



Spokane Area VOTER

Ann Murphy & Sandy Paine,
Co-Presidents

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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."

Annual Meeting Provides Direction for the Coming Year

With a "Cinco de Mayo" celebration, 17 League members and 3 guests gathered for LWVSA's Annual Meeting on May 5. Special feature was an opportunity to meet and chat with **LWVWA President Barbara Seitle**. Speaker Tom Reese provided an interesting look of the proposed "village" development of Kendall Yards on the north bank of the Spokane River. The developers have already completed the brownfield clean-up and are drawing the plans for mixed use development on the site.

In business **LWVSA**:

- Approved the By-Law changes as presented in the Call.
- Adopted a budget
- Adopted a one-year update on Local Government.
- Elected: **Betty Banks, Treasurer; Pam Behring, Director; Chris Clark, Nominating Committee Chair; and Suzi Hokonson, Nominating Committee Member.**

Out-going Board Member **Doris Tryon** was recognized for her "too many to count" years of service to League. She was presented with a certificate and plant – and members' heartfelt thanks.

Barbara Seitle addressed the group, talking about League's 86th year and an exciting state project – Women's History of Suffrage in Washington (to be shared 2010). She reminded us of the four (!) state studies coming our way this coming year: Election Reform, Growth Management, Water, and Transportation/Ferries.

Ann Murphy

Coming All Too Soon

LWVSA will be working to set up Candidate Forums for the coming election season. Local races that will receive focus will be one County Commissioner race and all of the contested races in the 3rd, 4th and 6th Legislative Districts. The Primary Forum will be mid-August and the General Election Forum in mid-October. We will be working with CityCable 5 again. There will be opportunities for important forums on ballot issues as well. Stay tuned – and please be ready to volunteer to help with these exciting League programs!!

Talking Points to Help Defeat Initiative 933!

The League of Women Voters of Washington is taking a lead role in defeating Initiative 933. Initiative 933 is a costly scheme that would force communities to either unfairly waive important neighborhood safeguards, or pay special interests hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars to comply with the law. **It's simple: if I-933 passes, special interests win, and taxpayers lose.**

I-933 costs too much - payoffs for irresponsible development will cost millions of already over-stretched taxpayer dollars – money that could be used for funding for public services like schools, roads and public safety.

I-933 creates special interest loopholes - makes communities choose: either pay special interests to comply with the fundamental laws that protect our quality of life, or give those special interest waivers so they don't have to play by the same rules the rest of us do.

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President's Perspective...

It is at this time of year that it is easy to reflect on the three levels of League membership. We are members of the Spokane Area Local League – and we have just completed our local convention in the form of our Annual Meeting. Members present set the direction for the coming year.

As one of your Co-Presidents I will have the opportunity to attend both the **LWVWA Council** (June 2-4) in Ellensburg and then to **LWVUS Convention** (June 9-13) in Minneapolis. State Council will be providing workshops on leadership, membership, education fund and fundraising. **Doris Tryon** will also represent Spokane. **Pam Behring** and **Alice Stolz** will also attend in their roles for State League.

The theme for the National Convention is “Meeting in the Middle” and I suspect that means more than just the geographic location. Part of the task for Leagues to grow will be to find the spot in the middle of a multitude of League issues so that this organization can attract the new vitality to continue the League work.

I look forward to participating in these two meetings – and hope to bring back information and tips that we can use here in Spokane.

TX
Ann Murphy

Quotable Quote

“Best way to preserve our democracy is to take part in it.”

Unknown

LWVUS Endorsed H.R. 9, the Reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act - joined with other civil rights organizations to express support for H.R. 9, the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006. This bill reauthorizes and restores the Voting Rights Act (VRA) and is critical to ensuring the continued protection of the right to vote for all Americans.

Splinters from the Board

- ☞ **Treasurer's Report:**
Checking 291.42 / Savings 6,522.43
- ☞ **Membership:** Local 71 / National 12 / Total 83
- ☞ Board voted not to renew our insurance policy for \$294.00. State League does not require this, nor does our landlord.
- ☞ We will continue to support the Washington News Service for \$30.00 per year.
- ☞ Attending council June 2,3,4 will be Ann Murphy, Pam Behring, Doris Tryon, and Alice Stolz.
- ☞ **Ann Murphy** will attend national convention.
- ☞ Seventeen members and eight guests attended the April general meeting on Water Issues.
- ☞ **Pam Behring** presented the tax presentation in Bellingham in April.
- ☞ The board retreat will be on July 12th, 5:00 - 9:00 pm, City Hall Room, Spokane Athletic Club.
- ☞ **Doris Tryon** is retiring as voter publisher. Need replacement as soon as possible.
- ☞ **Mayo Sayrs** has requested a leave from the board to work on a local campaign.

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I-933 harms quality of life - will result in the kind of sprawling, irresponsible developments that increase traffic congestion and overwhelm local education, public safety and other services we all depend upon.

What can you do to help the No on I-933 campaign today?

