



# VOTER

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

**April/May 2011**

## **Calendar**

**May 2, 2011 – Monday, 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm at the San Juan Island Library  
Membership Meeting**

This month's membership meeting, which takes place on the first Monday rather than the second, will be a panel discussion on the topic of "Civil Discourse: ARE the Times A-Changin?" A five member panel of experts will include David Kennedy, noted author and historian, Barbara Kline, Superintendent, Orcas School District, Lenore Bayuk, Psychosocial Clinical Nurse Specialist, Lynne Hobbs, a professional facilitator, and Jack Cory, Editor, *The Island Guardian*. The panelists will offer their observations after which attendees will be encouraged to participate in the moderated discussion.

We chose this topic as a follow-on to the LWV council meeting of last year: "Civil Discourse in Uncivil Times." However, this is not so much of a "How to Have a Civil Discussion Workshop" as a discussion of what happens when a lack of civility pervades a society, where it comes from and where such lack of civility may take us. As we gear up for another election cycle, the specter of harsh rhetoric and what many perceive as wild untruths is confronting us again. However, are we truly in uncivil times? And, if so, where exactly are we in that evolution? So, come prepared to hear the observations of an exceptional group of people and take part in the discussion.

**May 9, 2011 – Monday, 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm at the San Juan Island Library  
Board Meeting**

All members are encouraged to attend.

*Board meetings are generally on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month and Membership Meetings are usually on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday. Annual Membership meetings are usually 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.*

**June 6, 2011 – Monday, 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm at the San Juan Island Library Board Meeting**

**June 13, 2011 – Monday, 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm at the San Juan Island Library Membership Meeting**

The topic of June's meeting will be a legislative wrap-up.

## **LWVSJ Happenings**

### **April 11, 2011 – Annual Membership Meeting**

Our annual membership meeting was held at Vinny's Restaurant. We elected officers, summarized our activities for the year, approved a budget and announced the *Woman Who Made a Difference Award*. Co-presidents for the coming year will be Ann Jarrell and Susan Dehlendorf. Laura Jo Severson and Diane Martindale were elected as members-at-large from San Juan Island. Beverly Zapalac was elected as the member-at-large from Lopez Island. Three members from Orcas Island will share a member-at-large position with only one vote for the three. They are: Marian O'Brien, Mindy Kayl, and Margie Doyle. Clare Kelm will be secretary and Pat Curtin will continue as treasurer. Nominating committee members for next year will be Liz Illg, Marj Stanley and Winnie Adams.



Marj Stanley gave an eloquent tribute to Joyce Sobel, the award winner, citing the many contributions she has made to the San Juan Island Parent Cooperative Preschool, the Family Resource Center, the Family Umbrella Group and the San Juan County Family Policy Council Public Health and Safety Network.

Nancy DeVaux, Executive Director of the San Juan Community Home Trust, assisted by Angie Lausch of the San Juan County Department of Health and Community Services, presented a program entitled "Community Conversation: Affordable Housing."

President Ann also announced that the TRY (They Represent You) has been completed and is ready for distribution. Members Diane Martindale and Carlys Allen gathered and verified, and Marty Huleatte formatted all of the information included in this year's edition of the very informative publication. It will be available in the libraries and at the courthouse.

### **April 4, 2011 – Board Meeting**

The major topic of discussion for this board meeting was the upcoming annual meeting on April 11<sup>th</sup> at Vinny's Restaurant. The meeting will include the election of officers, a certificate and award presented to *The Woman Who Made a Difference* and a talk by Nancy DeVaux. Board members also planned programs for the next several general meetings. Suggestions for panelists for the May program on civil discourse were discussed.

