



# Spokane Area VOTER

PRESIDENT:

September 2011  
VOLUME LXVII/ NO 5

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."*

## September Units - Back to School

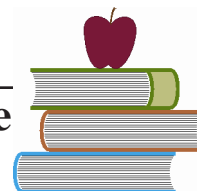
The LWVUS study, "Role of the Federal Government in Public Education" is now ready for Local Leagues to review and come to consensus. The proposed study had been passed at the biennial League of Women Voters Convention in Atlanta, GA, in June 2010. The Consensus reports will be due to LWVUS by Nov. 30.

The scope of the study, as adopted by the LWVUS Board: "The Education Study scope is broad and includes the following areas under the role of the federal government in public education (preK through grade 12): the history, funding and equity issues which are addressed under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and the common core standards/assessments which are required for many federal grant programs but are national, not federal. The culminating position will address only those issues delineated in the scope."

Although the study focuses on the federal government, the original intent of the study included the Common Core

Standards. These were written and funded by the National Governors' Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). Historically we have always had national standards written by the teaching organizations such as the National Council of Teachers of Math and the National Council of Teachers of English. However, the discussion here will focus upon how these new standards called Common Core State Standards will be used by the federal government.

There is so much material that LWVSA will tackle this topic in two different unit meetings. The September meeting will examine History and Core Standards. Then in November the topics will be Equity and Funding. Included in this VOTER is a pamphlet that has the complete set of five background papers produced by LWVUS. Please keep this pamphlet as it has material for the November meeting. Consensus questions for the September meeting are on pages 3-4.



## September Unit Schedule

**Sept. 8 - Thursday**

Unit 5 – 10:00 am - LWV Office, (St. Andrews Church), 2404 N. Howard Contact: **Martha Preecs** (325-4725), leep2525@gmail.com

**Sept. 12 - Monday**

Unit 7/9 – 12:30 pm - 221 E. Rockwood Blvd. Contact: **Alice Stolz** (455-8944)

**Sept. 13 - Tuesday**

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!**

## General Election Forum

The General Election Forum will be taped on **Thursday, Sept. 29**, beginning at 5 p.m. in Spokane City Council Chambers. Included in the Forum will be

- City of Spokane Races - Mayor, Council President, and Council Members in Districts 1, 2, and 3.
- Spokane Public Schools Board of Directors, Pos 5
- Ballot Issues - three state-wide initiatives, two Senate Joint Resolutions; County measure on Animal Control; and City of Spokane Initiative on Community Bill of Rights.

Join us for the session -- it is always interesting!

## Perspective...

Note: Since LWVSA does not have a President at this time, this column will provide a variety of different perspectives. This month is a letter sent to the Spokane City Council prior to its August 22, 2011, meeting:

The League of Women Voters of the Spokane Area wants to make clear our support for an independent Office of Police Ombudsman with adequate authority, including some authority to investigate. We are in a quandary about the recent decision made in arbitration and the future ability of the Ombudsman to effectively perform his/her duties.

The opinion of the arbitrator states:

“(T)he decision of arbitration shall be final and binding on the parties.”

In the hearing which took one hour, twenty minutes, the Union presented an opening statement and one witness, Christopher Vick, Esq. The City rested following that testimony. It provided no opening statement and called no witnesses. There were no exhibits.

We would like to understand why representation in support of the Ombudsman was absent and if this influenced the decision?

In light of the above decision, we restate our support of the June 2010 ordinance and urge the Council to resolve the questions surrounding this issue. Can this decision be appealed? Is it to be resolved through collective bargaining? Must action occur at the State level?

We also support adequate resources for a viable OPO.\*

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Pam Behring  
League of Women Voters of the Spokane Area

Cc: Mary Verner

\* As per LWVSA Member Handbook, “Social Policy,” B. Welfare, pg 5 and “Administration of Justice,” C. pg 5 and “Law Enforcement Accountability,” pg 8.

**Follow-up:** Ann Murphy and Pam Behring attended the August 22 City Council meeting. Above testimony was not read at that time due to Council action to withdraw the Resolution and seek clarification on the arbitrator’s authorization. Action tabled until September 26.

## Splinters From the Board 8/10/2011

**Treasurer’s Report** – \$5,735

**Membership** – 61 + 2 life time

- Ombudsman Issue: **Pam Behring** will send a revised supporting letter to City Council President and City Council members prior to its August 22 meeting with cc to the Mayor.
- Candidate Forum: **Ann Murphy** will manage the forum set for September 29, 2011. **Pete Duffy** and **Carol McVicker** will recruit volunteers to assist in advertising the event and help that evening.
- Membership: Carol will work with **Suzi Hokinson** to recruit new members.
- State Board: Liaisons for transportation and agriculture are being sought. Currently there are no state funds available for the Civil Discourse program.
- Approved a proposed calendar for 2011-2012.
- Unit meetings will be held during the second week of the month. Board meetings will be held the third Wednesday of the month.

