



September/October 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 — The League in Action:*

If you attended the July candidate debates or the August "Managing Our Water" forum, you witnessed League in action. The debates reflected our belief that informed citizens are the key to maintaining good government. The water forum demonstrated that education based on facts is essential for people to understand and make decisions based on the common good.

At the candidate debates, I recalled a conversation during the 2008 presidential candidate debates when someone remarked that the League should have sponsored the debates. I reminded her that LWV sponsored the presidential debates from 1976 until the Democratic and Republican National Committees formed the Commission on Presidential Debates in 1988. In order to control the debates, the CPD laid out terms required of the League.

The League's response was: The League of Women Voters is withdrawing sponsorship of the presidential debates.... It has become clear to us that the candidates' organizations aim to add debates to their list of campaign-trail charades devoid of substance, spontaneity and answers to tough questions. The League has no intention of becoming an accessory to the hoodwinking of the American public.

The League stands by its principles. At the water forum, I was reminded that the LWV does not limit action to easy issues only. We choose those aimed at aiding citizens to form opinions and make decisions based on studied facts, not emotion, platitudes or sound bites. We choose actions that promote the overall good of the community. After all, we are the community.

The candidate debates and water forum were successful because of you -- the committees and the member volunteers who assisted. If you are a member who has missed participating in League actions, please notice a new item in the newsletter called Involvement Opportunities. I hope you will see an opportunity for involvement that fits you. You can make a difference.

Lou

## August 26th Proclaimed as Women's Equality Day

At the Port Angeles City Council and the Sequim City Council meetings held during the second week of August, the mayors read a proclamation honoring the women who fought for women's right to vote through the 19th Amendment and declaring August 26, the anniversary of its passage, as Women's Equality Day. Lou Templeton accepted for the League in Port Angeles and Nancy Esteb accepted in Sequim.

It is good that everyone is reminded that it was only 90 years ago that the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment passed, and also 90 years ago that the League of Women Voters was founded.

Governor Christine Gregoire commemorated August 26, 1920 as the day our nation witnessed the extension of voting rights to women in all states through the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.



*Jeri's First Meeting*

## Silent Spring: What Are We Eating Now?

A presentation titled **Sowing Our Future, Harvesting Our Choice**, drew twelve League members and three guests to Domaine Madeleine on Thursday, August 5. The purpose of the presentation was to learn if there is interest in organizing a committee to research and study the pros and cons of large corporations controlling our food and drug choices. Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) produced by Monsanto was used as an

example of what is happening and how our choices, society and the environment have been impacted.

The talk included a history of how GMO's came to be an integral part of our life, the role patenting has impacted this movement, and how the Federal Department of Agriculture has become an unexpected collaborator in allowing GMO products to go untested and un-labeled. It also included ideas of what we might do on a personal level to help ourselves and increase awareness of those around us.

President Lou Templeton had approached LWWUS representative, Norman Turrill, and had learned that the national League currently has no position on genetically modified organisms or food technology.

Mr. Turrill said: "The best way to get such a position is for one or more local or state Leagues to do a study. Then other Leagues could conceivably concur with a position that is adopted through a study. If enough Leagues support such a position, then it could be brought to the national convention as a study or concurrence proposal through the Program Planning Process."

Two persons who attended the event have signed on to serve with me on a committee we are calling "Ecological Health and Integrity." We realize that we are embarking on a formidable project, but we believe others will want to join us as we begin our research. For more information, call Lou at 360 504 2060 for information.

Jeri Weinhold

## LWVCLA Involvement in Stormwater and Shoreline Planning

The County is involved now in re-writing codes for stormwater and is updating their Shoreline Master Plan (SMP). For stormwater, the County Department of Community Development has formed a work group, which will hold meetings through March 2011 to discuss options to mitigate the impacts of development on stormwater runoff. The stormwater itself can contain hazardous materials and in turn can cause damage by its volume.

Carole Boardman from the League will be participating in this process.

For Shoreline Planning, the County Department of Community Development has received a \$1 million grant from the U.S. EPA to update its Shoreline Master Plan (SMP). This will be a three-year effort to update the 18-year old plan for the County's 800 miles of marine and freshwater shore-lines. Kathy Wayne from the League will be participating in this process.

## Special Thanks

LWVCLA now has its own website, but we owe a huge debt of thanks to friends of the League who kept a website going for us until we developed our own [lwvcla.org](http://lwvcla.org).

Our thanks go to Ned Schumann, owner of Olympic Net, who supplied internet service and to Bob Lake, who served as webmaster. Thank you, Gentlemen!

## Hot Topics Luncheon

There will be a fundraiser luncheon on Saturday, November 13. We would like all Leaguers to attend who are able. We will be inviting the general public as well. The speaker will be Nancy Amidei (MSW), who is retiring from the faculty of the School of Social Work at the University of Washington.

Lou has heard her speak and says she is a dynamic and engaging speaker.

Amidei is the project director for the Civic Engagement Project and has specialized in advocacy, social policy, and how government works.

## Opportunities to Become Involved

- 3-4 hours on September 29 helping at debate on initiatives (call Candace Pratt, 582-0114 or email: [candacep@wavecable.com](mailto:candacep@wavecable.com))
- 3-4 hours on October 7 at candidate debate (contact Candace)
- 3-4 hours on October 9 at candidate debate (contact Candace)
- 3-4 hours on October 13 at candidate debate (contact Candace)
- More time on a committee for the Hot Topics Lunch (see article above) (call Nancy Esteb at 681-8490 or email: [betseesteb@qwest.net](mailto:betseesteb@qwest.net))

## Health Care Committee Report

The Health Care Committee held its first meeting for the new fiscal year on August 2nd. The committee currently consists of Sara Johnson, who has taken over as Chairperson from Lou Templeton; Virginia Clark, Dottie Niccasio, Tommie Schwent and Jenifer Taylor are continuing their committee participation; and Hearst Coen and Gloria Farmer have joined the committee.

Sara gave a summary of how the committee formed in 2003 when Virginia Mason left the peninsula and a large number of people lost access to medical care. It studied the issues and cost of health care in Clallam County, Washington and around the country and the industrialized world and concluded that our current system of delivery and payment is not sustainable.

The cost is rising way faster than income and the GNP. There are increasing numbers of people who cannot access care because it is too expensive or not available where they live.

The quality of health care is also variable between parts of the country and between urban and rural areas. The committee came around to the position that the best solution is to replace our current patchwork market-driven system with a national, public, non-profit single payer system. A number of educational forums were held to help the public understand the complexities of the issues facing Americans related to disease prevention and treatment and the need for major reform.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act that ultimately passed in March 2010 fell short of what the committee would have liked to see, but it does address some of the most glaring faults of the current insurance system. We will know more about how it will play out as the rules for implementation are written and people begin to experience the benefits and the pitfalls.

More and more support is building for a "Medicare for All" kind of system among State LWV and other groups. The National LWV has come out in favor of it too. The committee sent a letter to the national board asking them to give it priority as they plan for this years legislative agenda.

The committee focus this year is to closely monitor the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, educate the public on what is at stake as efforts are made to improve or repeal it. The current group has a variety of backgrounds related to medical care and insurance practices which should make for a great work group.

Anyone who would like to join the group is welcome. This is a very critical issue that impacts everyone, our economy, our future as a democratic and socially just people and our leadership in the world.

Call Sara Johnson, 582-0272 for more information.

## Membership Committee Report

The membership committee has met several times over the summer and has brainstormed many ideas for recruiting and retaining members. We have set a goal of increasing membership by 25%. We plan to welcome and orient new members promptly and provide them with League publications. We're grateful to Walt and Sara Johnson for maintaining our database.

We encourage members to use our new Web site frequently ([www.LWVCLA.org](http://www.LWVCLA.org)). The web calendar provides up-to-date information on meetings, forums and other events. Committee chairs are requested to submit meeting information at least two weeks in advance to Ruth Marcus. Using the web site is an easy way to keep our membership informed while saving money and paper.

We're looking forward to an exciting year. September and October have been designated as Recruit New Member months. Every member is asked to recruit a new member. Please invite your friends and colleagues to join. Carry your new LWV business card and hand it to prospective members. If you need cards, please email Ruth: [rmacus@olypen.com](mailto:rmacus@olypen.com). Also, please email your friends and invite them to visit our web site – a member application can be down-loaded. The more our organization grows, the more sustainable we become. Our slogan is: *Who Do You Know to Make Us Grow.*

Your feedback and ideas are welcome any time. Please email Ruth Marcus or Marcia Radey.

