



VOTER

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

April 2009

Calendar

**April 20, 2009 — Monday, 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm at the San Juan Island Library
Monthly Membership Meeting**

Water Matters!

Clean water is a critical resource. Water quality matters. Come to the monthly membership meeting to find out all about water quality. We will host a panel of resident experts who will explain threats to our water quality, current research projects and practical steps we can all take to preserve and protect the quality of our marine and fresh water in our environment.

Speakers Mike Kail, marine zoologist; Russel Barsh of Kwiaht: Center for the Historical Ecology of the Salish Sea; and Brian Rader, SJC Pollution Prevention Specialist; will present perspectives on water issues on and around the islands and explore solutions.

Ann Jarrell will moderate this session.

**May 4, 2009 — Monday, 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm at the San Juan Island Library
Monthly Board Meeting**

All members are encouraged to attend.

Board meetings are 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.

May 11 — Annual Membership Meeting — Monday, 12 noon to 2:00 pm

This year's annual membership meeting will be held at Vinny's Restaurant in Friday Harbor. The cost is \$20, payable at the door. **Please RSVP by April 20th to Susan Dehlendorf at 378-1082 or dehlenda@rockisland.com**

See pages 7 and 8 for the agenda and the proposed budget.

LWVSJ Happenings

March 9, 2009 — Monday, 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm at the San Juan Island Library

Our Failing Health Care System

Dr. John Geyman was our guest speaker for the March meeting on health care. He says a single payer system would be far more efficient than a multi-payer system. It would have more leverage to reduce waste and it would provide a structure for more accountability than we have today. Everyone would contribute to its funding on a shared and equitable basis.

President Obama's plan to let people keep what they have defeats the purpose. It puts insurance companies in competition with a national health care system. This competition will result in higher prices and duplication of expensive facilities. The insurance companies can refuse people with high health care needs and just insure the young and healthy, putting the burden on the national health care system.

What would a national health care system look like? Everyone would have a card assuring payment for all necessary care. You would have free choice of physicians and hospitals. Physicians and hospitals would remain independent and non-profit, negotiating fees and budgets with the National Health Plan. Local planning boards would allocate expensive technology. The public agency would process and pay bills. This would result in a cost savings of \$3 billion in one year.

The advantages of such a plan would assure access for all Americans with a cost savings each year. Administrative simplicity and decreased overhead would result. Medicare's current overhead percentage is 3%. Compare that to the 15% to 20% for private insurance companies. This plan would distribute risk and responsibility to finance care and to improve access, cost, and quality care.

Dr. Geyman is writing his seventh and last book on health care. *Do Not Resuscitate: Why the Health Insurance Industry is Dying and How We Must Replace It* came out in 2008 and I believe that all of his books are in our library.

Nancy Wight

April 6, 2009 - Board of Directors Meeting, San Juan Island Library, Friday Harbor, WA

The meeting was called to order at noon. Present were Susan Dehlendorf, Pat Curtin, Beverly Zapalac, Carol Baylis, Janna Gingras and Ann Jarrell.

Old Business.

Minutes of the March meeting were approved with changes.

A press release was written and submitted to the local media regarding the upcoming General Membership Meeting entitled "Water Matters". The meeting is on April 20th at noon at the library. It was noted that this meeting is not the usual 2nd Monday but the 3rd Monday, due to possible conflict with the Easter holiday weekend. Mike Kaill and Russel Barsh will address some findings of concern in local waters. Brian Rader will discuss what the public can do to help prevent water pollution.

The membership's vote at the last Annual Meeting in May 2008 that changed the dues date to May 31st was discussed. It was agreed that the Treasurer will provide a statement to each member, available at the Annual Meeting or mailed to those not in attendance, of their dues status including when their current membership will need renewal. This will help facilitate a smooth transition to the new dues date.

We will need to find a non-board member to chair the nominating committee for the slate of officers for 2009-2010. It was suggested that Sandy Harold or Liz Illg be contacted to act in this capacity.

New Business.

Susan suggested that one of the membership programs for the coming year be an exercise for members and their guests to take the test that is used to become a citizen of the US. This is especially appropriate since the civics requirement for graduation from high school has been adopted for Washington schools.

An agenda for the Annual Meeting was created. Our speaker, Kevin Ranker, has not confirmed the date. Lovell Pratt will do us the honor of a presentation should Kevin not be available. We will call and/or email reminders to the membership that the Annual Meeting is May 11th at Vinny's Restaurant and to RSVP to Susan Dehlendorf by April 20th. Cost for the luncheon is \$20 payable by cash or check at the door.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Jarrell, secretary.

LWV of Washington

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WASHINGTON CALLS FOR STATE TAX REFORM

The House and Senate both released their 09-11 budget proposals this week; they join the Governor's plan that was presented in January. Before April 26, when the Legislature adjourns, the two houses and the governor will reconcile their proposals into one budget.

After using spending reductions already made in this current year's budget and the several billion \$\$ infusion of federal funds from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, lawmakers are still left with a \$4 billion shortfall. While there are differences in priorities among the 3 budgets, what is not different is that they all rely on spending cuts alone to make up the remaining \$4 billion. The cuts being proposed will have devastating effects on just about every area of state-funded services and programs, and will impact the future of our state for decades to come.

