



The Voter

March, 2015

The League of Women Voters of Tacoma—Pierce County

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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.

Mental Health Study—Coming in April

An Introduction

As the Committee you convened to study mental health and mental health services in Pierce County, we have come to our first "finding," one that doesn't require discussion in our Unit Meetings. That is, providing mental health services to those who need them is complicated in the extreme. In part that is because mental illness itself is complicated. In part it is because provision of services is divided among numerous agencies, government departments and programs, independent medical providers, and non-profit programs. In addition, those services are regulated by administrative bodies that often are not coordinated plus multiple, changing federal, state and county laws. For individuals suffering from mental illness, this "system" is very difficult to understand and difficult to navigate. It was very difficult for us, your committee, to understand as well. We continue, almost every week, to learn new things.

In response to this challenging topic, we have taken two steps. The first is to determine that our report to you will be delivered over a two-year time span and in two parts. The first part, about the experience of having mental illness and what we know about it now, will be published in this newsletter next month and discussed at the April Unit Meetings. Part 2, about Pierce County mental health service systems, will come next year and include consensus questions.

Because mental health and mental illness are so complex - and not very well understood by the public at large - we are beginning with this article in the March Voter. Below you will find some of the underlying definitions, current understandings, and societal dilemmas that underpin the report you will read here next month. We hope they will be food for thought.

Mental Health Study Committee, Cynthia Stewart, Chair

Evonne Agnello	Pam Basea
Dorothy Bremner	Catharine Cantwell Luria
Leanne Kennedy	Sharon Peace-Doan
Ginny Peterson	Ann Williams

Continued, next page

Mental Health Study, *cont'd from page 1*

What is Mental Illness?

Mental Illness (literally illness of the mind) is actually physical illness of the brain. As we understand it today, mental illness is a set of discrete, chronic brain malfunctions whose symptoms include both the reduction, or even loss, of some normally-present behavioral capabilities and also the addition of some new, uncharacteristic behaviors. Reduced capabilities often include being unable to see situations from another's point of view, failure to correctly interpret social signals, decreased personal initiative, reduced self-restraint, slower processing of thoughts, and others. Added behaviors may include hallucinations, obsessive thoughts and actions, delusions, aggressiveness, mania, unremitting sadness, wide mood swings, and risk-taking behavior. These symptoms disrupt a person's capability to interact normally with others and with society as a whole. Mental illness does not include brain malfunctions caused by developmental disabilities, birth defects or trauma.

How is mental illness the same as other illnesses, and how is it different?

Mental Illnesses are like other physical illnesses; they can be mild, moderate or debilitating. They can be chronic or intermittent or acute. Of the 25% of our population who will experience a mental illness, about 80% (20% of the whole) will have a mild or moderate disease process. They are largely able to manage their disease with some medical care and are capable of living a mostly normal life in their home community. Society rarely even thinks of these people as having mental illness. The other 5 to 6 % of the population has more serious illness, either because they have a more serious type of illness or because they have complications (e.g. co-occurring disorders, chemical dependency, their disease is untreated, etc.) They need more community resources (often non-psychiatric) to function and survive. Several of the most serious and debilitating types of mental illness have a mortality rate of 10-25%, much of it due to suicide. Individuals with a serious mental illness on average die 25 years earlier than other people.

An observation on our American system of care

We seem, as a society, to be content to allow mentally ill individuals to deteriorate to the point of personal crisis or to a point where they disrupt the civil order, and only then provide services. Even then, the services seem to be only sufficient to raise the individual out of their immediate crisis, but not sufficient to restore health.

Can Mental Illness be treated?

Mental illnesses are largely treatable with medication (ideally with counseling and medication) but there is, at this time, no cure. Mental illness is chronic - a lifetime challenge. Many of the medications come with significant side effects, and the magnitude of the side effects varies from person to person. Often the choice to medicate comes down to a personal cost-benefit calculation:

- ⇒ *Does this medication, in this patient, at this time, give enough symptom relief to justify the magnitude of any unpleasant side effects it also causes in him/her?*
- ⇒ *Can/will this patient be able to tolerate the side-effects and comply with their treatment regimen?*

Treatment of Mental Illness - a conflict of societal philosophy and personal ethics

Washington State operates under a libertarian Constitution. Currently, the medical establishment is only able to treat the mental illness of individuals who seek or, at minimum, consent to, treatment, plus individuals including the non-consenting, in two legally defined categories, those who

- are an imminent danger to themselves or others, and
- are gravely disabled (i.e. cannot care for themselves at even a minimal level).

