



VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE SAN JUANS
P. O. Box 784, Friday Harbor, WA 98250-0784

December 2008

Calendar

**December 9, 2008 – Tuesday, 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. at Vinny's Ristorante
December Membership Meeting**

Our regular monthly meeting will be the Christmas luncheon at Vinny's. Doris Shaller, County Election Officer, will be our speaker. (Vinny's is closed on Mondays).

**January 5, 2009 – Monday, 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. at the San Juan Island Library
Monthly Board Meeting**

All members are invited to attend.

LWVSJ Happenings

**December 1, 2008 – Monthly Board Meeting
San Juan Island Library**

The meeting was called to order at noon. Present were Nancy Wight, Pat Curtin, Joyce Lewin and guest, Doris VanAlen, Susan Dehlendorf, Marj Stanley and Ann Jarrell.

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

Minutes from the November meeting were approved without changes. The treasurer detailed the Forums' costs. Expenses were \$147; donations were \$513 for a net of \$365.

New Business.

Susan Dehlendorf reported that she attended the LWVWA Action Workshop, November 15 in Bellevue. Speakers included the Assistant Superintendent of Education, a policy specialist on global warming and a state transportation specialist. Susan reported that this was a valuable meeting full of relevant information. She passed on to us the information that nothing is in the 2009 budget for Early Childhood Education, our Consensus topic, but that policy decisions may be coming up this year. The League recommends everyone attend one of these workshops which give us information about the issues that will be key in the 2009 legislative sessions and show us ways we can have an impact on legislation we feel is important. Susan also reported that the food was delicious.

Susan then led the group in a dynamic discussion of the LWVWA Consensus questions on early Care and Education of Young Children. She first went through the last League Position Statement set in 1984. Since then much has been learned about brain development and benchmarks. The consensus of members present felt the state should have a significant role in early childhood care and education and recommended including birth through five years of age in the state basic education funding formula. Also, we support public-private partnerships as a means of expanding the early care system. We suggested that local organizations become involved in programs that stress the importance of and instruct parents in proper early care and education.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Jarrell, Secretary.

State/Local LWV

Health Care Reform Committee

Health care reform will be of major concern during the 2009 Legislative Session and for many years to come. Since health care has many common elements throughout the state of Washington, the state League is working to set up a Statewide LWVWA Health Care Committee. Many members have expressed an interest in such a committee.

If you are interested in working on this issue, contact Susan Eidenschink at 253-572-9305. A list of priorities for health care reform is included in the email that transmitted this issue of the *Voter*.

State League Website

There is a wealth of information on state activities and priorities on the LWVWA website. Be sure to check it out at <http://www.lwvwa.org/>.

National LWV

League's Vote411.Org Helps Millions of Voters In 2008

The League of Women Voters announced that VOTE411.org helped millions of voters looking for information online throughout the long primary and general election season.

“VOTE411.org saw considerable spikes in traffic in the days leading up to the election,” stated Mary G. Wilson, national president of the League of Women Voters. “The four million page views that our online voter education site experienced in the final days leading up to Election Day speaks to the continued demand from voters for reliable and nonpartisan election information. VOTE411 was the place to go for online voting information. Voters, especially the millions of first-timers participating this year, needed simple, helpful tools to help them navigate Election Day. In addition, VOTE411 was used by many of the major voter hotlines to answer questions from the public and provide election information.”

“With the stakes as high as they were for this election, the League was proud to empower voters with trusted and accurate information about registering to vote, finding polling places, checking voting hours, learning about absentee and early voting opportunities, and getting the facts about Election Day,” Wilson said.

The League's VOTE411 was featured prominently as a voter resource by many media organizations, including The Washington Post, The New York Times, C-SPAN and CNN. Additionally, more than 9,000 nonprofit advocacy organizations, community groups, search engines, media outlets and blogs linked to VOTE411 and informed their constituents about the League's online resources.

“The 2008 election was groundbreaking and historic for many reasons, including the vast amount of information that was available for voters on the Internet,” noted Wilson. “Even though voters had access to unprecedented amounts of political data online, they continued to rely on the League's VOTE411 to help them get educated and prepared to cast their vote,” Wilson concluded.

Looking Ahead to 2009

The League looks forward to working with the incoming 111th Congress and the Obama Administration on key issues including global climate change, health care, government reform and transparency. Americans believe it's time to build a better, stronger America—

and the League has the legislative track record and grassroots strength to get it done. Read our **Open Letter to the Next President**

http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Current_Issue&CONTENTID=12131&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm

as well as **our reform agenda**,

<http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=12351>

and keep an eye out for more details in the coming weeks.

League, Others Urge Inclusion of Green Infrastructure to any Stimulus Bill

The League and other concerned organizations urged that any economic stimulus bill include green infrastructure and green jobs development that immediately puts people to work and reinvigorates the economy. Furthermore, the groups believe any aid package for automakers should be tied to guaranteed improvement in greenhouse gas emissions and fuel economy of manufacturer's fleets.

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 LWVSW meetings are nonpartisan and open to the public.

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

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JOIN US TODAY!

YES! I want to become a member of the League of Women Voters of the San Juans for the year June 1, 2008 to May 31, 2009.

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:

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