



# Spokane Area VOTER

Ann Murphy & Sandy Paine,  
Co-Presidents

February 2006  
VOLUME LXII/ NO.2

VOTER Editor, CJ Tyler-Watson  
VOTER Publisher, Doris Tryon

*“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.”*

## Let’s Talk About - The State We’re In: Washington

At February unit meetings we will review this exceptional “guide to state, tribal & local government.” Hopefully a great many of you have had the opportunity to read this **LWVWA** book. Even if you have not read the book, your unit meeting will be interesting and informative. Unit meetings will be structured so that members will participate in classroom type sessions.

“This book is about the civic community that is shared by all of us and binds us together. It is about the most important and basic information required to ‘be in the game.’ ... It is about the rights and responsibilities inherent in the ‘greatest experiment’ ever undertaken. It is about the tremendous intergenerational responsibility that has characterized our living, breathing, dynamic way of governing ourselves.” (Denny Heck, *TWSI* Foreword)

Don Barlow, Spokane Public Schools Board Member, recently shared with **Sandy Paine and Ann Murphy** that he was very pleased with the manner in which the book presented information about the tribes.

Join in the unit discussion to review this new book.

## What’s Ahead...

**March Units** *Spokane Recycles* **Ann Murphy**  
**General Meeting, April 8**

*Spokane River at the Crossroads*  
**Rachel Pashel Osborne**

**Annual Meeting, May 5** – Call will be mailed by Apr. 14

Your unit has submitted Program Ideas, other preliminary work:

- ◆ Nominating Committee will soon be making calls to fill the slate
- ◆ Submit any proposed By-Law changes by Mar. 1 to LWV Office

## The Valley Unit Goes Daytime

The new unit 3 is now offering daytime meetings – at 1:00 p.m. on the first or second Friday (will alternate to accommodate a member’s work schedule). The new time will hopefully attract more interested members – and it has. The first daytime meeting in January had a total of 8 present.

## Join us...for a 2/22 Party!

5:30 – 7: ish p.m. on February 22  
@ Steam Plant Grill, 159 S. Lincoln

No Host gathering

It is actually George Washington’s Birthday – but we will toast to **LWV’s** Birthday, and just have some interesting conversation.



## Unit Meetings

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

- Unit 3 **Feb. 3** at 1:00 PM *-NEW Date & Time-*  
Main Valley Library 12004 E Main  
**R.J. Clemons** 924-8997
- Unit 5 **Feb. 9** at 9:30 AM  
LWV Office 2404 N Howard  
**Sandy Paine** 467-9524
- Unit 4 **Feb. 9** at 5:30 PM  
LWV Office 2404 N Howard  
**Ann Murphy** 838-4549
- Units 7 **Feb. 13** at 12:30 PM  
Rockwood Lane 221 E Rockwood Blvd  
**Sibyl Disch** 747-4008

## President's Perspective...

At a holiday gathering for the Lands Council in December, I had the opportunity to meet and visit with some long time League members. Over a glass of wine we discussed topics ranging from coming races for the 2006 election cycle, League's Ed Fund projects, and the State of League in general. It occurred to me, that with set unit meetings monthly, and annual meeting in May, and candidate forums, members never really have the chance to relax and exchange ideas and concerns. I had a lovely evening, and it made me wish all members could benefit from this kind of exchange.

Ann mentioned lately that League's Birthday is February 14. We decided that February 22, Wednesday evening from 5:30 to 7:00 PM is the perfect time for a get-together at the Steam Plant Grill. We will Celebrate League's grand history, visit and in general get to know each other better. Drinks will be no host and Ann and I will provide something to nibble. Mark your calendars - 2/22/06, call another League member and a friend who might be interested in League, and join us at the Steam Plant, 159 S Lincoln. I hope to see many of you there. Happy Birthday to us all and here's hoping that 2006 will give us many reasons to gather and reinvigorate this group.

**Sandy Paine**

### Quotable Quote

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."  
- Margaret Mead

### Program Planning Summary Report

**National:** 2 of the 4 units representing half of the 24 participating members suggested an update related to Energy – including an integrated look at change in type of coal, energy use, global warming and waste to energy as solid waste and energy solutions. The other 2 units had no suggestions.

**Local:** There was no lack of ideas! Most members, however, indicate no time or ability to work on new studies, preferring updates and/or presentations. More formal write-ups will be in Annual Meeting Call.

1. Local Government – 2 units proposed re-examining local positions (Section III) as relates to new governments in Spokane County.
2. GMA – 1 unit proposed the continuation of the current GMA study, with special attention to connecting with the **LWVWA** study.
3. Housing – 2 units proposed updates related to housing.

Other ideas suggested as presentations will be considered in the calendar as space allows.

## Splinters from the Board (01/06)

- ☞ 5,680.50 in savings and checking
- ☞ TRY - **Mayo Sayrs and Ann Murphy** finished the revisions and it is being printed.
- ☞ "The State We're In" District 81 placed an order for 775 copies. This was the largest order in the state.
- ☞ Unit Meetings - 24 members and 4 guests attended.

