

MUNI NEWS

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Website: www.munileague.org

June 2001

Recognizing Leadership

League Chairman, Tom Albro

The Civic Awards Luncheon honors a handful of people and organizations for their outstanding leadership. They have dedicated their efforts to serving neighbors, communities, constituents, employees and customers. In doing so, they have become leaders. Each has significantly contributed to the well being of all of us. It is important that, as we look to solve the daunting challenges that face our region, we celebrate those who have so ably served and endeavored to show the way. They are an example and an inspiration.

There is never a substitute for leadership. No community or organization can thrive without it. For whatever reason, there are only a precious few who are willing to roll up their sleeves, get to work, and take the risks necessary to lead. Some say that we have a transportation crisis...or a funding crisis of one sort or another...or an environmental crisis. In fact, we have all of these and others. The most pressing problem, however, is a shortage of leaders. This want for leadership makes every other problem more difficult or even impossible to solve.

So it is the Municipal League's distinct honor to recognize the stand out leaders among us. Each of these remarkable people and organizations has taken significant risks for what they believe in. They have all labored long and tirelessly in the fields of government, charity and commerce. In doing so, they have unmistakably made life better here.

Now here is an opportunity for you to lead. We are now putting together our Candidate Evaluation Committees for this year's candidate rating effort. We need volunteers from all parts of the county to make this effort successful. No doubt, it is a big commitment to serve on a CEC committee, but who ever said that being a leader was easy. Come on, join us.

Tom

Help run the Muni League: Nominations for board needed

At the end of this year there will be several positions opening on the Municipal League's Board of Trustees. If you or someone you know is interested in serving, let us know. Members vote for trustees annually in the fall. New trustees are invited to the end-of-year Holiday Party and will begin their three year term in January 2002 with an orientation.

Trustees set League policies and address the operation of the organization at monthly meetings (except for August) and are expected to serve on committees – an additional two or three meetings each month. During the Candidate Evaluation process, board members have the opportunity to observe the panels interviewing candidates and to make the final decision on the candidate ratings.

The board strives to mirror the community at large with a balance between "liberals" and "conservatives", women and men, young and old. To succeed we need a representative board that includes people of color, geographic representation from across King County and individuals who reflect major businesses, professions and viewpoints in our region.

The benefits

Service on the Municipal League board is a free education in local and state government. You'll have the opportunity to help set the agenda for the League, meet elected officials, receive public policy briefings from the policy makers and, most importantly, a chance to make a positive contribution to the civic life.

See our web page at www.munileague.org for more information, or call Director Tom Page at (206) 684-9676, or Nominations Committee chair George Scott (206) 524-6060. To apply send your resume to the League at 810 Third Avenue, Ste. 224, Seattle 98104-1614. The deadline is September 20.

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Contributors to this issue: Tom Albro, Lonnie Lusardo, Jocelyn Marchisio, Tom Page, George Scott, and Brian Thomas

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TUESDAY, JULY 3, 2001 8AM-2PM.
WA COUNCIL ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE
SENATORS CONFERENCE, "OPEN MARKETS &
SUPERMARKETS: FOOD IN THE BALANCE"
With Sen. Patty Murray & Sen. Maria Cantwell
AT BELL HARBOR CONFERENCE CENTER. CALL 206-
829-1376 OR 888-491-4043 FOR RESERVATIONS



MONDAY JULY 12 6 - 8:00 P.M.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MUNICIPAL LEAGUE CONFERENCE ROOM
810 THIRD AVENUE, SUITE 230, SEATTLE



MONDAY JULY 19 6 - 8:00 P.M.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
PRESTON, GATES & ELLIS, LLP
701 FIFTH AVENUE, 50TH FLOOR,
CONFERENCE ROOM 9



FRIDAY, JULY 20, 2001 11:30 AM - 1:45 PM
CITYCLUB 20TH ANNIVERSARY GALA
CELEBRATION WITH WARREN BUFFETT,
CHAIRMAN OF BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY, INC.
WESTIN HOTEL, 1900 5TH AVENUE, SEATTLE.
CALL 206-682-7395 FOR RESERVATIONS



TUESDAY JULY 24 8 - 9:30 P.M.
THE EVERGREEN STATE SOCIETY
SPEAKER: JIM DIERS, DIRECTOR, SEATTLE DEPT.
OF NEIGHBORHOODS & MUNI LEAGUE'S 2001
PUBLIC EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR
AT SEATTLE UNIVERSITY'S BELLARMINE HALL
(12TH & COLUMBIA) IN THE 1891 ROOM

Empower Yourself!

