



VOTER

Volume 2, Issue 10

NOVEMBER 2008

CALENDAR

- Nov. 12 No-host lunch
Upstairs at Bayview
12:30 pm
- Nov. 15 LWVTC
Action Workshop
Bellevue
(carpools forming)
- Nov. 19 Board meeting
LWVTC office
5:30 pm
- Nov. 20 Early Learning
Consensus meeting
Family Support Center
5:30 pm
- Dec. 18 Holiday Party
at Dorothy Marsh and
Judith Barnes' home
5:30 pm
- 2009**
- Mar. 21 Lobby Day
WA State Capitol
Columbia Room

**DON'T MISS
THE CONSENSUS MEETING**

**11/20/08
5:30 PM**

**FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER
SECOND FLOOR MEETING ROOM**

**FORMER FIRE STATION ON THE CORNER OF
CAPITOL AND STATE, DOWNTOWN OLYMPIA**

Early Care and Education of Young Children Consensus Meeting

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The new state study *Early Care and Education of Young Children (birth to five)* is in the most recent state **VOTER** along with the consensus questions (page 6).

This very interesting and extensive research was led by three of our own members; Margie Reeves and Pat Dickason co-chaired, and Fran Williams served on the committee.

A League study serves two purposes:

⇒ Education of members and the public.

⇒ Forming a position on an issue so we can lobby elected officials on the state or local levels.

Local Leagues read the study, discuss the questions and come to agreement through a consensus process.

"Consensus is member agreement reached after study and discussion. It is neither a simple majority nor is it necessarily unanimity. Rather, it is the overall sense of the group as expressed through the exchange of ideas and opinions." (LWVWA Policies and Procedures)

The consensus reports

are all sent to the state League where they are compiled and a "position" is formed.

Our meeting will feature a short film, a brief overview, and a lively discussion about what we believe about the future of our children.

But, remember, the consensus is based on the information in the study...not just our personal opinions...so only those who have read the report may participate in the actual consensus process.

Karen Verrill

Action Workshops are for EVERYONE

This year, for the first time, LWVWA will hold 2 Action Workshops for our members – November 8 in Kennewick and November 15 in Bellevue. I hope YOU will be there at one of them.

Perhaps we should call these meetings “Call to Action Workshops” or “Activating Our Base Sessions.” We know that messages from constituents and contacts with legislators do make a difference. League can truly affect outcomes if our members all around the state weigh in on the issues we care about.

That’s why it’s so important for you to attend one of the workshops. They are designed to do two things: give us information about the issues that will be key in the 2009 legislative session and show us ways we can each, from our own homes, have an impact on legislation we care about. We’ll hear from some elected officials and some of our own Lobby Team. We’ll share ideas that have worked in different communities. We’ll have ample opportunity to ask questions.

If you have never sent an email to your state senator or spoken to your representative in the super-

market, or even if you’ve done both many times, come to the workshop to learn how to do it more effectively.

If health care or the environment or education or transportation or another of the multitude of issues League follows is your passion, come to the workshop to learn what legislation will be “hot” around that topic this year and what you can do to help.

PLEASE SIGN UP.

*Barb Bush
Action Chair*



League of Women Voters of Washington ACTION WORKSHOP 2008

**Cost: \$20
Lunch Provided
NEW THIS YEAR –
TWO VENUES!**

- Choose one or both
- Benton/Franklin Counties, November 8
 - Bellevue, November 15

To reserve your spot, send the following information:

Name _____
Tel/email _____

Payment type:
 VISA M/C
Card # _____
exp. date _____

Check enclosed

Mail to: LWVWA, 4730 University Way N.E., Suite #720, Seattle, WA 98105

Please join us...



**No-host League members' lunch
November 12 at 12:30 p.m. upstairs at Bayview.
Bring a book, a subject, or an idea you'd like to share.**

See you there!

