



SKAGIT VOTER

JUNE 2006

Next Meeting:

July 12
1:30 PM
104 Heritage Place.
West Fairhaven
Burlington

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www.lwv.org

Grab your calendars and mark the following important dates.

- **July 5,** 1:30 PM, Forum Committee Meets at 104 Heritage Place on the West end of Fairhaven in Burlington. The meeting room is located behind the Heritage Place Office.
- **July 12,** 1:30PM, General Meeting dedicated to Forum Planning also at Heritage Place.
- **July 29,** Magic Skagit Celebration at the Skagit Count Fairgrounds. League will have a Voter Registration Table. Contact nbj at 873-2210 if you can help.
- **August,** Forum Planning Dates TBA
- **September 7,** Primary Forum for County Commissioners at the Sedro-Woolley Community Center
- **October,** Two Forum Dates for the General to be announced soon!

June Meeting Report

Our Future

After much discussion, it was decided that the Skagit League would continue as a Unit-at-Large and would continue with our informal titles for the specific jobs. Nancy B. J as Contact Person, Alberta Finley as Note-taker. Dee Raudebaugh as Treasurer, Kathy Huntley as Hospitality Correspondent, and Mary Jean Hackwood as Refreshments Chair for meetings. While these are a few of the responsibilities which need to be covered, there remain many opportunities for the rest of you to fill important roles. In fact, your help is definitely needed if we are going to achieve our current goals.

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WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:

Robin Pestarino, Ellen Bynum, and Patti Santangelo. Their contact information will be included in the membership directory in July. If you need a phone number, call nbj.

Forums

Again after considerable discussion, it was decided to make the forums our priority for the next four months. We plan to host three evenings (see dates above) with as many candidates represented as can be included in the time allowed. The planning for the Sedro-Woolley Primary Forum for the Commissioners is well underway. Diane has secured the Community Hall and has contacted the candidates who have declared. She has also contacted Pola Kelly president of the SW Chamber of Commerce will serve as moderator and will print and distribute flyers locally. Grace contacted the Courier Times and has a commitment from to cosponsor and provide publicity. More details will be available in July.

Forum Committee

Dee will contact the PUD in early July when their quarterly calendar is open for reservations to verify dates for the two forums for the general election. Details will be worked out at the July 5th Forum Committee meeting.

Dues

The budget planning session was productive. \$41 of our \$50 dues is now going to LWVWA and LWVUS. This is a recent increase and leaves our treasury on the lean side. The members voted to raise our dues by \$5 to \$55.

To make things easier for our Treasurer and for the State's communication with National, we would appreciate a July renewal from all members. We also encourage donations throughout the year.

Approved Budget

Magic Skagit	25.00
MLK* Event	25.00
LWVWA fund-raiser	50.00
Postage	42.00
Administrative printing	50.00
Forum printing	50.00
Total	\$ 242.00

* Martin Luther King

Maintain \$500.00 minimum balance in checking account .

More on Forums and Meetings

It was decided that we would concentrate on the forums for the next few months and resume having speakers after the general election in the fall unless some wonderful opportunity for a speaker presents itself. We will let you know if that happens or if you have a suggestion, let us know!

Magic Skagit

We hope to share a table with some other organization at the Magic Skagit Celebration on July 29th at the Skagit County Fairgrounds in Mount Vernon. Hopefully it will be well attended and we can register voters, share information about the league and our forums. Several of us are working on the NO on -933 campaign and will have that information available as well. Please let us know if you can volunteer for a shift.

NO on 933

The LWVWA voted to oppose I-933. I spoke on behalf of the State League at the I-933 Kickoff in Mount Vernon on June 8th. Please do your homework. Decline to Sign if asked. The Initiative sounds good. Who could be against Property Fairness! It is anything but fair. If passed, it will cost the taxpayers dearly and devastate growth management protections. Let us know if you need more information and if you want to help defeat it.

On the Social Side

For future meetings, we will have cookies, we will take a break to enjoy them, and Van Finley will share information about the books he is reading. His suggestions for June were *When the Rivers Run Dry* about the coming water crisis and *Wild Swans* about Chinese history. Both sound fascinating.

New Look

As a money saving attempt with our new budget, it was decided that we would send the Skagit Voter electronically to those with e-mail. I am experimenting with a new format and font. Please feel free to share your suggestions. I have lots to learn. Have a Fantastic 4th of July. Hope to see you July 12th for the general forum planning meeting.

Nancy B. Johnson (873-2210)

LWVWA Program Planning Report

Peggy Saari, Program chair, peggysaari@comcast.net

The Growth Management Study is still an educational study. It will be going through technical review and is now in the hands of the reading committee. The study will receive final approval by the reading committee ASAP.

The Election Reform Study is nearing completion and will be submitted to the reading committee ASAP. The goal is that the study receives final approval by mid July or at the very latest early August. It will be available to you for September unit meetings. Consensus will be due in late November and given final approval by the LWVWA board at their January meeting.

The Ferry Study is continuing to gather information. The committee will try to complete their study or present a proposal that LWVWA concur with the league of women voters of Tacoma/ Pierce County position on ferries. The study committee goal is to have final LWVWA board approval take place at the November LWVWA board meeting.

The Water Study has completed 3 of 4 planned articles for the state voter. We hope to run the 4th in the next LWVWA VOTER. These articles could be used for unit discussion with questions provided by the study committee.