



VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE SAN JUANS
P. O. Box 784, Friday Harbor, WA 98250-0784

February 2013

Calendar

**February 4, 2013 — Monday, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the
San Juan Island Library: Board Meeting**

From 10:00 am to 12:20 pm, the board members will be participating in training on the Membership and Leadership Development Program. Board business will be conducted from 12:30 pm until 2:00 pm. All members are encouraged to attend the business portion of the meeting.

**February 11, 2013 — Monday, 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm at the
San Juan Island Library: Membership Meeting**

This month's membership meeting will be a book review and discussion on *Winner-Take-All Politics: How Washington Made the Rich Richer--and Turned Its Back on the Middle Class* by Jacob S. Hacker and Paul Pierson. From the book description on Amazon.com:

A groundbreaking work that identifies the real culprit behind one of the great economic crimes of our time — the growing inequality of incomes between the vast majority of Americans and the richest of the rich.

We all know that the very rich have gotten a lot richer these past few decades while most Americans haven't. In fact, the exorbitantly paid have continued to thrive during the current economic crisis, even as the rest of Americans have continued to fall behind. Why do the "have-it-alls" have so much more? And how have they managed to restructure the economy to reap the lion's share of the gains and shift the costs of their new economic playground downward, tearing new holes in the safety net and saddling all of us with increased debt and risk? Lots of so-called experts claim to have solved this great mystery, but no one has really gotten to the bottom of it—until now.

Board meetings are generally on the 1st Monday of each month and Membership Meetings are usually on the 2nd Monday. Annual Membership meetings are usually in May of each year. If you are coming from another island, call any board member and we'll arrange a ride from the ferry.

In their lively and provocative *Winner-Take-All Politics*, renowned political scientists Jacob S. Hacker and Paul Pierson demonstrate convincingly that the usual suspects—foreign trade and financial globalization, technological changes in the workplace, increased education at the top—are largely innocent of the charges against them. Instead, they indict an unlikely suspect and take us on an entertaining tour of the mountain of evidence against the culprit. The guilty party is American politics. Runaway inequality and the present economic crisis reflect what government has done to aid the rich and what it has not done to safeguard the interests of the middle class. The winner-take-all economy is primarily a result of winner-take-all politics.

In an innovative historical departure, Hacker and Pierson trace the rise of the winner-take-all economy back to the late 1970s when, under a Democratic president and a Democratic Congress, a major transformation of American politics occurred. With big business and conservative ideologues organizing themselves to undo the regulations and progressive tax policies that had helped ensure a fair distribution of economic rewards, deregulation got under way, taxes were cut for the wealthiest, and business decisively defeated labor in Washington. And this transformation continued under Reagan and the Bushes as well as under Clinton, with both parties catering to the interests of those at the very top. Hacker and Pierson's gripping narration of the epic battles waged during President Obama's first two years in office reveals an unpleasant but catalyzing truth: winner-take-all politics, while under challenge, is still very much with us.

Winner-Take-All Politics—part revelatory history, part political analysis, part intellectual journey—shows how a political system that traditionally has been responsive to the interests of the middle class has been hijacked by the superrich. In doing so, it not only changes how we think about American politics, but also points the way to rebuilding a democracy that serves the interests of the many rather than just those of the wealthy few.

March 4, 2013, — Monday, League Day at the Legislature

2013 League Day at the Legislature



Make Your Voice Heard!

\$25 per Member | Lunch Included | Youth Welcome

Date: March 4, 2013

Time: 9:30 am-3:00 pm

Location: Columbia Room, Legislative Building (WA State Capitol)

Address: 416 Sid Snyder Ave SW, Olympia, WA 98504

For more information and to register, go to www.lwvwa.org/leagueday.html.

Mission of the League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan, political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy.

Goal of the League of Women Voters

To empower citizens to shape better communities worldwide. Membership is open to any citizen over the age of 18 who subscribes to the League's purposes and policies. All LWVSJ meetings are nonpartisan and open to the public.

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JOIN US TODAY!

YES! I want to become a member of the League of Women Voters of the San Juans.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____

Circle one: Individual Membership-renewal \$50
 Two members at same address \$75
 Student Membership \$25

I would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the League of Women Voters of WA Education Fund and have enclosed a separate check (to LWVWA-EF) in the amount of \$_____.

PLEASE RETURN TO:

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