



Spokane Area VOTER

Ann Murphy
President

February 2010
VOLUME LXVI/ NO 2

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.”

Civic Engagement Project: February Unit Meeting Discussion Topic

The crisis in the Washington State budget has led the LWVWA and the LWVSA to focus on engaging and informing citizens about the budget and its expenditures as well as creating a forum for a discussion of how this kind of crisis can be avoided in the future.

In preparation for the discussion at Unit Meetings in February please take a few moments to become knowledgeable by answering the questions on page 4 of study insert. Many of the answers can be found in the Voter insert. Referenced handouts as well as a power point presentation and additional information can be found at the LWVWA web site (www.lwvwa.org).

Be prepared to bring questions, answer, and thoughts about what can be done now to avoid the same kind of crisis once again. It would also be appreciated if each person would give some thought to how they would want to be involved in expanding the discussion.

Diane Knutson

LWVWA Lobby Day Looks at Session

Three Spokane Leaguers – **Linda Milsow, Pam Behring** and **Ann Murphy** made the trek to Olympia on Jan. 19 to spend time with other Leaguers celebrating the centennial of women’s votes in Washington (yes, we had the vote in 1910 – lost it, and then got it back in 1920!). Secretary of State Sam Read was our sponsor for the day and unveiled to us a special exhibit in his office highlighting a multitude of “the first women” in a variety of state political positions – one of which was Spokane’s Reba Hurn.

We heard from the League’s lobbyist, **Lonnie Johns-Brown** – and the main message was that it is all about budget, revenue and potential taxes. Lonnie also stressed that while she and the League lobby team are in Olympia lobbying for League, that really they don’t replace each of us communicating with our legislators. If you can’t communicate face-to-face, find out what works best with your legislator – phone/email/regular mail – just ask!

We had the privilege of hearing Representative Marko Lias discuss Clean Campaigns, particularly the bill related to the Washington Supreme Court judicial races. Additionally, we met in interest groups with other Leaguers and the Lobby Team leaders. (see box for LWVWA State Legislative Priorities)

Linda and **Pam** connected with Rep. Timm Ormsby and **Ann** met with Sen. Chris Marr to discuss additional issues.

Ann Murphy

February Unit Meeting Schedule...

February 8, Monday

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

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

February 9, Tuesday

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

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

February 11, Thursday

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

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

Unit 6 - 7 p.m. - Riverside Community Center, US Hwy 2

Contact: **Chris Clark** (599-6881)

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

League will be joining with the NW Museum of Arts & Culture and other women’s groups on Feb 11, 2010, to begin planning for the October 30, 2010, opening of the exhibit, **Women’s Votes, Women’s Voices.**

President's Perspective...

I have been launched into a whirlwind of League activity in these past two months – and you know, it is rather exciting! Along with maintaining other aspects of my life, my head has been spinning trying to keep track of it all!

Hitting our plate simultaneously have been action requests related to two different topics with the City of Spokane. Our League was viewed by most to be the one to facilitate the City of Spokane Initiative and Referendum process (see article on Page 4). I attended several Council meetings in December and then worked with our Board and City officials to determine how to be a part of this process... and then our committee had to put it all together!

At the same time, issues heated up with the Police Ombudsman issue (as we go to press, organizers are pressing forward with an ordinance proposal to Spokane City Council to create independent investigatory powers). That has entailed more meetings and more reading... all the while honoring the fact that we do have a position that supports “some investigatory powers” for the ombudsman, but recognizing the need to follow League process.

I also chose to make the journey to Olympia for LWVWA Lobby Day on January 19 to learn more about statewide Legislative action – pretty much all about the budget! It is apparent from that that our discussions on the Civic Engagement Project at February units with training in March for those interested in speaking to the community are just right on target. Please consider how you will get involved. See *Splinters from the Board* for many exciting activities coming down the pike that should provide each of you with something of interest.

And all of this, while remembering that this February 14 is the 90th birthday of the League of Women Voters. Take a moment to remember why this organization was founded – and then celebrate all that has been accomplished in 90 years in this country, and in the 62 years that the Spokane Area League has been active.

Thank you all for your participation in the Program Planning process at your January unit meetings. That input will be compiled this next month, and then advance for both National and Local Program Planning decisions this spring. Stay tuned!

It is indeed an exciting time to be a member of this organization!

Ann Murphy
Page 2

Splinters From the Board 1/21/10

Treasurer's Report – \$7,146.59 - General Fund
Membership: 71 current members with 2 approved scholarships.

- Board consensus to use \$1,000 from Vivian Winston fund for various projects such as; child care at meetings, student scholarships, and Ed Funds.
- LWVSA received \$300 for the Ed Fund from **Katy Davenport**.
- The Board approved **Kim Kreber** as a new Board member. Due to work schedules, the board will now meet at 5:00 pm.
- The Board also appointed **Pam Behring** to the Nominating Committee, **Joyce Jones** to chair the Budget Committee.
- LWV will celebrate its 90th birthday on February 14th with refreshments at the upcoming Judicial Forum.
- CEP Speaker's Bureau training date is Saturday, March 13th, 11:00am – 2:00pm. Location TBD
- **Joyce Jones** will take display to International Woman's Day March 7, 3-5pm, Women's Club. Approved sponsorship of event
- North County Early Learning Coalition workshop will be coming up in May. TBA.

