



Spokane Area VOTER

Ann Murphy & Sandy Paine,
Co-Presidents

August 2006
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VOTER Editor, CJ Tyler-Watson
VOTER Publisher, Betty Banks

"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."

Election Forums

LWVSA will once again sponsor **Election Forums with CityCable 5**. Please plan to join us in City of Spokane Council Chambers for the taping sessions beginning at 5:30 p.m.(it's nice to have an audience!). Our sessions will be:

August 24 - Primary. We will be doing only contested races. And since we now must vote in specific primary, if they are two or more candidates in one party, and only one in other parties in the same race, we will only include the contested party slot. This forum is difficult to completely plan at this writing, as the election filing process is not complete. Based on pre-filing declarations, PDC reports, and campaign signs, our Primary Forum will include candidates for Spokane County Commissioner and several judicial races. The Forum will include some re-education on voting in the Primary and voting by mail. Plans will be finalized the first week in August. The Primary Forum will be rebroadcast on CityCable 5 several times prior to the September 19 primary date.

October 11 & 12 – General Election. Two nights are reserved as we see how the time fills up with races following the Primary – and the Ballot Issue discussions. There will be more details in your October VOTER.

LWVSA will work in conjunction with the Library Foundation to present an **Election Forum on October 18**, 7 – 8:30 p.m. at the Downtown Library. This session will include the County Commissioner race and Legislative races in the 3rd and 6th Districts. Volunteers for League Forums at this time include: **Pam Behring, Martha Lou Wheatley Billiter, Ann Murphy, Jean Wells, Ann Bailor, Sandy Paine** – There are other tasks to do. Call **Ann Murphy** (838-4549) if you would like to be part of these important election projects.

LWVSA Makes Plans @ Retreat

The LWVSA Board met in July to plan for the coming year.

Highlights:

- **Membership Materials** – Members will receive a new Handbook in the Fall that includes the updated by-laws and reformatted position statements.
- **Membership Plan** – Committee will begin developing
- **Program Calendar** – Here is what you have to look forward to this year:

September - Unit meetings on Growth Management using LWVWA study materials (**Alice Stolz**, Resource)

October - Unit meetings on Ballot Issues

November- Unit meetings on Election Reform using LWVWA study materials

December - Legislative Luncheon (even though it is actually on Nov. 28) - a soup and salad lunch at the Steam Plant. You will need to request your free ticket for this event.

January - Program Planning – state and local

February - League Birthday Party (with a special program still in the planning stages) Will be fun and informative!

March - Unit meetings, Local Government Study (**Ann Murphy**, Resource)

April - Water (Shorelines Management Act) Could be Units, could be General Meeting (**Alice Stolz**, Resource)

May - Annual Meeting – the date is made: May 10 (evening meeting during the week)

"Dues are Due"

President's Perspective...

I had the great pleasure to represent our Spokane League at both the LWVWA Council meeting in Ellensburg and the National Convention in Minneapolis. And wow! What a sensory and material overload. With my official convention bag brimming with papers, publications and stuff, I was reminded of why we are sometimes call League of Women Voters. Both meetings were a tremendous opportunity to be in sessions with so much energy on issues to study, action to take, special projects to do...

It so easy to come away thinking *we can do it all!*

But, of course, none of us can... As we look to the activities for our coming League year, we all will be prioritizing and making choices about what we can do in LWVSA. That is one meaning of focus. At Convention I was introduced to way to think about how League can FOCUS it's efforts.

First Rule of League: Nonpartisanship

The nonpartisan policy is the key to League's reputation and adds strength to the League's position on issues.

Outreach to our community: Program

This is the basis for League education and action. An important piece of our community outreach will be our Forums in the fall.

Consensus – Not going it alone

We reach our positions through this time-honored consensus method – and you will have the opportunity for consensus on two state studies this fall – Growth Management and Election Reform. So read up and be part of the process. The “not going it alone” part also pertains to running the organization. It takes more than one or two individuals to make it all happen. Thank you to all who are a part of that. If you are looking for opportunities to do more, we have lots of small jobs – and we'll be asking for help!

Us, the grassroots: Membership growth & diversity

As Spokane League looks for opportunities to build, we will be creating a plan (something I heard over and over – have a plan!). **Pam Behring** will lead membership and will have a committee meeting – August 1, 10:00 a.m.

Join in the planning!

Speaking with One Voice

We must have consistent messages and act in concert with all three levels of League – and in our own League.

With FOCUS as our guide, we look forward to a great new year. Plan to include FOCUS in your League outlook. See you at a forum, unit meeting, or community activity!

Ann Murphy

Splinters from the Board



Treasurer's Report:

Checking - \$301.73 Savings - \$\$4,578.85



Membership Totals:

72 local, 11 national Total 83



Leave of absence for board member **Mayo Sayrs** was approved



Betty Banks has generously volunteered to be the new “voter” publisher.



We will get an opinion on Omissions and Commission insurance for the board members from an insurance professional.



New handbooks will be available in September.



The state growth management study will be completed by September. **Pam Behring** will check to see if it will be available in a CD format.



The Elected Officials Reception will be November 28th, at the Steam Plant Grill. Caesar salad and white bean-chicken chili will be served.



VLWVWA Board Meetings will move to the 3rd Thursday of each month and will continue to be at the LWV Office, 2404 N. Howard at 5:30 p.m.

Welcome New Members:

Ellen Miller

16511 S Malloy Prairie Rd
Cheney, WA 99004
Unit 3
(h) 236-2443 (w) 893-8420
ellen@doriathproject.com

Gail Talamantez

15007 N Chesapeake Lane
Mead, WA 99021
Unit 5
465-0470
Gailtala@aol.com

REMINDER!!! SAVE the State Voters.

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

Spokane's **Shoreline Master Program (SMP)** sets policy and provides standards for development along the Spokane River and Latah creek within City limits. Adopted in 1976, amended in 1982, the SMP is being updated in 2006-2007 to meet requirements of the Washington State Shoreline Management Act and the 2003 Shoreline Master Program guidelines. Updates must also be coordinated with other planning activities and documents, such as the 2006 Comprehensive Plan Update. Look for news of public workshops this Fall at shorelines@spokanecity.org.

The long-awaited and carefully negotiated **State Department of Ecology Phosphorus Reduction Plan** was presented to local leaders July 13, 2006. The Plan requires river polluters, including sewage treatment plants, Kaiser Aluminum, and Inland Paper Company to try to reduce phosphorus in treated water to natural levels. They have 20 years to meet the standard, with a review in 10 years. If dischargers can't meet the 10 microgram per liter of water standard through technology improvements, they can make it up in other ways, such as diverting treated wastewater to golf courses instead of the river. Local leaders are asked to sign on to the plan in the coming weeks.

Alice Stolz

Tax Facts:

Pam Behring reports that **LWVWA** has updated slides in the Washington State Tax presentation that she provided to **LWVSA** last fall. If you have a group that would like to have this presentation, please call Pam (534-2223).



A League Bucks Tax Fact:

Washington is the only state to tax businesses on gross receipts through the Business & Occupation Tax.

For more info go to: www.lwvwa.org/tax

Going Electronic

More and more of League communication at all levels will be coming out electronically.

- Numerous communications and action alerts come from both **LWVUS** and **LWVWA**.
- State studies – the complete documents for Growth Management and Election Reform will not be mailed by **LWVWA** – but *will be available* on the state website. Spokane League will have electronic versions and can make print copies available to those who request them.
- **LWV Topics** is a great way to keep up on League activities in Washington state.
- Spokane League -would like to broaden our email communications.

So, please, if we don't have your email address (if we do, it is in the yellow membership directory), send an email to **Betty Banks** so that she can update the records. You can reach **Betty** at: bbanksarch@aol.com

Prepare for Growth Management Study in September

September Unit meetings will have as its topic the **LWVWA Growth Management Study**. This will be an important study and consensus discussion that should provide a better background for understanding I-933 – the "takings initiative" – that will be on your November ballot.

The *Summer 2006 Washington State Voter* carried an Introduction to the Study. Please save this article as a basis for discussion. The complete study (50 pages) will be available electronically. Also be on the look out for newspaper articles that relate to Growth Management here in Spokane County.-there will be more information in your Sept. **VOTER**.



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

Dues Are Due!

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

Calendar

- Aug. 1 Membership Committee meeting, 10 a.m.,
Pam Behring's, 1112 E. 20th Ave. (534-2223)
- Aug. 22 **LWVSA** Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m. @
LWV Office, 2404 N. Howard (in the
basement) **NOTE** this is a day change
- Aug. 24 Primary Forum w/ CityCable 5
- Sept. 4 Labor Day
- Sept. 11-14 Unit Meetings– Growth Management
- Sept. 19 Primary-*be sure to have that ballot mailed*
- Sept. 21 **LWVSA** Board Meeting
- Sept. 25-26 Eastside Legislative Session
- Oct. 11 & 12 General Election Forums w/ CityCable 5
- Oct. 10-12 Unit Meetings- Ballot Issues
- Oct. 18 Forum w/ Library Foundation
- Nov. 11 LWVWA Action Workshop in Bellevue

“Dues are Due”

Dues are due starting with the Fiscal Year of July 1. Emphasis is on Sept. 1 to Nov. 1, each year. They may be paid in two consecutive months if that would be helpful. It is usually better to get them paid by Nov. so the holidays don't suddenly appear AND National wants a report of all our members in their hands as of Dec. 31. Please call **Betty Banks** if you want to discuss any questions you may have—326-3442.

The Legislature comes to town!

The Washington State Legislature will be meeting in Spokane on September 25 and 26. Sen. Lisa Brown has worked to revitalize this practice of conducting business here on the East Side for a few days. This will be an opportunity for Spokane area citizens to be visible and connect with the state lawmakers. **Pam Behring** will be coordinating with LWVWA as to what our League involvement might be – so save the dates and look for more info in the September **VOTER**.



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, Nancy O’Keeffe

Nominating Committee:

Chris Clark, Chair, & Suzi Hokonson

TO: