



VOTER

Ann Murphy
President

January 2010
VOLUME LXV/ NO 9

VOTER Team: Pam Behring, Mary Hughes,
Joyce Jones, Kim Kreber,
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."

Program Planning on for January Unit Meetings

There will be a full agenda at the January unit meetings - discussing LWV state and local program. Members will have the opportunity to offer ideas for priorities and new studies.

So, here is how you can prepare....

- Read the Program Planning insert in this VOTER for background on the process and come prepared to discuss national and local topics.
- Find and bring supporting documents and information

National Program: The Spokane Area Board will forward proposals to LWVUS based on the recommendations from Units. Check out additional information at www.lwv.org) Printed website information will be available at each unit.

Local Program: Follow the steps in the insert to make recommendations. Complete Position Statements are in your *Member Handbook* (with the salmon or the new blue colored cover - see page 2). **Please find that and bring it to your unit meeting.**

If you can't attend a meeting and would like to participate... please contact your unit leader by phone or e-mail and indicate preferences. Not attending any particular unit? E-mail responses to Ann Murphy - ann_murphy@juno.com. **Deadline** to submit: January 19, 2010

LWVSA Seeks Applicants for Initiative & Referendum Task Force

The LWV of the Spokane Area is seeking applicants from a broad spectrum of citizens to serve on a task force to evaluate the City of Spokane's initiative and referendum process. The Task Force's 15 members will be charged with the task of evaluating the current process, reviewing citizen input, and making a final recommendation to the city council by March 1, 2010.

Those interested on serving on the task force can receive both the application form and job description at the Mayor's Office, City Hall, 7th Floor, 808 W. Spokane Falls Boulevard. Applications must either be emailed to initiative@spokanecity.org or postmarked and mailed to the League of Women Voters, 2404 N. Howard St., Spokane, WA. 99205 by Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2010.

Because of the short time frame for this work, the task force applicants must attend the following:

- Wednesday, Jan. 20, from 5:30-7 p.m.
- Wednesdays, Feb. 3, 19, 24 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

January Unit Meeting Schedule...

January 11, Monday

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

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

January 12, Tuesday

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

Contact: **Ann Murphy** (838-4549 or 385-8910)

January 14, Thursday

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

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

Unit 6 - 4 p.m. - Deer Park Library, 208 S. Forest, DP

Please -- Contact: **Chris Clark** (276-2006)

Remember, all individuals are welcome at the unit meetings - no invitation is necessary.

President's Perspective...

Now is a great time to be part of League.

Many members had the opportunity to join in for the Elected Officials Luncheon held on December 10. There was a great energy as about 85 members, guests and elected officials discussed issues for which each had passion. Not too unusual, the topic of greatest interest centered around budgets. A League thank you goes to **Tom Paine** and Avista for sponsoring the meal and to The Masonic Center for donating the space. A special thank you goes to League member **Suzi Hokonson**.

Additionally December became awash in rising to the challenge of facilitating an Ad Hoc Task Force to further citizen input into the process of reviewing the City of Spokane's Municipal Code (Chapter 2). Three separate trips to City Council – first to testify that further citizen participation would be desirable, second to accept the City's request, and third to amend dates in the process and to announce the application process. We are fortunate to have the skills of League members **Lunell Haught** and **Alice Stolz** to join me in the leadership for this task.

And, then we crashed into the holidays, and I did my best to slow down for a few days, check out from all things League, and enjoy my visiting family for a very special weekend. We all need those times so that we can be in a better place to give back to our community.

Ann Murphy

Member Publications

Member Handbooks: Updated as of December 2009 (with a blue cover). The insert with two small corrections is enclosed with this VOTER so that members can place with their existing Member Handbook (with a salmon cover). New members will receive the updated Member's Handbook. Renewing members who find that they need a replacement copy, may contact the office or their unit leader. Those who receive the VOTER electronically, will receive the Member Handbook electronically.

TRY (They Represent You) Pamphlet for 2010: will be published in January as soon as the final information is compiled. Thank you to **Joyce Jones** for compiling the updates.

Splinters from the Board 11/30 & 12/16/2009

Treasurer's Report - \$5,480.37

- The LWVSA sent a poinsettia to St. Andrews Church and a small stipend to custodial staff.
- **Ginger Kelsh** reports that a Coalition is working on passing an ordinance granting the Police Ombudsman with independent investigatory powers. They meet at the Community Building the 2nd Thursday of the month.
- The Early Learning Coalition of North Spokane County is planning a workshop - "Children's Challenging Behavior" - for this April.
- **Kathy Kalich** has assumed a variety of Public Relations duties. We all thank you Kathy!
- **Joyce Jones** reports that only 15 members attended the October Meeting on streetscapes.
- **Kim Kreber** is a new member who is doing now working on the VOTER and other computer tasks.
- **Mary Hughes** reports that the LWVSA website is ready, but needs more content.
- The Conservation District State Study needs volunteers to work on the issues.
- **Suzi Hokonson** (as an observer) attended the initial meeting of Spokane Network (a new coalition working to strengthen the capacity of socially responsible organizations in the Spokane area).
- Learned that The League of American Voters (similar name) is against public campaign financing.
- **Diane Knutson** presented an outline for Civic Engagement Project unit meetings in February. A training session for civic engagement speakers bureau will also be in February.
- March 24 - "Judicial Forum - The Third Branch" 5:30-7:30 pm on area court systems will be at Gonzaga Law School.
- March - There will be no unit meetings. The local immigration study has been delayed.
- April - General Meeting and Public Forum "Public School Funding" will be held at Spokane Community College -- evening meeting with details TBA
- May 20, 2010 - Annual Meeting (details TBA)
- Thank you, **Suzi** for a successful luncheon in December 2009.

