



VOTER

Fall 2011 The League of Women Voters of Washington, 4730 University Way NE, #720, Seattle, WA 98105 Linnea Hirst & Kim Abel : Co-Presidents
Vol. 53, No. 3 Tel: 206-622-8961 FAX: 206-622-4908 (outside toll area: 1-800-419-2596) email: lwwa@lwwa.org Myra Howrey, Editor

Fall League Action Workshops are a "Don't Miss"

We're gathering for Action Workshops in Ellensburg on Saturday, October 8 at the historic Ramsey House and in Bellevue on Saturday, November 19 at St. Andrews Lutheran Church. Attendees will become empowered, engaged, and motivated to advocate (lobby) for the League's 2012 legislative priorities and positions! We'll learn about the nitty-gritty of advocating/lobbying---including such "how to's" as how to learn about agendas, schedules and calendars; how to get on an e-mail list to be notified about important hearings; how to read a bill. And, these will be interactive sessions!

We need you to join with the Lobby Team to help us with our very important advocacy work---the League is highly respected and our voices carry weight! Come and learn more about this process and have a good time meeting with other highly influential League members!! The Kittitas County LWV is excited about hosting the Eastside Action Workshop for the first time; and Seattle-King is continuing to its great tradition of hosting us in Bellevue. If you can't make one workshop, we'd love to see you at the other no

matter where you live---you'll gain information, have great food, and get together with other action-oriented LWV members! To let us know you're coming check the registration coupon on the last page of the VOTER.

Ellensburg, October 8, 2011

9:30am to 3pm (Lunch will be served)
215 E. 9th, Ellensburg, WA

OR

Bellevue, November 19, 2011

9:30am to 2:30pm (Lunch will be served)
St. Andrews Lutheran Church
2650—148th Ave SE, Bellevue WA



LWVWA Lobby Team members participate in their retreat this summer.

President's Message by Kim Abel
Co-(De)-Presidency

Linnea and I took office right after State Convention and have been "working" on sharing ever since. One great benefit of co-presidency is that if one of us has a vacation, the other can cover for them. This is very handy for Linnea right now as she is Czeching out until October 12. So if you have questions or issues, be sure to send them my way (kbabel@wavecable.com) so you can get a timely response.

Another way we are sharing is to be in charge at alternate Board meetings. I'll be putting the agenda together for the November Board meeting and presiding over it all well. This means only I will get a vote to break ties at that meeting since even though they are two of us, we only get one vote on the Board. Linnea will just get to add to the discussion and I bet she'll enjoy that position.

We have also tried to split up the work, I live in Kitsap, and Linnea is in Seattle and near enough to walk to the LWVWA office. So I deal with requests for speaking and other items that can be done from farther away, while Linnea handles the more day to day and gets to visit and work with Laura, our new Administrative Director.

Laura has been helping us de-clutter League Leaders mailboxes by consolidating information into a Leadership Update. Each League member with email will be seeing communications that also consolidates State League information. Laura has taken an intern under her wing and is hoping for more. Help me welcome Erin Gray as Project Intern. Laura has been working to raise awareness of LWVWA with other organizations. She found and organized our inclusion in a special Seattle Foundation fundraiser! LWVWA received about \$2,400! Thanks to our many donors.

Linnea and I share the work, but also are on the front edge of a new Administrative Director who is helping us reach new heights. So far, it's working and we both got to choose responsibilities we like best. Perhaps some of you have experience being a co-president. We would love to hear how you made it happen. Maybe with all of your input, we could put together a "what works" at the end of our term in 2013!

**Important Dates for
 your League calendar:**

LWVUS Education Study:

NOW: Study results are on the LWVUS website.

November 2011: Consensus Response Forms due in to LWVUS.

LWVUS Privatization Study:

Fall 2011: Study results will be provided to local and state Leagues. Some background materials already there.

May 2012: Consensus Response Forms due in to LWVUS. The committee will provide a history and background of privatization of government services, a glossary of terms, legal issues to be considered when privatizing and case studies on successful and unsuccessful privatizing efforts. They will also provide suggested policies and parameters to be considered when privatizing.

LWVWA Conservation District Study:

NOW: The report is on the LWVWA website.

Within a few weeks: Hard copies will be available to those local Leagues who have replied that they want some.

October 2012: Consensus reports due in to LWVWA.

LWVWA Energy Update:

Expect that report to be finished in time to put on your 2012-2013 calendar.

March 2013: Consensus reports due in to LWVWA.

Spotlight on Local Leagues

The September membership meeting of the **LWV San Juans** was in keeping with the state League's Civic Engagement Project, the purpose of which is to stimulate discussion of important policy issues and ballot measures as they arise.

His talk entitled "The Truth about Taxes: What Choices do We Have?", our speaker was Ed Dolan, an economist and educator who happens to live on Lopez. Dr. Dolan spoke to us in layman's terms and gave us a graphic picture of the fiscal direction we are headed in this country. Starting out with the statement that taxes are both "too high" and "too low", Dr. Dolan explained how both of these statements can be true.

We learned about "cyclically adjusted primary balance" and that ours (the U.S.) is -6.8% when ideally we should be near zero or in slight surplus. He then went on to give us tools with which to think about how we might like to see this discouraging state remedied. Ultimately, Dr. Dolan suggested that what we need is tax reform.

To view a film of the meeting, local libraries will have a DVD in their collections shortly. To view a power point presentation of the talk, go to <http://dolanecon.blogspot.com>.

To get information on the LWVWA's Civic Engagement Projects information

**LWVWA WEBSITE
LOOK FOR IT
www.lwvwa.org**

The **LWV of Bellingham Whatcom County** lost a good friend and devoted League member—Jo An Agnew in August when she died after a brief illness. Jo An and her husband Bill had been active in other parts of the country before they settled in Bellingham to be near their grandchildren.

Jo An and Bill were the first faces you saw at our League meetings as they managed the name tag table—their were the friendly greetings and smiles that welcomed members and guests alike.

Jo An made the decision to designate the League for memorial donations. It is a testament to her relationships all over the country that our League has received over \$1,500 in her memory. Thank you so much Joanne and the entire Agnew family.

September is a busy month for the **LWV of Bellingham Whatcom County**. We jump started the month with our third annual Lunch with League. Highlighting the theme of What it Takes to be a Good Citizen in the Twenty First Century, we challenged our members and guests with questions from the test immigrants must pass to become citizens. We followed up with citizenship in the League and LWVUS' award to Jo Morgan who now becomes a life time member after 50 years of exceptional service in various leagues across the country.

We celebrated Washington State citizenship by thanking our sponsors who helped us place sets of "The State We're In Washington" in three middle schools this year as well as the Literacy Council, and Community to Community youth programs.

Taking the rules for being a good citizen from the back of the TSWI our speakers, retired journalism professor Floyd McKay and Joan Connel who helped start up MSNMC.com led the discussion on the merits and pitfalls of the "new" journalism and how you can use it to be a good citizen. We handed out our pencils embossed with "Democracy Begins with Education The LWV of Bellingham Whatcom County" and reminded people of our next meeting on September 17th when the Superintendent of the Bellingham School District will talk on the subject of the Federal Role of Education.

Welcome, Erin!

We are thrilled to introduce our new LWVWA intern. Erin Gray is a senior at Seattle University and is majoring in Public Affairs. A Seattle native, Erin will be assisting League with social media, communications and various special projects. She will become a Court Appointed Special Advocate for the King County Superior Court in October, and in her spare time “can be found with her nose buried in a novel.” She is very excited for “this amazing opportunity to work with LWVWA!”

Membership Committee Report

A membership workshop was held on June 13th at Judy Ostrow’s home in Seattle. Eleven league members attended, 4 from Seattle-King County, 4 from Snohomish County, 2 from the state office and one from Pullman. Eight other members were interested in attending but could not do so on that date. The members attending the workshop discussed membership needs: recruitment and retention.

