



VOTER

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

September 2009

Calendar

**September 8, 2009 – Tuesday, 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm at the Islanders Bank Meeting Room
Monthly Board Meeting**

Because Monday, September 7 is Labor Day, the board meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday. Please also note the change of location. The library is unavailable on this date. If anyone needs a ride or directions, please call Ann at 378-4939. All members are encouraged to attend.

**September 14, 2009 – Monday, 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm at the San Juan Island Library
Monthly Membership Meeting**

The September membership meeting's topic is Health Care Reform. We will view and discuss an informative film "Health, Money and Fear", produced by an emergency room physician and distributed by the Washington State League. The film presents the history of the U.S. health care system, explains why health care costs are so high in our country and discusses avenues to improvement. We have invited Dr. John Geyman and Curt VanHyning to share their expertise with the group. Jill Johnson, who is a new member and a neonatal intensive care nurse, will also be there.

Please attend and bring your friends, your thoughts and questions regarding Health Care Reform.

Board meetings are generally on the 1st Monday of each month and Membership Meetings are usually on the 2nd Monday. 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 ferry.

**October 2009
Candidate Forums**

Nancy Wight and Carol Baylis have agreed to co-chair the Voter Services Committee. This committee organizes and runs the candidate forums. We need volunteers to help with these forums this year. There are several small jobs that don't require a large time commitment.

We also need to find a person willing to work with Nancy and Carol in the capacity of Vice Chair of the Voter Services Committee. The vice chair would be in training this year and would take over responsibility for the forums next year (with help of course).

The committee is working on dates, times, and locations. As soon as plans are finalized, they will be published in the *Voter*.

**November 1, 2009 – 7:00 pm at the San Juan Island Library
*Iron Jawed Angels***

Iron Jawed Angels recounts a key chapter in U.S. history: in this case, the struggle of suffragists who fought for the passage of the 19th Amendment. Focusing on the two defiant women, Alice Paul (Hilary Swank) and Lucy Burns (Frances O'Connor), the film shows how these activists broke from the mainstream women's-rights movement and created a more radical wing, daring to push the boundaries of political protest to secure women's voting rights in 1920. Breathing life into the relationships between Paul, Burns and others, the movie makes the women feel like complete characters instead of one-dimensional figures from a distant past.

This special event is sponsored by LWVSJ and is open to the public.

**November 9, 2009 - 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm at the San Juan Island Library
Membership Meeting**

Members and guests can take the Test for Citizenship. This is open to anyone who wants to participate (just for fun...it will be self-corrected.) This will be followed by information and a discussion on how one becomes a citizen.

November 21, 2009 – LWVWA Action Workshop, Bellevue, WA

LWVWA will hold two Action Workshops for members. One will be held in Eastern Washington and the second, for Western Washington residents in Bellevue. The state LWV has this to say about these workshops:

We hope YOU will be there at one of them. Perhaps we should call these meetings "Call to Action Workshops" or "Activating Our Base Sessions." We know that messages from constituents and contacts with legislators do make a difference. League can truly affect outcomes if our members all around the state weigh in on the issues we care about. That's why it's so important for you to attend one of the workshops. They are designed to do two things: give us information about the issues that will be key in the next 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. If you have never sent an email to your state senator or spoken to your representative in the supermarket, or even if you've done both many times, come to the **workshop** to learn how to do it more effectively.

Information on registration and location will be published in the Voter as soon as it becomes available.

December – Annual LWVSJ Holiday Luncheon

Date, time, location, and speaker to be determined.

LWVSJ Happenings

July 6, 2009 - Monthly Board Meeting

This meeting was intended to be a board meeting, but a quorum was not present, so no board meeting was held. However the following members participated in the discussion that ensued: Carolyn de Roos, Marjory Stanley, Nancy Wight, Eileen Drath, and Louisa Nishitani. There was also a guest present: Sally Thomsen.

Sally Thomsen, Director of Island Rec (San Juan Island Park & Recreation District), explained the history of fund-raising for recreation within the community, the current level of taxation for the Park and Recreation District (10 cents per \$1000), and the rationale of the District Commissioners for the levy measure which will be on the ballot in November. The levy on the ballot will be 17 cents per \$1000, of which 10 cents will be used for normal Island Rec activities and 7 cents will be used for a contract with the San Juan Island School District for administration of middle and high school sports programs.

Plans for upcoming forums were discussed. There appears to be no need for a forum prior to the primary election. For the forum before the November election, there need to be speakers, pro and con, on the issues of fireworks and the Island Rec levy. It was suggested that the issue of the Critical Areas Ordinance would be better addressed, not in the forum, but by a guest letter to the editor, signed by LWVSJ president, if State League has a firm position.

