



Spokane Area VOTER

Ann Murphy
President

October 2010
VOLUME LXVI/ NO 7

VOTER Team: Pam Behring, Mary Hughes,
Joyce Jones, Ann Murphy, Alice Stolz

"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."

General Election Forums Available for Viewing

The Spokane League hosted three General Election Forums in late September. Replay schedule on CityCable 5 is:

- **Candidate Forum I**, Congressional & Legislative Districts
Oct. 7 – 8:30 p.m. Oct. 9 – 4 p.m.
Oct. 21 – 8:30 p.m. Oct. 23 – 12:30 p.m.
- **Candidate Forum II**, Spokane County offices
Oct. 6 – 1 p.m. Oct. 10 – 12 p.m.
Oct 16 – 12:30 p.m. Oct. 18 – 10:30 a.m.
- **Forum III – Ballot Issues –**
Oct. 5 – 8:30 p.m. Oct. 9 – 9 p.m.
Oct. 12 – 12 p.m. Oct. 16 – 9 p.m.
Oct. 19 – 9:30 p.m.

Or, for viewing on-line go to www.lwvspokane.org for the link.

Thank you to those that helped to make the forums a success: **Molly Hannan, Pete Duffy, Alice Stolz, Mary Hughes, Martha Lou Wheatley-Billeter, Ann Murphy, Martha Pomerleau, Pam Behring, Jet Tilley**, There were other League members in the audience as well.

**** **FYI - Chase Youth Commission Forum** is holding its Forum on Oct 14 in City Council Chambers and the replay schedule on CityCable 5 is:

- Oct. 16 – 2:30 p.m. Oct. 23 – 9 p.m.
- Oct. 30 – 12:30 p.m.

Always interesting to hear the youth perspective!

October Units - Ballot Issues, Round #2

October Unit Meetings will meet according to the schedule below and will consider the 5 ballot issues on the November ballot that were not in the September program.

- I-1105 – concerning the sale and taxing of liquor
- I-1100 – concerning the advertising and sale of liquor
- I-1082 – concerning industrial insurance
- HJR 4220 - concerning denying bail for persons charged with certain crimes
- Spokane Proposition #1 – concerning the imposition of a tax levy to fund dropout prevention programs.

Please refer to insert in this VOTER for a summary of ballot information. Complete information is available at www.sos.wa.gov/elections and will be in your Voters Pamphlet.

October Unit Meeting Schedule

Oct. 11, Monday

Unit 7/9 – 12:30 pm - 221 E. Rockwood Blvd.
Contact: **Alice Stolz** (455-8944)

Oct. 12, Tuesday

Unit 4 - 5:30 pm - Europa, 125 S. Wall (no-host dinner)
Contact: **Linda Milsow** (838-9186)

Oct. 14, Thursday

Unit 5 – 10:00 am - LWV Office, 2404 N. Howard
Contact: **Martha Preecs** (325-4725)

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

President's Perspective...

It has been an intense few weeks as your Voter Service committee did the final work on the General Election Forums. With a variety of county and state offices and numerous ballot issues, it really did take a village to pull this off! Thank you ever so much to the Voter Service Committee who worked with me on planning, formulating questions, and implementing forums (named on page 1). But there was one forum issue that came down to me to make the final explanation to affected candidates – explaining the League's "empty chair" policy.

There were two races that were affected when one of the candidates did not accept the League's invitation Cathy McMorris Rodgers (5th Congressional Dist) did not accept our invitation as she was still in Washington, D.C. and could not schedule a phone link up. John Ahern (6th Legislative District, Rep #2) cited a schedule conflict. That left their opponents – Daryl Romeyn and John Driscoll – as single candidates for a position.

Mr. Romeyn challenged the League's reasons for our position. LWVUS has provided local Leagues with guidelines for debates/forums. At Mr. Romeyn's request I did talk with Mark Berlin at the Federal Communication Commission (FCC), and he provided me with a statement via e-mail that clarified the FCC rulings with regard to government access stations. Since CityCable 5 is government access, it was enlightening to learn that the FCC rules are different and that our forum is not affected.

I called the Federal Elections Commission (organization is also cited in League guidelines). The person I spoke with did not return my call with the follow up information.

I spoke with the Dianne Wheatley Giliotti, LWVUS Director who is the League authority on candidate debates. I explained our situation and what I had learned from the FCC. We then focused on Internal Revenue Service rulings. I also reviewed the League's FAQs on Candidate Forums/Debates (available at www.lwv.org).

Even with the revelation of FCC statement on access channels, LWV still has its non-partisan policy – which means that our organization will not support, or be perceived as supporting, a particular candidate. It is this policy that is part of what has led to our nonpartisan reputation. Additionally, the League deals with potential Internal Revenue Service rulings (something all candidate are undoubtedly familiar as well.)

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Splinters From the Board 8/19/10

Treasurer's Report – \$5,052

Membership: 83 current members

- \$2,045 has been contributed to the KSPS documentary.
- Committee will begin office organization by getting old materials to the MAC archives.
- Annual Meeting scheduled for May 12, 2011.
- Unit attendance for Sept: 20 members; 6 guests
- Website improvement was reported by Mary Hughes. There will be links to city and state sites for information on candidates and issues.
- Linnea Hirst, LWVWA President, will be at the Oct. 21 LWVSA Board Meeting. There will be a social gathering of all interested League members at 5:00 p.m.
- LWVWA Action Workshop in Pasco is Oct. 23. All encouraged to attend.

