

The League of Women Voters celebrates Women's Equality Day!!

LWV of Bellingham/Whatcom County:

- presented a program on women's suffrage to the Blaine Custom and Border Patrol employees.
- held meetings throughout the year centering around minority groups and significant days of remembrance i.e. Martin Luther King Day. Who better than the League to explain the significance of Women's Equality Day to women's success in gaining the right to vote.
- spread the message of what the League of Woman Voters is all about and handed out calendar and membership information.
- will use our suffrage presentation for Lunch with League in September and as a gift for our Suffragists awards in November.

League of Women Voters Thurston County, National Organization of Women, and Humanities Washington:

- sponsored a free screening of "Iron Jawed Angels". Katja von Garnier's "Iron Jawed Angels" tells the remarkable and little-known true story of a group of passionate and dynamic young women, led by Alice Paul and her friend Lucy Burns, who put their lives on the line to fight for American women's right to vote.
- The film was followed by a panel discussion featuring State Senator Karen Fraser, State Supreme Court Justice Gerry Alexander, Linda Malanchuk-Finnan, NW Regional Director, NOW and Shanna Stevenson, Coordinator Women's History Consortium.

League of Women Voters of Seattle:

- had a Young Leaguers mixer/happy hour to help some of our younger members get acquainted with each other, the League and the great history of the organization.

LWV CLALLAM COUNTY:

- Sequim and Port Angeles city councils issued proclamations that "proclaim the 26th day of August 2010, as "Women's Equality Day" to celebrate passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which gave women full voting rights."

LWV Kitsap County:

- requested that the four cities and the county issue proclamations declaring August 26th Women's Equality Day in honor of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.
- members attended all meetings to accept the proclamations, most wearing hats to honor our foremothers.
- partnered with the Kitsap Regional Library to present Tames Alan's "Soldiers in Petticoats, The Struggle of the Suffragettes". Over 130 people attended the presentation.
- held a Suffrage Celebration on September 10th in Silverdale. Sojourner Truth, Alice Paul and President Woodrow Wilson all made appearances and the founders of LWVK and Kathryn Hess, one of our founders who just turned 100 years old, were honored.



President's Message *by Linnea Hirst*

Co-president Jayne Freudenberger's column in the Bellingham/Whatcom County League's VOTER is one I need to share with you all:

"We never talk politics when we get together with the Smiths." "My brother and I just agree to disagree and ignore politics." "Don't mention the election to Mary—she doesn't think like we do."

"Have words similar to these escaped your lips or does everyone you know have the same opinions you have? I expect not. We should be proud of our country's diversity and celebrate different points of view. But the debate has grown strident as the problems and challenges we face seem insurmountable at times."

"I know you care –you are members of the League. So I say to you as hard as it is –as frustrating—don't quit talking to your neighbors, your friends, your relatives. Their concerns are legitimate even if you disagree with their solutions. Now is not the time to retreat into a comfortable cocoon and let someone else do the hard work."

"The essence of democracy is an exchange of ideas by its citizenry and the ability to listen to other points of view and reach a compromise for the public good... Democracy only works when we work at it."

With elections coming up, we'll have plenty of opportunities to bite the bullet and try to have a cool conversation on some hot topic with some of the people we know we don't agree with. We need to practice listening as well as talking, be respectful in our discourse, and be sure we work toward understanding. (Those are more thoughts borrowed from the B/WC LWV newsletter)

On another subject, I recently attended the Kitsap League's memorable Suffrage Celebration, complete with PowerPoint of the fight to win the vote, interspersed with live "actors" (Kitsap Leaguers) dramatizing high/low points of that history. Sojourner Truth was particularly moving; some of the male historical "voices" particularly insulting! At the event, the Kitsap League also honored their charter members, local Leaguers who were among the organizers of the League 40-odd years ago. One of the honorees, Katherine Hess, turned 100 this year—and certainly doesn't act or look it!

Tidbits I garnered from other local events:

- There were perhaps 300 in the audience for the LWV Thurston/NOW showing of the movie "Iron Jawed Angels", with about half of the audience non-League members. People who went were very moved both by the movie and by the speakers afterwards.
- It was a packed audience at the LWV Kitsap summer showing of live "Soldiers in Petticoats" and it included teenage girls who were shocked at what they heard. They won't soon forget.

These are but some of the good ideas from local Leagues for reaching out into your communities. Let's talk!

More Women's Equality Day Events:



Tacoma-Pierce County LWV:

- joined with Women of Vision, NOW, City Association of Colored Women's Clubs, WAYS, AAUW, and the Cambodian Women Networking Association to honor Senator Rosa Franklin and celebrate Rosa's contributions to Tacoma, Pierce County, and to the state of Washington.
- The August 28th EqualITEA was also a celebration of Women's Equality Day, August 26th. Nearly 50 women, men and children attended this event.
- Rosa received several gifts, one of which was a copy of The State We're In: Washington.

Benton Franklin LWV :

- invited and honored the women who have served in elected office from our two counties.
- compiled lists of women members past and present from school boards, city councils, county positions and state representatives and sent them an invitation to come and help us celebrate and share their memories.
- had over 20 elected officials, over 20 League members and several prospective new members who saw the notice in the paper.
- Our president, Marilyn Perkins, gave a brief tribute to the early suffragists and then for over an hour we heard from the elected officials about their time in office and their thoughts about the state of politics today. We had women from their early twenties to 95 present and we all considered it a successful evening and a date worth celebrating.



**Local Leagues:
Don't forget to file your
Form 990 E-Postcard.
Due date is November 15, 2010.**

Spotlight on Local Leagues

LWV Kitsap: Happy 100th Birthday, Kathryn Hess! One of Kitsap County's library pioneers, Kathryn is also one of the founders of LWV Kitsap. Kathryn and her husband Ray helped create Kitsap Regional Library in 1955 and were part of the volunteer group that built the Silverdale Branch of KRL. We all joined in helping her celebrate her momentous day at our Suffrage Celebration on September 10th.



The League of Women Voters of

Clallam County is pleased when local non-partisan concerns request League representation on ad hoc committees. Three members are presently serving on local work groups.

League member Carole Boardman has been named to serve on a work group established by the Clallam County Department of Community Development to implement a comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan. The work group considers options to mitigate the impacts of development on stormwater runoff.

Kathy Wayne from the League will be participating in the County Department of Community Development in an update of the Shoreline Master Plan, the 18-year old plan for the county's 800 miles of marine and freshwater shore-lines.

Carrol Hull, Education Committee chair, has been invited by the superintendent of Port Angeles School District to serve on a data-collection committee to collect information on goals, needs, challenges and future trends. The findings will provide a base for developing a five-year plan for the future of district schools.

Yakima County League held a candidates "Meet and Greet" event on July 28th for Yakima County primary candidates which included the Yakima County offices, the 13th, 14th and 15th Legislative Districts races for the state Legislature and the 4th Congressional District candidates for the House of Representatives. We also invited the Judicial candidates for the District 4 Judicial primary race in which there were three primary candidates. Of the thirty (30) plus candidates invited, twenty-two (22) turned out for our event. The event was chaired by Cynthia Garrick, LWVYC President.

LWV of South King County got a Civic Education Grant for two innovative projects to engage their communities. They will invite the public to join small group discussions of the book: *The Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court*. Later in the year they will organize some conversation cafes to talk about violence in the local communities. Members are being trained to facilitate the conversation cafes and League will provide fact sheets about violence in the county at their meetings. We look forward to sharing more about the outcomes from these projects.

LWV of Tacoma Pierce County sponsored an amazing Civic Engagement Project entitled 'Refreshing Democracy ... A Community Priorities Exercises'. The Gig Harbor-Key Peninsula Unit and 26th District State Representative Larry Seaquest designed the program and invited a broad spectrum of community members together for a problem solving workshop. Participants were challenged to set the key priorities for state & local governments and recommend actions to put revenue and spending in line with economic realities.

At the end of the day, the consensus was that funding K-12 education should be the top priority of government. The group also asserted that schools should be providing a comprehensive educational experience - not solely focused on the 3 R's and achieving better test results.

To learn more about the project and process go to the Tacoma Pierce County website and read their excellent report.

<http://www.lvwva.org/tacoma/index.html>

Stay tuned for the video that will be produced in the fall. Tacoma Pierce County funded this project with their Education Fund.



A Day of Jubilation!!

November 8th at the State Capitol: Day of Jubilation celebration commemorating the 100th anniversary of women achieving the right to vote.

Myriad activities will be held on the capitol campus, and LWVWA is a sponsor of the "Valiant Women for Votes" Vintage Fashion Show and Bellingham-based Linda Allen's "Here's to the Women".

You are invited to events on Sunday November 7, 11am to 4pm State Capitol Museum including the Pink Tea sponsored by AAUW with Certificates of Recognition to donors of women's history papers. Seattle's Dorothy Sale will be among those honored. This event is open to the public.

Also, "The State We're In Washington" will be on display in the State Reception Room, along with other activities including a parade, activities designed for children and parents and much more.

League of Women Voters of Washington Officers and Directors 2009-2011

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League of Women Voters of Benton Franklin Counties

will host the 2010 East Side Action Workshop on Saturday, October 23 at the Lampson Headquarters Building, 607 E. Columbia Drive, Kennewick, WA. Further details regarding registration and agenda will be available as the date approaches. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided and included in the registration fee.

This workshop is designed to do two things: give us information about the issues that will be key in the 2010 legislative session and show us ways we can each, from our own homes, have an impact on legislation we care about. We'll hear from some elected officials and some of our own Lobby Team. We'll share ideas that have worked in different communities. We'll have ample opportunity to ask questions.

Mark your calendars and join us at the East Side Action Workshop in the Tri-Cities.

Action Workshops

Lobby Team Priority Topics:

Budget Issues: How to save the things we love

Registration Form on back page of Voter – Cost \$25 per venue per person

Hope to see you there!

Kennewick	Bellevue
October 23, 2010	November 6, 2010
9:30am to 3pm (Lunch will be served)	9:30am to 2:30pm (Lunch will be served)
Lampson Building	St. Andrews Lutheran Church
607 E. Columbia Drive	2650—148th Ave SE
Kennewick WA	Bellevue WA

LWV of Benton-Franklin Counties Invites Members to Convention 2011

Mark your calendars for May 19-22, 2011. LWVWA Convention will be held in Richland at the Shilo Inn (same location where convention was held 10 years ago). This hotel is right on the Columbia River with a walking path located just outside the door. The path is good for walking, skating, or bicycle riding. There is a golf course a few blocks away and several in the area. The swimming pool will be open.

Thursday, May 19, 2011 an optional winery tour is being planned. It will begin at 2 PM, returning to the hotel approximately 5 PM. There will be a fee that includes the bus ride, tasting and snacks. Wine can be purchased by guests.

Friday morning, May 20 either a speaker will come to the Shilo Inn or a tour to Columbia River Exhibition of History, Science and Technology (CREHST) museum (2 blocks away) is being arranged. This museum was created to tell the story of the Columbia Basin and how it was created by the Missoula flood.

Convention begins at 1 PM on Friday, May 20. Lunch will be on your own. The hotel will set up a buffet for arriving guests to help expedite lunch if you choose. Friday evening's dinner will be served.

Saturday's business also includes breakout sessions. Lunch will be buffet and dinner will be served. Speakers are being invited.

Sunday, May 22 -convention will adjourn at noon.

Each day guests of the Shilo Inn receive a hot breakfast. We are arranging for the hot breakfast to be served in a separate room to make it easier for League members. If delegates are not staying at the Shilo, there will be an option to purchase breakfast tickets.

There are other hotels nearby for those who prefer.

Please plan on attending.

Benton Franklin League is looking forward to having you visit!

The League of Women Voters of Washington supports the following initiative and referendum.

Referendum Bill 52: to fund energy efficiency projects in the state's K-12 schools and higher education facilities.

Initiative 1098: to establish a state income tax and reduce other taxes, with proceeds mainly to go to fund basic health services and education.

The League of Women Voters of Washington opposes the following:

Initiative 1053: to require that legislative actions raising taxes must be approved by two-thirds legislative majorities or receive voter approval, and that new or increased fees require majority legislative approval.

Initiative Measure No. 1100 and Initiative Measure No. 1105: concerns closing state liquor stores, and Initiative 1107: to end sales tax on candy, some bottled water, carbonated beverages, and reduce tax rates for certain food processors.

The League of Women Voters of Washington takes no position on the following:

Initiative 1082: concerns industrial insurance

ESHJR 4220: concerns bail

SJR 8225: concerns accounting changes on interest

I-1082: privatizing workman's comp insurance

Please see the website for rationale and relevant position details.

2010 LWVUS Convention and Health Care Resolution

Health Care Reform for the United States (HCR4US), a group of League members working for advocacy of the LWVUS position on health care, rallied support for a resolution at the 2010 LWVUS Convention. The resolution stated that those assembled at the 2010 LWVUS Convention, call upon the LWVUS Board to advocate strongly for bills that legislate for improved Medicare for All." The resolution passes by a large margin on Monday, June 14th.

On 6-16-2010, Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP) and Healthcare NOW! released press releases in support of the Medicare for All resolution passed at the 2010 LWVUS Convention. The PNHP Press release, <http://www.pnhp.org/news/2010/june/league-of-women-voters-calls-for-medicare-for-all>, included the following statements:

"The League's action is highly welcome and highly significant," said Dr. Quentin Young, national co-ordinator of Physicians for a National Health Program, an organization of 17,000 doctors who support a single-payer system. "Among other things, it shows that its members are in tune with numerous polls indicating strong majority support for a government-sponsored, improved Medicare-for-all program..."

On 6-21-2010 LWVUS responded to the PNHP press release by stating the following: *"The League of Women Voters of the United States today reinforced the organization's strong support for the recently passed, comprehensive Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act..."* The convention delegates' resolution stated that the current and proposed systems do not achieve the League goals, and the state board has sent a letter to LWVUS expressing our disappointment at their response to PNHP.

