



November/December 2010

THE VOTER

www.lwvcla.org

The League of Women Voters of Clallam County

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Appreciation is extended To Marilyn Bruning for Acting as assistant to the editor/proofreader of The Voter..

President's Message — What Have You Learned?:

I watched a boy playing at the beach when he suddenly got into water over his head. The father quickly pulled the sputtering, coughing child to shore and said, "What did you learn from that, Son?" The father's question, not exactly my reaction, was nevertheless imprinted on my brain.

I've been president for four months. At times I have felt over my head. I'm now asking myself what I have learned. The first thing I learned was to trust the board of directors. I can say without the slightest hesitation that the good of the League is first concern of the board. I have learned that questions are not criticism, disagreements not rejection. Most board members know more about the League than I do. I'm fortunate to have them pull me back when I get over my head. And I've learned they are a very forgiving group of women.

I've learned the state and national LWV organizations care about us. I had the notion that League VIPs sitting in their Seattle and Washington D.C. offices hardly knew or cared much about a League way out here. I was wrong. Although information I needed was available at their websites, locating what I needed was a nightmare. Then one day, I got the nerve to ask. I called the state office, even the state president. I emailed national board members, called various state board members and Leaguers across the country. After Catherine Ahl, president of Kitsap League, presided over our board orientation, I latched onto her for advice. Now, when I phone and say it's Lou, Catherine says "What do you need now?" I've learned Leaguers genuinely like to help one another.

I think I'm ready to venture beyond the wading pool. During the next four months, I'll be testing the waters and making use of what I learned the first quarter.

Lou Templeton

Welcome
New Member
Jennifer Puff!
.....

Membership is happy to welcome new member Jennifer Puff. Although she doesn't have a lot of time to give to the League, she is willing to serve on the Membership Committee. Jennifer and her husband Ron moved to Sequim in 2006. They have two

grown daughters. Jennifer comes from a background as an executive director of a non-profit organization in Marin County, Calif. She volunteers at the Museum and Arts Center and has served on the Board of the Sequim Community Foundation. Jenn loves to read, cook, knit, and walk her dog, Sookie. Welcome to the League,

November 2010 Election: Summary of League
Efforts to Inform Voters

The pre-election debate forums that we sponsored are now over. It is important to assess what we have accomplished and learn what we can do to improve the impact and outcome of future events.

On balance, it appears that we were able to fulfill the League's mission of providing voters greater exposure to candidates through well-attended debate events. In face-to-face settings, voters were afforded opportunities to evaluate candidates by receiving information about their positions and observing their demeanor. By contrast, during one debate event, audience members were disruptive of civil discourse. This is an indication that we must be much more realistic about security at future events.

Between July and October, League:

- Provided five events with 12 debates and four pro/con initiative discussions

- Booked all "local" candidates for races directly concerning our county
- Completed effective event contact with 35 candidates and spokespeople
- Secured six separate venues within budget, including set-up and take-down
- Engaged four local sponsors including the Association of American University Women, the Sequim Gazette, and the Sequim Senior Activity Center
- Increased (in my view) active League member participation at each event
- Attracted the interest of, and publication by, five media sources
- Requested and received police services, especially parking lot surveillance
- Spent considerably less money than we had budgeted for implementation of these events
- Failed to book candidates for the U.S. Senate and the Washington State Supreme Court race

Finally, we League members can be pleased about our ultimate contributions to this election cycle.

Laura Lanka, Member
Voter Service

Food Policy Council to Form



Summit Meeting October 7, 2010

The League of Women Voters of Clallam County sponsored a summit meeting October 7, 2010 in Port Angeles to explore the potential for establishing a local Food Policy Council. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the results of a survey that had been conducted by the League earlier this year. The survey, conducted through interviews of 42 persons from all sectors of the food system, was created to clarify the need for, the issues of, and a possible structure of a Food Policy Council.

