

# MUNINEWS



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## 2006 CIVIC AWARDS EVENT A SUCCESS



In 2006, the Municipal League continues the tradition that was started in 1960 by recognizing often unappreciated efforts by public officials, private citizens, and organizations who have worked to improve local government. The Civic Awards are also intended to inspire other public officials and citizens to become more involved in building healthy civic communities.

Each year the League solicits nominations from our members and the community at large. All of the nominees are evaluated by the League's nominations committee, which then makes a recommendation on each award for approval by the board.

To look back over the civic award honorees since 1960 is to see the individuals and organizations behind the milestones, the challenges, and the ongoing struggles that have shaped our region's history. Honorees represent a diverse array of the kinds of civic and community leadership that the League - and our society - treasures.



Steve Marshall, Chair of the Municipal League is the MC, as Dick Spady presents the Dick's Drive-In sponsored Civic Scholar award to Jasmine Sabeti of Newport High School, Bellevue.

### Thank you for making the 2006 Civic Awards a huge success!

The 2006 Civic Awards event was a big success for The Municipal League of King County and The Municipal League Foundation. We raised over \$15,000 in support of our activities to strengthen the relationships of an active citizenry to responsive governments. The reception room at the Space Needle was filled with nearly 250 guests to honor the top civic citizens, organizations, and officials of the past year as the city lights sparkled below.

Civic award winner and KUOW's Weekday moderator, Steve Scher, noted the audience was filled with members who each day ask the question, "Why not?" It is to meet that challenge of proposing new solutions and new dialogues, that we will use each dollar raised to benefit our Candidate Evaluations Program and issue study committees. The money raised will sponsor community forums, print the 2006 Voter's Guides, and help keep our newsletter and web site a great community resource for empowered citizens and informed choices.

And start your list now for those you believe should be nominated for next year's Civic Awards!

Thank you.

Steve Marshall, Chair, Board of Trustees

### INSIDE:

### Results from the 2006 Civic Awards

## 2006 CIVIC AWARD WINNERS

### Cheryl Scott, Citizen of the Year

Cheryl Scott is recognized for her contributions to improving the elections system in King County. Ms. Scott is a former CEO of Group Health Cooperative and is active on many community and national boards, including serving as chair of the King County Independent Task Force on Elections. Ms. Scott now serves as the CEO of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.



### John Ladenburg, Public Official of the Year

We recognize John for his leading role in stewardship of the Sound and his primary role in growing Prosperity Partnership. He facilitated the merger of PSRC and the regional Economic Development District saving money and growing the resource into a public-private development of the first ever Regional Economic Strategy embraced by a coalition of over 160 organizations. During all this time he also was president of PSRC and its Economic Development Board and chaired Sound Transit.

Photo by Pearce Photography

### Bob Drewel, Public Employee of the Year

Bob Drewel is the Executive Director of the Puget Sound Regional Council, which serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization and Regional Transportation Planning Organization for King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish counties and all cities in those counties. Bob Drewel completed his third and last term as Snohomish County Executive in December 31, 2003. He was first elected to that position in November 1991. Bob is well known for his leadership in promoting regional solutions to the many challenges facing the Northwest, including economic development, effective land-use regulation, transportation, and environmental enhancement. In his twelve years of public service, Bob has successfully worked to build partnerships between the often-contending interests of the private and public sectors to achieve a healthy and vigorous community.



Photo by Pearce Photography

### Starbucks Coffee Company, Business of the Year

Starbucks has a strong commitment to corporate social responsibility and invests significantly in environmental, community building and literacy programs throughout the world. Locally, Starbucks has made significant contributions to the Seattle Public Library Foundation, Seattle Parks, the Seattle Symphony and many local charities. Its \$500,000 gift to Seattle Public Library Foundation is of note--it funds the Literacy Outreach, which helps underwrite the costs of an ongoing literacy and English as a Second Language program in the Greater Seattle community.



