



VOLUME XXXX ISSUE 12, December 2, 2023

A printable PDF version of The Voter will be available at lwvsaleadership@gmail.com

It is Time to Renew Your Membership!

Membership Renewals Due Now Thank you so much for the important work you have made possible through your membership in the League of Women Voters of the Spokane Area this past year. Because of your ongoing support, our efforts to empower voters and defend democracy have moved forward, despite these difficult times.

Would you please renew your support for next year? We realize it is easy to forget whether you paid this year or last year in these hectic times. Please check your records and verify. Members whose renewals are not received before January 31 will be removed from both our local and the national database on that date.

Use your credit card by going online to [LWVSpokane.org](https://my.lwv.org/washington/spokane-area/join-or-renew-form) and click "Join/ Renew."

<https://my.lwv.org/washington/spokane-area/join-or-renew-form>

OR

You can fill out the form on the web site, print it from your browser, and send it with your check.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call our treasurer, Mike Bell, at 509-710-3892 or send him email at mrbelldcpa@gmail.com.

With so much at stake—voting rights, civic education, new Spokane County Commissioner districts—your continued membership is vital. Thank you for standing with your League. Wishing you all the best in the coming year!

From the President

A Sweet Treat

By Jean Richardson

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will read the details of a cookie exchange we will be doing at our December 12th meeting and that our State League President is coming to speak to us at that meeting—something sweet and something inspirational in a month that calls for both. Because of the cookie exchange, this is a great month to attend the meeting in person. ***This also gives you a chance to meet our speaker, State League President Mary Coltrane.***

The Hive is conveniently located fairly near the Thor/Freya exit from I-90 on Sprague and has great parking. Additionally, we will be making arrangements to stay a bit late so that we can catch up with old friends and acquaintances.

Being your local League President this year has had its challenges, but it has also been eye-opening as I have been able to meet so many more of you and hear your interests in and reasons for being involved in the League. Every so often, I come across a very different perspective on why the League is important to a member—which delights me as I know that homogeneity in perspective adds to the aliveness of an organization.

As we come into a year of debate, determination, and decision about who will be our next president of this nation, I look forward to many vital discussions about how to go forward together. Our ability to bond as citizens of this union within the League has been vital to the League's work through the last 100 years.

Our cookie exchange is both tasty and symbolic in nature. To give food is a deeply meaningful act of generosity. And, especially for those of us who live in small households, variety can be hard to come by in this world of prepackaged goods. As you each go home with a few of each other's cookies, we hope that it adds delights to your afternoon cup of tea and causes you to pause and think about the woman who made the cookie you are eating. No matter whether she is liberal or conservative, she gave of her time and goods to cheer you on the winter afternoon in which you ate her cookie. Such basic grasping of hands across differences will be important to us as we go forward in League this next year—tabling, registering voters, holding forums, and providing civics education.

Come practice with us on December 12th at the Hive. ***Come practice the skills of civic engagement and good cheer.***

Calendar



December Calendar and Upcoming Events

Sat. Dec. 2 - LWVWA Action Workshop Learn about the upcoming legislative session and anticipated League advocacy and how League members can help.

Fri. Dec 10, noon to 1pm - LWV Spokane Area Luncheon

At the Osprey, inside Ruby River Hotel, 700 N Division St, Spokane, WA 99202

R.S.V.P. to Jean Richardson Text: 503-788-8998 Email: jean@azuregate.net

Tues. Dec. 12, 5:30pm to 7:00pm - Monthly General Meeting and Cookie Exchange *Featuring a presentation by Mary Coltrane, LWV WA State League President.*

Cookie Exchange instructions:

Please bring 18 holiday cookies, 6 to share, 12 to exchange. Plate 6 cookies to share. They can be cut into pieces to maximize number of tastings. Pack the remaining 12 into 3 packages of 4 to exchange and include your name and cookie's name. Place any dietary notes by the cookies which can include but not limited to: GF, Vegan, Paleo, Keto, nuts, etc. If not a secret, display a printed copy of the recipe, so guests can photograph it.

At the HIVE 2904 E Sprague and on Zoom.

Here is the Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZYud-CrqjSPH91hiPbV4P0vjFZEZBBSO7-o>

While registered attendees may join at any time after 4:30, the meeting doesn't start until 5:30. 4:30 to 5:30 time period is going to be used for setting up and confirming AV in the room.

Jan. 22 - 25 – Democracy Lobby Week Evenings Co-sponsored with Fix Democracy First. During these Lobby Week evenings, legislative updates are provided on specific issues; and during the day, local League and Fix Democracy First members can participate in meetings with their legislators.



December Monthly General Meeting

Mary Coltrane, LWVWA President

WHY THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Why is the League the place to work for democracy?

Mary joined the League in 1977 when she was looking for something more in the work world. She became very active in the League of Women Voters of Seattle, rising to become President in 1989-91. She served on the state Board in the early 1990s, and undertook some contract gigs for LWVWA including work on a public outreach plan that transformed King County Metro Transit's community relations.

With her children no longer small, Mary went to work full time for King County as a communications specialist and a program coordinator.

She retired at the end of 2013. By 2016, Mary saw threats to democracy looming; she turned to the League of Women Voters as the place to best empower voters and defend democracy.

Her work with LWVWA includes Voter Services Chair, Debates Coordinator and Program Chair. Mary notes, *"the League is an amazing organization. I'm so proud to be part of it."*



Featuring a Presentation by LWV State League President Mary Coltrane & a Cookie Exchange

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LWV Spokane Area Luncheon

The Osprey, inside Ruby River Hotel

Fri, Dec. 8, 12:00pm to 1:00pm

700 N Division St, Spokane, WA 99202

R.S.V.P. to Jean Richardson

Text: 503-788-8998 Email: jean@azuregate.net

Board Activity for November 2023

The Board met on November 15 at 4 p.m. via Zoom.

A motion was unanimously approved to move our account to Numerica Credit Union with Mike Bell as primary check signer and Jean Richardson as second signer.

Reports:

A motion was unanimously approved to appoint Lunnell Haught as the Chair of the Welcoming Committee which will be an off-board position.

It was reported that Lori, Linda and Julie are working on making sure all members receive the VOTER.

Committee Reports:

Welcoming Committee: Lunell reported she is sending reminders for members that dues are overdue; she's phoning new members; the membership handbook is being revised; and she made a proposal for a new member orientation. The board approved her proposal.

The Board also accepted committee reports from the Affordable Housing and Homelessness committee and the Environmental Committee

Voter Services reported that the LWVWA needs local leagues to volunteer to host candidate forums for statewide positions in the not to distant future.

Upcoming General Membership Meetings

December: Mary Coltrane (speaker) and cookie exchange,

January 9:

February: Voter Services

March:

April: Environment committee

May: Annual membership meeting

Board of Directors

President:Jean Richardson

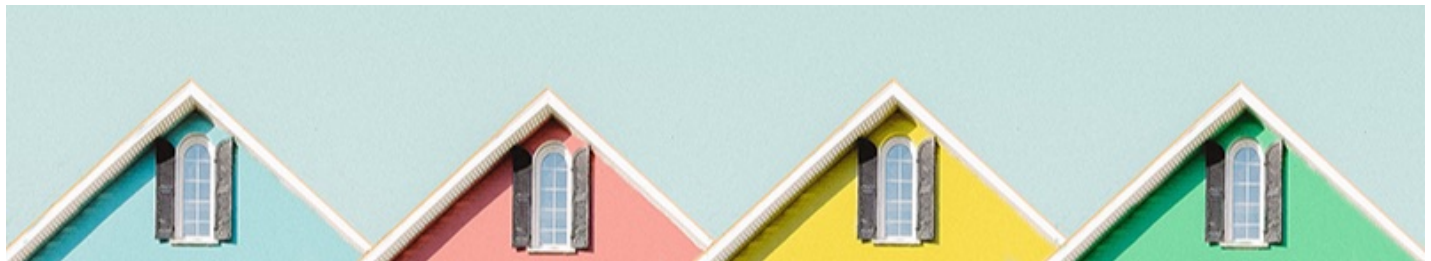
Vice President:Pamela Joyner

Treasurer:Mike Bell

Secretary:Carol Lander-McVicker

Director:Lin McGinn

Director:Elaine Harger



A H H S

Affordable Housing and Homelessness Solutions

December AH&HS Newsletter Report

Our committee was proud to host a LWVSA general meeting once again in November at the Spokane Central Library. Over thirty members and guests attended either in person or on ZOOM. We had a panel of five, representing groups who are actively engaged in addressing homelessness. Sarah Olsen from Village CoHousing Works, www.villagecohousingworksspokane.org, gave us an update on the work they are doing in the Mead community helping families obtain permanent housing. Nicolette Ocheltree, nocheltree@spokanecity.org and Gavin Cooley from Spokane Unite, www.spokaneunite.org, provided an update on how they are working with Spokane County, Spokane City and the many other municipalities in our county to create a Regional Homeless Authority. The Spokane Unite website provides up-to-date information on how that is progressing. Sherri Gangitano, Spokane Valley Community Advocates, info@s-v-c-a.org and Eric Robison, erobison@spokanevalleywa.gov, Spokane Valley Homeless Housing Task Force, brought

information explaining how Spokane Valley is addressing homeless in the Valley. A video of the meeting can be found on our website LWVSpokane.org. We were also pleased to have many attendees bring warm blankets, hats and mittens that were then given to East Valley School District McKinney-Vento program.

Throughout November our committee members attend other events addressing the housing and homeless crisis. Among those are the Homeless Coalition to hear Mayor Woodward explain her approach to the homeless and housing crisis in Spokane and how her plans for the next term, if reelected. Members also attended the Health & Housing Symposium in Spokane Valley, learning more about how health and housing insecurity are intertwined. We were also present at the Housing Innovation Knowledge Exchange at the Philanthropy Center, sponsored by the Spokane Regional Health District. Others were able to attend Health and Housing Forum, sponsored by Quinton Baker, Spokane Regional Health District, Terri Anderson, Tenants Union, Ben Stuckart, Spokane Low Income Housing Consortium, and Duaa-Rahemaah Hunter, WA Low Income Housing Alliance. The forum discussed what a regional housing and homeless authority must address to be successful. At the end of November, we attended Harmony and Hope: Spokane's Path to Homeless Peace. This was a roundtable discussion of Amber Waldref, Spokane County Commissioner, Barry Barfield, Spokane Homeless Coalition and Jessica, of Lived Homeless Experience, sponsored by the SCC Peace Institute and the SCC Student Awareness League. We are also studying the Roadmap to Housing Justice which was released the last week of November. The Roadmap is a call to action for lawmakers and a rallying point for our communities. It lays out the policy changes and investments needed to create housing justice in Washington. If you would like to join our committee, you can reach us at LWVSAAHHS@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you at the next general meeting.

Civic Education

Beth Pellicciotti

The ten-part KSPS Civics Bowl 2024 involves a partnership started with the Spokane League, the Spokane Public Schools, and KSPS PBS. The work for Civics Bowl 2024 has already begun. By mid-December, 11 Spokane League volunteers will have written and proofread 600 civics questions taken from the two textbooks used in the high schools. These questions are the raw material for the script for the Civics Bowl 2024.

Writing these questions is exacting and voluminous work. The Magruder American Government Interactive textbook is 778 pages. Thirteen chapters are used for the Civics Bowl. League members each take a chapter and read it carefully for questions and answers that can be easily framed in a Jeopardy-like format.

A previous KSPS producer wrote a *Question Writing Style Guide* with instructions on writing for television, stressing accurate pronunciation and question structure. League members practice questions by reading each one aloud and writing out phonetic pronunciation for unusual words and

names. Part of the proofreading involves members exchanging chapters with each other. They review grammar and spelling and double check the source of the question and answer.

I take selected chapters in the LWVWA textbook, *The State We're In*. The 8th edition is for middle to high school students. (Download a free copy or order your own print version-- [The State We're In 8th Edition](#).) In doing these questions every year, I learn new items about government in Washington State—state and local government and tribal history and government.

All these chapters' questions become the raw material that the KSPS producer, Cyndy Koures uses to create toss-up, category, bonus, and lightning round questions in the final Civics Bowl 2024 ([see recordings of previous civics bowls](#)). As ten teams of high school students begin their preparation for the 2024 competition, the Spokane League work is done. Every year, the Spokane League makes this impactful contribution to civic education!

Many thanks to these Spokane League volunteers for their dedication to the KSPS Civics Bowl 2024:

Jean Alliman	Susan Gray
Darla Austerman	Elaine Harger
Prakash Bhuta	Cyndy Koures
Denise Campitelli	Judy Koures
Carmela Conroy	Beth Pellicciotti
	Alison Wells

We hear about civic education all the time. What is civic education? Chapter titles in the Magruder's American Government and *The State We're In* textbooks provide a good overview of what Washington State high school seniors are studying when they take their required civics course:

Magruder Chapters

Foundations of Government	The Judicial Branch
The Beginnings of American Government	Protecting Civil Liberties
The Constitution	Citizenship and Civil Rights
The Legislative Branch	Government by the People
The Executive Branch: the President and Vice President	Elections

The Executive Branch
at Work

Government and
the Economy

State and Local
Government

LWVWA The State We're In: Washington (8th Edition) Chapters

How the First People of
Washington
Governed Themselves

Tribal Governments Today

The Design of Today's
Democracy

Local Governments, Counties, Cities, Towns, and Special
Districts

Creating Washington's
Government

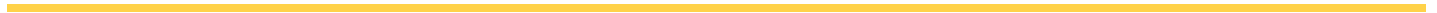
Civics and the Natural World: Land, Air, Water, Plants,
and Animals

A Century of Change

What's Next for Washington?

Governing Washington Today

What Does It Take to be a Good Citizen?





expo'74

50th Celebration

LWVSA Environment Committee

EXPO'74 — 50 YEARS OF ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Community Conversations on the Climate Crisis May 4 to July 4, 2024

HELP NEEDED:

The LWVSA Environmental Issues Committee members and other interested League members are planning the facilitation and format of community conversations in partnership with Spokane County Library District. The following information will appear in the spring issue of SCLD's publication *Engage*.

Here's what we need you to do:

- Read description of Expo'74 event below
- What questions and/or techniques would you ask if facilitating a community conversation?

Provide between 1 and 6 questions and/or facilitation ideas.

- What would you recommend in terms of resources for a handout?
- Would you be willing to consider volunteering for one of the community conversations? Volunteer needs are for co-facilitators, welcomers, and League info table monitors.

If you are interested in participating in our planning efforts, please contact Elaine Harger, eharger@drizzle.com, 509-893-8862 (landline), 425-221-8294 (texts).

EVENT DESCRIPTION:

Expo'74 was the first World's Fair to focus on environmental issues. In 1974, the greenhouse effect, industrial pollution of water, soil and air, nuclear waste, deforestation, and loss of wild habitats were of great concern globally. Fifty years later, the planet is experiencing the effects of five decades of only minor action to solve these problems — wildfires, floods, sea level rise, hurricanes and tornados, species extinction, social tensions and dislocation. The Spokane County Library District and the League of Women Voters Spokane Area, invite the public to engage in community conversations during Expo'74 50th Anniversary to talk about how individuals, neighborhoods, and municipalities can take action to prepare for the impacts of the climate crisis. Come to these events to share your concerns, ask questions, and exchange ideas with others. For those who wish to learn more about the climate crisis, Spokane County Library District librarians and League of Women Voters Spokane Area recommend any or all of the following books.