*By Brian Thomas, Trustee
Former 5th District Legislator*

I wish I had a dollar for each time someone bemoaned his or her lack of influence in the political process. The media growls about unresponsive legislators and the governor's lack of leadership. Sometimes local officials seem remote and inattentive. Occasional political misdeeds grab headlines. It's little wonder some voters feel disenfranchised and powerless.

Good government takes some commitment and effort. If ignored government at all levels will become ingrown and stale. You can make a difference - a big difference.

Each election year the Municipal League of King County seeks citizens just like you to evaluate candidates for public office. This is an election year for city and county council members, mayors, school districts and a host of other local offices.

You have no doubt seen or heard about the Municipal League's candidate ratings. Committed citizens have been evaluating candidates for over 90 years. While the League does not endorse anyone, its candidate evaluation committees research and interview the candidates to assess each one's knowledge, involvement, effectiveness and character, and assign individual ratings from "outstanding" to "not qualified". These highly respected ratings are widely publicized; voters rely on them - along with other information they receive - to determine how they will vote.

You can be integral part of this process. Candidate evaluation committees are forming in your area now. The committees depend on broad-based participation from community members to provide this service. If you are interested in becoming part of this important effort call the League office, 206-622-8333 or view www.munileague.org for more information.

Good government depends on you.



League Committees at Work:

League Committees are meeting regularly. The committees are a terrific way to play an active role in *your* Municipal League, while learning about the inner workings of local government.

To participate, contact the League office at (206) 622-8333, or e-mail muni@munileague.org for meeting times and locations.

Find updated meeting information in the "Upcoming Events" section of the web page at: www.munileague.org/events.htm.

Seattle Governance: The committee is engaged in a detailed review of Seattle City Light operations. The committee meets in the law offices of Davis Wright Tremaine on the 26th Floor of the Century Square Building, 1504 4th Avenue in downtown Seattle. Call for meeting time.

Chair: Jim Greenfield

King County/Suburban Cities Governance:

What is going on in cities and towns around the county? What issues are important to them? What's their relationship with county government? Contact the League office or visit the web page for information on the next meeting date. *Chair: Deb Dollard*

Initiative Committee: There will be several local and statewide initiatives on the ballot this Fall. Study the pros & cons of the different proposals and recommend the League's stand on the initiatives. Next meeting is on June 28 from 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Muni League Conference Room, 810 Third Avenue, Room 224 in Seattle. *Chair: Jocelyn Marchisio*

Communications Committee:

Do you like to talk? Have the writing bug? We need your help writing articles, editing and publishing the Muni News and spreading the word about the League. Call the office for meeting times and location. *Chair: Lonnie Lusardo*

Advertise in the Muni News

Your business can advertise in the Muni News! Business card to full page ad space is available. Find out how by calling 206-622-8333.



Candidate Evaluation Committee: Your opportunity is now!

The Fall Elections still seem a long time away, but with candidates declaring for office and getting their campaigns underway, it's time to prepare for the annual ritual of rating the candidates.

The 2001 Candidate Evaluation program will see five committees rating candidates in over 70 races across King County. Recruitment for committee members is underway now. The League provides training on researching and interviewing candidates and support for committee members.

Take advantage of this opportunity to see the political process up close. If you or someone you know is interested in participating, call Jennie at the Municipal League office at 206-622-8333 for an application. You can also find more information and an online application at www.munileague.org.



Membership and Fundraising: Do you have Internet Access? Then you can volunteer from home!

We've been provided a promising source of new members for the League, but we need help. A local agency has given us a list of people who are active in government and politics, but many of the addresses are incomplete. The prospects contact information is available at the organization's web site, but we need volunteers to look up the addresses. We need members who can be mailed a packet of 200 envelopes, and look up the address of those listed on their PC. and address the envelopes. (This should take about 4 hours--at your convenience). A new logo and brochure will be available in July to go with a letter of invitation, to be mailed at the end of the month.

These politically active folks are bright prospects for engagement with the League. Call Membership chair George Scott, or leave a message and your address on his voice mail. (206)524-6060 for details on how you can help.

Civic Awards Roundup

More than 400 attendees honored this year's award recipients at the June 8th luncheon. Retiring Metropolitan King County Council member Louise Miller gave the keynote address, calling on Municipal League to increase our outreach to educate people about how local government works and to engage them in the political process.

