THE Voter

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF SPOKANE AREA

VOLUME LXXVI ISSUE 7, SEPT 2020

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

Kicking Off the League Year

Ann Murphy - Co-President

Are you spinning yet from all that is swirling in our world? Whether you are a long time member of League of Women Voters of Spokane Area, or new to our League (15 new members have joined since July 1, meet some of them below) --- you are probably wondering what is League doing in our COVID "normal" --- and how are we doing it?

Join us for our Fall Kick-off meeting on September 8 to learn more…. And to learn how you can be involved in something that fits your skills, passions, and bandwidth! There will be two sessions --- 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The agenda will be the same and attendee responses may take us in some different directions in each session. (Kind of like live theatre!)

The link below will work for both meetings. If you are new to Zoom meetings, sign in ½ hour early to get comfortable with the technology.

The meeting will have three segments –

1. A bit of League 101 – and how we in Spokane relate to the state and national Leagues using Advocacy as the context.
2. The Action in Spokane – hear what our Board Members and committee chairs have been doing and have planned for our next several months.
3. Get Involved – let us know where you want to plug in and participate!

See you all on September 8 as fall gets going and we come together virtually.

Zoom link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85029109052?pwd=Um5PQU1ZUDZpTTJzejFhUTIlUDNxUT09

Meeting ID: 850 2910 9052 Passcode: 264004
One tap mobile: +12532158782,,85029109052#,,,,,,0#,,264004#
Dial in: +1 253 215 8782

Zoom Candidate Forums - Volunteers Needed

Susan Gray, Forum Coordinator

As you may know, for many years the Spokane League has sponsored candidate forums for the primary and general elections. These have been held in the Spokane City Council Chambers over a couple of afternoons or evenings, and taped for rebroadcast over City Cable 5. This year, due to the pandemic, we have switched to a Zoom format. Instead of the races appearing one after another over a 3-hour period, each of the 14-15 legislative races will be recorded as a separate Zoom meeting during the last half of September and early October, then posted on our website and on You Tube before the ballots are mailed around October 13, offering voters an easy way to view only the races of interest to them.

The forums will include the 14 contested races for the state legislature in Legislative Districts 3, 4, 6, 7 and 9, and possibly the race for US Congressional District 5. Each Zoom meeting will take about 45 minutes and for each, we'll need a Zoom Host, a Moderator and a Timer. Training will be provided. If you are interested, or for more information, please contact Susan Gray, wesgray@earthlink.net.

Kate Telis, Youth Vote Project

Spokane Youth Votes, the public-facing effort of our LWV Student Ambassador program, is holding a Logo Contest and is accepting entries through Sept 12! The winner of the Logo Contest gets the $100 cash prize and the honor of seeing their artwork on all our social media platforms, etc. Please encourage ANY artists you know (particularly students) to participate. Any questions? Email spokaneyouthvotes@gmail.com. If you haven't already, Like Spokane Youth Votes on Facebook or Follow us on Instagram and encourage others to do so to help boost the GOTV effort for Spokane's youth!

Reaching Voters In a Difficult Environment

Beth Pellicciotti

Sherri Gangitano, pictured with Victor Smith, has delivered 900 packets of voting information into food boxes for delivery to those with food insecurity through the Food Fighters initiative.

As we approached early spring 2020, we were a voter registration party ready to happen with our new voter registration gear (a pop tent, tables, chairs, banners and tablecoths) from a Washington State Historical Society grant. Then the Pandemic hit, and those of us working on voter registration and education had to devise a Plan B and C and D.

If anything, League members and, in particular, Spokane League members are intrepid. We develop new plans quickly. Here are different ways Spokane League members have been encouraging voter registration and providing voter information.

- Sylvia Oliver wrote a Frequently Asked Questions information sheet about voter registration and the mechanics of voting. These FAQ's are now part of all our packets of voting information. [Frequently Asked Questions]()
- Beth Pellicciotti wrote a blog for the Spokane County Library, published close to the Primary Election. Vicky Dalton, Spokane League member and County Auditor, proofread the blog for accuracy. [Spokane County Library Blog]()
- Becky Dickerhoof has scheduled times that League members will provide voting information during curbside pickup of County and City library materials. Many of these dates fall near or on National Voter Registration Day on September 22. Look for details on dates soon.
- Susan Hales continues her work with communities whose first language is not English. She is creating explanations of officials' job descriptions and coordinating work on the Ballot Translation project for the general election.

- Susan Hales also created Voter kits for Houseless and Jewels Helping Hands volunteers using the kits to register 10 people at a Homelessness resources event August 16.
- Nora Scott is reaching out to John Carollo from Volunteers of America and an excellent presenter from last December's monthly meeting on Affordable Housing and Homelessness. She is inquiring how voting material might be made available at his site for those experiencing homelessness.
- David Adams, Becky Dickerhoof and Sylvia Oliver are testing social distancing during voter registration at a local Farmers' Market on Saturday, August 29.
- Sally Phillips is tracking the continuance of remote Naturalization Ceremonies and is supplying packets of voting information for these new citizens.
- Kate Telis, Rosie Zhou, and Summer Sandstrong have created a Student Ambassador Program, created a Spokane Youth Votes website and Instagram site, and produced voting videos geared to youth.
- Lisa Kuhar-Pitters has helped connect us with Gonzaga Prep for delivery of voting information and links to high school teachers.
- Jean Richardson is exploring local Reader Boards with voting information.

What ideas do you have on reaching out to voters? Do you have connections with local organizations which might be willing to work with us to provide voting information for their members?

Why is this outreach so important? Our Secretary of State predicts a record turnout for the general election (90% of registered WA State voters). Our County Elections Office will be facing a tsunami of ballots. We need to message to voters to return their ballots early. Please contact Beth Pellicciotti (pelliccmb@gmail.com) with your ideas and possible referral of organizations.

Denise Campitelli, Treasurer

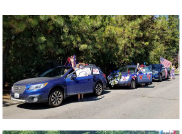
It's that time of year again: the annual renewal of your dues for the League of Women Voters of the Spokane Area. Your renewal allows our important work to continue at the local, state and national levels, empowering voters and defending democracy--now more than ever.

Please visit LWVSpokane.org (click "Join") to put your renewal on a credit card, or send a check payable to LWVSA to League of Women Voters - Spokane Area, 2404 North Howard, Spokane, WA 99205.

Renewal payments are due by the end of September.

Celebrating the Centennial in the time of Covid

To recognize the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, and the suffragists who gave so much for our right to vote, Leaguers turned out for a Silent Suffrage March at Polly Judd Park on August 18, (the date in 1920 when Tennessee was the final state to ratify the amendment), and a driving parade through Spokane on Aug 26 (Women's Equality Day to commemorate the Congressional adoption of the amendment). Thanks to Leaguers Claire Rudolf Murphy and Lin McGinn for their organization of these events.



Calendar

Sept 8 – General Meeting - [Kicking Off the Year]()

Sept 16 – LWVSA Board Meeting - 10am - noon via Zoom, contact [Ann Murphy]() if you would like to attend

Sept 17 – Constitution Day

Sept 17 – [Fix Democracy First Awards Ceremony]() – LWV Washington is receiving *Organization of the Year* award for the 100 years of ongoing work to expand democracy throughout Washington

Sept 22 – [National Voter Registration Day]()

Sept. 24 – Let's Chat -- Zoom in to have conversations with members of the board. *Watch for a link in your email.*

Late Sept - early Oct – General Election local forums, [more about State forums]()

Oct 13 – General Meeting - 11:30am and 6:30pm – Elections! Elections! Elections! Discussion on Ballot Issues and Get Out the Vote activities

Oct 16 – General Election Ballots mailed

Oct 21 – LWVSA Board Meeting - 10am to noon via Zoom

Oct 24 – [Mail Ballots Early Day]()

Oct. 26 - last day to [register to vote online]()

Nov 3 – General Election

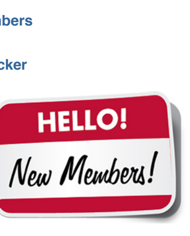
Nov 10 – General Meeting - 11:30am and 6:30pm – Prepping for State Legislative Action

Nov 11 – Veterans Day

Nov. 18 – LWVSA Board Meeting

Welcome New LWVSA Members

Kira Atwood and Justin Becker



Kira Attwood and Justin Becker are happy to be new members of the League of Women Voters. Kira teaches English Language Development at Grant Elementary and Justin works for a locally-owned fair trade business called Ganesh Himal Trading. They have 3 amazing children: Owen, Lila, and Mason, and a 10 month old black lab puppy named Marcus. Life is good and keeps us busy!

Lisa Miles-Conrad

I grew up in Davenport and still spend my summers in Lincoln County on Lake Roosevelt boating, riding my ATV, and reading. My husband and I met in the first-grade and have been friends ever since. I'm a teacher in Spokane and as Jill Biden said, "Being a teacher is who I am." I'm excited to join the LWV.

Sophie Avery, Student Ambassador

My name is Sophie and I am a rising junior at Lewis and Clark High School. Through working on the Breean Beggs campaign last year I have become more involved in local politics and voting. I am currently involved with Spokane Youth Votes!

Tama Jordan

I have lived in Spokane since 1991, moving from Seattle with my two young sons. I just retired from teaching after 31 years, 29 with Spokane Public Schools. My husband and I live downtown, and we want to become more involved in addressing the unique challenges our neighborhood faces.

Susan Lindsey

Susan was Born and raised in Los Angeles and has lived in four states and six cities in the last 20 years. She lived in Spokane for the past six years where my children graduated from high school. Important issues for her are LGBTQ rights, school equity and special education.

Suzanne Rivers

I am a retired psychiatric social worker who spent many years working regionally in the environmental movement, primarily on forest and old growth forest issues, endangered species etc.
Considering our current political, social and world situation, I think that my time would be best spent on issues like RCV and others emphasized by the LWV.

Holly South

Hello! I recently moved – along with my husband, two children and pup – to Spokane from Denver. I look forward to one day exploring all this beautiful region has to offer. In the meantime, I continue to work for the National Conference of State Legislatures and spend as much time as possible reading, hiking, talking about politics, and searching for Spokane's best pizza.

Cindy Trujillo

Originally from Omak, Cindy has been a higher education instructor for 25 years, mostly at Spokane Community College. She assisted with a year-long celebration of the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, including speakers, literature, and displays. She has volunteered in a women's shelter, on a crisis line, at a food bank, and with trail maintenance. She is passionate about educating people about voting and how to think critically about political issues. Her interests include outdoor activities, birding, gardening and family time. She has 3 grown children.

Your 2020 - 2021 Board

Ann Murphy - Co-President & Program for Focus Chair
Sylvia Oliver - Co- President & Voter Services Chair
Jan Wingenroth - Secretary
Denise Campitelli - Treasurer
Dawn Bayman - Director & Communications Chair
April May - Director & Speak Up Schools Chair
Jean Alliman - Director & Membership Chair
Aruna Bhuta - Action Chair

2020 - 2021 Committees

The following people are currently leading each of these program areas. Your help is needed! Questions? Would you like to volunteer? Please reach out to the appropriate chair, below. Check your Member Directory for contact info.

VOTER SERVICES – Sylvia Oliver

- Registration Scheduling – Sally Phillips
- Ballot Parties – Becky Dickerhoof
- Ballot Translation – Susan Hales
- Forums (Local) – Susan Gray
- Forums (State) – Michael Bell
- Youth Vote Project – Kate Telis
- Civics Education – Beth Pellicciotti

COMMUNICATIONS – Dawn Bayman

- Voter – Dawn Bayman
- FB/Social Media – Sylvia Oliver, Kate Telis, Dawn Bayman
- Webmasters – Mary Hughes, Jan Wingenroth

PROGRAM FOR FOCUS – Ann Murphy

- Affordable Housing – Marilyn Darilek, Sherri Gangitano
- Homelessness Solutions – Dawn Schuster
- Water – Constance Holland
- Criminal Justice/Smart Justice Spokane Liaison – Kate Telis

ACTION - Aruna Bhuta

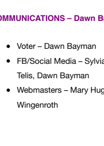
- Observer Corps – Sylvia Oliver
- Local League Liaison to LWVWA Lobby Team – Aruna Bhuta
- Speak Up Schools – April May

MEMBER SERVICES – Jean Alliman

- New Member Contact – Marilyn Darilek
- Member Retention – Jean Alliman
- Meetings/AV – Lin McGinn
- Member Publications – Ann Murphy, Dawn Bayman
- Member Engagement Leadership

OTHER COMMITTEES

- State Convention (June 2021) - Ann Murphy
- Strategic Planning – Ann Murphy, Sylvia Oliver, Denise Campitelli, Beth Pellicciotti
- LWVWA Diversity, Equity, Inclusion – Beth Pellicciotti



Need a Member Directory?

Find contact information for all current LWVSA members in the latest member directory emailed last June. The next update is set to hit your email box in October. If you'd like a directory before the next issue, please email a request to dwbayman@gmail.com.

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

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