THE Voter
LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF SPOKANE AREA

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# State Council Zooms to Success

With so many events canceled because of the pandemic, the League of Women Voters of Washington board and committee members brought long and hard about how to handle this year's Council the milestone Centennial Council. LWVSA had several members attend and all came away with new found knowledge and enthusiasm moving forward.

## LWVSA Represents

Our League was well represented throughout the State Centennial Council. Several of our members were presenters or served as session moders including Susan Hales, Beth Pellicciotti, Aruna Bhuta, Ann Murphy and Bev Austin-Smith. Our Legislative Budget President, had an important leadership role throughout the session.

Read excerpts from their presentations on our website under "What's New".

Read More

## Accessing Council Materials

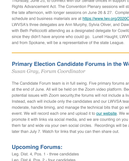
If you would like to view any of the session videos, download materials, or access the roster of attendees you may log in to the member section of the LWVWA website, click on *Council and Convention Info*, and then click *Centennial Council 2020*. From there you can access the roster enabling you to follow up with presenters and fellow attendees. This portal is now available to all League members.

*From Council attendees...*

*"What those doing this outreach have learned is that building relationships and finding shared purposes are at the core of outreach. Outreach is not all about League members and what we want to see happen; rather, League members must know what the League has to offer, how to participate as peers and partners, and how share resources. The emphasis is on listening and learning."*
—Susan Hales

*"It was drinking from a firehose—so much to learn about League and the important work we do. The session on social media was excellent."*
—Cheryn Bagman

*"We really had no idea if Council would even work via Zoom, let alone attracting well. We had great attendance and members were able to attend more sessions than they usually can at an in-person conference. Information... inspiring.... exhausting!"*
—Ann Murphy




# National Convention This Week

Rather than being in Washington, D.C., to celebrate the Centennial of League of Women Voters, some 1,400 delegates will converge on the virtual Zoom platform for caucuses and to conduct the business of LWVUS. Caucus sessions will be held June 22, 23 and 24. There will be a Virtual Lobby Day on June 25 and the Plenary Session will take place June 26 and 27 with the Rights Advancement Act, The Convention Plenary sessions will start June 25 in the late afternoon, with longer sessions on June 26 & 27. Complete convention schedule and caucus materials are at https://www.lwv.org/2020/convention LWVSA's three delegates are Ann Murphy, Sylvia Oliver, and Dawn Bayman with Beth Pellicciotti attending as a designated delegate for Cowlitz County since they didn't have anyone who could go. Lunell Haught, LWVWA president and from Spokane, will be a representative of the state League.

## Primary Election Candidate Forums in the Works

*Susan Krug, Forum Coordinator*

The Candidate Forum team is in full swing. Five primary forums are scheduled for the end of June. All will be held on the Zoom video platform. Because of potential issues with Zoom security,the forums will not be available on the Internet. Instead, each will include only the candidates and our LWVSA teams who will moderate, handle timing, and manage the technical bits that go with a Zoom meeting. The forums are scheduled for June 24, 25, 26, and 29. We will also promote it with links on social media, and we are counting on you to share them far and wide via your own social circles. Recordings will be available no later than July 7. Watch for links that you can then share out.

## Upcoming Forums:

Leg. Dist. 4, Pos. 1 - three candidates
Leg. Dist. 4, Pos. 2 - four candidates
Leg. Dist. 4, Senate - three candidates
Leg. Dist. 6, Pos. 2 - three candidates
Congressional District 5 - four or five candidates

A Secretary of State forum is also in the works, organized by LWVWA, currently scheduled for broadcast in the KSPS PBS studios, pandemic allowing. More on that to come.

Thanks to each of you who provided questions for the forums and for lobbyist1.org

# Action CORNER

*Aruna Bhuta, Action Chair*

## Vote YES on Referendum 90

Vote Yes on Referendum 90 ESSB 5395 can be implemented as it was passed in 2019 legislative session. ESSB 5395 is designed to require comprehensive sexual health education in public schools. LWV cares deeply about raising well informed citizens. Referendum 90 will be on the ballot in fall 2020.

