

VOTER
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE SAN JUANS
P. O. BOX 784, FRIDAY HARBOR, WA 98250-0784

April/May 2008

Calendar

April 14, 2008, Monday – Membership Meeting – 10 am to noon, San Juan Island Library. The topic is **Children’s Issues**. Bring your questions about issues facing children and families in San Juan County today. Listen to a panel of experts in child welfare report on services being provided, gaps in services, and growing issues and concerns. Joyce Sobel, Director, SJI Family Resource Center and Staff for the SJ County Community Network will host the conversation. Other guests include: Dave Parks, Social Worker, Division of Children and Family Services of the Department of Social and Health Services; Bill Evans, Superintendent, Lopez Island School District; Sage MacLeod, Director, SJ County Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP).

April 15, 2008, Tuesday - League of Women Voters of Washington Transportation Meeting - at the Skagit Transit Center in Mount Vernon from 11:00 to 12:30. This is a meeting to discuss rural-area transportation systems with people who know: Martha Rose, Director of Island Transit and Dale O’Brian, Director of Skagit Transit. After the meeting, adventurous souls are doing lunch and then taking a bus out to LaConner to see the gorgeous fields of tulips. That bus leaves Skagit Transit at 3:00 and gets back to the transit center at 4:00. With climate change/greenhouse gas problems looming, it’s important that we learn all we can about successful public transportation systems, so we can continue to work to improve the systems in our own areas. For more information, contact: Linnea Hirst Chair, Transportation Committee League of Women Voters of Washington, lwvquilter@comcast.net, 206-322-3076. If you are interested in car-pooling, call Liz Illg at 317-4010, or email her at lizillg@rockisland.com.

April 26, 2008, Monday, Saturday - LWVSJ Special Event - 1 to 3 p.m. at the Friday Harbor Middle School Commons. **“Global Warming and Elections 2008: What are the Candidates Telling Us and What Do We Need to Know?”** The speaker will be Dr. Edwin Dolan, author of *TANSTAAFL: The Economic Strategy for Environmental Crisis* (TANSTAAFL is an acronym for the adage "There Ain't No Such Thing As A Free Lunch," popularized by science fiction writer Robert A. Heinlein in his 1966 novel *The Moon Is a Harsh Mistress*, which discusses the problems caused by not considering the eventual outcome of an unbalanced economy.) A resident of Lopez Island, Dr. Dolan also wrote numerous other books and articles on environmental policy and other aspects of economics. He holds a Ph.D. in economics from Yale University and has taught at Dartmouth College, the University of Chicago, and several other schools in the United States and Europe. Currently he teaches economic policy and global economics for several months each year in Eastern European Universities. The public is invited; a discussion will follow. Contact Nancy Wight (378-3810, nancywight@centurytel.net) if you are available to help with this event.

May 5, 2008, Monday – LWVSJ Board Meeting – 12 noon to 2pm at the San Juan Island Library meeting room. Final preparations for the Annual Meeting will be on the agenda. All members and guests are welcome.

May 7, 2008, Wednesday – LWVSJ ANNUAL MEETING WITH SENATOR HARRIET SPANEL
12 noon to 2pm. At Vinny's Ristorante, 165 West street in Friday Harbor (across from the Friday Harbor House.) NOTE THE DAY HAS BEEN CHANGED! The cost is \$20 for lunch, payable at the door. The agenda follows in this Voter, and includes brief LWVSJ business, and the honoring of our special guest, Senator Spanel. Come help us thank Senator Spanel for her years of public service. Members and their guests are welcome. Please RSVP to Liz or Janna (370-5743 or lizillg@rockisland.com) by April 15th.

May 31 – June 1, LWVWA Council 2008 at the Clarion Hotel in Yakima. The Agenda, Registration Form and other materials are now available online in the Members Only section at www.lwvwa.org, (User Name: lwvwa; Password: voter and click on “Council”). Council is composed of the president of each local League, chair of each UAL or an alternate in the event that the president or chair is unable to attend, plus one additional delegate chosen by each local League, and members of the state board. That’s two delegates total per League. Observers are welcome! The Council registration confirmation form is due to the state office by May 9th. Hotel reservations must be made directly with the Clarion by April 30th. For more information contact: League of Women Voters of Washington, 206-622-8961, email: lwvwa@lwvwa.org.

June 13-17 LWVUS Convention 2008! All LWV Members are invited to the LWVUS 48th National Convention on June 13-17, 2008 at the Hilton Portland & Executive Tower in Portland, Oregon. Become involved with League priorities and policies at the national level. Read more about Convention 2008 at: <http://lists.lwv.org/t/497000/2462720/330/0/>.

Board meetings are on the 1st Monday of each month and Membership Meetings are on 2nd Mondays. Annual Membership meetings are in May each year. If you are coming from another island, call any Board Member and we’ll arrange a ride from the ferry.

LWVSJ Happenings

March 3, 2008, Monday – Board Meeting – Six Board members were joined by four additional LWVSJ members for this meeting. It was decided to ask Dr. Geyman to make a presentation on health insurance for the March Membership meeting. At a suggestion from Louisa Nishitani, it was decided to hold a public lecture on the topic of “The Economics of Global Warming” on April 26th, featuring Dr. Ed Dolan. Susan Dehlendorf confirmed that we submitted the Agricultural Policy as our League’s choice for a topic for review by the National League. A donation was made by LWVSJ to the county to help defray printing costs of the Know Your County booklet.

March 10, 2008, Monday – Membership Meeting – Dr. John Geyman was the featured speaker at the March LWV membership meeting. His talk “Reforming Our Collapsing Health Care System” pointed out how in his view our health care system is market-based with insurance and drug companies reaping the financial gains and the public losing their basic right to an affordable health care system. He stressed that he believes a Single-Payer National Health Insurance is the only effective and sustainable path to universal coverage. This would not be socialized medicine, but social health care insurance. Everyone would have full choice of physicians and hospitals. A single-payer system would be far more efficient than a multi-payer for-profit system by saving about \$350 billion a year in administrative cost savings. About 24 people attended. Thank you to Dr. Geyman for this thought-provoking lecture.

ANNUAL LWVSJ MEETING
Wednesday May 7, Noon at Vinny's Ristorante

AGENDA

Welcoming Remarks – Nancy Wight, President

Lunch

Business Meeting

Approval of Financial Report

Adoption of 2008-2009 Budget

Adoption of mandated changes in Bylaws

Adoption of Board recommendation to change the Membership year
to be the same as the Fiscal Year

Elections

Honoring Senator Harriet Spanel

Adjournment

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER

Proposed Budget 2008-2009 Fiscal Year

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Dues	1725.00	National PMP*	1172.00
Bank Int.	20.00	State PMP	730.00
<u>Donations</u>	<u>307.00</u>	<u>Administration</u>	<u>150.00</u>
TOTAL	2052.00	TOTAL	2052.00

***Per Member Payment**

A more detailed Financial Statement will be available at the meeting. If you wish to have it emailed to you, please contact Janna (370-5743, jannag@rockisland.com)

REPORT FROM THE BYLAW COMMITTEE

The Membership is being asked to amend the bylaws to make the first three articles compatible with the National League bylaws, as requested by LWVUS. You will find the proposed bylaw changes attached to this Voter.

REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Nominating Committee Members: Liz Illg (Chair), Joyce Lewin and Beverly Zapalac
Chairperson Liz Illg tells us there is a slate for the election of officers, (all are people who are currently serving): Nancy Wight for President, Susan Dehlendorf for Vice President, Ann Jarrell for Secretary and Pat Curtin for Treasurer. Nominations will be welcomed from the floor for all of these positions, and other members are encouraged to run. There are also at-large positions available for anyone interested in being on the Board, but not as an officer. Voting will be by secret ballot if there is more than one person running for a position, otherwise by acclamation. We also need to elect a Chair for the Nominating Committee for next year, and nominations will be accepted from the floor for that position.