All other adults, including those whose thought processes and logic are unreliable for any reason, are free to refuse treatment and often do just that. The philosophical position is often in conflict with a societal ethic that says we should care for the ill and those who cannot care for themselves. As a practical matter, many of us feel especially guilty about this failure to treat when we see homeless individuals who, even to the untrained eye, appear to be mentally ill.



Money – The Hardest Thing to Talk About

By Cynthia Stewart

Our beautiful new, updated TRY has just been printed and distributed. After absorbing the largest single expense of the year, the Board looked at its fund balances, and it became clear that we need to raise money. But how? That is the question we will be putting to you very soon after this Voter comes to you.

Before the “How”, though, is the “Why”

Did you know that League has two non-profit designations? League is organized and budgets in two categories.

One is a **501(c)(4)**, which is what the Tacoma-Pierce League is (and all other local Leagues). That is an IRS designation that allows the League to pay no taxes because it is not organized for profit and is operated exclusively for the promotion of social welfare. League’s good works are done for the betterment of the public and therefore can be called “social welfare”. League’s “action” work falls under this category. Those are the things we do to influence public policy, consistent with our adopted positions. Donations to this part of the organization are not tax-deductible.

The other is a **501(c)(3)** organization organized and operated exclusively for specific exempt purposes and may not be an action organization, e.g., it may not attempt to influence legislation as a substantial part of its activities. This is the part of the organization that we call our Education Fund. It can accept donations that are tax-deductible and from which League typically pays for most of its public education (studies, candidate and issue forums, TRY, etc.). Since donors often prefer to give tax-deductible gifts, this is the part of the organization that generates the most in contributions. At present, most local Leagues, including ours, send these donations to the State League to hold in their 501(c)(3) Education Fund account, because none but Seattle-King has a 501(c)(3) designation. Funds are released back to us when needed for specific eligible costs.

When you pay your League dues, it goes to the 501(c)(4) part of the organization. Of the dues (currently \$60 per year), approximately \$19 goes to the state League and \$31 goes to the national League, leaving just over \$10 for Tacoma-Pierce’s operating costs. So, rounding our membership to 110, we generate about \$1,125 per year in dues to retain for ourselves..

Our operating costs, though, are about \$13,682 per year for that same average of 110 members. That includes the very low rent we pay for the office, costs of supplies, equipment (we have lowered our costs for phone and copier recently), and printing (membership books, The Voter, etc.).. The balance of our operating costs – and all of our public education costs - must be generated through fundraising.



How Should We Raise Funds?

Fundraising is down a little this year from budgeted estimates, so the question is what would work best to raise the money we need? And we will be asking you, our members, what kind of fundraising you would most like us to do – and which kind you would most support with your volunteer help.

Here are some options. Any of these approaches or a combination could be used for either the operating costs of Tacoma-Pierce League or the tax-deductible Education Fund.

Auction. Donated items and services would be collected and auctioned on a specific date. This could be done on-line or at an event. It would take your help to generate auction items and auction buyers.

Event. A particular festive event, such as wine-tasting, art show, or luncheon would be organized. It would take your help to sell tickets and generate participants.

Continued, next page

Co-President's Message



Thanks to great work done by many volunteers, the TRY has been distributed to community offices and organizations. I was encouraged at the number of times I was told they were pleased to have the directory and to share it with others. The TRY has a new look this year, thanks to John

Thurlow's leadership and the team who helped him.

Now is the time to contact representatives on issues that are important to you. The state and national Legislative Update emails we receive make it easy to let your voice be heard. They have valuable links to

in depth information on the issues if you would like more information.

Our most pressing need at this time is fund development. The Fundraising Committee is looking for input from our membership about how we can raise funds to continue our operations. The committee will bring a proposal to the Board, and we will need every member's help to make any effort a success. Each member will receive a survey asking what activities you will be willing to support. Please complete the survey and return it as soon as possible. Feel free to contact me with ideas or questions you may have. We are open to all ideas.

The board has set the Annual Meeting for June 20. Many more details to come. In the meantime, we have very interesting unit meeting topics to cover.

Ruth Ann Hatchett, Co-President

Money, cont'd from page 2

Direct Mail. This would involve a letter soliciting contributions and would take your help to generate the lists of people to whom it is sent – and potentially your help in sending letters signed by you. Generally, a mailing of this type would feature the good works of League.

Non-Event. This subset of Direct Mail would create a “non-event”, and highlight the opportunity to donate without leaving your home. It would feature the fact that so many of us are busy, busy, busy.

Endowment Solicitations. This would be a campaign to generate large contributions or bequests from members and non-members of means, with a commitment to use the interest and appreciation from investment of the funds to sustain League work.

Sustaining Contributions. Ever notice the part of each Voter that suggests making a monthly contribution? That is an example of a sustaining donation, one that may be smaller each month than the amount of an annual gift but cumulatively adds up to a great deal more. This would take your help in generating pledges from members and non-members.

Other? What other ideas do you have to raise money for League?

Shortly after this Voter, we will be sending an electronic survey asking you how you would prefer that we do our fundraising over the next few months – and what kinds of assistance you would be willing to provide. We ask that you watch for that email with a survey link and then follow the link to complete the survey.

Thank you for helping the Board sustain our good work.



Meet Board Secretary Ingrid Curtis



Ingrid Curtis was born in Berlin, Germany. Her mother was German and her father was Hungarian. In 1942, her family left Berlin for political reasons. Because her grandfather was Jewish, her father feared for their safety. Ingrid and her family moved to the Black Forest (Freudenstadt, in southern

Germany), where they felt safe, though not from the ravages of war. Times were hard, and after the war, food was scarce. As things improved, her father supported the family by dealing in wine and spirits. They made one more move in 1950 and relocated to Stuttgart, Germany, about 65 miles from Freudenstadt.

Ingrid always loved languages, and after graduating from high school, she went to the Berlitz School to perfect her usage of the English language. At the end of that study, she went to work for the U. S. Army,

and actually worked for her future husband, Bob Curtis. When they were married in 1956, at the age of 18 Ingrid became an instant mother of Bob's eight-year old son.

Bob and Ingrid had three girls. He was the professional soldier, and Ingrid was the homemaker. They moved many times across the ocean and within the United States. The longest stay was in Wisconsin, where Bob finished his military career of 42 years. While they lived in Wisconsin, Ingrid volunteered for many public and non-profit organizations, including in public schools; working with the Wisconsin Health Department on the board of the Alcohol and Drugs Abuse Center; and as a Girl Scout Leader, participating in camping events and weekly meetings. She also volunteered at the Wisconsin Kidney Foundation, helping with mailings and other needed activities.

In 1992, they moved to Washington State, and found this area to be the more like Germany than the other places they lived in the United States. And Ingrid became politically active. She has been a League member since 2012, and she attends East Pierce Unit meetings. In addition to serving as Secretary of the Board, Ingrid is also on The Voter distribution team.

**Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, March 11, 2015,
3:00-5:00 p.m., at the League Office**
All League members are welcome to attend

LWVTPC Board Members

Co-President	Paula Eismann	253-863-8845, peismann60@comcast.net
Co-President	Ruth Ann Hatchett	253-864-7556 ; ruthann6257@msn.com
1st Vice President	Lyz Kurnitz-Thurlow	253-924-0288; lyzkurnitz@harbornet.com
2nd Vice President	Julie Offner	253-432-4407; offner.julie@gmail.com
Secretary	Ingrid Curtis	253-862-7865; Ltcolrwc@comcast.net
Treasurer	Susan Eidenschink	253-365-4005; susaneiden@harbornet.com
Directors:	Jacqueline Jones-Hook	jjoneshook@aol.com
	Sharon Peace-Doane	253-265-0841; hrdoanes@comcast.net
	Cynthia Stewart	360-413-1210; stewdahl@comcast.net
	John Thurlow	253-219-1617; johnthurlow@harbornet.com
	Ann Williams	253-759-3355; willar12000@yahoo.com

February Unit Meetings: Funding for Schools

Consequences of the McCleary Decision and How League Could Educate the Public

Unit meetings in February tackled the biggest issue facing the State of Washington right now: how to fund education at the level required by the Supreme Court in its decision on the McCleary case and still meet other state needs.

Linda Hanson, from NEWS (Network for Excellence in Washington Schools), described the Constitutional requirement to fund education, history of the McCleary case and why the Court held as it did, including now holding the State in contempt of court. Cynthia Stewart, of the LWVWA Lobby Team, described how state budgets are organized, the primary sources of education funding, and various options for raising revenue and why each of them falls short of fully addressing the funding gap. Click here to access the handouts. Click here to read more about how the state budget works.

There was broad agreement at each of the unit meetings that an income tax is needed and that an income tax is consistent with adopted League positions. The biggest concern at each unit meeting was the lack of public understanding of state finance.

What arose as the focal issue is the question of how League can educate the public. Ideas such as forums

and a road show around the state, providing questions and background for League members to raise in Legislators' town hall meetings this March, developing

webinars and videos for online social media, and communicating with friends and acquaintances to make sure they understand the issues and options discussed. The need to move quickly and aggressively was noted. This message is being conveyed to the State League Board and Lobby Team as well as

to our Board, in hopes that each group will work on action steps.

For more information, contact Cynthia Stewart, stewdahl@comcast.net; Linda Hanson, lhanson@lindahanson.org; or Susan Eidschink, susaneiden@harbornet.com.



Linda Hanson, NEWS, speaks to the Gig Harbor Unit

Visit us on Facebook at

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



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.

Opportunities for Action and Participation

“She’s Beautiful When She’s Angry” - March 6-12, Film at the Grand Cinema, 606 S Fawcett Ave, Tacoma. This film was sold out when shown on January 27th at the Grand. It’s back for at least one week. See more about the film on Page 10 of our February Voter, at http://www.grandcinema.com/coming_soon.php, and at http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/12/05/shes-beautiful-when-shes-angry_n_6278698.html.

Restore the American Dream – March 7, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon at First United Methodist Church, 621 Tacoma Ave S. A grassroots group organized an event on October 11, 2014, called Restore the American Dream. That same group will present Restore the American Dream 2.0: Money, Politics and You the Voter. This event will be especially important during this time when the Washington State Legislature is working to solve the huge problem of funding K-12 education without cutting other essential state services.

Affordable Housing Consortium Panel on Housing – March 11, 4:00—6:00 pm at Affordable Bay Terrace, 2550 G St, Tacoma, Multipurpose Room. The panel will discuss real opportunities for both nonprofit and for-profit organizations to develop affordable housing for low-income people in Pierce County. Break-out sessions will enable organizations to further explore real opportunities.

Cultural Grooming: Uncovering Vulnerabilities to Trafficking – March 17, 7:00 – 8:30 pm , Anderson University Center (corner of 122nd St S and Park Ave S), PLU, 12180 Park Ave S, Tacoma. Register at http://www.waengage.com/CGF_Tacoma_WA. See more information at <http://www.waengage.com/>.

Project Homeless Connect—March 31, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, Washington Fair Grounds, 110 9th Ave SW, Puyallup – Register Voters. If you want to help register Voters, contact Susan Eidschink, susaneiden@harbornet.com.

Tacoma Proposition 1 – Raise the minimum wage in Tacoma to \$15 per hour. The goal is to collect enough signatures (3,500 valid signatures) by mid-May to place this proposition on the Tacoma City Ballot in November. This is a grassroots effort, which has a weekly meeting on **Saturdays from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm at the First United Methodist Church, 621 Tacoma Ave S**. If you want to help with signature gathering in Tacoma, attend the meeting, check out the website <http://15nowtacoma.info/>, or contact Sarah Morken at 253-973-8153.

Citizens United Initiative – Initiative to the Legislature – Signature gathering begins in April. WAmend will sponsor an initiative to the Legislature this year. This measure would urge the Washington Congressional delegation to propose amending the Constitution to clarify that constitutional rights apply to natural persons, not corporations, and to authorize greater regulation of political contributions and expenditures. Sixteen states have passed similar resolutions either in their Legislation or by initiative. See more about this initiative at <http://www.wamend.org/>.

Citizens United Took Kit from LWVWA - May LWVT-PC Unit Meetings. If you want to help present this information to your local Unit, please contact Lyz Kurnitz-Thurlow, lyzkurnitz@harbornet.com, 253-924-0288) and you will be connected with the other volunteers to plan it.

“Corruption in Politics and You the Voter”

FREE Public Community Forum

Saturday, March 7, 2015 - 9:30am - Noon

Location:

First United Methodist Church of Tacoma
621 Tacoma Avenue South, Tacoma



Presented By:

Restore the American Dream (RAD) Team Tacoma*,
League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County, Fix
Democracy First, Represent.US

Topic:

Join the cross partisan conversation to move from the political morass of the nation to understanding our strengths and weaknesses right here in our city, county and state. We will propose actions that can begin to end the corruption of our political system. Learn from cross-partisan experts about Washington’s fair, open, voter-friendly election system.