## LWVSA Program for 2011-2012

**September** - Unit meetings - LWVUS Public Education Study, Part I (Consensus)

**October** - Unit meetings - Ballot Issues

**November** - Unit meetings - LWVUS Public Education Study, Part II (Consensus)

**December** - Elected officials luncheon

**January** - Unit Meetings - Local and National Program Planning

**February** - Unit meetings - LWVUS Privatization of Public Services

**March** - Judicial Panel

**April** - TBA - Choices include: City of Spokane Sustainability Task Force, LWVWA Conservation Districts, or possible topic of civil discourse (depending on funding)

**May** - Annual Meeting

*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.*



*Consensus Questions continued*

8. Data from the national assessments are often difficult for parents, teachers and others to understand. If we have a national assessment, what information is most important to be reported to parents, teachers, students and the community? (choose one)
- Data should be “norm referenced” (where students are ranked) for district comparison only.
  - Data 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.
  - Data should be used to determine “cut” scores knowing if students have mastered requirements for special grade levels.
9. Information from nationally required assessment data should be used to (Choose one):
- Sanction schools not measuring up to the specific levels
  - Reward schools that achieve high scores
  - Rank teachers based on student test score data
  - Reward teachers who have exemplary scores
  - Inform districts how their population compares to others similar to theirs.

Please share any comments concerning the topics covered in the Common Core Standards Questions.

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## Meeting Wrap Ups.... Local Annual Meeting & State Convention

LWVWA's **State Convention** in Richland May 20-22 included hard work with lots of fun. Benton-Franklin League had arranged a tour of three wineries prior to Convention. As we socialized and sipped our way through the tastings and snacks, a buzz began about an ad LWVUS had run in Massachusetts and Missouri. At the plenary session Marcia Merrins, LWVUS, addressed the body about its concerns over partisanship and lack of transparent funding. The ads did target particular representatives on a specific vote each had cast in Congress.

This issue created an excitement that was enhanced by the stimulating speakers: Mike Schwenk, VP, Batelle, “Science and Public Policy: Why They are Inseparable,” and Kathy Hibbard, PNNL, “Climate Change and Humans: What is our Future?” Elizabeth Davis, LWV Whidbey Island, received the Dorothy Robert’s Award for her dedication to the environment through State and Local Leagues. We did, of course, complete some business:

- Amended By-laws** to include “Consent to Electronic Communications.”
- Adopted by concurrence** - position on “Privatization” that encourages government services to remain under government control unless they fit certain criteria.
- Adopted Budget.** The State dues will not be raised in the first year of this biennium but the Board may need to increase dues in the second year by \$1.
- Adopted proposed one year update** on a portion of LWVWA 1977 Energy Position EN-6 ‘...The use of alternative energy systems such as on-site solar heating and recovery of energy from wastes should be actively encouraged.’
- Approved resolution** to actively disseminate information about our position to change the Supreme Court’s decision in ‘Citizens United.’

- Approved resolution** to the LWVUS requesting they adhere to the principals of non-partisanship and apologize for authoring the negative ads.
- We wrapped up the meeting by electing: Co-Presidents; Linnea Hirst and Kim Able; V. President, Pat Dickason; Secretary, Brenda Hirschi; Treasurer, Gail Hiestand; and seven Directors. The election of co-presidents is a change from tradition but the energy created by this and the new Board bodes well for the work that lies ahead.

**LWVSA Annual Meeting** presented a challenge this year with the significant drop in membership that left a dearth of people to serve on LWVSA Board. A good group, however, has stepped forward with ideas and energy to get to work on moving the League into the new century. The position of President is vacant. **Joyce Jones** and **Carol McVicker** were elected Directors to join returning Vice-President **Pam Behring**, Treasurer **Mary Hughes** and Directors **Peter Duffy**, **Molly Hannon**, and **Ginger Kelsh**. **Alice Stolz** will continue as the Nominating Committee Chair. Unit Leaders are **John Stolz**, Unit 4; **Linda Milsow**, Unit 5 and **Martha Preecs**, Unit 7/9.

**Lunell Haught**, moderated a discussion titled “New Conversations; New People.” As times have changed and the political discourse has become polarized, the League is being tagged “liberal” and its non-partisanship questioned. Our attempt to attract new and younger members is failing. We very much look forward to working with Lunell to find a way to a healthy, successful League that will continue to provide accurate, fair information on political issues and an area in which those issues can be discussed.

