



Creating A
More Perfect
Democracy



WATER QUALITY
GENERAL MEETING
APRIL 10 @ 11:00
Inland Empire Paper
3320 N.Argonne Rd
Millwood

VOTER

Water Quality Issues

Like all League issues, water quality is complex. Toxics in water are usually a result of chemical compounds produced by industry which, if ingested, cause physiological damage. This program focuses on PCBs (Polychlorinated Biphenyls) and water. It explains why there is a limit to the number of fish you can eat from the Spokane River.

There's a lot of talk about regulations – too much, too few, wrong direction. Our post-presentation/tour discussion will focus on the regulations regarding water quality.

Relevant League positions:

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT Action to obtain coordinated planning and ensure environmental quality in the use of water, air and land resources. Action to insure that forest management is carried out in a manner that will sustain healthy forests, streams and habitats. Additional positions resulting from 2012 Conservation District study

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND POLLUTION CONTROL Preserve the physical, chemical & biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health & the environment.

WATER RESOURCES Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater and drinking water

Resources:

<https://www.epa.gov/pcbs/learn-about-polychlorinated-biphenyls-pcbs>

<http://spokaneriver.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/SpokaneRiverPublicGuide2009.pdf>

<https://www.spokanecounty.org/DocumentCenter/View/3406>

www.northlandnemo.co

Inland Empire Paper

<http://iepc.com/about-us/>

3320 N. Argonne Millwood, WA 99212

From I-90 or Trent: Go north on Argonne Rd. Turn right into the IEP parking lot. Stop at the guard shack and tell the attendant you're with the League of Women Voters. You'll be directed to a parking area and told how to get into the building. It is on the south (I-90) side of the river.

Please note the meeting begins at 11 AM, NOT 11:30. The program includes speakers from the Center for Justice, Department of Ecology, City of Spokane, and Inland Empire Paper. We will be able to tour the most modern facility in the world when it comes to paper manufacturing. Paper production has been a huge source of PCBs.

Feel free to bring your own lunch, none will be provided.

March General Meeting

There were three speakers at the March 13 General Meeting: Jim McDevitt, Justin Bingham and Ariane Schmidt. Jim McDevitt presented the the Blueprint for Reform, a study commissioned by the Mayor, City Council and County Commissioners. The report noted a disconnect between the courts and court services resulting in an inefficient delivery of services to people in the criminal justice system. It is important to note that 70% of the county budget goes to public safety. The goal is to get this cost down while, at the same time, reducing recidivism. On average, each court hearing costs \$1400, incarceration per day costs \$125.

The County received a \$1.75 million dollar grant from the MacArthur Foundation to remedy defects identified in the Blueprint for Reform. The 23 member Law and Justice Council was tasked with coordinating the effort. It is composed of members from the Dept. of Corrections, judges, prosecutors, defenders, as well as members from city and county services. The group meets monthly and is led by Jackie Van Wormer.

Goals:

- Promote racial equity. African Americans and Native American are 5 times as likely to be jailed as other races.
- Focus on pre-trial issues, aiming to coordinate all of a defendant's system contacts. There is a presumption that a defendant will be released unless it is found likely that he will commit a crime, jump bail or harass someone. A risk assessment tool is being used to make this determination.
- 325 employees are being trained to understand implicit bias, ethnic as well as racial bias. This training is for all employees with defendant contact.
- People are not being prosecuted for 3rd degree driving crimes. Justin mentioned that his 'red line' is unwillingness to bargain prosecution of DUI's or domestic violence cases. These are public safety issues.

- The City is no longer issuing Legal Financial Obligation warrants (for non-payment of court costs and fines) and has lowered the interest rate being charged.

Ariane Schmidt spoke about the tight structure of the criminal justice process. Justice reform is focused on helping someone before they are pulled into the criminal justice system. An important option for some people is diverting to mental health assessment, with potential for later dismissal or suspension of charges.

The state is providing seed money for a pilot program to create diversion centers for mental illness or substance abuse. The county is currently waiting on funding.

Visit our web page lwvspokane.org to keep informed.

Thank you, AVISTA, for printing the LWV Spokane “TRY’s” - They Represent You!

Welcome New Members:
Aruba Bhuta Mardell Cochran, Steve Kirby, Lisa Luhar Pitters, and Sylvia Oliver.

Calendar

April **10: Water Resources, 11:00am,**
 Inland Empire Paper,
 3320 N. Argonne Rd Millwood

18: Board Mtg. 10am.

May: **8: Annual Mtg. 5:30pm.**
 St. Andrew’s Hall
 Speaker to be announced.

Board Members: Pam Behring, President/Voter Editor; Jan Carrington, Treasurer; Sally Phillips, Secretary; Mary Hughes, Web Page; Lin McGinn, State Liaison; Bev Austin, Voter Service.
Off-Board, Linda Milsow, Facebook and Suzi Hokonson, Membership

Civics Education Committee

On Monday, March 19, 2018, five members of the LWVSA met with leaders of social studies departments for Spokane District 81. Susie Gerard, a social studies coordinator for District 81 and recent presenter to the LWVSA on civics education, coordinated the meeting. League representatives were Bev Austin, Mardell Cochran, Gretchen McDevitt, Sylvia Oliver and Beth Pellicciotti, all members of the newly formed Civics Education Committee of the LWVSA.

Bev Austin reviewed the League's mission, its nonpartisan stance on candidates and campaigning, and its extensive research and support of selected issues and policies. These leaders of teaching civics education provided an overview of their work. In addition to following the civics education curriculum, they provided many examples of how they engage their students in the voting process, including:

- helping young, potential voters become informed about issues and candidates.
- setting up assignments in which students research and debate both sides of issues/policies
- reviewing the ballot (for that high school's district) with students and provide instructions for completing the ballot
- taking students to Olympia (one teacher took students to a Town Hall meeting --back and forth to Olympia in one day)
- giving students instructions on how to register to vote online.
- planning student voting during Fall Semester
- responding to a new law allowing 17-year-olds sign up to vote in election by which they turn 18

The department leaders and League members discussed various ways that the League members could become more involved in civics education in the schools. These ideas focused on League members:

- coming into classrooms to register students after the first two weeks in May (the first two weeks of May is set aside for AP tests)
- helping students register to vote online
- planning to be guest speakers next fall
- observing civics lessons in high school classrooms
- helping recruit guest speakers of local importance (how can students be politically active in Spokane?)
- distributing League of Women Voters' material (one department leader asked for multiple copies of brochure which showed local, state, and national candidates)

The next step is to set up the May 2018 voter registration in the high schools, with support coming from members of the Civics Education Committee, Bev Austin (Voter Services) and Susie Gerard for District 81.

Beth Pellicciotti

Yes, I want to join/renew membership in LWV/Spokane Area.

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: H _____ W _____

Email _____ Fax _____

I would like to receive the newsletter by ___ mail or ___ email (check one.)

Please make check payable & mail to: LWVSA 2404 N. Howard St., Spokane WA 99205 and indicate amount enclosed: _____

Pay by Credit Card through Pay Pal at www.lwvspokane.org/join.html



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE SPOKANE AREA
2404 N. HOWARD
SPOKANE, WA 99205
(509) 326-8026
WWW.LWVSPokane.ORG

TO: