



VOLUME LXXXVIII ISSUE 9, October 1, 2023

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

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From the President

Generations in League

By Jean Richardson

On September 22nd, I took the day off from work and spent most of it at Eastern Washington University, first tabling at EWU's Neighborfest and then chatting with a friend and colleague whom I met several years ago when we were both speaking at a conference devoted to issues in the software development industry. It was a glorious day, and I came home good and tired. It was lovely to be out in the early fall air and among so many young people. I found myself complimenting many of them on their clothing, jewelry, and overall lovely appearance.

Mostly women stopped by the table, but some came with men in tow and some men came on their own. Faculty and staff also stopped by, and I learned that there are voter registration forms available in the career center. As a side benefit, I got to spend time getting to know a few League members better in an informal setting, which was also fun.

The vibrant energy of these students—by far the majority of whom were already registered to vote—was a tonic even as the rain began to spit a bit. One young woman spoke quietly and urgently about her desire to study law. She is currently getting a degree in English. I felt I might have been looking at myself at that point in my life. Another student walked by with a charming 18-month-old child on her hip and stopped to talk about the importance of voting. When people tell me they are registered to vote I always ask them if they do vote. **The greatest majority at this event not only vote but many understand the particular importance of voting not just in the presidential race but in local elections.**

I have spent my entire career working in a young—and male-dominated—field. A software developer in their early 40's can easily be seen as old. The brain changes over time, and the kind of thinking that is required to build software becomes more challenging with those changes. You have to be willing to learn for a living—and put in a fair amount of time outside of working hours keeping your personal mind/body learning system in good order. A few years ago, one of my male colleagues commented to me “You’ve been in this field a long time for a woman.” Yes, indeed, he said that with a straight face—and he was about my age. Women in my field are very aware of sexism in the workplace and what loss of those recently won rights can do to their careers—and therefore, their lives.

I am often in peer relationships at work with people much younger than I am. It's the nature of my field. So, the lack of people under 40 in our League stands out starkly to me. In a town with so many colleges and universities, it seems strange not to have more student members. We certainly read and hear in the news that people in high school and college across the country are active on the most important issues of our time, and some of them are running for office.

I encourage you to speak to your younger friends and relatives about the importance not just of voting but that their involvement in the League would be welcome and valued. There is much to do, and many hands make light work.

On Friday I was handing out my phone number and inviting students to call me to talk about the League. **We say “the children are our future,” but the people I am referring to are not children. They are adults raising families, conducting careers, and enacting the path to the future of all of us in their daily activities. We need them. We need each other.** It's time to have conversations that let them know they are needed in the League and to welcome them as fellow enthusiasts in support of our mission: Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

I'll see you around! - Jean

Calendar



October 2023 Calendar

October 1, – Affordable Housing Committee Meeting, on Zoom at 5:30 p.m.

Friday, October 13 – LWV Spokane Area Luncheon at the Osprey, inside Ruby River Hotel, 700 N Division St, Spokane, at 12:00 p.m.

October 19, – First meeting of the Criminal Justice Committee, St Andrews Church, 2404 N Howard St., Spokane, at 6:00 p.m.

October 10, – General Membership Meeting, Shadle Park Library, 2111 W Wellesley Ave, Spokane and on Zoom at 5:00 p.m.

Summary of September 20 Board Meeting

The LWVSA Board met on September 20, 4 p.m. on Zoom. A link is available if other members want to attend our meetings, but no guests were present.

Staffing President, Jean Richardson reported that she is still looking for a Communications Chair and a Membership Chair. After discussion, The Board voted to table filling the Action Chair. Lin McGinn volunteered to temporarily chair the Criminal Justice Chair position, call a meeting for interested members and write an article for the Voter.

Treasurer, Mike Bell, was unable to attend the meeting, but submitted a written report indicating that LWVSA has a cash balance \$19,702 with \$2,176 to be used to pay half of the LWVUS PMP and the LWVSA Education fund has a cash balance of \$5,087 with \$2,176 to pay the other half of the LWVUS PMP. Details are available on the shared drive. There was also discussion about moving our account to another institution and the matter was tabled to the Oct. Board meeting.

Voter Services Elaine Harger reported that voter registrations have been active including events at the American Indian Community Center and the local colleges and universities. She is busy scheduling candidate and ballot issue forums and needs volunteers to help with timing, set up, etc. She is working with KSPS to try to get a forum on the Jail Funding Proposal that will be on the November Ballot. A full list of the forums will be printed in the Oct. Voter.

