



Spokane Area VOTER

Ann Murphy
President

April 2011
VOLUME LXVII/ 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."

Alternatives to Incarceration

The LWVSA Judicial Panel held March 22, 2011 at Gonzaga University's Moot Court Room may not have been packed with people but it was packed with information. Bonnie Mager, introduced the forum by expressing her admiration for the dedication, commitment and hard work of the Spokane County employees who struggle to change the lives of some of the individuals who come through the justice system. George Critchlow, Law School Dean, was an excellent moderator for a diverse panel of judges, court administrators and a prosecuting attorney. Panelists were:

- Mental Health Court (District)-- Judge Sara
- Derr and Court Administrator Sandy Manfred.
- Juvenile Court(Superior) -- Judge Ellen Kalama Clark and Court Administrator Bonnie Bush
- Drug Court (Superior)-- Judge Harold Clarke and Court Administrator Sandy Altshuler
- Prosecutor's Office -- Debbie Kurbitz, Administrative Attorney

The information to support alternatives to incarceration was overwhelming. Not only is it financially smart by pulling people out of the jails but it makes them productive people. The individual and the family learns about budget, relationships, how to rent, basically how to live. The concern for the programs is funding. Unlike other states, Washington's local courts are funded at the local level and in Spokane County local revenues have declined.

For those who attended, it was an enlightening and provocative evening. Thank you to the participants, and to New Leaf Bakery for the catering. Thank you as well to the LWVSA committee who pulled it together: **Carol McVicker, Sally Phillips, Diane Crow, Pete Duffy**, chaired by **Pam Behring**.

Pam Behring

Take a Look at Low Income Housing in Spokane

Discussion at April Unit Meetings will cover low income housing. This is the LWVSA Environmental GMA update approved at the 2010 Annual Meeting.

Please read, and then bring the Membership Materials Insert on Low Income Housing and the discussion questions (page 4). In addition, bring other information that you may have... and bring your questions.

April Unit Meeting Schedule

April 11 - Monday

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

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

April 12 - Tuesday

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

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

April 14 - Thursday

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

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

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

Plan to attend

***LWVSA Annual Meeting
May 12, 2011 - 5:30 - 9 p.m.***

Details in upcoming Call to Annual Meeting

President's Perspective...

My personal League journey began with my earliest memories of my mother, Margaret Fellows Portman, carrying petitions for I-211 (redistricting in Washington State). She served as my role model in this world of non-partisan volunteerism. I feel as though I cut teeth on the hearing about the 208 study on the aquifer and various redistrictions of county government structure.

I first joined the League when I landed in Pullman in the early 1970's. I remember studying campaign finance reform and Whitman County solid waste issues.

When my husband and I moved to Othello WA, it was only natural for me to figure out a League involvement. So, we formed a Unit at Large. And my Othello home provided a half way meeting base for then State President Fran Dew and my mom to do State Convention Plans. That was the beginning of my daughter Megan accompanying me to League meetings – and “going to meetings” becoming part of her role playing.

When our family moved back to Spokane in 1982 – one of the first things that happened was that mom did our new voter registrations – and I went to my first League meeting in Spokane. And, the rest, as they say, is history. I have cycled in and out of League involvement for the past 28 years (OMG!)

It has been my privilege and pleasure to be part of such a wonderful organization for that long... I served on the board in the early years with Megan coming to those Board meetings, and then as I needed to be in the work arena, I took lesser responsibilities. But always, I was committed to League interests and values. I first served as President in 1987-89, and then (as for many members) other family responsibilities pulled me away. Once I retired from coaching synchronized swimming, I was able to cycle back to League interests while I continued full time employment.

It has been my privilege (and pleasure) to serve as LWVSA President for the past six years. I have enjoyed the community involvement, and the support of the membership as the League continues its good work.

And now it is time for me to move on – and I am looking at some potential involvement with LWVWA.

see next column

Splinters From the Board 3/10/2011

Treasurer's Report – \$5,735

Membership – 58 + 2 life time

- Judicial Forum - March 22 - Pam Behring reported that committee is working on details -see page 1 for report
- Annual Meeting - Call to Annual Meeting will be mailed April 14.
- Agreed to join the YWCA for Stand Against Racism on April 29, at 12 noon Y at 930 N. Monroe.
- Feb units – Conservation Districts – questions and impressions from units ?? still working on
- Jail Ballot Issue - continuing to follow-up on both sides of this issue. Anticipate that item could be on August Ballot. LWV will do a forum

From LWVWA Board of Directors

PMP (Per Member Payment) will remain \$19 for the first year of the biennium. Board will ask for permission from Convention delegates this May to raise the PMP to \$20 the second year. should it be necessary.

State Program recommendation: a one-year update of a portion of the 1977 Energy Position, EN-6, which says in part: “...The use of alternative energy systems such as on-site solar heating and recovery of energy from wastes should be actively encouraged.” (2009 – 2011 LWVWA Program in Action, p. 23)

Title: Update of Energy Positions with emphasis on Biomass

Scope: One-year effort leading to possible update of the position.

Any one interested in working on this state wide committee -- please contact Ann Murphy, 838-4549

I know that you all will step up to moving the Spokane League forward. I know that this League will continue to move forward! Thanks so much for the privilege and the hard work!

Ann Murphy

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: _____

\$ 70. Individual

Address: _____

Distribution

Local \$21.30

State \$19

Nat'l \$29.70

City: _____ Zip: _____

\$100. Household

Phone-- Home: _____ Work: _____

\$100. Sustaining Member

\$150. Benefactor

Fax: _____ e-mail: _____

\$ 35. Scholarship(call for application)

\$ 35 Student

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

Conservation District Updates

In February the **Spokane League** did an informational update on the Spokane Conservation District. For the most part members indicated that they had little prior knowledge about the Spokane Conservation District (SCD) and what it did. They were glad to receive the additional information, and as could be predicted, there were numerous questions relating to the district's services.

In a follow-up conversation with Jim Armstrong at the SCD, Pete Duffy reports the following:

That the assessment rates that were outlined in the LWV document results in \$962,000 revenue per year.

Mr Armstrong estimated that the total revenue in 2009 was \$3.5 million (which included all flow through grant monies and State Revolving Fund repayments) and expenses \$2.4 million. Grant money comes from other agencies, such as the Department of Ecology, to "put conservation on the ground and provide technical assistance to landowners."

While, there was no consensus process, LWVSA members felt that much more needed to be learned about the CD supervisor election process.

LWVWA is in the final stages of preparing the state study on Conservation Districts. **Ann Murphy** and **Alice Stolz** are providing comment in the Reading Committee process. The state study should be ready for member consideration in Fall 2011. *Ann Murphy*

Thank you

to Avista for printing the 2011 TRY

TRY was sent with last VOTER, posted on LWVSA website, and delivered to libraries, government offices, etc. More copies are in the League office.

Membership Notes...

Betty Banks, a life time member (50+ years) of LWVSA, died on March 25, 2011. Most notable with involvement in League are her diligence in maintaining the financial records for many years. Betty also spearheaded the Drug Court study that our local League undertook in 2000 that led to LWVSA position to support Drug Court, a precursor to local problem solving courts. Betty was not only involved in League, but Archeological Society, Church of Christ Scientists, United Nations Association, and supporter of Civic Theatre and the Symphony. She enjoyed world travel with her family.

At Betty's request there will not be any service and remembrances can be made to any of Betty's passions. Members who wish to honor Betty's long years in League are invited to make a contribution to the League of Women Voters Education Fund (send to LWVSA, N 2404 Howard, Spokane, 99205) To send a note to her family: Karen and Dave Banks, PO Box 1410, Priest River, ID 83856.

Public Financing Update...

The bill to provide public financing of the State Supreme Court judicial campaigns did not make it out of committee in either the House or Senate this Legislative Session. The bill is technically still part of the 2-year session, so it could be revived next year - and it probably will be. Finding agreeable funding source is challenging. (Craig Salins, State Director of WPC.)

ESSB 5021 - Enhancing election campaign disclosure requirements to promote greater transparency for the public: The bill received unanimous support in the Senate and has had a hearing in the House State Government and Tribal Affairs Committee. It was considered in executive session March 21st. (LWVWA weekly Legislative Newsletter.)

Ginger Kelsh

April 2011



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

LWV/Spokane Area

President: **Ann Murphy**
 Vice President: **Pam Behring**
 Secretary:
 Treasurer: **Mary Hughes**
 Directors: **Pete Duffy**
Molly Hannan
Joyce Jones
Ginger Kelsh

Nominating Committee:
Alice Stolz, Chair
Ann Souza
Pam Behring

Calendar

April
 11, 12, 14 Unit Meetings (see page 1 & Insert)
 21 LWVSA Board
 29 Stand Against Racism, 11 a.m., YWCA
May
 12 LWVSA Annual Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
 20-23 LWVWA Convention – Tri Cities

Attention!

Many Leagues and other volunteer organizations are finding it a challenge to recruit board members. Spokane League is no exception. We still have slots open on the new board and nominating committee.

Be sure to read the nominating committee report in the Call to Annual Meeting soon after you receive it. We are at the point where we need to begin adjusting “the way we’ve always done it.” The report will include examples of how other Leagues have met this challenge.

The goal is to organize ourselves in such a way that it is easier for members to participate in leadership, and to continue our important role in the community.

Nominating Committee: *Alice Stolz*, chair, 455-8944
Ann Souza, 230-9566, *Pam Behring*, 534-2223

Join the League
at the YWCA for the
2011 Stand Against Racism
Friday, April 29 - 11am
930 N. Monroe

The Stand is a national event, and This Stand is the 2nd for Spokane. Participating in this Stand can begin a conversation about racism. There are many organizations in Spokane that are working to eliminate the impacts of racism in Spokane, and the League stands in solidarity with them. The Stand is one day; work in our community will last much longer. See you there...

Sample Unit Meeting Discussion Questions

1. Discuss how low-income housing is funded and where the money originates.
2. Discuss the Community Development Programs: What do you know about
 - a. The specific programs?
 - b. How Community Development projects are approved and funded?
3. Is there enough provision for various kinds of housing for special groups in the Spokane area? Other suggestions....