



November/December 2011

THE VOTER

www.lwvcla.org

The League of Women Voters of Clallam County

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Calendar of Events

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| Tues, Nov. 8
2:00—4:00 pm | <i>Along-Side-the-League</i> Activity: Book Discussion Group at Olympic Cellars |
| Sat., Dec. 10th
11:30 | Holiday Potluck
Olympic Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall |

League Websites

League of Women Voters websites present a wealth of information.
national..... League of Women Voters of the US: www.lwv.org
state..... League of Women Voters of Washington: www.lwvwa.org
local..... League of Women Voters of Clallam County: www.lwvcla.org

To submit information for our local website, or to comment, please contact Genaveve Starr: genaveve@msn.com or Ruth Marcus: rmarcus@olypen.com



Participation Opportunities

- ◇ **December** Help with setup and clean up at Holiday Potluck (see article on page three) *Contact Mickie Vail: 457-2018 or Vail@olypen.com*
- ◇ **January** Assist with preparations for the meeting on program planning *Contact Pat MacRobbie: 681-2056 / macrobbie@olympus.net*
- ◇ **February** Organizing efforts for Hot Topics Luncheon *Contact Nancy Esteb: 360.681-8490/ betseesteb2@yahoo.com*

Letter from the President:

By the time you get this, it is November 1, and our five debates are completed. We all owe a big thank you to Laura Lanka, Sharon Lee, and Linda Benson. They did all the organizing and detail work to make sure everything came off as the League does things – professionally. And thank you to all of you who were greeters, mike holders, and assistants of all kinds at one or more of the debates. We can't do these without the help of a lot of our members.

Another major effort going on is the Education Study Consensus process. See the article on page two to learn more about this. Another thank you goes out to all of you who have participated in the meetings. Your voice needs to be heard.

Continued on Page Two

Letter from the President, continued from Page One

Our board meeting in September was longer than normal because Barbara Seitle, former state president, came and did some board training with us. She was very helpful in working through some issues that have been difficult for us to resolve. The two biggest ones are when and how is it okay to work with other groups, and what can we do during the year that is outside of approved program planning efforts. It's important to us to follow League guidelines and stay within the boundaries set by national and state. The difficulty is often those boundaries aren't a clear fence line.

Every year the state League holds two action workshops, one for the east side of the state and one for the west side. Ours will be in Bellevue on Saturday, November 19. I went last year, and it was very worthwhile. They review the upcoming state legislative session, introduce our lobbyists, and go over what they are advocating. It's an informative day. The cost is only \$25 plus gas. If any of you are interested in going, please let me know and I'll help coordinate car pooling. Just go to lwvwa.org and click on action workshops to get the registration form.

Also coming up is our annual Holiday Potluck, this year scheduled for December 10. See the article on page two telling you more about this.

Nancy Esteb

Reporting Progress of the LWVUS Study: *Role of the Federal Government in Public Education*

LWVCLA had a successful first session of the Educational Study Consensus, held on October 4th at the Sequim Library with over 25 members working together. Carrol Hull assumed responsibility for conducting our League's efforts. LWVUS is in the process of formulating new national educational positions which will become the framework for not only national efforts, but also for state and local actions as well.

We divided into three groups, each having a facilitator and a recording secretary. Every person expressed her/his opinion then everyone indicated their decisions. Advancing through the questions, the discussions got progressively more intense as we wrestled with difficult issues.

The Education Study scope is broad and includes the following areas under the role of the federal government in public education (preK through grade 12): the history, funding and equity issues which are addressed under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and the common core standards/assessments which are required for many federal grant programs but are national, not federal. The culminating position will address only those issues delineated in the scope.

We were able to work through the first six of 15 questions and will continue in a second session taking place November 1st at the Port Angeles Library.

Working to Support Education

The Education Committee is working to support sustainable education. We recently met with Sequim High School instructor Dave Ketter to plan how we may assist him in his efforts to provide students with environmental-service learning projects.

We also continue to develop a partnership with Sequim School District to foster education regarding local government and issues affecting our community, and to encourage

Our work with schools is critical at this particular time due to the draconian cuts that have taken place and ones on the horizon. The League is committed to education as a necessity in maintaining a democracy.

For information concerning these programs contact Carrol Hull at cahull@msn.com or 916 366 8312 For information regarding the partnership with Sequim School District contact Ruth Marcus as RMarcus@olypen.com

Carrol Hull, Chair Education Committee

Activity of Membership Committee

The membership committee spent the last month reminding members of the September date for renewal. That accomplished, we switched into our debate and forum mode. We set up a table at all of the debates to present League membership materials. The moderators at the debates encouraged audience members to join the League and to visit the table to peruse brochures and talk with a League representative.

Ruth attended the last board meeting where Barbara Seitle from LWVWA held a training session. She suggested that we have a

events and said this would not threaten our non-partisan status. She also made several recommendations for recruiting and maintaining membership. She also suggested that we do more outreach through Facebook. (See the box below.)

Next month we plan to review our membership survey policy. We are hoping to come up with a way to obtain more helpful information about our members' interests and preferences and do that in a more user-friendly manner.

We welcome new member Rose Marschall.

*Please add a "LIKE" link to your Facebook page
sharing our local League web site: www.LWVCLA.org
It's a way a way for us to encourage people to join our local league.*

????? What Would You Like to Work On Next Year ?????

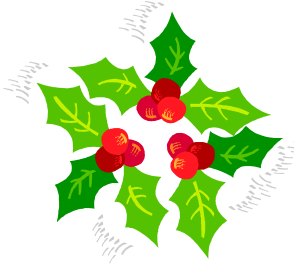
Program Planning happens in January—when we decide what our League will work on next year. Programs like health care and water studies began when a few members got together and presented proposals at planning meetings.

What would you like to work on next year?

Get a few members together, propose your idea at program planning, and if it falls within the bounds of League work, it will likely be approved. Now it the time to get started. Any questions can be directed to Pat MacRobbie, our program coordinator: macrobbie@olympus.net

Along-Side-The-League

Our members enjoy spending time together engaging in activities that are not official league-sanctioned activities. The current groups include "Book Club", "Walk 'n Talk", and the "Discussion Group". Check the calendar for specific information on group meetings. Walkers meet Tuesday mornings at Railroad Bridge Park leaving at 9:00. Those walking east start at the Carlsborg Road entrance to the trail and leaving at 8:30 then walk back with the group that starts at the bridge.



League of Women Voters of Clallam County
Holiday Luncheon
Saturday, December 10th, 11:30
Olympic Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall
73 Howe Road, Sequim
off Old Olympic about a mile west of Carlsborg Road,
turn onto North Barr Road, then onto Howe Road

Come and join League members at our annual Holiday Potluck and bring someone who you think should be encouraged to join LWV.

If your last name begins with A - M please bring a salad.

If your last name begins with N - Z please bring a dessert.

The Board Members will bring main courses. Beverages will be provided.

Volunteer to decorate a table—the designer of the tablescape judged the best will be awarded a \$25 gift certificate to Alderwood Bistro.

Please contact Mickie Vail to “adopt a table”, or to offer help with set up and clean up: 457-2018 or Vail@olypen.com.

Along-Side-the-League

Books Chosen by Book Club

In its September meeting, the League book club decided on three books for our reading over the next six months.

On November 8, Nancy Esteb will guide us into Malcolm Gladwell's upbeat study of OUTLIERS, with focus on those exceptional people who find success and happiness. Gladwell identifies the hidden variables that contribute to genius and to achievement, or to mediocrity and even failure. In doing so, he dismantles some of our cultural assumptions about the fulfillment of human potential.

On January 10, 2012, Penney Van Vleet will lead us through political philosopher Michael Sandel's essays on JUSTICE, applying the different views of Utilitarianism, Libertarianism and Aristotelian and

Platonic perspectives to current social issues in America.

On March 13, 2012, Judith Parker will lead the discussion of Jeffrey Toobin's THE NINE, an inside study of the dynamics within the Rehnquist Court, with emphasis on how personal and philosophical leanings among the justices affected their interactions and how they dealt with political pressures around the issues upon which they cast their decisions.

Note that the November and January meetings will convene at the OLYMPIC CELLARS (Hwy 101) at 2 to 4 pm (dress warmly). The book meetings will return to the Sequim and PA Libraries thereafter, with the March 2012 meeting at the Sequim Library. Judith will release reminders as these dates approach.

Pat MacRobbie has agreed to be the “keeper of stuff” for LWVCLA so that we have a central location for things League members need to use. Currently the items stored include the sound system, the coffee pot, and the TRY brochures. Pat may be contacted by phone: 681-2056 or email: macrobbie@olympos.net.



A Book Review

The Soul of Capitalism: Opening Paths to a Moral Economy
by William Greider

William Greider's title, *The Soul of Capitalism*, is an oxymoron. He maintains capitalism in its present form has no soul. Its laser focus on "the bottom line", that is, greed reaching for short term profit, systematically destroys those aspects of individual and group endeavor that has allowed American democracy to function: individual expression, innovation, and cooperation; and community identification and social vision. The corporate titans are "hungry ghosts", a Buddhist term for those whose stomachs are never filled, those who must endlessly consume. Many, although not all, corporations, have become engines for the upward funneling and concentration of capital wealth, as they suck up the savings of passive pension funds, the labor of voiceless employees, the investment of willing shareholders, the legislated subsidies from a docile government, and the vast resources of nature. Through a subservient media, they propagate their just

tifying myths of "free market", "consumer satisfaction", "corporate personhood", etc.

Greider balances his condemnation with many examples of innovators (individuals or investor groups) who have bought control of companies and converted them to employee-owned/managed enterprises. These businesses offer a new paradigm encouraging worker input and creativity toward shared growth and success. Greider is the first to admit that these egalitarian efforts have a long way to go, but he offers a vision that would restore the role of the laborer and the values of the larger community into the definition, as well as the management, of wealth. This transformation would imbue capitalism with a soul.

He has lost faith in the government to reform capitalism since he sees it is owned by corporate interests. Greider looks to grass root movements and citizen action to transform American.

League Leadership

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