

THE

voter

LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] OF SPOKANE AREA

VOLUME LXXXVII ISSUE 6, June 1, 2024

From Your Leadership Team

The LWVSA annual meeting is over, we have no president to lead us through the 2024 election and beyond, but we do have a dedicated board of directors, each member committed to seeing the League in Spokane continues to contribute to empowering voters and defending democracy. We also have several vibrant and very busy committees. See their reports later on in this newsletter.

LWVSA's new officers – VP Elaine Harger, Secretary Callie Coomes, and Treasurer Mike Bell – met with outgoing President Jean Richardson on May 25th to learn what our team must be prepared to do in the absence of a president. We learned quite a bit and, between the three of us along with board members Lin McGinn and Pamela Joyner and you – the members – our League will do just fine.

At the annual meeting we heard from members that the following are priorities:

- organize a member recruitment campaign
- recruit younger members and aim for greater diversity in our membership
- welcome new members
- re/connect with longtime members
- host how-the-LWVSA-works events
- have a discussion of what it means to be non-partisan when doing League work
- participate in LWVWA MELD groups
- help every member devise an “elevator speech” about the League
- sponsor candidate forums
- communicate more

In order to do all the above, the board needs your suggestions, expertise, guidance and help.

Please attend June’s monthly membership meeting where we’ll briefly provide information on how the LWVSA works, non-partisan outreach, MELD, LWVSA’s committees and – most importantly – have small group brainstorming sessions on: recruitment, candidate forums, elevator speeches, and communications.

You choose which interests you most.

DATE: Tuesday, June 11
TIME: 5:30 to 7:00 pm
LOCATION: Central Library, Event B, 906 W. Main Avenue, Spokane

Beyond our local League is a whole host of opportunities. Here are two, one local, the other national.

Election Observer Training

Training opportunities conducted by the Spokane County Elections Office are becoming available. In order to receive that training, however, a person must register through either a political party or a candidate’s campaign. Scheduled trainings so far are on June 25, 27, 28 and July 2. See “Meetings and Events” at <https://www.spokanecounty.org/5497/Elections>. You must scroll down on this webpage to see the information.

In addition, the Elections Office website hosts a PDF with observer training info: <https://www.spokanecounty.org/DocumentCenter/View/9738/Observer-Training-PDF?bidId=>

LWVUS Electoral College Project

Sign up for LWVUS “One Person, One Vote” campaign to do away with the Electoral College and get access to their organizing toolkit <https://www.lww.org/onepersononevote>

Calendar

June 2024

AH&HS Committee Meetings are Sundays, on June 2, 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 lwvsaahhs@gmail.com if you are interested in attending

June 1-2 – LWVWA Council Meeting in Olympia

Environmental Issues Committee Meeting, Thursday, June 6 - 6:00pm
Ambrosia Bistro, 9211 E Montgomery, Millwood

Lunch with the League Friday, June 14 – 12:00pm to 1:00pm
At The Osprey Restaurant at Ruby River Hotel 700 N Division St. Spokane. RSVP by June 13 to Lunell Haught lh1@fastmail.com or 509-443-1319,

Monthly Membership Meeting Tuesday, June 11 - 5:30 to 7:00 pm
Central Library, Event B, 906 W. Main Avenue, Spokane

Redistricting Task Force Meeting Thursday, June 20 – 3:00pm
Liberty Park Library, 402 S. Pittsburg St, Spokane, Study B.

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

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Board of Directors

- President - Vacant
- Vice President - Elaine Harger
- Treasurer - Mike Bell
- Secretary - Callie Coomes
- Director - Lin McGinn
- Director - Pamela Joyner



Lunch with the League!

Friday, June 14, 12pm to 1pm

LWV Spokane Area Luncheon

The Osprey Restaurant, in the Ruby River Hotel, 700 N. Division St.

Challenging things seem to go better when the people doing them know each other. Doing League business is important, and there isn't always time to get to know people at the meetings, so join us for lunch, you don't even have to eat, just join us. It is usually a small group of interested and interesting people, some have just joined and some have been in the League for years.

League members typically have an informal lunch the second Friday of the month - RSVP to Lunell Haught lh1@fastmail.com or 509-443-1319, by June 13 to reserve your place for the no-host lunch ...but if you forget come anyway - there's always room for more.

League of Women Voters of Spokane Area

Annual Meeting Summary

There were 28 people signed into the annual meeting held at the Spokane Valley Library on May 14th. Jean Alliman, Julie Cordero and Dawn Shuster were appointed to review the minutes.

Mike Bell presented the financial report and Dawn Shuster reviewed the Budget Assumptions. Members are urged to pay their dues by the end of the year. Beginning Feb 1 2025 National LWV will collect the dues and maintain the membership lists. Minimum dues will be \$20 of which the local leagues will receive 20%. National is encouraging members to pay the full \$75. Members will be urged to donate to local leagues to help meet budget needs.

The By-laws amendments were discussed and approved as amended.

The Conflict Resolution Process was approved as presented.

The Program of Work as distributed in The Call to Annual Meeting was approved with the addition of reviving the Criminal Justice Committee.

Lunell Haught presented the Nominating Committee report. Elaine Harger, Callie Coombs and Mike Bell were approved as the leadership committee.

After discussion, the members offered direction to the new board, including:

- * Increase and maintain membership
- * Diversify membership including by age, ethnicity, economic status and ability
- * Strengthen new member orientation
- * Strengthen and maintain non-partisan identity of the league
- * Encourage members to become more active in league activities

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

Affordable Housing and Homelessness Solutions (AHHS)

Housing and Homelessness in Spokane

Becky Dickerhoof

As we enter the summer construction season, we are encouraged to learn the city is poised to release funds that have been collected to support low-income housing. During the previous administration the city council enacted a special sales and service tax that would fund efforts to create more affordable housing and support services. When our county commissioners refused to enact the ordinance, we were fortunate the city proceeded and has accumulated several million dollars the current administration will now distribute. With two additional county commissioners and the opportunity to replace two of the incumbent commissioners this fall there is an opportunity for the county to enact this tax county wide allowing additional dollars be available. We encourage our members to add their voices to this effort. County commissioners meet every Tuesday at 2pm. You can sign up to testify just prior to the meeting for three minutes if the topic is not on the agenda.

This is an election year, and we need to raise our voices in support of the issues important to our

membership. Housing and homelessness are very real in Spokane county. Twenty percent of the residents of shelters return to the streets, only 9% of those who are in rapid rehousing return to the street. Placing people in jail because they have nowhere else to live costs taxpayers \$200 per day. That is \$1400 a week which would pay for an apartment for one month.

In 2022, 54% of the renters in Spokane paid more than 30% of their income for housing. That is not sustainable, especially if you have a family to provide for. We have always had the homeless among us but the numbers are climbing as income does not keep up with rising costs. During the pandemic, our government stepped up to help families with childcare costs and other basic needs. When the pandemic ended, government assistance ended, families were still faced with rising costs of childcare and basic needs. Many more families are now faced with the terror of eviction. Please add your voice to ours as we advocate for more AFFORDABLE housing in Spokane.

For more information about the ordinance and our local and state League's position check out these links.

[1590.PL.pdf \(wa.gov\)](#)

[League of Women Voters of Washington - 2020 Housing & Homelessness \(lwvwa.org\)](#)

[Washington State Legislature](#)

[Support Housing Levy 1590 | MyLO \(lwv.org\)](#)

[lwvsa_support_1590_levy-to_city_council.pdf](#)



Environmental Committee Community Conversations on the Climate Crisis



This is the link to our Community Conversations:

<https://my.lwv.org/washington/spokane-area/event/upcoming-expo74-anniversary-events-libraries>

Thank You New and Renewing Members!



NEW:

Naomi Harris

Bonnie Schneider

Kyla Scott

Travis Scott

Cynthia Villines

RENEWING:

Katy Culver

Jim Dempsey

Pat Dempsey

Membership

You can JOIN the League, and to feel like you BELONG here are some tips:

Lunell Haught

Read your monthly LWVWA newsletter (there are also newsletters from LWVWA and LWVUS - it can be confusing)

From the LWV Spokane Area website <https://my.lwv.org/washington/spokane-area> go to Members Only section (upper right corner - log in or set up your account)

Check out the roster of members https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/leagues/wysiwyg/%5Bcurrent-user%3Aog-user-node%3A1%3Atitle%5D/lwvsa_membership_list_1-31-24-jredit_0317.pdf Remember we/you NEVER share this information with anyone who is not a member and never send an email to everyone. Check out who is on the list and call someone for coffee/lunch/rideshare.

Check out the member handbook <https://my.lwv.org/washington/spokane-area/members-only/member-handbook-organizational-chart-bylaws-standing-committees-annual-report-more> to find out who you can contact to get involved in your particular interest area, what the League's positions are on issues and more.

The League (national, state, local only comments on

issues through the League President, leadership team or designee. To find out what League positions are, check out the local ones in the member handbook, state positions: <https://www.lwvwa.org/league-positions>, or national positions <https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/LWV-impact-2020.pdf>. The League has to have a position on an issue in order to advocate for/against it. The League NEVER supports or opposes candidates, just issues.

The League has several standing committees, some of which are reorganizing. Contact Lunell lh1@fastmail.com to follow up on your interests.

League members typically have an informal lunch the second Friday of the month - RSVP to Lunell Haught lh1@fastmail.com or 509-443-1319, by June 6 to reserve your place for the no-host lunch at the Osprey...but if you forget come anyway - there's always room for more.

Look for an orientation session this summer, Sessions are offered at least twice a year and you'll meet some interesting people AND learn a lot about the League.

NEW! Redistricting Task Force

Get on Board for Redistricting Reform in Washington

Mary Lloyd

This month, May 16, 2024, the LWV Redistricting Reform Task Force (RRTF) - Spokane Area (LWVSA) - Local Area Team (LAT) public meeting met at the Liberty Park Library. Although no public attended this month, our team focused on our next steps in the months ahead in our LAT public relationship building.

Our latest RRTF League goal is the LWVWA Op Ed piece for the Spokesman Review publishing on Redistricting Reform in Washington state. This Op Ed draft has completed formal review by LWVWA Board and will be submitted over the signature of Mary Coltrane, LWVWA President. As with any local league activity, the inclusion of the newly elected LWVSA Board of Directors has been provided the Op Ed for review and comments were accepted. Keep an eye out for this published article.

As with any Op Ed, there is the possibility that readers will have a peak of interest and begin to actively inquire and attend our LAT monthly gatherings where we continue to provide the LWVWA direction for redistricting reform for Washington. The LAT is making plans for future member understanding through meetings and articles.

In May Ann Murphy and Mary Lloyd joined the Moran Prairie Library audience in the gathering of the non-partisan PEG - People for Effective Government

- where their goal of civics education of our community presentation and conversations focused on the role of local news media this month. Ann and Mary with our LWVSA LAT hats talked with each of the local news presenters which represented a large swath of our Inland Northwest. Our League RRTF LAT team will continue our contact with PEG for potential future collaboration on redistricting reform Stay tuned!

We are settling into being a busy team, continuing to build our community relationships with our RRTF efforts. Apart from having the June meeting cancelled for a small interim break from our schedule conflicts, regular meetings will continue on the third Thursday of the month at 3 PM, resuming in July.

If you have an interest in learning more or joining our team, please attend LAT formal meetings held on third Thursdays of the month at 3 PM - Liberty Park Library, (402 S. Pittsburg St, - room Study A or B). Look for our League signing on the entry doors of the Study room.

Or if you have more interest in and want to be more informed and involved and would like some background information for the RRTF LAT, please contact Mary Lloyd at riteasrain190@gmail.com.

Join the League of Women Voters of Spokane Area

follow this link

[Join or Renew Online](#)

\$75 Dues Allocation



Interested in Volunteering?

Who Do You Call?

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

Affordable Housing - LWVSAHHS@gmail.com.

Criminal Justice - Lin McGinn linmcginn2@aol.com

Environmental Issues - Amy Compeste 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 LWSAleadership@gmail.com

Remember “School House Rock”?



Brimo Nyinkuany, Assistant Director of Refugee Immigrant Connections Spokane and Judy Silverstein, of the Translated Ballot Project.

The Ballot Translation Committee continues to explore ways to make voting clearer to our ESL Citizens. Naturalized citizens are so excited to become a citizen, so excited to register to vote and then fail to actually submit a ballot. If you haven't grown up in

the US, if you are more familiar with the voting process in another country, our system can be daunting. Because we don't meet the required language population minimum, Spokane county is not eligible for state funded translated ballots. In 2020 our League tried to fill that void by creating master ballots with every race in Spokane so that people could find their ballot information in their native language. As we began that process for 2024, we discovered that wasn't enough. Naturalized citizens need more instruction in how to fill out a ballot, how to submit a ballot and where to take the completed ballot. That's where Schoolhouse Rock comes in. That Saturday morning ditty that taught us how a "Bill isn't just a Bill" among other civic topics. We are currently working with a Capstone Graphics Arts class at EWU to create materials, without words so we don't have to translate, to show citizens the mechanics of voting. After getting over the shock of no words or numbers, the students have created some truly amazing products. We can't wait to share them with you in July. Look forward to seeing them as we partner with other groups in Spokane to get them out to ESL citizens.

Voter Services Report

June 2024

Elaine Harger

May has been a busy month for LWVSA voter services and June will be equally active. In fact, every month through to Election Day '24 is likely to see League volunteers fully engaged in empowering voters and defending democracy.

TRANSLATED BALLOT AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION OUTREACH PROJECT

This is one active committee! Becky Dickerhoof, Gina Calza-Raebel, Dawn Shuster, Mary Moore, Judy Silverstein, and Susan Hales (project coordinator) are reaching out to Spokane's large immigrant community with voter registration and education. The last Saturday of every month they table at El Mercado a community outreach event organized by Latinos En Spokane. They have conducted voter education workshops with Refugee and Immigrant Connections, the Barton School, Muslims for Community Action and Support, Thrive International, the Asian/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander festival and more. They event have a very creative partnership with an EWU graphic arts class! Students are designing ballot information handouts, flyers, booklets, and zines. The idea is to convey the voting process in images only.

On June 4th project members will select one final product for mass production and use throughout the immigrant community.

CANDIDATE FORUM

On May 20th, the LWVWA (with much help from LWVSA) conducted a candidate forum for Superintendent of Public Instruction at Ridgeline High School in Liberty Lake. The forum included a panel of students who asked questions of three of the four candidates running in the upcoming August primary. We counted 75 members of the public in attendance, and the event was broadcast and recorded by TVW, and covered by the Spokesman-Review.

TVW recording: <https://tvw.org/video/league-of-women-voters-superintendent-of-public-instruction-candidate-forum-2024051047/?eventID=2024051047>

Spokesman-Review article: <https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2024/may/22/smart-phones-and-state-funding-candidates-for-stat/>

UPCOMING

June 8 – Spokane Pride, tabling at Riverfront Park

June 15 – World Refugee Day, tabling at Nevada Playfield, Garry Middle School

Many thanks to all LWVSA members who volunteer your time, energy and enthusiasm for all these outreach activities. *Spokane is lucky to have you here!*



Informing voters.
Empowering people.

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.



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