### Program

**March** - **Ann Murphy** will provide material on recycling and other ecological concerns.

**April** - Water issues will be covered by **Rachel Paschel Osborn** at a general meeting, Global Credit Union.

- ☞ Focus Group - **Mayo Sayrs and Ann Murphy** will represent League on February 1 for a group run by Consumer Opinion Services regarding conservation issues.
- ☞ **Mayo Sayrs** organized a Voter Registration event on Martin Luther King Junior Day with District 81. Those participating were **Mayo Sayrs, R.J. Clemons, Jenny Willardson, Mary Lloyd and Jennifer Lloyd.**
- ☞ We provided historical and current pictures for the Good in Government Event at the Future of Flight Center, February 5.

### 2006 TRY\* Printed

Avista has printed the new **LWVSA TRY** (\**They Represent You*) and one is enclosed with this **VOTER**. If you have need of more, or know a site where some should be placed, please call **Sandy Paine**, 467-9524.

*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.*



## Water Drops – Phosphates in the Forefront

Two recent town hall meetings focused on the issue of phosphorus in the Spokane River, and a proposal to ban phosphates in dishwasher detergents and fertilizers. Phosphorus is a plant nutrient and fertilizes algae blooms and fast growth of other aquatic plants. When these plants decompose, they use oxygen, robbing fish and other organisms of the oxygen they need to live.

Phosphorus is an ingredient in detergents, fertilizers, and some industrial processes, and also occurs naturally in soil and human waste. Septic tanks get very little treatment. Treatment plants alone will not be enough to solve the dissolved oxygen levels in the river. The impact of phosphates in fertilizer and dish detergents is estimated variously at 3-34%, depending on the time of year, the level of the river, and who is doing the estimating.

The federal Clean Water Act and the Department of Ecology require plans to reduce the total maximum daily load (TMDL). The town hall meetings (Spokane &

Spokane Valley) were well attended in spite of our first major snowstorm. Speaking were local officials, environmentalists, and scientists noting that banning phosphates in dishwasher detergents and fertilizer is something we can do immediately to help make a difference.

Also speaking were representatives of the Soap and Detergent Association whose response was aptly described in the *Spokesman Review* headline, “Industry in lather on plan to ban phosphates.” Many attendees expressed satisfaction with their use of non-P detergents.

The March 2005 *Consumer Reports* article on dish detergents noted that products containing enzymes (look in list of ingredients or caution) generally perform better. Seventh Generation and Ecover are non-P products that contain enzymes. Many detergents also contain chlorine bleach. **Read the labels.** You can make your own phosphate-free automatic dishwasher detergent by mixing 1 cup of borax with ½ cup of baking soda.

Resources: Notes and handouts from town hall meeting,  
*Consumer Reports* March 2005  
*Spokesman Review* article, Nov. 30, 2005

Alice Stolz 

## Light Rail Update



Molly Myers reports that the Light Rail Steering Committee is expected to make its recommendation at its Feb 3rd meeting. This recommendation will be presented to the STA Board at its March meeting. The Board is expected to have a response later in the Spring.

There is a survey on the website: [www.spokanetransit.com](http://www.spokanetransit.com). STA is also in the process of conducting a scientific survey basically asking the same questions we reviewed last Fall.

The FTA (Federal Transit Administration) has signed and released the DEIS (*A BIG DEAL*) and the official 45-day public comment period has begun. No conclusions can be reached until that 45-day period ends.



### MEMBERSHIP FORM

YES, I want to join The League of Women Voters of the Spokane Area

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

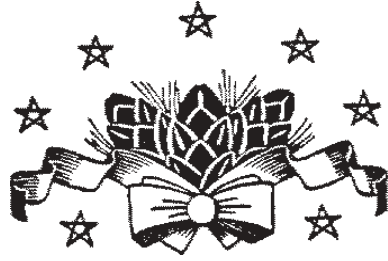
Phone-- Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to & mail to:  
LWVSA 2404 N. Howard St. Spokane, WA 99205

\$ 45. Student Rate  
\$ 65. Individual  
( \$25.20; State \$16; Nat'l \$23.80)  
\$100. Household  
\$100. Sustaining Member  
\$150. Benefactor

# Calendar



Feb. 3, 9 & 13	Units
Feb. 14	LWV Birthday
Feb. 15	Board Meeting – 5:30 p.m. @ LWV Office
Feb. 20	Presidents Day
Feb. 22	2/22 Party – League Birthday and Conversation
Mar. 8	International Women’s Day
Apr. 8	LWVSA General Meeting
May 5	LWVSA Annual Meeting
June 2-4	LWVWA Council, Ellensburg
June 9-13	LWVUS Convention, Minneapolis MN

## Essay Contest



Essays for the Fleet Services Reserve contest “What My Vote Means To Me” were judged in mid December. Five entries were received and each was well written with unique insights. The second place winner of the \$100 bond was an eight grader. This essay talked about voting as a way to be heard and inform elected officials of an individual’s stand on issues of importance. The first place winner of the \$500 bond was written by a twelfth grader. She spoke of turning eighteen in 2006 and of being a young black woman who would be able to fulfill a dream which her ancestors had longed for, for generations.

“I now can sit at that table of brotherhood. I now can go into that voting booth like my fellow brothers and sisters and cast my opinion about the country I love so dearly. I, too, can sing America.”

Both judges, **Suzi Hokonson and Sandy Paine** enjoyed the opportunity to hear from young people on this topic. The first place winner will now compete for a \$15,000 prize at the national level. Names of the participating students were not provided.

## THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE SPOKANE AREA

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

[WWW.LWVWA.ORG/SPOKANE](http://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’Keeffe

*Nominating  
Committee:*

*Chair:* Alice Stolz  
Suzi Hokonson

**TO:**