A Food Policy Council has the potential to strengthen the local food system, making it more sustainable while enhancing the local economy, community health, and food security. A Food Policy Council could recommend changes to government policy and co-ordinate initiatives to increase production, processing, sales, and distribution of local farm products.

The Clallam League was approached last fall at the Farm-To-Cafeteria Conference, a meeting of those involved in growing, processing, selling and distributing food. Several participants at the conference asked League members if they could help explore the possibility of a Food Policy Council. After checking positions of the state and national League organizations, the Clallam League, under the leadership of Anne Hastings Murray, decided to survey representatives from the food community. If the survey results indicated sufficient interest in forming a Food Policy Council, the League would organize a summit. Responses indicated a great deal of interest. The summit was held, funded by a grant from the League of Women Voters, State Education Board.

The 28 summit participants included farmers, grocery businesses, public markets, community organizations, and government representatives. League members presented the results of the survey and shared information about the structure and activities of existing Food Policy Councils in the region and country. Participants then discussed the need, the issues and possible next steps. Response was favorable enough that a group of participants volunteered to organize a second meeting to start the formation process.

Carol Hull, Chair
Sustainability/Education

Health Care Committee Monitors Affordable Care Act

The implementation of the Affordable Care Act is a primary concern of the Health Care Committee. Department of Health and Human Services creates rules and policies. The State Insurance Commissioner's offices then oversee implementation of the rules.

Our Committee has taken a wait and see position until the rules are in place. We feel our role is finding ways to get accurate information to citizens as the law is implemented. Through meetings with community groups, we want to clarify and address the concerns and doubts people may have. League members can help by suggesting groups or organizations that are interested in a presentation by our group.

Reforming health care delivery to insure accessibility and affordability is a complex issue, and the Affordable Health Care Act is a complicated law. Timing of its passage, during an election

year when public opinion is based on sound bites and attack ads, has further complicated understanding the changes the law brings. People need help in understanding what is at stake and who the players are. We who have studied health care reform for years realize more work is necessary to achieve affordable, quality care for all Americans. Important steps in the current law at least move in that direction.

Committee Members follow websites posted by government and interest groups and read articles in reliable journals and news sources as a means of tracking progress and barriers to implementation. We welcome input from League members who locate good sources as well. We also monitor the impact of the law on our local hospital, medical care providers and citizens currently with or without insurance.

Sara Johnson, Chair
Health Care Committee

Hot Topics Luncheon Reservations

Reservations for our November 13th Hot Topics Luncheon will close Thursday, November 4th. You don't want to miss hearing Nancy Amidei speak on "Reclaiming Democracy." Ms. Amidei directs the Civic Engagement Project in Seattle, which works with non-profit organizations throughout the country. Lou has heard her speak and promises you will not be disappointed.

Invite a friend; make your reservations by completing a form found on our website www.LWVCLA; and send with \$25 to Ida Fintel.

Planning Committee: Nancy Esteb, Lou Templeton, Kathy Langhoff, Ida Fintel, Judith Parker, and special consultant, Marsha Carr

Membership Committee Report

Last meeting for the membership committee was 10/6/10. We are happy to have a new member, Jennifer Puff. Welcome Jennifer. We continue to have a goal of increasing membership by 25%. To this end we have had a membership table at all of the debates and forums. Speaking engagements have been scheduled with the Sequim Sunrise Rotary, Sequim Chamber of Commerce, and the Newcomer's club of Pt. Angeles. Thank you Nancy Esteb and Charles Strickland for volunteering to be speakers. New members are welcomed by phone within 2 weeks of joining and coffees have been scheduled at their convenience.

Our new website (www.LWVCLA.org) has been a hotbed of activity during this election season. The decision to take questions in advance resulted in many questions prior to the Dicks/Cloud debate. The calendar has been helpful in scheduling and keeping track of League activities.

Committee chairs are reminded to submit information for the calendar at least two weeks in advance to Ruth Marcus.

New League brochures are scheduled to arrive after October 25th.

Membership cards continue to be available through Ruth Marcus. We always welcome new members to our committee. Recruiting is everyone's job. **Who do you know to make us grow?**

Ruth Marcus, Co-Chair
Membership Committee



Come and enjoy the holiday spirit at the Annual Holiday Potluck Luncheon!

A League tradition, the annual lunch is primarily a social event.

The speaker will be
Laura O'Neal from the
Peninsula Dispute Resolution Center.

Tuesday, December 7
11:30 am – 1:30 pm
Olympic Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
73 Howe Road, Port Angeles

Directions: From Old Olympic Highway, turn south on Barr Rd., right on Howe Rd. From 101 turn north on Barr Rd., left on Howe Rd.

Menu: Your LWV Board will bring the entrees and beverages.. Members with last names beginning A – M, please provide a dessert. Members with last names N - Z, bring a salad.

RSVP: By December 4 to Kathy Langhoff, 360-681-3757, jamesjr1@aol.com

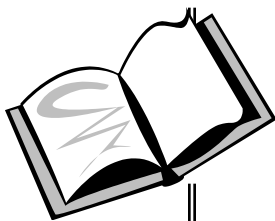
Sustainability Committee Report

The Sustainable Committee met on September 24th in the Sequim Library. Twelve League members attended plus a guest. Possible issues were discussed with presentations being made concerning the pending Food Policy Summit, the Clallam County Stormwater Study Group, the Nippon biomass co-generation project and a proposal to start a study group which will encompass the recent introduction of genetically modified foods. Plans are being developed to organize some League events/activities around Earth Day 2011. In addition, a report was received from the group concerned with Carrying Capacity and Population. The group may also introduce a proposal for a study team at the January Program Meeting. The team working on Sustainable Education will continue their educational outreach this year and met with teachers from Sequim High School to develop goals for this year.

The Food Policy Summit was held October 7th and was well attended by individuals, businesses and government officials involved in the food economy. Volunteers from the participants at the summit are organizing the next meetings and agenda for this group to pursue the organizing of a Food Policy Council. (see article).

The next meeting of the Sustainability Committee will be held in Port Angeles on November 12, 2010 at the Port Angeles Library in the Carver Room between 2:00 – 4:00pm. We encourage League members who are interested in sustainability and environmental issues to attend and become part of the effort to build a sustainable Clallam County

Carrol Hull, Chair
Sustainability



The League Book Club

will be meet to discuss
Shock Doctrine by Naomi Klein
Tuesday, November 9th
2:00 in the afternoon at
the Sequim Library

Water Committee Holds Second Water Forum

The educational forum, Managing Our Water II, was held Oct. 18 at St.Luke's Episcopal Church, Sequim.

The program consisted of a Power-Point presentation by Hydrogeologist, Dave Nazy, from Washington Department of Ecology. The PowerPoint and Nazy's commentary proved that understanding the science behind water availability is possible.

Joe Holtrop, District Manager, Clallam Conservation District, gave an informative presentation on water-wise landscaping and in part what the Conservation District provides. He talked about Clallam County soils, growing conditions, native trees and

Plants, and the watering and maintenance needs of desirable plantings. Janet Nazy, Executive Director, Partnership for Water Conservation, showed a short film and presented simple but useful hints on conservation in the home. Attendees were delighted to be able to take home pertinent information as well as individual shower timers.

The speakers, along with several other experts in attendance, answered questions posed by the audience.

The Water Study Committee thanks all who participated in our mission to educate others on water and resource conservation issues.

Sonja Rotter, Chair
Water Study Committee

Subscriber Membership Option

The local League has expanded membership options for people who are interested in the Clallam County LWV but don't want to enroll as a member. The new option is to become a Subscriber for \$30/year. Subscribers receive The Voter and emails keeping them up-to-date on debates, forums and League events.

If you have a friend or colleague who is unable join the League for any reason, you might suggest that she or he become a Subscriber. Subscriber information is on the Home Page of our website: www.LWVCLA.org

Meet a Member - Nancy Esteb

Her mother had been in the League, a number of her friends are members, and last fall, when the time was right, Nancy Esteb became a member of the League of Women Voters of Clallam County. It wasn't long before she was elected co-vice president and now she spends considerable time fulfilling the responsibilities of this role, serving as a member of the County Planning Commission, and assisting with debates.

Originally from Eugene, Oregon, Nancy lived in New Mexico for her undergraduate degree in Latin American studies and then moved to Seattle where she attained a doctorate degree in Sociology from the University of Washington. She taught at Notre Dame and it was there that she met her husband, David Lewis. After their marriage, they moved to Oregon where her career changed direction when she assumed a position with an investor-owned utility company that served customers in seven states and employed 8,000 people. She worked in several regulatory departments before managing long-range planning and in 1997 she accepted an early-retirement offer when the company

Nancy is the mother of one son who is a chemical engineer living in Idaho and she has one granddaughter with another granddaughter expected in November.

Because she is optimistic in general, Nancy holds out hope that the political climate in our nation will improve. She considers some of the critical issues we face to be: campaign financing, concentration of wealth/increasing economic inequality, and ineffective educational system. She thinks that no democracy can thrive without a strong middle class and that it is problematic when our young people are not taught civics and the function of government. She especially likes the quality of the people who are League members and appreciates all the work League does to educate citizens on the issues.

Nancy enjoys exercising (walking, weight-training, and line dancing). She studies Spanish every day, and reads widely on finance/economics and social issues. She enjoys cooking, gardening and sewing/quilting.

Genaveve Starr

Enrich your life --- become a volunteer with the League!

Getting to know the wonderful people who are your fellow League members is possibly the best thing about volunteering in League activities. Sure, it's rewarding to know that your efforts can make a positive difference for quality of life in your community, state and nation but it can also be enjoyable and fun. There are many opportunities to become involved and you may realize that you possess a

skill set or talent that will enable you to make a specific contribution to the League. Don't procrastinate-- **volunteer now!** Call or email someone today:

Lounette Templeton, President
504-2060 lounettet@wavecable.com
Nancy Esteb, Co Vice-President
681-8490 betseesteb@qwest.com
Kathy Langhoff, Co Vice-President
681-3757 Jamesjr1@aol.com

League Leadership

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Sara Johnson, Health Care
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Sue Erzen, Observer Corps
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Calendar of Events - November, 2010 through June, 2011

November 2	General Election	
November 4	Deadline for Reservations Hot Topic	
November 6	Action Workshop	Bellevue
November 13	Hot Topic Fundraiser Luncheon	
December 7	Holiday Potluck	
December 15	Bill of Rights Day	
— 2011 —		
January 25	Program Planning, local and state	
February 14	League's 91st birthday	
February 24	League of Women Voter's day (formerly Lobby Day)	Olympia
Month of March	Women's History Month	
March 13th—19th	Sunshine Week	
April 22	Earth Day	
May 17	Annual Meeting	
May 20—23	LWVWA Convention	Hosted by LWV/Benton-Franklin Counties
June (dates TBA)	New Board Orientation	
	Board Planning Retreat	
June 28	Joint Meeting — old and new boards	



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

P.O. Box 982
Port Angeles, WA 98362

Name
Address
Address

YES! I wish to join.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (day) _____ Phone (evening) _____

Email _____ Our mailing list is NOT shared with any other organization.

Individual Member \$ 60

Additional contribution to support the local League \$ _____

Household Member \$ 90

Student Member \$ 30

Clara Carlson Memorial Membership \$120

I am unable to join at this time, but I support the League by enclosing a contribution of \$ _____.

Mail check payable to LWVCLA. Send to:

League of Women Voters of Clallam County

P.O. Box 982, Port Angeles, WA 98362

Questions? Call Marcia Radey 683-2490 or Sara Johnson 582 0272