



Spokane Area VOTER

Ann Murphy
President

February 2011
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VOTER Team: Pam Behring, Mary Hughes,
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"The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, and influences the public policy through education and advocacy."

Foley Institute to Host Conference on Civility and Democracy

The Thomas S. Foley Institute for Public Policy and Public Service at Washington State University, in partnership with Humanities Washington and the Idaho Humanities Council and with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, will present "Civility and Democracy in America," a public forum examining the state of civility in American democracy, March 3-5 in Spokane, Wash.

The conference (free of charge and open to the public):

- March 3: reception and keynote address March 3 - 5:30 p.m. in the Davenport Hotel
- March 4: academic forum March 4 at WSU Spokane on the Riverpoint Campus (8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.) and will feature panel discussions with leading scholars representing five distinct perspectives: history, religion, philosophy, art and architecture, and media.

The conference will conclude on March 5 with a private workshop where humanities practitioners and civic leaders will discuss future programs and events, including the development of curricula, museum exhibits, library programs and online resources around the theme of civility.

"Civility and Democracy in America" is one of four national conferences on civility in democracy funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.
<http://foley.wsu.edu/civility>

Note - January Program Planning units supported sponsoring a local Civil Discussions Workshop next year with support from LWVWA. Program item will be presented at Annual Meeting.

February Unit Meetings to Discuss Spokane Conservation District

In February unit meetings Leaguers will have an opportunity to learn more about the Spokane County Conservation District. This informational meeting is a precursor to participating in the LWVWA study on Conservation Districts.

Please review:

1. Page 3 of the VOTER with some information on the District.
2. The enclosed brochure and Annual Report (provided by the District) to learn a little more about the valuable work that the District does in Spokane County.
3. For additional information go to www.sccd.org.

Your discussion leader will bring more information and have a presentation.

February Unit Meeting Schedule

Feb. 8 - Tuesday

Unit 4 - 5:30 pm - Europa, 125 S. Wall (no-host dinner)

Contact: **Linda Milsow** (838-9186)

Feb 10 - Thursday

Unit 5 - 10:00 am - LWV Office, 2404 N. Howard

Contact: **Martha Preecs** (325-4725)

Feb 14 - Monday

Unit 7/9 - 12:30 pm - 221 E. Rockwood Blvd.

Contact: **Alice Stolz** (455-8944)

Remember, any member and visitors are welcome to attend any Unit meeting. **See you there!**

President's Perspective...

Much is swirling about in our League agenda. We ---

Have discussed program planning. Spokane's report will go LWVWA and we will have new things to consider for our local League at our Annual Meeting in May.

Made League positions on Campaign Finance Reform known as I was part of a panel presentation at Spokane City Hall on Jan 20, 2011.

Will have a chance to examine our past -- the ERA -- join us at the MAC on Feb 16 (see page 4).

Look "in our own backyard" and learn a bit more about the Spokane Conservation District.

Look ahead to forums and workshops on alternative court methods and Civil Discourse

How will you join in? Hope to see you at a League event soon!

Ann Murphy

Make sure that you are in the know and are receiving the LWVWA Legislative Newsletter so that you can be up to date on all the League activity in the current legislative session. Go to: www.lwvwa.org to sign up for the weekly LWL updates.

Spokane League on Programming

Fifteen League members at 3 separate unit meetings weighed in on state and local program planning. Collated information that will be transmitted to LWVWA includes:

- **Need to review** current Natural Resource positions to make sure that all of the positions integrate.
- **Ranked issues:**
 1. Action on Human Resources positions, with particular attention to updating mental health components.
 2. Updating Budget Issues to include examination of fair and equitable tax structure and the issue of mandated expense.
 3. Monitor Energy Resources
 4. Illegal Immigration Issues
- **New Proposal:** Review the 2006 Growth Management Study with attention to the positions from 2006 and what has happened in the interim.

Local Programming proposals will be outlined in the *Call to Annual Meeting* (published 20 days prior to May 12)

Splinters From the Board 1/20/2011

Treasurer's Report – \$6,285

Membership – 56 members have joined/renewed; will continue to contact those who have not renewed. Deadline is 1/31/11. Those who have not renewed will be dropped from lists.

Program Planning – (see separate report)

Discussed plans for upcoming items

- Feb 16 @ MAC

- Feb. units on Spokane Conservation District

- March Judicial Forum – set date for Tuesday, March 22. **Pam Behring** in charge

Reviewed invitations to LWVSA:

- No New Jail Coalition - LWVSA has not studied this issue and not taken a position at this time.

Thus, cannot be part of the coalition.

- North County Early Childhood Education coalition - Chris Clark will report after the Feb 1 meeting8.

- Social Security Forum – assessing position and ability to participate

Annual Meeting –

- Appointed Nominating Board committee member

- **Pam Behring**

- Budget Committee - Joyce Jones will chair (Mary Hughes is advisory) and Joyce will seek other members to form committee

TRY – updates provided; will go to press soon

Debating Equality in Eastern Washington

The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) brought out opposing views. Supporters saw the ERA as the next logical step toward the fulfillment of women as citizens of the United States. On the other hand, those opposed, saw the ERA as a threat to their femininity. The debate that played out in Eastern Washington in the 1970s began with these two self-perceptions. Be sure to come to the MAC on Feb. 16 (see page 4) to hear more....