### **March 14, 2011 – Membership Meeting**

Sarah Crosby, Program Chair, organized the first public forum to be held in the county on the upcoming County Charter revision with a panel of knowledgeable and experienced community members. The panel participants were former freeholders Bob Gamble and George Johnson, former county risk analyst Dave Zeretske, local media editor Sharon Kivisto, county councilman Richard Fralick, and county administrator Pete Rose. Public interest was high with nine guests attending in addition to League members. The questions were appropriate, polite but to the heart of what some see as problems with the provisions of the Charter. The forum was a great beginning to what is sure to become a very public conversation.

### **March 7, 2011 – Board Meeting**

The March board meeting consisted of a review of plans and the panelists for the discussion of the county's Home Rule Charter Review at the March 14<sup>th</sup> membership meeting. Plans for April's annual meeting and the award for the *Woman Who Made a Difference* were also discussed. Reminders for annual membership renewals will be published in April. Other plans were finalized for the May meeting, a civil discourse panel discussion, and the June program, which is to be a legislative wrap-up. Nominations for officers were announced. Other nominations from the floor will be accepted at the annual meeting.

## Membership News

The LWVSJ's membership year begins anew on June 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. If you wish to keep your membership current please consider that your payment of dues can be made at any time now for the 2011-2012 year. We had an official kickoff of our membership drive at our Annual Meeting. Please consider including your dues in your budgeting efforts in these difficult economic times and help to keep our organization viable.

Thank you for your attention to the issue of membership in the League.

Marj Stanley, Membership Chair

## LWV of Washington

Excerpts from the LWVWA Legislative Update of April 23, 2011

The Legislature finished their session on Friday (April 22), known as "*Sine Die*." They will be back in special session to finish the budget and those bills necessary to implement the budget (aka NTIB). The Senate and House are \$300 million apart in dollars and may be farther apart in tenor.

LWVWA Lobby Team members share what is still in play and what has occurred on bills they followed. After looking their news over, **you can thank your Legislators** for some of their courageous votes.

### Health Care - Review for Health Care Bills

**ESHB 1183: Relating to increasing the number of primary health providers in Washington.** This bill would help to reduce the shortage of primary care providers in Washington, particularly in rural and underserved areas of the state. If passed, no entity that receives state funds could prohibit a hospital or physician from entering into an agreement to provide student clinical rotations or residencies to qualified osteopathic or allopathic medical students. The effect of this bill would be to give more opportunity for new doctors to practice in needy areas of the state.

**League Position:** The LWVUS believes that health care services could be more equitably distributed by providing for training health care professionals in needed fields of care.

**ESSB 5445: Establishing a health benefit exchange.** This bill was requested by the Governor to prepare for implementation of the Patients Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). This federal law asks states to create state-based American Health Benefit Exchanges and Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) Exchanges, administered by a government agency or non-profit organization. Individuals and small businesses with up to 100 employees would be able to purchase qualified

coverage through these exchanges. The Washington statute adopted in this session is described in detail because of its significance. The Governor has proposed the creation of a seven member Health Benefit Exchange Development Board to coordinate with the administrator of the State Health Care Authority (HCA) to set up the exchange. The legislature changed the size of the board to nine when they adopted the legislation.

**ESSB 5394: Concerning primary care health homes and chronic care management.** This bill promotes the adoption of primary care health homes and, within them, advances the practice of chronic care management to improve health outcomes and reduce unnecessary costs. Several pilot projects using primary care health homes have been set up in Washington State and have demonstrated up to a 20% reduction in costs previously due to emergency room visits.

**ESHB 1311: Revised Substitute bill creates a collaborative to improve health care quality, cost-effectiveness and outcomes.** This bill requires the State Health Care Authority to convene a collaborative to identify health care services for which there are substantial variations in practice patterns or high utilization trends in the state that are indicators of poor quality and potential waste in the health care system. All state-purchased health care programs would be required to implement certain evidence-based practice guidelines.

**League Position:** LWVWA supports universal access for all residents to a comprehensive, uniform, and affordable set of health services regardless of one's health status or financial status. LWVWA supports establishing a mechanism to adequately control total system expenditures for health services while maintaining quality standards of care.

**Status:** All of the above bills were passed by both the House and Senate and sent to the Governor for signature.

### **Children's Issues**

We are grateful that legislators acted to support critical programs for young children and their families and child care providers such as Working Connections Child Care, Home Visiting Services for At-risk Families, the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), and the Child Care Resource and Referral Network.

**ACTION:** Please thank your legislators for their support of the programs above. As legislators work in the conference committee on the 2011-2013 biennial budget, please urge them to take the following approaches:

- Follow the House approach for funding parent and caregiver support, Department of Early Learning administration, and child care licensing.
- Follow the Senate approach for funding Seasonal Child Care and Reach Out and Read.
- Ensure children have access to quality early learning opportunities by funding the Career and Wage Ladder.

### **The Public-Private Partnership to Reduce Adverse Childhood Experiences**

The Senate biennial budget includes a \$1.4 million amendment funding the Community Public Health and Safety Networks to build local community capacity to reduce Adverse Childhood Experiences. The House biennial budget did not include funding for the Community Public Health and Safety Networks.

**Status:** **SHB 1965 Reducing Adverse Childhood Experiences** includes eliminating both the Family Policy Council and the Council for Children and Families on July 1, 2012. This allows a transition year so the Council for Children and Families activities can be transferred to appropriate state agencies other than DSHS. The Family Policy Council would be able to plan for the Community Public Health and Safety Networks to begin capacity building to reduce Adverse Childhood Experiences. The bill also retains the Community Networks' authority in statute, with a few exceptions, and creates the new Public-Private Partnership to reduce Adverse Childhood Experiences. The funding associated with both councils is removed from the DSHS and includes funding for Community Public Health and Safety Networks. There is no funding for the Community Networks in the fiscal note. **SHB 1965** passed in the House and was referenced in the House biennium budget but has not been scheduled for a hearing in the Senate. **SHB 1965** is one of the many bills that still need to be passed that are necessary for the budget in the biennial budget.

**ACTION:** Urge legislators to support the Senate Budget of \$1.4 million to fund the Community Public Health and Safety Networks to build community capacity to reduce Adverse Childhood Experiences.

**League Position:** LWVWA supports the protection of state and federal funding to meet the basic needs of families and children. LWVWA supports policies and programs that promote the well-being and safety of all children.

## **National LWV**

Statement by Elisabeth MacNamara, President  
League of Women Voters of the United States on  
HR 672, to Terminate the Election Assistance Commission  
for the Subcommittee on Elections of the  
Committee on House Administration

April 14, 2011

The League of Women Voters appreciates the opportunity to comment on HR 672 because it raises some fundamental questions. How important is it to Members of Congress that the United States is able to carry out our elections with integrity? What degree of attention and concern do our elections deserve? Does our system of election administration have the resources that are commensurate with the importance of elections in a democracy?

We believe that elections are fundamental to a functioning democracy and that every effort should be made to elevate their administration to the highest importance. For that reason, the League of Women Voters opposes HR 672, which would terminate the Election Assistance Commission. The value of the EAC far outweighs any monetary costs; in fact, the costs of poorly run elections are intolerable. It is time for election administration to move into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, not back toward the 19<sup>th</sup>.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, community-based political organization that has worked for more than 90 years to educate the electorate, register voters and make government at all levels more accessible and responsive to citizens. Organized in more than 800 communities and in every state, the League has more than 140,000 members and supporters nationwide. The League has been a leader in seeking improvements in systems of election administration at the state, local and federal levels for many decades.

The League of Women Voters strongly opposes HR 672 and the termination of the Election Assistance Commission. Instead of abolishing the agency, we believe Congress should strengthen the EAC by broadening its data collection responsibilities and by giving it regulatory authority to ensure that persons with disabilities have full access to the polls, just like other Americans.

**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 LWVSJ 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.

**Name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one: (Individual Membership-renewal: \$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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