



March/April 2010

THE VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Clallam County

Visit us online at www.olympus.net/community/lwvcla

Shattered Ceilings

League of Women Voters of Clallam County presents a play commemorating the 100% anniversary of Washington State women securing the VOTE and the 90th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment!

PERFORMANCE BY READER'S PLUS THEATER

A wonderful opportunity to see history unfold before you through the words of Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Bella Abzug, Betty Ford and many more.

All proceeds to benefit LWVCLA

Tickets cost \$12 and are available at Buzz and Pacific Mist in Sequim and Odyssey Bookstore in Port Angeles.

Call your friends and make an evening of it with dinner and the play.

100th Anniversary
of Washington State Women
SECURING THE VOTE!
and Commemorating the
90th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment

READERS THEATRE PLUS
PRESENTS

Shattered Ceilings

A Celebration of
Remarkable Women

March 26, 7:30 pm • Old Dungeness School House • Sequim
March 27, 7:30 pm • Port Angeles Community Theatre

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hope Springs Eternal

It's very difficult not to feel the hope of the season as the sun rushes back north and the flowers and trees start to bloom. Even the disappointments of the political failures lose their grip on you and you decide to give it one more try!

I went to the Forks City Council with Candace Pratt as we delivered the TRY brochures with the "Balloon Bouquets" to thank our elected officials for their commitment of time and energy to this democracy of ours. Several people got up during the public session to voice their complaints and make suggestions. The Mayor, council and staff responded and the Mayor said to all of them, "we will investigate this issue and get back to you with the results." It was heartwarming to watch the process and see the difference that this made to the demeanor of the speakers and their supporters. You could feel the hope!

Several Leaguers went to a 3 hour seminar sponsored by the Bellingham League on "Civil Discourse in Uncivil Times." There were at least 70 people there and you could see the excitement as the people realized that they could help shape the dialogue and the tone of our meetings by how we conducted ourselves and phrased the questions. It was an "Aha!" moment for many of the people there and you could feel the "hope" returning.

There are several committees that are turning their energies towards overwhelming issues because of their passion for getting it right. Our health care Leaguers, after a local consensus and great success at conducting meetings to bring the information to all of us, now have people in the community asking us to do forums with them. The sustainability committee has identified several areas that they wish to investigate and help solve problems. The water committee is ready to conduct a forum on WRIA 18 and help us all look at this very contentious issue in the context of the bigger picture and help us focus on the solutions rather than the problem. THAT IS HOPE!

This is the time to renew your hope, get involved and make a difference! We need you.

Penney Van Vleet, President

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The picture was taken by Nora Leech, one of the State LWV Lobby Team who attended the Feb. 15 rally on the steps of the Washington State Capitol Legislative Building. The crowd, estimated at 6,000, came together to speak against budget cuts that affect healthcare, education, labor, and the environment.

The Cost of our Waste

Recycling some of our discarded materials has the potential to provide large savings in energy consumption and a large reduction in greenhouse gas production at very little cost to industry or to consumers .

A good part of the waste stream we generate is made up of containers, plastic bottles and aluminum cans.

Producing aluminum requires 5% of the total electricity output of the U.S. The industry says 50% is recycled, the EPA says 38% is. So about 50% of the total is discarded. To produce one ton of aluminum requires ±15000 KWh electricity. As a byproduct 1.5 tons of CO2 and other air pollutants and solid waste are produced. If the electricity used is from a coal fired power plant about six tons of CO2, seven tons of methane and smaller amounts of the oxides of nitrogen and sulfur and some mercury emissions are produced. If we could salvage that discarded aluminum we could save about 2.5% of the energy produced in the US, In addition we would reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 1.25 million times the quantities given in the table above. That's nothing to sneeze at!

In 04 we produced 28B bottles of which 86% end up in landfills. They required 17M barrels of oil and generated 2.5M tons of CO2 during production. Although there are only 7 resin codes, there are actually thousands of different types of plastic. Variations in the manufacturing process leads to different melting points and other properties within the same resin code. To be made into another product plastic must be carefully sorted by type. Combining different types of plastic renders it useless for manufacturing. The technology exists to recycle most kinds of plastic but lack of infrastructure prevents all but the most widespread kinds of plastic from being recycled. Code 1 or 2 plastics are recyclable, they are down cycled and made into cruder products. Simplifying product packaging would result in a considerable savings of resources and a reduction in the waste stream going to landfills. Plastic shopping bags alone require 12M barrels of oil annually.

There have been discussions about

requiring vendors to accept containers and packaging for recycling but that would only seem to solve half of the problem. People have to be motivated to return the material to recycling stations. Eleven states have bottle bills which require a refundable deposit on plastic or aluminum containers. Those eleven states produce about half of all the recycled material in the U.S. Recovery rates in those states are about 80% .

As individuals we should recycle as much as possible. Compact florescent bulbs should be disposed of properly to avoid mercury pollution and in general avoid littering. As citizens we should urge our legislators to pass a bottle bill to improve our recycle rate.

