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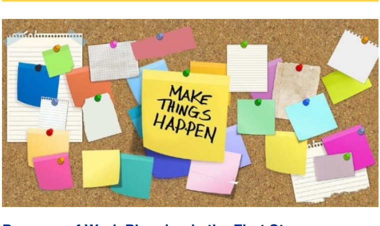
THE Voter

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF SPOKANE AREA

VOLUME LXXX ISSUE 1, JANUARY 4, 2021

A printable PDF of The Voter will be available at LWVSpokane.org



Program of Work Planning is the First Step

Ann Murphy, Co-President and Program Chair

It is time to go back to the beginning….. to show how we get to the point where we, as a League, successfully advocate for the issues we determine are important. We spent time in our November and December General meetings looking at our local advocacy. During our January Program Planning meeting we will discuss what other interests you may have.

Confidential Zoom Link for January 12 General Meetings
11:30am-1pm and 6:30pm-8pm
Choose the time that works best for you.
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85029109052?pwd=Um5PQU1ZUDZpTTJzejFhUTlIUDNxUT09
Meeting ID: **850 2910 9052,** Passcode: **264004**
Phone in: **253-215-8782**

As a grass roots organization, the League of Women Voters Program Planning Process begins at the local level and determines what issues our own local League believes are important and need to be addressed at both the state and local levels.

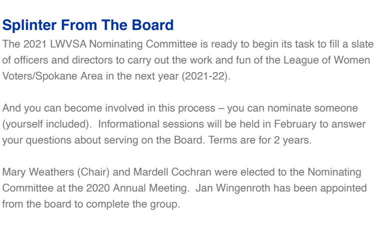
You, as members of LWVSA, will identify topics for local study. We will have breakout groups to discuss current program items or to propose something new. This process will culminate when a local study suggestion is presented for a vote at our Annual Meeting in May 2021.

We will also have the opportunity to put forth items for state level study. The inputs from local Leagues across the state will be discussed by the LWVWA board who will then decide on a recommendation to the delegates at LWVWA Convention 2021 where members will decide which issues are to be placed on our state level public policy agenda for the next two years (2021-2023).

Identification of these issues is part of our work aimed at helping people understand the complexities of an issue and encourage people to participate in reaching a solution. It also lays the groundwork for successful advocacy to change public policy.

Please go here for more details https://my.lwv.org/washington/spokane-area/program-planning

Questions? Contact Ann Murphy



Environmental Issues Committee Meets Tuesday

The newly formed **Environmental Issues Committee** will examine the **Spokane Climate Project** and how it relates to current League positions.

Tuesday, January 5, 2021 - 6:30pm
Confidential Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81803446524?pwd=NjVtNlZpbEU2TktZRTJrTWVTc2ZRUT09

More Information and background:
Futurewise

Spokane Climate Project

Climate Toolbox

Splinter From The Board

The 2021 LWVSA Nominating Committee is ready to begin its task to fill a slate of officers and directors to carry out the work and fun of the League of Women Voters/Spokane Area in the next year (2021-22).

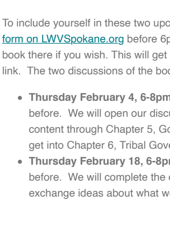
And you can become involved in this process – you can nominate someone (yourself included). Informational sessions will be held in February to answer your questions about serving on the Board. Terms are for 2 years.

Mary Weathers (Chair) and Mardell Cochran were elected to the Nominating Committee at the 2020 Annual Meeting. Jan Wingenroth has been appointed from the board to complete the group.

To submit a nomination send names to info@lwvspokane.org

Winter is Here: Time to Read

Jean Richardson



For those of us interested in broadening civic engagement, 2020 was a galvanizing year. A Spokane winter provides an excellent interlude to educate ourselves and prepare to launch into 2021 contributing strongly to civic engagement in the city, the surrounding area, the state, and the nation.

With this in mind, our local league is launching a book discussion group using ***The State We're In: Washington***, a League of Women Voters produced and published text for future voters and citizens in the upper grades and high school. Both print and online versions are available.

- The Spokane league has 28 print copies of the book in inventory which are available for $10.60 each.
- Sign up and pay by credit card or PayPal
- For those who would like financial assistance their purchase, contact Sylvia Oliver for help.
- Books purchased through the local league will be available for pickup on January 14 from 4-6pm at St. Andrews Church, 2404 North Howard, and delivery can be arranged.
- Electronic copies are free at https://lwvwa.org/the-state-we-are-in
- LWVWA.org has print copies available by mail for $24.00.

To include yourself in these two upcoming discussions this winter, fill out the form on LWVSpokane.org before 6pm on January 29. You can also buy the book there if you wish. This will get you on the list to receive the Zoom link. The two discussions of the book will be held on Zoom as follows:

- **Thursday February 4, 6-8pm**. Zoom link will be sent the night before. We will open our discussion on the book and plan to discuss content through Chapter 5, Governing Washington Today and possibly get into Chapter 6, Tribal Governments Today.
- **Thursday February 18, 6-8pm**. Zoom link will be sent the night before. We will complete the discussion of the book and plan to exchange ideas about what we'd like to do with our new knowledge.

Note: These discussions will start on time, so plan to be online early as the Zoom room will be open so you can chat and get to know each other before we begin. You may also want to have pen and paper handy for note taking and for any exercises we may have time for.

Speak Up School Coming in February: Your Help Is Needed to Spread the Word

April May, LWVSA Director and Speak Up School Chair

LWVSA will host training workshops called "Speak Up Schools" to encourage a wide range of people to testify at open meetings held by the Washington State Commission on Redistricting later in 2021. Speak Up Schools will share tools to help participants find their own voice and build effective, personal testimony.

SPEAK UP SCHOOL

We are finalizing a 2-part workshop with inspiring and effective speakers on Monday, February 15, and Saturday, February 20, with exact times TBA. A schedule will be available the second week in January.

We will send you an email with detailed information. **Please share with people and groups in your circle** to help ensure everyone in our community has an opportunity to participate in the redistricting process so district boundaries are truly representative and fair to all.

LWVSA envisions another important benefit of Speak-up Schools: As part of our mission to "Empower Voters. Defend Democracy," we strongly support active civic engagement and believe the skills gained in this training will provide long-term benefit to the public when they testify to different municipal and county government committees and commissions.

So, stand by for more information coming next week. In the meantime, email April May for more information.

Action CORNER

Aruna Bhuta, Action Chair

Washington Coalition for Police Accountability - 2021 Legislative Preview Briefing

Zoom Meeting Tuesday, Jan. 5, noon – 1pm

The Washington Coalition for Police Accountability, will host a Legislative Briefing to learn about 2021 legislative priorities. Since June, they have been working with Washington State legislative leadership to develop a focused package that will reduce police violence and increase accountability. With your help, we can pass this legislation this year and keep more Washington families safe and whole.

Tuesday, January 5, (tomorrow!) 12pm - 1pm via Zoom – register here for the Zoom link.

This is the right moment to work together for substantive meaningful change to police culture, and your help is needed. Bills we will be previewing address the following topics:

- Police tactics - sponsored by Representative Jesse Johnson
- Decertification and loss of license for officer misconduct - sponsored by Senator Jamie Pedersen
- Use of force - sponsored by Representative Jesse Johnson
- Civil liability for police use of force - sponsored by Representative My-Linh Thai
- Independent criminal investigations and prosecutions - sponsored by Representative Debra Entenman

Thank you and we look forward to working together.

The Washington Coalition for Police Accountability includes families who have lost loved ones to police use of deadly force, Initiative 940 campaign leaders, civil rights organizations, tribes, labor unions, the faith community, and activists committed to ending the violence present in police culture and practices.

Upcoming Opportunities for Observer Corps

Sylvia Oliver, Co- President & Voter Services Chair

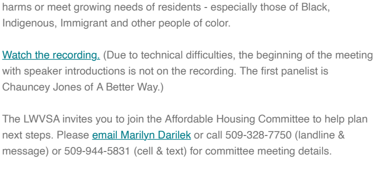
The function of the Observer Corps is to listen, learn and report back on proceedings of council, board, commission and advisory committees within our regional city and county government and public schools. You are invited to participate as an observer at these upcoming meetings:

Spokane City Council
Mondays, Jan 4 and 1, Briefing Session at 3pm, Legislative Meeting at 6pm.
Agendas and links to recordings of previous meetings

Spokane County Commissioners
Tuesdays, Jan 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2pm.
Check here on the day of the meeting for the posted agenda. The Board only participates via conference call. The public can participate by calling 1-877-304-4339; then enter ID 330641.
Archived agendas and minutes

Spokane Public School Board
Wednesdays, Jan 13 and 27, 7pm.
Steps on how to participate in virtual SPS Board meetings
Details of how to access minutes of previous meetings

More on LWVSA Observer Corps or Contact Sylvia Oliver



Affordable Housing Panel Discussion

by Marilyn Darilek

On Tuesday December 29, numerous Spokane area residents from throughout the County joined affordable housing advocates Sherri Gangitano and Marilyn Darilek for a roundtable discussion. Featured panelists were Chauncey Jones of A Better Way, Jim Frank of Greenstone, Steve Corker of Spokane Landlords Association, and Ben Stuckart of the Spokane Low Income Housing Consortium.

Although the discussion was pulled together with short notice, the chance to have these advocates offer their experience and perspective was not an opportunity to pass up. As evidenced by those who joined this roundtable discussion, the housing issue is of keen interest for the Spokane area. Although not all stakeholders who advocate for affordable housing were present, those who joined the conversations recognize that economic and racial inequities, which have been built into policies and practices, continue to perpetuate planning and building development inadequate to rectify historic harms or meet growing needs of residents - especially those of Black, Indigenous, Immigrant and other people of color.

Watch the recording. (Due to technical difficulties, the beginning of the meeting with speaker introductions is not on the recording. The first panelist is Chauncey Jones of A Better Way.)

The LWVSA invites you to join the Affordable Housing Committee to help plan next steps. Please email Marilyn Darilek or call 509-328-7750 (landline & message) or 509-944-5831 (cell & text) for committee meeting details.

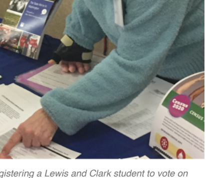
City Plan Commission Has Openings

The **City of Spokane's Plan Commission** has two openings for citizen service. The Commission provides advice and makes recommendations on broad planning goals and policies and other matters as requested by the City Council.

Learn more about the Commission
Download an application

Learn More About Voting Alternatives

Marilyn Darilek



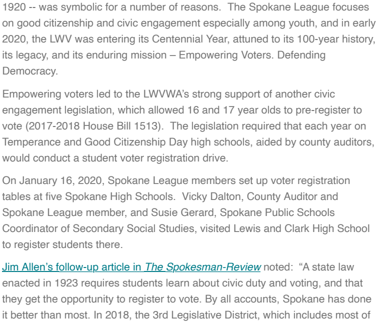
FairVote Spokane is hosting another informational event on Monday, January 11, 7-8pm.

This will be Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) 101 --essentially several different learning demonstrations showing how RCV works and information about the push for the Local Options bill to pass this legislative session. If the bill fails, the aim of Fair Vote is a state-wide ballot initiative.

Anyone interested in establishing a more representative election method that is gaining ground around the nation is encouraged to attend & check it out. Learn more and sign up for the Zoom link.

Temperance and Good Citizenship Day

Beth Pellicciotti



Bev Austin, Spokane League member, registering a Lewis and Clark student to vote on Temperance and Good Citizenship Day. January 16, 2020.

The beginning of a New Year calls for looking back on special days during the last year. While the Spokane League had many special days, a high school outreach project at the beginning of 2020 was perhaps the most memorable.

Temperance and Good Citizenship Day – a call to civic engagement written into Washington state legislation three years after the formation of the LWV in 1920 -- was symbolic for a number of reasons. The Spokane League focuses on good citizenship and civic engagement especially among youth, and in early 2020, the LWV was entering its Centennial Year, attuned to its 100-year history, its legacy, and its enduring mission – Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

Empowering voters led to the LWVWA's strong support of another civic engagement legislation, which allowed 16 and 17 year olds to pre-register to vote (2017-2018 House Bill 1513). The legislation required that each year on Temperance and Good Citizenship Day high schools, aided by county auditors, would conduct a student voter registration drive.

On January 16, 2020, Spokane League members set up voter registration tables at five Spokane High Schools. Vicky Dalton, County Auditor and Spokane League member, and Susie Gerard, Spokane Public Schools Coordinator of Secondary Social Studies, visited Lewis and Clark High School to register students there.

Jim Allen's follow-up article in *The Spokesman-Review* noted: "A state law enacted in 1923 requires students learn about civic duty and voting, and that they get the opportunity to register to vote. By all accounts, Spokane has done it better than most. In 2018, the 3rd Legislative District, which includes most of the city, experienced the largest increase of younger voters in the state."

He recognized the ongoing work of the Spokane League in delivering 91 classroom presentations a year to over 2,000 high school students, consistently registering 500 students to vote.

A good way to begin 2020. And for 2021 – while visiting the schools is not an option, we are all reminded of the goals of **Temperance and Good Citizenship Day**. LWVSA will continue with civics education in high schools during the school year.

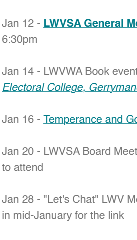
From LWVUS

WOMEN POWER THE VOTE

For the League's centennial year, LWVUS launched a speaker series, **Women Power the Vote.** In its final digital event of 2020, we convened election administrators to break down the work that went into successfully running elections during a pandemic, countering misinformation, and lessons learned that we all want to apply to expand voter participation for years to come.

Watch LWVUS CEO Virginia Kase moderate our panel with Florida Secretary of State Laurel M. Lee, New Jersey Secretary of State Tahesha Way, and Chair of Mecklenburg County Board of Elections Carol Hill Williams for a one-hour discussion about how these women tackled their significant professional responsibilities with integrity and grace. #WomenPowertheVote

LWVWA Book Event



LWVWA invites you to a book event with Kristin Eberhard *Director of Democracy at Sightline Institute* and author of the hot off the presses new book, *Becoming a Democracy: How We Can Fix the Electoral College, Gerrymandering, and Our Elections*, **Thursday, January 14, 5:30pm.**

Register here for a meeting link.

Calendar

Jan 5 - Environmental Issues Committee Meeting, 6:30pm

Jan 5 - Washington Coalition for Police Accountability meeting, noon

Jan 11 - Washington Legislative Session opens

Jan 11 - Fair Vote Spokane meeting on Ranked Choice Voting, 7pm

Jan 12 - **LWVSA General Meetings** - LWV Program Planning, 11:30am or 6:30pm

Jan 14 - LWVWA Book event, *Becoming a Democracy: How We Can Fix the Electoral College, Gerrymandering, and Our Elections*

Jan 16 - Temperance and Good Citizenship Day

Jan 20 - LWVSA Board Meeting, 10am - noon, contact Ann Murphy if you wish to attend

Jan 28 - "Let's Chat" LWV Membership gathering via Zoom - watch your email in mid-January for the link

Jan 29 - Deadline to register for "The State We're In" book club

Feb 4 and 18 - Book Club, "The State We're In", 6-8pm

Feb 9 - **LWVSA General Meetings**

Feb 15 and 20 - LWVSA Speak Up Schools

Feb 17 - LWVSA Board Meeting, 10am - noon, contact Ann Murphy if you wish to attend

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
Jean Alliman - Director & Membership Chair
Dawn Bayman - Director & Communications Chair
Aruna Bhuta - Director & Action Chair
April May - Director & Speak Up Schools 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 Shuster
- Environmental Issues – Ann Murphy (acting)
- Criminal Justice - Melkam Tesfaye & Victor Frasier; Smart Justice Spokane Liaison - Kate Telis
- Spokane County Government - Ann Murphy, Sylvia Oliver
- Health Care Interest Group - April May

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?

A printable pdf of the most recent issue of the member directory can be found on the Members Only page of LWVSpokane.org. If you're not able to access it, please email Dawn Bayman and she'll send you one.

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

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