The LWV VOTER is published monthly except in the summer by the League of Women Voters of the Spokane Area, 2404 N. Howard St. Spokane WA 99205. Members of the League of Women Voters of the Spokane Area subscribe through their annual dues. The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization which encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Any citizen, 18 or older, may join the League of Women Voters.

Dues Payment -- -- Clip this form and place with your bills for payment

YES, I want to join or renew my membership in The League of Women Voters of the Spokane Area

Name: _____ \$ 70. Individual
 Address: _____ Distribution
 City: _____ Zip: _____ Local \$21.30
 State \$19
 Nat'l \$29.70
 Phone-- Home: _____ Work: _____ \$100. Household
 \$100. Sustaining Member
 \$150. Benefactor
 Fax: _____ e-mail: _____ \$ 35. Scholarship(call for application)
 \$ 35 Student

Please make check payable to & mail to: LWVSA 2404 N. Howard St. Spokane, WA 99205, www.lwvspokane.org

A Brief Look at the Spokane County Conservation District...

The Spokane County Conservation District (District) is one of 47 conservation districts in Washington State and was created in 1973 with the consolidation of four districts in the County that had primarily served the agricultural community. The cities of Spokane, Millwood and Deer Park were excluded at that time since no urban services were provided.

The District is a subdivision of state government. The District is currently in the process of changing its name to the Spokane Conservation District (to minimize the confusion that it is part of county government – it is not).

In 1989 Legislation was passed to allow conservation districts to assess landowners within their boundaries.

Cities of Millwood (1994) and Spokane (2006) have been annexed into the District at their requests. Landowners began paying the assessment when annexed. Deer Park is the only portion of Spokane County not in the District.

Urban benefits from the District include programs that promote urban forestry (including providing shade trees as part of the City of Spokane street bond) and provide environmental education to all schools. Additionally, programs that in place in the rural areas, benefit the urban dweller.

The District operates with a \$1.5 million budget that includes the above mentioned land assessments, \$77,000

from State of Washington funds (which are in jeopardy), with remaining funding coming from grants.

The District is governed by a board of five Supervisors – three are elected by District parcel holders and two are appointed by the Washington State Conservation Commission. Current commissioners are:

- Gerald Scheele, Chair (appointed 2010 for three year term)
- Randy James, Vice Chair (elected – term expires 2011)
- Dixie Riddle, Auditor (appointed position will expire in 2011)
- Jaki Shrauger, member (elected 2010 to three year term)
- Mary Sullivan, member (elected – term expires in 2012)

The next District election will be March 8, 2011, to elect one supervisor. The election takes place at the District office (N. 210 Havana) from 7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Eligible voters can also request a ballot.

The Board holds internal elections of officers each April. The Board meets monthly on the second Tuesday of each month at the District offices, 5:30pm to 7:30 p.m.

The procedure for elections or appointments are set by the Conservation Commission.
 For elected positions: <http://www.sccd.org/about/documents/ElectionGuidelines>
 For an appointed position: <http://www.sccd.org/about/documents/CDSupervisorAppointment>

Did you know?

All land parcels in the District boundaries pay an annual assessment

- 20 acres and under – \$5
- Class I - Ag Land - 10 cents per acre.
- Class II - Range Land - 5 cents per acre

The landbase assessments are collected by Spokane County and bring about \$965,000 to District.

Did you know?

All registered voters who own or occupy land within the District's boundaries are eligible to

- run for office, and
- vote in that election.

Procedures are explained in the Election Manual at www.sccd.org



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

OF THE SPOKANE AREA

2404 N. Howard
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(509) 326-8026

WWW.LWVSPOKANE.ORG

LWV/Spokane Area

President: **Ann Murphy**
Vice President: **Pam Behring**
Secretary:
Treasurer: **Mary Hughes**
Directors: **Pete Duffy**
Molly Hannan
Joyce Jones
Ginger Kelsh
Jet Tilley

Nominating Committee:
Alice Stolz, Chair
Ann Souza
Pam Behring

Calendar

February

- 8, 10, 14 Unit Meetings (see page 1)
- 14 LWV Birthday
- 16 Lecture @ MAC – Nancy Engle
- 17 LWVSA Board , 5:00 p.m. @ LWV office
- 19 “Social Security Works”... the many faces of Social Security, SCC, 1-3 p.m.
- 24 LWV Day, Olympia (formerly Lobby Day)

March

- 3-5 “Civility and Democracy in America,” (see page 1)
- TBD LWVSA Board
- 22 Judicial Forum @ GU Moot Court, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

April

- 11, 12, 14 Unit Meetings
- 21 LWVSA Board

May

- 12 LWVSA Annual Meeting (evening)
- 20-23 LWWA Convention – Tri Cities



League of Women Voters,
Spokane Area

Wed Night at the Museum

Wednesday, Feb 16, 2011, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture
2316 W. First Ave, Spokane
In the Museum’s Women’s Votes, Women’s
Voices Exhibition

Nancy Engle, Ph.D., will share her research on the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) efforts in Eastern Washington. Dr. Engle’s research was made possible by the League of Women Voters Education Fund, a project funded through a Women’s History Consortium grant.

A brief reception will follow the talk to celebrate the League’s 91st Anniversary as an organization.