

MUNINEWS

March 2010: Volume 100, Issue 1



Celebrate the League's Centennial by Getting Involved

The centennial anniversary marks an exciting year for the League. We are celebrating 100 years of contributions to better government at our Centennial Celebration Dinner on March 18th, but we're also hard at work monitoring local policy issues and planning our next round of candidate evaluations.

If you're looking for opportunities to engage in local politics, the League is the place for you! If you're interested in delving into public policy, the League is a great place for volunteers to contribute their knowledge and research to our **Transportation, Port of Seattle** and **Ballot Issues Committees**.



If you're interested in the election side of politics, the 2010 cycle of the League's nationally unique Candidate Evaluation Program is just around the corner. As a **Candidate Investigator**, you'll have the opportunity to work with a committee to rate local candidates on their fitness for office—not on their political platforms. The League's criteria are: knowledge, effectiveness, character and involvement. This year, 80 to 90 citizens will volunteer on candidate evaluation committees around the county to provide non-partisan ratings that voters rely on to make informed decisions.

For more information on the League's committees or candidate evaluation program, call our office: 206-622-8333 or email us: admin@munileague.org.

If so, let us know via phone 206-622-8333 or email admin@munileague.org.

Meet the 2010 Civic Awardees on p. 3

Buy your ticket today for the League's Centennial Celebration Dinner on March 18th online or by phone at 206-622-8333.

League Welcomes New Board Members

The League kicked off its 100th year by welcoming a host of new members to the board of trustees. We are thrilled to have their enthusiasm, knowledge and skills as the League celebrates its Centennial anniversary and plans for its next 100 years. We would also like to thank those who moved on from the board in 2009. We are thankful for their significant contributions to the League's work and legacy.

Welcome to new League Board Members!

Alex Bolton	Andrew Greene	Vanessa Lund	Adam Walters
Steve DiJulio	Ryan Harkins	Matthew Stubbs	Greg Wong
Joel Emans	Judy Jenkins	Laraine Volkman	

Thank you to outgoing League Board Members!

Brad Meacham	Kristin Peterson	Todd Slind	Paul Whyatt
Peter Nickerson	Ramsey Ramerman	Vicki Wallen	Kendee Yamaguchi

View from the Chair

Here at the League we are immersed in plans for celebrating our 100th birthday at our big dinner event on March 18th. We are producing a video that will be shown at the dinner, highlighting some of the key events of our first century. We are also tweeting 100 milestones and working on a history manuscript. Here are a few nuggets from the Municipal League's first 100 years:

Early League involvement on transportation issues. In 1919 the League supports bonds for a new Montlake Bridge but opposes bonds for a West Waterway bridge; it endorses Sand Point as the site of an airport for Seattle. In 1928 the League makes the first proposal for tax subsidies for public transit which at the time is funded exclusively through fare revenues.

First regional government. The seed is planted in a speech by a young attorney named James R. Ellis, who calls in 1953 for a "metropolitan government" for greater Seattle. The proposal is formally embraced by the League in its 1955 report "Metropolitan Seattle--The Shape We're In." The League is instrumental in the eventual creation of Metro for regional transit and wastewater management.

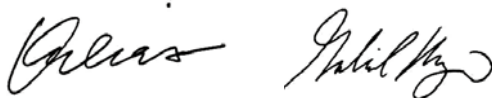
West Seattle Bridge. After years of discussion, Seattle in the 1970s develops a plan to replace the old (1930) drawbridge with a high-rise bridge to allow expanded Port use of the Duwamish waterway. In 1975, after the low bid for the \$37 million project came in at almost \$60 million, the League undertakes a study of what went wrong. The League's findings spur a grand jury investigation that culminates in the conviction of the city engineer and two powerful state legislators for corruption.

Good government and civic issues. In 1972 the League is instrumental in passing Initiative 276 creating the nation's first public disclosure law. In the 1950s and 60s, it takes a leading role in advocating for a county home rule charter. In the 1970s and 80s, the League fights to end school segregation, advocates for regional water management, draws attention to the problem of the homeless mentally ill, and plays a leadership role to address education funding reform.

Into the future. Most recently, the League has played a vital ongoing role in monitoring local government entities, such as City Light, the Port of Seattle, and Metro Transit, and our efforts are resulting in important policy improvements. We continue to keep a close watch on the actions of local government to assure that it is open and accountable to the public.

We are very proud of the League's legacy and contributions to the civic life of our region. In a recent interview, former Seattle Mayor Norm Rice stated, "If we didn't have the Municipal League today, we'd have to create it." We agree with the Mayor and hope you do too.

Yours, historically,



Kathy Elias & Gabe Meyer
Co-Chairs, Municipal League Board of Trustees



Kathy Elias



Gabe Meyer

League Announces Centennial Civic Awardees

The League is thrilled to announce its 2010 Civic Awardees, who will be honored at the League's Centennial Celebration Dinner on March 18th. Civic Awards have been presented annually since 1960. In honor of its anniversary, the League is giving awards in the original three categories, plus the Doug Mason Young Leaders Award, which honors the achievements of an individual 35 or under who is an emerging leader in King County.

Citizen of the Year: Jan Levy, Leadership Tomorrow

Jan is a Seattle native who lived in a number of other cities before returning home to Seattle in 1980. Jan is a graduate of Leadership Tomorrow and has served as Executive Director for 20 years. Her diverse background includes professional dance, higher education administration, and, prior to joining Leadership Tomorrow, eight years at Washington Mutual Bank, where she held positions as Assistant to the Chairman and CEO, Officer and Manager of Student Loans, and Asst. Vice President for Lines of Credit.

Jan, a self-proclaimed "leadership junkie," has a deep commitment to community leadership development. She served on the Board of the Community Leadership Association (an international association of community leadership programs) for nine years, and completed her term as the Immediate Past Chair of the Board in 1999. She is also a former member and vice-chair of the board of the Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership. Jan has assisted with the formation of a number of other community leadership programs in the Northwest, including Leadership Vancouver, B.C., Leadership Victoria, B.C., Leadership Kitsap, Leadership Thurston County, Leadership Skagit and Leadership Snohomish County.

Organization of the Year: Futurewise

Futurewise, formerly 1000 Friends of Washington, is a statewide public interest group working to promote healthy communities and cities while protecting farmland, forests and shorelines today and for future generations.

They are the only statewide group in Washington working to ensure that local governments manage growth responsibly. Founded in 1990, Futurewise has established an impressive track record on growth management issues over the past 20 years as the main source of expertise and support for numerous citizens and groups working to manage growth in their own communities.

The core of Futurewise's work surrounds building healthy, attractive communities, improving transportation choices and saving open spaces and natural places. Some recent accomplishments include working with the City of Bellevue to approve adding over five hundred units of housing along a key transit corridor, defending funding for light rail and other transit investments and working to refocus from freeway expansions to critical maintenance projects.

Public Official of the Year: Jeanne Burbidge, Federal Way City Council

Federal Way City Council Member Jeanne Burbidge has been in public office since 1997. She served a term as Mayor of the city in 2002-2003. Currently, she chairs the Parks, Recreation, Human Services and Public Safety Committee and serves on the Finance, Economic Development and Regional Affairs Committee.

She has long been a regional leader on transportation, having served on numerous boards including Puget Sound Regional Council Transportation Policy Board and King County Regional Transit Committee. She recently completed terms as Chair of the Transportation Improvement Board for Washington State (TIB) and the South County Area Transportation Board. Jeanne is also active with the National League of Cities, and serves on the Ecosystem Board for the Puget Sound Partnership.

Jeanne is a former small business owner, counselor, probation officer and community college instructor. She currently serves as guardian for severely disabled adults.

Jeanne Burbidge was rated Outstanding by the Municipal League in 2005 and 2009.

Doug Mason Award (under 35): Wendy Cho Ripp

Wendy Cho Ripp was born an army brat at Fort Lewis, graduated from Garfield High School and promptly left to study abroad in Seoul, Beijing, and London. Wendy earned her degree in Chinese and Politics at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

Upon returning to Seattle, Wendy began working as the Development Director for the Washington Bus, an innovative organization that involves young people in civic engagement and hands-on democracy. Wendy led fundraising efforts, coordinated electoral field plans, supported 15 political campaigns statewide and managed outreach to allies and young people.

In addition to the Bus, Wendy worked part-time with Asian Counseling and Referral Services as a Youth Counselor for the agency's Teen Peer Advocate Program. In this role, Wendy facilitated youth sessions on dating violence, sexism and cultivating healthy relationships.

Wendy currently serves as a Legislative Assistant to Seattle City Councilmember Sally Bagshaw. She manages constituent relations and outreach and is the lead on issues in two committees: Human Services, Housing, Health and Culture and Public Safety and Education.

Municipal League of King County

810 Third Ave, Suite 224
Seattle, WA 98104

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Seattle, WA
Permit No. 5025

In this issue:

- League Volunteer Opportunities
- Welcome to New Board Members
- Message from Board Co-Chairs
- Centennial Civic Awardees



Municipal League Board Members

Alex Bolton	Andrew Greene	Vanessa Lund	Adam Walters
Deryl Brown-Archie	Ryan Harkins	Gabe Meyer	Rodney Wendt
Steve DiJulio	Judy Jenkins	Mike Repass	Nick Williamson
Kathy Elias	Chris Johnson	Matthew Stubbs	Greg Wong
Joel Emans	Lauren Kuester	Nick Verwolf	
Mary Gates	Cynara Lilly	Laraine Volkman	

Municipal League Foundation Board Members

Bruce Carter	Kathy Elias	Steve Marshall
Sandra Driscoll	Robert Klein	Gabe Meyer

810 Third Ave, Suite 224
Seattle, WA 98104

206-622-8333 phone
425-671-0506 fax
admin@munileague.org
www.munileague.org

About the Municipal League

The Municipal League of King County is a nonpartisan volunteer organization that has worked to ensure good government that is open, effective and accountable since 1910. The Municipal League is dedicated to improving the caliber of public officials and the quality of public decisions.

For more information see www.munileague.org.