



VOTER

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

October 2009

Calendar

**October 5, 2009 – Monday, 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm at the San Juan Islander Library
Monthly Board Meeting**

All members are encouraged to attend.

Candidate Forums

Orcas/Shaw Islands: October 12 – Monday , 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at the Orcas Senior Center.

San Juan Island: October 13 – Tuesday, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the San Juan Island Middle School.

Lopez Island: October 15, Thursday, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at the Lopez School.

**November 1, 2009 – 7:00 pm at the San Juan Island Library
*Iron Jawed Angels***

Iron Jawed Angels recounts 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

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.

relationships between Paul, Burns and others, the movie makes the women feel like complete characters instead of one-dimensional figures from a distant past.

This special event is sponsored by LWVSJ and is open to the public.

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

Members and guests can take the Test for Citizenship. This is open to anyone who wants to participate (just for fun...it will be self-corrected.) This will be followed by information and a discussion on how one becomes a citizen.

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 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*.

December - Annual LWVSJ Holiday Luncheon

Date, time, location, and speaker to be determined.

LWVSJ Happenings

September 8, 2009 - Monthly Board Meeting

Board President Ann Jarrell called the meeting to order. Also present were Board Members Pat Curtin, Carol Baylis, Beverly Zapalac, Nancy Wight, Marj Stanley and Janna Gingras. Guests present were Sarah Crosby, Jill Johnson, Lee Sturdivant and Liz Illg.

Nancy Wight has agreed to be co-chair of the Voter Services Committee, along with Carol Baylis, and will therefore be also serving on the board. Sarah Crosby was added as another board

member-at-large. This brings the total number of board members to ten, therefore, six members are required for a quorum at board meetings.

Marj Stanley is distributing the Membership Handbook to members.

The board agreed to reduce the cost of dues from \$50 to \$40 between now and Jan 31, 2010 for new members. This will pay for a membership that will expire May 31, 2010.

Final preparations were made for next week's membership meeting (Sept 14) on the national health care issue. The DVD: *Health, Money and Fear* will be shown. Liz Illg will moderate the discussion.

Candidate Forums are being organized by Nancy Wight and Carol Baylis with help from Jill Johnson. Dates, times and locations have been selected (see calendar). There are several races on each island, so there will not be time for statements from unopposed candidates.

Plans are being made for the Annual Holiday Luncheon. Ann will try to get a state LWV Board member to speak. Nancy is checking into possible dates at Vinny's Restaurant in Friday Harbor.

Liz Illg reported that efforts are being made to stop the proposed summer super surcharge on ferry tickets that would raise rates in the summer by 35%. The "touring watch" Coast Guard issue, resulting in possible severe schedule changes for the San Juans, has been resolved for the fall and winter, but so far there is no permanent solution. Border Patrol spot checks are being resumed; Senator Cantwell wants to hear from constituents about this issue.

Ann Jarrell reported from her readings concerning the national health care issue, and suggested the book, *The Healing of America: A Global Quest for Better, Cheaper, and Fairer Health Care* by [T. R. Reid](#) for those who want to read more about the issue.

September 14, 2009 – Monthly Membership Meeting

The meeting on Health Care Reform was great! Janna presided in the president's absence and Liz did a beautiful job of moderating. The room was full - more than the 38 capacity by fire code with several members and guests from other islands. All watched the video politely. Then Liz had John Geyman, Loren Johnson and Curt VanHyning comment on the video. They each liked most of it but had some additional or opposing views on parts of it too. When Liz opened the discussion to the floor everyone was very civil and it was all a good discussion in my opinion. Most of the people in the room were actually for a single payer system. The idea of banning pharmaceutical advertising was also discussed. At the end there was some discussion of the plans for a hospital on our island. It seemed that everyone left the meeting feeling that it was good to be able to air our opinions locally among our friends and thanked us for having the meeting. Many people complemented LWVSJ for holding the meeting. Perhaps we will get a new member or two from it as we passed out brochures. The *Health, Money and Fear* DVD was left with the library. Tom Muncie recorded the discussion and will get the DVD to us.