Panelists Sam Reed, former Secretary of State, and Brian Sonntag, former State Auditor, will present Washington’s election process and the work for “open government.”

Learn more about how local citizen action can provide local, state and national solutions to move a shared cross partisan anti-corruption agenda!

RAD Team Tacoma is now affiliated with Represent.US to pass the American Anti-Corruption Act in Tacoma and Pierce County. We need YOU to help us and get involved! Together we can stop the erosion of good government and create a positive national climate for our democracy to thrive.

****Find us on FACEBOOK: RAD Team Tacoma - “working to Reclaim the American Dream!”***

For more information please contact: Diane Tilstra, Co-Facilitator
Email: mdtilstra@aol.com T: 206-948-8309

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

Tacoma

2nd Thursday of the Month

1:00—3:00 pm

North Tacoma Police Station
5140 N. 26th St.
Tacoma

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

Lakewood & Neighbors

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 History Museum
4121 Harborview Dr.
Gig Harbor

Contact: Sharon Peace-Doane,
253-265-0841

For more information, see
www.lwvwa.org/tacoma/

This Month: March—Unit Choice

At the March Unit Meetings, each Unit will discuss a topic of interest to those attending that particular Unit.

At the **Tacoma** Unit meeting the topic is Healthy Children: Food in the Schools. The topic contact is Marianne Seifert, mspottery22@gmail.com.

The **Lakewood and Neighbors** topic will be Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) and how leaders at the base coordinate with leaders and organizations in surrounding communities. The topic contact is Nancy Pearson, dcp@oz.net. This Unit meeting may be moved to another location, so contact Nancy before you attend.

The **East Pierce** Unit will invite legislators from east Pierce County to talk about the current legislative session and answer questions of people attending the meeting. The topic Contact is Ellen Zulauf, eazul@comcast.net.

At the **Gig Harbor** Unit meeting the topic is Community Planning for Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula. The topic contact is Lucinda Wingard, wingardjl@comcast.net.

Next Month: April—LWVT-PC Mental Health Study

The LWVT-PC Mental Health Study Committee has been working hard to complete a study on accessing mental health care in Pierce County. In April, the committee will give us an interim report on their work and will encourage us to ask questions on this important topic which will help the committee complete their study. We will have consensus meetings on this topic at a later date. See article on pages 1 & 2.

Last Month: February—WA State Budget and Consequences of the McCleary Decision

At our February Unit meetings, we received more information on how the WA State Legislature is handling the task of funding K-12 education, as the WA Supreme Court has directed in the McCleary Decision. Other needs of the state like mental health, early learning expansion, higher education, and many others have been cut over the past several years and these cuts leave the State’s most vulnerable without the resources they need to live safe and healthy lives. See article page 6.

Thanks to our generous donors since the last Voter:

Terri Baker	Jean Buhaly	Susan Eidenschink	Bea Elder
Jean Gillmer	Linda Hanson	Liz Lathrop	Lyz Kurnitz-Thurlow & John Thurlow
Cynthia Lorch	Patricia Mail	Dorothy McBride	Margaret Michaud
Cecile Montgomery	Aaron Pointer	Dorothy Spadoni	Cynthia Stewart
Russell Wise	Judy Wood		

Welcome to our new members:

Linda Hanson Marty Webb

**Consider making a monthly contribution to the League
It's Easy!**

Looking for a method to make an affordable but larger contribution to the League? Just set up a monthly "account" in your checking account Bill Pay system. All you need is the League's address and phone number.

- For "account number" , call it "contribution".
- The payee, of course, is "League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County".
- The address is:
League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County
702 Broadway, Suite 105
Tacoma, WA 98402
- And the phone number is: (253) 272-1495



Join the Tacoma—Pierce County League of Women Voters !

The League of Women Voters of Tacoma – Pierce County invites you to join us!
Any citizen of voting age, male or female 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 \$60 (for two members of a household - \$90). Student membership is \$30. If you are not a citizen and/or 18 years of age, you may become an Associate Member for \$30. 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, and they are tax deductible) and/ or the General Fund are welcome.

