

Civics and Voter Outreach Have an Enthusiastic Advocate

Katrina Osborn, a Voter Outreach Specialist for the (SOS) was the



Education and Washington Secretary featured speaker at the February 19th League general meeting after answering questions from the Civics Education committee

at a pre-meeting. She briefed the League general membership about civics education, elections in general and specifically talked about the new and proposed changes to elections and voting. Highlights of her talk:

- Regarding civics education, she explained some of the tools

available for teaching civics that can be found on the SOS website. There is a curriculum guide for K-12 teachers. Her office works with school districts to conduct mock elections in high schools. The website links to iCivics games and other civics education resources <https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/civics>.

- New legislation will permit voter registration of 16 and 17-year-olds starting in July. The applications will be held securely until these individuals reach 18, when they will receive their voter's card and ballot.
- All Washington schools are required to devote a specific time to civics on [Temperance and Good Citizenship Day](#), January 16th. In 2020 this day is designated as the time to get all 16 and 17-year-old high school student registered to vote.
- Although the last election had record voter participation (over 70%) providing postage did not increase the percent of ballots that were returned by mail.
- Washington will soon have **Same Day Registration**. Voters will be able to register and cast a provisional ballot at the county Auditor on election day.



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- When applying for the new enhanced driver's license or identification voters will be automatically registered. People applying for regular licenses and identification not requiring birth certificates will not automatically be registered.
- Should legislation be passed to move Washington primaries to an earlier date it will be up to the political parties to decide what to do about caucuses.
- Our voter's pamphlet candidates' statements are printed as submitted including spelling errors and candidate claims.
- The SOS Office is making extraordinary efforts to do outreach to minorities especially those that don't speak English, tribes, and people with disabilities, to ensure that everyone is registered and able to vote.

Upcoming 12 March League Meeting on Climate Change Issues

This meeting will focus on how climate change is affecting us locally and what local efforts are being made to reduce and minimize greenhouse gas accumulation.

Speakers are:

- Brian Henning, founder and co-chair of 350Spokane.org and a teacher of philosophy and environmental studies at Gonzaga University.

- Lori Kinnear, Spokane City Councilperson, will speak about city efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Kara Odegard, climates Impact Research Consortium Spokane will discuss tools used to assess climate change impacts in Spokane.

What Can We Do about Climate Change

Humans, through the burning of fossil fuels, are the major contributors to climate change. By making specific, targeted changes to actions we already take every day, we can significantly reduce our CO₂ emissions and set an example to others.

The League of Women Voters of Washington has a helpful list of Personal Actions You Can Take in their Climate Action Toolkit. This list has been adapted to include local actions for everyone from the Spokane region.

(1) Talk with other League members, family, friends, neighbors, employers, coworkers, organizations and elected officials.

- This blog post has suggestions based on research:
<https://www.climaterealityproject.org/blog/how-talk-your-friends-about-climate-crisis-according-science>
- Reach out to your elected representatives. This link to the Washington Secretary of State website will take you to a login screen for “My Vote”, which then gives you a complete list of your representatives with links to their websites:
<https://weiapplets.sos.wa.gov/MyVote/#/login>
- Sign up for 350Spokane.org email alerts which contain quick and easy links to pre-written emails that are sent to your representatives in just a few clicks!

(2) Use this toolkit to start a conversation. Share your concerns, values and vision - ask about theirs. Share what you're doing and encourage them to also act!

<https://www.lwvwa.org/inspiring-action>

(3) Challenge statements of climate disinformation because a lie unchallenged can become accepted as truth.

- The Union of Concerned Scientists has a link to “Challenging Misinformation”:
<https://www.ucsusa.org/our-work/global-warming/solutions/global-warming-solutions-fight-misinformation#.XEu5sM17mCg>
- 2018 report from U.S. government agencies: The Fourth National Climate Assessment: <https://www.globalchange.gov/nca4> This includes a chapter focused on our region, the Northwest.
- Link to Washington Department of Ecology page on Air & Climate:
<https://ecology.wa.gov/Air-Climate/Climate-change>

- Link to Spokane Community Adaptation Project: <https://pnwcirc.org/spokane-community-adaptation-project>

(4) Calculate your carbon footprint to see where you can reduce carbon:

- Carbon Footprint: <http://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx>
- Environmental Protection Agency: <https://www3.epa.gov/carbon-footprint-calculator/>
- Center for Climate and Energy Solutions: <https://www.c2es.org/content/calculate-your-carbon-footprint/>

PEG's in Spokane

There is a new nonpartisan political organization in town named **People for Effective Government** (PEG). Vicky Dalton suggested League members might be interested in this group. PEG is sponsoring an impressive line-up of public forums:

- **Presidential Leadership and Emotional Intelligence**, April 1 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm, Location TBD
- **Topic TBD...Presentation by Ryan Crocker**, May 6 @ 7:00 pm, Location TBD

According to their website the Spokane PEG <https://pegnow.org> is “committed to changing the current political climate in which our two major parties have become increasingly polarized.” They have a nice concise mission statement: To support bipartisan approaches to governing which are fiscally responsible and ensure an adequate social safety net, and to promote a civil society.

PEG will support it's bipartisan approach by:

- Encouraging sincere and civil debate about the challenges that our communities and our nation face, and about effective solutions to those challenges.
- Developing compromise policy that finds a reasonable balance between the positions of the left and the right, thereby benefiting the majority of our citizens.
- Promoting political candidates who support bipartisan approaches to governing, who embrace ideas from both sides of the political spectrum, and who are willing to move past partisanship in order to implement policies that will benefit our communities and our citizens.
- Holding elected officials accountable for their actions regarding such bipartisan efforts to effective governing.

PEG has a well designed and informative website although I did hit a couple of 404 errors. There are loads of policy statements for those who want to explore further. No specific people are identified as contacts on the web page but PEG welcomes e-mailed inquiries and suggestions.

Suzi Hokonson has been in Tijuana working with asylum seekers. See her Facebook page for more information. She has also started a GoFundMe Page <https://www.gofundme.com/a-tijuana-volunteer>.

Board Members: Pam Behring, President/Voter Editor; Sally Phillips, Treasurer; Susan Gray, Secretary/Forum Organizer.

Off-Board: Linda Milsow, Facebook; Suzi Hokonson, Membership; Mary Hughes, Web Page; Bev Austin, Voter Service; Beth Pellicciotti, Civics Education.

Visit our web page lwvspokane.org to keep informed.

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

Discuss the issues of greatest interest to you with legislators and our lobby team members.

- Gain the knowledge, skills, and confidence to be a more effective, powerful advocate for the issues you care about.
- Network with other advocates involved in the League.
- Watch for registration link!

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

Half-year dues: \$37.50 (All memberships expire Sept 30th).

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
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