



THE VOTER

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

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LWVSA 75 YEARS

JULY 2019

Experience Democracy in Action

League of Women Voters is looking for volunteers to help with a voting project!

The Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) is holding their annual convention in Spokane in one week and has asked our League to oversee their elections this year. They are providing morning snacks, lunch and parking at the Davenport Grand Hotel.

We need 25 volunteers Friday morning, July 19, (8 to 11:30 a.m.) to distribute ballots and assist these veterans, and another 25 volunteers to count ballots Friday, July 19, (12 to 3:30 p.m.). In the event of a runoff election Saturday morning, another 20 volunteers are needed.

Please come out and support your League and democracy in motion. You may sign up to work as many shifts as you wish. Non-members (cannot be a VVA member) may sign up as well. If you are able to assist with this important project, please contact Lisa Kuhar at lisakp95@gmail.com or 509 979-6689 indicating your availability.



LWV Sponsored Primary Election Candidate Forums

You can still catch the Primary forums on CityCable5 before the August 6th primary election. See side bar box.

It took two days of forums (June 25th & June 27th) to hear all the candidates running in the August 6th primary elections for Spokane mayor, City Council President, Council members and District 81 school board. Susan B. (Anthony) would be proud of two of our LWV

Links to forums

[Spokane Mayor](#)

[Spokane City Council President](#)

[Spokane City Council District #1, Position #1](#)

[Spokane City Council District #2, Position #1](#)

[Spokane City Council District #3, Position #1](#)

[Spokane School District #81 School Board](#)

Susans! Susan Gray led the League's group which organized the event, while Susan Hales brought together a team that formulated the wide range of questions for the candidates.

For more details, see the articles about the forums which appeared in the [Spokesman Review on June 26th, 28th and 30th](#), or see the entire forums using the links above.

Here are a few (possibly not surprising) take-aways from the forums

- Safety and property crime were the major concerns addressed by all city office candidates.
- Causes and solutions for homelessness differed widely. Using the same statistics from *Everybody Counts* <https://my.spokanecity.org/endinghomelessness/everybody-counts>, some candidates saw addiction and mental health as the primary cause of homelessness while other candidates faulted the lack of affordable housing and the lack of a 24/7 shelter as the major problems. Asked how to increase affordable housing, some emphasized rezoning to allow more multi-family housing along developed corridors, while others stressed incentives to developers and new construction rule changes to decrease barriers to building more housing.
- Addressing the traffic revisions on Lincoln, Monroe, and Sprague, some candidates promised more emphasis on speeding traffic flow and ending traffic calming measures and "road diets."
- A question on continuing to reduce the city's role climate change brought widely differing responses from the candidates. And one area of agreement; everyone is against potholes!



A new [Voter's Guide](#) for the upcoming primary election in August was recently released for all the county elections <https://voter.votewa.gov>

Looking Backward, Moving Forward: WA State League 2019 Convention

Long Time Woman- First time Attendee: Jan Wingenroth, Board Secretary

The first weekend in June I was whisked off to Tacoma by two other newish League members to attend the LVW state convention. Spokane will host the next convention in 2021 so we newbies attended with the idea of observing successes and problems that we want to avoid when Spokane's turn comes. You may view the workshop presentations, proceedings of the plenary sessions, programs adopted, and award winners at <https://lwvwa.org/Convention2019>

There were four workshop tracks offered: League Leadership, Making Democracy Work, MELD & DEI (Membership Engagement, & Leadership Development (MELD)/Diversity, Equity & Inclusion) and History. You're not stuck in on one track; you can mix and match. The convention offers lots of acronym mastering opportunities!

I mostly attended MELD & DEI where I learned that some Leagues engage members in coffee chats to discuss current issues and possible actions. Some Leagues have their members going to local government and governing board meetings as part of an Observer Corps and then report back on highlights of the meetings and any significant issues and discussions.

We were reminded that diversity needs to be a two-way street. To recruit members from different racial, ethnic or cultural groups, League members need to go to others' spaces and activities not just invite people to our meetings. Going out to other groups helps us understand their needs and how we might better work with them.

I got "off-track" and attended one of the Democracy workshops and learned how members of other Leagues use the Public Disclosure Commission website <https://www.pdc.wa.gov> We can teach others to use the site to identify candidates top donors.

Surprisingly, there was a speaker with every meal and a few in between. My expectations were low, and I thought this would get very tedious. To my amazement ALL of the speakers were very good. The mayor of Tacoma told a very inspiring story how her increasing interest in social justice led to her mayoral election. I was absolutely stunned when our own *Spokesman-Review* editor Rob Curley almost gained Rockstar celebrity status with his engaging speech proposing a newspaper and League collaboration.

I hope many of us will be able to attend the LWVWA Convention when it comes to Spokane in 2021. To get ready for this; I am saving my pennies for the conference fee, learning one new League acronym every month, and above all, brushing up on Robert's Rules of Order so I can shout "Point of privilege." I now know that's how I can ask to have the microphone turned up.

Looking Forward for LWV Spokane Area

On July 5th your LVW Board spent the day planning our League activities for the next League year. All **monthly programs will still be held the 2nd Tuesday of the month**. The results of our meeting place and time survey are still being tabulated. There may be some changes in time and venue this year to accommodate expected larger attendance. We will notify members well in advance of any changes.

Our first meeting Tuesday, Sept. 10, will be an introduction for old and new members to continuing programs and new activities planned for this year. Also, in September the League will host another candidate forum with the top two finalists for Spokane city offices and Spokane Public Schools board of directors. Please volunteer to help when the request comes.

Our meeting October 8 will be devoted to presentations on any state and local initiatives that qualify for the November ballot. Ballot issues are not yet finalized, so stay tuned.

A state League sponsored Action Workshop will be scheduled in early November. This will give us time to become informed regarding upcoming legislative proposals, work with League issues chairs, and still enjoy the holidays. We should be well prepared from our November Action Workshop and know how to take action in January when the state legislature convenes.

Other League programs planned for the year include

- visiting the Water Resource Center to learn how to help protect our aquifer and river
- presentations on Affordable Housing and Homelessness in Spokane
- training to help make sure Spokane has an accurate 2020 Census count
- learning how to promote diversity and inclusion in our local League

We should have a new look for our Spokane League web page sometime this fall. Keep liking us on Facebook and sharing or posting League activities to your friends.

Board Shorts

This column will be a recurring item in our monthly publication, *The VOTER* and will be written by one of the board members. The column is intended to deliver various news and messages directly from our board. This month's column is by our new board president, Beth Pellicciotti.

Being relatively new to Spokane, I have learned that summer is a time when many people check out (go to the lake). But not our own League members, who have been busy with meetings and events since May. Here is a recap:

- **Civics Education:** Jan Wingenroth, Judy Silverstein and I met with students from the Community School and On-track academy. Christine Clark arranged a meeting with the Superintendent of Schools and a school board member in the Riverside School District to discuss the high school project for the next school year. Mardell Cochran and I attended a two-day workshop geared to civics education in elementary school sponsored by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Schools (OSPI). *(Consider joining the Civics Education Committee. Contact Beth Pellicciotti, pelliccmb@gmail.com)*
- **Membership:** Marilyn Darilek is meeting with new members to discuss all things League and to get feedback on starting a new mentoring program. New members are submitting bios for *The VOTER*.
- **State Convention:** Several of us attended the biennial State Convention. The Convention was packed with workshops, speakers, and an opportunity to meet with representatives from the Washington Historical Society. Spokane League members were prominent among the state leaders. Ann Murphy took a standing ovation as the "retiring" state president; Lunell Haught was elected the new state president; Bev Austin was elected to the state board; and Bev Austin, Denise Campitelli, Lin McGinn, Jan Wingenroth, and I were voting delegates to the Convention.
- **Strategic Planning:** A new committee has been set to focus on operational, financial, and long-range planning for the League. Sylvia Oliver chairs this group whose first action has been to develop a short survey for members' input on meeting times, days, and locations. Survey results will be shared with the entire membership.
- **Candidate Forums:** Susan Gray led these well-attended and well-organized forums, and many League members volunteered. Thanks to Bev Austin, Ann Bailor, Pam Behring, Judith Gammon, Susan Gray, Susan Hales, Molly Hannon, Mary Hughes, Suzi Hokonson, Suzi Johns, Lin McGinn, Ann Murphy, Beth Pellicciotti, Donna Pierce and Jan Wingenroth for their help both inside the city council chambers and outside greeting guests, *(Another forum is planned for the general election 2019. Contact Ann Murphy. annmurphy@lwwva.com, to help with the next forum).*
- **Grants:** The LWWVA has given us a grant to purchase equipment, a new portable microphone system and a projector for meeting presentations. The Strategic Planning Committee is working on an additional grant to the Washington State Historical Society in connection with the Centennial celebration. *(Are you interested or experienced in grant writing? Contact Sylvia Oliver, sylvia.oliver@gmail.com)*
- **Voter Services:** Susan Hales reports that during this calendar year, her League volunteers have registered 411 new voters. The July 8th Naturalization Ceremony had the largest number of new citizens to register at 30. *(Do you want to register new voters? Contact Susan Hales, Susanhales2015@gmail.com).*

New Board of Directors Elected to Guide LWVSA in 2019-20

New board and off-board positions were filled during the Annual Meeting held on May 21, 2019.

New Board Members

- President – Beth Pellicciotti
- Vice President – Marilyn Darilek
- Secretary – Jan Wingenroth
- Treasurer – Denise Campitelli
- Director – Ann Murphy

New Off-board Positions

- Voter Services – Susan Hales
- Strategic Planning – Sylvia Oliver
- Webmaster – Mary Hughes
- *The Voter* – Lisa Kuhar
- Facebook – Sylvia Oliver
- Civics Education – Beth Pellicciotti

Words From our Past President



I have enjoyed my long tenure as a board member of the League of Women Voters of the Spokane Area and League of Women Voters Washington. The experience has been rewarding in many ways but more importantly, it has made me a better person. The bracelet you so kindly “awarded” me has brought me so much pleasure. The heart is monogrammed “LWV Pres. Forever.” I will treasure it forever.

Thank you, Pam Behring

League Membership

You too can join in the activity, important work and fun of being a in League. For complete information - go to <http://www.lwvspokane.org/join.html>

Renewal dues will be due in September.

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