



VOLUME LXXXVII ISSUE 9, September 1, 2023

*A printable version of The Voter will be available at [LWVSpokane.org](http://LWVSpokane.org).*

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Jean Richardson at Unity in the Community, photo by Elaine Harger

## **From the President**

Jean Richardson

### ***Ready! Set!***

Well, the kids are heading back or are already in school and the early morning nip is starting to nose its way into the air. Before we know it, the first local League meeting for the year on--September 12<sup>th</sup>--will be here, and we'll be back together again talking about our summers, the fires, and what's been going on in the local races of great interest to us all this year. Your Board of Directors heard you at the annual meeting and took seriously and to heart your exhortation to focus on our mission: "Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy."

We met within days of the annual meeting for a board retreat. There was so much to discuss, solve for, and plan for that we actually had a two-part retreat. We agreed not only to hone in on the mission but to focus on these four goals for the year:

- *Focus on being open, welcoming.*
- *Stabilize leadership.*
- *Match work to the capacity we have to do it.*
- *Grow and maintain membership.*

Post-pandemic, there are few organizations that are not reconsidering how inclusive they are versus what they thought was the case as well as how inclusive they want to be. We're right there with them. However, what I know to be true is that inclusiveness means including everyone, even those we might find difficult. The trick is for a community is to build the skills to honor difference and focus on the whole. Differences are not by definition destructive, though how we air them can be. Our choice is to be a welcoming place for anyone wanting to focus on the mission; your board provides guidance on how we will focus on that mission this program year.

Another challenge that many organizations, including social capital organizations like the League, have been facing is leadership fatigue which has in many organizations manifested in rifts within groups of leaders. Additionally, many people who might have been willing to lead some years ago are more cautious or a bit more tired now. Yet, organizations by their nature need leaders, and as discussed at the annual meeting, we are still staffing key roles.

This leads us to the third goal above: "Match work to the capacity we have to do it." In an election year, there's always more for the League to do, and I have to say I've been impressed with the amount of outreach from the community to our League for tables at events, forums to be held on various races, queries from the press, and feedback about proposals from local elected officials heading for the ballot. None of this work gets done without volunteers, and I am very aware of the risks of burning out our board members.

So, we look at the requests—and the large amount of work we could—and often feel we should—be doing in addition to that, and prioritize the requests against the volunteer hours we have available. I've written elsewhere about various kinds of short-term commitments—a few hours at a table greeting the public or monitoring a public meeting—that powers the League's work. You've no doubt heard about studies the League does which are much larger commitments. Recognizing the weight of these larger commitments, your board has striven to focus in on how smaller commitments can help us meet our goals, our mission, and public requests. You can reach out to [lwvsaleadership@gmail.com](mailto:lwvsaleadership@gmail.com) if you feel you can lend a hand. ***Your help makes the League viable.***

Finally, the membership renewals and new memberships are flowing into the League email inbox. It's great to see this, and we have faith that the flow will increase as we offer a broader array of ways to engage with other members and contribute to getting the work done to satisfy the mission. It doesn't get done at all without people like you and me.

*I'll see you around! - Jean*



**September 12, 2023 - General Membership Meeting Shadle Park Library & Zoom 5:00 p.m.**

**September 15, 2023 - LWV Spokane Area League Luncheon 12:00 p.m. at Perkins on Division**

**September 20, 2023 - LWV Spokane Area Board of Directors Meeting 4:00 p.m. on Zoom**

**NEXT MONTH:**

**October 1, 2023 - Affordable Housing Committee Meeting 5:30 p.m. on Zoom**

**October 10, 2023 - General Membership Meeting Shadle Park Library & Zoom 5:00 p.m.**

**General Membership Meeting**

***What Does Our Mission Mean to You?***

***Discussion facilitated by Jean Richardson, President***

In our September meeting we will use a new facilitation model known as **1-2-4-All** to think and talk together about what our mission means to us.

**Please feel free to do a little writing or thinking about our mission (*Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.*) in advance.** There will be some time for writing at the meeting if you don't have time before.