Here are just a few of the cuts being considered:

- Eliminate 10,000 higher ed. enrollments or raise tuition by 10-13% for community colleges and 14-17% for universities
- Reduce or eliminate I-928 funds for smaller class sizes K-12
- Cut 75% of funds to help equalize funding for poorer school districts
- Reduce state pre-school program slots for 179 children
- Reduce number of people on the Basic Health Insurance Plan by 40,000
- Reduce funding for WorkFirst program (at the very time there are no jobs)
- Cut spending on habitat and wildlife protection, land management, water management, watershed planning and implementation, flood management
- Move all money from dedicated funds into the operating budget – for example, the Clean Water and Model Toxics Control accounts

These budgets create painful cuts in the social safety net and hurt the very people most burdened in this economic environment. The cuts in education – pre-school to college – hamper investment in our future. And, cuts in climate change and environmental protections put us all at risk.

The budgets reflect both the current economic downturn and the flaws in the state's tax structure. Not only is our tax system one of the most regressive in the nation, it also provides one of the least dependable sources of revenue to any state, creating a "boom and bust" cycle in the state budget that is an exaggeration of the ebb and flow of the economic cycle. The League of Women Voters of Washington believes that it is time to reform the tax system and to correct some of its flaws

through a progressive tax on income. We look forward to working with our state legislature to develop a balanced tax structure that is fair, adequate, flexible, and has a positive economic impact.

LWVWA Good In Government Awards Gala

The LWVWA Good in Government Awards Gala will be held Saturday, May 30 at 6:30 PM during convention in Tacoma. It will be a grand evening of celebration with three honorees (Senator Rosa Franklin, the Korean Women's Association, and The News Tribune). Included in the wine and dessert reception will be an opportunity to tour the "Women's Votes, Women's Voices" exhibit at the WA State History Museum. A raffle drawing will be at the close of the program. Both the gala and the raffle serve as wonderful opportunities to support the LWVWA Ed Fund. Tickets are \$40 and can be purchased by sending a check or credit card number to: The League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County, 702 Broadway, Suite 105, Tacoma, WA 98402.

National LWV

ACTION ALERT: Health Care and Climate at Risk -- Support the President's Budget

President Obama has proposed a 2010 federal budget that articulates America's most urgent priorities. The proposal contains essential funding for health care reform and for curbing global warming, while making other changes aimed at putting America on a path for economic recovery.

[Please take action now to urge your Senators and Representative to support the President's budget!](#)

The upcoming votes in the House and Senate will be the first real political tests for health care reform and curbs on global warming. Opponents of both these important initiatives are mobilizing to defeat the President's budget because they know that's the easiest way to sidetrack reform. We can't let them succeed!

[Tell your Senators and Representative that you support health care reform and cutting global warming. Ask them to vote for the President's budget.](#)

In today's economy, it is more important than ever to support a budget that includes solutions to America's toughest problems. The President's proposal includes \$630 billion over ten years for health care reform and \$646 billion over the same time period to reduce the greenhouse gases that are causing global warming.

The House and Senate Budget Committees are expected to release their budget resolutions soon, with votes scheduled quickly after. Make sure your Representative and Senators know that any budget that Congress passes must include investments in two of our toughest challenges - health care reform and global warming.

[TAKE ACTION](#)

1. Contact your Senators and Representative [now](#), by phone or by email, and urge them to vote to support the President's budget. Tell them you support health care reform and curbs on global warming
2. Send this alert to other concerned citizens - your grassroots network, your friends and coworkers. Encourage them to contact their Representative and Senators today!
3. Send an instant message to your Senators and Representative now! Phone calls are helpful as well, and can be made through the Capitol Hill switchboard at 202-224-3121 or 202-225-3121.

Click [here](#) and [here](#) for additional information on the League's stands on [health care reform](#) and [global warming](#).



ANNUAL MEETING LWVSJ

MONDAY MAY 11, 2009, 12 NOON

VINNY'S RESTAURANT

FRIDAY HARBOR

\$20, payable at the door

RSVP by April 20th to Susan Dehlendorf

dehlenda@rockisland.com or 378-1082

LUNCH AND SOCIAL HOUR

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER - Nancy Wight

INTRODUCTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION - Carol Baylis

PROGRAM WITH GUEST SPEAKER - Lovell Pratt

BUSINESS MEETING

President's Report and Membership Issues - Nancy Wight

Report of the Nominating Committee - Sandy Harold, Chair, speaking for members Carol Baylis and Marjory Stanley:

The nominees for officers for 2009-2010 are as follows:

President:	Ann Jarrell
Vice President:	Susan Dehlendorf
Secretary:	Janna Gingras
Treasurer:	Pat Curtin

The nominees for the 2009-2010 Nominating Committee are:

Joyce Sobel
Doris Van Alen
Nancy Wight

Call for nominations from the floor

Election of officers

Call for mMember-at-Large nominees and election

Call for Program Suggestions from the Membership for 2009-2010

Budget - Pat Curtin

Treasurer's Report 2008-2009

Proposed Budget 2009-2010 presentation and approval

CLOSING - Nancy Wight

Proposed Budget 2009-2010 Fiscal Year, June 1, 2009 – May 31, 2010

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Dues	2250.00	Nat'l PMP*	1314.00
Interest	20.00	State PMP	821.50
Donations	165.50	Administration	300.00
TOTAL	2435.50		2435.50

*Per Member Payment

A detailed Financial Statement will be available at the annual meeting. If you wish to have it mailed to you, please contact Pat Curtin (360-5531).

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
Member-At-Large, Carol Baylis	378-8549	baylis@centurytel.net
Member-At-Large, Joyce Lewin	378-2076	
Member-At-Large, Beverley 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

Voter Editor: Marty Huleatte 378-2894 marty@rockisland.com