A second meeting of the membership committee was held in Mukilteo at the home of Barbara Bush on August 4th. Discussion centered around getting clear information about recruiting and retaining members of our organization from a professional in the field. Several volunteered to ask for nominees from the university and professional world for the next membership meeting. The criterion for the person we seek is: Professionals who target and achieve membership; Must be in that profession, not a members of the League of Women Voters; and Willing to do a full day, hands on workshop. One possible date to consider for this workshop is State Council, June 1-3, 2012 in Pullman.

Next meeting of the Membership Committee is set for November 10th from 9:45am—11:45am in the State League Office in Seattle. Participation from any interested League member is welcome!

Karen Kiessling, LWVWA Membership Chair

League of Women Voters of Washington Officers and Directors 2011-2013

Officers

Kim Abel, Co-President, Kitsap County
Linnea Hirst, Co-President, Seattle
Pat Dickason, Vice President, Thurston County
Brenda Hirschi, Secretary, Mason County
Gail Hiestand, Treasurer, Kitsap County

Directors

Pam Behring, Spokane Area
Sarah Crosby, San Juans
Myra Howrey, Kitsap County
Karen Kiessling, Pullman
Judy Ostrow, Seattle
Kathy Sakahara, Seattle

LWVUS Liaison

Norman Turrill

Staff

Laura Cava Northrop, Administrative Director
Lonnie Johns Brown, Lobbyist

Board Actions

At the September 9, 2011 State Board Meeting, the board took the following actions:

1. Voted to support SJR 8205.
2. Voted to oppose I-1125 and I-1183
3. Took no position on I-1163 and SJR 8206.
4. Appointed a Budget Committee
5. Appointed two board members to the Nominating Committee.
6. Appointed the Executive Committee.
7. Announced the board liaison to State Council 2012.
8. Deadline for Conservation District Study consensus report moved to October 12, 2012.

Energy Update LWVWA 2011-2013

The initial meeting of the energy update committee took place at the League office on September 8. The update to be undertaken was voted upon at the League Convention in Richland this past June. Members of the group in attendance were Mary Moore, Ann Murphy, Clydia Cuykendall, Elizabeth Davis, Connie Simpson and Bob Lynette. Three members were unable to attend. They are Alice Schroeder, Don Wilkin, and Peggy Bruton. Board Liaison, Sarah Crosby was also in attendance.

The scope of the study will encompass an update of League energy positions with a focus on EN 5 & EN6 which relate to renewables. This will include examination of solar, hydro, wind, tidal and wave, geothermal, and with a particular emphasis on biomass and biofuels.

Study members have divided up the various topics for investigation and will do research which will include written resources, speakers, field trips and interviews. Once the scope of the study was refined, and a calendar established, the study chair was proposed to be Mary Moore, who is co-chair of the Energy and Climate Change Lobby Portfolio. Mary asked for an initial progress report by October 14th and the group agreed to a meeting by conference call later in that

**Local Leagues:
Don't forget to file your
Form 990 E-Postcard.
Due date is
November 15, 2011.**

The League of Women Voters of Washington supports the following:

Senate Joint Resolution 8205: The legislature has proposed a constitutional amendment on repealing article VI, section 1A, of the Washington Constitution. This amendment would remove an inoperative provision from the state constitution regarding the length of time a voter must reside in Washington to vote for president and vice-president.

The League of Women Voters of Washington opposes the following:

Initiative 1125: which concerns state expenditures on transportation. This measure would prohibit the use of motor vehicle fund revenue and vehicle toll revenue for non-transportation purposes, and require that road and bridge tolls be set by the legislature and be project-specific.

Initiative Measure 1183: concerns liquor: beer, wine and spirits (hard liquor). This measure would close state liquor stores and sell their assets; license private parties to see and distribute spirits; set license fees based on sales; regulate licensees; and change regulation of wine distribution.

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

Initiative 1163: concerns long-term care workers and services for elderly and disabled people.

SJR 8206: The legislature has proposed a constitutional amendment on the budget stabilization account maintained in the state treasury.

Please see the website for rationale and relevant position details.