- Go to: www.protectcommunities.org/getinvolved and take a minute to personally endorse the campaign. You can also sign up to volunteer on the campaign, write a letter to the editor, or help in any way you can.
- Use the talking points to talk with your friends.

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.

In Memory of Betty Jean First

Betty First was an exceptionally caring woman. Her family came first and blessed everyone who knew her and her family. She belonged to the Spokane Mountaineers with her two sons, where I met her in 1962. We became good friends at the Mountaineers' Chalet on Mt. Spokane. Both of my sons were active in family hikes and climbing classes. It was a great family activity. We both had our third sons within six months of each other-B.F. in 1964 and B.B. in 1965. After Thomas Foley was elected in 1964 to the House of Representatives from the 5th district in Washington State. Betty and her husband, Bill First, moved to D.C. so Bill could be the Press Secretary for Rep. Thomas Foley (for the next 20 years or so!).

She was especially interested in women's issues and, after receiving her Master's degree in Psychology, she counseled women in a battered women's shelter in the D.C. area. She also volunteered at local food banks and became known as "the bread lady" because she picked up day-old bread from stores and delivered food to families living in poverty.

She had joined the **League of Women Voters of the United States** when she was in D.C. So that is how we knew she was back in Spokane when National told us she was already a "member". She became active in League and was a regular member since 1986 of Unit 5, served on committees and wherever she could help. Some of her other intensive activities included NAACP, serving on its Board and she was honored by its Good Citizenship Award. Her History interest brought her to "The Westerners", where she served as Program Chairman. She also joined ACLU, United Nations Association—Spokane Chapter, Inland Northwest Chapter of the Older Women's League. And she served on the Washington State Chiropractic Board.

Her friends all loved her from first meeting to saying goodbye. A wonderful friend to have known and a blessing to so many people.

Betty Banks

About Dioxin

At our April general meeting, a question arose about sources of dioxin.

Dioxin is one of several persistent bioaccumulative toxins (PBTs). It is a by-product of the manufacture and burning of products containing chlorine, such as paper and polyvinylchloride (PVC or vinyl), certain wood treatments, fertilizer made from toxic wastes, and smokestack emissions. It gets into water from industrial discharges and leachate from landfills and toxic sites. Ninety-five percent of dioxins exposure is through the food we eat (Washington Toxics Coalition.)

Inland Empire Paper pulp mill does not use chlorine.

Spokane's Waste-to-Energy (WTE) plant is the only incinerator still in operation in Washington. The key to reducing toxics is complete combustion, using high heat with lots of air, and rapid cooling to prevent re-formation of the toxic. Unlike the electrostatic process used by other incinerators, the WTE scrubber cools in seconds. The maximum parts per billion allowed for dioxin is 30 ppb, soon to be 15 ppb. The amount of dioxin in WTE emissions is about 1 ppb.

Ecology's new rule, 173-333 WAC – PBT Regulation, addresses processes to reduce some 26 PBTs. Mercury is the state's highest PBT priority.

Alice Stolz

Resources:

- Washington Toxics Coalition Dioxin Fact Sheet www.watoxics.org
- Wash. Dept. of Ecology's PBT Strategy www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/eap/toxics/PBT_strategy.html
- Interview with Damon Taam, Spokane Regional Solid Waste System Contract Manager

MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone-- Home: _____ Work: _____

Fax: _____ e-mail: _____

\$ 45. Student Rate
\$ 65. Individual
(\$24.20; State \$17; Nat'l \$23.80)
\$100. Household
\$100. Sustaining Member
\$150. Benefactor

Calendar

June 2-4	LWVWA Council, Ellensburg
June 9-13	LWVUS Convention, Minneapolis
July 12	LWVSA Board Retreat 5:30 p.m. The Spokane Club
August	Primary Forum
September	Fall Kick off
October	General Election Forum

Want to Access Important LWVUS Information On-Line?

To begin the process, go to
<https://www.lwv.webmembership.org/PreRegister.asp>

1. Enter your first name, last name and e-mail address. Click "Submit." You will be prompted through the next steps.
2. **After** you receive an e-mail with your initial password, go back to <https://www.lwv.webmembership.org>. Enter your e-mail address in the first field and cut and paste the password that was sent to you into the second field. Click "Submit."
3. Now that you are logged in, you will need to change your password to one that you create. Click on the words "Change Password" in the left hand column. Paste the password from the e-mail into the current password field. Type your personal password in the next two fields. Remember when choosing your own password to use eight characters. This completes your registration.
4. Click "Session Sign Off." You are now able to go anywhere on the Web site using your easy-to-remember username (your personal email address) and the personal password you just set up!

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE SPOKANE AREA

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WWW.LWVWA.ORG/SPOKANE

LWV/Spokane Area

Co-Presidents: Ann Murphy & Sandy Paine

Secretary: Sandy Haupt

Treasurer: Betty Banks

Directors: Pam Behring

Mayo Sayrs

Nancy O'Keeffe

Nominating

Committee:

Chair: Chris Clark

Suzi Hokonson

TO: