



# Spokane Area VOTER

Ann Murphy  
President

April 2009  
VOLUME LXV/ NO 4

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."*

## April Unit Meetings - Climate Change Issues

The issue of global climate change is of great importance to the League of Women Voters. At Convention 2008 in Portland the collective body adopted a "multi-level education and advocacy campaign to promote solutions to global climate change," as an amendment to proposed program. Since then the LWVUS has undertaken a number of activities, and more are being planned...and we will discuss these at the April Unit Meetings.

- Dust off – National voters – June 2007 – *Global Warming's Simple Remedy* and October 2007 *Heat is On: Climate Change and Emerging Policies*

*see next column...*

- Check out [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) for climate change background papers and actions on the issue.
- Come to the unit meeting prepared to learn more about League involvement, experience the stories of four different women on the Oxfam DVD – "Sisters on the Planet"
- Decide what you can do to make a difference.

See page 2 and the VOTER insert for additional information

### **LWVSA Annual Meeting**

**Thursday, May 21 - 5 to 9 p.m.**

**Dinner, Program, Business Meeting**

**Cost \$15 - RSVP required**

**Details will be in The Call to Annual Meeting**

## Volunteer Opportunity...

The LWV of Washington has secured a table at the Washington State Library Association Conference at the Red Lion Hotel at the Park in Spokane. The purpose is to promote the newly released edition of *The State We're In*.

**Exhibit days/times are: Thursday, April 16 (9-5) and Friday, April 17 (9-3;30)....** And the state League would like to involve local Leaguers as volunteers at the booth. Lynne Baxter (LWVWA 1<sup>st</sup> VP and Ed Fund Board member) is in charge and has developed the displays with plenty of talking points and materials. Three to four hour shifts seem to work best...and two people at a time allows for breaks.

If you have time to contribute to this worthwhile connection for both state and local League, please contact:

*Pam Behring (534-2223 or behring@gonzaga.edu)*

## April Unit Meeting Schedule...

### April 9, 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)

Unit 3 - 7:30 pm - Spokane Valley Library, 12004 E. Main

Contact: **Jennie Willardson** (981-0950 or 926-6854)

### April 13, Monday

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

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

### April 14, Tuesday

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

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

With ever changing Weather Conditions, if you are uncertain about whether or not the unit is meeting, call the contact to verify. Remember, any member and visitors are welcome to attend any Unit meeting. **See you there!**

## *President's Perspective...*

There is change about ... local and global....and ways to carry on...

In late March Spokane said good bye to a dynamite change agent in this community. **Vivian Winston** died at the age of 97 after decades of working to better the lives of many. She had been a founding member and a 50-year plus member of LWVSA. She was also one of the six founders of the highly successful Women Helping Women Fund here in Spokane. I remember that when my mother died just prior to the WHWF luncheon – and my sister and I wanted to carry mom's legacy to the luncheon – Vivian was so wonderful to host us at her table. Many of you may know of the scholarship program that WHWF founded in Vivian's name. As WHWF created the scholarship, Vivian insisted that the scholarship money be flexible enough to allow a woman to pay not just for her classes, but for her child care as well. Her statement was that the scholarship wasn't just about getting an education, but about recognizing and overcoming the obstacles that often stand in the way in life. Vivian's Voice will live on... contact WHWF if you would like to contribute to the scholarship.

Our April units will allow you to discuss more about global changes – particularly climate change. When I attended LWVUS Convention in June 2008, it was a pleasure to hear technical lectures, personal experiences and sit in a packed caucus session on climate change issues. You will have a chance to experience what four women are doing with regard to climate change when you view the DVD – “Sisters on the Planet” – at unit meetings.

We can all be a part of change on both the local social issues that Vivian Winston championed and the solutions to global climate change that LWVUS is promoting. Be Involved!

*Ann Murphy, 838-4549 or ann\_murphy@juno.com*

### **Climate Change -- Related Local Actions**

In Washington State - Governor's Climate Action Team  
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/index.htm>

In City of Spokane - Mayor Verner's Task Force has completed a year's work on Sustainability culminating in the Sustainability Action Plan. The plan addressed both climate change and peak oil issues and includes strategies to address climate mitigation, climate adaptation, and energy security. Citizens are invited to comment. [www.greenspokane.org](http://www.greenspokane.org)

## **Splinters From the Board** 3/19/09

**Treasurer's Report – \$6,267 Membership Count–91**

- Affirmed dues proposal for 1/2 year memberships with accompanying By-law language to propose for Annual Meeting.
- Authorized \$250 that can be requested from our Ed Fund Account for the Potential Judicial Event in May, once the event is confirmed.
- Approved Climate Change program for April. Set briefing for Wed., April 1 @ 10 a.m.
- Approved language on Member Mentoring Program
- Received “Coalition Membership” form from Chris Clark for LWVSA's involvement in the Coalition for Early Learning in Rural North Spokane County.
- Scheduled the LWVSA Board Retreat for Thursday, July 16, starting at 1 p.m. We will work through the afternoon, and then have a social dinner (to make up for the missed December dinner).
- Annual Meeting (May 21)
  - approved a charge of \$15 per attendee to cover food and room rental.
  - received Preliminary report from Nominating Committee: Ann Murphy, President; Pam Behring, VP; Ginger Kelsh, Secretary; 2 year Board members: Joyce Jones, Kathy Kalich and Diane Knutson. Nominating Committee Chair, Alice Stolz.
  - Approved advancing recommended Program items on GMA (Environment with emphasis on street policies, etc) and Update on funding for local education.
  - By-laws - approved amended language for recommended change on dues
  - Budget - considered concerns with regard to PMP increases at both state and national LWV