Books written for adults

- *Afterglow: Climate Fiction for Future Ancestors*, edited by Grist
- *All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis*, by Ayana Johnson, K. Wilkinson
- *Believers: Making a Life at the End of the World*, by Lisa Wells
- *Beloved Beasts: Fighting for Life in an Age of Extinction*, by Michelle Nijhuis
- *A Bigger Picture: My Fight to Bring a New African Voice to the Climate Crisis*, by Vanessa Nakate
- *The Story of More: How We Got to Climate Change and Where to Go from Here*, by Hope Jahren

Books written for young adults

- *Global: One Fragile World. an Epic Fight for Survival*, by Eoin Colfer, A. Donkin, and Giovanni Rigano
- *How to Change Everything: The Young Human's Guide to Protecting the Planet and Each Other*, by Naomi Klein
- *No Planet B: A Teen Vogue Guide to the Climate Crisis*, edited by Lucy Diavolo
- *The Twenty-One: The True Story of the Youth Who Sued the U.S. Government Over Climate Change*, by Elizabeth Rusch
- *Two Degrees*, by Alan Gratz
- *A World Without Fish*, by Mark Kurlansky

Books written for children

- *Greta and the Giants*, by Zoe Tucker and Zoe Persico
- *Here, the Dot We Call Home*, by Laura Alary
- *Little Pine Cone: Wildfires and the Natural World*, by Johanna Wagstaffe and Julie McLaughlin
- *Sea Bear: A Journey for Survival*, by Lindsay Moore
- *Stand Up! Speak Up! A story inspired by the climate change revolution*, by Andrew Joyner
- *To Change a Planet*, by Christina Soontornvat and Rahele Jomepour Bell

DATES & LOCATIONS:

SPOKANE VALLEY Wednesday, May 8, 6:30-8:00pm

CHENEY Wednesday, May 15, 6-7:30pm

ARGONNE Thursday, June 6, 4-5:30pm

NORTH SPOKANE. Saturday, June 8, 2-3:30pm

MORAN PRAIRIE Wednesday, June 12, 2-3:30pm

DEER PARK Thursday, June 27, 5-6:00pm

If you are interested please contact Elaine Harger at
eharger@drizzle.com; 509-893-8862 (landline); 425-221-8294 (texts).



Voter Services Report

by Elaine Harger

Voters voted in November! And, elections that the League ran candidate forums for in October were won and lost. Other than that, November 2023 was a very quiet month for Voter Services.

On Nov. 8, however, the statewide league voter services chairs meeting took place. Mike Bey with TVW, Washington state's public television station, spoke with us about getting candidate forums televised in the 2024 elections. For info about TVW, see their website at <https://tvw.org/about/>.

Voter Services did replenish supplies of buttons and stickers and bookmarks and flags, the swag we offer people who stop by LWVSA tables wherever we are. American flags are very popular with the children of new citizens at naturalization forums, and high schoolers love the stickers. A new one has been made: I'm a Voter!

The last week of November saw LWVSA volunteers registering new voters at naturalization ceremonies in downtown courthouses. We'll also be present at Spokane Community College's Peace Institute event entitled Harmony and Hope: Spokane's Path to Homelessness Peace. As the December newsletter deadline happens before these three events, readers will get information about them next month.

On December 5th, Central Valley High School students have organized an event entitled CommunityVoice: A Collaboration Between Students & Community Change-Makers. I've been invited to be on the panel of community members along with Travis Scott, Liberty Lake City Council; Cindy McMullen, CVSD School Board; Carmela Convoy, Chair of the Spokane County Democrats; Tim Hattenburg, Spokane Valley City Council; and Vicky Dalton, Spokane County Auditor. Readers will get a full report on that also next month.

