



**Creating A
More
Perfect
Democracy**



**GENERAL
MEETING**

**CIVICS
EDUCATION**

SEPT. 11 @ 11:00

VOTER

CIVICS EDUCATION

BETH PELLICCIOTTI

League of Women Voters Spokane

Tuesday, September 11, 2018; 11:00 am lunch and program

Welcome and introduction of topic, speakers and agenda (Beth Pellicciotti)

Partnership with Spokane District 81 (Susie Gerard)

Recognition of Susie Gerard (Pam Behring)

High School Presentations (Bev Austin and Marilyn Darilek)

This includes each presenting her own story of “why voting is important to me.” These presentations are very powerful, and I think represent the core of our work with high school students.

Next steps with Spokane County Schools (Mike McLaughlin)

Vicky Dalton (County Auditor and League member) is not able to attend, and Mike McLaughlin is stepping in for her. He will give a short overview of legislation requiring all high schools to have voter information and registration events on and by January 16, 2020 in 18 districts in Spokane County. Vicky is asking to partner with the LWV Spokane in this effort.

Recruitment of members interested in voter registration (Susan Hales)

Susan Hales will to invite new and returning members to volunteer to do voter registration. Note that she is also planning a voter registration training session on Thursday, September 6th at 1:30 pm at her home, 1321 South Crestline St., Spokane. You should receive a separate invitation on this.

Summary and Question and Answer (Beth Pellicciotti)

After providing a brief summary, I will moderate questions for the speakers.

Welcome & Call to Action

This is the beginning of the Autumn election season and the League of Women Voters of the Spokane Area has a healthy and growing membership. For League members everywhere, it is exciting when interest in politics translates to action. It is an opportunity to educate our community and to raise our voices for a stronger, healthier democracy. Democracy depends on an educated and active electorate. It is the most important responsibility of living in a democracy. So what gives? Is it lethargy or perhaps distaste for the nature of campaigns that discourage people from going to the polls? In some states, voting is suppressed but not in the state of Washington. League works in myriad ways to create a more perfect democracy and here are some of the ways YOU can help.

1. **CIVICS EDUCATION** is key to developing citizens who understand the power of the vote. Beth Pellicciotti, Chair, has been working with District 81 to fulfill the new Civics education requirement for all high school Seniors. The work is expanding to all high schools in our area. She will host the September meeting and those interested in this work are encouraged to join her committee.

2. An **ACTION WORK SHOP**, where we hear from local elected officials about the upcoming legislative session, is being organized by Lunell Haught. Pullman League will join us in Spokane on December 1. Lunell would welcome help with the logistics: Where should it be held?

What topics should be addressed? Who should be invited to speak?

3. Is **FACEBOOK** something you enjoy or would like to learn? Linda Milsow posts League events and keeps us informed about other events around town. She would also like to send notices to outlets like public radio and The Inlander. Linda would enjoy working with someone and it would allow her to travel without feeling guilty.

4. Susan Hales has taken on the task of the **VOTER REGISTRATION Committee** and she has many requests all over the area. This job is critical. Although it is easy to register individuals to vote, it is important to know who is eligible to register. Meeting people and learning about other areas of town are some of the benefits of this committee.

5. **VOTE411** is a national League site for voter education. Linnea Hirst, Seattle, has set up the Washington site but Spokane's effort has been lacking. It requires contacting candidates to encourage them to use the site. They can post their information at no cost.

6. **VOTER Editor** needed. Pam Behring would enjoy a helping hand and a good critic to publish the monthly VOTER.

Please consider participating on one of these committees. It will enrich your experience in League and serve the community.

All contact information is in the Membership Handbook.

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: *Michael Bell, Maria DiBartolo, Christine Eschete, Janet Gillespie, Alicia Heiser, David Green, Judy Silverstein and Cathi Lamoreaux*

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.

Please join us for a New and Prospective Member Coffee at Susan Gray's home, 2518 W. Grace Ave. at 9:30AM, on Friday September 21.

If you know someone who might be interested in learning more about League, please come and bring them along.

In the Spring, Linda Milsow hosted a coffee for 14 and everyone had a lovely time. One of the guests has joined League as well as 7 other new members since the coffee.

Please invite, invite, invite. Remember, it's a compliment to be invited and it takes three times to gain a positive response.

RSVP: Suzi Hokonson - 509-808-1255

On September 28, 2018 from 9:00AM - 11:45AM, the Washington State Supreme Court Minority and Justice Commission returns to Spokane at Gonzaga University School of Law in Room 227. MJC Meetings are free and open to the public.

As you may recall, the mission of the Washington State Supreme Court Minority and Justice Commission is "to identify and eradicate the effects of racial, ethnic, and cultural bias in our state court system."

RSVPs are requested in care of Chanel Rhymes, MJC Court Program Analyst

Calendar

- SEP 11: Civics Education, 11:00AM @ St. Andrew's Social Hall.**
- 19: Board Mtg. 10AM @ the office.**
- 21: New and Prospective Member Coffee, 9:30AM at the home of Susan Gray, 2518 W Grace Ave. Please RSVP to 509-808-1255**
- 28: Washington State Supreme Court Minority and Justice Commission meeting, Gonzaga University, 9:00 - 11:45. GU School of Law, Rm 227**
- Free and open to the public.**
- OCT 9: Ballot issues, 6:30PM to 8PM @ the Downtown Library, Rm. 1A.**
- 17: Board Mtg. 10AM @ the OFFICE.**
- NOV 13: Relationship of Census to Redistricting, 6:30PM to 8PM @ the Downtown Library, Rm. 1A.**
- 21: Board Mtg. 10AM @ the Office.**
- DEC 1: Action Workshop with Pullman League. Watch for more information.**

Please help share our appreciation to the [Commission for outreach](#) in Eastern Washington through the many opportunities provided by the MJC for Spokane participation, both in person and via webcast for education, juvenile justice, and workforce diversity.

Please share this opportunity throughout your networks and join our local Commission representatives and Student Liaisons in welcoming Commission Co-Chair Justice Mary Yu, newly elected Co-Chair Judge Helen Whitener, and Commission members back to Spokane.

And in addition...

Also on September 28, 2018, Gonzaga University hosts the 2018 Center for Civil and Human Rights Conference. Conference registration, including the luncheon keynote, is available for no charge to students.

Registration information for The Center for Human and Civil Rights Conference is available [here](#) for both students and community members.

LWV of the United States 53rd Convention

was held in Chicago, Illinois, June 28-July 1, 2018.

As a voting delegate from our Spokane Chapter, I experienced a remarkable gathering of likeminded women and men, all focused on protecting our democracy through a multi-pronged program to promote voting rights, ensure fair representation in our government, protect the integrity of elections, empower voters with trustworthy information, promote civil discourse, and expand diversity in LWV membership. More than a thousand people attended the three day convention which hosted numerous nationally respected speakers and a large variety of workshops. They addressed issues such as alternative methods of electing members of the U.S. House of Representatives, abolition of the electoral college, open primaries, redistricting, climate change, youth voter registration, civic education, resurrecting the era, reaching voters through social media, naturalization ceremony voter registration, role

of health care in our democracy and programs to promote civil discourse and respect in a divided democracy. In addition there were many workshops providing techniques to build local LWV chapters, develop budgets and sources of funding, create more diverse, equitable and inclusive memberships and manage 411 training software.

The voting members approved the proposed recommended program for 2019-2020 entitled, *The Campaign for Making Democracy Work*. The program includes ensuring a free, fair and accessible electoral system for all eligible voters by focusing on: voting rights, improving elections, campaign finance/money in politics and redistricting. A slate of officers, and directors/trustees were approved and elected. In addition budgets were discussed and approved.

One of the highlights for me was convention organizers rearranged the convention agenda so that LWV members could join 10,000 other people and march through the downtown streets of Chicago to demonstrate against the

Administration's policies toward immigrants and their families entering the US at the border with Mexico. The peaceful protest involved many young families and people of all ages and backgrounds. Many of us Washingtonians eagerly took part even though the temperatures were in the high 90's and 100 degrees on the pavement.

Last but not least, we were treated to a fine evening social and dinner, featuring Elaine Weiss, the award-winning journalist and writer. Ms. Weiss gave an informative and humorous

account of how the suffragettes worked to pass the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution granting women the right to vote. Ms. Weiss's most recent book, **The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote**, is a good read filled with humor and candor.

I am thankful for the privilege of representing LWV of the Spokane Area at this convention. I encourage others to attend the next national convention to be held in Washington, D.C. on June 25-28,2020.

Bev Austin

LWVWA is working to finalize Ballot Issues Summaries and will make those available on its website with links in future publications. Other measures on the ballot will include:

- Initiative Measure No.1631 concerns pollution.
- Initiative Measure No.1634 concerns taxation of certain items intended for human consumption.
- Initiative Measure No.1639 concerns firearms.

Advisory Vote No. 19 will also appear on the ballot.

Links to a full text of the initiatives and advisory vote are available through This Week In League (TWIL) from LWVWA.

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



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To: