



# Spokane Area VOTER

PRESIDENT:

February 2012  
VOLUME LXVIII/ NO 1

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."*

## February Unit Meeting Discussion - Conservation Districts

Conservation is the protection, management, or restoration of wildlife and of natural resources such as forests, soil, and water. In Washington State there are 47 Conservation Districts (CD) with the mission to promote conservation within their borders. Most of these CDs approximate county boundaries. Each CD has a unique mission statement describing its work to preserve natural resources within the district. The Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) is "a small state agency created to assist and guide conservation districts as they work to conserve natural resources."

Learn more about individual districts and the WSCC... and participate in a consensus process for a LWVWA state position. Study item was adopted at Convention 2009. Read the LWVWA study (see below for options to receive), review the discussion and consensus questions (page 3) and then attend a unit meeting to weigh in on this topic. You might find it helpful to dust off the LWVSpokane Area study material (Feb. 2011) and review that.

The Conservation District Study is 28 pages and you will get yours in one of two ways...

1. Those members who receive the VOTER electronically will also receive the study electronically, with the understanding that you would print both the VOTER and the study. You, may, if you wish, request a printed copy by emailing Pam Behring -- behring@gonzaga.edu
2. Those who receive the VOTER by regular mail will receive a copy with this mailing.

## Judicial Topic

LWVUS is working with "Justice at Stake" and is planning a training of potential candidates for judgeships in Spokane on March 3. The intention is to seek greater diversity in the court system for greater justice and this training seeks to do that.

LWVSA is working to see what role we might play.... It could be a meal with a guest speaker, or another idea.

If this interests you, contact **Pam Behring** (534-2223 or behring@gonzaga.edu) or leave a message at the office to help.

## February Unit Schedule

### Feb. 9 - Thursday

Unit 5 - 10:00 am - LWV Office, (St. Andrews Church), 2404 N. Howard

Contact: **Ginger Kelsh** (443-6108)

### Feb. 13 - Monday

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

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

### Feb. 14 - Thursday

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

Contact: **Linda Milsow** (838-9186)  
lindacmilsow@msn.com.

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

## Leaguer Perspective...

### Life Happens...

Several of your League Leaders (i.e. the Board) have been dealing with life issues -- care of elder parents and children, death of a spouse, along with plumbing, furnace failures, etc on the homefront.

Thank you all for bearing with us as we all try to do right by our families, homefronts, and the League. Please know that we could all benefit from assistance from other League members when you might be called upon for a League task. *Thank you*

*Ann Murphy*

## League and the Spokane Police Department

At the Jan. 18, 2012, League Board meeting, the Board voted to add the LWVSA's signature supporting the request by former Mayor Mary Verner and the new Spokane Mayor David Condon for the Federal Department of Justice to conduct a "Pattern or Practice Investigation" of the Spokane Police Department. The letter was authored by the Center for Justice and has been co-signed by approximately twenty Spokane community organizations.

*Ginger Kelsh*

## Annual Meeting - what to expect... .... Save the Date - May 16, 2012

- o Program Planning - results from Jan units will be reviewed at Feb. board meeting and then presented to members for decision for next year.
  - o By Law changes - do you have amendments to propose? **Ann Murphy** will collate proposed changes.
  - o Budget - **Pete Duffy** will chair the budget committee, and will be looking for volunteers.
  - o Nominations - **Alice Stolz** was elected to be the Chair. No member at large was elected (will need to appoint). **Ginger Kelsh** will represent the Board.
  - o Logistics - **Molly Hannan** will seek venue, etc for a May 16 date
  - o Speaker -suggested someone on the *Move to Amend* topic
- >>>> **Do you see a place where you might help plan this meeting? Contact Pam Behring.**

## Splinters From the Board 1/18/12

### Treasurer's Report –

Total = \$4,154 (\$2,349 PMPs still due)

Ed Fund Total = \$1,257      **Membership – 50**

- Agreed to drop members who have not paid dues for the current year.
- Unit Organization: Ann Murphy will communicate with unit leaders following each board meeting.
- Approved a complimentary Household Membership for Tom and Sandy Paine.
- Judicial Panel: Pam Behring is following up on details of "Justice at Stake" program with LWVUS
- Approved signing on to a letter to Department of Justice supporting City of Spokane's (first by Mayor Verner, and additionally by new Mayor David Condon) request to conduct a "Pattern of Practice Investigation" of the Spokane Police Department. (Letter is posted at [www.lwvspokane.org](http://www.lwvspokane.org))
- TRY – in production (and preliminary draft included with Feb. VOTER)
- VOTER - Pam was thanked for getting out the January VOTER in Ann's absence. Ann agreed to continue editing and will work on a new format.
- *Move to Amend* - item that was to be part of the Program Planning discussion... agreed to seek a speaker on this topic for Annual Meeting. Will also include info in VOTER
- Program Planning - collating results from January unit meetings.
- Program Calendar (see page 4 for adjustments based on material and member time availability)
- Program - agreed to move the Civil Discourse project to Fall 2012 as an opener for the year.
- Annual Meeting - began plans -(see box to left)

**LWVSA Member Directories** are posted in the Members Only section of the LWVSA website. If you would like one mailed to you, please call 326- 8026.