After writing, we will talk together in pairs about what we each think and feel about the mission. Next, the groups of pairs will form groups of four to share ideas. Each group will choose a speaker to share that group's best ideas with the whole room. This format allows all the great ideas you bring to come into the room.

**Please include yourself on September 12 th.**

NOTE: We hope to have a special guest at the beginning of the meeting to talk about a nonprofit she formed to help Spokane solve its most challenging social problems. Her story is a great example of how 1, 2, 4, or a larger group can come together to make a difference.

**September 12, 2023**

**5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

[Shadle Park Library](#)

**2111 W Wellesley Avenue**

**Spokane, WA 99205**

**509 444 5300**

**To attend via Zoom please R.S.V.P. to Jean Richardson at [LWVSALeadership@gmail.com](mailto:LWVSALeadership@gmail.com)**

## ***LWV Spokane Area Luncheon!***

Friday, September 15, 2023

12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Perkins Restaurant & Bakery**

12 E Olive Avenue, Spokane, WA 99202

Just south of the Division Street Bridge

509 747 9111

**R.S.V.P. to Jean Richardson**

Text: 503-788-8998    Email: [jean@azuregate.net](mailto:jean@azuregate.net)

**Interested in Volunteering?**

***Who Do You Call?***

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

**Affordable Housing**

**Sherri Gangitano**

**[LWVSAAHHS@gmail.com](mailto:LWVSAAHHS@gmail.com)**

**Communications**

**Jean Richardson**

**[LWVSALeadership@gmail.com](mailto:LWVSALeadership@gmail.com)**

**Environmental Issues Amy Compestine****acomp4274@gmail.com****Voter Services****Elaine Harger****eharger@drizzle.com**

### **Board of Directors**

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

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## ***August Board Meeting***

***Wednesday, August 16, 2023 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. on Zoom***

### **EMERGING PROGRAMS**

***The Board supported the state league's proposal for League members reading Free Thinker: The Extraordinary Life of the Fallen Woman Who Won the Vote by Kimberly A. Hamlin.***

***A statewide Zoom discussion with the author would follow.***

***More information to follow.***

- There was discussion about the value of meeting with local elected officials this fall, but little support was given to scheduling a bus trip to Olympia in February.***
- The Board is studying a request by City Councilman Michael Cathcart to support his redistricting proposal that will be on the February ballot.***
- The City Council voted unanimously to put it on the ballot, but we are reviewing how the proposal fits with LWV State and Local policies.***

***Location of General Meetings. There is an ongoing discussion about where to schedule our local general membership meetings. At this point the plan is to hold them at our local libraries where the meeting space and parking is free, and buildings are open in the evening. The September and October meetings will be held at the Shadle Library, 2111 W Wellesley Ave, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on September 12 and October 10 respectively.***

## **STAFFING**

- *It was announced that Julie Cordero has agreed to be the new Newsletter Editor. She will be looking for writers and ideas for the monthly publication.*
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- *We are still in need of Chairs for the Communication, Membership, Action and Criminal Justice Committees. Contact Jean Richardson if you are interested in serving on any of these committees and/or being the Chairperson.*
- *Jean is working on a plan to revitalize members by scheduling monthly meetings at Perkins through the end of the year.*

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- *The Environmental Committee and Criminal Justice Committees are not meeting this summer but will provide updates in September.*
- *Elaine Harger, Chair of Voter services reported that there was a good turnout for Unity in the Community where LWVSA had a voter registration table. She is getting requests for the League to help with local candidate forums. She is also going to call members to get help with the forums.*

***Note: LWVSA Board meetings are held every 3rd Wednesday of the month from 4 p.m to 6 p.m. via Zoom. If you would like to attend, please contact Jean Richardson for the link.***

***For more details regarding the August Board meeting, please contact Carol Landa-McVicker at [cj\\_99224@yahoo.com](mailto:cj_99224@yahoo.com).***

***As always, LWV Spokane Area members are welcome and encouraged to attend Board meetings held every third Wednesday from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. These meetings are virtual on Zoom.***

***Next Board meeting will be a Zoom meeting at 4 p.m. on September 20, 2023. Please R.S.V.P. to [LWVSALeadership@gmail.com](mailto:LWVSALeadership@gmail.com) if you'd like to attend a BOD meeting and we will send you the Zoom link. LINK INFO...***

# 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 LWVSAleadership@gmail.com

# WOMEN POWER THE VOTE



Elaine Harger and Beth Pellicciotti, photo by Carol Landa-McVicker

# VOTER SERVICES

Elaine Harger, Chair

## *August was a busy month for LWVSA Voter Services!*

Voter registration took place at two events — Unity in the Community on Aug. 12 in Riverfront Park, and a Naturalization Ceremony on Aug. 23 at CenterPlace. Many thanks to Darla Austerman, Becky Dickerhoof, Beth Pellicciotti, Sally Phillips, Jean Richardson, and Judy Silverman for engaging in conversations at the tables and registering new voters.

August was busy also with requests coming in from all over for help organizing candidate forums. There seems to be considerable desire throughout the Spokane area for community members to have the opportunity to hear from candidates for office. So far, no forums have been scheduled, but candidates are being contacted, venues procured, dates selected, and moderators found. What this means is that Voter Services will need volunteers to assist with the forums once they are scheduled.

Everyone who has contacted me about organizing a forum has said (in one way or another) “I heard/know the League of Women Voters does good work on candidate forums. We need your help!” And so, I give it.

To this end, I will be phoning LWVSA members to find out if you are interested in volunteering for any of our Voter Services activities.

Here's a list of upcoming events. Sally Phillips will be sending out a request for volunteers. If you are not on her mailing list and would like to be, please contact me.

Sep. 19, National Voter Registration Day (TBD)

Sept. 21, 10:30am to 1:30pm, Constitution Day at Spokane Community College (Spokane)

Sep. 22, 10am to 2pm, LWVSA table at Eastern Washington University (Cheney)

Sep. 24, 10am to 4pm, Mirabeau Park, ValleyFest (Spokane Valley)

Oct. 3, 10:30am to 1:30pm, Spokane Community College (Spokane)

Oct. 5, 11am to 1pm, Spokane Falls Community College (Spokane)

## *Defending democracy and empowering voters with YOU!*

Elaine Harger, Chair of Voter Services

eharger@drizzle.com; 509-893-8862 (landline)





## AHHS - Affordable Housing and Homelessness Solutions

During the month of August our committee has been on hiatus. Our members, however, have been as busy as always. We have members who are serving on several advocate boards, as community members (not League representatives) and volunteers. One of those advocate associations is the Village Cohousing Works (<https://www.villagecohousingworksspokane.org/blog>).

### Village Cohousing Update

August has been a very busy month for Village Cohousing Works (VCW). We participated in Unity in the Community, our first event, and had a remarkable number of people stop by our booth to learn about VCW, everyone from politicians, to the media, to potential homeowners, to other service providers. It was a great day!

We have also been working on continuing to raise donations to enable us to purchase a new manufactured home. We received a large donation and many smaller ones at the beginning of the month, which has allowed us to actually place our order for our first home this week and it will be delivered in 8-10 weeks. Needless to say, we are thrilled!

When we receive delivery of the home, we will place it in Takesa Village in Mead, a co-op ownership in which the residents own the land, and the house will be turn-key ready for our first family. That family will purchase the home from us at cost, approximately \$83,000-\$86,000. We will continue collecting donations for the final payments needed upon delivery and for the next home we purchase.

This is a pretty amazing feat as VCW has only been around since January 2023, not even one year. And here we are preparing to place our first family by the holidays. Thank you LWV for your support. They are currently partnering with Takesa Village to help place new, energy efficient homes on 10 empty lots.

Please check out their website to see how you can help.

### Hope Street Project

Some of our members along with other community leaders have toured the Colville group, Hope Street Project ([www.HopeStreetProject.org](http://www.HopeStreetProject.org)), which is working to provide affordable housing and jobs for the homeless in their community. They are especially focusing on creating alternatives to tent living.

We also have members who are involved in the Service Provider Response Team to the proposed Regional Authority on Homelessness, Housing, Health, and Safety. They are concerned that the providers will not have a role in the proposed authority, and this will prevent the success of the plan.

### Check out the Hello for Good Symposium!

Finally, we invite everyone to attend the Hello for Good Symposium on Oct 17, from 8:30 to 10am, at the CenterPlace Regional Event Center. Doors open at 8. The featured speaker is Ed Brady, President and CEO of the Home Builders Institute (HBI). HBI is the nations' leading nonprofit provider of trade skills training and education for the building industry. Brooke Baker Spink of Baker Construction will serve as the moderator. As

with our previous symposiums, there will be ample opportunity to submit questions. Admission is free but registration is required.

With the summer over our committee will resume meeting on a regular basis. We welcome all members to attend. Since we meet by Zoom you must contact our host for the link.

**Our committee will next meet on October 1, , 2023 at 5:30 p.m.** If you would like to attend, send an email to [LWVSAHHS@gmail.com](mailto:LWVSAHHS@gmail.com) for a Zoom link.

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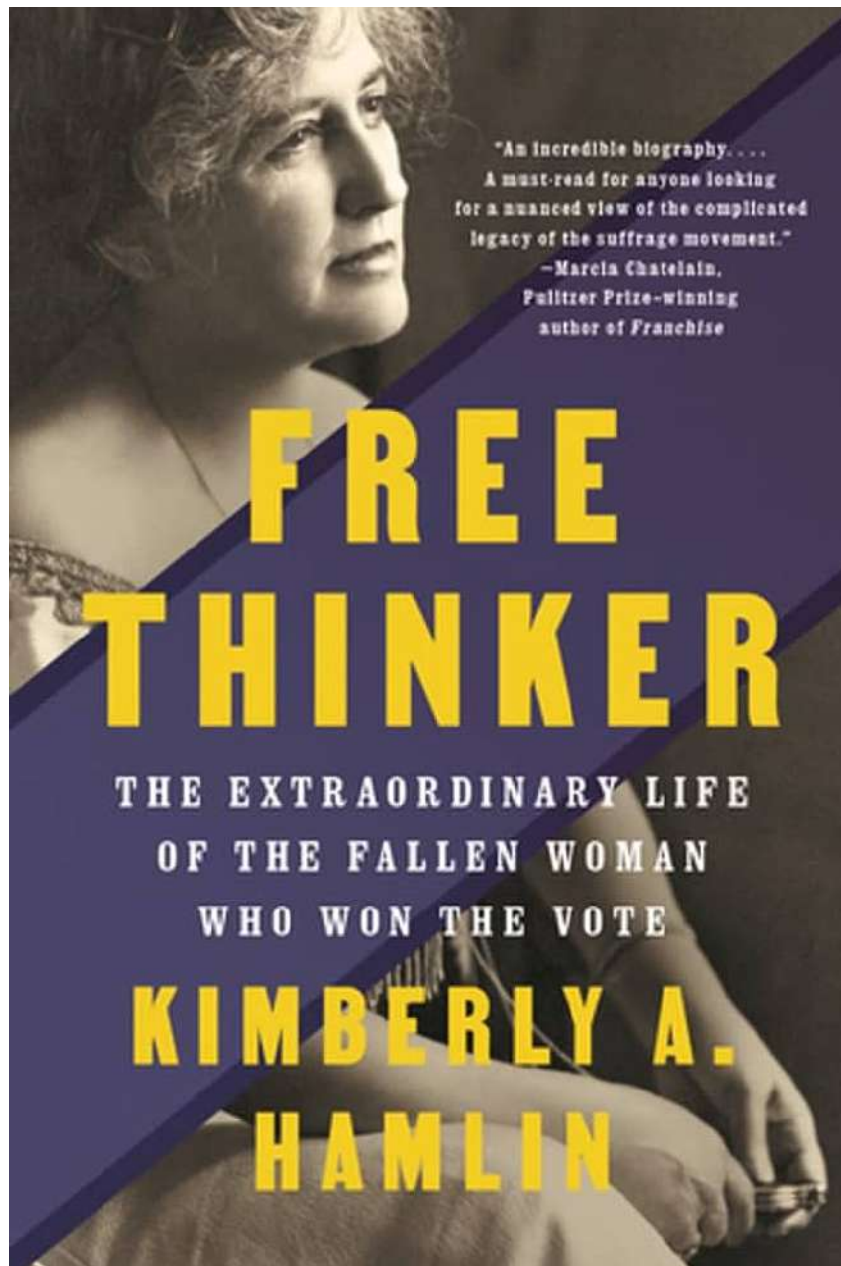
## Expo '74@50

LWVSA's Environment Committee is partnering with the Spokane County Library District to host community conversations regarding the climate crisis during the 50th anniversary celebrations of Expo'74. More information, and opportunities to be involved will be forthcoming in the October issue of The Voter.

**To keep abreast of Expo'74@50 events see:**

<https://my.spokanecity.org/riverfrontspokane/programs/expo-74-50th-anniversary/>

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## *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 TBD** — Book discussion of *Free Thinker* (in person and 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](mailto:LH1@fastmail.com)

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**SPOKANE IN-PERSON EVENT**

*Danielle Allen:*

*"Bringing Democracy Back from the Brink"*

September 8 | 7:00 p.m.

Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center at Gonzaga University | Free

[REGISTER](#)

*"Danielle Allen is a towering political philosopher of the democratic art of being and a force for good." – Cornel West*

How do we repair our fractured democracy? Harvard political theorist Danielle Allen believes the path to health lies through re-building a supermajority of people—across political ideologies—ready to work together to support constitutional democracy. In a time of increased polarization and weakening trust, it might seem impossible to create such a supermajority. But Allen will show us where and how we can build this supermajority, and why it is important.

**Danielle Allen** is a James Bryant Conant University Professor and Director of the Edmond and Lily Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard University. She is a professor of political philosophy, ethics, and public policy; a seasoned non-profit leader; democracy advocate; and distinguished author of several books including *Our Declaration: A Reading of the Declaration of Independence in Defense of Equality*, *Cuz: An American Tragedy*, and most recently, *Justice by Means of Democracy*.

[REGISTER](#)

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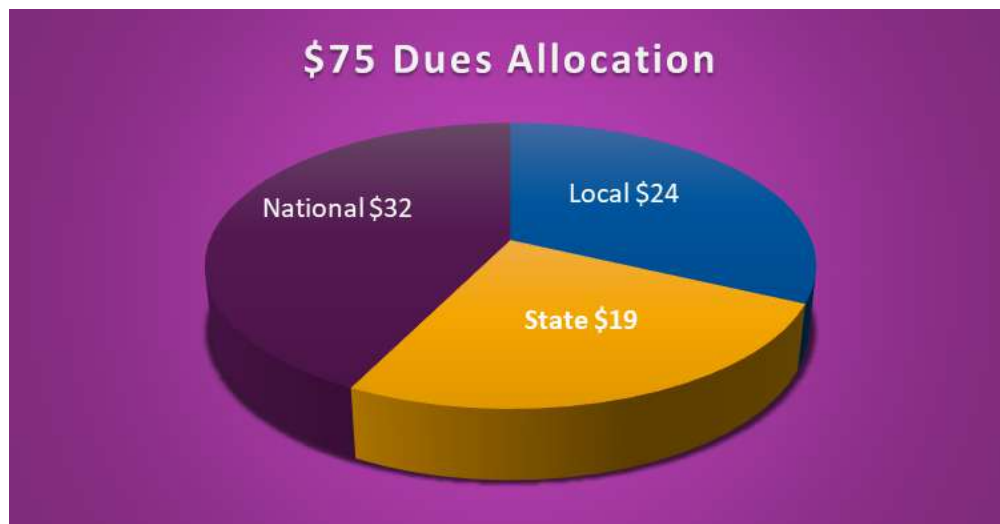


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**Join the League of Women Voters of Spokane Area**

[Join or Renew Online](#)





### Need a Member Directory?

A printable pdf of the most recent issue of the member directory can be found on the [Members Only page](#) of [LWVSpokane.org](http://LWVSpokane.org).

If you're not able to access the directory, please email [LWVSACommunications@gmail.com](mailto:LWVSACommunications@gmail.com) and we will send you one.

## *Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.*



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