## Chehalis River Dam Opposed

LWVWA has been working with 50 organizations, businesses and tribes and has sent a letter to the Department of Ecology and the Chehalis Basin Board in opposition to construction of a dam on the upper Chehalis River. The proposed dam is not a sustainable nor practical solution to the devastating floods impacting communities throughout the Chehalis Basin.

## LWVSA Endorses Specific Cause Eviction Ordinance

Based on research and considerable discussion on both sides of eviction issues, the LWVSA Board will submit a letter to the Spokane City Council endorsing the city's codification of Specific Cause Eviction Ordinance. This ordinance supports a tenant/landlord eviction due process on city council agenda for July 2, 2020. Thanks to the LWVSA Affordable Housing Committee for the research and action on this important issue.

## LWVSA Continues to Support Citizen Oversight of Police Force

LWVSA submitted a letter to City of Spokane elected officials urging them to not approve the Police Guild contract that guts citizen oversight. LWVSA has supported a police ombudsman for the City of Spokane since 2008 and endorsed the 2013 ballot measure where almost 70% of Spokane voters demanded and passed independent police investigations. On June 15, the City Council delayed consideration of the contract for two weeks.

## Criminal Justice Committee Needs You

*Kate Fillo, Criminal Justice Chair*

The Criminal Justice Committee is looking forward to help tackle the issues of criminal justice and police reforms that have come to light recently. All interested in becoming Committee members, please email the Chair, Kate Tetu, at Kate.tetu@gmail.com. Zoom meetings will happen soon to keep Committee members up to date.

# Student Ambassadors Join LWVSA

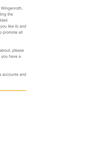
*At the June 17 board meeting, Bev Austin-Smith presented a recommendation from the Voter Services Committee to establish a Student Ambassador program to better reach young voters through social media and other outreach programs. Please join us in welcoming these two Student Ambassador members into the LWVSA.*

## Rosie Zhou

Rosie is a rising senior at Ferris High School who is passionate about climate justice, gun reform, and criminal justice system reform. She has been involved with multiple community organizations and believes that it is extremely important for youth to speak up and get involved locally. She is excited to work with the League to increase youth voter turnout in upcoming elections.

## Summer Sandstrom

Summer is a student at Eastern Washington University where she is planning on studying journalism. She is a sub coordinator for Sunrise Spokane, a youth led climate advocacy group. She thinks that youth voting is important to creating changes in our society that are desperately need and is excited to start working with the League to get more young people to vote.



## Mentors Needed

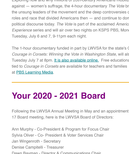
Newly elected Board Member Jean Allman has developed a Mentor Corps for LWVSA in which new members will be welcomed by an experienced member—a Mentor—and introduced to the many important activities of LWVSA.

In this era of social distancing and Zoom meetings, the Mentor will develop a one-to-one relationship with one new member, determine that new member's interests and help them attend appropriate meetings, introduce them to the leaders of that program, and creatively find ways to accompany the new member to monthly meetings.

Several experienced LWVSA members are needed to be Mentors this summer. If you are interested in exploring the possibilities of becoming a Mentor to New Members, please email Jean Allman at jallm126@outlook.net.

## Welcome New Member Rebecca Kemnitz MacMullan

Raised in Upstate New York, Rebecca Kemnitz MacMullan graduated from Hamilton College, then lived in Eugene and Seattle before moving to Spokane in 2003. She and her husband, Terry, have two teen-aged children and a bird dog that earns her. Rebecca is an accountant and a founding board member of the grassroots climate action organization, 350 Spokane.

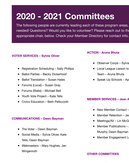



## Communications Team... Communicating

With elections coming up, the Communications committee of Jan Wingersoth, Mary Hughes, Sylvia Oliver, Kate Tetu and Dawn Bayman are hitting the ground running. They have reactivated the Facebook account, added Instagram and Twitter, moved The Voter to a new platform (hope you like it) and set unveil the new website in a few weeks. They are ready to help promote all the good work of our LWVSA committees.

If you have an event or other activity that the public should know about, please email Chair Dawn Bayman at dedayman@gmail.com as soon as you have a date—the earlier the better—so they can help promote your work.

And if you haven't already, please like and follow our social media accounts and share posts with your friends.




## Suffrage Centennial Programs Coming to Public TV

Exploring how and why millions of 20th-century Americans mobilized for — and against — women's suffrage, the 4-hour documentary The Vote brings to life the unsung leaders of the movement and the deep controversies over gender roles and race that divided Americans then — and continue to dominate political discourse today. The film is part of the acclaimed American Experience series and will air over two nights on KSPS PBS: Monday and Tuesday, July 6 and 7, 9-11pm each night.

The 1-hour documentary funded in part by LWVUS for the state's Centennial, *Courage to Consider: Winning the Vote in Washington State*, will also air on Tuesday July 7 at 9pm. It is also available online. Free educational materials tied to Courage in Consider are available for teachers and families at PBS Learning Media.

# Your 2020 - 2021 Board

Following the LWVSA Annual Meeting in May and an appointment at the June 17 Board meeting, here is the LWVSA Board of Directors:

Ann Murphy – Co-President & Program for Focus Chair
Sylvia Oliver – Co-President & Voter Services Chair
Jan Wingersoth – Treasurer
Denise Campbell - Treasurer
Dawn Bayman - Director & Communications Chair
April May - Director & Speak Up Schools Chair
Jean Allman - Director & Membership Chair
Aruna Bhuta (appointed) - Action Chair

We are grateful for the exceptional work of our outgoing Board members, Beth Pellicciotti and Marcia Danielsen. Both continue in the active on committees.

The Annual Meeting also approved several Amendments to the Bylaws, approved Program for Focus, and adopted a Budget for 2020-21. The new board has met twice assuming duties, developing an organizational structure reflected in the committee listings below, and will meet again on July 1 in retreat to establish goals and calendar for the coming year.

# 2020 - 2021 Committees

The following people are currently leading each of these program areas. Your help is needed! Questions? Want to jump into a committee? Please reach out to the appropriate chair, below. Check your Member Directory for contact info.

**VOTER SERVICES – Sylvia Oliver**

- Registration Scheduling – Sally Phillips
- Ballot Prepper – Becky Schaefer/staff
- Ballot Transmitter – Susan Hales
- Forums Lunell – Susan Krug
- Forums Ellen2 – Michael Bell
- Youth Vote Project – Kate Tetu
- Cross Education – Beth Pellicciotti

**COMMUNICATIONS – Dawn Bayman**

- Eric Yakes – Dawn Bayman
- Social Media – Sylvia Oliver, Kate Tetu, Susan Bayman
- Webmasters – Mary Hughes, Jan Wingersoth

**PROGRAM FOR FOCUS – Ann Murphy**

- Affordable Housing – Marilyn Danielsen, Sharon Sanguinetti
- Criminal Justice Reforms – Dawn Schrader
- Water – Constance Holland
- Criminal Justice/Forum Justice Speaker Liaison – Kate Tetu

**ACTION – Aruna Bhuta**

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

**MEMBER SERVICES – Jean Allman**

- New Member Contact – Marilyn Danielsen
- Member Retention – Jean Allman
- Meetingup101 – Liz McGinn
- Member Publications – Ann Murphy, Dawn Bayman
- Member Engagement Leadership

**OTHER COMMITTEES**

- State Convention Liaison (2021) – Ann Murphy
- Strategic Planning – Ann Murphy, Sylvia Oliver, Denise Campbell, 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 February. The best update is set for this year email box in July. If you do have a directory, before the next issue, please email it required to dedayman@gmail.com.

*Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.*

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