National LWV

LWVUS BOARD ADOPTS IMMIGRATION POSITION

After a lengthy and comprehensive study of this complex issue by our grassroots members, the LWVUS Board of Directors unanimously adopted the League's position on immigration which calls for a path to citizenship for current unauthorized immigrants. The 18-month study was successful thanks to the hard work of the Immigration Study Committee, led by LWVUS Board Member Carolie Mullan, and the high level of participation from local leagues: 67 percent (560 Leagues). The following is the position in full:

LWVUS Immigration Position

The League of Women Voters believes that immigration policies should promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; and be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises. Provision should also be made for qualified persons to enter the U.S. on student visas. All persons should receive fair treatment under the law.

The League supports federal immigration law that provides an efficient, expeditious system (with minimal or no backlogs) for legal entry of immigrants into the U.S.

To complement these goals the League supports federal policies to improve economies, education, job opportunities, and living conditions in nations with large emigrating populations.

In transition to a reformed system, the League supports provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status

The League supports federal payments to impacted communities to address the financial costs borne by states and local governments with large immigrant populations.

Criteria for Legal Admission to the U.S.

The League supports the following criteria for legal admission of persons into the United States:

- Family reunification of spouses or minor children with authorized immigrants or citizens;
- Flight from persecution or response to humanitarian crises in home countries;
- Economic, business and employment needs in the U.S.;
- Education and training needs of the U.S.;
- Educational program opportunities; and
- Lack of a history of serious criminal activity.
-

Administration and Enforcement

The League supports due process for all persons, including the right to a fair hearing, right to counsel, right of appeal and right to humane treatment. The League supports:

- Improved technology to facilitate employer verification of employee status;
- Verification documents, such as status cards and work permits, with secure identifiers;
- Significant fines and penalties for employers who hire unauthorized workers;
- Improved technology for sharing information among federal agencies;
- More effective tracking of individuals who enter the United States; and
- Increased personnel at borders.

The League also supports programs allowing foreign workers to enter and leave the U.S. to meet seasonal or sporadic labor needs.

Unauthorized Immigrants Already in the U.S.

In achieving overall policy goals, the League supports a system for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status, including citizenship, by paying taxes, learning English, studying civics and meeting other relevant criteria. While policy reforms, including a path to legal status, remain unachieved, the League does not support deporting unauthorized immigrants who have no history of criminal activity.

Mission of the League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan, political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy.

The goal of the League of Women Voters

*is to empower citizens to shape better communities worldwide.
Membership is open to any citizen over the age of 18 who subscribes to the League's purposes and policies. All LWVWSJ meetings are nonpartisan and open to the public.*

Board Members of the League of Women Voters of the San Juans

President, Nancy Wight	378-3810	nancywight@centurytel.net
Vice-President, Susan Dehlendorf	378-1082	dehlenda@rockisland.com
Secretary, Ann Jarrell	378-4939	anndon66@hotmail.com
Treasurer, Pat Curtin	370-5531	pcurtin@rockisland.com
Membership Committee Chair, Marj Stanley	378-5769	stanley@rockisland.com
Member-At-Large, Carol Baylis	378-8549	baylis@centurytel.net
Member-At-Large, Janna Gingras	378-6104	jannag@rockisland.com

JOIN US TODAY!

YES! I want to become a member of the League of Women Voters of the San Juans.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____

Circle one:

(Individual Membership \$50) (Two Members at same address \$75) (Student Membership \$25)

I would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the League of Women Voters of WA Education Fund and have enclosed a separate check (to LWVWA-EF) in the amount of \$_____.

PLEASE RETURN TO:

League of Women Voters of the San Juans,
PO Box 784,
Friday Harbor, WA 98250

Voter Editor: Janna Gingras