

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

January 2008

Calendar

January 14, 2008, Monday – Membership Meeting – 12 pm – 2 pm, San Juan Island Library. National LWV Immigration Study Consensus Questions. The Study Kit was attached to the December VOTER or you can learn more online at <http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=LWVUSImmigrationStudy>.

February 1, 2008, Friday -League of Women Voters of Washington LOBBY DAY - 8:30 am to 2:30 pm, Columbia Room, Capital Building, Olympia. Deadline to register: January 29th. Details and registration form later in this newsletter.

February 4, Monday – Board Meeting – 12 pm – 2 pm, San Juan Island Library. Beginning planning for the LWV SJ Annual Meeting. All are welcome.

February 9, 2008 – Saturday - Washington State Republicans and Democrats Caucuses. Attend the one of your choice and participate in your democracy!

February 11, 2008, Monday – Membership Meeting – 10 am – noon, San Juan Island Library. National LWV Convention Program Planning, facilitated by Susan Dehlendorf.

February 19, 2008 – School Levy and Primary Election

March 3, 2008, Monday – Board Meeting – 12 pm – 2 pm, San Juan Island Library. All are welcome.

March 10, 2008, Monday – Membership Meeting – 10 pm – noon, San Juan Island Library. The topic is San Juan County Government.

April 7, 2008, Monday – Board Meeting – 12 pm – 2 pm, San Juan Island Library. All are welcome.

April 14, 2008, Monday – Membership Meeting – 10 pm – noon, San Juan Island Library. The topic is Children's Issues.

May 1, 2008, Thursday – LWV SJ Annual Meeting – 12-m – 2pm. Get it on your 2008 calendar!

June 13-17 LWVUS Convention 2008! Portland Oregon is hosting the 2008 National Convention! All LWV Members are invited by LWVUS to the LWVUS 48th National Convention on June 13-17, 2008 at the Hilton Portland & Executive Tower in Portland, Oregon. Read more about Convention 2008 at: <http://lists.lwv.org/t/497000/2462720/330/0/> To volunteer, contact Debbie Kaye, djek53@aol.com.

Calendar note: the Board has tentatively decided to go back to having all meetings on Mondays, but note the TIME CHANGE for Membership Meetings. Board meetings will be on the 1st Mondays and Membership Meetings will be on 2nd Mondays. Let us know if you like/don't like this schedule. If you are coming from another island, call any Board Member and we'll arrange a ride from the ferry.

LWVSJ Happenings

December 2, 2007, Public Forum on Campaign Finance Reform. Despite bad weather, about 25 people came to hear Ken Dammand, Board member of Washington Public Campaigns, talk about the WA Public Campaign and fair elections, and see a video on the subject featuring Bill Moyers. Mr. Dammand described the basic model of public financing: voluntary, qualifying small donations, basic allowance and matching fund for independent expenditures. He then went on to discuss the goals of the WPC: public funding options for local, judicial and statewide elections, and the basic strategy to achieve these goals:

1. Repeal local prohibition (I-134, the "Fair Campaign Practices Act" of 1992)
2. Public financing for Judicial Elections
3. Public financing for State-wide Offices, possibly by petition

The important thing right now is to spread the word by having speakers, public forums, etc. He asked that we sign-up for e-mails giving us information about WPC. Nancy Wight ended the meeting stating that campaign financing was a priority with the state LWV and invited people to join in the effort.

December 3, 2007, Annual LWVSJ Holiday Luncheon – at the Orcas Hotel on Orcas Island. Ken Dammand, of Washington Public Campaigns, spoke at this event as well, to continue the discussion and answer questions. About 15 people attended.

Letter from Mr. Dammand (edited for the VOTER):

I am writing to thank you and your League of Women Voters group for allowing me to speak on December 2 and 3rd. I wanted to particularly thank Lee Sturdivant and her husband Tal for their wonderful hospitality and enthusiasm.

I will be communicating with your group through Lee unless and until other arrangements are made. She has done a great job of gathering signatures on Washington Public Campaign's Citizen's Petition sheets. These documents are functional in several ways. First they allow WPC to demonstrate the level of public support for the idea of public funding of campaigns. Second, they give us a means of contacting supporters to organize grass roots activity such as calls and visits to legislators at times when such contact can be helpful in letting the legislators know how their constituency feels about public funding of electoral campaigns. They also give us a means of keeping our supporters up to date on the progress toward public funding. And finally, they may be used to facilitate the gathering of signatures on an initiative if that ultimately becomes necessary. So you can see that these Citizen's Petitions are extremely important in our plans. Note these are not initiatives, just statements of support.

Right now, we are preparing to promote two pieces of legislation in the upcoming session. These are HB 1551 and SB 5226. Together their effect is to repeal the prohibition of public campaign financing at the local level. This includes cities, counties, PUD's and port authorities. We are very optimistic about the passage of these bills but it will take some pressure from constituents to get them through. That is where we would like to enlist your help next. We would like to have as many contacts as can be arranged, be they e-mails, phone calls or personal visits, with legislators before the beginning of the next legislative session. In these contacts we would like to have the constituents explain that they support these bills that would only ALLOW, not mandate, local governments to consider such programs if their citizens want to try it. No state expenditures are involved. Here the issue is the repeal of some of the small print in Initiative I-134 that was passed in 1992. This prohibition of public funding was directed at Seattle City and King County Councils which exploratory public funding programs at the time. It would very likely not have been approved by the people if it had been a stand alone item.

So, we would like to ask that you put the word out to your membership to make the contacts mentioned above. Thank you so much for your support and your group's hospitality. Meeting them was a genuine pleasure. Sincerely, Ken Dammand

Washington State LWV

Legislative Newsletter:

Follow the league's progress in Olympia: Subscribe now. You'll receive information about pertinent committee hearings, status of bills and Action Alerts. **If you elect to receive the newsletter via email it's free!** If you want to have it mailed to you there is a \$15 charge. Please send coupon (and check) today.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Make your check payable to and return to: LWVWA, 4710 University Way NE, #214, Seattle, WA 98105.
PH: 206-622-8961 or outside toll area: 1-800-419-2596. Email: lwwwa@lwwwa.org, www.lwwwa.org

Lobby Day Information:

Observe the action! Be part of the action! We're trying some new things this year to give you more time to spend meeting with your legislators, attending hearings, or observing floor action. Tentative schedule:

8:30-9:15 Coffee and Donuts with our legislators in the Columbia Room. All representatives and senators will receive an invitation to this informal "mingle" from President Barbara Seitle and you can add a personal invitation of your own when you make the appointment to meet with them.

9:15-10:30 Invited: the House Speaker and Minority Leader and Senate Majority and Minority Leaders to address us about the session

10:30-11:00 We'll sort out the issues.

11:00 With talking point papers and legislative appointment report forms well in hand, and LWV buttons proudly displayed, we will all descend on the legislature!

12:00-1:30 Box lunches will be available in the Columbia Room

2:30 Adjournment. Before then, you can return to the Columbia Room and turn in your report forms. A summary of Lobby Day efforts will be published in the Spring LWVWA Voter.

LWV Thurston County will host the event and will once again offer B & B facilities in members' homes for those Leaguers wishing to come to Olympia on Thursday. The charge for the B & B is \$10. Contact Marilyn Funk at bfmz@comcast.net or call 360-357-7967.

Circle February 1 on your calendar, and complete and send in the registration form below with your check for \$20 (includes lunch).

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LOBBY DAY REGISTRATION Friday, February 1, 2008

NAME: _____ Phone _____

ADDRESS: _____

Email _____

Make checks for \$20.00 payable to LWVWA.

Mail with this form to LWVWA, 4710 University Way, # 214, Seattle, WA 98105.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 29, 2008. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.

International LWV

The Seattle-based Regional International Relations Committee Working Group is up and running. They are meeting the first Monday of each month at 12:45 pm in the LWV/Seattle office. The committee's main task for 2007-08 is to write a paper and organize a forum on the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals. These goals are statements aimed at achieving the elimination of poverty in the world by 2015.

Sandra Randall of LWVSI has agreed to be the contact person or person for LWVSI so we can benefit from the information this group develops and would like to share. The International Relations (IR) Working Group's current plan is to provide local Leagues with any papers, articles, a book list and reviews they produce on topics related to national and international affairs.

The Foreign Policy Association has been successful around the country with a program they call "Great Decisions Discussions Groups". The IR committee has organized several Seattle area discussion groups using their materials and people are enthusiastic about them. Perhaps you would be interested in forming a local Great Decision Discussion Group. Here is the information contact: Foreign Policy Association at (212) 481-8100 or www.fpa.org <http://www.fpa.org/>.

Also of interest is the fact that an IR subcommittee is currently working with UW Jackson School's Institute for Global and Regional Security Studies (IGRSS) on an educational project on Nuclear Proliferation/Non Proliferation. A lecture will be given by Ambassador Thomas Graham, who was President Clinton's special ambassador on nuclear disarmament issues. Copies of his lecture or videos of the event will be available to you upon request. For more information contact: Peggy Saari, peggyaari@comcast.net, (206) 525-0132.

Mission of the League of Women Voters

*The League of Women Voters is a non-profit, non-partisan, political membership organization.
We encourage informed and active participation in government,
and seek to 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 LWVSI meetings are nonpartisan and open to the public.*

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Voter Editor: Janna Gingras, 378-6104, jannag@rockisland.com. If you have items for the Voter, please submit them to Janna by the 25th of each month for the next month's issue.