*Pam Behring  
September 2011*

## 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

State \$19

Nat'l \$30

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

## Membership Notes...

**Directories** were distributed at the Annual Meeting in May. Copies will be distributed at Fall Unit Meetings. A copy will be posted in the Members Only section of the LWVSA website. If you would like one mailed to you, please call the office, 326- 8026

Please make the following corrections in your directory. The changes are underlined:

Brewer, Andrew

Clark, Christine Denison39@gmail.com

Dellwo, Dennis Tel: 994-5428

Johnson, Mary Lou Tel: 991-5512

Souza, Ann Tel: 230-9566

Lynette Vehrs tmvehrs@comcast.net

Add New Members: Kathy Kalich  
5903 S Julia Ct  
Spokane 99223  
(509)270-0662  
kathykalich@hotmail.com

Latisha Hill  
517 W. Euclid Ave  
Spokane 99205  
(509)328-7337  
latisha.hill@avistacorp.com

## Dues are Due!

Continue to receive all of the League materials and enjoy participation in League functions....

Please send your dues with the enclosed payment slip by October 1 to the League office.

*Mary Hughes, Treasurer*

**Reminder:** we have an excellent program in the year ahead. Growing membership is critical to the future of LWV of Spokane and will be a focus of the Board this year. We suggest inviting guests to unit or general meetings and making them feel welcome. If anyone has suggestions for prospective members please send contact information to me and I will follow-up. Also, if anyone is interested in serving on the membership committee, please let me know.

*Carol McVicker, cj\_99224@yahoo.com*

**Thank you to Pete Duffy** for organizing Voter Registration for the Rosauer's Stores in Spokane. We received a request to register voters in July and Pete picked up the action. We had a number of members volunteer to work when we receive requests: **Carol McVicker, Ginger Kelsh, Linda Milsow, Jennifer Calvert, Martha Preece, Tressia Anderson, Mary Lou Johnson, Mary Weathers and Pam Behring.** For this event, Martha, Jennifer, and Pam helped Pete at the Five Mile, Lincoln Heights, and Browne's Addition Rosauers. Thank you, all.

*Pam Behring*

## In Memoriam

*We note the passing of  
two longtime LWVSA members.*

**Olivia Kissin, 93,**  
*member of Unit 9*

**Billie Pierce, 90,**  
*member first of the Valley Unit and then Unit 7*

*They are missed.*



**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

### September

- 8, 12, 13 - Unit Meetings (see page 1 & insert)
- 21 Board Meeting, LWV office, 10 a.m.
- 29 General Election Forum (see page 1) - Replay schedule on CityCable 5 will be in Oct. VOTER.

### October

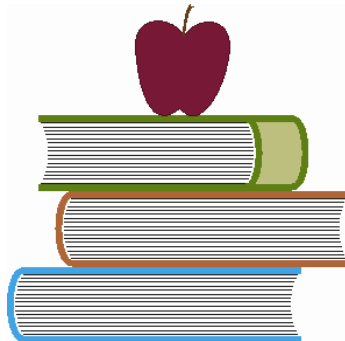
- 1 **LWV Dues are Due to League office**
- 10, 11, 13 - Unit Meetings, Ballot Issues
- 19 Board Meeting

### November

- 8 General Election
- 10, 14, 15 - Unit Meetings
- 16 Board Meeting

## Back to School for League!

see page 1 for details.



## New Congressional Seat for Washington Will Be No. 10

*(from League of Women Voters of Kitsap, February 2011)*

Washington state's population has grown rapidly enough in the past decade to warrant a new 10th congressional seat. The state population grew by 14.1 percent since the 2000 Census, to 6,724,540 people. The population growth in the West also was very strong, up 13.8 percent. The U.S. average was 9.7 percent, to 308.7 million people. As had been projected, Washington gained a 10th district, most likely to be added in the rapidly growing greater Puget Sound region. All of the current districts will be changed significantly, particularly in western Washington.

Secretary of State, Sam Reed said he was delighted with the news of a new seat: "We couldn't be happier. This is a great day for the people of Washington. We gain in clout, with another strong voice in Congress to be added in 2012. We gain an Electoral College vote and our population gain means we get a little larger slice of the pie as federal grants are apportioned out based on population."

The actual work of divvying up the state in equal-sized congressional districts and legislative districts is the task of a bipartisan citizen commission. The four voting members are: Slade Gorton, Senate Republican appointee; Tim Ceis, Senate Democrat appointee, Dean Foster, House Democrat appointee and Tom Huff, House Republican appointee. The four commission members, in turn, appointed a non-voting commission chairperson, Lura Powell, who spoke at LWVWA Convention in the Tri-Cities. The panel is working through 2011 to develop and finalize the maps which three voting members must accept for a final product. If the Redistricting Commission fails to meet the deadline for submitting a redistricting plan—January 1, 2012—the state Supreme Court must prepare a plan by March 1, 2012.

A web site, [www.redistricting.wa.gov](http://www.redistricting.wa.gov), has a wealth of information as well as instructions on how to prepare your own redistricting plan for consideration by the Commission. In other words, they are open to suggestions.