Ann Jarrell

LWV of Washington

League of Women Voters of Washington's Positions on R-71 and I-1033 2009 General Election

Referendum 71

At the biennial State Convention, League members voted to take a YES position on this referendum because of our position opposing discrimination. R-71 asks voters to ratify a bill that was passed in the 2009 Legislature and signed by the Governor. The bill provides equal rights equivalent to those of married couples to couples of the same sex and all unmarried senior couples in many areas including:

- o Death benefits for partners of police and firefighters killed in the line of duty.
- o Right to use sick leave to care for a seriously ill partner.
- o Pension benefits for partners of teachers and other public employees
- o Right to workers compensation benefits if a partner is killed in the course of employment
- o Victim's rights

The League has joined with a coalition to do voter education, voter pamphlet statements and action. For more information, please go to the Yes on R-71 website:

www.approverefendum71.org.

LWV Positions:

League of Women Voters of the United States: "Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice..."

League of Women Voters of Washington: "...no person or group should suffer legal, economic or administrative discrimination." Position in Brief: Action to achieve equal rights for all. Websites for more information:

Approve: www.approverefendum71.org

Disapprove: www.protectmarriagewa.com

Initiative 1033

At our August 7, 2009 board meeting, the LWVWA Board agreed to join the No on 1033 coalition. To clarify our position opposing the initiative, the Board made an August email board decision to oppose I-1033. At our regular board meeting on September 11th, we affirmed our opposition to Initiative 1033. Based on our position regarding fair, open and flexible taxes, the Board believes this initiative is none of these. I-1033 is misleading and complicated. Limiting expenses through a rigid and arbitrary formula based on population growth and inflation, this initiative falls far short of being able to fund even our current levels of health care, education and other basic services. While I-1033 may sound good on the surface, limiting spending in this way will have many unintended consequences. More information is available at: www.no1033.com.

LWV Positions:

From LWVWA Principles: "...government should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation..."

Position In Brief: Action to obtain a balanced tax structure that is fair, adequate, flexible and has a sound economic effect. The League of Women Voters of Washington believes that flexibility and recognition of changing times and needs is important in tax policy.

Websites for more information:

Pro: www.permanent_offense.org

Con: www.no1033.org

National LWV

September 17, 2009

To: Members of the U.S. Senate

From: Mary G. Wilson, President

Re: Comprehensive Health Care Reform Legislation

The League of Women believes that the current state of health care in this country is unsustainable. It is critical that Congress pass comprehensive health care reform to send to the President for his signature.

The health care bill passed by the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee will provide access and coverage for most Americans who are presently without coverage, while working to contain health care costs. We support that approach. In addition, we are encouraged that the Senate Finance Committee will be taking up a bill soon, though we are concerned about many of its provisions.

America is facing a health care crisis caused by a combination of skyrocketing costs and an insurance system that leaves 47 million Americans living day-to-day without coverage. The current health care system is endangering both our economy and our health.

Health care reform legislation must guarantee access to comprehensive and essential benefits to all U.S. residents. It is universal coverage that will determine the humanity of our system, and a public option will make that possible for Americans who cannot obtain coverage through the traditional employer-sponsored plans.

But coverage is not enough. We need to provide for quality and safety as well. Health care legislation must establish a system-wide program to coordinate information, establish best practices and provide consumers the information they need to protect themselves and their families. It is essential that comparative data on treatments, benefits packages and medical

outcomes be made publicly available so that individuals can make informed health decisions and so costs can be controlled.

The federal government needs to take additional strong action to reduce costs for individuals, businesses and communities. As a nation, we are spending \$1 out of every \$6 we earn on health care. Over the last three decades, increases in the amount spent on health care have consistently risen faster than wages and inflation. If nothing is done, we could be spending \$3 trillion for health care by 2011 and \$4.2 trillion by 2016.

The League believes that cost containment measures must take place in the context of overall health care reform. We must reduce or eliminate the cost-shifting that currently exists in health care financing and work to streamline the system. Legislation must provide effective cost controls, equitable distribution of services and allow for efficient and economical delivery of care. Offering everyone the choice of a government administered health insurance plan like Medicare that would compete with private health insurance plans will be key.

Congress needs to demonstrate real leadership and move forward with true health care reform. The League of Women Voters is ready to work with you to reach this goal.

League of Women Voters of Washington

ACTION WORKSHOP 2009

REGISTRATION

Cost: \$25 per venue per person
Lunch Provided

Choose one or both venues:

- Benton/Franklin Counties, November 7, 2009**
 Bellevue, November 21, 2009

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 LWVSJ 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 |
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| 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