



VOTER

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

November 2009

Calendar

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

Those of us lucky enough to have been born U.S. citizens may not realize that immigrants seeking naturalization have to know a lot about our government in order to earn citizenship. Join the League of Women Voters on Monday, November 9 at noon at the San Juan Library to test your knowledge by taking the new short answer civics test which aspiring citizens must pass. The test will be self-administered and self-graded; no results will be shared. We'll also talk a bit about the history of immigration, the League's position on immigration reform and current government initiatives about immigration. And finally, there will be a special guest appearance that is sure to delight.

November 21, 2009 - LWVWA Action Workshops

LWVWA will hold two Action Workshops for members. One will be held in Eastern Washington in Benton/Franklin Counties on November 7th. The second in Bellevue on November 21st. 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

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.

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.

The registration form for these workshops can be found on page 7 of this issue of the *Voter*. See the LWVWA website, <http://www.lwvwa.org> for more information.

**December 7, 2009 – Monday, 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm at Vinny's Restaurant
Annual LWVSJ Holiday Luncheon**

The Annual LWVSJ Holiday Luncheon will feature Linnea Hurst and Judy Ostrow, from the State LWV Board, as our guests for the event. The cost for this event will be \$20, payable by check or with cash at the door. **Please RSVP to Beverly Zapalac at 468-9040 by December 1st.**

**January 4, 2010 – Monday, 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm at the San Juan Islander Library
Monthly Board Meeting**

All members are encouraged to attend.

**January 11, 2010 - 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm at the San Juan Island Library
Membership Meeting**

**January 19, 2010 - Columbia Room, State Capitol, Olympia
LWVWA Lobby Day**

LWVSJ Happenings

October 6, 2009 - Monthly Board Meeting

Vice- President Susan Dehlendorf called the meeting to order. Also present were Pat Curtin, Carol Baylis, Beverly Zapalac, Nancy Wight, Marj Stanley, Sarah Crosby, Louisa Nishitani, Janna Gingras, and Jill Johnson.

Last minute details were worked out for the forthcoming Candidate Forums, organized by Nancy Wight, Carol Baylis and Jill Johnson. Moderators will be Susan Dehlendorf in Friday Harbor, Louise Carnachan on Orcas, and Carol Baylis on Lopez. It was decided to have handouts available on the League's position on the state-wide ballot issues which are not a part of this forum.

The Annual LWVSJ Holiday Luncheon will be on December 7 at 12 noon at Vinny's in Friday Harbor. Linnea Hurst and Judy Ostrow, from the State LWV Board, will be our guests for the event. Having it on Orcas Island was considered, but due to the inconvenient ferry schedule, it was decided to have it in Friday Harbor again this year. (The mid-day ferry schedule is more

convenient for the commute from Orcas to Friday Harbor and back, than from Friday Harbor to Orcas and back.)

Iron Jawed Angels will be shown on November 1 at the Library at 7 pm. Ann will be doing the introductions; Jill and Susan agreed to be present to help. The Board wants to encourage young women to come, so we will be contacting Friday Harbor High School and Spring Street School, to get the word out to high school students.

Copies of the DVD of last month's membership meeting on Health Care are now available. They will be distributed to each of the three libraries; one will go to LWVWA and two will be kept by LWVWSJ.

The board agreed to have two Membership Teas to celebrate the League's 90th birthday in February 2010. Members will be encouraged to bring someone who might want to become a new member. One will be held on Orcas Island and one on San Juan Island, dates and details to be worked out later.

Funds are needed to get LWVWSJ members to state and national conventions, and to continue to pay for the printing of the TRY pamphlets. Participation in the Senior Center annual flea market next summer was considered. Also under consideration is a quilt raffle.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Janna Gingras, Secretary

October 12 - 15, 2009- Candidate Forums

Excitement. Intensity. Pride. Purpose. They were all present at our 2009 Candidate Forums this year. The Forums are an excellent and efficient way to learn about your election choices. All contested race candidates were invited to speak. All came except one who was reportedly ill. We made the front page of the Journal with an article thanking the LWV and encouraging public participation. The community responses were impressive with about 60 attendees on Orcas and San Juan Islands and about 25 on Lopez. The candidate's presentations generated a good number of questions from the attendees as did the presentations by representatives for the various propositions and levies.

Huge THANK YOU's go to Voter Services co-chairs Carol Baylis and Nancy Wight and vice-chair Jill Johnson. Their excellent organizational skills produced all three island Forums this year. From the selection of comfortable accommodations in which to hold the events within each community, to contacting the candidates, to taking care of the myriad of issues that put an event like this together, these women made it happen. They tapped the right people for the right jobs. Community member Louise Carnahan was an excellent moderator on Orcas as was Susan Dehlendorf on San Juan and Lopez Island. Orcas Island member Libby Blackwell and Lopez Island member Beverly Zapalac aided with local organizational efforts. Pat Curtin, Janna Gingras, Sarah Crosby and Doris VanAlen were on hand at the Friday Harbor event to assist. Many members attended and others offered behind the scenes support. Thanks to ALL who helped! The Forums

are arguably the most public face of the League. The 2009 Forums made you proud to be a member!

Ann Jarrell

LWVSJ Observers Observed

Early in October the San Juan County Elections Office held a test of the vote counting machines to be used in the November 3 election. Sarah Crosby and Marjory Stanley attended as observers from LWVSJ. Also in attendance were Doris Shaller, Election Supervisor, and her assistant Carlys Allen (a LWVSJ member), Mylene Henley, San Juan County Auditor, and a representative from the Washington Secretary of State's office (also female).

The elections office had previously voted once for every candidate and issue on all the many ballots in all the precincts of the county. It is amazing how many separately printed ballots there are for one election! These votes were fed into the counting computer and printed out. They were then compared to the original votes that had been made. This was hand done by Doris very carefully while we all watched. There was one "under" vote found and it turned out to have been a blank on the ballot so it showed that even no vote could be recorded correctly. The vote tally balanced with the known votes that were made and the counting machines were declared to be operating correctly.

It was interesting to observe the process and the county employees charged with these duties appreciated having someone from the public interested enough to be in attendance. The LWVSJ needs to do this sort of thing at public meetings and elsewhere more often.

Marjory Stanley

November 2, 2009 – Monthly Board Meeting

The League of Women Voters of the San Juan's Board met at noon on November 2nd in the San Juan Library with 11 members present. There was a membership update followed by Carol Baylis, Jill Johnson and Nancy Wight reporting on the successful election forums, with a discussion of future changes. Members recapped the movie night screening of *Iron Jawed Angels*. Marj Stanley and Sarah Crosby spoke of attending the San Juan County Election Office test of the vote-counting machines. Susan Dehlendorf presented the plans for the general meeting on November 9th: a discussion of the citizenship test and recent changes in the U.S. immigration system. Members will take a self-graded portion of the test.

Six members will attend the Action Workshop in Bellevue, November 21st. Plans were made for the annual December Holiday luncheon at Vinny's Restaurant on December 7th. Speakers will be Linnea Hirst, president of LWVWA and Judy Ostrow, our liaison with state organization.

We will discuss the state and national organizations and select topics for discussion for the national convention at the January meeting. Ann Jarrell, local president, will represent our organization at the convention in Atlanta in June 2010. The February Membership Open House, celebrating the 90th birthday of the League of Women Voters, was planned. Marj Stanley and

Janna Gingras showed blocks of a quilt they are making for a LWV fund-raising raffle. The meeting was adjourned at 2pm.

Beverly Zapalac

LWV of Washington

LWVWA Civic Engagement Project - Purpose

- Prepare Washingtonians to take action for budget and tax reform
 1. by engaging the public in an exploration of the programs/services provided by state and local government, challenge the “anti-tax,” “anti- government” mindset
 2. by engaging the public in an evaluation of Washington’s budget and tax structure, generate understanding of the need for change.
- Increase membership by reaching and engaging new groups of people, including those who were energized by the last election
- Increase sources of financial support by expanding LWVWA’s public image as a dynamic and trusted source for good government issues

Strategy

Develop and carry out a statewide educational program centered around the state budget and state tax system by:

- relating public policy issues (for example, health care, education, environmental protection) to real-life state budgeting and tax policy considerations
- demonstrating the connections between public policies and peoples’ lives
- using the League’s experience and expertise to help inform and empower a new wave of citizens who want to participate in governmental decision-making.

National LWV

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE TAKES CRITICAL STEP TOWARDS REFORM Health Care Legislation Still Needs Public Option

Washington, DC – National League of Women Voters President Mary G. Wilson issued the following statement on the Senate Finance Committee’s passage of its version of health care reform:

“The League recognizes that the Senate Finance Committee has taken a critical step in the battle for health care reform today, overcoming one of the major roadblocks to final passage. “While we are disappointed that the final Finance Committee bill does not include a public option element, the committee’s vote paves the way for meaningful Senate action, and we remain optimistic that the legislation that will ultimately reach the President’s desk will include a public option.

“As they move forward, Senators must recognize the fact that we can no longer afford to let special interests and nay-sayers stand in the way of reform. “Our current health care system is endangering our economy and our health, and we appreciate the work of the committee in moving forward on health care reform legislation, allowing it to be considered by the full Senate. However, Congress needs to pass comprehensive health care reform that includes the public option.

“The public option would increase consumer choice and lower health care costs; it will make it possible for Americans who cannot obtain coverage through traditional employer-sponsored plans to find coverage at a reasonable cost. “As a nation, we are spending \$1 out of every \$6 we earn on health 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 and providing real choice to consumers.”

League of Women Voters of Washington

ACTION WORKSHOP 2009

REGISTRATION

Cost: \$25 per venue per person

Lunch Provided

Choose one or both venues:

Kennewick, Washington, November 7, 2009

**Lampson Building
607 East Columbia Drive**

Bellevue, Washington, November 21, 2009

**St. Andrews Lutheran Church
2650 148th Avenue SE**

Name _____

Tel/email _____

VISA M/C

Card # _____ exp. date _____

Check enclosed

Mail to: LWVWA, 4730 University Way N.E., Suite #720, Seattle, WA 98105

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
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Member-at-Large/ Co-Chair Voter Services Committee:	Carol Baylis	378-8549	baylis@centurytel.net
Member-at-Large	Sarah Crosby	378-3021	jscrosby@rockisland.com
Member-at-Large:	Louisa Nishitani	378-8638	louisan@rockisland.com
Member-at-Large:	Beverly Zapalac	468-9040	beverlykz@centurytel.net
Co-Chair Voter Services Committee:	Nancy Wight	378-3810	nancywight@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** _____

NEW MEMBERS: Join before January 31st and save \$10!

Circle one: (Individual Membership-renewal: \$50) (Individual Membership-new: \$40)
(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