For 42 years the Municipal League of King County has annually celebrated a select number of community and government leaders. Over the past four decades many individuals and organizations have been honored as exemplars of public service including Jim Ellis, Walt Hundley, Mary Gates, Edward Carlson, and Charles Odegaard, Dave Horsey, and Scott Oki. The organizations have been equally varied: The League of Women Voters, the Seattle Central Area Advisory Group, PONHCO, the Washington Business Roundtable, and KIRO. The 2001 honorees maintain the high standards set by previous award winners.

Citizen of the Year: Assunta Ng, Publisher Northwest Asian Weekly & Seattle Chinese Post

Born in China and raised in Hong Kong, Assunta Ng immigrated to the United States in 1970. Putting herself through college, she graduated from the University of Washington with a B.A. in Journalism and Education in 1974. In 1979 she completed an M.A. in Business Administration and Speech Communications.



Assunta Ng (second from left) and friends at Civic Awards.

Since founding the Northwest Asian Weekly and Seattle Chinese Post on a shoestring in 1982, Assunta Ng has maintained the highest standards of journalism in her coverage of local and regional issues, particularly those affecting Asian communities throughout the Northwest. Beyond providing a voice and a forum for the Asian communities, Ms. Ng has given tirelessly of her time and energy, serving on the boards of many non-profit organizations, and as a volunteer moderator of political forums and debates. In 1994 she founded the Northwest Asian Weekly

Foundation to provide training programs for youth; in 1996 she founded Women of Color Empowered. Through her work as a journalist, entrepreneur and community servant she has created opportunity for others while inspiring, informing and supporting the community.

Public Employee of the Year: Jim Diers, Director, Seattle Department of Neighborhoods

Jim Diers is a 1975 graduate of Grinnell College and moved to Seattle in 1976. He worked for many years as a community organizer, including six years at Group Health, before Mayor Charles Royer appointed him to shape the City of Seattle's Neighborhood Planning and Assistance Program in 1988. He has gained wide respect for shaping a department that is responsive to citizen needs and focused on preserving and strengthening the local character of the city's diverse neighborhoods.

The Department of Neighborhoods manages 55 community gardens through the P-Patch Program and 13 neighborhood-based Little City Halls. Through the \$4 million Neighborhood Matching Fund it supports some 250 neighborhood-based self-help projects every year. The Matching Fund has been recognized by the Ford Foundation and Kennedy School of Government as one of the most innovative local government programs in the United States, and has become an acclaimed international model for community empowerment and involvement. The Department also manages the City's historic preservation program, and a leadership training program; it has worked with cities throughout the United States and around the world to help them replicate many of these programs.

Diers also oversaw the four year Neighborhood Planning process, which involved 20,000 people in the development of 37 neighborhood plans; the Department is now coordinating across agencies and with the communities to implement the plans' approximately 5,000 recommendations for transportation improvements, additional open space and recreation opportunities, neighborhood-specific design guidelines, affordable housing, economic development, public safety, human services, and arts and culture.

Public Official of the Year: Larry Phillips Metropolitan King County Council

Larry Phillips is a Northwest native, graduating from Queen Anne High School in 1969. Phillips began his career in public service as a Legislative Assistant to Senator Henry Jackson from 1977-81, subsequently serving as chief-of-staff to then-King County Executive Randy Revelle. Elected to the State Legislature in 1988, he served two terms representing the 36th District. In 1991 Phillips successfully ran for a
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 position on the King County Council – he was re-elected to his third term in 1999.

For the past decade, Larry Phillips has been a leader in protecting and enhancing the quality of life in King County through his work on growth management and protecting our natural resources. Among his many notable achievements are spearheading the Waterways 2000 program, which has identified and acquired over 1,800 acres of prime salmon habitat for preservation, and his work as chair of the Regional Water Quality Committee, which led to the adoption of the Regional Wastewater Service Plan. The plan provides for construction of a third waste treatment plant, promoting conservation and preserving water quality.

Most recently, he worked to establish the Snoqualmie Preservation Initiative, working with non-profit and private organizations, and local officials to preserve 10,000 acres of King County forestlands, while protecting views of Snoqualmie Falls and maintaining long-term forestry activities in the Snoqualmie Basin.



L to R: County Councilmember Louise Miller, League Director Tom Page, County Councilmember Larry Phillips, King County Executive Rons Sims, and County Council Chair Peter Von Reichbauer in Council Chambers to honor Larry Phillips as Public Official of the Year.