Read Susan Eidenschink's complete article at:
<http://www.lwvwa.org/publications.html>



STATE PROGRAM PLANNING CAN BE EXCITING

Program planning provides you with the opportunity to propose your ideas for new studies at the state level to be voted upon at our State Convention in May. Rather than a blank slate for you to consider at your local League's state program planning meeting, we thought you might be interested in sharing your ideas ahead of time with other local Leagues.

We are aware of at least one local League that has an idea for a state study—on over-population—and another considering concurrence with Seattle's Privatization position, and we suspect that there are many more.

Send your ideas to the state office with a very brief description of the scope of this study. We will send these out to all local Leagues for distribution to their members and will also post it on the LWVWA web site for members.

Please include your contact information and your local League so that other interested League members can contact you with questions or support for your ideas.

Send your program ideas to lwvwa@lwvwa.org with a subject title of "State Program Planning."

Save the Dates!!

Good In Government Gala
February 23, 2011 in Olympia

League of Women Voters' Day
(formerly Lobby Day) Olympia;
February 24, 2011

Thanks to all local leagues,
all PMPs (per member
payments) are current.
Prompt payment of your PMPs
is greatly appreciated by your
State Board.

Q & A on I-1098

Q. What would I-1098 do if adopted?

1. Reform our state's outdated tax system by establishing a progressive income tax on the wealthiest 1.2 percent of households.
2. Cut state property taxes for all Washingtonians by 20 percent.
3. Eliminate B&O taxes for about 80 percent of small businesses.
4. Establish a trust fund for education, and critical health care programs.
5. The wealthiest households would pay taxes only on income earned above \$400,000 a year for couples or \$200,000 for individuals.

Q. Who would get some tax relief with I-1098?

1. Small business - eliminates B&O taxes for more than 375,000 businesses. That's why it is endorsed by Main Street Alliance, an organization of more than 2,000 small businesses in the state.
2. Property owners - A 20 percent cut in the state property tax. To find out how much you would save go to: www.ecionline.org/tax_reform/I1098.htm and click on calculator.

Q. Won't I--1098 open the door to a state income tax?

A. Any income tax has to be approved by the public. The voters have shown no interest in approving a state-wide income tax *that applies to all households*.

Q. Why should the rich be the only ones to pay?

A In 2007, the top 20% of people had 93% of the total wealth, with the bottom 80% having only 7% of the total wealth. The USA has changed from being one of the most equal societies in terms of wealth during the 1940's through the 1970's to become one of the most unequal societies in the industrial and post-industrial world. It is time for all households to carry a more equal share of providing for the educational and health needs of the residents of our state. This question of fundamental fairness is the reason William Gates, Sr. is a leading proponent of I-1098.

Q. Can an income tax pass the test of being constitutional in Washington State?

A. Many respected constitutional attorneys in the state believe that I-1098 will be constitutional.

Q. How much money will I-1098 raise?

A. It is projected to raise an estimated \$1 to \$1.7 billion per year.

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www.lwvwa.org, lwvwa@lwvwa.org

Please see more detailed version of this Q & A on the LWVWA website.

[Exciting News about The State We're In: Washington. Your guide to state, tribal and local government](#)

Generous donations totaling \$15,900 have enabled us to place 14 gift sets in small or impoverished schools, and money to place 18 more sets. Teachers are thrilled to receive these gifts. A teacher in Spokane started to cry. A teacher in Prosser wants students to write thank you letters. A homeschool teacher was so impressed she bought an additional book.

More good news:

Tacoma School District ordered 45 sets. South Kitsap ordered 18 sets. Seattle wants them but cannot afford the purchase.

The new Tribal Sovereignty Curriculum requires the teachers to use TSWI.

The Virtual Learning Program at Spokane Public Schools is using it online.

The Educational Service District 113 has put our book on video and is using for teacher training, home learning, and in the classroom.

Thurston Regional Planning included us in a grant proposal for \$10,000 to add materials to the teachers guide.

We will be contacting local Leagues about the "one thing" they can do to help promote these materials. We have sold about 3000 copies but we need to reach new audiences. Perhaps you can help!



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The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Any person of voting age, male or female, may become a League member.

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Send address changes to League of Women Voters of Washington, 4730 University Way NE, #720, Seattle, WA 98105.

**League of Women Voters of Washington
ACTION WORKSHOP 2010**

REGISTRATION

**Cost: \$25 per venue per person
Lunch Provided**

Choose one or both venues:

- Kennewick, October 23, 2010
- Bellevue, November 6, 2010

Name _____

Tel/email _____

VISA M/C

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Check enclosed

Mail to: LWWWA, 4730 University Way NE, Suite 720, Seattle WA 98105