Sign up for LWVWA Legislative Newsletter

It's FREE by email. There are 3 easy steps:

1. Go to: www.lwvwa.org and scroll half way down the home page
2. Click to the sign in page.
3. Type in name and email and Submit – and begin receiving the **2010 Legislative Newsletter (LNL)**

The LNL is written by League Lobby Team members and sent weekly (on Saturday) during the session, the newsletter gives current information on bills, hearings and Calls to Action on issues that LWV is following. If you don't do email, call the LWVWA office: Toll Free: 800-419-2596 for other options

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

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

LWVWA LEGISLATIVE ACTION

LWVWA 2010 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Strengthens Democracy

- public campaign financing for judicial positions
- reform of campaign contributions reporting and disclosure
- protect funding that invests in today in order to promote a more secure future for all citizens

Strengthens Education and Early Learning

- a new K-12 basic education funding structure
- expand the definition of basic education to include children from birth to five
- support quality improvements to child care programs
- promote policies and programs that promote the wellbeing and safety of all children
- improved components of the childcare subsidy and co-pay system

Improves Access to Health Care

- guarantee access for all residents in comprehensive, uniform, and affordable health services
- maintain funding for the Basic Health Plan, Cover All Kids, incentives for primary care doctors to work in underserved areas, the Health Insurance Partnership, and public health

Protects Natural Resources and Human Health

- adopt an effective program to clean up, and prevent pollutants from entering, the waters of the state
- protect children from harm due to exposures to toxic chemicals and other toxic substances
- support all efforts to reduce carbon gas emissions as quickly as possible

- support responsible land use planning to decrease climate change
- enact energy efficiency and conservation programs

Promotes a Balanced Transportation System

- increase affordable and reliable access to public transportation
- decrease the number of single-occupancy vehicles on roads, bridges and ferries
- increase fuel efficiency by promoting development and use of alternative fuel sources across all modes of transportation

LWVWA is following these bills --

Safe Baby Bottle bill - SB 6248/HB 1180 - Support

Providing public funding for Supreme Court campaigns - HB 1738/SB 5912 - Support

... and so much more. There are 12 Bills that League is actively supporting and 3 actively opposing.

Steps to Action --

1. Get the complete scoop by subscribing to the *LWVWA Legislative Newsletter*. See page 2
2. Follow up-to-the-minute action on bills at: apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo. Since this is a short session, things are moving fast!
3. Let your representatives and Senator know your thoughts!

IF THEY DON'T HEAR FROM YOU, THEY DON'T KNOW YOUR SUPPORT !



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE SPOKANE AREA
 2404 N. Howard
 Spokane, WA 99205
 (509) 326-8026
 WWW.LWVWA.ORG/SPOKANE

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
 Kim Kreber
 Lei Lani Peters
 Nominating Committee:
 Alice Stolz, Chair
 Martha Pomerleau

Calendar

February

- 8, 9, 11 Unit Meetings–Civic Engagement Project
- 14 LWV 90th Birthday
- 18 LWVSA Board Meeting @ 5pm **Note new time**

March

- 1 LWVUS Program Planning Due
- 7 International Women’s Day, Women’s Club
- 13 CEP Speakers Bureau training, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
@ LWV office
- 18 LWVSA Board Meeting @ 5pm **Note new time**
- 24 “The Third Branch” Judicial Forum @
Gonzaga Law School, 5:30-7:30pm.

April

- 15 LWVSA Board Meeting - 5 p.m.
- 27 General Meeting/Forum - Public School Funding
@ SCC, 5:30-8:00pm

May

- 20 LWVSA Annual Meeting, TBA
- 22-23 LWVWA Council, Bellingham

June

- 11-15 LWVUS Convention, Atlanta

League Leads Initiative & Referendum Task Force

During December, LWVSA rose to the challenge of facilitating a Task Force for the City of Spokane on the Initiative and Referendum Ordinance that had been before City Council. At the final reading on Dec. 7, there was a large group of citizens who testified – equally divided among pass it now, defeat it now, and allow more time for citizen input. Our League was singled out as the group to facilitate the process and the Board approved moving ahead with the project. The project team is **Lunell Haight, Alice Stolz and Ann Murphy.**

We began work with ten dedicated citizens on Jan. 20 to review the existing and proposed ordinances. Meetings on Feb. 3 and 10 will get into the significant issues. The process does allow for citizen input: send those comments to **initiative@spokanecity.org**. If anyone would like to receive the Task Force emails, please contact **ann_murphy@juno.com**. Final report is due to Council on March 1.

Stay tuned for more on citizens in action!

Ann Murphy

February 2010