Business of the Year: Washington Mutual

Even as it has grown from a local savings bank to the largest savings institution in the country, Washington Mutual has maintained a strong commitment to giving back to the communities where it does business. One example of this is the company program that allows employees to take four hours of paid release time every month to do volunteer work.

The company also opens its management and computer training programs to local non-profits at free of charge. Washington Mutual has a particular commitment to K-12 education and to supporting affordable housing programs. In addition to its work in the community, WaMu is nationally recognized as one of the best companies to work for, particularly for women, people of color and people with disabilities.

Organization of the Year: Providence Mount Saint Vincent

Established nearly 80 years ago by the Sisters of Providence (Providence Health System), The Mount is now the largest employer in West Seattle. The

organization is a national leader among long-term care facilities who look to its models in resident-directed care, employee retention and resource sharing. Serving more than 400 older adults and others who need help caring for themselves, The Mount also provides an Intergenerational Learning Center serving 125 children between 6 weeks and 5 years old; a transitional medical rehabilitation unit; vocational training; a Wellness Clinic and many other services in the community.

James R. Ellis Regional Leadership Award: Margaret Pageler, Seattle City Council

Although her father's family came to Seattle almost a century ago, Margaret Pageler was born and raised in China and Taiwan where her parents were missionaries. A lawyer by profession Pageler has a

J.D. from the University of Chicago. Margaret began her political career as a school board member in suburban Illinois. Soon after her arrival in Seattle, she served as president of Allied Arts, and was a founder of Vision Seattle, a neighborhood group active in the 80's. First elected to the Seattle City Council in

1991, she was re-elected for a third term in November 1999. In January 2000 Margaret was

elected by her colleagues to be Council President.

As Seattle City Council President and as chair of the Council's Legislative & Intergovernmental Affairs Committee, Margaret Pageler has worked to coordinate the efforts of the Seattle City Council with other regional governments. She was instrumental in bringing together the cities and the county to form and fund Watershed Resource Inventory (WRIA) forums in King County. "Margaret is a voice of great pragmatism, who brings the conversation back to what can actually be accomplished instead of building castles in the air.", said Deb Eddy, Executive Director of the Suburban Cities Association. Pageler and key suburban city leaders developed an agreement binding all of the cities to pay for WRIA planning, including habitat preservation for endangered Chinook salmon.

Warren G. Magnuson Award: Richard Thompson

This award is given to the individual who, while serving in a public office outside of local government, has made a significant contribution to the enhancement of local government.

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Dick Thompson exemplifies the spirit of public service which the Municipal League seeks to recognize with this award. In the past 20 years he has served as director of the Department of Community Development and later as Secretary of the Department of Social and Health Services in the Gardner Administration; under Governor Locke, Thompson served as Director of the Office of Financial Management. Prior to serving in the Locke Administration, he served four years as president of United Way of King County. In all of his activities, Dick Thompson has embodied the highest standards of integrity, hard work public service.

**Doug Mason Memorial Award:
LaiLani Ovalles & Norma Straw, Co-Directors
Metrocenter YMCA Young Adult Civic Connector Initiative**

The Doug Mason Memorial Award is given to a person age 35 or under, who during the previous year made a special contribution to the civic life of King County.

This year's award recognizes the significant accomplishments of LaiLani Ovalles and Norma Straw at in creating and developing programs to promote civic engagement and leadership among young adults through the Metrocenter. Funded by a grant from the Pew Charitable Trusts, Metrocenter is one of six pilot

sites in the nation established to increase and strengthen civic involvement among young adults aged 18 – 29 years old.

They achieved a notable accomplishment in April 2001 with the passage of an ordinance by the Seattle City Council mandating youth representation on a number of key city boards and commissions, including the Human Rights Commission and the Technology Advisory Board.

LaiLani Ovalles graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in Speech Communication. She has worked as an AmeriCorps youth volunteer and as a Service Learning and Youth Involvement Specialist at the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and she has facilitated Leadership Non-violence workshops for the Institute for Community Leadership.

Norma Straw received a B.A. in Political Economy at Evergreen State College. Before coming to the Metrocenter, she was a Executive Director of The Foundry, the non-profit arm of the Speakeasy Café and also worked as a Youth Involvement and Leadership Specialist for the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. She is a former board member of the national Points of Light Foundation and also served as a trustee for Youth On Boards.

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