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[www.munileague.org](http://www.munileague.org)

Photography at the 2006 Civic Awards event was provided by Pearce Photography. For more information, email [info@pearceprojects.com](mailto:info@pearceprojects.com), or visit [www.pearceprojects.com](http://www.pearceprojects.com)

## 2006 CIVIC AWARD WINNERS (CONTINUED)

### Intiman Theatre, Organization of the Year

Intiman Theatre distinguishes itself from other major theatre companies nationally by its focus on using drama to promote discussion about civic issues. More than any other theatre in the region, Intiman has extended its educational programs and community collaborations. These partnerships have helped bring the Theatre's work to wide and diverse audiences across our region, and created long-term relationships that continue to enrich our commitment to civic dialogue. For example, over the past two decades, this award-winning arts-in-education program, Living History, has reached more than 135,000 young people, where students explore periods of history, political movements and ethical issues - such as racism, sexism, censorship, economics and human rights - through a dynamic and creative process that encourages critical thinking and engages their creative impulses and curiosity.



### Steve Scher, KUOW, Governmental News Reporting of the Year

Mr. Scher moderates Weekday, a KUOW show that engages the public in civic discussions on a wide variety of local and global issues, presenting both sides of each argument. In the last year, shows have covered issues ranging from social to environmental matters with the airtime dedicated to both experts and local opinions. Mr. Scher also volunteers frequently in the community as a host.



Photo by Pearce Photography

### Machat Lat, Doug Mason Memorial Award

A 20-year civil war in Sudan has resulted in the deaths of 1.9 million people - one out of every five Southern Sudanese. An estimated 4.4 million Southern Sudanese have left their homes - the largest displaced population of any country in the world. Many refugees have immigrated to the United States, including about 6,000 of the Lost Boys. Machot Lat is one of these individuals who was resettled from a UN refugee camp in Kenya to Washington State when he was 14. The Southern Sudanese Community of Washington (SSCW) was founded by Machot to provide the estimated 1,000 -1,500 Southern Sudanese refugees who live in Washington with Tutoring and Family Assistance Programs. The organization now has an active board, which is about 2/3 Sudanese, two dozen regular volunteers, and several funding sources to support its programs. Machot was recently honored as one of the Jefferson Award winners and was chosen a Local Hero by the Red Cross.



Photo by Pearce Photography

### Sam Reed, Warren G. Magnuson Memorial Award

Sam Reed is Washington's 14th's Secretary of State. Through his leadership, the state of Washington successfully protected voter privacy rights, broke ground on America's first state digital archives, became the first state in the country to allow candidates to file for office online and joined an elite group of states which allows corporations and charities to file electronically. As Secretary of State, Reed has launched an aggressive campaign to encourage the youth vote. He's cleared the way for the State's first voter-registration database, a useful tool that will reduce opportunity for voter fraud. He created Washington's first Voting Integrity Act and protected the enormously popular vote-by-mail.



Photo by Pearce Photography

### John D. Spellman, James R. Ellis Regional Leadership Award

Elected Executive in 1969, shortly after the County's Home Rule Charter created the position, Governor Spellman played the lead role in establishing the County's new governmental structure under the Charter. He consolidated previously independent departments and replaced the old patronage system with a merit system. Governor Spellman supervised the controversial process of siting and building the Kingdome, the domed stadium that provided the first home for the Seattle Seahawks and Mariners, and initiated early efforts to deal with uncontrolled growth. Governor Spellman was twice reelected as King County Executive before being elected governor in 1980. Governor Spellman has played an active role in the Municipal League of King County.



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**STAY TUNED FOR THE VOTERS GUIDE**

The Municipal League has been rating candidates for public office since 1911 based on four criteria: Involvement, Effectiveness, Character and Knowledge. The League ratings are widely respected and provide the only independent non-partisan, non-agenda driven evaluation of candidates.

This hard work is published in the **VotersGuide**, which will be mailed to all League members and will be available on our website in time for the September 19 primary election. The candidate evaluation process is time and resource intensive. If you can, please make an additional donation to help ensure the continued success of this program. Remember, your membership and help benefit all voters in King County. Thanks for your support!

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**ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION...**

**MUNINEWS** and the **VotersGuide** are produced by the Municipal League's Communications Committee and published by the Municipal League of King County. The Municipal League is nonpartisan and welcomes all points of view. If you have any questions, would like information on joining the Municipal League, or would like to volunteer, call 206-622-8333 or send an email to admin@munileague.org