Rudy Meyer

Balloon Bouquets to Elected Officials

February is the League's 90th birthday. This year, 2010, marks the 100th anniversary of Washington State women securing the VOTE, *and* the 90th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. Took advantage of these important dates to surprise 11 elected bodies in Sequim, PA, and Forks...their city councils, school boards and hospital boards, and the Port of Port Angeles and PUD #1 commissions...with balloon bouquets and a brief statement. Each member received a 2010 TRY. We were well received, with some boards having more to say than others. Generally we were thanked for our work, and the TRYs eagerly accepted. Many thanks to Vicci, Tommie, Lou, Ida, Sonja, Penney, Anne Murray, Diane Nelson, Rudy Meyer, Judith Parker, Linda Collett, Norma Turner and Cathy Claney, whose help made this happen.

Candace Pratt, Voter Service

Planning ahead for forums...

Candidates forums are a vital function of League, and we have several of them every year. We also conduct forums to provide public education on specific issues.

Up for election this year will be: a US Senator, state and federal representatives, all Clallam County officials (only one commissioner), one PUD #1 commissioner, and two District Court judges.

If all races are contested, that could mean 5 or 6 forums in July for the Primary and the same in September-October leading up to the general election. Candidates look forward to our forums as the only opportunity to face the public.

We need moderators and sorters to make these forums possible. Ideally, we like to give each race plenty of time for the public to get to know the candidates. With more moderators, we can allow more time for each contest. We have to have two sorters for each forum. Sorters are such an important component of our forums, that it is vital they understand the role.

Candace Pratt, Voter Service chair

The Wild Olympic Campaign

**April 19, 2010 Sequim Library
11:30 – 12:30**

The Sustainability Committee is sponsoring a Brown-Bag Lunch event on April 19th at the Sequim Library from 11:30 – 12:30 to host a presentation of the Wild Olympic Campaign. This campaign is composed of a coalition of groups working to protect watersheds on the Olympic Peninsula. Their efforts are directed towards long term protection of the Olympic forest watersheds and rivers. Ben Greuel of the Sierra Club will share information on those sensitive areas that are being targeted to bring under greater protection by having them designated as Wilderness areas.

Coffee and Tea will be provided. Come and be informed and have your questions answered.

Answers to Quiz on Page 9

- 1. President Carter**
- 2. 1980**
- 3. March 8th is International Women's Day**
- 4. 1987**
- 5. The President issues a National Women's History Month Proclamation every March**

MEMBERSHIP

If you have ideas on how to recruit and retain members, plus new social events for our members; please consider joining the Membership Committee. We want our new members to feel welcome and participate at a level where they are comfortable and can grow and enjoy their experience.

In January the Board created a policy for issuing a dues reduction to an individual who can't join the League because of financial hardship. If you know someone who would be a great member, but finds the annual dues a barrier to joining, refer her or him to the president or the membership chair to find out what is involved in getting a partial scholarship.

We urge members who joined through National League to join the local League when it is time to renew. Now is also a good time to ask friends to join the League so we can maintain our numbers when we begin to face the inevitable attrition that occurs at renewal time. Our fiscal year begins July 1 and we start asking for renewals in May at our annual meeting. People joining or renewing now won't have to renew until July 2011.

As of January 31, when we had to report to National for determination of our dues assessment, we had 85 local members and 3 national members. Since then we have added Ann Gillian of Port Angeles who is re-joining the League after being away a few years. We now have 86 local members who are supporting our effort to make a difference by promoting political responsibility through informed and active participation on selected government issues.

***Sara Johnson, Membership Committee
Chairperson***

BOARD NOTES

At the January board meeting, reports were received indicating lots of activity at the committee level, as described elsewhere in this newsletter. The board reviewed and approved the plans for the Women's History Month event scheduled for March. It also authorized the Health Care Committee to respond affirmatively to request to co-sponsor a forum on prescription medical abuse.

A Member Scholarship Program was approved to assist members who, because of financial circumstances, cannot pay their full dues but want to be active in the League. Policies were adopted defining criteria and protecting confidentiality.

The board authorized forming a committee to work on our local League activities. It also appointed Clare Hatler as the board's member of the 2010 nominating committee.

At the February board meeting, the recommendations on proposed LWVUS studies and local League priorities emerging from the general membership program planning meeting will be reviewed. Remember, if you are ever interested in attending a board meeting (held on the fourth Tuesday of each month) just contact President Penney Van Vleet.

Vicci Rudin, Secretary

WATER CONSERVATION and CLIMATE PANIC IN ARIZONA??

On a recent trip to southern Arizona, I picked up some newspapers to see what their issues were and it will not surprise you to know that the front page article was all about the long term drought and what the readers could do to ameliorate the problem. They included this quote from Wendell Berry: "We have to look upon trees as fellow members of our places. And, if they are having a hard time living, then we have to take that as a warning to ourselves." Their dessert trees are dying.....there is a limit to the amount of energy trees can store to feed themselves and this drought has taken a heavy toll. The author's suggestions for water conservation were:

- Take camp showers, don't leave the water running
- Dishwashers use less water than hand washing
- Front-loading clothes washers use less water
- Low-flow toilets and faucets should be installed
- Use drip irrigation for your garden and landscaping
- Build water catchments to retain rain water
- Plant native species with low water requirements

Another article on climate change, in this conservative state, indicated that people are starting to get it (and not a moment too soon). You probably know what most of the article was about, but the final paragraph blew me away! "The only way to avoid this catastrophic scenario is a kind of backfire panic of our own: radical,

rapid and aggressive implementation of climate policy in the United States as a message to the world. In the end, as venture capitalist Eugene Kleiner has pointed out, 'sometimes panic is an appropriate response.'"



KUDOS

Candace Pratt for organizing (an enormous task) the "Balloon Bouquets" for our elected representatives

Ida Fintel for compiling and editing a very attractive TRY brochure (pick yours up at the next League meeting or a number of locations in our communities)

.THE HISTORY OF OUR LEAGUE

Do you enjoy history? Are you an organizer at heart? Are you just curious about who did what when, where, and why?

Our League of Women Voters of Clallam County was first organized in 1967 and recognized as an official chapter of the LWVUS the following year. Can you imagine how many issues and events our league has participated in over those ensuing forty-plus years?

We can all appreciate how important it is that the history of our local league not be lost or forgotten. Our league board has given me the go-ahead to establish a committee to plan what records of our league should be saved, how they should be organized, and where they should be archived. The Clallam County Historical Society is willing to work with us.

Would you be willing to join me in this endeavor? I think we can have fun while we do this! Please call or e-mail me for further information (457-2860 or rudin@olypen.com).

Vicci Rudin
Secretary

Health Care: Drug Use and Abuse

The Health Care Committee, as part of our ongoing study of health care issues, is looking at how drug advertisements affect drug use and abuse. Material is readily available and should provide ample discussion fodder. I would think advertisement leading to abuse is not very likely since I think most people put more trust in their physicians than advertisements.

Nevertheless, we must understand that substance abuse is not limited to illegal drugs. Substance abuse is defined as the excessive use of a substance, especially alcohol or a drug. There is no universally accepted definition of substance abuse, however, American Heritage Medical Dictionary defines drug abuse as the habitual use of drugs to alter one's mood, emotion, or state of consciousness.

When I lived overseas, my physician was British. She rarely prescribed a medication until she was sure my body had done all it could to heal itself. She might not have many patients in America. Observation tells me Americans prefer a quick fix with whatever is the latest med.

The Health Care Committee has been invited to participate in the Medication Abuse Working Group that is made up of interested persons from local medical, business, educational, and community organizations. I will attend their meetings and keep *The Voter* updated.

Lou Templeton, Chair
Health Care Committee

EARTH DAY, APRIL 17, 2010

The League of Women Voters of Clallam County will be sponsoring a table at the Earth Day Fair. This event promises to be informative as well as entertaining. Booths, demonstrations, and presentations at the Boys and Girls Club will feature different organizations working in the areas of alternative energy, conservation, sustainable practices and local environmental issues. Demonstrations will be held in different parts of the cities highlighting Sequim's garden projects, alternative-powered transportation, and water management. The League will be offering information on carbon footprints and suggestions on how we as individuals can make a difference. Put the date on your calendar and come early to receive a free environmental friendly tote bag at the door.



If you would like to be part of this effort, please call or email Carrol Hull.

2010 National Women's History Month Quiz

- 1. Which President issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring March as the first National Women's History Week?**
- 2. In what year was the first Presidential Proclamation made that designated National Women's History Week?**
- 3. Why was the week of March 8th chosen as the time for this celebration?**
- 4. In what year did Women's History week become Women's History Month?**
- 5. What does the President do each year in celebration of National Women's History Month?**

March/April Calendar

Friday, March 26, 7:30 p.m.
“Shattered Ceilings”
Old Dungeness School House
A Celebration of Remarkable Women
LWVCLA Fundraiser

Saturday, March 27, 7:30 p.m.
“Shattered Ceilings”
Port Angeles Community Theatre
A Celebration of Remarkable Women
LWVCLA Fundraiser

Monday, April 5, 2:30 p.m.
Health Care Committee
Sara Johnson’s home

Week of April 12
WRIA 18 Forum
TBA

Friday, April 12, 1 – 4 p.m.
Sustainability Committee
Olympic Winery on Hwy 101

Saturday, April 17
Earth Day Celebration in Sequim
LWVCLA Booth at the Boys & Girls Club
Email Carrol Hull if you can help

Monday, April 19, 11:30-12:30
Wild Olympic Campaign-Protecting
Watersheds
Brown Bag Lunch at the Sequim
Library
Coffee and Tea will be provided