Membership Jean reported that she continues to work on revitalizing membership and that the monthly tea/luncheon has been moved to The Osprey. There was discussion about attracting younger members and helping them feel welcome. There was also discussion about Becky

Dickerhoof's recommendations to lessen Board level work and engage members more directly in actions.

Affordable Housing and Homelessness Committee Becky Dickerhoof submitted a written report that is available on the shared drive. At her request following committee research the Board voted unanimously to oppose **Spokane City Proposition 1.**

and Spokane County Measure 1.

There was discussion about the need to appoint a nominating committee as one was not elected at the Annual Meeting last Spring. Pam Joyner will be working on this.

Environmental Committee Amy Compestine submitted a written report saying that the committee will meet October 1, and will be promoting future events with the GU Climate Center. The Board discussed having a general meeting on this topic.

Other Topics After discussion, no action was taken on the Spokane City redistricting proposal that will be on the February ballot.

After discussion, no action was taken on the request from the Chinook tribe to support their request for recognition.

Board of Directors

President:Jean Richardson
Vice President:Pamela Joyner
Treasurer:Mike Bell
Secretary:Carol Lander-McVicker
Director:Lin McGinn
Director:Elaine Harger

LWV Spokane Area Luncheon

New Location!

The Osprey, inside Ruby River Hotel
Friday, October 13, 2023
700 N Division St, Spokane, WA 99202
12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

R.S.V.P. to Jean Richardson

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

Member Profile

Becky Dickerhoof



Becky began attending the League of Women Voters (LWV) meetings while working as a Laboratory Technician for the Department of Biology at the College of Wooster (COW) from 1986 to 1991. The LWV met near campus at the historic Wooster Inn, built in 1958. Becky enjoyed this restaurant so much that she began attending LWV meetings just to go there! **She found the LWV meetings to be a good source of unbiased information and became a regular attendee, often bringing along friends.** Interestingly enough no one asked her to join or followed up on her attendance. (Note: let's not do that!)

Becky's mother served as mayor of Jenera, OH and her uncle as a precinct officer, so she witnessed civic participation while growing up.

Becky majored in Wildlife Management/Poultry Science at Ohio State University. Her field was the commercial production of game birds. While there, she met her husband Ron who was a student in Agricultural Education/Dairy Science.

Prior to her tenure with the COW Becky worked for a commercial lab as a Necropsy Supervisor. At the time the lab was working on developing Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for Shell Oil & Chemical Company. Her job was to supervise the removal of tissues from experiment animal subjects to provide information on how the chemicals might affect humans.

Her husband taught agriculture and coached Parliamentary Procedure teams in FFA. Several of their children were on FFA teams and competed at the state level.

Over the years Becky held many positions while moving throughout Ohio. Including retail, USDA Egg Grader, Program Assistant for the US Extension Service, Substitute Teacher, Preschool teacher, Life Science (Biology)

Teacher, working at a private campground and as a dairy farmer. "We milked Holstein cows for fourteen years!" she said.

In 2017 the OHIO LWV joined a coalition working on redistricting reform. Becky downloaded petitions to gather signatures to get redistricting on the ballot, going door-to-door, to community events, fairs and farmers markets. **Often, Republicans and Democrats were assigned tables near each other at these events and Becky would work whichever table was getting more traffic - she was among the top signature gatherers in the State!**

Two of their children and three of their six grandchildren were already living here when Becky and Ron moved to Spokane in 2019. Becky and Ron are very involved with their family and the grandkids participate in basketball, football and dance. Even so, Becky joined the LWVSA and its Homeless Solutions committee, which morphed into the Affordable Housing and Homeless Solutions committee. The committee was successful in getting the LWVSA Board to submit their resolutions to the Spokane City Council concerning the homeless crisis in Spokane. The committee continues to monitor the city's response to the current situation.

To take an official stance on an issue like this, the LWV needs to provide evidence at the local, state and national level, showing why the LWV is taking the stance it is. A full study normally takes up to two years to complete. Becky and her group learned to connect with other LWV chapters across the state and nation to find current documented League positions, studies and evidence on the issue to bring to the Board.

In December 2021 and January of 2022, the committee received approval to send letters to the city council and mayor, outlining action steps regarding lack of beds available for people experiencing homelessness in Spokane.

When it comes to citing supporting evidence to make official LWVSA statements, Becky pointed out that because defending democracy is in our very mission statement, the League was able to very quickly take a stand on the January 6, 2021, insurrection.

As we said good-bye, Becky noted that we each can use our own talents and skills as members of the League of Women Voters and as individuals in our community to achieve important goals.

Spokane League of Women Voters is forming a
Committee on Criminal Justice Reform

We have Ballot Issues on Criminal Justice and a New Jail this Year.

**First meeting of the Criminal Justice Committee:
October 19, 2023 • 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
St Andrews Church, 2404 N Howard St., Spokane WA.**

Please come to our first Committee on Criminal Justice Reform.

Follow the link below to understand Criminal Justice Positions of the
League of Women Voters of Washington State. (Please read it!)

[LWV Washing State CJ Positions](#)

Questions? Contact Director Lin McGinn linmcginn2@aol.com 509-979-9378



Becky Dickerhoof at Shadle Park High School, October 2022

Civic Education

Beth Pellicciotti, Civic Education

Have you thought of volunteering in civic education?

I joined the Spokane League in September 2017, and my two goals in joining (I knew no one in the League) were to meet people and to do important work. Having recently retired and leaving Indiana for Washington State, I was in transition, saying good-bye to 35 years of work friends as well as leaving very engaging work.

Many League members come to the League work this way. The state League's (LWVWA) recent survey of members showed that two-thirds joined the League because of a life event – moving or retiring. [LWVWA Internal Survey 2022](#)

In 2017 my first interest was in civic education, and I have stayed with this focus ever since. I didn't know much about civic education, but I knew that it was important for youth and for adults. I also couldn't remember any course I had taken in civics – either in high school or in college.

Soon after I joined the League, we formed a Civic Education Committee. In the spring of 2018, committee members committed to doing voter registration with civics students in the Spokane Public Schools (SPS), thanks to the wonderful work of Susie Gerard, Coordinator of Secondary Social Studies in SPS.

Now, every fall semester, I recruit Spokane League members who might want to do voter registration in civics classes. We meet with civics classes in almost all the Spokane High Schools.

Susie Gerard sets the schedule, and volunteers can choose to meet with two classes or more depending on the volunteer's schedule. When I asked one of the volunteers last fall how he liked the experience, he said, "How else would I get to meet civics students and teachers and become a part of this high school experience?"

Because many Spokane League members may be new to voter services, I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you (ZOOM or in person) to go over the basics in voter registration. In the classes themselves, you would also be paired with another League member with experience in voter registration, if you had any questions. Your work would involve:

- handing out voter registration forms,
- answering students' questions as you walk through the aisles,
- being a much-appreciated "second hand" to the League member presenting to the class about the importance of voting and voting mechanics.

If you prefer volunteer work that does not involve a schedule and meetings in person, consider joining the KSPS Civics Bowl Writing Team. This fall, this group of Spokane League members will develop questions for the 2024 Civics Bowl, which will involve 10 different high school teams answering questions about civics (think Knowledge Bowl or Jeopardy).

The Spokane League members each take two chapters in the current high school civics textbook and will create questions and answers that KSPS will then translate into rounds in the civics bowl. Susie Gerard joins the team, helping us understand how to better understand the material and how to write questions. You DO NOT need to be an expert in civics to be on the writing team, just enjoy writing and proofreading and contributing to a very meaningful event for youth.

If you are interested in volunteering for either of these experiences or if you would just like to learn more about them, please contact me at 219-688-7263 or pelliccmb@gmail.com. Perhaps you would just like to talk about civic education locally or in the state. I would welcome that conversation!



Voter Services Report

by Elaine Harger

CANDIDATE FORUMS

The 2023 general election is coming up and, as chair of Voter Services, I've been helping several community partners organize candidate forums:

Sept 30 — Spokane City Council, District 2 — Liberty Park Library, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Oct 2 — Millwood City Council — Masonic Lodge, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Oct 6 — Spokane City Council, District 3 — Shadle Park Library, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Oct 11 — Fairfield City Council — Fairfield Community Center, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Oct 12 — Spokane City Council, District 1 — Hillyard Library, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Oct 16 — Central Valley School District — University High School, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Oct 18 — Medical Lake School District — Medical Lake High School, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Volunteers are needed: 2-5 to welcome audience members; one to serve as timekeeper.

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

Too many tasks! Can't handle one more! Skip that opportunity!

That's what I concluded when it came to National Voter Registration Day, 9/19/2023. I hated my decision, but... However, life has a funny way of making things work out. On the 18th I got an email

request for voter registration packets from the American Indian Community Center. On the morning of the 19th, I stuffed 75 envelopes, delivered them by noon, and later in the day AICC registered 78 new voters! National Voter Registration Day 2023? LWVSA was there!

VOTER SERVICES COMMITTEE

Transitions are always fraught with tasks that fall between the cracks, and my takeover from Becky has certainly not been an exception.

I've not kept up with those who have served on the Voter Services Committee. To remedy this, I've begun phoning LWVSA members in an attempt to revitalize the committee and reach out to folks who might be interested in joining. You are needed!

What's at stake? The 2024 elections are only one year away, and the League's work — empowering voters and defending democracy — is needed now more than ever.

VOLUNTEER! Contact me at eharger@drizzle.com;
509-893-8862 (landline); 425-221-8294 (texts).

LWVSA Environment Committee

Expo'74 50th Anniversary Update

LWVSA is partnering with the Spokane County Library District to host community conversations about the climate crisis at SCLD libraries during the 50th anniversary celebrations of Expo'74. These events will take place between May 4 and July 4, 2024.

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, 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+50 to talk about how individuals, neighborhoods, and municipalities can take action to prepare for the impacts of the climate crisis.

LWVSA will need volunteers to help facilitate these community conversations.

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



AHHS - Affordable Housing and Homelessness Solutions

October 10, 2023 is World Homeless Day.

Homelessness Surfaces in North America in 1640

Homelessness is first documented in America, following the European invasion and colonization.

As we enter October the members of our committee have been busy engaging with many community activities and the upcoming election. One recent event “**Pathways to Housing Security in Washington State**” was hosted by the William D. Ruckelshaus Center. The Washington State Legislature tasked the Center to facilitate discussions to inform principles, options, and recommendations for a long-term statewide strategy to improve services and outcomes to create a pathway to housing security. There have been many fact-finding sessions and the report will be submitted to the legislature in December. We encourage you to go to follow this link to learn more about this effort: [Ruckelshaus Center Housing Project](#)

We would also like to recommend a recent publication about Camp Hope, ***A Place To Exist: The True and Untold Story of Camp Hope and Homelessness In Spokane***, available on Amazon. As a committee we have strived to get all sides of the issue, interviewing both city, county representatives and issue advocates. We feel this book provides insight into another side of the crisis.

Finally, we are looking closely at the two issues that will be on our ballot on November 7. Spokane City Proposition #1 and Spokane County Measure #1 will both be presented to constituents for consideration. We recently reviewed both ballot items and after carefully considering the current positions of the LWVSA, LWVWA and LWV we requested our local board oppose both items. We were pleased they accepted our petition and moved to oppose Proposition #1 and Measure #1. We hope you will look closely at both.

Spokane City Proposition #1 will be in direct conflict with the LWVSA Local Government policy, Municipal 1-a-5 Management Principles: sound management practices should be applied to city operations in order to ensure maximum efficiency and ECONOMY (Page 12), LWVWA Position (From Program in Action) – HO-1 – Housing (Page 43) and LWV from the “Impact on Issues” notes under Meeting Basic Human Needs, “all individuals and families deserve effective social programs, income, and services to meet their basic needs for food, shelter, and access to health care. (Page 146).”

When most of our residents think of homelessness, they envision those with mental illness and drug addiction. There are many more who are employed and living in their vehicles, often finding a parking spot as inconspicuous as possible. We are also talking about children, whose lives we can only imagine. When their parents and guardians are issued a citation for any minor infraction it has a ripple effect on their ability to save for housing or qualify once they have met the financial costs.

Spokane County Measure #1 is very vague and is described as a way to pay for a new jail and also increase the ability of our law enforcement agencies to remove persons from our streets. Again, please look closely at what you are voting for. We feel Spokane County Measure #1 violates our local position, LWVSA Local Government, City-County, 1, (Page 13), LWVSA Local Government, City-County, 2, (Page 13). LWVWA Representative Government RG-3, (Page 18) and LWV Impact on Issues, Citizen Rights CITIZEN'S RIGHT TO KNOW/CITIZEN PARTICIPATION "The League's Position Statement of Position on the Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation, as announced by the national board, June 1984 and The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that democratic government depends upon informed and active participation at all levels of government.

The League further believes that governmental bodies must protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings, and making public records accessible, (Page 52)." We are concerned that not enough county representation has been involved in determining what these funds will be used for. We fail to understand why the county has not taken advantage of the HB 1590, that would have added to the housing funds for our community but instead is asking us to pass a much higher tax that would put those struggling to find housing at a much higher risk of incarceration.

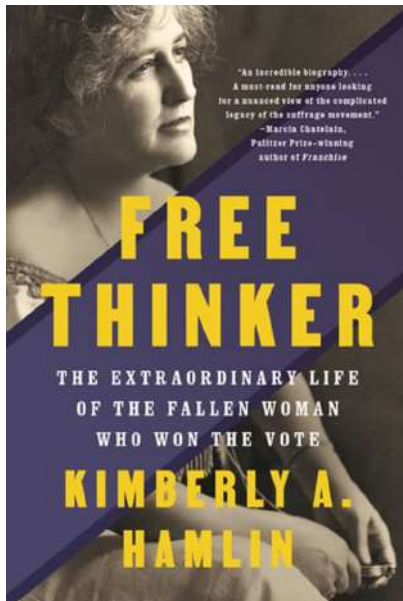


Take a look at the

Spokane Building Opportunity for Housing.

If you missed the open house you can find a video recording of the virtual open house here : [Spokane Building Open House Video](#)

Above all “Be A Voter”!



Let's Lobby! Book Club & Activism

Last month's Voter invited LWVSA members to participate in a book club and lobby efforts. Here's an update!

At our League's October general membership meeting, the guest presenter will be Kimberly Hamlin, author of *Free Thinker: The Extraordinary Life of the Fallen Woman Who Won the Vote*. Hamlin is also a member of the national board of League of Women Voters, elected as a director in June 2022. She will introduce us to *Free Thinker* and share her thoughts about how history, and this biography in particular, can inform our political understanding and activism today.

See: <https://www.kimberlyhamlin.com>

Here is the timeline for LWVSA's Let's Lobby! activities:

October 10 — LWVSA General Membership meeting with Kimberly Hamlin (online)

November 9 — Book discussion of *Free Thinker* (in person)

November 16 — Book discussion of *Free Thinker* (online)

Nov-Dec — LWVSA members visit with our legislators in Districts 3, 4, 6, 7, and 9 (in person)

December — Attend League Action Workshop for the 2024 legislative session (online)

February — Participate in LWVWA's Lobby Week (online)

Sound interesting?

Get yourself a copy of the book, either from the library or your favorite bookstore and start reading. Conversations about the book will take place in November, so you've plenty time. The Voter will keep you updated about dates. For more information contact Lunell Haught at lh1@fastmail.com

Where to Send Newsletter Submissions

-Please send to: corderographics@gmail.com

The deadline for November's issue is Friday, October 27.

Julie'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?*

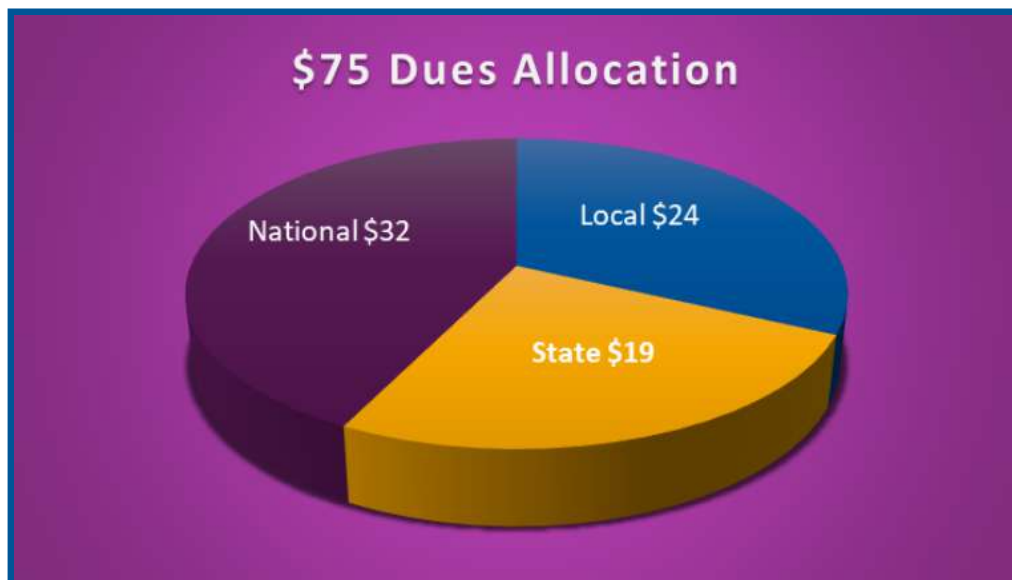
Contact the individuals below to participate in events and on Committees:

| | | |
|----------------------|------------------|--|
| Affordable Housing | Sherri Gangitano | LWVSAHHS@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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