

THE

Voter

LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] OF SPOKANE AREA

VOLUME LXXXVII ISSUE 5, MAY 1, 2024

From the President

It's Been a Privilege

Fellow members of the Spokane Area League, this is my last column as your president, and I wanted to convey my thanks for the trust you put in me in placing me in this role and the patience and kindness you have shown as well as the many hours of support you have contributed to our mission in the last year. This is not the first board on which I have served, but is, perhaps, the most unique.

I came into the role passionate about several goals and did not meet all of them. That is the way of things in our increasingly changeable world. But I am proud of what we have been able to achieve this year and anticipate handing off my role to a younger member, which was one of my goals.

We are a young country but an aging society, and while age can bring wisdom, my own observation in the workplace and in our government is that one of the finest sorts of wisdom is to elevate the next generation. Our powers will inevitably fade, and there is much work to be done. We need them to carry the mantle of leadership, not only when we no longer can, but, as soon as they can, on our behalf.

In assembling the Annual Review for the Annual Meeting (more on that below) I had cause to think over the last year—the local wildfires, the issues that caused us as a League to either speak up in the press or be contacted by members of the media for information or comment, the many forums and tabling events, and the many impassioned discussions on the board or with committee heads about issues we needed to grapple with. I have certainly learned a lot about the functioning of the League locally, at the state level, and nationally. I am even more committed to the notion that our democracy cannot function for all if all citizens do not engage. It's an underlayment of the mission that the League, especially the local Leagues, beat a path and show the way for citizen engagement.

The Annual Meeting is upon us: May 14th at the Spokane Valley Library starting at 5pm. There are big decisions to make regarding by-laws, a new policy, a concerning budget situation, and the impact of the transformation at the national level—as well as the adoption of our program for next year. Do make plans to attend.

As I write this, we are in the midst of packaging and sending out the Call and the meeting materials. Please bring whatever you need printed with you to the meeting. We are planning on providing only a VERY limited number of printed copies there.

I'm happy to report that LWVSA members carry on League work as you read this our League if busy in many spheres:

- Affordable Housing and Homeless Solutions is preparing to attend the Housing Assembly on May 2nd,
- Environmental Issues is putting the finishing touches on its six events in the libraries in May and June (thanks to those of you who attended the April meeting and provided feedback),
- Ballot Translation is building relationships with several organizations that serve the needs of people in underserved language groups,
- Voter Education is preparing to host the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction debate as well as civics education presentations in the high schools

...and there is interest in reviving our Criminal Justice work. See reports in this issue of The Voter for details. And pay special attention to calls for volunteers. Your help is heeded!

Annual Meeting

Save the Date!

Tuesday, May 14 | 5pm to 8pm

Spokane Valley Library,
Zahand Meeting Room East,
22 N. Herald Road, Spokane Valley

Light Supper provided RSVP to:
limcginn2@aol.com

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE SPOKANE AREA

Calendar

SPRING 2024

AH&HS Meeting

Sunday, May 5 - 5:30pm to 6:30pm on ZOOM If you wish to attend, contact us at lwvsaahhs@gmail.com for the link.

Lunch with the League

Friday, May 10 - 12:00pm to 1:00pm
At The Osprey Restaurant at
Ruby River Hotel 700 N Division St.
Spokane

LWVWA National Convention Caucus

May 13th - 6:30pm to 8:30pm.

Look for more information and the zoom link in an all-member email sent on April 30.

LWVSA Annual Meeting

Tuesday, May 14 - 5:00pm to 8:00pm
Spokane Valley Library,
Zahand Meeting Room East,
22 N. Herald Rd. Spokane Valley
RSVP to: limcginn2@aol.com

Redistricting Task Force Meeting

Thursday, May 16 - 3:00pm

Liberty Park Library,
402 S. Pittsburg St, Spokane, Study B.

OSPI Candidate Forum

Monday, May 20, 6:30 to 8:00pm
Ridgeline High School
20150 E Country Vista Dr, Liberty Lake
Public event featuring candidates running in the primary election for Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Organized by LWVWA and LWVSA.
Broadcast on TVW.

June 1-2 - LWVWA Council Meeting

in Olympia

AH&HS Meeting

Sunday, June 2 - 5:30pm to 6:30pm on ZOOM If you wish to attend, contact us at lwvsaahhs@gmail.com for the link.

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

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Board of Directors

President - Jean Richardson

Vice President - Pamela Joyner

Treasurer - Mike Bell

Secretary - Carol Landa-McVicker

Director - Lin McGinn

Director - Elaine Harger

Lunch with the League!



Friday, May 10, 12pm to 1pm

[LWV Spokane Area Luncheon](#)

The Osprey restaurant,
in the Ruby River Hotel,
700 N. Division Street

RSVP to Jean Richardson at:
jean@azuregate.net or 509-788-8998
(texts are welcome)

League of Women Voters of Spokane Area

Board Meeting Summary

April 17, 2024

Members in attendance: Jean Richardson, Elaine Harger, Carol Landa-McVicker, Pamela Joyner, Lin McGinn

The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m. and the minutes of the past meeting were approved.

The minutes of the March Board meeting were approved.

Under Treasurer's report, Mike Bell reported that our bank account has been moved to Numerica Credit Union and both he and Elaine are co-signers. Mike also explained that beginning in January 2025, dues will be collected by LWVUS rather than the local league. He suggested that members pay their dues by the end of 2024 year, so we get the current %. After National takes over, minimum dues will be \$20 of which we will receive 20%. This will result in a significant loss of revenue to LWVSA. It is also suggested that beginning next year, members pay the minimum to National and then make direct donations to the local league. More to follow in the newsletter.

The Board adopted a Draft Conflict Resolution Policy that will be presented and voted upon at the Annual meeting.

All of the regular committee reports were approved.

The Nominating Committee will present a slate of candidates at the Annual meeting but is still looking for candidates for Treasurer and Secretary. Jean reported that the presidents indicated on their recent call that other leagues are having trouble getting board members and other leadership models will be discussed at this year's forum.

Jean announced that she is finalizing the Call to Annual Meeting and notifications/documents will be emailed to all members directly, not using Mailchimp.

Noting that this is the last meeting of the current board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

For more details regarding Board meetings, please contact Carol Landa-McVicker at cj_99224@yahoo.com

Affordable Housing and Homelessness Solutions (AHHS)

April Report

Becky Dickerhoof

As the temperatures in Spokane County rise, so do the hopes of the community advocates for more housing and a plan for our homeless residents. Unfortunately, what we are seeing is an increase in community frustration. As we enter the spring and summer months many of those who were willing to seek shelter in a warehouse that lacks sanitation services, fresh water and meals but sees a steady increase in communicable disease and physical assaults, have relocated to the sidewalks, greenways, and abandoned lots. On May 2, the Spokane Alliance will be hosting the Housing Assembly at the UU Church on Whistalks Way. The purpose of the event is to meaningfully discuss how the HB 1590 funds should be utilized to improve housing availability in our communities. You can find registration information on the Spokane Alliance Facebook page.

It is important to remember that less than one year ago, Spokane was the site of the largest homeless camp in WA. When the camp closed the state and local advocates had managed to find housing for the



camp residents. As the winter of 2024 approached, four religious communities stepped up to open their doors to provide warming shelters. Two of the churches continue to provide shelter and services, organizing their congregations and neighbors to help with food and clothing. The shelters now serve only those requiring respite care, those unable to provide their own health care as they recover, facing an acute illness or end of life situation. Efforts continue to create more local small group shelters dedicated to those with specific needs, such as respite care.

We encourage you to reach out to the advocates in our city and county to learn how you can help where there is such a dire need.

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>



National Convention Caucus

By Mary Coltrane

LWVWA will be holding a National Convention Caucus the evening of May 13th via Zoom from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. This is an opportunity for delegates to coordinate and connect as the Washington state delegate makes plans to attend our National Convention. Bylaws, nominations, budget and program are all on the agenda. Delegates will make decisions that affect how our organization

is managed over the next two years. Our positions on local news have been recommended by the LWVUS board for concurrence by the delegates.

Whether you will go to convention or not, you are invited to the May 13th caucus to learn the particulars and share your views on decisions delegates will make. Delegates go to convention informed but not instructed. Look for more information and the zoom link in an all-member email.



Thank You New and Renewing Members!

RENEWING: Victoria Leuba
NEW: Ruth Schmidt

Civic Education

Reaching Out to Our Spanish-speaking Neighbors about Voting

By Judy Silverstein

On March 30, Judy Silverstein and Becky Dickerhoof reached out to the many visitors to El Mercadito, a monthly, food and resource-sharing event of Latinos En Spokane. Attendees conversed in Spanish with Judy and took handouts in Spanish obtained by Mary Moore from the Secretary of State Election Division.

Latinos en Spokane is partnering with our League on the Translated Ballot Project and Executive Director, Jennyfer Mesa, has invited us to provide voting information and voter registration at El Mercadito every last Saturday, monthly, leading up to the General Election.



We are actively seeking Spanish-speaking League members to assist with this project.

To volunteer, please contact Judy Silverstein judysilverstein@yahoo.com!

NEW! Redistricting Task Force

Get on Board for Redistricting Reform in Washington

By Mary Lloyd

On April 18th, 2024, the LWV Redistricting Reform Task Force (RRTF) - Spokane Area (LWVSA) -Local Area Team (LAT) presented its first public meeting at the Liberty Park Library. We were encouraged in our LAT public relationship building with our first public attendee who asked many questions our team met with background information and the necessary steps forward towards reform. This attendee before our session ended asked for a League LAT presentation to the partisan party she is involved with. Our LAT is looking forward to networking with many various groups and community interested members to broaden our connections for our goal of our states' redistricting efforts before the next census in 2030. It will take many years to develop the networking relationships between our legislators and the people of the state for redistricting reform.

If you have an interest in learning more, please attend LAT formal meetings held on Thursday May 16th, at 3 PM - Liberty Park Library, (402 S. Pittsburg St, - room Study B.

Regular meetings will continue on the third Thursday of the month at 3 PM, resuming again in July, allow-

ing for the 50 years '74 EXPO celebration to take center stage for volunteer time allowances. There will be LWVSA led civic discussions in county libraries with Environment Climate Change as the focus. Be sure to participate and see many local league volunteers facilitating these essential and stimulating discussions.

You'll meet our local League Spokane team members, Mary Lloyd, chair; Ann Murphy- also the LWVSA Representative and our local liaison to the LWVWA RRTF; and Louise Chadez, team lead connecting our LAT to area Service Organizations, Civic Groups and other essential community members. We'd also like to encourage others who'd like to represent the LWV by joining the league, wearing the league hat, and becoming an active LAT presenter for there are many years ahead in these redistricting reform efforts.

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. <https://lwvwa.org/redistricting/>

Voter Services Report

URGENT – Volunteers Needed!

by Elaine Harger

We have special needs for the ballot translation committee's Spanish-speaking community outreach and for the OSPI candidate forum.

- Spanish-speakers are needed at El Mercadito! See Civic Education article above by Judy Silverstein.
- On Monday, May 20th from 6:00pm to 8:00pm, volunteers are needed for the forum featuring candidates running in the primary election for Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. We need a minimum of 6 people to be greeters, audience question gathers, and to be at the voter registration/LWVSA info table. The forum will take place at Ridgeline High School in Liberty Lake. Please contact me at eharger@drizzle.com.

OUTREACH TO YOUNG VOTERS

The statewide Voter Service chairs zoomed April 10th. Topic of discussion was reaching out to youth. Young voters, 18-24 and 25-34 are much less likely to vote than older people. Young people are registered to vote, they just don't vote. That makes League outreach so important. Take a peek at these websites for data, info and action:

- <https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/data-research/election-data-and-maps/ballot-return-statistics>
- <https://www.new-voters.org/>
- <https://www.lwv.org/blog/why-we-need-young-voters>

Leagues across Washington state are finding creative ways to encourage young people to vote – “VOTE!” friendship bracelets; motivational talking points; pumpkins carved with “Be a Voter”; being present where younger people congregate; using Instagram, Snapchat and TikTok; wearing Barbie/Taylor tees.

LWVSA needs to get on board to get out the youth vote in 2024.

Contact me if you want to help plan an outreach project.

LWVSA TRANSLATED BALLOT PROJECT

The Translated Ballot Project is moving forward! With the LWVSA letter introducing the project, committee members have met with leaders of many of organizations seeking to join us in our Get-Out-the-Vote outreach to Spokane area naturalized citizens. We are currently collaborating on workshops, presentations, event tabling and production of translated voter education materials with Latinos En Spokane, Asians for Collective Liberation, Thrive International, Refugee and Immigrant Connections, World Relief, Mujeres in Action, Eastern Washington University – Design Department and Community Colleges of Spokane – LEP/ESL Program.

Join the League of Women Voters of Spokane Area

follow this link

[Join or Renew Online](#)

\$75 Dues Allocation





LWVSA's brochure, They Represent You lists everyone who represents you in our LWVSA area. The brochures have been printed and will be available in the Spokane and Spokane County Libraries, at the Board of Elections and at our tabling events. Thank you to Avista for printing these at no charge

Interested in Volunteering?

WHO DO YOU CALL?

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

Affordable Housing - LWVSAHHS@gmail.com.

Communications - Jean Richardson jean@azuregate.net

Environmental Issues - Amy Compestine acomp4274@gmail.com

Redistricting Task Force - Mary Lloyd riteasrain190@gmail.com

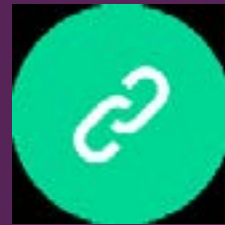
Voter Services - Elaine Harger eharger@drizzle.com

Interested in Leadership?

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

Contact Jean Richardson and get your questions answered. 503-788-8998 or LWSAleadership@gmail.com

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.



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