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Comments: _____

Mail to: League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County
702 Broadway, Suite #105 / Tacoma, WA 98402-3710

LWVT-PC Calendar March—June 2015

<p>March 6-12 See Grand Cinema listings for dates and times</p>	<p>Grand Cinema week showing of <i>She's Beautiful When She's Angry</i>.</p>	<p>April 8 3:00—5:00 pm</p>	<p>LWVT-PC Board Meeting 702 Broadway, Tacoma</p>
<p>March 7 9:00 am—Noon</p>	<p>Restore the American Dream First United Methodist Church 621 Tacoma Ave. S., Tacoma</p>	<p>April 9 1:00 – 3:00 pm</p>	<p>Tacoma Unit Meeting LWVT-PC Mental Health Study</p>
<p>March 11 3:00—5:00 pm</p>	<p>LWVT-PC Board Meeting 702 Broadway, Tacoma</p>	<p>April 10 10:00 am – noon</p>	<p>Lakewood & Neighbors Unit Meeting LWVT-PC Mental Health Study</p>
<p>March 11 4:00—6:00 pm</p>	<p>Affordable Housing Consortium Panel on Housing Bay Terrace Multipurpose Room 2550 G St., Tacoma</p>	<p>April 11 10:00 am – noon</p>	<p>East Pierce Unit Meeting LWVT-PC Mental Health Study</p>
<p>March 12 1:00 – 3:00 pm</p>	<p>Tacoma Unit Meeting Healthy Children</p>	<p>April 11 2:00 – 4:00 pm</p>	<p>Gig Harbor-Key Peninsula Unit Meeting LWVT-PC Mental Health Study</p>
<p>March 13 10:00 am – noon</p>	<p>Lakewood & Neighbors Unit Meeting JBLM & Surrounding Communities (Location may change)</p>	<p>April 20</p>	<p>Deadline for May Voter articles</p>
<p>March 14 Times to be announced</p>	<p>Town Hall Meetings with Legislators Watch for newsletters from your Legislators for times and locations</p>	<p>May 8 10:00 am – noon</p>	<p>Lakewood & Neighbors Unit Meeting Citizens United Decision— LWVWA Tool Kit for Action</p>
<p>March 14 10:00 am – noon</p>	<p>East Pierce Unit Meeting Local Legislators Update on Legislative Session</p>	<p>May 9 10:00 am – noon</p>	<p>East Pierce Unit Meeting Citizens United Decision— LWVWA Tool Kit for Action</p>
<p>March 14 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm</p>	<p>Gig Harbor-Key Peninsula Unit Meeting Community Planning</p>	<p>May 9 2:00 – 4:00 pm</p>	<p>Gig Harbor-Key Peninsula Unit Meeting, Citizens United Decision— LWVWA Tool Kit for Action</p>
<p>March 17 7:00—8:30 pm</p>	<p>Cultural Grooming: Uncovering Vulnerabilities to Trafficking Anderson University Center, (corner of 122nd St S and Park Ave S), PLU</p>	<p>May 13 3:00—5:00 pm</p>	<p>LWVT-PC Board Meeting 702 Broadway, Tacoma</p>
<p>March 20</p>	<p>Deadline for April Voter articles</p>	<p>May 14 1:00 – 3:00 pm</p>	<p>Tacoma Unit Meeting, Citizens United Decision— LWVWA Tool Kit</p>
<p>March 31 9:00 am—3:00 pm</p>	<p>Project Homeless Connect Washington Fair Grounds 110 9th Ave SW, Puyallup</p>	<p>June 12-14</p>	<p>LWVWA Convention Holiday Inn, Yakima WA</p>
		<p>June 20</p>	<p>LWVT-PC Annual Meeting! Time/place to be announced.</p>
		<p>June 24</p>	<p>Deadline for Summer Voter articles</p>

League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County
702 Broadway, Suite 105
Tacoma, WA 98402



Phone: (253) 272-1495 Email: lwvtacomapierce@gmail.com Web: www.lwvwa.org/

What to do with Old Medications

The November Unit meetings provided a terrific amount of information from Marianne Seifert and her colleagues about environmental problems. One problem has been what to do with old, expired, or unwanted medications. We used to throw them out. Then they told us to flush them. Then, they said, "Wait - it's all getting into the water; STOP!" So, where to take them?

Many, but not all police stations have drop-off sites. Tacoma's North End Substation is one. (Call first - 253-573-2508 to make sure someone is there.) Fife police is another. To find other sites, go to www.takebackyourmeds.org, or, through the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department, there is a Medicine Return Program page at <http://www.tpchd.org/environment/waste-management/medicine-return-program/>

Drop sites are listed at <http://www.tpchd.org/environment/waste-management/medicine-return-program/drop->

Voter Production & Distribution Volunteers

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