



Spokane Area VOTER

Ann Murphy & Sandy Paine,
Co-Presidents

January 2006
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VOTER Editor, CJ Tyler-Watson
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“The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, and influences the public policy through education and advocacy.”

Program Planning Discussions in January Unit Meetings

“Program is the League’s ‘reason for being,’ the basis of both education and action efforts.” Program - governmental issues chosen for study and action - is an essential element of League and, because it is so important, has traditionally originated with the membership through the program planning process (*In League, LWVUS*).

In your January unit you will have an opportunity to discuss both **LWVUS** and Spokane Area program items. Now is the time to consider what you want to see national and local League do for study/program. And, do you want to see new studies, or review/updates of current positions, or concurrence with another League’s position.

A National Perspective: It is important for all Leagues to participate in this process. Unfortunately, grassroots participation in this process has steadily declined over time. As a result, planning is increasingly happening on the **LWVUS** convention floor (which traditionally accounts for only 1.3 percent of the membership). This makes it difficult for the **LWVUS** Board to determine the extent of interest on specific issues for study and action. There is a **LWVUS** Program Planning online discussion list available for the first time to engage members in conversation about issues of national interest. To subscribe, send an e-mail to: subscribe-lwv-programplanning@lists.lwv.org and reply to the confirmation e-mail. You can also participate **LWVUS** Program Planning discussions at your unit meeting.

The Local Look: For the past 5 years, the Spokane League has approved a study to address some version of Local Government/Growth Management in the hopes of developing a new position statement. The study has never been completed

– mostly due to a failure to convene a committee. Launching a new study is a daunting project – with research, interviews, writing and question creation. On the other hand the reviews/updates or a simple presentation related to a current position seem to be much easier to manage. **What are you and members of your unit willing and able to do?**

We need your input, your ideas, and commitment to make Program Planning (and development) work!

See Page 4 for information on the materials you will need to read and bring to your Unit Meeting.

Ann Murphy



Unit Meetings

Remember, any member / potential member, may attend any Unit

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|-----------|--|
| Unit 3 | Jan. 6 at 1:00 pm
Main Valley Library, 12004 E. Main
RJ Clemmons , 924-8997 |
| Unit 5 | Jan. 9, 9:30 a.m
315 W Woodside Place
Suzi Hokonson , 326-2216 |
| Units 7&9 | Jan. 9, 12:30 p.m.
Rockwood Lane, 221 E. Rockwood Blvd
Sibyl Disch , 747-4008 |
| Unit 4 | Jan. 12, 5:30 p.m.
LWV Office, 2404 N. Howard
Ann Murphy , 838-4549 |

President's Perspective...

Sustainability...

Not a new word for Leaguers. We have explored the meaning of this word in various programs on environmental issues. In that context we have defined sustainability: *providing for current needs without sacrificing the needs of future generations.* Through our League studies, we can easily see how this principle applies in land use, water quality, solid waste management, air quality, transportation, etc. etc.

Now, I challenge you to think of sustainability in terms of the League – particularly the Spokane Area group. This group was once a sizeable one – over 300 members, with individuals vying for spots on the Board. But times do change and there are many reasons for volunteer groups to decrease in membership. But now we, as current members of this venerable organization, need to be doing things that will sustain and even grow this organization for the future. Probably the most obvious is that new members will breathe new life into our group. We have had several new members join us so far this year. Welcome! But, in order to attract that youngest group (topic of one of the sessions at this year's LWVWA Convention, focusing on the twenty- and thirty-year olds), we may need to change the way we do some things.

So, one of the challenges in this new year will be to keep League interesting for current members, while providing program to attract the younger and future generations.

Most importantly, we need to talk about things we can do – so give me a call (838-4549) if you have some thoughts to share in a conversation. Happy New Year!

Ann Murphy

Quotable Quote

Nothing is impossible; there are ways that lead to everything, and if we had sufficient will we should always have sufficient means. It is often merely for an excuse that we say things are impossible.

-- Duc de La Rochefoucauld

Splinters from the Board (11/16/05)

- ☞ \$5680.50 in savings and checking
- ☞ Letter in support of Light Rail was reviewed and approved (*and has been sent to STA*).
- ☞ **TRY – Mayo Sayrs and Ann Murphy** working on revisions. Will go to print in early January.
- ☞ **Essay Contest – Sandy Paine and Suzi Hokonson** will be judges. (*results in January*)
- ☞ **Annual Meeting items –**
 - * Budget Committee- **Pam Behring** will chair
 - * Nominating Committee- **Sandy Paine** will be board representative
 - * Location – Global Credit Union on May 5, 2006.
- ☞ **“The State We’re In”** – continuing effort to sell books in Spokane area schools.
- ☞ Approved purchase of a durable Display Board
- ☞ Approved extra Office help – **Sandy Paine** will work with high school student interested in community service.
- ☞ **General Meeting report** – 16 members attended the Tax Update session on Nov. 5
- ☞ **Program**
 - * January – Program Planning – (*see separate articles on pages 1 & 4*)
 - * February – approved moving “The State We’re In” to this slot
 - * Water Issues will be scheduled later.
- ☞ Forums – **Alice Stolz** provided ballot issues info to Sisters of Providence (*18 attended*)
- ☞ **Ann Murphy** moderated at Liberty Lake Sewer District - \$250 donation
- ☞ **LWVWA Action Alert** contacts identified: **Sandy Paine** by phone and **Ann Murphy** by email. Units will need to set up Action Alert system.
- ☞ Discussed upcoming meetings on phosphate ban – there will be member presence at both the 11/29 and 11/30 meetings. Will review positions for potential **LWVSA** position statement.

The LWV VOTER is published monthly except in the summer by the League of Women Voters of the Spokane Area, 2404 N. Howard St. Spokane WA 99205. Members of the League of Women Voters of the Spokane Area subscribe through their annual dues. The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization which encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Any citizen, 18 or older, may join the League of Women Voters.

LWVSA

Program Realignment for 2006

January	Program Planning - Units
February	<i>The State We're In</i> book review - Units
March	TBA
April	Water Issues – General Meeting, April 8
May	Annual Meeting
June	LWVWA Council & LWVUS Convention

- **What is government?**
- **Why do we need one?**
- **Why should I care about it?**

Read LWVWA's *The State We're In* – and find all the answers. We know, you probably already know, but this book is a good easy read. We will be discussing it and trying some of the curriculum at February units. Copies are still available (contact **Ann Murphy** – 838-4549 or **Sandy Paine** – 467-9524 to get your own copy).

And this just in! Spokane Public Schools have approved purchase of the book for classroom use.

Elected Officials Reception Update:

The Elected Officials Reception on November 29 was a well-attended success. Twenty-five members were present, along with sixteen elected officials and eleven guests. Everyone enjoyed The Spokane Club buffet and the opportunity to visit and ask questions for nearly two hours.

Many thanks go to **Ann Murphy** for preparing and sending the invitations, **Mayo Sayrs** for preparing name tags, **Suzi Hokonson** for receiving RSVP's and directing the rotating seating, **Sandy Paine** for registration, and **Ann** again for welcoming and closing remarks. League especially appreciates Avista underwriting this growing event and the wonderful service and food provided by The Spokane Club.

Water Drops

- **Alice Stolz, Pam Behring and Mayo Sayrs** attended the meetings on phosphates and the Spokane River and are continuing to monitor. Look for article on local issues in February VOTER.
- Be sure to read "water articles" in the state VOTER, when you receive it.
- **LWVSA** program on water has been moved to April – **Rachel Paschel Osborne** will provide the presentation at a General Meeting on Saturday, April 8 (10 a.m. to noon) at Global Credit Union.

Welcome New Members

Caroline Woodwell 940 E 18th Ave Spokane, WA 99203 ML 838-1669 carolinewoodwell@msn.com	Jennie Willardson 12722 E 23rd Ave Spokane Valley, WA 99216 Unit 3/h)926-6854/cell)981-0950 jenniewillardson@yahoo.com
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Member Changes - Info:

Birch, Ruth Carrington,
change to Unit 5

Darrell, Ginny:
ML (not NM)

Holmes, Sue & Nancy
Spokane Valley, WA 99206

Milow, Linda
lindacmilow@msn.com

Smith, Christi
466-0683 (new #)

WASHINGTON TAX FACT:

There are at least 50 different taxes authorized in Washington State law for the state and/or local governments. All major tax revenues go into the General Fund.



Calendar

January 1 Happy New Year
January 9 Washington Legislative Session starts
January 6, 9 & 12 Units – Program Planning
(see pages 1 & 4)
January 16 Martin Luther King Day
January 18 Board Meeting – 5:30 p.m.
@ LWVSA Office
January 23 LWVWA & AAUW Lobby Day –
Olympia

Lobby Day

Monday January 23, 2006
8:00am to 3:00pm
United Methodist Church
1224 Legion Way S.E.
Olympia, WA

Mail \$15. payable to AAUW
Sue Schaffler
4813-22nd Ave. SE,
Lacey, WA 98503

**Registration Deadline is Jan. 1, 2006.
Reservations Are Required.**

Materials

For Program Planning Meeting:

Dust off that **Member Handbook** that you received last spring. There are two sections to review (and bring to your unit meeting) –

* **LWVUS Positions in Brief** (2 pages).
The complete position statements are included in *Impact on Issues*. Each unit leader has a copy of this document and you can access it on-line at www.lwv.org

* **LWV Spokane Area Positions**: This is the complete document – are there positions that need to be revisited and restudied? Or, do you just want updates of current information?

(If you need a **Member Handbook**, please contact the LWVSA office. Unit leaders will receive the recording forms separately.)



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE SPOKANE AREA

2404 N. Howard
Spokane, WA 99205
(509) 326-8026

WWW.LWVWA.ORG/SPOKANE

LWV/Spokane Area

Co-Presidents: Ann Murphy & Sandy Paine

Secretary: Sandy Haupt

Treasurer: Betty Banks

Directors: Pam Behring

Doris Tryon

Mayo Sayrs

Nancy O'Keefe

Nominating

Committee:

Chair: Alice Stolz

Suzi Hokonson

TO: