



THE VOTER

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LWVSA 75 YEARS
DECEMBER 2019

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

League of Women Voters Spokane Area (LWVSA) Upcoming Monthly Programs

The public is invited to all League events.

Homelessness and Affordable Housing

Tuesday, December 10, 2019: 11:15 am - 1:00 pm. St. Andrews Church

Homelessness and affordable housing figured prominently in our recent city election and policy decisions throughout our region. The LWVSA meeting will feature expert speakers on these issues.

- **Homelessness – Causes & Resources**

Jon Carollo Development Director for Volunteers of America in Spokane whose programs include Hope House women’s shelter, Crosswalk teen shelter, supports homeless veterans and many other services will be the speaker. Mr. Carollo will address the causes of homelessness in Spokane, the resources available in Spokane, and how to interact with homeless people. Our League Homelessness study group will suggest actions and volunteer activities that we can do as individuals to help the homeless.

- **Affordable Housing Crisis**

Heather Wallace of the Spokane Health District will explain how housing insecurity affects all aspects of mental and physical health. Ms. Wallace is working with officials in Airway Heights to address problems caused by the rising cost of rent. Jeremy Logan (Tenants Union) will speak on his experience when homeless and coming out of homelessness through transitional housing to become a business owner. Kristina Blake, City of Airway Heights Tenant Education & Code Enforcement Officer, will be on hand for Q & A following Ms. Wallace's presentation on the accomplishments of SRHD and Airway Heights.

- **All I Want for Christmas is Warm Clothes - Please Bring Some!**

At our LWV meeting we will be collecting winter survival gear for the women of Hope House crisis shelter. Our speaker Jon Carollo will address the causes of homelessness and the needs of those who are homeless. We will collect **winter coats, hats, mittens, gloves, socks, snow boots and snow pants, thermal underwear, skin and lip care products** as well as **personal care items**: deodorant, tampons and pads for the women of Hope House.



- **Help Others with Home Basics – Please Bring \$\$**



League members can make a difference by helping the Spokane Area Tenants Union provide "Move-In Supplies" baskets to those who are moving into transitional or low-income housing and trying to get a start in secure housing setup. These basic need supplies go a long way toward helping individuals & families with children get their new home spit-spot & ship-shape :) This is all a practical means of helping to lighten the load of making a new start in secure living arrangements for those coming out of housing insecurity. Supplies are purchased wholesale, so your \$10 contribution goes a long way towards filling this basket.

Tuesday, January 14, 2020: 11:15 am – 1:00 pm. St. Andrews Church

“Program of Work” Planning

Members will determine 1-2 key issues for the year and develop topics for monthly meetings in 2020-2021; preview agendas for the 2020 LWVWA Council (May 29-31 in Ellensburg) and 2020 National Meeting (June 25-28 in Washington, DC); and discuss details of our local League hosting the 2021 State Convention.

Tuesday, February 11, 2020: 1:00–4:00 pm. 1004 N. Freya Street, Spokane, WA

Spokane County Water Resource Center

Water as a resource will be the focus. This program has been suggested by Suzi Johns with her work with the League’s representation on WRIA (Water: Resource Inventory Area) for the Little Spokane Watershed.

Spokane League Hosts State Action Workshop – November 2, 2019

Forty-two people gathered for the first LWVWA Action Workshop of the year, hosted by the Spokane League. Attendees came from the Spokane area, Pullman, and White Salmon (representing the newest League Unit-at-Large in Klickitat-Skamania counties). Attendees heard from Senate Majority Leader Andy Billig (3rd LD) and Senator Republican Floor Leader Shelly Short (7th LD) about upcoming issues in the legislature and ways to best communicate with our Senators and Representatives.

The focus of the workshop was on Making Democracy Work[®] and featured LWVWA Lobby Team Issue Chairs Kathy Sakahara (Elections, Campaign Finance), Alison McCaffree (Census and Redistricting) and Kirstin Mueller (Election Security). The following are helpful links for materials related to LWVWA state action:

- The [LWVWA Program In Action](#) includes all policy positions the League of Women Voters of Washington is currently supporting. The comparable document from the LWVUS (Impact on Issues) is available on our [Actions and Positions webpage](#).
- [Lobby Team Issue Papers](#): Links to papers distributed at the Action Workshop as well as Issue Papers for all LWVWA Legislative Agenda topics can be found here.
- [2020 Legislative Agenda](#)

The lunch panel included an overview of ranked choice voting by Lisa Ayrault, FairVoteWA; a look at voting in India from LWVSA member Prakash Bhuta; and the voting experience in Myanmar as shared by Mi Ko and Zin Thu, US State Department Fellows.

Thank you to those who helped stage this workshop – Beth Pellicciotti, Denise Campetelli, Jan Wingenroth, Sylvia Oliver, Lin McGinn. Special thank you to Marilyn Darilek and her kitchen crew who helped to make sure that we had awesome nourishment for our work.

Myanmar Fellows Complete Visit in Spokane

It was a busy three weeks for US State Department Fellows Mi Ko and Zin Thu from Myanmar, who were part of the program Young Southeast Asian Leadership Initiative (YSEALI) <https://exchanges.state.gov/non-us/program/yseali-professional-fellows-program> sponsored by the University of Montana's Mansfield Center and Gonzaga University's Center for Global Engagement. They had a whirlwind schedule to learn about civic engagement as they shadowed activities of Spokane League members and other activities at Gonzaga University through the Center for Global Engagement. See the "scrapbook" posted at the top of the What's New Page <http://www.lwvspokane.org/New.html>

Beth Pellicciotti served as the professional host and ensured they got to all appointments. Lunell Haught was their Olympia host, setting up meetings to introduce them to Secretary of State activities, Jerry Price in the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, and League's Karen Verrill to review the process for our textbook – *The State We're In, Washington*. Ann Murphy had the delight and privilege of hosting both women in her home. Others hosted activities; Marilyn Darilek (Halloween and Ranked Choice Voting event), Sylvia Oliver (transportation and rock climbing!), Vicky Dalton (Elections Office tour) and Bev Austin, Susan Grey, Susan Hales (insights at League leadership meeting). Thanks to all who helped make their visit successful.



Part of their requirements prior to heading to their week in Washington, D.C., was to complete an Action Plan for what they will do with the knowledge they gained in civic education. Mi Ko is planning a train-the-trainer program so that her group can present voter service materials (particularly candidate forums) to the voters. Zin Thu's plans to include creative ideas for teachers so that civics is part of the classroom work. She has a passion about moving from the current rote type of teaching to the more hands-on, critical thinking model.

Zin Thu and Mi Ko receive LWV pins from LWVSA
President Beth Pellicciotti

Highlights of the November 12th LWVSA Membership Meeting: Taking Action

The meeting goal was to share information from our Legislative Action Workshop and to discuss future actions to take as a League and as individuals. The membership rotated between the following three groups.

- **Role of the Public Disclosure Commission** <https://www.pdc.wa.gov>

Groups discussed the effectiveness of the PDC in fulfilling its commitment to making data easily available and accessible to Washington voters. The group wanted the LWV local and state website to link to the PDC.

Action: As a League, report problems with case sensitivity and language to the PDC. The group would like a "Compare" function built into the website.

One group felt that strict PDC enforcement of campaign finance rules and meaningful identification of all sponsors of advertisements, including ads on social media, are most important.

Action: LWV should have a role in educating voters as to criteria to look at when comparing candidates and analyzing funding of candidates and ballot issues.

- **Elections/Campaign Finance, and Election Security**

The group discussed how individual League members could work with Issue Chair Kathy Sakahara on democracy issues. It's a good idea to read carefully the actual legislation along with the action alerts to make sure you understand the legislation. Denise Campitelli emphasized we should clearly state how much we wanted to get involved, doing research, writing, proofing, or testifying.

Action: Follow up with Kathy Sakahara for specific choices to share with members. For more information or to contact Kathy see <https://lwvwa.org/democracy2020>

- **Census and Redistricting**

Groups reviewed the Issue Papers for Census and for Redistricting. Much of the work for the upcoming 2020 Census will be in March to alert responders to complete the online census form during April. Census workers will then visit those who do not respond online. The March 2020 LWVSA meeting will cover more on the Census Action to better inform League members on how to help spread the word.

The discussion on Redistricting centered on proposed legislation by Alison McCaffree to bring more transparency and efficiency to the current Redistricting Commission.

Action: Follow the Redistricting legislation in the LWVWA Legislative Newsletter.

Action for all: commit to reading the weekly Legislative Newsletter emailed to all members every Sunday during the Legislative session (Jan 13 to March 13) and then to responding to Action Alert requests.

Members voted to approve a proposal to lower the membership fee for students regardless of age to \$10.00 per year. The new fee was unanimously approved. The next step is to recruit student members.

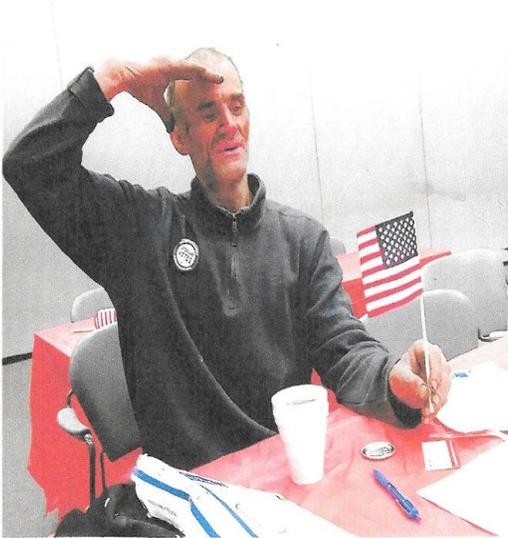
Board Shorts

Treasurer Denise Campitelli reports most of the membership has paid or arranged to pay their dues and our budget looks good.

Susan Hales reports we registered 70 voters in October. 😊

Civics Education update: LWV volunteers visited a total of 20 classes at Ferris and Rogers High Schools in November; registering 50 new voters at Rogers and 136 at Ferris. Six high schools are scheduled for registration presentations sits in December. To volunteer or begin training as a volunteer contact Marilyn Darilek.

Get-Out-the-Vote: Our League Reaches Out to Engage Voters!



New voter at downtown ballot party.

This October and November, LWVSA members offered several Get-Out-the-Vote activities to engage, empower and inspire everyone to vote. League members reached out to the general public and conducted a pilot project to engage underrepresented populations.

With four pilot project Get-Out-the-Vote events, Voter Services reached out to former refugees from African countries, African- and Asian-Americans and other People of Color, former refugees and immigrants from Russian-speaking Spokane communities, and people who are homeless. Each event was different and presented unique challenges and opportunities to learn how best to approach future outreach to underserved populations.

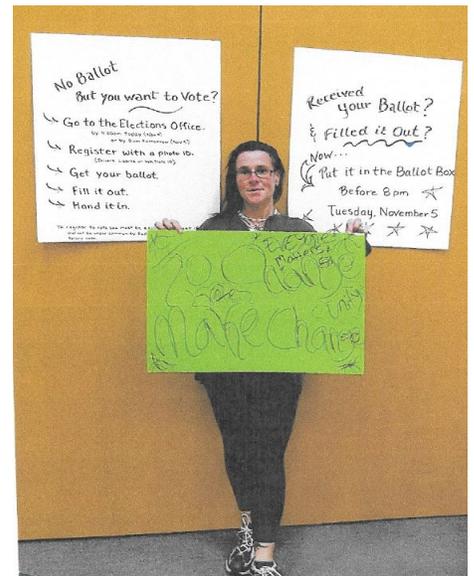
On October 22nd, Bev Austin represented the League as a speaker at the Get-Out-the-Vote Party at East Central Community Center to an audience of 25-30 community members. The event was sponsored by the Black Lens, NAACP, Asian and Pacific Islander Coalition (APIC) and Spokane Coalition Against Racism (SCAR) for African-American, Asian-American and other People of Color in Spokane.

On October 27th, Voter Services held a Voting Information Meeting at the Uwata Christian Revival in America Church for Congolese and Rwandan former refugees. Brimo Nyinkuany, Community Liaison, and Susan Hales presented to a group of approximately 15 citizens, with Erick Nsengiyumva, translating.

October 28th, Pilgrim Slavic Baptist Church hosted a Voter Services Election Information Meeting for Russian-speaking, former refugees and immigrants from Russia, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan and other countries. Dan Webster, Refugee Connections Spokane ESL/Citizenship Teacher, Mary Pat Treuthart, Gonzaga Law School Professor, and Susan Hales presented to a group of 14 citizens, with Pastor Andrey Kozlov, translating.

On November 4th, several Voter Services Volunteers gave a Ballot Party at the Downtown Library for over 50 people who are homeless in Spokane. The Ballot Party presenters included Mardell Cochran, Bev Austin, Babs Velategui, Judy Krueger, Melkam Tesfaye and Susan Hales.

Our League also reached out with Get-Out-the-Vote activities for the general public. League members Ann Murphy, Jan Wingenroth and Beth Pellicciotti presented a Voter Information Call-in at KSPS -TV on October 31st. Sally Phillips, Jan Wingenroth, Bambi Carter and Cathy Crum engaged voters at the League's Voter Information Table at the Downtown Library on November 4th.



Woman encouraging voters at ballot party.

Sign Up and Open Up: Keeping Our LWVWA Community Informed!

TWIL (*This Week in League*) is THE way friends and members get the inside scoop on neighboring Leagues and the State League issues, ideas, and events. It is quick to scan, and there are [copies archived](#) on the [For Members](#) section of LWVWA.org. The goal is to have 100% member subscribers, and 95% of them regularly opening the link to check it out. If you have signed up for this and aren't getting it, check your spam filter. If you haven't signed up for it, or you aren't sure, [sign up here](#). *Amy Peloff, League of Women Voters Washington*

League Membership

You too can join in the activity, important work and fun of being in our League.

For complete information - go to <http://www.lwvspokane.org/join.html> **Renewal dues will be due in September.**

League Leadership

LWVWA Board Members

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

The Leadership Team meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. at St. Andrews Church.

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



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