



The public is invited to all incoming League events.

Looking ahead to April and May meetings

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| <p>Tuesday, April 14 11:30 am</p> | <p>ZOOM meeting (audio and visual connection for online meetings) will be held on Voter Registration. All members will receive an email with instructions on doing online ZOOM or dialing into the meeting. Meeting materials will be sent in advance.</p> <p>Learn details of how to register voters and discuss how we can serve our community by doing this core function during a time of social distancing.</p> |
| <p>Tuesday, May 12 6:30 pm</p> | <p>ZOOM Annual Meeting. See below for details. Look for instructions on using ZOOM and all materials will be sent in advance.</p> |

Annual Meeting Approaches for LWVSA

The Annual Meeting scheduled for May 12, 2020, is the business meeting for our League to put plans in place for the next program year. During this meeting, we need to adopt local program of work, approve an adequate budget, adopt any by-law amendments, and elect officers, directors and members of the nominating committee. The Nominating Committee will submit the final slate in The Call and motions will be accepted from the floor as well. We can also transact any other business that may properly come before the group.

For many years this has been not only a time to conduct business, but additionally a fun dinner and a chance to network and have a fun time with other Leaguers. Usually we have had a speaker as well. This year, as the nation is in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and most of our league members are in the “at risk” group, the Board has decided to hold the Annual Meeting using a virtual platform – i.e. a group meeting via ZOOM, a computer/phone meeting. Now is the time to take the step to getting at least one foot into the cyber world.

It’s not as scary as you might think --- All members will receive a printed copy of **The Call to the Annual Meeting** prior to the meeting so that you can review the business items that are up for consideration. This way you can have the printed reference for our business to aid your virtual participation.

The Call will have complete directions for accessing Zoom and ground rules for participating. We will be setting up a couple of “practice meetings” so that you can become familiar with the technology prior to May 12. Many of us have used ZOOM more and more in the last month or so – and know that this will be a good way to go to conduct our business.

Special Note on By-Laws - As part of the board’s review of the By-Laws, we discovered that the actual by-law on amendments is not in alignment with the notifications of the other official business for The Annual Meeting. Previously LWVSA approved by way of By-Law Amendments to change notifications for budget, program planning, and nominating committee report to “not less than 20 days and not more than 40 days.” That time frame has been used for mailing The Call to Annual Meeting by counting back from The Annual Meeting date. For this year that means that The Call comes out to you the membership by April 20.

In an oversight, the same notification change was not made in Article XII-Amendments of the LWVSA By-Laws. Current languages states that amendments need to be submitted to the membership in writing **at least one month in advance of the meeting.**

For this year that would mean you would need to have the proposed amendments to you by April 12. The proposed changes will be included in The Call, which will be mailed April 20th.

Thus, the proposed By-Law Amendments are presented to you with the April 2020 VOTER as an attachment to meet that April 12 deadline for submittal to all of you. And we are proposing to change that By-Law so that it aligns with the other notification requirements. The By-Laws Amendment [proposals are posted online.](#)

Looking Back to March Events

In this time of COVID-19, looking back to events a few weeks before quarantine seems almost nostalgic. For the Spokane League, we were very busy in early and mid-March. We were involved in:

- holding ballot parties preparing for an early state presidential primary,
- repeating monthly programming with day and evening sessions for League members
- registering students to vote at a local university
- encouraging League members to be trained on Census questionnaire assistance
- presenting to a local group of women entrepreneurs and high school students on the Centennial and the history of voting in the United States.

We are asking for your ideas on:

- how do we continue to inform and register voters remotely?
- how do we present information online to college and high school students?
- how do we support a Census with very different outreach to undercounted populations?
- how does our Spokane League continue to share our mission with the Spokane community?”

Look for discussion on these questions at our April meeting.

To answer these questions, it is important to take each of our recent experiences apart a bit. What were we attempting to do at local ballot parties? What was our intent in hosting a day and evening meeting? What are we learning by partnering with Spokane Complete Count on reaching the traditionally undercounted populations other than through events?

Our League threw Ballot Parties on March 3 at the Spokane Valley's Argonne Library and Spokane's South Hill Library. What did we learn at these events?

After the very calm event at the Valley location, the South Hill party was popping. All sorts of interested voters dropped in for cake, asked thoughtful questions, and stuck around to engage in voting-related conversations. Our intent was to answer questions about the new Presidential ballot form and encourage everyone to vote in the Presidential Primary.



Ballot parties: League volunteers: Jan Wingenroth, Beth Pellicciotti, Ann Murphy, Denise Campitelli, Marilyn Darilek, Babs Velategui*, Blanche Carter, Judy Krueger, Judith Silverstein, Mardell Cochran, Becky Dickerhoof* and Susan Hales. (*from left to right at Argonne Public Library)

Beth Pellicciotti: What did I learn during this Presidential Primary ballot party? I realized that some voters do not know the next time they would be receiving a ballot and what races the next election would cover. One father came in with his children (the cake was a draw for the after-school crowd), and I explained the August primary in Washington State and gave him the date with a copy of the *They Represent You* brochure. I showed him the districts and the related positions up for elections in the state and local primaries. As he was leaving, he told his children, "I learned three things today," I learned three things, too, about how important it is for us to explain the sweep and scope of elections, how critical our *TRY* brochure is, and how appreciative voters are at being informed.

I helped another voter who was determined to vote ("It is my right to vote" was her mantra). She wanted to change her old mailing address on line in the library but it was not possible. Her account was inactive. I called the County Elections Office and realized she would have to go in person to make these changes. She was very motivated, went into County Elections the next morning when they opened, and when we were back at the South Hill Library the next Tuesday, she stopped by to tell me she had voted and was back on the active voter rolls. I realized we do not motivate voters; they motivate us.

Day and Evening Meetings on the Census and Redistricting: March 10, 2020 Why are evening program meetings important?

Two great speakers – Alison McCaffree, LWVWA Issues Chair for the Census and Redistricting, and Alex Panagotacos, Census Coordinator for Spokane Complete Count presented on the

outcome of our redistricting bill, HB 2575, and on the efforts of Spokane Complete Count to reach the traditionally undercounted populations in Spokane County. Though HB2575 did not pass the legislature, we learned how to continue to urge transparency in the deliberations of the Commission on Redistricting through Speak Up Schools. We also learned techniques for reaching traditionally undercounted populations in the Census without the benefit of in-person meetings. We need to ask ourselves, “How can we apply this learning about trusted messengers to the work we do in voter registration and voter services in the time of the Coronavirus?”



Alex Panagotacos
Spokane Complete Count
on March 10, 2020:
Census 101

Another take-away from the March general meetings: having a day and evening meeting (repeat programming) in different locations offers important choices for our members. About 30 members attended the day session, and 12 attended in the evening. One of our newest members, when asked about the importance of the evening meeting, said she could only come in the evening.

If you want to read about how the Spokane Complete Count Committee is adapting their strategies on outreach, here is the *Spokesman-Review's* [opinion editorial by LWVSA Leaguer Beth Pellicciotti](#). Judy Silverstein's letter to the editor on the Census was also accepted for publication. Look for this in an upcoming *Spokesman Review*.

Saying YES to Hosting a Speak Up School!

People Powered Fair Maps™ is a national redistricting campaign of the League of Women Voters of the United States focused on creating fair political maps nationwide. The program includes actions in all 50 states.



Here in Washington State, one way support for the national initiative is taking shape is in the form of the **Speak Up School project!** Participants in LWVSA Census/Redistricting meetings in March heard Alison McCaffree's [presentation about the Speak Up School](#).

So...what is a Speak Up School? A power-packed training session!

Speak Up Schools are a targeted strategy to improve the quality, content and diversity of input to our State Redistricting Commissioners. The 2021 Redistricting Commissioners will be hosting “Listening Sessions” in each of the 10 Congressional Districts. In the past, testimony at these

hearings has not been coherent, powerful or compelling, and the Commissioners have discounted this input. The League wants to change this in 2021 – and we are willing to ***train folks to testify effectively***. Leagues across the State are being asked to host a school. LWVSA is making plans to join the project. If you would like to be part of this effort, please contact Ann Murphy (509) 835-8910.

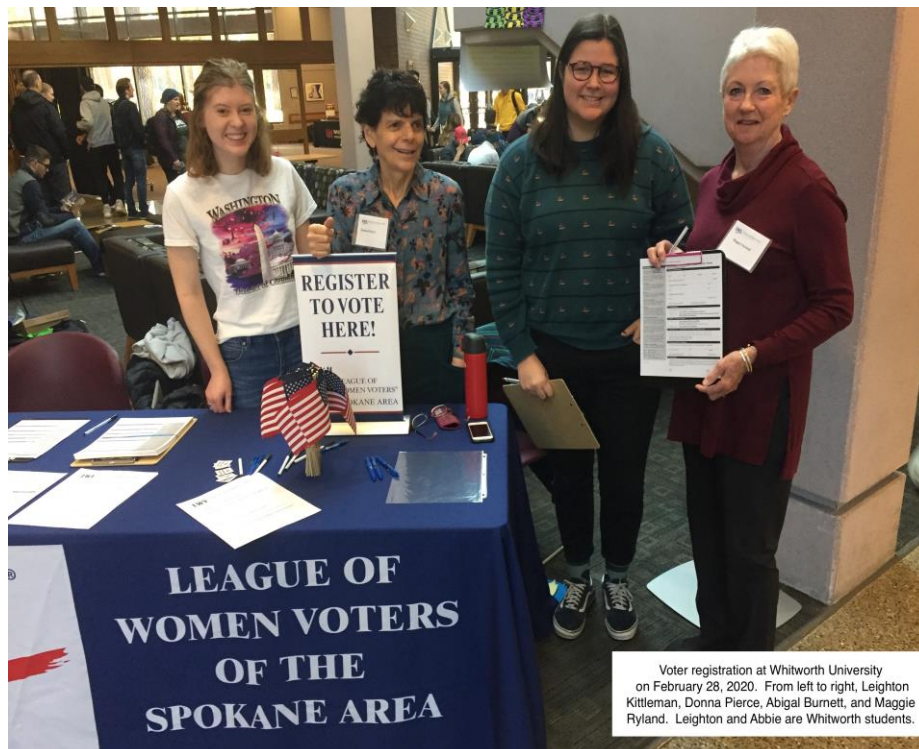
These schools are targeted toward people who know why redistricting is important and may be hesitant to testify in front of a commission. Each session will include training on how to testify effectively, as well as suggestions for making your talking points compelling. ***We will prepare a diverse range of community members to speak up in ways that matter!***

This is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen partnerships with diverse coalition of groups & individuals who are concerned with creating Fair Maps – and who will commit to testifying.

Target date for the school is February-April, 2021. **You will be hearing more.**

Voter Services Activities

Two visits were scheduled to Whitworth University on February 24 and 28. Due to the work of Whitworth faculty member, Dr. Kathryn Lee, and Whitworth student Abigail Burnett, dozens of Whitworth students learned about voter registration in Spokane County, in counties throughout the state, and in many neighboring states. Spokane League members volunteering at Whitworth included Donna Pierce, Maggie Ryland, Beth Pellicciotti and Christine Eschete.



Voter registration at Whitworth University on February 28, 2020. From left to right, Leighton Kittleman, Donna Pierce, Abigail Burnett, and Maggie Ryland. Leighton and Abbie are Whitworth students.

League volunteers working with college students used Vote411.org to find information on voter registration and the absentee ballot process for every state.

League members registered 22 new voters in March at the Naturalization Ceremony and Community Court.

Voter Information on Neighborhood Blogs: Becky Dickerhoof learned from our ballot parties that some people attended after reading about the party in her posting in her neighborhood blog: Next Door Neighbor. Are you on a neighborhood blog? This might be one way to continue voter registration in a time of social distancing. Here is Becky's recent posting about teenagers registering to vote:

Future Voters: If you would like to help your teenager at home register to vote, check out the Spokane County Elections [webpage](#). Washington State now allows 16 and 17-year-olds to pre-register to vote. Here is a list of [upcoming elections from the Washington Secretary of State](#). Your teen will have to be 18 by any upcoming election date to mail in the ballot for that election. Becky Dickerhoof, League of Women Voters of the Spokane Area.

New Member Bios – Welcome!

Rick Biggerstaff: I am a husband, father of 3 boys and I have 3 grandkids! I have worked in public education for over 30 years. I love to do anything outdoors and volunteer as our Neighborhood's Council Chairperson.

Julie Biggerstaff: Married to Rick. I am a mom and grandma. I am a clinical laboratory geneticist, currently working part time at Seattle Cancer Care Alliance. I love the outdoors, have practiced yoga for over 25 years and love to read and work in the garden. I volunteer as treasurer for our neighborhood council and am the co-chair of Friends of Coeur d'Alene Park here in Browne's Addition.

David A. Adams: I am a physical therapist. I am married to Dr. Mary Gentile and we live near Ferris H.S. I came to Spokane in 1977. I am a graduate of the Mayo Clinic Schools of Physical Therapy and B.S. Lipscomb University. I was a Peace Corps Volunteer.

Nora Scott: I am a retired Social Worker. I volunteer weekly at a local soup kitchen. Hobbies include gardening and spending time with my grandchildren.

Nominating Committee News

The nominating committee has submitted a report to the Board containing the slate of nominees and recommended by-law changes to achieve the desired staggered terms of Board members to prevent complete turnover in one year. The slate will be submitted to the membership at the annual meeting in May. At that time, nominations from the floor will also be accepted. Members of the Nominating Committee are Lisa Kuhar (Chair), Suzi Johns and Ann Murphy.

How to Access PDFs

To access/open PDFs to read on your computer, try [this link to obtain Adobe reader](#).

Sign Up and Open Up: Keeping Our LWVWA Community Informed!

TWIL (*This Week in League*) is THE way friends and members get the inside scoop on neighboring Leagues and the State League issues, ideas, and events. It is quick to scan; there are [copies archived](#) on the [For Members](#) section of LWVWA.org. The goal is to have 100% member subscribers, and 95% of them regularly opening the link to check it out. If you have signed up for this and aren't getting it, check your spam filter. If you haven't signed up for it, or you aren't sure, [sign up here: Amy Peloff, League of Women Voters Washington](#)

League Membership

You too can join in the activity and important work of being in our League. Go to <http://www.lwvspokane.org/join.html>

League Leadership

LWVSA Board Members

- President – Beth Pellicciotti
- Vice President-Marilyn Darilek
- Secretary- Jan Wingenroth
- Treasurer- Denise Campitelli
- Director-Ann Murphy

Off-board Positions

- Voter Services – Susan Hales
- Strategic Planning-Sylvia Oliver
- Webmaster-Mary Hughes
- *The Voter*- Lisa Kuhar
- Facebook—Sylvia Oliver
- Civics Education-Beth Pellicciotti

The Leadership Team meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 at St. Andrews Church, 2404 North Howard. Our meetings for the foreseeable future will be on ZOOM. Contact Beth Pellicciotti, pelliccmb@gmail.com if you want to be connected.