*President's Column***HOW DO WE TALK ABOUT THE LEAGUE**

At a recent lunch with League members, we started to talk about how to describe the League to others. The difficulty, it seems, is where do we start? Do we tell stories about what we do, or use a succinct mantra, such as: "we educate and advocate". Both methods are good but neither tells the whole story.

First we look to our audience. Are we one-on-one, or before a group? Are we trying to convince others to join us, or simply introducing them to the League?

In front of a group, we give a brief but formal definition of our mission. But, when speaking to individuals, we have to get more personal. We start by asking questions. How are they giving to their community now? Are they searching about for something else to do? As we listen to their answers, we can offer some piece of the League. If they're interested in global climate change, we talk about Lobby Team. If they're interested in education, we talk about our upcoming consensus. Invariably, the League has something to offer. Unlike the

single cause groups, we are the many-headed hydra with infinite possibilities for involvement.

Beyond the notion of matching a new prospective member with a program is the larger and more fundamental issue: we make a personal connection with the League...or we don't stay. How does that connection happen? Perhaps it starts with an invitation, a reaching out. We have to ask people to join the League. It all has to be personal, in the end.

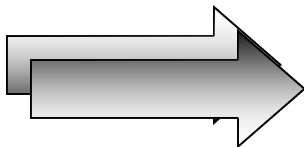
*Marilyn Funk
President*

Lobby day 2009

§§§§ MARK YOUR CALENDAR §§§§

March 21, 2009

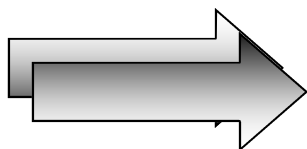
WA State Capitol—Columbia Room

**NO ON I-985!**

**The League of Women Voters
of Washington**

Opposes I-985

Go to www.noon985.com for talking points and sample letters to the editor

**YES ON I-1029!**

**The League of Women Voters
of Washington**

Supports I-1029

Go to Yes on Initiative 1029 for more information

DEBATE WATCH WELL ATTENDED

Two hundred and forty-four people viewed the League sponsored final Presidential Debate of 2008 on the big screen at the Washington Center for the Performing Arts.

The City of Olympia provided the Center for the event. The focus of the October 15th debate, monitored by Bob Schieffer of CBS, was domestic policy.

A striking question by Mr. Schieffer posed the possibility

of the candidates renouncing their negative campaigning. That didn't happen.

Another question that had audience attention was a query on the qualifications of the vice-presidential candidates.

The audience was clearly in support of Senator Obama; cheers for the democratic nominee were frequent. There were, however, McCain supporters there as well.

John Winn Miller, Publisher of The Olympian, led a post debate discussion. For half an hour audi-

ence members came to microphones and commented on the presidential debate.

The Olympian announced the Debate Watch project five times. The morning after, there was a front-page article with a good picture of the local audience.

This was the second Debate Watch; the first was in 2004. As a strong public event associated with League of Women Voters Thurston County, it should be considered for 2012.

Eve Johnson

MARY MURPHY: CELEBRATING OUR LONG-TIME MEMBERS

Ask Mary Murphy what she's gained from thirty-seven years of Thurston County League membership and she'll tell you, without hesitation, "life-long friends." Then she expands her answer to include "the chance to become well-informed" and "an opportunity to work with the state legislature and learn how it functions."

Even before this California native and UC Berkeley International Relations graduate arrived in Olympia, she was reaching out to increase her

knowledge of the world. From 1961 to 1963 she and her husband, Bob, a medical doctor, lived with their young family in Lashkar Gah, Afghanistan. While Dr. Murphy trained Afghan doctors through CARE-Medico, Mary taught at an American school. Another Third-World assignment fol-

lowed for the family with the Peace Corps in Western Samoa, where Bob served as a Public Health Officer.

By the late 1960's, the Murphy's had moved to Olympia for Bob's new position as state Director of Crippled Children's Services.

Subsequently, he was appointed

Thurston County Health Officer.

In 1971, Mary joined the Thurston County League,

becoming involved with the Indian Treaty Rights committee. Nine years later, the state league accepted Treaty Rights as a study topic. Once Mary agreed to chair the study, she guided the majority of the state Leagues to consensus.

By 1974, the landmark Boldt de-

cision had returned fishing rights to the tribes. After that, the legislature began considering returning other rights to individual tribes as they applied. Without the support of a lobby team, which didn't exist back then, Mary set out to lobby Treaty Rights for the tribes. She was particularly successful in the awarding of jurisdiction over family matters to the Colville Nation. In more recent years she has helped work for welfare reform, which succeeded with the passage of Aid for Families with Dependent Children (AFDC).

Without question, Mary Murphy, through her nearly four decades with the League of Women Voters, has contributed significantly to improving life in Washington State. Today, her enthusiastic advice to members of the League is, "If you've got the time, get involved!"

Sharon Moore

*nearly four decades
with the League of
Women Voters*

“Steal Back Your Vote” an Evening with Greg Palast

Investigative journalist Greg Palast was the major attraction at an October 3 event at the Minnaert Center at SPSCC, primarily sponsored by the on-campus organization BRICK, Building Revolution by Increasing Community Knowledge. Several League members were part of the audience at the event, which was well attended by students and community activists, despite competition from Art Walk downtown and a driving rainstorm.

Palast became well-known following his investigation of election irregularities in Florida in 2000, leading to a long period of uncertainty and the eventual Supreme Court decision that made George W. Bush president. He has authored several books, including *The Best Democracy Money Can Buy* and *Armed Madhouse*. Now, with Robert Kennedy, Jr. he has produced a comic book, “Steal Back Your Vote,” that explains vote suppression problems stemming

from the “Help America Vote” Act, or HAVA.

HAVA, passed during the Bush administration, provides for a “provisional” ballot for those deemed questionable voters. Palast estimates that 14 million votes were segregated and disenfranchised in this way since 2004. The discretionary authority HAVA provides has resulted in disenfranchisement skewed toward minorities--blacks, Hispanics and Native Americans--and has given these practices a cloak of respectability. Voting officials have been permitted to issue “provisional ballots” to those who’s ID or registration is questioned. These provisional ballots then go missing and are never counted. Thus HAVA permits outright suppression of the right to vote.

Palast explained that many of the voter suppression measures have been put in place ostensibly to deal with “voter fraud” -- people voting twice, unqualified people voting,

etc. -- although in fact only 86 people have been convicted of fraudulent voting in the U.S. since 2002, out of 275,000,000 votes cast. The Bush administration, under Alberto Gonzales, encouraged voter fraud prosecution, firing eight highly regarded U.S. attorneys who failed to find such problems. Washington’s John McKay was among those fired. Palast noted the irony of disenfranchising millions of Americans as a means of dealing with what essentially is a non-problem.

If you’d like to learn more, go to Palast’s website or just Google “Steal back your vote.” You’ll be able to download the comic book, which Palast’s organization wants to make available to as many voters as possible before November 4.

Never before has the right to vote been so threatened as this election, Palast emphasized.

*Peggy Bruton
Zena Hartung*

V O T E

(SOMETIMES IT TAKES A FOUR LETTER WORD)

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THURSTON COUNTY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

For more information about the League's activities or membership call Marilyn Funk, 360-259-4424, or mail in the membership form below.

DATE:

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$_____

◇ **\$60 for my membership**

◇ **\$_____ for an Educational Fund Donation**

For Lifetime Membership and Scholarships contact Marilyn Funk, 360-259-4424.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ WORK PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____ FAX NUMBER _____

LWVTC Newsletter, the VOTER will be distributed by e-mail unless you specifically request a hard copy in regular mail.

Please send my copy of the VOTER by postal mail to the above noted address.

Please send my copy of the VOTER to _____.

LWV Purpose

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan, nonprofit political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government. The League influences public policy through education and advocacy. Anyone of voting age may become a League member.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS THURSTON COUNTY

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