



VOTER

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

November 2008

Calendar

**December 1, 2008 – Monday, 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. at the San Juan Island Library
Special Membership Meeting**

The next general meeting for all league members is **December 1st**. The first Monday is usually a board meeting date but the consensus questions are due on December 8th for the LWVWA Early Care and Education Study which you received in the *Washington State Voter*, Fall 2008 issue (mistakenly called Spring 2008). Susan Dehlendorf will moderate this meeting. This is a very complex report so please read the study carefully and critically so that we can reach a member agreement on the consensus questions.

If you cannot find your LWVWA *Voter* with the report, go to www.lwvwa.org, scroll down to the bottom and click on "Members Only." The username is "lwvwa" and the password is "voter." Click on "Publications," click on "WA State Voter", click on "Latest: Fall 2008 Voter." Consensus questions are on page 6 and the study report begins on page 9. The PDF of the questions are also attached to the email that transmitted this issue of the local *Voter*.

The unabridged version of the *Early Care and Education Study* is available online at <http://www.lwvwa.org/edfund/projects.html>.

Board meetings are on the 1st Monday of each month and Membership Meetings are on 2nd Mondays. 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.

**December 9, 2008 – Tuesday, 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. at Vinny's Ristorante
December Membership Meeting**

Our regular monthly meeting will be the Christmas luncheon at Vinny's. Doris Shaller, County Election Officer, will be our speaker. (Vinny's is closed on Mondays).

DUES ARE DUE

You recently received information on paying your 2009 dues. Because the membership count is used to determine the number of our delegates to the national convention, it is important to have members paid up by the end of the year. While this may be somewhat confusing (it certainly is to your newsletter editor), suffice it to say, "Be kind to the membership chair and send your dues in now!"

LWVSJ Happenings

October 11, 2008 – General Election Candidates' Forums

Forums were held on Orcas and San Juan Islands. Nearly 100 community members attended. The following is a note from our president on the forums.

I want to thank all the people who worked to make the forums so successful. Carol Baylis with her past experience in running forums was an enormous help and kept me centered as well as doing the introductions at all of the forums. Carolyn de Roos and Susan Dehlendorf did an outstanding job of moderating the forums. Liz Illg designed the posters that were put up on each island by Gail Hyland, Lynn Poston, Allison Lengyel and Beverly Zapalac. Lynn Poston was enormously helpful on Orcas. She took charge of contacting the Senior Center, getting the key, unlocking the Center and, along with Edrie Vinson (a new member), set up the room for the forum. We couldn't have done this without them.

Libby Blackwell helped during the forum by greeting people and handing out literature. Then all three put the room back to its original order. Thank you all!

Beverly Zapalac, our only member on Lopez, came early to Friday Harbor and set up all the chairs at the Middle School. Pat Curtin made all of the name plates. Ann Jarrell, Marty Huleatte, Pat Curtin took care of the name plates and water at various forums. Doris Van Alen, Betsy Cooper, Sandy Harold and Beverly Zapalac took charge of the donation baskets and we are happy to report that the donations did cover our expenses. Thank you all, you did a fantastic job!

In addition to the hard work of members on the forums, I thank Lee Sturdivant for the outstanding job of getting voters registered.

I might also add that it was very exciting to be a part of these events and we had many pleasurable moments working as a group. I highly recommend being a part of this process.

Nancy Wight

November 3, 2008 – Monthly Board Meeting

The meeting was called to order at noon by Nancy Wight. Also present were Susan Dehlendorf, Marj Stanley, Carol Baylis, Beverly Zapalac, Pat Curtin and Ann Jarrell.

We have a new member – Edrie Vinson of Orcas.

The treasurer advised that National dues have been paid and we have about \$3600 in our account. Membership dues are paid in September for the following fiscal year. We purchased three sturdy, colorful LWV banners which were displayed at the meeting.

The Candidates' Forum on Orcas was sparsely attended but there were over 75 attending the Friday Harbor event. We made enough money through donations at the forums, however, to cover our expenses. DVDs of the proceedings are available at the libraries on all islands.

