



Spokane Area VOTER

PRESIDENT:

December 2011
VOLUME LXVII/ NO 8

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."



*Please join the League of
Women Voters/Spokane Area
at our
**Holiday Luncheon for
Elected Officials***

*Elected state and local officials will have an opportunity to meet
with League members and their guests
in an informal setting to discuss upcoming issues
that will affect us in Spokane.*

Wednesday, December 14, 2011
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Skyline Room
The Red Lion Hotel at the Park
303 W. North River Drive, Spokane

RSVP by December 7, 2011, to --
Molly Hannan (533-0501 or
mollyhann@yahoo.com)



We thank Avista Corporation for underwriting this event.

Please Complete a Membership Questionnaire

The priority of the LWVSA board is to grow our active membership. **You can help!** Please provide feedback that can help us with this effort. On page 3 of this VOTER is a Membership Questionnaire - please complete and return through one of these methods....

- Send by regular mail or email to one of the addresses on the form.
- Turn in to the Unit Leader when you attend your meeting.

Thank you!

*Carol Landa-McVicker,
Membership Chair*

No Unit Meetings in December

Plan to attend Unit meetings in January and participate in local and national program planning. Learn about League positions and plan to "lobby" for what you would like to study....

Remember - members and visitors are welcome at all unit meetings....

See you in the New Year!

This League's Perspective...

During Sept. and Nov. Unit meetings, 17 members of LWVSA expressed their opinions on the role of the federal government in public education. A summary of the consensus follows. For complete results, of what was submitted to LWVUS, go to www.lwvspokane.org.

Members agreed: that the current role of the federal government in public education is about right, even though some areas have too little assistance, and some too much; and that a quality public education is important to perpetuate a strong and viable democracy.

Other General Comments: Teachers need to upgrade technological skills by retraining, or retire. The quality and bias of text books needs to be examined and remediated if necessary. Districts and teachers are on the front lines and know best what is good for their schools and students. It should be the federal role to step in if local districts/states fail to meet the needs of the local students. National consistency is good goal but needs to be implemented gradually. NCLV and RTTT both push for charter schools but it was noted that Washington State voters do not want them.

Regarding Common Core Standards: Members felt that the standards do not need to be mandated of the states in order to obtain federal funding. All programs under Elementary and Secondary Education Act where the need exists should qualify for funding. LWVSA agreed that there should be a national voluntary assessment aligned with the Common Core State Standards. National Standards should lead to suggested structure for states and local education agencies to develop their own curriculum.

Data from national assessments should be "criterion referenced" and clearly informative so that teachers, parents and students know how individual students have mastered criteria established at a national level. Information from nationally required assessment data should be used to inform districts how their population compares to others similar to theirs. We had no clear consensus on the role that the national assessment consortia should play in student evaluation.

Poor performance should lead to assistance/support of the student and/or teacher rather than sanctions (withdrawal of support). Financial assistance should encourage research and innovation. Curricular guidance is welcome and may include voluntary assessment tools. Comparing student, schools, school districts, state systems is of secondary importance and should not be the primary focus. National guidelines, voluntary assessment tools, and/or recommended models for examining school programs, facilities, budgets, management, and/or instruction and counseling are welcome. Need to be sure to include valuable enrichment topics or vocational education. Federal mandates should be fully funded

continued, next column

Splinters From the Board 11/16/2011

Treasurer's Report – \$6,057 **Membership** – 39

LWVUS Public Education consensus study – approved
consensus to be submitted by 11/30/11

Elected Officials Luncheon – Molly reviewed plans. Purpose of luncheon is opportunity for invited guests, potential members to discuss League positions with elected officials. Underwritten by Avista so no cost to participants.

Membership Board will call members who need to pay Carol - Only 2 questionnaires returned. Will resend in Dec Voter and have at elected official luncheon. Discussed possible membership committee. Developing committee responsibilities.

Judicial Panel - Pam working on funding; grants; topics of interest: selection of Judges and diversity/equity.

TRY – Pete Duffy working on updates.

Program Planning–January- local and state program planning; Review list of League positions. Need people to read and present materials. Pam will get materials for privatization.

continued...

In the area of **Funding and Equity**, members agreed that a combination of non-competitive and competitive grants should be used for funding. If the federal government's role is the concern of the "common good" then, mandates and funding should both be provided. Equity in public education means equitable access to high quality teaching learning and adequate /current learning materials.

We strongly agreed that ESEA should remain targeted toward poverty and special needs students. The federal government has a role in supporting early childhood education, birth to 5, for all children. Federal support for early childhood education programs (Head Start, Title I, Special Education, Early Start) should include funding for parent education and support regarding child development, child health and nutrition, and access to other supportive services, such as mental health, is needed for all children.

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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.

LWVSA Membership Questionnaire

Name: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone: (h) _____ (w) _____ (c) _____

Email Address: _____ Receive Voter by email ? Y _____ N _____

1. My area(s) of Interest – mark all that apply:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> K-12 Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Higher Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Resource Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood Care/Ed | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administration of Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Representative Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Police Oversight |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Climate Change | <input type="checkbox"/> Immigration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Campaign Financing | <input type="checkbox"/> State Tax Policy |

Other _____

2. I am most likely to attend:

- monthly unit meetings
 general meetings
 special functions e.g. legislative luncheon, candidate forums
 none at this time, maybe later

3. I am more likely to attend a monthly unit meeting if it is:

- a morning meeting a dinner meeting
 an afternoon meeting an evening meeting

4. I would prefer unit meetings on:

- Monday Thursday Any day
 Tuesday Friday
 Wednesday Saturday

5. I would like to volunteer as time allows for the following:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elected Official Luncheon | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate Forum | <input type="checkbox"/> Program Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Judicial Panel | <input type="checkbox"/> Executive Board membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Phoning or computer work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Voter (newsletter) | <input type="checkbox"/> Office work – weekly or monthly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

6. Please add any comments, suggestions or questions (what are we doing well, where we need improvement, how can we grow active local membership, program ideas, etc.):

Please fill out and mail or email to: Carol McVicker, Membership Chair - 2705 E Mt Vernon Dr, Spokane 99223 OR cj_99224@yahoo.com (underscore between “cj” and 99224) OR take to Unit Meeting



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

Nominating Committee:
 Alice Stolz, Chair

Calendar

December

- 7 RSVP deadline for Luncheon
- 14 Elected Officials Luncheon
- 16 Board Meeting

January

- 9 Start of Washington State Legislature
- 9, 10, 12 Unit Meetings (Program Planning)
- 18 Board Meeting (10 p.m. @ LWV office)

Public Education Consensus continued from page 2

Additional Comments: Equity in education is a wonderful concept, but we will never fully achieve this. (There is no reliable measure of equity. Equal dollar support does not buy equal support in different parts of the country. Missing parental support cannot be purchased. Community ancillary resources cannot be supplied by public school services.) We support something that promotes innovation on non-competitive grants. Mandates/grants must be fully funded. Facilities should not just be clean and well maintained, but environmentally safe. It would be preferable to have block grants to local districts which would have discretion on how to develop programs. If we fund early education we might not need the extra monies for K-12.

*Ann Murphy, Chair
 and compiler of consensus from Units 4, 5, & 7/9*

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 Distribution

Address: _____ Local \$21

City: _____ Zip: _____ State \$19

Phone-- Home: _____ Work: _____ Nat'l \$30

Fax: _____ e-mail: _____ \$100. Household

\$100. Sustaining Member

\$150. Benefactor

\$ 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