Requests by candidates to make a statement as part of the League's candidate forum is deemed inappropriate by League policy. The IRS could deem such a statement as an in-kind contribution to a candidate's campaign. The League cannot do that and maintain its reputable non-partisan stance. It is appropriate for candidates who cannot speak, to provide campaign literature on the tables in the lobby and to mingle with those voters present.

The following was read by the moderator as the reason for not presenting the two contested races.

"The Federal Election Commission, the Federal Communications Commission and the IRS have rules governing the presentation of a single candidate for an office. While the FCC rules do not affect this government access broadcast, the League has a very well respected non-partisan reputation and high standards for candidate debates. Thus, the League cannot present a single candidate for public office. Please check both candidates' websites for further information."

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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.

Commemoration of Suffrage Centennial

The League of Women Voters of the Spokane Area has joined with The Susie Forest project to plant the 100th tree in the city limits of Spokane to commemorate the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in Washington State. There are more trees in the county, state, country, and world.

This 100th anniversary celebration of women's suffrage in Washington State will be extended 100 years into the future (or longer) for the life of this tree. The City of Spokane forester Jim Perry selected the Accolade Elm to plant in Riverfront Park (see page 4 for planting details.)

Susie's Forest is in memory of Susie Stephens, a bicyclist, an environmentalist, an activist, and a world traveler, who was dedicated to educating others about bicyclist and pedestrian safety. She was killed in 2002 and her mother, Nancy MacKerrow, started The Susie Forest as a living, growing, legacy to Susie's commitment to creating livable communities. Each tree planted is a reminder that life goes on and starts anew. Thus we honor the suffragists and all those who seek to expand equality in our world on this 100th year anniversary of women's votes in Washington.

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The League does not set up its candidate forums to compel any candidate to attend – It is an invitation extended to all candidates. Most candidates do take advantage of the opportunity. One of the dilemmas that the League faces in planning these forums is to work with the CityCable5 schedule so that the rebroadcasts will be ready to present for about three weeks prior to the time that the ballots drop, usually three weeks prior to election day. The Elections Office has said that about 1/3 of the ballots are returned immediately (and then 1/3 returned during the next three weeks; and the final 1/3 returned on Election Day). This scheduling has always proved difficult with the Congressional calendar.

Hope this helps with some understanding....

Ann Murphy

League takes Positions on Ballot Issues

The LWVWA has taken positions on the following state wide measures:

Support: Ref-52 and I-1098

Oppose: I-1053, I-1100, I-1105, I-1107

Takes no position: I-1082, HJR 4220, SJR 8225
Read the League's Positions and get more info at www.lwvwa.org.

LWVSA has a position in support of the City of Spokane Proposition #1 - The Children's Investment Fund

Ed Fund Goal is Reached for KSPS sponsorship

Thank you to more League members who made contributions to the Spokane League's Education Fund for sponsorship of "Courage in Corsets," the KSPS-produced documentary on women's suffrage in the Pacific Northwest. New contributors are: **Ann & Ron Bailor, Jennifer Calvert, Charles Hansen, Kim Kreber, Jay Warren**. Thanks for putting us over the top!

League History to be Shared

Ann Murphy will be part of a panel at the Pacific Northwest History Conference in Spokane. Conference theme is "Game Changers and History Makers: Women in Pacific Northwest History." The conference is at the Davenport, Nov. 3-5, 2010.

Ann will present "League of Women Voters – Taking Women from Suffrage to Civic Engagement" on Nov. 5 at 10:30 am. as part of a panel. For information, program and registration visit: <http://www.washingtonhistory.org/heritageServices/conferences.aspx>

Thank you... to the 11 members who have paid dues.... Please use the enclosed/attached billing slip to send in your dues.



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
 OF THE SPOKANE AREA
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 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
 Martha Pomerleau

Calendar

October

- 4 City of Spokane Proclamation, 100th Tree
- 7 100th Tree Planting (see box to right & page 3)
- 11, 12, 14 Unit Meetings (see page 1 & insert)
- 21 Social with LWVWA President Linnea Hirst,
5 p.m. at LWVSA Office
- 21 LWVSA Board Meeting, 6 p.m.
- 23 Action Workshop – Kennewick
- 30 *Women's Votes, Women's Voices* opens - MAC
(Attendees encouraged to wear period dress.)
1-3 pm tea
2 pm dignitary remarks
3 pm the screening of the KSPS film.

November

- 1 LWV Dues are Due
- 2 Election Day
- 3-5 PNW History Conference @ Davenport
- 8, 9, 11 Unit Meetings
- 18 LWVSA Board Meeting

Dues are Due Nov. 1! Individual Member dues are now \$70 (approved at 2010 Annual Meeting). Please send check to office address as above.

Come join in

Suffrage Centennial Recognition Day

***Thursday, October 7, 2010
11 a.m.***

***Riverfront Park
(corner of Washington and Spokane Falls Blvd –
near Riverfront Park sign;
look for urban forestry truck)***

***Plant the 100th Tree in Susie's Forest
to commemorate
the 100th year anniversary of women's
suffrage in Washington State***

(see inside to learn more)