Ruth Marcus

### Help Grow Our Membership

We're looking for two or three members who want to join the Membership Committee. We've got an exciting year ahead of us and want to recruit new members and retain the old. Do you know someone who would love to be on the Membership Committee? Please email Ruth Marcus ([Rmarcus@olypen.com](mailto:Rmarcus@olypen.com)) or Marcia Radey ([rubyradey@gmail.com](mailto:rubyradey@gmail.com)). Our slogan is *Who Do You Know to Help Us Grow?*

## Sustainability/Education Committee Report

### Sustainability Committee

Most of the Sustainability Committee efforts this summer have been put into the Food Council Policy project. Data is being synthesized from the survey conducted this last spring and a conference of key people in the food production, processing and retailing industries and businesses is being organized. The purpose of the conference is to review the results of the survey and offer an opportunity for participants to decide if they want to proceed to form a Food Policy Council.

Several other projects including Sustainable Education will be pursued once school is in session.

Contact will be made with interested teachers and they will be surveyed to ascertain what resources are needed for them to achieve some of the goals and objectives of the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction/Environmental and Sustainable Education.

*Continued on page six*

*Sustainability/Education, continued*

A meeting of the Sustainability Committee is slated for September 24th, at 2:00 pm at the Sequim Library. League members interested in becoming involved with sustainable and environmental issues are encouraged to attend. We will conduct a brain storming session to determine what issues and goals could become our agenda for the 2010/2011 year. Several members have some great issues to bring for consideration, including over population, genetically modified food, solar regulations, waste reduction, and creating a county-wide Earth Day 2011 effort.

Education Committee

The Education Committee sent a letter to the Superintendent of Port Angeles

School District indicating an interest in serving on a data-collection committee during the fall semester. The committee will collect information on goals, needs, challenges and future trends from various community sources.

The findings will provide a base for developing a five-year plan for the future of district schools.

We are pleased to report that our offer has been accepted, and Carrol Hull will serve on the committee.

If you are interested in volunteering to serve on the data-collection committee, notify Carrol Hull at 360-683-5199 or [cahull@msn.com](mailto:cahull@msn.com).

Carrol Hull

## Water Study Committee Report

The LWVCLA Water Committee held our first forum, **Managing Our Water**, on Wednesday, August 11, 2010 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Sequim. Over one hundred people attended.

The committee has concluded that fresh water resources are being depleted at a rate that exceeds the rate of natural replenishment through rainfall and snow melt. Declining aquifers threaten reliable water supplies from wells, and seasonal low flows in rivers and streams harm aquatic habitat for endangered fish.

The committee felt there was a need to educate the community about water issues and decided to have a series of forums that will cover the "WHOSE, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY, and HOW" of water management in the Dungeness

Basin. The forums will also offer tools for protecting our existing water supplies and making our water future more sustainable.

The program speakers at the August 11 forum were Shirley Nixon, water lawyer, covering Water Law 101, and Amanda Cronin, Washington Water Trust, discussing water use patterns and trends in the Dungeness Basin. Also attending the forum, and available to answer questions, were:

Ann Soule, *Clallam County Department of Environmental Health*

Andy Brastad, *Director of Clallam County Department of Environmental Health*

Joe Holtrop, *District Manager, Clallam County Conservation District*

Jeff Ward, *Senior Scientist, North Olympic Peninsula Solutions Network. (NASA stream flow prediction tools for the Dungeness*

*Continued page seven*

*Water Study, continued*

Gary Smith, *Dungeness Water Users Association (Irrigation District)*

Janet Nazy, *Executive Director, Partnership for Water Conservation*

Cynthia Nelson and Bob Barwin, *State Department of Ecology, Water Resources Department*

Our Water Study Committee would like to thank the members of LWCLA for their assistance in making our forum a great success.

Sonja Rotter

## Voter Service Committee Report

The three debates held before Primary ballots were mailed were successful by a number of indicators. AAUW, KONP, the Sequim Gazette and the Sequim Senior Activity Center were cosponsors. The Sequim Senior Activity Center waived their fee, and a board member helped us set up and take down. More than a hundred attended every debate.

The Gazette ran beautiful, prominent ads for us, giving us great publicity. KONP ran the 30-second spots that Laura recorded. The Gazette and the PDN gave us the best newspaper coverage of the debates that I can remember.

Laura Lanka and Sharon Lee are to be applauded for the many hours given to the preparations. Their many phone calls and personal contacts helped create excellent visibility for the League. Sharon lined up the venues, cosponsors and distribution of flyers. She arranged for both the Sequim and Port Angeles Chambers of Commerce to distribute flyers among their members. Laura handled everything with the candidates: contacting, confirming, bios, instructions—a big job all by itself. She also contacted KONP and KQSM and recorded spots for airing.

We don't get great coverage if we don't have worthwhile debates. The moderator is crucial to a good debate. Heartfelt thanks to Anne Murray, Sue Erzen, and Ruth Marcus.

Ruth is a "graduate" of the moderator/sorter training session held last winter, so now she's experienced!

Question-sorting is shared with AAUW. This is not an easy task, but essential for the moderator. Thanks to our Clare Hatler, Marsha Carr, and Nancy Esteb; and to Marty Melcher and Betty Newlon of AAUW for the great job of sorting.

Timers make the debate move along according to schedule. Thanks to Dottie Nicassio, Sharon Lee, Mary Jo LeSage, Carrol Hull, Ida Fintel and Joy Beaver for filling those important seats.

And finally, the behind-the-scenes jobs of distributing flyers, setting up, picking up, runners, greeters. Thanks to Ed Chadd, Norma Turner, Sara Johnson, Marcia Radey, Lou Templeton, Judith Parker, Ruth Marcus and Helga Montgomery.

Laura, Sharon and I have planned four debates for fall. We will have the most current information on our website (don't you love it?) so check there from time to time.

We need help DISTRIBUTING FLYERS Sept 13-15th, and we need GREETERS, TIMERS, RUNNERS, SORTERS for the debates. Email [candacep@wavecable.com](mailto:candacep@wavecable.com) or call 583 0114.

Candace Pratt

## Meet a League Member

Lounette Templeton was reluctant to accept the role of League president, but she thinks members wouldn't have asked her if they didn't think she could do it. Lou agreed to assume the responsibility only after she received assurance that she would have the assistance of two very capable co-vice presidents, Nancy Esteb and Kathy Langhoff.

Five years ago Lou attended a League public forum on health care and promptly joined. She is retired from the nursing profession and feels that all Americans should have access to good health care. She acted as Chair of the Health Care Committee and especially enjoyed serving with members who worked hard and were willing to jump in to do whatever needed to be done.

Lou has had a life-long interest in politics. She grew up in rural Texas, one of six children. Her father farmed and worked as a mail carrier; her mother resumed her career as a teacher when the children were old enough.

Lou and her husband, Logan, raised four children, three sons and a daughter. They lived in Hong Kong where Logan worked as a university comptroller and Lou did volunteer work caring for impoverished individuals.

After her husband passed, Lou moved to Victoria, BC in 2002 and when she was unable to obtain permanent Canadian residency, she relocated to Port Angeles. She likes living on the Olympic Peninsula. When she isn't busy working for the League, Lou enjoys spending time reading and writing short stories.

## League Leadership

Lounette Templeton, President  
504-2060 lounettet@wavecable.com

Nancy Esteb, Co Vice-President, Operations  
681-8490 betseesteb@qwest.com

Kathy Langhoff, Co Vice-President, Logistics  
681-3757 jamesjrL1@aol.com

Judith Parker, Secretary  
504-2188 rypins@earthlink.net

Ida Fintel, Treasurer  
504-2271 jf@wavecable.com

Ruth Marcus, Membership Co-Chair  
681-2205 rmarcus@olympen.com

Marcia Radey, Membership Co-Chair  
683-2490 rubyradey@gmail.com

Genaveve Starr, Newsletter  
683-7637 genaveve@msn.com

Natalie Spiegel, Public Relations  
452-7180 nspiegel@olympen.com

Candace Pratt, Voter Service  
582-0114 candcep@wavecable.com

Carrol Hull, Sustainability/Education  
683-5199 CAHull@msn.com

Sonja Rotter, Water Study  
452-2413 benrotor@mindspring.com

Sara Johnson, Health Care  
582-0272 sara@waltandsara.com

Sue Erzen, Observer Corps  
681-4916 s.erzen6@olympen.com

Calendar of Events - September, 2010 through June, 2011		
September 7-8	Board Planning Retreat	
September 29, 7-9	Initiatives Pros and Cons	Port Angeles Senior Center
Month of October	Voter Education Month	
October 4 7:00-9:00	General Election Candidate Debate	County Commissioners Hearing Room, PA, for County Commissioner, District 3; DCD and Treasurer
October 9, 2:00 pm	General Election Candidate Debate	Port Angeles City Council Chambers
October 13, 7:00	General Election Candidate Debate	Sequim Senior Center
November 2	General Election	
November 6	Action Workshop	Bellevue
November 13	Hot Topic Fundraiser Luncheon	
December 7	Holiday Potluck	
December 15	Bill of Rights Day	
<b>— 2011 —</b>		
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