



VOTER

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

March 2009

Calendar

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

Dr. John Geyman has been working within and trying to improve our nation's health care system for decades. His view of the problems plaguing our deteriorating health care environment is realistic and disturbing, but he also has a sweeping understanding of how things could change for the better. He will include in his remarks an assessment of the latest challenges and opportunities now facing doctors, patients and lawmakers

Dr. Geyman, who lives on San Juan Island, is one of the most published family physicians in the United States. He is the retired chair of the University of Washington Department of Family Medicine, a founder and long-time editor of the *Journal of Family Practice* and a pioneer in family physician residency training. After his 30-year academic career he returned to clinical practice in the San Juans, where he also founded the EMT program.

Dr. Geyman is active with Physicians for a National Health Plan, an organization of physicians working for comprehensive health care in the United States. He is currently completing a book on how the costs and availability of cancer treatment cast light on the dysfunction of the United States health care system.

Upcoming programs are:

- April 20 — *Environmental Topics* with Ann Jarrell, moderator
- May 11 — *Annual Membership Meeting*

Board meetings are on the 1st Monday of each month and Membership Meetings are on 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.

February 9, 2009 — Monthly Membership Meeting

Tom Barnes, a Customs and Border Patrol Officer, was the guest speaker at our February meeting. Barry Clement, newly appointed Port Officer for our area, was also introduced and given a map showing the ten most dangerous rocks in the San Juans by Carolyn de Roos, moderator.

Many agencies have come under the Homeland Security Act. Included are the Border Patrol, Customs and Agriculture. The main thrust of the Border Patrol “is to prevent terrorists, weapons of mass destruction, narcotics and currency from entering the country” by inspecting small boats, cruise boats, and commercial boats as well as private and commercial aircraft. Agricultural Officers prevent foods from entering the country that could introduce a disease or insect that could devastate our food economy.

You can get all the information about traveling to other countries and reentry into the U. S. by going to their office at 271 Front St., Friday Harbor. They are “striving to be professional and good ambassadors for our country” and will give you a hearty “Welcome Home” as you reenter the United States.

Nancy Wight

March 2, 2009 — Monthly Board Meeting

The meeting was called to order at noon. Present were Nancy Wight, Pat Curtin, Joyce Lewin, Beverly Zapalac, Carol Baylis and Ann Jarrell.

Old Business.

Minutes of the February meeting were approved with changes.

Treasurer Pat Curtin confirmed that both State and National PMP were increased. A discussion about raising our yearly dues followed. The State and National dues increase will result in a reduction in the amount our local league retains. Pat reported that our income from dues at the current rate of membership is approximately \$130. Our yearly outlay for expenses was approximately \$300. We have over \$4600 in our savings account. Due to the impact of the economy’s downturn, it was decided that we will not ask the membership to approve an increase in dues this year and to make up any shortfall from the savings account.

New Business.

We are in need of a slate of officers for the next year. Carol Baylis offered to be on the Nominating Committee. She will try to find a Chairman since she is a Member-at-Large of the board and cannot serve as Chairman according to the By-laws. Nancy had some concerns that some changes in the 2006 By-laws had not been approved by the membership. She requested that Carolyn deRoos, Ann Jarrell and Marj Stanley meet with her later this week to go over the By-laws to assess the situation and if this did occur, determine how to proceed.

Nancy reported that Marty Huleatte and Carlys Allen are working on the TRY and will have it ready soon

Beverly Zapalac has requested that a LWVWSJ membership scholarship be awarded to Keston Blaustein for 2009.

Annual Meeting.

The April Voter should include the agenda for the Annual meeting to be held May 11th at Vinnie's. Nancy will prepare a statement to the membership to request that our dues date be December 31st. This will align the membership reporting date with the collection of dues. Kevin Ranker was suggested as a speaker. As an alternative, if Kevin is not available, it was suggested that we ask Lovel Pratt.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Jarrell, secretary.

LWV of Washington

Civics Instruction Bill Passes House - HB 2132 - Relating to Instruction in Civics

The State Board of Education establishes high school graduation requirements. This past year it proposed "Core 24" – the 24 credits required for admission to state universities. A half-credit was added to the required social studies credits without designating what course that should be. HB 2132 would make that half-credit a civics class when, or if, Core 24 is funded and takes effect.

League Position - LWV believes that democratic government depends upon informed and active participation in government.

Status - **The House passed HB 2132 by a vote of 94-0 at 11:56 AM on February 27.**

ACTION - Contact your Representatives and thank them for voting for HB 2132, and thanks to all of you who contacted your Representatives and let me know. We will concentrate on the Senate on Lobby Day, March 12. Message - Preparation for citizenship is as important as preparation for college and a career, and civics education should take its place as a requirement for receiving a high school diploma.

Contact - Catherine Ahl, cathahl@hotmail.com, 360 697 7924

National LWV

Amendments Stall Voting Rights Legislation

Movement of the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act of 2009 through Congress has been stalled. Even though the bill passed the Senate, debate in the House has been postponed. Opponents of DC voting rights are attempting to derail the bill using an amendment that would repeal DC's gun laws.

The vote that was scheduled for March 5 has been postponed. Now, more than ever, it is important to urge your Representative to support DC voting rights and oppose all amendments. In order to keep members updated on all the happenings with the legislation in the House (HR 157), National LWV will regularly post new alerts and information on the website action page <http://capwiz.com/lwv/home/>. Check back often so you can be sure Congress knows you support DC voting rights.

Citizens of the District of Columbia pay U.S. taxes, fight and die for the U.S. during wartime, and are governed by the laws that Congress passes. And yet they have no voting representation in Congress. This bill will right this wrong.

TAKE ACTION

1. Contact your Representative now, by phone or by email, and urge him or her to support the DC House Voting Rights Act and oppose all amendments. Tell your Representative that the democracy Americans have fought for around the globe must be brought to our nation's capital.

Go to: <http://capwiz.com/lwv/issues/alert/?alertid=12768106> to enter your zip code and contact your 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.

2. Send this alert to other concerned citizens - your grassroots network, your friends and coworkers. Encourage them to contact their Representative today!

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE SAN JUANS MEMBERSHIP ROSTER
March 2009

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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

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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:

League of Women Voters of the San Juans,
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