

Renew Your Membership! See page 3.

THE **V**oter

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS' OF SPOKANE AREA
VOLUME LXXXVII ISSUE 12, December 2024
A printable version of The Voter is available at LWVSpokane.org

Come One, Come All —

Member Meeting — Tuesday, Dec. 10 at the Hillyard Library — 4:30-6:30

By Elaine Harger

December's member meeting will be a one-of-a-kind opportunity for serious activism, socializing, and out-of-the-box thinking.

Activate Your Inner Activist — Hear from special guests how League members can assist members of Spokane's immigrant and refugee community, many of whom are fearful (rightfully so) of what actions the incoming Trump administration might take against them. This will be an opportunity to find your own place in this very important work.

75th Anniversary Celebration — February 14 in 2025 marks the 75th anniversary of the official recognition of Spokane's League. We need to celebrate and will be soliciting ideas during the December meeting. Also, if you can't make the meeting, but have ideas, please email Ruth May at ruthmay250@gmail.com.

No Obligation Cookie Exchange — As announced in last month's *The Voter*, we're reprising last year's December cookie/treat



Come All... Cookie Exchange continued next page

Calendar

AH&HS Committee Meeting
Sunday, Dec 1, 5:30pm to 6:30pm
on Zoom, for meeting link email lwvsaaahs@gmail.com.

LWVWA Action Workshop
Saturday, Dec. 7, on Zoom — 9am to 12pm End-of-year action workshop to prepare for the upcoming legislative session. For more info and to register: <https://lwvwa.org/event-5933415?CalendarView-Type=1&SelectedDate=11/13/2024>

Membership Meeting,
Tuesday Dec. 10, 4:30pm to 6:30pm
at Hillyard Library 4110 N Cook St.

Board Meeting, Thursday, Dec. 12, 5pm to 7pm on Zoom, for meeting link email eharger@drizzle.com

Lunch with the League
Friday, Dec. 13 at Frankie Doodles Restaurant, 30 E. 3rd Ave.
11am League Orientation
12 noon Lunch
RSVP to Lunell at lh1@fastmail.com or 509-443-1319

Welcome Committee Meeting
Friday, Dec. 13 1pm at Frankie Doodles Restaurant, 30 E. 3rd Ave.

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exchange. Contributions to the exchange are welcome, but not required. Everybody gets treats whether or not they bring any. Here's how it works:

- (1) Bake/buy/steal 18 cookies/crackers/cakes
- (2) Plate 6 to share at the meeting. They can be cut into pieces to maximize number of tastings at the meeting.
- (3) Pack the remaining 12 into 3 containers of

4 each for folks to take home. Containers? Be creative – wraps or bags or boxes, ho-hum or festive!

- (4) Provide a note with your name and treat name on the container. Include more information as relevant: GF, Vegan, Paleo, Keto, nuts, etc. Maybe the story behind the recipe.
- (5) If not proprietary, provide the recipe so guests can copy or photograph it.

LWWA Action Workshop — December 7 on Zoom — 9am to 12pm

Be sure to attend this end-of-year action workshop to prepare for the upcoming legislative session. Join other League members across Washington state to discuss plans for contacting legislators in the new year. See here for more info and to register:

<https://lwvwa.org/event-5933415?CalendarViewType=1&SelectedDate=11/13/2024>

Affordable Housing and Homelessness Solutions (AHHS) Tis the Solution for Compassion

By *Becky Dickerhoof*

We are about to enter the holiday season where we celebrate hope and compassion. Around the world we can celebrate 50 holidays. Those holidays share concern for each other, families, friends, and the world we live in. They promote compassion and charity. Currently, in Spokane, the city and county, we are struggling to care for those who are unable to find housing. We have hundreds who are living on the street. We have thousands who are relying on family and friends to provide them with shelter. Even with all the construction taking place in eastern Washington, it is not housing those on fixed incomes, those working for minimum wage can afford. A recent study in WA found that a resident must work 3 low-income jobs to afford a 2-bedroom apartment in our state. As we bustle about preparing to celebrate one of the 50 holidays, we need to remember those who are unhoused have found

themselves in such a dire situation after suffering from trauma. Veterans are often suffering from PTSD. Retirees are living on a fixed income and have no way to meet rising costs. Medical costs often force people to choose between medication, food, and housing. Disabilities can financially drain a person and their families. There are reasons when even the most disciplined and fiscally responsible find themselves facing evictions. Once you are out on the street it becomes harder to find your way into housing. You lose your possessions, your legal documents and often find yourself with a criminal history because homelessness is now a crime. Be compassionate, contribute to Meals on Wheels, UGM, our community food banks, and the Christmas Bureau. These are only a few of the ways you can help our community.

Even with all the construction taking place in eastern Washington, it is not housing those on fixed incomes, those working for minimum wage can afford.

Our committee meets at 5:30 pm the first Sunday of every month by ZOOM. If you would like to attend contact lwvsaahhs@gmail.com for a link.

Environmental Issues Committee Update

By Amy Compestine

Members of our committee were at the Spokane Regional Labor Rally on October 16, and also hosted a booth at the Spokane Pride Youth Carnival on Halloween, to advocate for Vote No on I-2117, and to provide more information on the 4 ballot initiatives (I-2066, I-2109, I-2117, and I-2124). We are now celebrating that 3 of the 4 initiatives failed, thanks to the work of many organizations like the League, that helped inform the voters.

At the youth carnival, we also passed out candy and kits to make friendship bracelets spelling "I am a voter" as well as "LOVE" and "PRIDE" and had a voting activity for all attendees (black cat was the winner!) It was a very fun event and we will discuss at our next meeting if we want to plan to attend again next year!

In our November and December committee meetings we will talk about our program of work for the rest of the year (through June). These discussions to include: Plans for upcoming legislative session and what to expect, scheduling some spring tours of recycling and waste treatment plant, and program for April membership meeting.

To attend a committee meeting, please email amycompestine.lwvsa@gmail.com for meeting info.



LWVSA Environmental Issues committee members at Spokane Pride Halloween festival, urging last minute voters to vote NO on the four ballot initiatives, all but one which failed.

URGENT!! URGENT!! URGENT!! URGENT!! URGENT!!
Member Renewals are due by Jan 15! You can pay your 2025 dues now at
<https://my.lwv.org/washington/spokane-area/join-or-renew-form>



Board of Directors

President - Vacant

Vice President - Elaine Harger

Treasurer - Mike Bell

Secretary - Vacant

Directors - Lin McGinn, Pamela Joyner, Sue Irwin and Ruth May

Observer Corps is a perfect opportunity to understand how our local government operates and what decisions are being made that affect our personal lives without taking too much of your valuable time. Information the observers provide help the League decide which issues we might want to study further and possibly take action. If you are interested in finding out more about how you can help, please contact Sue Irwin at sgirwin@gmail.com.

Friday, December 20 is the Deadline for the January issue of *The Voter*.

Send submissions to: corderographics@gmail.com

Membership Committee Updates

By Lunell Haught

Interested in Digital Threats to Democracy? Join LWV Maine monthly events
<https://www.lwvme.org/events-month/202411>

<https://www.lwvme.org/civicrm-event/1945?a0=events-month&a1=202411>

<https://www.harvardmagazine.com/2024/11/technology-election-impact-harvard-latanya-sweeney-research>

State of Democracy in Washington

LWV Spokane will adopt its Program of Work for our local League and make recommendations for the State League's work next year. Program of Work includes issues or projects adopted by the League for study, action, or education at the local, state, and national levels. The Program of Work is adopted every two years at the state and national conventions (see League Lingo in your Member Handbook). Members across the state have formed an affinity group that will recommend a project (using a model created by LWV Maine) for adoption. Topics of research would include civic participation, money in politics, freedom of information, voting rights, our judicial system, and more. The audience would be League members, legislators, and all citizens of Washington. To join or learn more contact Lunell Haught (lh1@fastmail.com). Meets monthly.

Democracy and politics updates from around the country and Washington join Democracy Happy Hour hosted by League member Cindy Black, Executive Director of Fix Democracy. First Wednesdays at 5 p.m join [Democracy Happy Hour registration](#)

Welcome Committee Meeting at 1 pm on Friday, December 13

At Frankie Doodles Restaurant,
30 E 3rd Ave, 509-443-1319 (landline, no text) or email lh1@fastmail.com

Government interviews, meetings, and special programs, get daily coverage schedule at TVW
<https://tvw.org/daily-coverage-memo-sign-up/>

Washington preparations for the next four years, a second Trump administration see Attorney General Bob Ferguson / Attorney General-Elect Nick Brown Press Conference <https://www.tvw.org/watch/?clientID=9375922947&eventID=2024111129>

Local meetings of councils and boards

Get the zoom links from Range <https://rangemediaco/>

Lunch at Frankie Doodles Friday, December 13. Join at 11 for League orientation, lunch at 12, Welcome Committee meeting at 1 pm You can order or not, you're welcome to join us. 30 E 3rd Ave, Spokane, WA Bus stop and free parking. It would be great if you could let Lunell know you're coming 509-443-1319 (land line, no text or lh1@fastmail.com

Expect a questionnaire and a call

Welcome committee members are phoning all members as a follow-up to a questionnaire to make sure people are having the kind of League experience they want. Please respond to the survey and take a call within the next month.

Join or Renew Your Membership

You can pay your 2025 dues now at <https://my.lwv.org/washington/spokane-area/join-or-renew-form>.

Lunch with the League *Lunch at Frankie Doodles, 30 E. Third Ave.*

Friday, December 13 (every 2nd Friday of the month)

11am League orientation, learn how you can get the most from your membership. For new and long-term members.

12 noon order lunch or just join in the conversation – you don't have to buy anything! Free parking and on the bus line. (just east of Division on 3rd – meet downstairs in the back) <https://frankiedoodles.net>
RSVP to Lunell at lh1@fastmail.com or 509-443-1319 (land line, no text)



Voter Services Report

By Elaine Harger

Mid-October to mid-November activities included: Voter registration of 69 new citizens at a naturalization ceremony at Shriners facilitated by five League volunteers; a presentation at North Point Retirement Community about the League; Louise C. had a voter registration table at a community event; Beth P. visited 4 high schools; Susan H. and the ballot translation team completed a series of voter outreach workshops for naturalized citizens with Asians for Collective Liberation-Spokane at the Vietnamese Buddhist Temple and another for Chinese-American community, Latinos en Spokane webinar with Hispanics, and a workshop at Thrive for Afghans.

Given the results of the presidential election, Voter Services anticipates community requests for assistance. Stay tuned. Please attend the monthly member meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 10, to learn how the League might be able to assist community members and defend democracy as the new administration enters into office and begins to implement policies that impact both.



Photo credit: LWVUS

LWVUS posts information about Spokane's ballot translation project.

Thank You New and Renewing Members!



NEW MEMBERS:

Mary Ann Amemiya
David Blykowski-May
Monica Blykowski-May
Emily Grizzell
Linda Murphy
Connie Brockett Murray
Katherine Russell

RENEWING MEMBERS:

Jean Alliman
Aruna Bhuta
Christine Clark
Judith Gammon
Charles Hansen
Elaine Harger
Lunell Haught
Janet Katz
Mary Lloyd
Joanne Smieja
Alison Wells

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

Discrimination or harassment of any kind will not be accepted within the League, including but not limited to race, socio-economic status, age, ability status, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, gender, or marital status. The League is committed to fostering, cultivating, and preserving a culture of diversity, equity, inclusion, access, and belonging for all people. The League is an organization that respects and values the richness of our community and our members. The collective sum of our individual differences and life experiences represents not only our culture, but our reputation and the organization's mission/achievements as well.



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