

PLANNING RETREAT – AUGUST 21, 2010

Over a dozen dedicated League members spent the better part of Saturday, August 21 at a planning retreat hosted by President Clydia Cuykendall. The lively discussion included defining the program schedule for the year, considering how to participate in several State and National consensus studies, hearing a report on State League goals, and beginning the planning for the annual Education Fund luncheon in November.

Some of the retreat **highlights** include:

- **Programs for 2010-2011** –There are many engaging and timely programs planned. See the calendar here in this issue of VOTER and also on the web site, www.lwvthurston.org, for details on these exciting program topics. Two back-up programs were also identified, if for any reason one of the scheduled topics can't work. Note that the monthly meeting time and venue has changed. Meetings will begin at 6:30 pm and will be held at the Thurston County Courthouse, rather than Traditions, in order to allow for increased participation and improved ability to discuss presentation materials.
- **Consensus Meeting for the County Governance Study** will be held on October 7. To refresh your memory on the study background and findings, see the “What We’re Working On” page of the League web site, www.lwvthurston.org.
- Thurston County **volunteers are needed** for each of the following State and Federal consensus projects:
 - **Conservation Districts:** How are the Conservation Districts funded; how are the Directors elected; what are they achieving and should there be changes? This project was initiated by the Tacoma-Pierce County League and selected by the State League for a statewide study and potential consensus position. The Thurston County contribution to this effort will need to be completed by September 10. Contact Cynthia Stewart, stewdahl@comcast.net, if you would like to support this effort.
 - **Privatization of Government Functions.** Begun by the Seattle League in 2009, this topic was selected by the LWVUS Board as a national study topic. Volunteers will be provided with web sites giving background on this topic and may apply to be considered for the formal study committee. For more information, contact Eve Johnson, johnsonel@peoplepc.com.
 - **Role of the Federal Government in Education.** This two-year study is just beginning and will include analysis of the federal role in education policy, funding, standards, and intergovernmental relationships affecting education. Scoping has not yet been completed and will depend somewhat on the available resources. New member Kathy Morris, who has an extensive background in education, agreed to take the lead on this for Thurston County. You can reach her at klmlwv@comcast.net.

- The **Annual League Education Fund Luncheon** Fundraiser will be on **November 13** at the Olympia Golf Club. The committee has just begun planning for this event and is seeking ideas for engaging speakers, themes, and table captains. The table captains are critical to the success of the luncheon, because they are the ones who guarantee that tickets are sold and guests attend. To support the planning committee on this, especially if you would agree to serve as a table captain, contact Valerie Hammett, Valerie.Hammett@gmail.com.
- Pat Dickason reported on this years' goals set by the **State League**. They include development of an on-line data base system for State and National studies, increasing membership statewide by at least five percent, organizing more regional workshops that reach more of the public around the State, and investigating use of blogging.
- The **Day of Jubilation**, honoring the 90th anniversary of the federal women's right to vote, and the 100th anniversary of the State right for women to vote, will be celebrated in Thurston County on November 7 and 8 and will include festivities on the State campus, a tea at the State Historical Museum and hands-on activities at the Children's Museum. Watch the web site, www.lwvthurston.org, for more information as the dates approach.
- Although the League of Women Voters is no longer a party, Eve Johnson reported on the final step in the lawsuit filed in 2006 related to non-disclosure by the Port of Olympia of documents requested pursuant to the State Public Disclosure Act relevant to decisions made by the Port on behalf of the Weyerhaeuser Company's log facility on Port property. Penalties to be levied as a result of the Court of Appeals opinion that the Port did, in fact, violate the Public Disclosure Act will be decided by Thurston County Superior Court Judge Hicks on August 25, 2010.

In addition to the lively conversation, participants thoroughly enjoyed the chicken provided by Clydia and assorted salads and desserts shared pot-luck.