

THE

Voter



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SPOKANE AREA

VOLUME LXXXVII ISSUE 7-8, July/August 2024

Membership Meeting Report

The LWVSA June member meeting was full of information and conversation, and is reported on in other places in this issue of *The Voter*.

One highlight was the varied discussions that took place during the three break-out sessions – membership recruitment and orientation, elevator speeches, and communications. In this issue, Lunell H. reports back on the membership committee (see page 2). Here are reports from the other two break-outs. Elevator speeches, facilitated by Beth P. and communications facilitated by Elaine H.

Elevator Speeches — The Idea & DIY Instructions

If someone asked you what the League of Women Voters does in your community, what would you say in 30 seconds? The idea is to come up with a message that conveys some of the things LWVSA has done that engages the attention and interest of the person with whom you are speaking. You want that person to want to learn more! Maybe even join!

Elevator speeches don't pop out of one's mind perfectly formed. They are created as a result of experience, reflection, brainstorming, composition and practice. Here are some helpful instructions for coming up with your own:

1. Write down all the achievement of the LWVSA of which you are proud.
2. Here is your speech starter: "What I do in our League is..."
3. Next, add details about your passion for what you do: "It fires me up to..."
4. Create elements of intrigue and curiosity.
5. Practice the resulting speech with another League member.

Keep an eye on upcoming issues of *The Voter* for exciting opportunities to compose and use your very own elevator speech.

Communications — The Challenge

Instagram — Who among all you *Voter* readers would be willing to manage an Instagram account for LWVSA?

The Voter — Julie C. is our wonderful newsletter editor. She's been at it for an entire year now and the newsletter has undergone a formatting and content update.

LWVSA Website — Jan W. and Mary H. are web-keepers extraordinaire, and need support as they launch into a review and make-over of our website.

Again, keep an eye on upcoming issues of *The Voter* for calls to help out with LWVSA communications.

Calendar



July/August 2024

Freedom in the Arboretum

July 4, 11am to 3pm Come to the Finch Arboretum to celebrate the Declaration of Independence. This is a non-partisan but lively event.

AH&HS Committee Meetings are Sundays, on July 7, and August 4 at 5:30pm to 6:30pm on ZOOM

These dates are subject to change. Please contact the AH&HS Committee at lwvsaaahs@gmail.com if you are interested in attending

Lunch with the League

Friday, July 12 – 12:00pm to 1:00pm

Let's try something new! Meet up at Frankie Doodles on Third Street east of Division. Free parking and on a bus line. You don't have to order a meal if you just want to join us and visit. RSVP to Lunell Haught lh1@fastmail.com or 509-443-1319.

Lunch with the League

Friday, August 9 – 12:00pm to 1:00pm

Be a Yankee Doodle show up at Frankie Doodles! Meet up at Frankie Doodles on Third Street east of Division. Free parking and on a bus line. You don't have to order a meal if you just want to join us and visit. RSVP to Lunell Haught lh1@fastmail.com or 509-443-1319.

Deadline for the September Issue of The Voter is Friday, August 23. Send submissions to corderographics@gmail.com

League of Women Voters of Spokane Area

Board Update

The new LWVSA board did not meet in June, so we have no report. Board members will be holding a retreat on Saturday, July 13 for purposes of determining how we should move forward, especially in the absence of a president, for the upcoming year. Lunell Haught will facilitate the retreat, and she hopes LWVSA committee chairs will be able to join the board retreat to participate in at least some of the discussions and planning.

A full report of the board retreat will be in the September issue of The Voter.

For more details regarding Board meetings, please contact Callie Coomes at calliecoomes@yahoo.com

A printable version of The Voter is available at LWVSpokane.org

JULY/AUGUST ISSUE 2024

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Lunch with the League

Fridays on July 12, & August 9
12pm to 1pm

Let's try something new! (We thought about a picnic...until we thought about noon in the summer in Spokane!)

Meet up at Frankie Doodles from noon to 1 pm on 30 E Third Ave, just east of Division. Free parking and on a bus line.

You don't have to order a meal if you just want to join us and visit. Please RSVP by July 11 to Lunell Haught lh1@fastmail.com, phone 509-443-1319 to reserve your place for the no-host lunch.

For information on Frankie Doodles see <https://restaurantguru.com/Frankie-Doodles-Spokane>



Board of Directors

President - Vacant

Vice President - Elaine Harger

Treasurer - Mike Bell

Secretary - Callie Coomes

Director - Lin McGinn

Director - Pamela Joyner

Housing and Homelessness in Spokane

Becky Dickerhoof

Homelessness in the Summer Months Spokane in the summer brings different challenges for those who are facing housing insecurity and homelessness. One of the most troubling is what happens to the children who are victims of this social injustice. During the academic year, schools provide resources for their students beyond the traditional coursework. There are free meals, food resources available for the weekends and adults who try to fill the gaps children face in an unfriendly world. Now that the schools have ended the regular term, they are tasked with helping their students survive the summer months. When the pandemic hit our shores, our representatives stepped forward and provided resources for the schools and day cares to help feed the children. Schools through the Spokane Area participate in the Federal program summer lunch program. But that does not always cover every meal, every day.

I am reminded of the phrase that became common

during my college years. "If you aren't part of the solution, you are part of the problem." How can you be part of the solution? Our community advocates can use your help this summer. Family Promise, Jewel's Helping Hands and Crosswalk provide food for seniors, families, children, and teenagers. Reach out and see how you might be able to help them. Contact your school district and see how you might be able to support their summer outreach programs. Contact the churches in your community and learn about their summer outreach programs and what support they need.

Finally, fire season is back, and we will soon need to provide emergency shelter from the smoke and heat. Shelters will need additional support from the community. We can complain and demand someone do something about it, or we can figure out how to become part of the solution and **DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!**

Environmental Committee

Our Community Conversations on the Climate Crisis are over. As is the 50th Anniversary Celebration off Expo '74 is over. A full report to follow in September.

Next on our agenda is to join the LWVWA Advocacy effort to urge voters to vote NO on Initiative 2117 in the November general election.

See the link below to LWVWA's press release taking a stand on 3 ballot initiatives including Initiative 2117 which will appear on the November ballot.

<https://www.lwvwa.org/in-the-washington-news/13344327>

Here is a link to the NO 2117 Coalition's website. <https://no2117.com>

Environmental Issues committee meetings re-



Membership Committee

The Membership Committee will meet in July to plan activities for the 2024-25 year.

If you want to join the committee or have suggestions please contact Lunell at lh1@fastmail.com.

Look for Orientation to the League gatherings in the fall, a new membership handbook, and more.



National League of LWV Convention took place at the end of June.

Delegates from Spokane were Jean Richardson, Becky Dickerhoof, and Callie Coomes.

The September issue of *The Voter* will contain their reports.

Thank You New and Renewing Members!



NEW:

Jenna Fliesen - new student member

RENEWING:

Jean (Gloria) Wells - renewing sustaining membership

Join the League of Women Voters of Spokane Area

follow this link

[Join or Renew Online](#)

\$75 Dues Allocation





Above: IVY Project organizers, special guests, and North Central High School students during and following the workshop following workshop on May 28.

Right: Julia Singer attends League voter registration table at the Foley Courthouse for June 14th naturalization ceremony.



Voter Services Report June 2024

Elaine Harger

June was quite the month for LWVSA voter services activities! From sunny Pride to stormy World Refugee Day to solemn courthouse naturalization ceremonies, League volunteers lived up to the old motto of the postal service – neither snow, nor rain, nor dark of night will stay these volunteers from empowering voters and defending democracy.

Julia S. and Dave A. reported from the Foley Courthouse that nine new citizens registered to vote. The question asked most frequently was, “Can I register online?” Julia and Dave answered by giving them a bookmark with the QR code taking them to the website for voter registration. Dave noted that his “...biggest highlight was helping the new citizens to allow me to guide them in filling out the forms. It seemed to make process easier we I said you can use the last four numbers of your Social Security instead of your drivers license number. Also while talking with them, I was able to tell them to sign their voter ballot the same exact way as they signed their registration to vote.” Julia ended with a concern, “Some people don’t seem to be interested in registering to vote and I am wondering if that is because they don’t really know what voting is or why they would care. IDK if we have a simple flyer/handout on that, emphasis on the ‘simple.’” (Note: See the ballot translation committee report in this issue for some exciting info regarding just that!)

Susan H. loaded a rain-soaked canopy, soggy League tablecloths and damp paper into her truck after the heavens opened at the World Refugee Day event and dried everything out once the sun returned to Spokane. A few days later, I zoomed with one of the event organizers with the International Rescue Committee about possible League workshops. More on that to come.

Volunteers at Pride thoroughly enjoyed the festive atmosphere that paraded by and engaged with them. Pride volunteers included Marilyn D. Suzi H., Sue I. Judy S., Sylvia O. Sally P., and Ruth M.

One matter reported from this most colorful event gives

us food for thought. The presence of our free U.S. flags, turned out to be offensive to some Pride participants and ended up behind the table at some point. What to do? Maybe something to discuss at an upcoming member meeting, which could lead to a deeper dive into the whole matter of “swag.” Our silicon bracelets, for instance, were mailed from China! What’s the carbon footprint of that give-away? What are the working conditions and wages of the people who make them? What does it say about the mission of the LWVSA that we give away stuff like this?

On to sunnier thoughts!

Freedom in the Arboretum, a Fourth of July event held annually at the Finch Arboretum is coming up. We’ll have a table there. Do come and help celebrate the Declaration of Independence with others in the Spokane community.

And, last but not least, the following photo is from the IVY (Informed Voting Youth) Project workshop on May 28. This was an after-school civics education event organized by the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, with LWVSA assistance, at North Central High School. Turnout was low, but over a dozen students attended and heard from AKA organizer Dr. Gina Caprice Clarke, City Council President Betsy Wilkerson, and County Auditor Vicky Dalton. Spokane Public Schools social studies coordinator Susie Girard was also in attendance, along with League volunteers and workshop co-organizers Lunell H. and myself, and AKA members from the Tri-Cities. Only three students stayed to the very end of the workshop, so the photo doesn’t do justice to student turnout. But, AKA and LWVSA are already planning a fall repeat, this time working closely with NCHS teacher Matt Johnson who is organizing a school civics club. See more about Matt and North Central students at <https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2024/jun/10/students-take-congressional-candidates-to-task-her/>

Beth P. will have an in-depth report about the IVY Project in a future issue of The Voter.

Interested in Volunteering?

Who Do You Call?

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

Affordable Housing - LWVSAAHHS@gmail.com.

Criminal Justice - Lin McGinn linmcginn2@aol.com

Environmental Issues - Amy Compestine acomp4274@gmail.com

Redistricting Task Force - Mary Lloyd riteasrain190@gmail.com

Voter Services - Elaine Harger eharger@drizzle.com

Interested in Leadership?

Not sure what is a good fit for your skills and schedule?

Contact Lunell Haught and get your questions answered

lh1@fastmail.com or 509-443-1319 or LWVSAleadership@gmail.com



World Refugee Day celebration on Saturday, June 15, 2024 at Garry Middle School, Spokane, WA.

Dear League of Women Voters,

On behalf of Refugee and Immigrant Connections Spokane and all our partner organizations, we would like to thank you for joining us for the annual World Refugee Day celebration this past Saturday, June 15th.

Although our event was cut short due to the unpredictable weather conditions, we know that, together, we were able to create a memorable experience for the refugee and immigrant community in Spokane. Over fifteen new citizens participated in the official naturalization ceremony and were able to make a connection with local organizations like yours! More than 300 people came out to celebrate this annual event, even in the pouring rain!

We are very thankful to Spokane Mayor Lisa Brown who was able to give a word of welcome from the City and personally deliver the World Refugee Day proclamation.

Dozens of local organizations brought resources and educational materials to share with the community, including: NW Fair Housing, Spokane County Library, SNAP, Global Neighborhood, YMCA, Red Cross, Barton English Language School, and many more.

CHAS Mobile Health Clinic provided vaccinations and healthcare information to individuals. It is wonderful that the League of Women Voters was able to register new citizens as voters! Thank you!

We thank the PJALS Peacekeepers and Spokane Police Department for their involvement in creating a safe and welcoming event for all. We are grateful to the refugee and immigrant artists and small business owners who participated as an important part of this event, including facilitating free community activities through traditional Henna, Flower Crowns, Face Painting, and artwork.

Feast World Kitchen was able to provide delicious meals cooked by refugee and immigrant Chefs from El Salvador, Syria, Bhutan, Malaysia, and Afghanistan.

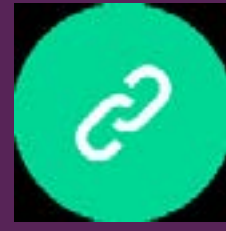
Thank you for supporting this event and being a part of the community that supports our refugee and immigrant neighbors as they build a new life in Spokane.

We hope to see you at next year's World Refugee Day!

Best regards,

Renee Kenney
Interim Executive Director

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.



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