We have new Consensus Questions on Early Childhood Education. Details were in the Summer 2008 LWV of Washington Voter. There is an online link to the complete study in the Voter as well as a hardcopy in each library. Results are due December 8th. Members are asked to read and study the material and are invited to come to the December 1st board meeting prepared to discuss the issues. Our responses will be decided at the December board meeting.

We are maintaining the current meeting schedule at this time. The board meeting will continue to be on the first Monday of the month and the General Membership meeting the second Monday. Each meeting will begin at noon.

The December luncheon was discussed. Members present agreed that we would like to have the event at Vinnie's and Nancy will inquire about dates and times available. Doris Schaller was recommended as the speaker.

The January meeting topic will be education. One topic suggested was the consolidation of SJC school districts lead by Boyd Pratt.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ann Jarrell, Secretary

November 10, 2008 – Monthly Membership Meeting

The film *Iron-Jawed Angels* was shown at this meeting. This film recounts for a contemporary audience a key chapter in U.S. history: in this case, the struggle of suffragists who fought for the passage of the 19th Amendment. Focusing on the two defiant women, Alice Paul (Hilary Swank) and Lucy Burns (Frances O'Connor), the film shows how these activists broke from the mainstream women's-rights movement and created a more radical wing, daring to push the boundaries of political protest to secure women's voting rights in 1920. Breathing life into the relationships between Paul, Burns and others, the movie makes the women feel like complete characters instead of one-dimensional figures from a distant past.

State/Local LWV

General Election Results

Statewide ballot measures, federal, congressional, state executive, legislative and judicial races, as well as voter turnout statistics, can be found on the Secretary of State's [website](http://vote.wa.gov/elections/wei/): <http://vote.wa.gov/elections/wei/>.

For local results and voting statistics, visit the county auditor's website.

<http://wei.secstate.wa.gov/SanJuan/Pages/default.aspx> or <http://wei.secstate.wa.gov/sanjuan/ElectionResults/currentelectionresults/Pages/ElectionResults.aspx>.

There are some interesting precinct maps to be found at

<http://www.sanjuanco.com/gis/generalelections2008.aspx>

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PH: 206-622-8961, outside toll area, 1-800-419-2596, email: lwwa@lwwwa.org, www.lwwwa.org

National LWV

Statement of Reform Groups Announcing Government Integrity Reform Agenda for the 111th Congress

The following statement was issued by the Brennan Center for Justice, the Campaign Legal Center, Common Cause, Democracy 21, the League of Women Voters, Public Citizen and U.S. PIRG.

Our organizations worked hard to pass the landmark ethics and lobbying reforms that were enacted in the 110th Congress. At the time, we said that our next major battle would be to reform the way federal campaigns are financed.

A central theme of the 2008 presidential race was the need to fix Washington. President-elect Obama, for example, said during the campaign, "to fix health care we have to fix Washington."

In order to fix Washington, the fundamental problems caused by the undue influence of contributions over government decisions must be effectively addressed. While other issues on our reform agenda are important, the way Washington works is not going to change until we fundamentally change the nation's campaign finance laws.

In order to accomplish this goal, the overriding priority on our reform agenda for the 111th Congress is to repair the presidential public financing system and to create a new public financing system for congressional races.

The key role that influence-money played in creating the national financial crisis provides just one more example of the enormous costs to citizens and taxpayers that come from federal candidates being dependent on special interest groups, lobbyists, bundlers and large contributions for their campaign funds.

It is widely acknowledged that the absence of effective regulation and oversight played a major role in the massive financial crisis that has occurred. Campaign contributions to federal officeholders from the financial sector played a major role in thwarting such effective regulation and oversight.

It is no coincidence that during the past decade, the financial sector contributed \$1.5 billion to federal candidates and their parties, according to the Center for Responsive Politics, with 56 percent of the funds going to Republicans and 44 of the funds going to Democrats - a bipartisan approach to influence-seeking.

Our organizations call on President-elect Obama and members of Congress to take action to fundamentally reform the nation's campaign finance laws.

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.

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JOIN US TODAY!

YES! I want to become a member of the League of Women Voters of the San Juans for the year June 1, 2008 to May 31, 2009.

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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