



INVOLVEMENT TAKES EFFORT, PERSISTENCE

Doreen Cato, First Place

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the
Involvement
issue

How did you get started in community involvement?

I had wonderful mentors who encouraged me to get involved in the community. My involvement started while I was employed by Washington Mutual Bank. Even in the 1980s, Washington Mutual fostered a strong commitment to employee volunteerism.

The bank's community relations department where I worked was fully engaged with the local community, and they asked me to serve on Bellevue Community College's Occupational Advisory Board. Then in 1988, I was selected to join the 1988 class of Leadership Tomorrow. That really opened the door for me to participate more widely in civic involvement.

Why do you think some people get involved with different causes, and others don't?

I know those who worked side by side with me in the trenches were tired of waiting for change to happen. We all thought that if we wanted change to happen faster, it would require more effort on our part.

What was your single most important public involvement experience?

Campaigning for a Bellevue City Council seat in 1995 was the hardest and most meaningful of all the community commitments I had ever attempted. I decided to run because issues like traffic, regional growth, and the lack of teen group homes concerned me. I received 41.6% of the vote and lost the campaign, but the experience prepared me to face complex challenges and enlightened me about other critical regional issue such as water quality.

What is the most pressing civic challenge facing our region?

I believe that our greatest challenge is an intergenerational gap in leadership. Once the baby boomers hang up their swords, who will carry on the fight for social, environmental and economic justice? Why do I believe this gap exists? The last three general, off-year elections for council seats, particularly in the suburban areas, lacked viable candidates.

What advice would you offer to people seeking to make a difference in their communities?

The greatest gift we can give is our time. Finding one's passion is key to making a sustainable difference in civic life. It's time for the baby boomers to build the bridges in the community for the next generations to cross. We still have time to make sure that bridge is secure and to mentor and coach those who will continue our work.



Doreen Cato is Executive Director of First Place, an agency that provides academic instruction for grades K-7, as well as therapy and counseling for families and children in transition. With an M.A. in Applied Behavioral Sciences from Leadership Institute of Seattle/City University, Doreen has a diverse background in community and organizational development, including nonprofit management, strategic fund development and public policy. Doreen has received numerous awards and recognitions for her accomplishments, but she believes that her greatest accomplishments are her children Christina and Barron.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE MUNICIPAL LEAGUE CHAIR

Putnam Barber

For the past several years, loyal Municipal League volunteers and trustees have managed our programs and office activities in the absence of regular, paid staff. I am pleased to announce that this changed in May. The board welcomed Rachel Jackson to be our continuing office staff. Rachel is a recent graduate of Seattle University and works the half-time at Gilda's Club, a place of participation, education, hope and friendship for people with cancer. She will add welcomed continuity and consistency to the functioning of the League. Welcome, Rachel!

No community could hope to function effectively without the involvement of people who add quality and value to everyone's lives, whether they are volunteers or employees. The recipients of the Municipal League's 45th annual Civic Awards are vital examples of those who extend themselves in this way. They receive special recognition because of their exceptional role in the effective functioning of local government and public service. The League thanks and salutes them.

Later this season another volunteer group will spend fascinating summer evenings talking with candidates for legislative and judicial office in King County. They will consider the candidates' record of community involvement, evidence of their effectiveness in reaching community goals, fitness for the offices they seek, and knowledge of the challenges facing our communities. The result will be published just before the primary election in the League's 2004 *Candidate Evaluation Report*.

Recruitment for the Candidate Evaluation Committees – South, North and East, Central and Judicial – is underway now. This direct involvement in the political process is guaranteed to change your view of the people who seek to be involved as local officials, mostly for the better! Please consider serving as a candidate evaluation committee member and encouraging others to sign up also, whether or not they are Muni League members. There's more information at the website (<http://www.munileague.org>) or by calling our office at 206-622-8333. Learn how you can serve on the committee, and introduce yourself to Rachel at the same time.

MEXICO INCREASES PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Paul Demitriades



In April, Trustees Beth Arman and Paul Demitriades met with Ms. Elena Patricia Wolf Villareal, Director de Coordinacion y Informacion of the Federal Commission of Access to Public Information (IFAI). Her visit was sponsored by the US State Department for the purpose of examining public access to government information. She was hosted locally by Charles Vander Aarde, Deputy Director of the World Affairs Council.

In a precedent-setting move two years ago, the Mexican federal government adopted the *Federal Law for Transparency for Access to Information*, designed to provide citizens transparent access to information. The IFAI was established in the federal executive branch and is responsible for ensuring application of the law, which helps Mexican citizens access public information through the Internet. The law seems to be working in its first six months of operation.

Ms. Wolf Villareal was interested in the Municipal League's candidate and issues rating process. The group also discussed the U.S. Freedom of Information Act; the Washington state open meetings/open Records Acts; and Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

The IFAI is creating mechanisms to foster transparency and accountability in Mexico. Since 2002, thirteen of the 32 Mexican states have passed "freedom of information" acts.



The League is thrilled to have Rachel Jackson in our office.



"No community could hope to function effectively without the involvement of people who add quality and value to everyone's lives..."

Do you have a story idea for a future edition of **muninews**? Want to comment on an article you read in this issue? Send your comments and suggestions to muni@munileague.org.

GREAT TURNOUT FOR MUNICIPAL LEAGUE'S CIVIC AWARDS LUNCHEON

Mark Troxel



Trustee Mark Troxel presents the Warren Magnuson Memorial Award to Lois North as Chair Putnam Barber looks on.

On May 27, the League presented its 45th Annual Civic Awards. Hundreds of League members and friends of good government turned out for our luncheon to honor the awardees in the Grand Ballroom of the Westin Hotel in Downtown Seattle. Whether working closely with others, or working alone from a solitary vision, the following individuals and organizations have taken a stand for improving the future of King County, our region, and the quality of our government.

We also recognized Ian Wallace of Lake Washington High School, whose essay on self-improvement and community service, *Laying a Brick*, earned him our 2004 Civic Scholar prize, sponsored by the SAFECO Corporation.

David Horsey, Pulitzer Prize-winning political cartoonist of the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, shared his keen observations – and some of his drawings, of course – of local political life and the people who make it interesting.

Civic Awards were initiated by the League in 1960 to focus attention on the often unappreciated efforts by public officials, private citizens, and organizations to improve government. The awards are also intended to inspire other public officials and citizens to become more involved in building healthy civic communities. To look back over the Civic Award honorees since 1960 is to see the individuals and organizations behind the milestones, the challenges, and the struggles that have shaped our region's history.

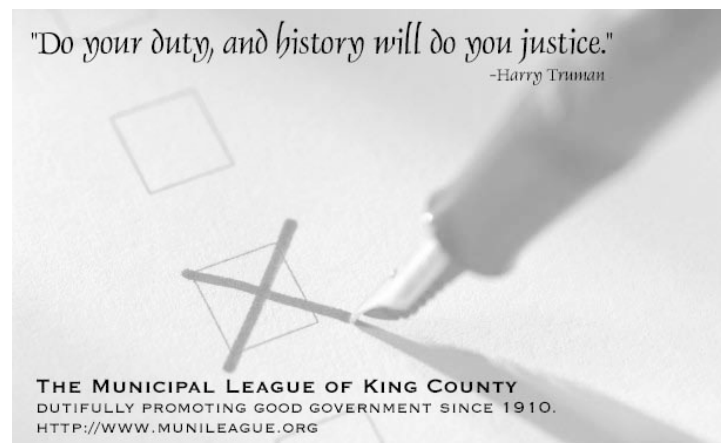
MUNICIPAL LEAGUE OF KING COUNTY 2004 CIVIC AWARD WINNERS

- ◆ CITIZEN OF THE YEAR: Beverly Harris, author and activist, blackboxvoting.org.
- ◆ PUBLIC OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR: Martha Choe, former Director, Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development.
- ◆ PUBLIC EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR: Richard Yukubousky, Executive Director, Municipal Research & Services Center of WA.
- ◆ PUBLIC EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR: Ed Crawford, Kent Police Chief.
- ◆ BUSINESS OF THE YEAR: U.S. Bank Corporation, Puget Sound Region.
- ◆ ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR: King County Bar Association and Foundation.
- ◆ GOVERNMENTAL NEWS REPORTING: Robert Mak, KING 5 News.
- ◆ JAMES R. ELLIS REGIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD: Gene Duvernoy, President of Cascade Land Conservancy.
- ◆ WARREN MAGNUSON MEMORIAL AWARD: Lois North, citizen activist and former King County Councilmember, State Senator, Legislator and Freeholder.

FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

First, to all of those who have joined the Muni League in the past three months, welcome to your first copy of the Muni News. And welcome to the only organization that represents the citizens of King County in a multi-partisan approach to issues and candidates. Inside this newsletter is a brochure and a return envelope for you to pass on to a friend, a family member, a coworker, or a neighbor so that they can take part in the important work of the League. Our members are our greatest recruiters, and we thank you for sharing the work of the League with other King County citizens.

—Norma Jean Hanson, Committee Chair



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CEC VOTERS' GUIDE AT A GROCERY STORE NEAR YOU

Todd Slind

In a first for the Municipal League's Candidate Evaluation program, Safeway Stores have agreed to distribute the voters' guides for the 2004 election season. Trustee Bob Klein negotiated the arrangement with Darcy Goodman and Cherie Myers of Safeway's Public Affairs office.

Safeway will take responsibility for distributing our voters' guides to each of its more than 40 King County stores. Up to 200 guides per store will be distributed. We will make one delivery in early September and another delivery a week before the November election. This will help the League expand its reach to the voters of King County, many of whom may be using our voters' guide for the first time. Thank you, Safeway!



Look for CEC Voters' Guides at your local Safeway checkstand this election season.



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ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION...

Muni News is published by the Municipal League Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that works in conjunction with the Municipal League of King County to provide King County voters and citizens with the resources they need to make informed decisions about civic issues.

The Municipal League is nonpartisan and welcomes all points of view. If you have any question or would like information on joining the Municipal League, call 206-622-8333 or send an e-mail to muni@munileague.org.