*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  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Local \$21  
State \$19  
Nat'l \$30  
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

### Member Notes...

#### IN MEMORIAM

Beth Shumaker, age 90, died December 1, 2011. She was a longtime member of the League of Women Voters of the Spokane Area, Unit 9.

### LWVSA Office Move

The League's office is now in the basement of St. Andrew's Church. The painting and flooring is finished. Pam Behring sorted through files, but there is still work to be done organizing the office. It has sunny windows on one wall and is warm.

*Mary Hughes*

### TRY Finalized

LWVSA's They Represent You (TRY) is in the final stages of publishing. Enclosed with this VOTER mailing is a printed preview copy. If you receive the VOTER electronically, you are receiving the web version of the TRY and should be able to print it. The TRY will be printed by Avista for distribution throughout the community.

### Receiving your VOTER....

LWVSA offers two methods to receive your VOTER and study material.... by regular mail to your postal address or by email to your email address. Additionally, you can access all VOTERS and study material at [www.lwvspokane.org](http://www.lwvspokane.org) (great way to find back copies!) The email VOTER does save our League printing costs. If you would like to change the way you receive your VOTER, **please please** contact us: [info@LWVSpokane.org](mailto:info@LWVSpokane.org) or call (509) 326-8026.

## Questions for WA State Conservation District Study

### Discussion Questions:

1. What do you know about the Conservation District in your area?
2. If you have voted in a Conservation District Election, how did you find out about the election? Did you vote by mail, in person, or using the internet? If you haven't voted, why haven't you?
3. Discuss the pros and cons of elections that have many people participating who may not be familiar with the duties of the office or with the candidates, versus fewer people participating who may be familiar with the duties of the office and with the candidates.
4. Discuss the merits and shortcomings of using appointment rather than election for selecting Conservation District Supervisors.

### Consensus Questions:

1. Do you support the work and mission of conservation districts in Washington?
2. What could the Washington State Conservation Commission and Conservation Districts do to raise awareness of:
  - a. their purpose and work?
  - b. their elections?
3. Does the current method for selecting CD Supervisors need improvement? If so, what changes would you suggest, and why?
4. Should the Washington State Conservation Commission remain an independent commission? Why or Why not?



**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**  
**OF THE SPOKANE AREA**  
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## LWV/Spokane Area

President:  
 Vice President: **Pam Behring**  
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               **Molly Hannan**  
               **Joyce Jones**  
               **Ginger Kelsh**  
               **Carol McVicker**

Nominating Committee:  
                   **Alice Stolz, Chair**  
                   **Ginger Kelsh**

## Calendar

### February

- 9, 13, 14 - Unit Meetings - see page 1
- 14 Special Election - School Levies
- 16 LWVSA Board Meeting, LWVSA office, 10 am
- 17 LWVWA Lobby Day, Olympia (see box at right)

### March

- 3 LWVUS Justice at Stake program
- TBD Judicial Panel
- (no unit meetings scheduled)

### May

- 16 LWVSA Annual Meeting

## Program for 2012

- February** - Unit meetings - LWVWA Study on Conservation Districts,
- March** - Judicial Panel
- April** - LWVUS Privatization of Public Services (Consensus due May 1)
- May** - Annual Meeting
- June 2** - LWVWA Council, Pullman
- June 8-12** - 50th National Convention for LWVUS in Washington, D.C. - Imagine, Commit, Act - "The Power of the Vote! (Washington Hilton Hotel)

## Washington State Legislature In Session

Keep up to date and learn more...

The **Lobby Team** members have been monitoring and testifying at many hearings. The Legislature continues to wrestle with budget matters -- no firm news about solutions. Keep up to date on all of the action by getting the **LWVWA Legislative Newsletter**. Contact LWVWA ([lwwwa@lwwwa.org](mailto:lwwwa@lwwwa.org)) to get on the list.

Join in a day of advocacy -- **League Day** (formerly Lobby Day), February 17, 2012, in Olympia. Speakers include: the Secretary of State, the Governor (invited), Nancy Amodei, Lonnie Johns Brown and others, along with some legislators. Session starts at 9 a.m. and costs \$25 (includes lunch) Contact the LWVWA Office or call 206-622-8961, Toll Free: 800-419-2596. Registration deadline is Feb. 13. Let Pam Behring know if you can attend, and to arrange travel options.