*Want to see.... and order the newly released **The State We're In**, published by the LWVWA Ed Fund... Check it out at the League table at the Washington State Library Association meeting. (see page 1)*

*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 \$19  
State \$18  
Nat'l \$28  
\$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

### Washington Courts - Unit Report

There have been very favorable comments about the March LWV units on the Washington State Court system. If you didn't get a chance to read the information you can go to the LWVWA website and download the information. This was not a League Study and was for education purposes only. Some comments that came up were:

- This Citizen's guide should be used in all high school curriculums
- I wasn't able to attend a unit, but I certainly learned a lot reading the material.
- How are juror's names chosen, as numerous members have never been called?
- Would be good to have a unit on the Federal System
- Would like more information on why the City court was formed.
- Would like a list of the Courts and the Judges in each.
- Wondering how the records of Judicial Candidates can be more available to the public.
- Why has the juror's fee remained at \$10 and it doesn't even include parking?
- Forums are essential in judicial races.
- Should the City of Spokane Valley also have a Municipal Court?

Many League members and non-League members helped prepare the additional information used at these units, too many to list, but thanks to all of you. *Suzi Hokonson*

### Immigration Study/Update

**Chris Clark, Judith Miller, and Joyce Jones** are presently working on the rewrite for study on *Legal Immigration's Impact on Spokane Area Social Services*. An appointed reading committee including **Pam Behring** will meet in June to review the draft. The revised document and presentation including discussion questions and exhibits will be considered at the July Board meeting. The Unit Programs will be scheduled for September 2009.

*Christine Clark*

### Coalition Takes Off --

The Coalition for Early Learning in Rural North Spokane County which includes League of Women Voters of the Spokane Area provided a planning dinner meeting in February with over 50 participants. Results are in the process of being identified and activities developed. Increasing opportunities for children birth to five and their families as well as expectant and foster families, child caregivers, private and public preschools, educators, community patrons to provide for quality early learning will begin with an outdoor book walk for children at the Deer Park Library and initiation of training for certifications and licensure for child caregivers. A parenting education program for families of children birth to five using the "Love and Logic" curriculum has been proposed.

*Chris Clark*

### Upcoming Forum....

Washington Public Campaigns is planning a forum. *Our Health Care & Fair Elections Now Act (FENA) Forum* is being planned for late May. Watch for more details.

The forum is on both health care needs AND why there is a need for public funding of campaigns in Congress. The forum plans to focus on the influence of special medical interest groups such as the AMA, Pharmaceutical Companies, etc., who give large contributions to congressional candidates, and thus seemingly sway their votes. There will be a series of these types of forums connecting the dots between special interest groups money and the way Congress votes on a variety of issues.

If you have an interest in participating in the planning, please contact:

*Ginger Kelsh* (443-6108 or gkelsh@peoplepc.com)

**LWV/Spokane Area**

- President: **Ann Murphy**  
 Secretary: **Ginger Kelsh**  
 Treasurer: **Mary Hughes**  
 Directors: **Pam Behring**  
               **Chris Clark**  
               **Suzi Hokonson**  
               **Joyce Jones**  
               **Judy Miller**  
 Nominating Committee:  
               **Alice Stolz, Chair**  
               **Sandy Paine**  
               **Pam Behring**

*Calendar*

**April**

- 1 Unit Briefing 10 a.m. LWV office  
 9, 13, 14 Unit Meetings (see page 1)  
 16 LWVSA Board Meeting; Deadline for *“The Call”*  
 16-17 WA Library Assn - Volunteer Opportunity (page 1)

**May**

- 1 *Call to Annual Meeting* mailed (no May VOTER)  
 21 LWVSA Annual Meeting - 5 - 9 p.m.  
 29-31 LWVWA Convention, Murano Hotel, Tacoma

**June**

- 5 Last day for Candidate filing

**July**

- 16 LWVSA Board Retreat, 1 - 7 p.m Place TBA

**Address correction:** Please make the following change in your Membership Directory (on the inside cover).

- Change LWVWA address to: 4730 University Way NE, # 720 (office moved)
- The toll free number is: 1-800-419-2596 (printed incorrectly)

**Opportunity Knocks Again**

The nominating committee has almost completed its work. Still needed are someone to serve for one year as a director and someone to serve on the nominating committee.

A director’s duties are to attend board meetings and to participate in board discussions and decisions. Other duties will be determined at the first meeting after election, when the board organizes itself.

The nominating committee meets once (usually in February) to organize its tasks, and then, contacts nominees by phone.

If you were interested in being on the board, but hesitated to make a 2-year commitment, now is your chance!

You don’t need to “know” members to serve on the nominating committee. A friendly voice and a willingness to speak with people is what is needed.

We await your call... **Alice Stolz**, chair 455-8944,  
**Sandy Paine** 467-9524,  
**Pam Behring** 534-2223