



VOTER

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

June 2009

Calendar

**July 6, 2009 — Monday, 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm at the San Juan Island Library
Monthly Board Meeting**

**August 3, 2009 — Monday, 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm at the San Juan Island Library
Monthly Board Meeting**

All members are encouraged to attend.

LWVSJ Happenings

Board of Directors Meeting, May 4, 2009, Home of Nancy Wight, Friday Harbor, WA

The meeting was called to order at 12 pm. Present were Nancy Wight, Susan Dehlendorf, Beverly Zapalac and Ann Jarrell.

The purpose of the meeting was to finalize plans for the Annual Meeting to be held May 11, 2009. The outline of the agenda was updated to include Kevin Ranker as speaker. Tasks were assigned. Pat will be asked to have the budget and financial reports ready to hand out as separate documents. Marty will be asked to have the TRY brochures available. It was confirmed that Sandy Harold will present the slate of nominees. Susan will have Printonyx print the agenda.

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.

Carol Baylis will read the poem written by the membership chair of LWV US, Marcia Merrins, which is a history of the League. Pat will collect luncheon money at the door. Susan and Marty will coordinate printing of the name tags.

CDs of the Water Forum will be sent to the four island libraries. One will go to LWVUSJ's archives.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Jarrell, Secretary

May 11 — Annual Membership Meeting

The following is a letter to the editor of the Journal of the San Juans. It was published on May 27th.

We just experienced something very special. I would wish for each and every American citizen to experience similar events. I sat in a room with over 30 members and guests at our organization's annual luncheon meeting. Our guest speaker was the recently elected junior state senator, Kevin Ranker.

Senator Ranker gave an informative accounting of the activities of the recently adjourned legislature, clarifying for us the choices he was faced with in awarding his vote during this very serious financial downturn. He was exceptionally familiar with the figures. He shared with us the difficulty in making the decisions, most times between two very deserving appropriations. Do you support or not support funding for education, mental health, the environment, senior services or climate change repercussions? How can you choose; he threw the question back to us.

The options were few with the reduced budget and in his dialog with us he explained why he voted as he did in several cases. Over and over he emphasized the importance of our input. Write him, call him, he invited his constituents. Let him know how we feel on issues that are important to us. It really helps him make the difficult decisions. The audience was invigorated. He asked if there were questions and hands shot into the air. After a longer than planned meeting, he left amidst the thanks and sincere applause of his audience. If ever there were a sense of unity of purpose and democracy at work, it was in that room that day.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Senator Ranker and Councilwoman Lovel Pratt who was also in attendance and active in the discussions for making the effort to be available to the community and encouraging us to be participants in the processes that affect us all.

Ann Jarrell

President, League of Women Voters of the San Juans

Annual Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Nancy Wight at 12:30 pm at Vinny's Restaurant. Members present were: Nancy Wight, Janna Gingras, Liz Illg, Joyce Lewin, Louisa Nishitani, Louise

Dustrude, Carol Baylis, Joyce Sobel, Doris Van Alen, Libby Blackwell, Georgia Baci, Beverly Zapalac, Carolyn DeRoos, Marty Huleatte, Sandy Harold, Joan Dayton, Susan Key, Susan Dehlendorf, Pat Curtin, Leslie Veirs, Mike Kaill, Charey Caren and Ann Jarrell. Guests present were Jill Johnson, David Dehlendorf, Roger DeRoos, Nancy Devaux, Lovel Pratt, Claudia Solquist, Don Jarrell and Kevin Ranker.

Business Meeting: Nancy welcomed all attendees and guests. Nancy then gave a year-in-review of the League's activities. It was an impressive list which included election forums and four programs presented for the membership and the community on immigration, education, health care and water issues.

Nancy thanked all who worked on the forums and those who organized the program presentations. She thanked the board and also Marty Huleatte for the great job she does as editor of the Voter. She thanked Marty Huleatte and Carlys Allen for their time and effort to produce the newly updated TRY (They Represent You) pamphlet that was included in the handouts today. Nancy also noted and welcomed six new members, Georgia Baci, Carlys Allen, Chary Caren, Joan Dayton, Anne Pope, Leslie Viers, and Lyn Poston.

A motion was made to accept the minutes from the Annual Meeting 2008. The motion was seconded and carried to accept the minutes as written.

Financial Report: Pat Curtin reviewed the 2008-2009 financial report and the proposed 2009-2010 budget (sent out with last newsletter). It was moved and seconded to accept the report and proposal. The budget and financial report were approved.

Report of the Nominating Committee: Sandy Harold, Chair, speaking for members Carol Baylis and Majory Stanley, offered the following slate of officers:

President: Ann Jarrell

Vice President: Susan Dehlendorf

Treasurer: Pat Curtin

Secretary: Janna Gingras

After a call for nominations from the floor, the motion was made and seconded to accept the nominations. The motion carried to accept the slate as proposed.

A call was made for nominations for Members At Large. Nominations included Beverly Zapalac, Joan Dayton and Carol Baylis. A motion was made and seconded. The motion carried.

A motion was made proposing the following persons for the 2009-2010 Nominating Committee: Joyce Sobel, Doris Van Alen, and Nancy Wight. It was seconded and the motion carried.

Program: Nancy introduced guests County Councilwoman Lovel Pratt and Washington State Senator Kevin Ranker. Senator Ranker gave an invigorating overview of the activities of the recent legislative session. He heartily encouraged his constituents to contact him by phone, email or

letter about important issues. He feels strongly that these exchanges drive his decisions when it comes down to voting on legislative issues.

The meeting was closed at 1:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Jarrell, Secretary

**June 1, 2009 — Monday, 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm at the San Juan Island Library
Monthly Board Meeting**

Board President Ann Jarrell called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon. Additional Board Members present were Carol Baylis, Beverly Zapalac, and Janna Gingras. Other LWVSJ members present were: Nancy Wight, Marj Stanley and Louisa Nishitani.

Minutes from the Board Meeting of May 4, 2009 were approved with one correction. Janna, now taking over as secretary will send minutes from this meeting to Marty Huleatte to include in the Voter. Janna will also mail out the Voter to members who have no access to email.

Treasurer's Report: Not available. It was requested that the treasurer include a total of the Education Fund when reporting the finances. It was agreed that it was time to do an internal audit of the finances this year.

Follow up to Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting was held on May 11, 2009, and minutes from this meeting will be published in the next VOTER, so that they can be reviewed by the membership. The minutes, or corrected minutes, will then be presented for approval at the next LWVSJ Board meeting.

Personal notes to thank Kevin Ranker and Lovell Pratt for their participation will be sent by Ann Jarrell.

Joan Dayton, who volunteered to be on the Board as a Member at Large, is moving out of the area and will not be able to serve. Louisa Nishitani agreed to fill this slot, and the Board voted to appoint her to this position effective immediately.

Membership Committee: Marj Stanley agreed to serve as Membership Chair for the 2009-2010 League year. This means she will also be serving as a member of the Board.

Janna and Marj will start sorting out old LWVSJ documents to determine what to save and what to throw out, as well as how to organize and store LWVSJ Archives. We will be looking for other members to help with this.

Janna and Marj will work on LWVSJ Membership Books to give to members.

The issue of the change to make the Membership Year/Fiscal Year coincide was again re-visited and discussed in depth. A decision was made to go ahead with the plan, as voted in at the 2008 Annual Meeting. We will give it a year or more to see how it is working, before revisiting it again.

The idea of holding events on Orcas and Lopez for the purpose of attracting new members was considered. Marj will look into this further.

Voter Services Committee: No one volunteered to be Voter Services Chair, but Nancy and Carol will work on the forums this year. We need someone to volunteer to chair this committee, and several people to volunteer to help with the forums. This committee puts on the forums, oversees voter registration and publication of the TRY pamphlets.

It is not known yet whether there will be enough candidates to hold a candidate forum before the August 18th Primary Election. If there are enough candidates, it will need to be held prior to the ballots being mailed on July 29th.

Forums for candidates and issues on the ballot for the November 3rd General Election, need to be held prior to ballots being mailed on October 14th.

Program Committee: Ann will send out letters/postcards to the membership to get input as to what issues for LWVSJ General Meetings members want to prioritize for this coming year.

The members present expressed interest in the issues of education, health care, transportation (ferry issues) and environment (water issues.) There was also interest in learning more about the movement toward electing the President through the popular vote instead of the Electoral College.

It was decided not to have a General Meeting in June or July. A suggestion was made to have a potluck picnic for members and guests in August. Further discussion, planning and notice for this event will be forthcoming.

Susan Dehlendorf previously suggested a meeting where members, guests and the public would be invited to take a trial Test for Citizenship. We will ask Susan if she would be willing to host the September 14th general meeting with this agenda.

4th of July Parade: There was interest in having a presence in the 4th of July Parade this year. Ann will look into this further.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Janna Gingras, Secretary

National LWV

This month, there have been some important developments in Washington D.C. on League priorities.

The House Energy and Commerce Committee passed America's Energy and Climate Security Act. The bill passed by the committee is weaker than the original legislation but is still an historic step.

Earlier, the League sent a letter to members of the committee urging them to support a strong bill. Now it is important that Congress hear from constituents that the legislation should be strengthened.

Health care legislation is also coming. Recent reports suggest committee votes could be scheduled as early as June. The League has sent letters to both the House and Senate, urging lawmakers to pass strong and effective health care legislation. The League is working to support comprehensive reform, including universal coverage, cost containment and quality.

SHAPING ISSUES YOU CARE ABOUT

NEWS: Protecting Voters and Voting Rights - The League's Education Fund project Public Advocacy for Voter Protection (PAVP) has received support for a fourth consecutive year, allowing the project to build on the previous successes, strengthen its ability to advocate effectively and continue supporting state and local Leagues on voter protection issues.

NEWS: State Leagues in Action, Victories Abound - The League was successful in fighting back increased barriers to voting across the country. In Missouri, the League was successful in preventing passage of photo ID and proof of citizenship legislation for the second year in a row. Other victories include holding back voter identification legislation in South Carolina, New Mexico, Virginia and Oklahoma. However, Oklahoma's legislature then passed a referendum that will be placed on the ballot in 2010 so voters may decide whether or not a photo ID will be required in their state.

The fight against ID continues in Texas. In Florida, an omnibus bill was defeated that would have created many significant barriers to voting including more restrictive identification rules, third party registration drive restrictions and making provisional ballots less likely to be counted. Congratulations to all the Leagues for their successful advocacy!

NEWS: Educating the Public on Health Care - While the Administration and Congress have been moving quickly on health care reform, the League's Health Care Education Task Force has been busy producing several background papers and fact sheets, including "From SCHIP to CHIPRA" and "A Short History of Major Changes in the U.S. Health Care System since 1994: Costs, Coverage and Quality," which can be read on on the LWWUS website.

<http://lists.lwv.org/t/919745/3612171/755/0/>

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.

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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