Interested in getting involved in Voter Services? Give me a call or send an email!

Elaine Harger, 509-893-8862 and eharger@drizzle.com

Update from LWVWA Lobby Team

By Cynthia Stewart, LWVWA Lobby Team Chair

Each year LWVWA hosts two events related to the legislative session. One is the **Action Workshop**, scheduled this year for December 2, where League members can learn about the upcoming session and anticipated League advocacy and how League members can help. The second is **Democracy Lobby Week**, co-sponsored with Fix Democracy First. That is scheduled this year for the evenings of January 22 through 25. During these Lobby Week evenings, legislative updates are provided on specific issues; and during the day, local League and Fix Democracy First

members can participate in meetings with their legislators.

Please contact Lunell Haught at lh1@fastmail.com or 509-443-1319, if you would like to participate in Democracy Lobby Week.

Where to Send Newsletter Submissions

The deadline for January's issue is

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

Please send to: corderographics@gmail.com

Julie Cordero's contact the number is 509-786-2998 (text ok)

If you would like to receive a **PDF version** of the newsletter, please email to lwvsaleadership@gmail.com to request one.

Interested in Volunteering?

Who Do You Call?

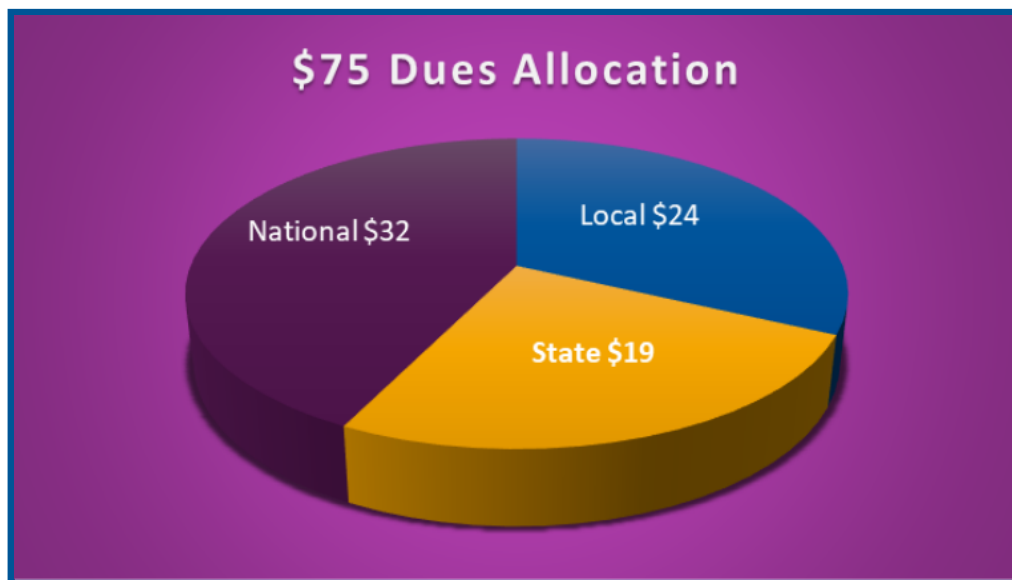
Contact the individuals below to participate in events and on Committees:

Affordable Housing	Sherri Gangitano	LWVSAAHHS@gmail.com
Communications	Jean Richardson	LWVSALeadership@gmail.com
Environmental Issues	Amy Compestine	acomp4274@gmail.com
Voter Services	Elaine Harger	eharger@drizzle.com

Join the League of Women Voters of Spokane Area

Join or Renew Online at:

<https://my.lwv.org/washington/spokane-area/join-or-renew-form>



Member Directory Available

A printable pdf of the most recent issue of the member directory can be found on the [Members Only page](#) of LWVSpokane.org.

If you're not able to access the directory, please email LWVSACommunications@gmail.com and we will send you one.

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

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