has been completed, the membership consensus process generates a position. Once adopted by the Board, this position allows League to support or oppose policy, consistent with the adopted position. This means the President can communicate officially to elected officials – and members can do so individually, having the background of League’s position (though individuals cannot speak for the League per se unless so authorized by the President).

The national League can advocate at Congress; the state League can advocate at the State Legislature; and our League can advocate with local governments, the County and City Councils. You, as members, can use League positions as background at all levels, to communicate with anyone who represents you, though not in the name of League.

So what techniques work best to advocate effectively? February unit meetings will address how to use the LWVWA Legislative Newsletter and other tools. You can suggest how to best engage you!

County Councilmembers and State Legislators have been invited to participate in the unit meetings within their districts to provide helpful hints. You can ask questions about what works best and in what circumstances. Additionally, we know that individual stories work well to illustrate policy choices, so there will be information about how to tell your story.

See the calendar for details of each unit meeting.



AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

LWVWA: <http://www.lwvwa.org/>
 LWVUS: <http://www.lwv.org/>

The League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy

President's Message



A number of you participated in The Women's March last week and many of us watched and were inspired. This is an opportunity for The League of Women Voters to build on this renewed energy. Our work is just beginning.

The LWVUS shared actions we can take RIGHT NOW to make a difference in our community and beyond.

- ⇒ Join the League of Women Voters. If you are a member, invite your friends.
- ⇒ Call Congress and/or legislature – and call them often
- ⇒ Watch for information from our Action Chair, Cynthia Stewart, about what is coming up in this Legislative session and how we can advocate for our positions.
- ⇒ Register to vote and help your friends get registered. There will be opportunities to register voters at local events also
- ⇒ Become an e-Activist
- ⇒ Read updates from the League and take action by holding your elected officials accountable on the League's key priorities like voting rights and money in politics

Please read, in this issue, the information about the Civility, Incivility and Civil Disobedience forum. The first of three sessions will be held February 4 and is an excellent opportunity to invite people to come learn about these important issues.

Board members are always anxious to hear how you would like to be involved in our work. We need everyone to serve in the way that is meaningful to you.

Ruth Ann Hatchett

Thanks to our Generous Finance Drive Donors—without whom we would not succeed!

Terri Baker	Laura Gardner	Cheryl Mann
Patricia Berger	Kathleen Geller	Mary Mazur
Terry Bergeson	Jean Gillmer	Doroth McBride
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Ingrid Curtis	Diane Kerlin	Julie Offner
Susan Eidenschink	Mary Kohli	Judy Payne
Paula & Donald Eismann	Lyz Kurnitz-Thurlow & John Thurlow	Nancy Pearson
Bea Elder		Jacki Skaught
Bobbie Fletcher	Jeanne Kussmann	Kathy Sommers
Karen Fortione	Liz Lathrop	Dorothy Spadoni
Rosa Franklin	Mary Ann Leskie	Cynthia Stewart
Charlene Franz	Lynne Lewis	Ann Williams
	Patricia Mail	

Check out our web site: www.tacomapiercelwv.org

Board Highlights—December 2016

By Julie Offner

According to Treasurer Susan Eidenschink, membership is up to 121. Two new members joined and one household renewed in November. In response to the membership appeal letter, donations of \$2335 were received by the General Fund, and \$1950 was directed to the Education Fund.

President Ruth Ann Hatchett reported on the Membership and Leadership Development phone call with the State League, which is very excited about the post-election interest in the League. The State League developed guidance on how to leverage this volunteer interest. The Board discussed ways to be more proactive with new members. Board members were encouraged to talk to their daughters and daughters-in-law on ways to engage their generation

Lyz Kurnitz-Thurlow presented the results of the Program Planning session on December 3rd. Homelessness and Drug Abuse were suggested as studies. She asked if we are the right organization to undertake them. Concerning homelessness, Lyz noted that our policy on Affordable Housing is presented in the Handbook. In our mental health study, we recognized the strong connection between homelessness and mental health.

Immigration was also raised at the general meeting. The issue is addressed in the National League's positions; however, we have a local perspective since there is a detention center in Tacoma. It was suggested that we invite Tacoma Community House representatives to speak to Unit meetings.

The board endorsed a proposal by Cynthia Stewart approving the dates, topics and general concept of the Civility Forum which will be presented in three sessions. Co-sponsoring organizations include Restore the American Dream, American Association of University Women, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. It was stressed that we be balanced and fair.

John Thurlow reported that the 2017 edition of the TRY is nearing completion. The board approved his recommendation on the selection of a printer. It was noted that we should encourage use of the electronic version of the TRY and promote a link to our website.

Per the Executive Committee meeting, several changes to the organization chart were recommended. Six committees were suggested: Voter Services, Advocacy & Outreach, Member Services, Program, Finance & Sustainability and Executive. Each committee will need a charter.



Observer Corps Training

Observer Training takes place at the League office, 621 Tacoma Ave South, #202, on **Tuesday, February 7 at 10 am**. Even if you haven't signed up, come anyway. We can really use observers at public meetings to keep the public informed.

Please Welcome New Members

Sharon Wilhelm
Holly Billiu
Cris Amburgey
MollyCoyne



Visit us on Facebook at

www.facebook.com/pages/League-of-Women-Voters-of-Tacoma-Pierce-County/312747775413



Civility, Incivility and Civil Disobedience

a Forum Series
addressing the rise in political incivility
including audience discussion



Rosa Parks Day
February 4

Session I: Civility in Public Discourse- Whose Job is it, Anyway?

February 4, 2017, 1:00 – 4:00 pm

First United Methodist Church

621 Tacoma Ave. S., Tacoma

A conversation with elected officials, educators and the media about roles and what the public wants from these institutions

Join the Conversation: Hear the Panel; Express your own Opinion

Moderator, Simone Alicea, KNKX

Panel:

- County Executive Bruce Dammeier
- County Councilmember Connie Ladenburg
- Nate Bowling, Educator
- John Norlin, Educator
- Kim Bradford, Tacoma News Tribune
- Marcus Green, South Seattle Emerald

Co-sponsored by:



NAACP 253
TACOMA, WA BRANCH



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY

RAD Holding government accountable to the people
Restoring the America Dream Team—Tacoma



Parking at First United Methodist Church

There is no dedicated parking for the First United Methodist Church. On Tacoma Avenue there is free 90 minute parking and unlimited parking for those who have a handicapped permit. There is free parking in the parking lot south of the corner of South 7th Street and South G Street, which is adjacent to the school administration building, about a block and a half from the church. This is normally occupied during weekdays but is available on weekends.

Get Involved! Attend a Unit Meeting and Bring a Friend (or two)

Tacoma

2nd Thursday of the Month

1:00—3:00 pm

Tacoma Police Department, North Substation

5140 N. 26th St., Tacoma

Contact: Lyz Kurnitz-Thurlow,
lyzkurnitz@harboret.com

Southwest Pierce

2nd Friday of the Month

10:00 am to noon

Steilacoom Community Center

2301 Worthington St., Steilacoom

Contact: Ann Elliston, 253-564-4102

East Pierce

2nd Saturday of the Month

10:00 am to Noon

Puyallup Library

324 S. Meridian, Puyallup

Contact: Ellen Zulauf,
eazul@comcast.net

Gig Harbor-Key Peninsula

2nd Saturday of the Month

2:00—4:00 pm

Harbor Place at Cottesmore

1016 29th St NW, Gig Harbor

Contact: Julie Offner, 253-432-4407

This Month: February – General Meeting on Civility and Respect; and Unit Meetings on Action and Engagement with Legislators and Local Elected Officials

In February there will be a general meeting, open to the public on Civility and Respect toward others, particularly those whose opinions differ from our own. This topic is very important following a contentious election. A panel of experts will share their opinions and attendees will have an opportunity to discuss the issue. There will also be Unit Meetings dealing with action and engagement with Legislators and Local Elected Officials.

Next Month: March – General Meeting on Maintaining Civility at home, at work, and on the street; and Unit Meetings on the Pierce County Budget.

In March there will be a general meeting, open to the public on maintaining civility when dealing with those with opinions different from yours at home, at work, and on the street. A panel of experts will share their opinions and attendees will have an opportunity to discuss the issues. There will also be Unit meetings on the study of the Pierce County Budget. This will be Part 2 of the Budget Study, focusing on services and expenditures and will include consensus discussion.

Last Month: January – Health Care Reform

January's Unit meetings covered the topic of Health Care Reform. A video entitled FIX IT – Health Care at the Tipping Point was shown, followed by much discussion on the DVD and on local, state, and national issues in health care reform.

For more information, see www.tacomapiercelwv.org, or call 253-272-1495

Keeping up with League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County

For those of you who are not on Facebook, look for LWVT-PC online posts at The Suburban Times, thesubtimes.com, and Patch, patch.com. Both of these news sites have become easy to use. For Patch, select your desired community (Find your Patch) and scroll among the latest Bulletin Board posts.

Voter Production & Distribution Volunteers

Your Voter is brought to you by the following people:

Editorial Volunteers:

Cynthia Stewart, Susan Eidenschink, Julie Offner

Distribution Volunteers:

Susan Eidenschink, Ingrid Curtis, Judy Payne

LWVT-PC Calendar - February—May 2017

Feb 4 1:00—4:00 pm	Civility, Incivility & Civil Disobedience: A Forum Series—Part I General Membership Meeting and Public Forum First United Methodist Church 621 Tacoma Ave. S., # 202, Tacoma	Mar 9 1:00 – 3:00 pm	Tacoma Unit Meeting Study of Pierce County Funding & Consensus Tacoma Police Substation North 5140 N 26th St, Tacoma
Feb 7 10:00 a.m.	Observer Corps Training League Office 621 Tacoma Ave S, #202; Tacoma	Mar 10 10:00 am – noon	Southwest Pierce Unit Meeting Study of Pierce County Funding & Consensus Steilacoom Community Center, 2301 Worthington St, Steilacoom
Feb 9 1:00—3:00 pm	Tacoma Unit Meeting Action/Engagement with Legislators and Local Officials Tacoma Police Substation North 5140 N 26th St, Tacoma	Mar 11 10:00 am – noon	East Pierce Unit Meeting Study of Pierce County Funding & Consensus Puyallup Library 324 S Meridian, Puyallup
Feb 10 10:00 am—Noon	Southwest Pierce Unit Meeting Action/Engagement with Legislators and Local Officials Steilacoom Community Center, 2301 Worthington St, Steilacoom	Mar 11 2:00 – 4:00 pm	Gig Harbor Unit Meeting Study of Pierce County Funding & Consensus Harbor Place at Cottesmore 1016 29th St NW, Gig Harbor
Feb 11 10:00 am—Noon	East Pierce Unit Meeting Action/Engagement with Legislators and Local Officials Puyallup Library 324 S Meridian, Puyallup	Mar 20	Deadline for April Voter
Feb 11 2:00—4:00 pm	Gig Harbor Unit Meeting Action/Engagement with Legislators and Local Officials Harbor Place at Cottesmore 1016 29th St NW, Gig Harbor	Mar 28 10:00 am—Noon	LWVT-PC Board Meeting League Office 621 Tacoma Ave. S., # 202, Tacoma
Feb 20	Deadline for March Voter	April 1 1:00—4:00 pm	Civility, Incivility & Civil Disobedi- ence: A Forum Series—Part II General Membership Meeting and Public Forum First United Methodist Church 621 Tacoma Ave. S., # 202, Tacoma
Feb 28 10:00 am—Noon	LWVT-PC Board Meeting League Office 621 Tacoma Ave. S., # 202, Tacoma	Apr 8 10:00 am—Noon	East Pierce Unit Meeting Unit Choice Puyallup Library 324 S Meridian, Puyallup
Mar 4 1:00—4:00 pm	Civility, Incivility & Civil Disobedience: A Forum Series—Part II General Membership Meeting and Public Forum First United Methodist Church 621 Tacoma Ave. S., # 202, Tacoma		

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LWVT-PC Calendar - February—May 2017, Cont'd

<p>Apr 8 2:00—4:00 pm</p>	<p>Gig Harbor Unit Meeting Unit Choice Harbor Place at Cottesmore 1016 29th St NW, Gig Harbor</p>	<p>May 11 1:00—3:00 pm</p>	<p>Tacoma Unit Meeting Legislative Session Review Tacoma Police Substation North 5140 N 26th St, Tacoma</p>
<p>Apr 13 1:00—3:00 pm</p>	<p>Tacoma Unit Meeting Unit Choice Tacoma Police Substation North 5140 N 26th St, Tacoma</p>	<p>May 12 10:00 am—Noon</p>	<p>Southwest Pierce Unit Meeting Legislative Session Review Steilacoom Community Center, 2301 Worthington St, Steilacoom</p>
<p>Apr 14 10:00 am—Noon</p>	<p>Southwest Pierce Unit Meeting Unit Choice Steilacoom Community Center, 2301 Worthington St, Steilacoom</p>	<p>May 13 10:00 am—Noon</p>	<p>East Pierce Unit Meeting Legislative Session Review Puyallup Library 324 S Meridian, Puyallup</p>
<p>Apr 20</p>	<p>Deadline for May Voter</p>	<p>May 13 10:00 am—Noon</p>	<p>Gig Harbor Unit Meeting Legislative Session Review Harbor Place at Cottesmore 1016 29th St NW, Gig Harbor</p>
<p>Apr 25 10:00 am—Noon</p>	<p>LWVT-PC Board Meeting League Office 621 Tacoma Ave. S., # 202, Tacoma</p>	<p>May 23 10:00 am—Noon</p>	<p>LWVT-PC Board Meeting League Office 621 Tacoma Ave. S., # 202, Tacoma</p>

2017 Directory of Elected Officials – They Represent You (TRY)

By Susan Eidenschink

The 2017 version of the publication of They Represent You (TRY), a directory of Elected Officials, is being distributed to libraries in Tacoma, Pierce County, and Puyallup.

The League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County, an all-volunteer organization, is pleased to offer this Directory as a public service. We hope it will help those who receive it to engage in the process of community governance for the benefit of all. Directories will be distributed at all Unit meetings and at all General meetings. The Directory is also available on our Website, www.tacomapiercelwv.org/TRY.html.

This Directory was updated and printed early in 2017. If there are changes or updates that should be made, please let us know at any time. We will update our on-line version when we receive and verify your information. The paper version will be updated with our next edition in 2018. If you would like us to send you more Directories to distribute, please e-mail us at lwvtacomapierce@gmail.com or call at 253-272-1495 to leave your information on our voice-mail.

This Directory is paid for with funds donated to our Education Fund, non-profit organization. We would appreciate any tax-deductible donation you can make to defray the cost of its publication and distribution. If you are able to donate to the League for this public service, please make your check payable to the LWVT-PC Education Fund, and mail it to our office, 621 Tacoma Ave South, #202, Tacoma WA 98402.



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	Cynthia Stewart	360-413-1210; stewdahl@comcast.net
	John Thurlow	253-219-1617; johnthurlow@harbornet.com

Join the Tacoma—Pierce County League of Women Voters !

The League of Women Voters of Tacoma – Pierce County invites you to join us!

Any person, age 16 or older, may become a member.

Yes, I'd like to become a Member of the League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County.

This application also entitles me to full membership in and mailings of the Washington State and National League of Women Voters (LWVWA and LWVUS)

Membership for one year for an individual is \$75 (for two members of a household - \$112.50). Student membership is \$37.50.

There are also special memberships that will help League even more and will be given special recognition: LWV Suffragist, \$500.00; LWV Advocate, \$250.00; and LWV Supporter, \$150.00.

Please indicate the type of membership you desire. We have scholarship memberships available at this time. Membership dues are NOT tax deductible. Contributions to the Education Fund (*by separate check made out to the Education Fund of LWVT-PC, and they are tax deductible*) and/or the General Fund are welcome.

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Type of Membership: _____ Comments: _____

Mail to: League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County, 621 Tacoma Avenue South, Tacoma, WA 98402-2301