



Spokane Area VOTER

Ann Murphy
President

September 2009
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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 on Two Nights

The League of Women Voters of the Spokane Area will present its General Election Candidate and Issues Forums on Tuesday, September 29, and Tuesday, October 6, at the City of Spokane Council Chambers (W. 808 Spokane Falls Blvd). Taping for both sessions will start at 5:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend, however, the primary purpose is to tape the forum for several later broadcasts on CityCable 5 prior to the General Election (November 3).

September 29 – Candidates for Spokane Public School Board positions, City of Spokane Municipal Court, Legislative District #9, Washington State Ballot Issues: Initiative 1033 and Referendum 71 (if certified to ballot)

The session on **October 6th** will be devoted to City of Spokane Council races and to four City of Spokane Propositions: Fire Bond, Community Bill of Rights and related advisory votes.

Have a question for the candidates or the pro/con speakers on issues? Please submit to the Voter Service team- **Ann Murphy** (ann_murphy@juno.com) or **Alice Stolz**, (455-8944) by September 16.

Units Meetings to Resume in October -

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

No unit meetings in September...those meetings will resume in October with the always popular discussion on Ballot Issues. Regularly scheduled unit meetings will take place on the second Monday, Tuesday and Thursday of the month. Watch the October VOTER for more specific details and contact information.

In October those days will be:

- October 8 – 9:30 a.m., Unit 5 @ the League office
TBD, Unit 6, Deer Park
7:00 p.m., Unit 3, Spokane Valley
- October 12 – 12:30 p.m., Unit 7/9, Rockwood Lane
- October 13 – 5:30 p.m., Unit 4, Europa Restaurant
(no host dinner)

LWV/SA General Meeting Spokane Budget & Proposition

Thursday, September 10, 2009

5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

League Office, 2404 N. Howard

5:30 p.m. - Join Leaguers for conversation and light refreshments

6:00 p.m. - City of Spokane Mayor Mary Verner will present on the City's 2010 Budget and take questions and comments

7:00 p.m. - Pro and Con Panel on the Community Bill of Rights followed by Q&A

Background material as insert in this VOTER:

1. Budget Information as supplied by the City of Spokane.
2. The complete text of the Community Bill of Rights

Start out the League year with other League members, potential members and guests that you would like to bring. Questions? Contact Ann Murphy, 838-4549

President's Perspective...

It was a pleasure to serve as the emcee for the **Women's Equality Day** rally in Comstock Park on August 26. It was a great venue to celebrate women's suffrage of days gone by and learn more about women's groups in the here and now. Special kudos go to Jan Polek and Marion Moos for pulling this event together during the last two weeks.

The main attraction was the presentation of the new play *That Woman & Big Noise: The Fight for Women's Suffrage in Washington State*. The play was written and directed by Sandra Hosking and stars League member **Claire Rudolf Murphy** as May Arkwright Hutton and Penny Lucas as Emma Smith DeVoe. The interactive play that involved members of the audience was very well received by the audience of over 100 adults and children. The 35-minute presentation chronicles the two women, two view points with one victory.

Marion Moos shared that May Arkwright Hutton and Emma Smith DeVoe posthumously received *The Medal of Merit* in a ceremony in Olympia in February 2009. Mariah McCabe shared information about a new group of young women, *Shrinking Violets*. Dr. Nancy Engle spoke of the research that she had recently completed through the Women's History Consortium grant that Spokane League helped facilitate. Her work, *Debating Equal Rights in Eastern Washington* (about ERA activities in the 1970's) will be on line soon.

I, of course, had the opportunity to give League of Women Voters a plug – especially appropriate as LWV was “born” out of the suffrage movement as the amendment was officially added to the Constitution in 1920.

The audience was especially diverse with many gray heads, younger professionals, and children who were recognized and challenged to carry forward with political involvement. Being there also provided me with a great time to reflect on the past to help gather steam to move into this new League year!

Ann Murphy

GentleReminder...

Dues are due!

Clip the payment slip on the next page and send with your check to continue receiving the benefits of League membership! Thank you for being a member of League.

Splinters From the Board 7/16 & 8/20/09

Treasurer's Report – \$3,907

Membership Count–90

• Thanks to **Mary Hughes**, work on LWVSA website is moving forward.

• Final paper and financial report on the ERA Project with the Women's History Consortium was submitted on June 30. More information soon.

• Local Program plans have been developed (see separate article – Expanded Program Notes)

• **Lei Lani Peters** agreed to be PR chair and **Joyce Jones** agreed to do Unit Organization.

• Approved the attendance of **Lei Lani Peters** to a Fundraiser for Non Profits Workshop

• Received Forum Question Writing Tip Sheet. You can request from League office - 326-8026

• Identified the need to recruit for Observer Corps, noting that this can be electronic. If interested, please contact **Ann Murphy** – ann_murphy@juno.com or 838-4549

Board Retreat -- The LWVSA Board Retreat on July 18, 2009, provided an opportunity to receive training from veteran League trainer, **Alice Stolz**, focusing on needs for the new and not so new board members. Thank you, Alice. Some goal setting work identified that the board sees its purpose is to educate selves and the public. We will know that we are successful when we see: increased & informed voter turn-out, increased League membership; and increased awareness of issues in community and respect of League.

Expanded Program Notes....

The Board has worked to provide the following program items during the upcoming League year:

September – General Meeting – (see page 1).

October – Unit Meetings – **Ballot Issues** – State and Local – begin watching now for media coverage and other information on these issues.

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)

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

"Mad As Hell" Doctors Coming to Spokane

Furious with the health care 'options' coming out of Washington D.C., seven "Mad As Hell" Oregon physicians are taking an unprecedented road trip across America to lobby Congress for a single-payer health care system.

The Mad As Hell Doctors will be in Spokane on Wednesday, September 9, 2009. There will be a press conference and rally at 3:30 PM at the Foley Federal Building, 920 W. Riverside Ave. This will be followed by a Mad As Hell Town Hall at 7:00 PM at the Barbieri Courtroom, Gonzaga School of Law, 721 N. Cincinnati Street.

Called a "Care-A-Van," these Oregon physicians will leave Portland, Oregon, in a used motor home on September 8th, inviting doctors, healthcare workers and ordinary citizens from other states to join them on their twenty-city tour across the country. Their journey will culminate in a D.C.-based protest event on September 30th, scheduled to take place on the steps of Congress.

The LWVWA and LWVUS both support a national single payer health care system. We may not get another opportunity for real change like this in our lifetime. Washington needs to hear from all of us right now - loud and clear.
Ginger Kelsh

more program notes....

November – Unit Meetings – GMA related update on streets and streetscapes in city and county. **Pam Behring** is developing the study material.

December – **Elected Officials Luncheon** on December 10 – will be at the Masonic Temple (donating the use of the room). This will be your opportunity for conversations with city, county and state elected officials. Plan now to attend. **Suzi Hokonson** is coordinating.

January – Unit Meetings – **Program Planning** for national and local items. This will be your opportunity to learn more about League positions, and give input on what to study next. **Ann Murphy** is coordinating.

February – **Civic Engagement Project** – New information from LWVWA – **Diane Knutson** is coordinating local information on this project. Learn more about how you can be involved.

February or March – **Judicial Program** – Date TBD – Program ideas: Presiding judges present on each of their courts followed by a pro/con panel on Public Financing of Judicial Races. **Suzi Hokonson** is coordinating logistics, but we need a person to develop the program – if interested, please contact **Ann Murphy**.

March – Unit Meetings – **Immigration** – **Chris Clark** and **Joyce Jones** are working to finalize this update look at the impact of Legal Immigration on Local Social Services.

April – **Public Forum** – **Public School Funding** (date TBD). **Kathy Kalich** is in charge of developing a panel program using Leaguers and members of the education community.

May – **Annual Meeting** – Date TBD – **Ann Murphy** and the board will coordinate to get your direction for the next year of League activities.

If **YOU** would like to be involved with one or more of these topics, contact chair name in **bold**.

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

Not a League Member?

You are receiving this publication because at some point recently you expressed interest in League-- and we wanted you to know about the exciting events coming up this year. *Please join us!*

Calendar

September

- 7 Labor Day
- 9 "Mad As Hell" Doctors (see page 3)
- 10 General Meeting (see page 1)
- 24 LWVSA Board Meeting **Note: date change**
4 p.m. at League office
- 29 General Election Forum I (see page 1)

October

- 6 General Election Forum II (see page 1)
- 8, 12, 13 Unit Meetings – Ballot Issues
- 15 LWVSA Board Meeting (return to regular date)

November

- 3 Election Day
- 7 LWVWA Action Workshop – TriCities
Plan now to attend.!

Sustainable September Spokane

*is about creating vibrant local economies, clean air and water and a healthy quality of life for every citizen. There are activities all month long. Join in the **soludition!** Learn more at www.sustainableseptemberspokane.org*

Women's Equality Day - August 26



Emma Smith DeVoe & May Arkwright Hutton make a point working for women's suffrage. Bring a piece of living history to your school, library, theater or group with That Woman & Big Noise – the one-act play and activities are designed to fill a class period; performance can be customized to augment programming. For royalty/fee information & bookings, contact Sandra Hosking – 509-953-9928 or sandrahosking@hotmail.com.