August 11, 2009 – Monthly Board Meeting

Following is a summary of the meeting. Board minutes will no longer be published in their entirety in the Voter because they are not in their approved form until after the next monthly board meeting. For copies of the entire minutes, contact Janna Gingras, (jannag@rockisland.com).

The LWVSJ Board met on August 11, 2009 at the San Juan Island Library. Board Members present were: Ann Jarrell, Pat Curtin, Susan Dehlendorf, Louisa Nishitani, Beverly Zapalac, and Janna Gingras.

Different people will be taking on the responsibility of reporting interesting facts and current League actions in specific areas. So far, these are:

Susan Dehlendorf – Education
Ann Jarrell – Health
Louisa Nishitani and Ann Jarrell – Environment
Beverly Zapalac – Energy
Pat Curtin – Economy
Janna Gingras – Transportation

Ann requested that LWVSJ members try to attend the following state LWV events: Action Workshop, Bellevue, Saturday, November 21, and Lobby Day, Olympia, January 19. There was a lot of interest from the board in doing this.

LWVSJ Membership Books are now ready. Current members can pick them up at meetings, or contact Janna (jannag@rockisland.com, 370-5743.) All new members will be receiving books when they join.

LWV of Washington

The following resolutions were passed at the LWV state convention in June.

Resolution 2009 – 1 Health Care

Whereas, the LWVUS Position on health care calls for a health care system that is universal, comprehensive, equitable, and affordable both to individuals and to the nation;

Whereas, the LWVUS Position, adopted in 1993, supports a national health plan financed through general taxes in place of individual insurance premiums; and

Whereas, a single payer health care plan (publicly financed, privately delivered) can best fulfill these criteria; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the League of Women Voters of Washington meeting in Convention, May 2009, send a letter to the LWVUS board within one month, urging that

- the LWVUS actively support the principle of single-payer national health insurance by vigorously advocating that a single payer legislative proposal be included in deliberations of health care reform by Congress and the Administration; and
- side-by-side comparative analyses of single payer proposals with other proposals for health care reform be part of these deliberations

Susan Eidenschink (Tacoma/PC); Ann Brand (Seattle)

Resolution 2009 - 2 Immigration Issues

Whereas, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (specifically Border Patrol) continue to detain and deport undocumented immigrants with no serious criminal record, and

Whereas, random questioning by the Border Patrol in Jefferson County, WA, and the wider Olympic Peninsula, has resulted in taking into custody more undocumented immigrants with no criminal record than those with criminal records, and

Whereas, the League of Women Voters/US (LWVUS) opposes the harassment, detention, and deportation of undocumented immigrants with no criminal record,

Be it therefore resolved that the League of Women Voters of Washington State, meeting in Convention at Tacoma, WA, on May 31, 2009, urges the LWVUS to:

- Communicate to the Department of Homeland Security and to our Members of Congress our vigorous rejection of the policy of apprehending, detaining and deporting undocumented immigrants with no serious criminal record.
- Lobby Congress to investigate the policies and procedures being followed by Border Patrol and ICE and pursue legislation that conforms with civil rights.
- Lobby Congress to adopt comprehensive immigration reform that conforms with LWVUS immigration positions.

Annette Holcomb (Seattle), Jackie Aase (Jefferson Cty), Penny Van Vleet (Clallam)

Resolution 2009 - 3 Residential Housing Standards

Whereas, there is no legal basis in Washington State to hold contractors accountable for meeting building codes and minimal standards for residential housing construction, and

Whereas, some residents of the state have suffered irreversible damage to their health due to factors such as toxic mold, and

Whereas, state law does not provide mechanisms to enforce building codes at a city and county level, and

Whereas, the LWVWA positions state:

- The state should set minimum standards for safe and decent housing and provide for their enforcement. (Housing, 1970)
- LWVWA supports measures to reduce the exposure of the population to toxics in the home. (Toxics in the Home, 1991)

Be it resolved that LWVWA, meeting in Convention at Tacoma, WA, May 31, 2009, will:

- Appoint a Task Force to study the State of Washington laws to determine that minimal standards for safe and decent residential housing construction and contracting exist and are enforced.
- Consider the following as a priority for future Legislative sessions to work to ensure:
 - that the state sets and enforces minimal standards for safe and decent residential housing, including new and remodeled construction;
 - that residential housing toxics meet EPA or other acceptable government or health standards, including the toxic mold secondary to water incursion.

Jayne Freitag-Koontz, Seattle

**Resolution 2009 – 4
Referendum 71**

Whereas, the LWVWA is committed to the principle of non-discrimination;

Whereas, the WA state legislature recently passed and the governor signed an “everything but marriage” law that provides additional responsibilities and protections for domestic partners who are registered with the state;

Whereas the state allows couples to register as domestic partners qualified same-sex couples and also opposite-sex couples where at least one partner is at least 62 years old;

Whereas, a campaign has started with the purpose of rescinding the “everything but marriage” expanded domestic partner law by placing Referendum 71 on the statewide ballot this fall;

Whereas, Referendum 71 would ask voters whether to retain the new law;

Whereas, a number of organizations have formed the coalition “WA Families Standing Together” to support the new law;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the League of Women Voters meeting in Convention at Tacoma, WA, May 31, 2009,

That if Referendum 71 is placed on the ballot, then the LWVWA encourages voting “yes” to affirm the “ ‘everything but marriage’ expanded domestic partner law” that has passed the state legislature and was signed by the governor.

Sarah Luthens (Seattle), Ginger Vetrano (Benton Franklin)

National LWV

PUBLIC OPTION IS ESSENTIAL TO HEALTH REFORM

League Urges Congress and President to Continue Support for Public Option

Washington, DC – "The public option in health care reform may not be essential to bureaucrats or insurance companies but it absolutely is essential to the almost 47 million uninsured Americans who live day to day without health care coverage," said League of Women Voters National President Mary G. Wilson. Calling on Congress and the President not to succumb to the bullying tactics being used by special interest groups, Wilson urged Congress and the President not to waver in their support of the public option included in H.R. 3200, America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009, recently passed by three House committees.

America is facing a health care crisis caused by a combination of skyrocketing costs and an insurance system that leaves millions of Americans without any coverage. "The current health care system is endangering our economy, our health, and our national security," Wilson said. "Last fall, voters elected a Congress and President that promised to reform our health care system. Voters made it clear that they want a change in our health care system, a change that puts the brakes on the excesses created by a system dominated by large insurance companies," she continued.

"It is universal coverage that will determine the humanity of our system and a public option will make that possible for Americans who cannot obtain coverage through the traditional employer-sponsored plans. We believe that health care reform legislation must guarantee access to comprehensive and essential benefits to all U.S. Residents."

"But the possibility of universal coverage is not the only advantage of the public option," warned Wilson. "We must control costs and the public option is the best chance to bring costs into line with reality. As a nation, we are spending \$1 out of every \$6 we earn on health care. Over the last three decades, increases in the amount we spend on health care have consistently risen faster than wages and inflation. Health care reform must provide effective cost controls, equitable distribution of services and allow for efficient and economical delivery of care. Offering everyone the choice of a government administered health insurance plan like Medicare that would compete with private health insurance plans is key to lowering costs."

"The public option is critical to health care reform," Wilson concluded. "Now is not the time for politicians to get cold feet just because a handful of special-interest-backed protesters spread lies and make noise at public forums. Congress and the President need to demonstrate real leadership and move forward with true health care reform."

ACTION ALERT: Urge Your Senators to Support CEDAW

The Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is the most comprehensive international treaty promoting the advancement of women worldwide. It establishes a legal framework to which all governments must adhere, to ensure the equality of women in various areas of life including politics, law, employment, education, health care,

commerce and domestic relations. The United States remains the only democracy in the world that has not ratified the CEDAW Treaty, putting our country in the dishonorable company of states such as Iran, Somalia and Sudan.

Call your Senators at 202-224-3121 or [click here](#) to enter your zip code and send them an email. Urge them to support ratification of the CEDAW Treaty for the Rights of Women today!

The CEDAW Treaty provides a universal standard for women's human rights. It provides a fundamental framework for ending international violence against women, ensuring girls access to education, and promoting economic opportunity and political participation for women. The United States should strive to be a leader and set an example for the rest of world in its commitment to women and expanding women's rights by ratifying CEDAW.

TAKE ACTION

1. Call the Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121 and ask for your Senators' offices. Urge your Senators to support ratification of CEDAW.
2. [Click here](#) to enter your zip code above to urge your Senators to support ratification of CEDAW.
3. Send this alert to other concerned citizens - your grassroots network, your friends and coworkers. Encourage them to contact their Senators today!

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.

Goal of the League of Women Voters

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:	Ann Jarrell	378-4939	anndon66@hotmail.com
Vice President:	Susan Dehlendorf	378-1082	dehlenda@rockisland.com
Treasurer:	Pat Curtin	370-5531	pcurtin@rockisland.com
Secretary:	Janna Gingras	370-5743	jannag@rockisland.com
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Member-At-Large:	Carol Baylis	378-8549	baylis@centurytel.net
Member-At-Large:	Louisa Nishitani	378-8638	louisan@rockisland.com
Member-At-Large:	Beverly Zapalac	468-9040	beverlykz@centurytel.net

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