

Features

PRESCHOOL FOR ALL - by Nancy Bagley

Preschool for All is the goal of a resolution passed unanimously by the Seattle City Council September 23, 2013. The resolution begins the process of creating a voluntary, high quality preschool program for three and four year olds that is accessible and affordable for all families living in Seattle.

The City Council Government and Finance Committee, chaired by Councilmember Tim Burgess, has led the analysis and planning efforts over the past several months that led to the adoption of this bold and ambitious goal of Preschool for All. The committee reviewed research and met with experts in the field of early learning. What they learned is that high quality preschool can have long lasting academic and emotional development benefits for children from a variety of socio-economic backgrounds. Recent research supports the benefits of preschool for all children, rather than programs that target only low-income families. More information on the resolution, the plans, and the research can be found at the Preschool for all Website: <http://www.seattle.gov/council/issues/PreschoolforAll/default.html>

The League of Women Voters has studied early childhood education at the national, state, and local level and has reached agreement on the need for equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12. The LWV of Seattle/King County “supports the use of public funds for programs that meet the cognitive, physical and social needs of children from birth through age eight; that encourage parent education and involvement; and that provide health and human services to these children and their families. The goal of early childhood programs is to provide all children in our community with quality programs, using sliding scale fees, where appropriate...” We enthusiastically support the

goals of the Preschool for All Resolution, and we plan to follow closely its implementation over the course of the next few months.

Councilmember Tim Burgess will meet with the Education Committee Thursday, December 5 at 1:30 p.m. to present and discuss Preschool for All. (Please note that this date and time are a change from our usual fourth Thursday meeting schedule.) We encourage all interested League members to attend the meeting.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT - by Janet Winans

Because the 2013 legislative session was so critical to the ongoing process to plan and meet state transportation needs, the agenda for our 2013-14 Puget Sound Regional League Transportation Committee is to learn how to engage the resources of the League more effectively in the 2014 legislative session. Of course, any lobbying of the legislature is the role of the League of Women Voters of Washington (LWVWA), not local leagues. We intend to be the best partners that we can be to Cynthia Stewart, the transportation portfolio chair, and the rest of the LWVWA lobbying team. However, the Seattle-King County League has many members who may contact their legislator. Our transportation committee will be a resource to you, as well as Leagues in Kitsap, Snohomish and Pierce Counties, the region of our committee.

We began our learning process in September when members of our committee attended the “Listening Tour” that Senators Curtis King and Tracey Eide, co-chairs of the Senate Transportation Committee, held in Bellevue on September 19. The Senators committed to the tour because

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Ocean Acidification: It isn't Good News — and It's Coming to a Neighborhood Near You.

by R.A. Brown, Geophysicist, UW Atmospheric Science Professor emeritus

The League of Women Voters studies worldwide problems to help the public make decisions that make Democracy work. These include global warming, global sea level rise, ocean acidification, atmospheric pollution (particularly polluting energy), overpopulation, lack of inexpensive universal education, and skewed wealth distribution. What is the common thread for all these topics? What is most important? Do they affect you?

There is a large mixture of causes and effects. The major effects, global warming, **ocean acidification** and sea level rise, are often related to **climate change**. They share a common cause — atmospheric pollution in the form of increasing carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuel. These have the potential of being catastrophic for Homo sapiens.

The other topics deal mainly with causes. First there is overpopulation of our species. Second, there is the dichotomy in our politics that threatens our economy and our culture and exposes a fatal flaw in our democracy — the skewed wealth distribution — which makes it difficult to correct the pollution problem. This results in the third problem: the need for renewable energy to replace fossil fuel energy, which is a source of CO₂. Finally, there is the loss of the only successful remedy to these problems, inexpensive universal education.

My geophysics colleagues who are oceanographers have been telling me for some time that

it is the oceans where climate change is going to be seen first and foremost. Recent reports in science magazines and in a series of articles in the *Seattle Times* have focused on ocean acidification. There is evidence of its already serious appearance in the northwest waters of the Georgia Strait, Puget Sound, and the Strait of Juan de Fuca, collectively called the Salish Sea.

Thus the November 9th luncheon “hot” topic talk is “The Other Side of Carbon Emissions: Ocean Acidification and the Future of the Salish Sea.” It will be presented by Prof. Terrie Klinger, Barer Professor of Sustainability Science, UW School of Marine and Environmental Affairs and Co-Director of the UW Center on Ocean Acidification.

Professor Klinger is a member of the Washington State Ocean Acidification Blue Ribbon Panel, which was convened by Gov. Gregoire in February 2012. The panel summarized the current state of scientific knowledge of ocean acidification pertinent to Washington and produced a comprehensive set of recommendations. On November 27, 2012, in response to the panel’s recommendations, Gov. Gregoire issued Executive

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Join Us!

Saturday, November 9

*The Other Side of Carbon Emissions:
Ocean Acidification and the Salish Sea*

Luncheon Fundraiser

Details on back cover

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