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: _____	\$ 65. Individual	<u>Distribution</u>
Address: _____		Local \$15.80
City: _____ Zip: _____		State \$20
Phone-- Home: _____ Work: _____	\$100. Household	Nat'l \$29.20
Fax: _____ e-mail: _____	\$100. Sustaining Member	
	\$150. Benefactor	
	\$ 35. Scholarship(call for application)	
	\$ 32.50 Student	

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

Welcome to New Members

Lauren Benson
4603 S. Madelia St, Spokane, WA 99223
(509)939-8766 Benson.Lauren.M@gmail.com

Vicki Dalton
PO Box 144, Spokane Valley, WA 99016
(509)477-2262 vdalton@spokanecounty.org

Pete Duffy
2918 W Lacrosse Ave, Spokane, WA 99205
(509)323-1998 pgduffyjr@hotmail.com

Molly M. Hannan
2915 E. Foxwood Drive, Spokane, WA 99223-3416
(509)533-0501 mollyhann@yahoo.com

Charles Hansen
1611 E Queen Ave, Spokane, WA 99207-4145
(509)487-8462 Charles_hansen@prodigy.net

Barbara E Kehr
819 S. Cowley #56, Spokane, WA 99201
(509)290-1967 bemcbeath@gmail.com

Joel Williamson
4603 S. Madelia St, Spokane, WA 99223
(509)230-1223 Joelw999@aol.com

Washington Public Campaign

Ginger Kelsh represented the League at a meeting with five other Washington Public Campaign members in Senator Maria Cantwell's Spokane Office on December 9. Marc Riccelli, a Cantwell staffer received everyone's comments. The LWVUS, as a supporter for public financing of campaigns, asked that Senator Cantwell become an endorser of the Senate bill S.752 Fair Elections Now Act (FENA).

League members can contact Senator Cantwell by phone, mail or e-mail. There is a need to stop Congressional delegates from relying on funding from special interest groups that corrupts the democratic system. This work is continuing to bring about change in the 2010 Legislative Session. The goal is to obtain public financing for State Supreme Court Judicial campaigns. You can sign up for the WPC at www.washclean.org.

As one of League's 2010 Legislative Priorities, the LWVWA lobbyists work with WPC and other organizations to urge passage of the public financing legislative during this session. You can lobby by signing up for legislative alerts (see page 4).

Let your state representatives and state senator know that you support public financing of campaigns. Now is not too soon! Stay tuned. *Ginger Kelsh*

League Lobby Day 2010

Join other Leaguers on January 19 in Olympia and be among the first to see the second YouTube video by the Civic Engagement Project committee. The first video League did (on I-1033) was the most watched video on YouTube on some days, and had rave reviews from a wide range of people and websites. If you missed that

video, be sure to see it by going to the LWVWA website (www.lwvwa.org) and click on "Positions."

Lobby Day is a time to gather and talk about legislative issues, hear speakers, and meet legislators and staff to share the LWVWA Legislative Priorities.

LWV/Spokane Area

President: **Ann Murphy**
 Vice President: **Pam Behring**
 Secretary: **Ginger Kelsh**
 Treasurer: **Mary Hughes**
 Directors: **Suzi Hokonson**
 Joyce Jones
 Kathy Kalich
 Diane Knutson
 Loni Peters
 Nominating Committee:
 Alice Stolz, Chair
 Martha Pomerleau



About 85 League members, guests, and elected officials enjoyed a holiday luncheon while sharing conversation about issues of public concern.
(photo by Kent Holbrook)

Calendar

January - 2010

1 New Years
 11 Start Legislative session
 11, 12, 14 Unit Meetings
 19 Lobby Day, Olympia
 21 LWVSA Board Meeting

February

8, 9, 11 Unit Meetings
 14 LWV 90th Birthday!!!
 18 LWVSA Board Meeting

March

18 LWVSA Board Meeting
 24 The Third Branch
 (Judicial Program @ Gonzaga)

May

20 LWVSA Annual Meeting
 22-23 LWVWA Council, Bellingham

June

11-15 LWVUS Convention, Atlanta GA

Go to

www.lwvwa.org to:

- Register for Lobby Day - 8:30 a.m. on 1/19/2010 \$25 includes lunch
- Sign up for League's 2010 Legislative Newsletter

(or call 206-622-8961)