**Help Students Become Good Citizens
The Price of Our Civic Education
Material is Reduced!**

Due to the economic downturn, schools are struggling to afford the purchase of books. Therefore the price for sets of **The State We're In: Washington. Your guide to state, tribal and local government** has been reduced. A set of 30 books and a Teachers Curriculum Guide is now \$300—down from \$450—and includes taxes, shipping and handling.

Our students need these materials and your help will benefit your League.

If your League contacts schools and other groups about these materials and it results in orders of **a set or more, \$100, per set** will be deposited into **your** Education Fund!

If your League chooses to donate sets to schools who want them you may purchase sets for \$200.

In either case it is necessary to talk with curriculum directors, principals, teachers or other decision-makers about the materials and find out if they want them. They will need to see and handle a book and the teacher's guide and receive a Fact Sheet that describes the materials.

Last year a copy of the book and a teacher's guide was given to each League. Now, we will be sending a packet of materials via email to each League president that can be printed for your convenience. This will include the Fact Sheet, Talking Points, a Sponsorship Agreement Form, and a How to Report Contacts Form.

Three Leagues have done this very successfully. You can too!

LWVWA on Facebook

Have you visited LWVWA's new Facebook page? Come join the conversation at www.facebook.com/lwvwa.

Click "like" to show your support and stay up to date about the latest issues and events. What topics would you like to see covered? Send your thoughts to lwvwa@lwvwa.org.

Volunteer Opportunity for You!!!

LWVWA seeks volunteers for short-term administrative projects in the state office. Please contact Laura if you are interested at 206-622-8961 or lwvwa@lwvwa.org.

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.

The Washington State *VOTER* (printed version) is published twice yearly by the League of Women Voters of Washington, 4730 University Way NE, #720, Seattle, WA 98105. The Washington State *VOTER* (on-line version) is also published twice yearly. Yearly subscription is \$10. Members subscribe through their annual dues. Call 206-622-8961 for a local league in your area or look online at www.lwvwa.org.

JOIN THE LEAGUE LEGACY ASSOCIATES

In 2008 several LWVWA members decided to put the State League in their wills to continue funding the organization that has worked for the issues that mean so much to them. Kay Buss of the Pullman League was a founding woman of the League Legacy Associates, and knew the value of the League's work.

The State League is there to assist the local Leagues; and an on-going fund that will help pay the operations cost of the office and staff working for us is a good bequest that will be a continuing benefit to the people who live here.

Please join these members by putting the LWVWA in your will or trust, and tell the League office so your name can be added to the list. You do not need to provide a copy of your will or even the relevant page. You may use language similar to this to put your bequest in place: **I HEREBY GIVE, DEVISE, BEQUEATH (PERCENTAGE OR \$ AMOUNT) TO THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WASHINGTON.** Always check with your lawyer on issues regarding your will or trust documents.

**LWVWA WEBSITE
LOOK FOR IT
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ON-LINE INFORMATION FOR LWVWA MEMBERS

www.lwvwa.org, The League of Women Voters of Washington web site provides tools to get involved in the democratic process. Some of the pages are:

Positions, Action and Advocacy—information on League issues, legislative priorities and state government links.

Local Leagues—links to their pages
Members only—accessed with user name: lwvwa, and password: Voter1. Includes lists of state board members, local League leaders, policies and procedures, bylaws, guidelines for Leagues and the Civic Engagement Project papers.

www.washingtonvoter.org. A nonpartisan website for Washington state voting information and elections (a project of LWVW Education Fund). Includes information about registering to vote, a candidates' page and ballot issues page.

www.vote411.org, --non-partisan election information (also from LWV Ed Fund).

www.secstate.wa.gov The Secretary of State's website, with extensive information on voter registration as well as a list of candidates who have filed, initiatives filed, and a state voters' pamphlet.



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4730 University Way NE, #720
Seattle, WA 98105

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**League of Women Voters of Washington
ACTION WORKSHOP 2011**

REGISTRATION

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

Choose one or both venues:

- Ellensburg, Saturday October 8, 2011
 Bellevue, November 19, 2011

Name _____

Tel/email _____

VISA M/C

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Check enclosed

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