

THE Voter

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SPOKANE AREA

VOLUME LXXXVII ISSUE 2, FEBRUARY 1, 2024
A printable version of *The Voter* is available at LWVSpokane.org

From the President Jean Richardson

Exploring Governance

As mentioned in the board report published in this newsletter, your board is exploring the formalization of a different governance model than we have had in the past. For a number of years now, it has been challenging—to say the least—to find skilled leaders willing to lend a hand by stepping up to board roles, especially the role of president. This is not unique to the Spokane Area League. In the monthly presidents’ calls I attend and at the president’s breakfast at Convention in May, this has been a theme across multiple Leagues.

I have served on a number of boards over the last few decades, and I have seen similar problems. When boards experience the phenomenon of one person being President for multiple terms in a row or even multiple terms in a given decade, the organization that board governs can easily become identified with that person and their personality, presence, and preferences. When you stop seeing new faces rotating through board leadership on a schedule in alignment with that leadership’s bylaws, you are often also seeing the emergence of fatigue among those individuals who do step up. Nerves fray as people desperate to sustain the organization they love become fatigued, which impacts their compassion and skill in

In the interim, I had become aware that another organization, serving the same constituency but organized and functioning somewhat differently, had emerged and was thriving in the first organization’s geography.

engaging with their peers. Soon, they show up as less than their best selves. It is a sad thing to see that happen.

Several years ago, the executive team of a board for which I had served in several roles, including President, reached out to me to participate in a key decision: Should they shut the chapter down? They were gathering together a few former presidents to help them make this momentous decision. In the interim, I had become aware that another organization, serving the same constituency but

organized and functioning somewhat differently, had emerged and was thriving in the first organization’s geography.

I could see the board members who had reached out to me were exhausted and discouraged. They

still attracted people to their monthly meeting and many of their annual events still occurred, but the numbers at these events had declined. But The board members had basically been trading places for years, and the succession model put in place by another past president had fallen apart as new people were not stepping up from the membership to proceed through the offices prior to the presidency.

I encouraged them to close the chapter down. To my recollection, all of

the past presidents they had gathered did the same. The board did, indeed, shut the chapter down, spending most of what remained in the treasury on a farewell party. This was not near so sad a thing as continuing in the same way would have been.

It is far too easy, given the hierarchical leadership models we have had in place in this country since its inception, for the led to transfer much of their responsibility for leadership—or followership, as it has come to be called—to the persons they place in the offices they create to take responsibility for running the household of the organization. Over time, this results in greatly diminished relationships resulting in a significantly impaired organization. But, even in American business, for decades now, more participatory leadership models have been preferred to the benefit of all.

Participatory leadership has now come to the League. In Washington State the Clallam League has been using such a model for the last three years, and they are known for being highly productive and engaged. They also seem to be a happier community than some. Your local League board has been engaging with this League and is reaching out to see whether other leagues in the state have been using similar models to advantage. Next month, we hope to receive a presentation from a league or leagues experienced with this model at our board meeting, which you would be welcome to attend. If the Board decides to move forward, the bylaws committee would revise the bylaws, and you as members would vote on this change at the Annual Meeting in May, though the proposal to the membership should be made by the end of March.

January 20 Board Meeting Summary

- After a presentation and discussion of the State League’s multi-year, statewide campaign to reimagine and reform the Washington State redistricting process, the Board approved a motion authorizing the formation of a Local Action Team to “plan and carry out tasks as part of the LWVWA Redistricting Reform Campaign.” The initial team members will include Ann Murphy, Mary Lloyd and Louise Chadez. The team will make monthly reports to the LWVSA Board of Directors.
- After discussion, the board declined to co-sponsor People for Effective Government’s (PEG) February program that will feature Washington State Treasurer Pellicciotti. We support the program but declined to co-sponsor as the speaker is a candidate for state-wide office, and we want to follow our policy of non-partisanship.
- There was a long discussion about proposing a change to our leadership structure at this year’s Annual Meeting in May. Clallam LWV has a more simplified governance system that provides for the election of a Council. Under this structure, a president is not required and a smaller board shares responsibilities. This would require a change of our by-laws. More discussion and a possible vote will be on our February Board Agenda.
- The Board discussed adoption of a Problem-Solving Policy as required by the National LWV. Further discussion will be scheduled for the February Board meeting after clarification of several concerns with the State Board.
- Reports from the Membership, Voter Services, and Affordable Housing and Homelessness committees were accepted.
- The Board voted to approve hosting a forum for the OSPI Candidates in May for the August primary election. Elaine Harger will work on this.

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

Lunch with the League! LWV Spokane Area Luncheon



Friday, February 9,
12pm to 1pm
The Osprey restaurant,
in the Ruby River Hotel,
700 N. Division Street 99202
**RSVP to Jean Richardson
at jean@azuregate.net or
509-788-8998
(texts are welcome)**

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SPOKANE AREA
Board of Directors
President - Jean Richardson
Vice President - Pamela Joyner
Treasurer - Mike Bell
Secretary - Carol Landa-McVicker
Director - Lin McGinn
Director - Elaine Harger



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Calendar

FEBRUARY 2024

AH&HS Meeting
Sunday, February 4 • 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, February 9 • 12pm - 1pm
At The Osprey Restaurant at Ruby River Hotel
700 N Division St. Spokane, WA 99202

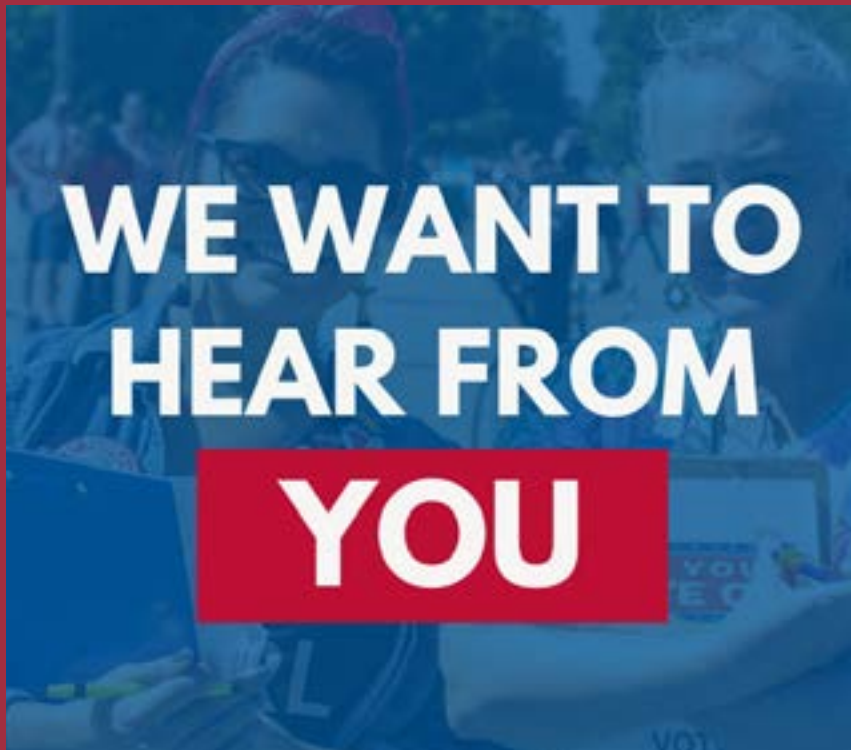
SPECIAL ELECTION • Tuesday, February 13
for Libraries, Schools and Fire Departments
VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, February 13 • 5:30pm - 7:00pm
Voter registration training/refresher and
LWV 104th birthday celebration
Liberty Park Library, 402 S. Pittsburg St.

The Voter Deadline
**Friday, February 16 • Deadline to turn in
materials for the March issue**

LWVSA Board Meeting
Wednesday, February 21 • 4:00pm - 6:00pm
Meetings held on third Wed of each month via
Zoom. All members are welcome to attend.
Please reach out to Jean at jean@azuregate.net
before Feb 20 to get the Zoom link

AH&HS Meeting
Sunday, March 3 • 5:30pm to 6:30pm on
ZOOM If you wish to attend, contact us at
lwvsaahhs@gmail.com for the link.



Nominations Committee Members Needed!

To move forward with the nominations process for next year, we urgently need two more nominations committee members. Please contact Pamela Joyner 509-236-2441 or joynerpam@gmail.com

She will provide you with materials on the duties of committee members and the guidelines for the committee.



"AHHS members at Spokane Homeless Connect registered 18 people to vote on January 25 at the Spokane Convention Center."

Affordable Housing and Homelessness Solutions

Becky Dickerhoof

AH&HS Efforts in Spokane and Olympia

January was WA Legislative month as our state representatives returned to Olympia to complete the second year of the term. They have assured their constituents they will conclude their work in record time. By the time you are reading this article LWVWA Democracy Lobby Week will have concluded. I hope you registered and participated. It is always a wonderful experience and has been virtual in recent years, so it is not necessary to brave the mountain passes to get to Olympia! I have included a link for the LWVWA's 2024 Issue Paper on affordable housing and homelessness.

[2024 Issue Paper - Affordable Housing _ Homelessness.pdf \(lwvwa.org\)](#)

I am also including the three bills the legislature considered during this legislative session. It is my hope they have passed. They will go a long way to helping our housing advocates create more affordable housing for our state.

HB 2234 Concerning energy assistance for low-income households. This bill would require all electric utilities to provide one or more programs and funding available for energy assistance to low-income households.

HB 2276/SB 6191 Increasing the supply of affordable and workforce housing. This bill would establish a real estate excise tax that would make the WA State tax code more progressive and create a permanent fund source for affordable housing.

SB 5975 Authorizing use of the housing trust fund and other legislative appropriations to finance social housing. This bill would establish a program with the housing trust fund for housing on land that is publicly owned in perpetuity and available to households of any income level, including low-income and moderate-income households.

Our committee has also been active here in Spokane during the month of January. As a committee we were at the Spokane Homeless Connect and did our best to encourage attendees to register to vote. We also handed out gloves, mittens, socks, scarves, and packets of personal hygiene items. The Spokane Valley Community Advocates donated these items.

Many of our committee and local league members were involved with other community activities in January helping to serve the warming shelters. We are also thrilled Village CoHousing Works dedicated their first home in January. Our committee member Melissa Pitt and her husband were a major part of that effort. In February we will have a presence at the Spokane Valley Homeless Connect and we will continue to attend Spokane County Commissioners' meetings, Spokane City Council meetings, and closely monitor the Spokane Valley City Council meetings. We hope each of those governments will continue to adopt measures that benefit our constituents in their housing needs.

Our next two AH&HS meetings will be February 4 and March 3, 5:30 to 6:30 on ZOOM. If you wish to attend, contact us at lwvsaaahhs@gmail.com for the link.



Membership

Lunell Haught

Keep Up with the Washington State Legislative Session 2024

Why does it matter that the state legislature is in session?

State government deals with education, infrastructure, environmental regulations, health care, and of course the state budget and taxes funding those and many other state programs and services. What happens in Olympia probably effects your everyday life more than you think. Signing up or our Legislative Newsletter provides an easy way to advocate for LWV priority bills.

Here are some great resources on our LWVSA website:

Here is the link to the LWV of Washington newsletter **The Legislative Newsletter** - <https://lwvwa.org/page-18731> it only comes out during the session

Here is the link where you can access the **Evergreen Voter, The Legislative Action Newsletter** and the **In League** monthly newsletter <https://lwvwa.org/League-News-letters>

Link to our **LWVSA web page** Keeping Up with the Legislature: Understand, Follow and Influence Legislation <https://my.lwv.org/washington/spokane-area/information-voters/keeping-legislature-understand-follow-and-influence-legislation>

TVW is Washington's public affairs television network, providing gavel-to-gavel coverage of Washington State Legislature sessions and coverage of the Washington State Supreme Court and public affairs events. It is widely considered the model state level equivalent of C-SPAN. <http://tvq.org>

Daily Legislative Review

Emmy® nominated host Angela Nolasco brings you the most compelling debates from committee hearings and floor action with daily, weekly, and end-of-session news reports on the hottest topics under the dome

Inside Olympia

Go deeper on the Issues with Inside Olympia. The legislative session can be a rapid-fire process with countless issues being debated and laws being passed. This Emmy® nominated interview program drills down into the work taking place in and around Washington state's Capitol.

The Impact

The Impact dives into the tough issues. Dozens of pieces of legislation will be passed this year. But what does that mean for you? The Impact is an Emmy® award-winning news program, hosted by Mike McClanahan, that takes a fearless dive into how the policies decided on by the legislature affect the daily lives of the citizens of Washington state.

Pop Quiz!

LWVSA members who attended the new members meeting on January 13 will know all the answers.

1. What percentage of the membership of the LWV Washington has joined in the last 5 years?
2. The League never participates in public demonstrations or marches.
3. The League has members who are well educated through experience and/or classrooms.
4. Credibility is what League members value most about the League of Women Voters.
5. Men are members of the League of Women Voters.
6. League members have family relationships that include diverse qualities and conditions.
7. Many members join the League to be active in education, legislation, elections, and more. Throughout their time with the League they engage in many different activities.
8. The League does not advocate or oppose any legislation that the members have not studied and come to consensus on a position about the legislation.
9. Only the President of the local, state, or national League speaks for the League at their level.
10. The local League can advocate for national legislative action.

See answers next page...

Tues, February 13
5:30pm-7:00pm.

Liberty Park Library,
402 S. Pittsburg St,
Spokane 99202

Questions?
Call/email voter
services chair
Elaine Harger at
509-893-8862 phone
425-221-8294 text
eharger@drizzle.com

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
FOUNDED 14 FEBRUARY 1920

February General Membership Meeting

Voter registration training/refresher and LWV 104th birthday celebration.

Your Voter Services Committee is planning the February 13 general membership meeting.

Washington state laws regarding voter registration have changed in the past couple years, so this is an excellent opportunity for LWVSA members to learn about the changes and details of how to register people to vote.

Come ready to practice registering people to vote!

"LWV is My Valentine!" The League was founded on Valentine's Day in 1920, and to celebrate we'll enjoy refreshments and engage in a special, crafty and colorful, DIY activity that will carry the spirit of our League ancestors to all LWVSA members.

Curious? Good! Come to the meeting and have some fun! And, if you like, bring a Valentine treat to share. Everything else supplied.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization working to protect and expand voting rights and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy. We empower voters and defend democracy through advocacy, education, and litigation, at the local, state, and national levels.



New and Renewing Members



New Member	Julia Goltz
Rebecca Madnay	Molly Hannan
Renewing Members	Phyllis Holmes
	Favel Jens
Beverly Austin	Jerry LeClaire
Barbara Bush	Daniel Muhm
Louise Chadez	Ann Murphy
Amy Compestine	Cathy Nemmert
Vicky Dalton	Sylvia Oliver
Denise Dwyer	Sally Ray
Pat Foster	Anna Roberts



Voter Services Report

by Elaine Harger

At newsletter deadline time, there had been only one voter services event in January. Volunteers did voter registration at the Thomas Foley federal courthouse on January 10th as part of the monthly naturalization ceremony.

Big news! Susan Hales has gathered up a team to work on ballot translations for the general election. Susan will chair and members include Becky Dickerhoof, Judy Silverstein, Gina Calza-Raebel, Lin McGinn, and Melkam Tesfaye (as volunteer assistant). Deep gratitude to all these for stepping up to help with a project that will certainly empower voters in the Spokane area.

On the 17th, I attended (virtually) the LWVWA voter services monthly meeting. We heard about the Kittitas County League's work at Central Washington University, where the Associated Student organization, partnering with the League and the Elensburg Public Library, is organizing an event to inform CWU students and community members about the upcoming presidential primary in Washington.

We also learned about “**student engagement hubs**” established by the Washington legislature in 2020, RCW 29A.40.180:

(1) Each state university, regional university, and The Evergreen State College as defined in RCW 28B.10.016 and each higher education campus as defined in RCW 28B.45.012 shall open a nonpartisan student engagement hub on its campus. The student engagement hub may be open during business hours beginning eight days before, and ending at 8:00 p.m. on the day of the general election. All student engagement hubs must allow students to download their exact ballot from an online portal. Upon request of the student government organization to the administration and the county auditor, the student engagement hub at a state university, regional university, or The Evergreen State College as defined in RCW 28B.10.016 must allow voters to register in person pursuant to RCW 29A.08.140(1)(b) and provide voter registration materials and ballots.

(2) Each institution shall contract with the county auditor for the operation of a student engagement hub under this section.

(3) Student engagement hubs are not voting centers as outlined in RCW 29A.40.160 and must be operated in a manner that avoids partisan influence or electioneering.

The Kittitas League has assisted at CWU's hubs for the last few years, and (if my notes are correct) assisted 900 students to vote a few years ago.

Another voter services highlight for January is that the LWVSA has been invited by the state League to host a forum in May for candidates running in the primary election for the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The LWVSA board voted on Jan. 19th to accept this invitation. More info on this event to come. For now, please consider volunteering for the event as details emerge.

Still to come on the 25th is the Homeless Connect event at the Spokane Convention Center, where members of the Housing and Homeless Solutions Committee will register people to vote. On the 27th LWVSA member Becky Dickerhoof will speak on a voting rights panel at the Eastern Legislative Conference organized by Fig Tree, and the League will have a voter registration table there.

Recently, I received an email from the organization Living Room Conversations about one of their projects “Trust in Elections.” It seems to me to be something The Voter readers might be interested in. Here's the URL for their website: [https://livingroomconversations.org/trust-in-elections-2/?utm_source=Living+Room+-Conversations+Community&utm_campaign=57543a8caa-EMAIL_CAM-PAIGN_2024_01_14_07_36&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-57543a8caa-\[LIST_EMAIL_ID\]&mc_cid=57543a8caa&mc_eid=UNIQID](https://livingroomconversations.org/trust-in-elections-2/?utm_source=Living+Room+-Conversations+Community&utm_campaign=57543a8caa-EMAIL_CAM-PAIGN_2024_01_14_07_36&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-57543a8caa-[LIST_EMAIL_ID]&mc_cid=57543a8caa&mc_eid=UNIQID)

COMING UP IN FEBRUARY

Last, but certainly not least, Voter Services is planning the February 13 general membership meeting. We will have a voter registration training/refresher session, followed by “LWV is My Valentine!” The League was founded on Valentine's Day in 1920, and we will have a special celebration for the League's founding day.

The February 13 meeting will be in-person at the Liberty Park Library, 402 S. Pittsburg Street, Spokane, from 5:30-7:00pm.

Membership Pop Quiz Answers

1. 44% 2. False 3. True 4. True
5. True 6. True 7. True
8. True <https://lwwa.org/resources/Documents/2024IssuePapers/Program%20In%20Action%202023-24.pdf> and <https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/LWV-impact-2020.pdf>
9. True
10. False-ish Only if permission is granted from national – same for state issues – we ‘stay in our own lane’.

104th LWV Birthday Celebration Trivia



- Founded by Carrie Chapman Catt in 1920, Valentine's Day, February 14, 1920, is the League's birthday.
- Purple and lavender are ‘League colors’ they were a subtle sign to others that the wearer was a supporter of women's suffrage.
- England called them suffragettes, the US called them suffragists, thinking the former sounded dismissive.
- In the chaos of the lobbying of the last state to ratify the 19th Amendment, the men who wore yellow lapel roses identified as supporters of suffrage, the red rose wearers did not support the 19th amendment.



EXPO'74 — 50 Year of Environmental Awareness

expo'74 50th Celebration

LWVSA Environment Committee

Community Conversations on the Climate Crisis

May 4 to July 4, 2024

HELP NEEDED

The LWVSA Environmental Issues Committee members and other interested League members are planning the facilitation and format of community conversations in partnership with Spokane County Library District. The following information will appear in the spring issue of SCLD's publication Engage.

Here's what we need you to do

- Read description of Expo'74 event below. What questions and/or techniques would you ask if facilitating a community conversation?
- Provide between 1 and 6 questions and/or facilitation ideas.
 - What would you recommend in terms of resources for a handout?
 - Would you be willing to consider volunteering for one of the community conversations? Volunteer needs are for co-facilitators, welcomers, and League info table monitors.

If you are interested in participating in our planning efforts, please contact Elaine Harger, eharger@drizzle.com, 509-893-8862 (landline), 425-221-8294 (texts).

EVENT DESCRIPTION:

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, and 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 tornadoes, 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 50th Anniversary to talk about how individuals, neighborhoods, and municipalities can take action to prepare for the impacts of the climate crisis. Come to these events to share your concerns, ask questions, and exchange ideas with others. For those who wish to learn more about the climate crisis, Spokane County Library District librarians and League of Women Voters Spokane Area recommend any or all of the following books.

Books Written for Adults

- Afterglow: Climate Fiction for Future Ancestors*, edited by Grist
- All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis*, by Ayana Johnson, K. Wilkinson
- Believers: Making a Life at the End of the World*, by Lisa Wells
- Beloved Beasts: Fighting for Life in an Age of Extinction*, by Michelle Nijhuis
- A Bigger Picture: My Fight to Bring a New African Voice to the Climate Crisis*, by Vanessa Nakate
- The Story of More: How We Got to Climate Change and Where to Go from Here*, by Hope Jahren

Books Written for Young Adults

- Global: One Fragile World. an Epic Fight for Survival*, by Eoin Colfer, A. Donkin, and Giovanni Rigano
- How to Change Everything: The Young Human's Guide to Protecting the Planet and Each Other*, by Naomi Klein
- No Planet B: A Teen Vogue Guide to the Climate Crisis*, edited by Lucy Diavolo
- The Twenty-One: The True Story of the Youth Who Sued the U.S. Government Over Climate Change*, by Elizabeth Rusch
- Two Degrees*, by Alan Gratz
- A World Without Fish*, by Mark Kurlansky

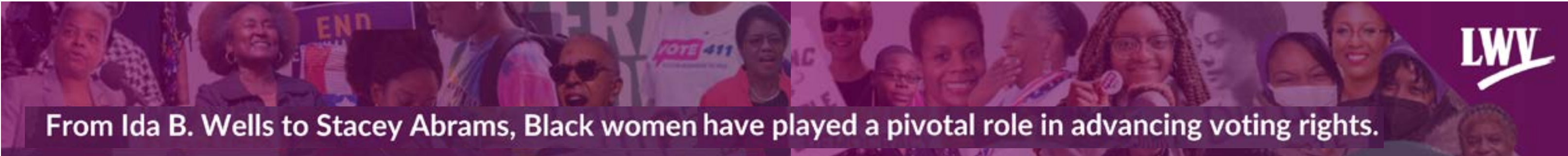
Books Written for Children

- Greta and the Giants*, by Zoe Tucker and Zoe Persico
- Here, the Dot We Call Home*, by Laura Alary
- Little Pine Cone: Wildfires and the Natural World*, by Johanna Wagstaffe and Julie McLaughlin
- Sea Bear: A Journey for Survival*, by Lindsay Moore
- Stand Up! Speak Up! A story inspired by the climate change revolution*, by Andrew Joyner
- To Change a Planet*, by Christina Soontornvat and Rahele Jomepour Bell

DATES & LOCATIONS:

- SPOKANE VALLEY Wednesday, May 8, 6:30-8:00pm
- CHENEY Wednesday, May 15, 6-7:30pm
- ARGONNE Thursday, June 6, 4-5:30pm
- NORTH SPOKANE. Saturday, June 8, 2-3:30pm
- MORAN PRAIRIE Wednesday, June 12, 2-3:30pm
- DEER PARK Thursday, June 27, 5-6:00pm

If you are interested please contact Elaine Harger at eharger@drizzle.com; 509-893-8862 phone 425-221-8294 text



Interested in Volunteering?

WHO DO YOU CALL?

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

Affordable Housing - LWVSAAHHS@gmail.com.

Communications - Jean Richardson jean@azuregate.net

Environmental Issues - Amy Compestine acomp4274@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

New Deadlines for *The Voter* Newsletter in 2024.

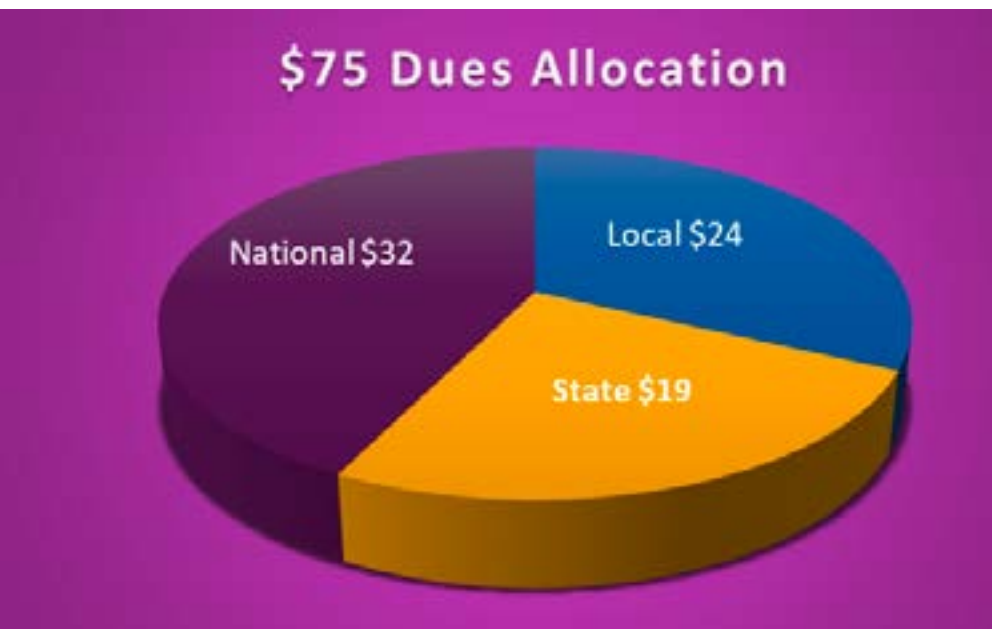
In an effort to ensure you receive your newsletter before the first of the new month, deadlines are earlier this year.

Friday, March 15 for **April** issue of *The Voter*
Friday, April 19 for **May** issue of *The Voter*
Friday, May 17 for **June** issue of *The Voter*
Friday, June14 for **July** issue of *The Voter*

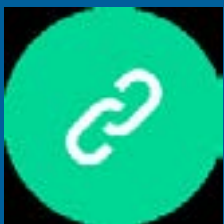
Send submissions or questions to Julie Cordero: 509-768-2998 (text ok) or email corderographics@gmail.com

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of Spokane Area

follow this link
[Join or Renew Online](#)



Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.



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