



Spokane Area VOTER

Ann Murphy
President

January 2011
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“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.”

January Units - Program Planning for State and Local Issues

League advocacy, or action, begins when members select an issue for concerted study, followed by member agreement through consensus or concurrence. Local League program focuses on issues that can be addressed by local government, state League program addresses state level issues, and LWVUS program addresses national issues.

Program Planning: the way the League chooses its issues. League members choose issues to place on its public policy agenda, and consider what role the local League will play in addressing those issues during the program planning process. Leaguers also decide which items to recommend as state items. This process culminates when the program is adopted at LWVSA annual meeting (May 12) and the biennial state convention (May 20 – 22 in Richland).

Questions to consider in selecting an issue for League:

- Which issues are of such vital concern to our members and our community that they demand attention now?
- Which issues will benefit from the League’s special expertise or perspective?
- Is there a real possibility that citizens working on this issue can bring about positive change?
- Will League work on this issue have a measurable impact on our community or state? How will results be evaluated?
- Will working on this issue give the League opportunities to collaborate with other groups and individuals?

Once members have decided that an issue of public concern requires League attention, we must determine what role the League should play in addressing those issues.

Spokane Leaguers will consider state and local program proposals. To prepare:

1. Review information in this VOTER.
2. Review state and local positions in the LWVSA Member Handbook. If you can’t find your Handbook, it is available on line: www.lwvspokane.org State positions are available at www.lwvwa.org in Program In Action 2009-2011
3. Give thought to what you think League should tackle next year and come to unit meetings ready with your ideas. (see guidelines on Page 3)
4. If you cannot attend a unit meeting, please complete the response form with this VOTER and return it by January 17 according to the directions on the form.

Reports from units and individuals will be considered at the January LWVSA Board Meeting, and then submitted to LWVWA by February 14.

January Unit Meeting Schedule

Jan. 10, Monday

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

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

Jan. 11, Tuesday

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

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

Jan 13, 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!**

President's Perspective...

This month, we are considering new state and local program items for next year. It is important to be familiar with current positions. See page 1 for access information.

A good way to determine a League issue that you want to suggest and would be willing to work on is to ask yourself, "What is My Passion?" Below are some suggestions of state issues that League members are passionate about.

- **Land Use.** A review of the Growth Management Report of 2006 to potentially add any more recent legislation that affects the value of our report. This report, like other recent reports, is of great value as a resource for new elected officials and needs to be kept up to date. Possibly, the changes could be simply added as an inserted typed page with references to the appropriate section of the Report.
- **Study how to reduce recidivism of sexual offenders.** Perpetrators of sexual assaults very often re-offend. How can this cycle be stopped? What do theories about recidivism have to offer us? Today the only solutions seem to be incarceration or castration (physical or chemical). Are there other ways to address the problems?
- **Carrying Capacity.** Study how the reduction of carrying capacity, specifically, the inverse relationship between human population and natural resources, may be lowering our quality of life. Are the demands of our large population reducing present quality of life or compromising the quality of life of those in the future?

And then what are you interested in locally? One concept to consider is doing more presentations/workshops, rather than updates. See items below and at right.

Join us and be part of the process! Ann Murphy

Local Program Prioritization - In the past several years LWVSA has examined local perspectives based on the *2006 LWVWA Growth Management Study*. This spring we are examining Housing. For 2011 you are asked to prioritize:

- Environment (City of Spokane Mayor's Sustainability Task Force Report and actions)
- Shoreline Management (issues along the Spokane River)

Splinters From the Board 12/9/10

Treasurer's Report – \$6,545.93

Membership:

- Finalized plans for Dec. 13th luncheon
- Approved \$50 donation to the Children's Investment Fund campaign to retire debt.
- Discussed ideas for Program Planning

Local Program Proposal...

... that LWVSA participate in Civil Discussions Workshop (How to have Civil Discussions in Uncivil Times). This program, or a form of it, is being prepared by LWVWA for local Leagues.

The training is 3.5 hours with these Learning Objectives:

1. Develop a basic understanding of the biology of conflict, physiological responses, and become more familiar with how the brain approaches complex, values-based discussions.
2. Develop and practice communication strategies to manage your own tendencies for escalation. Learn what you can do to bring your best self to difficult conversations.
3. Develop and use open questions and neutral issue frames to support productive discussions.

Mary Dumas, Dumas and Associates, Inc. presented this program at LWVWA Council, 2010. (Training Workbook available.)

Topics of discussion used in other civil discussion workshops are:

- Tacoma-Pierce held a Community Priorities Exercise called Refreshing Democracy. (Description and DVD available.) The exercise prioritizes public spending at the local level.
- The exercise at LWVWA Council was on the State budget priorities.
- Health Care was the topic for one local League Workshop prior to Convention.

Pam Behring

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: _____

Phone-- Home: _____ Work: _____

\$100. Household

\$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

Program Planning - definitions and questions to ponder when considering program planning proposals:

- Study:** to reach member agreement on an issue so that the League can take action.
 - Does the League already have a position?
 - Is there a government solution to the problem?
 - Is there enough time to do a study and then act to influence the resolution of the problem?
- Update:** to review an issue
 - Is the League position still useful?
 - Is the position sufficiently general?
 - Are there significant developments in the issues area that are not reflected in the position?
 - What is the proper scope of effort to update the position?
- Concurrence:** to agree with a position already held by another League of Women Voters
 - Is their study available to us?
 - Is their resulting consensus of sufficient use to us?
 - to be sufficiently well informed on the issues.
 - has the statement, background materials including pros and cons
 - could not amplify, make subject to conditions, or alter the statement of position reached by the other League.
- Action:** always the goal of the League's study process. Member understanding and strong support are essential for successful action.
 - Are timing and political realities right for success?
 - Does the community expect or need the League to be a player on this issue?
 - Will League action on this issue make a significant difference?
 - Could a focused, targeted action campaign enhance LWV visibility and stature?
 - Do our members understand our position and our action goals?
- Citizen Education:** to help citizens understand the complexities of an issue and encourage people to participate in reaching a solution; can also lay the groundwork for successful advocacy.
 - Does our community need help in understanding this issue and its possible solutions?
 - Is there enough time to develop and implement our project before citizens must make a decision?
 - Is it more important to help citizens understand this issue than to advocate our League position at this time?

Elected Officials Luncheon Wrap-up

League members, their guests and local officials gathered for our annual luncheon on December 13th. The event, held at The Spokane Masonic Center, was well attended. After enjoying informal discussions over a delicious lunch, the officials or their representatives took the opportunity to share their thoughts on what they hoped to accomplish in 2011 in the face of local and state budget cutbacks.

see next column

Membership Notes:

Welcome to new members Bob Voris (husband of Phyllis Holmes), Dennis Dellwo and Lynette Vehrs.

Thank you to the 48 members who have paid their dues. To continue League membership dues must be received no later than Jan. 26, 2011, for our report to LWVUS Please use the dues payment form above. Thank you.

We give our special thanks to Avista for underwriting this luncheon, and to the members who acted as greeters and table hosts.

Molly Hannan



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

OF THE SPOKANE AREA

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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
Jet Tilley

Nominating Committee:
Alice Stolz, Chair
Ann Souza

Calendar

January - 2011

1 New Years
10 Start Legislative session
10, 11, 13 Unit Meetings (see page 1)
17 Deadline to return Program Planning worksheet
20 LWVSA Board, 5:00 pm @ LWV office

February

2 Lecture @ MAC – Nancy Engle
8, 10, 14 Unit Meetings (tentative)
14 LWV Birthday
17 LWVSA Board
24 LWV Day, Olympia (formerly Lobby Day)

March

TBD Judicial Forum
17 LWVSA Board

April

11, 12, 14 Unit Meetings
21 LWVSA Board

May

12 LWVSA Annual Meeting (evening)
20-23 LWVWA Convention – Tri Cities

Suffrage Commemorations Continue...

In addition to the ongoing exhibition, *Women's Votes, Women's Voices*, here are two more upcoming women's history programs at the MAC.

Dress Code exhibition opened Saturday, Dec, 18 and runs through April 30, 2011. Clothing and fashion can signal the changing roles and ambitions of women and provide clues about personal identity. From the luxury of feeling beautiful, to strategies for getting ahead, women wear the varied armors of female fashion to get what they want. Several ensembles from the MAC's permanent collection illustrate *Fashion and Women's Sphere* - 200 years of American fashion. Ensembles illustrate *You Are What You Wear* - personal identity, fashion in politics, and uniformity. Take your own picture as a Victorian lady, a 1920s flapper, or a 1950s housewife !

That Woman & Big Noise interactive stage play, Jan. 19, 2011, 6:30 pm at The MAC Auditorium \$5 Focuses on the fight for women's suffrage in Washington State. Written by Sandra Hosking and starring **Claire Rudolf Murphy** and Penny Lucas.

For more info: <http://www.northwestmuseum.org>