



Spokane Area VOTER

Ann Murphy
President

November 2009
VOLUME LXV/ NO 8

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."

and for December...

***Elected Officials Luncheon
Thursday, December 10, 2009
Spokane Masonic Center
Commandary Room
1108 W. Riverside
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.***

Join other Leaguers in conversation with
our State and Local elected officials.

Sponsored by Avista.

Civic Engagement Project

The League of Women Voters has committed to a project to inform and engage the citizens of our state and localities in a discussion regarding tax structure within a democracy and the connection between services we want and the tax structure we have. The ultimate goal of the Civic Engagement Project is providing comprehensive education about government, the budget and tax structure.

As a first step in the process the League of Women Voters Washington has examined and provided information regarding Referendum 71 and initiated a You Tube animated offering on Initiative 1033. You can view the video by going to: www.lwvwa.org and click on the link on the home page.

Diane Knutson

Talk Streets at Unit Meetings

Join in the discussion on various aspects of streets and planning among jurisdictions in Spokane County.

At Annual Meeting, May 2009, members selected an environmental GMA update with an emphasis on streetscapes and open spaces. The approved scope was to include a review of current and proposed street and open space policies in Spokane County and City of Spokane. How will the rebuilding of streets conform to new standards and what regulations are there to preserve environment? The Scope was extended to include Spokane Valley and other cities in Spokane County, and to take a look at winter maintenance.

Please review the compiled information in the Insert – and bring other information that you may have on streets, streetscapes, and planning. Open spaces did not get considered

Pam Behring

November Unit Meeting Schedule...

October 9, Monday

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

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

October 10, Tuesday

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

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

October 12, Thursday

Unit 5 – 9:30 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...

Speaking for League. I had the opportunity to attend the City of Spokane Council on Monday, 10/19, to learn more about and testify to the resolution regarding the Ombudsman issue. Michael Dixon was there as well. We heard several interesting reports leading up to the actual issue.

As part of the Public Safety report -- Tim Burns, Ombudsman, gave a report of what he has done in the two months that he has been in the position. He is actively trying to get to know the community. He will be moving into offices in Old City Hall.

The Resolution (as proposed by Bob Apple): "Of the City Council of the City of Spokane requesting that the Mayor and the City administration bargain with the City of Spokane Police Guild and the Spokane Police Lieutenants and Captains Association during any current, pending or future negotiations to grant explicit independent investigatory authority to the Office of Police Ombudsman prior to agreeing to new amended or supplemental labor contracts."

Approval of the Resolution was uncertain going into the meeting. However, in the Council's executive session, they agreed to amend the resolution. In the above language, they struck the following: "prior to agreeing to new amended or supplemental labor contracts" with the period going after Ombudsman." Also, deleted from one of the whereases -- that the Police Chief supports the investigatory authority.

After much testimony (and I did add the League's support following the testimony of Liz Moore, PJALS) and lengthy comments from the Council, the amended resolution passed 6-0 (Corker was absent). Testimony was interesting and we learned a lot.

I'm glad that League was there to be a recognized supporter -- and we were reminded that the real communication will need to be with Mayor Verner. The Council has no authority in these negotiations. So, I will draft a letter to send around for approval to then be sent to the Mayor on the issue. The time is now -- negotiations are in process for what will be a five year contract.

continued - page 3

Splinters From the Board 10/15/09

Treasurer's Report – \$3,907

Membership Count–90

- Dues checks are coming in. For members who have not renewed, telephone calls will start in November!
- MSP to investigate and follow up as necessary on the proposed Spokane City Council resolution re investigatory powers for the ombudsman. Resolution slated for Oct 19 Council agenda. **Ann Murphy** will also follow up with **Michael Dixon** re meeting with Tim Burns, the ombudsman.
- Early Learning Coalition of North Spokane County is scheduling a "what's next" meeting on Oct. 29. **Diane Knutson** will attend.
- PR - **Loni Peters** will send unit meeting notices to the various calendars
- Units - **Joyce Jones** reported 23 members and 9 guests attended ballot issues discussions. Joyce will follow up with other Valley Leaguers to see if that unit can be revived.
- November Unit on Streets -- **Pam Behring** will finalize document. Briefing is set for Nov . 3.
- December Elected Officials Luncheon. **Suzi Hokonson** will send a save the date email to elected officials on Nov 4, with invitations to follow. postcard invitation for membership.
- February - Civic Engagement Project - **Diane Knutson** will prepare proposal for unit materials.
- Judicial Forum on March 24 - Diane and Loni will coordinate meeting on the topic.
- April - Education Forum - **Kathy Kalich** is looking at venues and dates (April 12, 20, 27) - good timing as schools will be looking at potential budget cuts.

GentleReminder...

Dues are due!

Thank you for being a member of League.

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
Address: _____
City: _____ Zip: _____
Phone-- Home: _____ Work: _____
Fax: _____ e-mail: _____

Distribution
Local \$15.80
State \$20
Nat'l \$29.20
\$100. Household
\$100. Sustaining Member
\$150. Benefactor
\$ 35. Scholarship(call for application)

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

Welcome to New & Returning Members

Laura Carder
2211 E. Rich Ave, Spokane WA 99207
(509)487-3216 laura_carder@juno.com

Timm Ormsby
518 E. Indiana #1, Spokane WA 99207
(509)939-2048 timmsby@gmail.com

Kimberly Kreber
218 W. Euclid Ave, Spokane WA 99205
(509)688-7313 Kim_Kreber@yahoo.com

Martha Lou Wheatley-Billeter
2724 N Atlantic, Spokane WA 99205
(509)263-9385 mlwv525@comcast.net

Roberta Jean Clemons
South 424 McDonald Road, Spokane WA 99216
(509)924-8997 rjclemons@qwest.com

Andy Billig
1211 W 15th Ave, Spokane WA 99203
(509)990-9219 andybillig@comcast.net

Member News

Joyce Jones received the Sister Peter Claver award on October 14 for 40 years of tireless work in the City of Spokane and particularly with the Northeast Community Center. Al French also recognized her at City Council on 10/19/0913. Congratulations!!

Diane Knutson - new phone: 509-590-8881 (cell)

Ann and Charlie Wood have moved to a new place in Olympia - The Firs (they sound happier):
426 Lilly Road, Apt. 343
Olympia, WA 98506
tel: (360) 491-9514

Have you joined League in the last year???
Are you receiving Voters from LWVWashington?
If not, please notify our Treasurer, Mary Hughes,
and she will make the appropriate connections
with state.

.....
from page 2

The following day I had a conversation with Councilman Richard Rush on the bus ride home. He first of all thanked me for being in attendance at City Council and for my testimony. He noted that when the testimony for something that ranges from the League of Women Voters to Shonto Pete's wife (very heartfelt) -- that this is an issue that the community cares about.

He also noted that going into the session, passage of this resolution was not a done deal. He really credits League's presence and testimony with helping pull along more reluctant council members.

We do make a difference! Mike Dixon will continue to monitor this by email and Ginger Kelsh will be our local contact.

*Ann Murphy
November 2009*

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

Calendar

November

3 Election Day
 Unit Briefing, 10 a.m. @ LWV office
 7 LWVWA Action Workshop – TriCities
 9, 10, 12 Unit Meetings – see page 1 & insert
 19 LWVSA Board Meeting
 26 Thanksgiving

December

10 Elected Officials Luncheon – see page 1
 LWVSA Board Meeting
 (if needed, right after luncheon)
 12 Hanukkah starts
 25 Christmas

January - 2010

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

Discussion Starters for Unit Meetings

1. How do discrepancies in regulations along shared borders between County and City jurisdictions affect planning? Consider cost for public meetings, planning staff and time?
2. What would you like to see as a result of neighborhood planning efforts?
3. What are your thoughts on the financial shortfall facing local government and how that will effect planning?

Still not too late! --

You can attend the LWVWA Action Workshop
 Saturday, November 7, 2009
 Lunch and Materials - \$25
 Check recently received state Voter for registration.
 Call Ann Murphy, 838-4549, to get in the carpool.