



January/February 2011

THE VOTER

www.lwvcla.org

The League of Women Voters of Clallam County

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Calendar of Events

January 6	Food Policy meeting	Pt Angeles Library	1:00—4:00
January 11	League Book Club	Pt Angeles Library	2:00—4:00
January 14	Sustainability Committee	Sequim Library	3:30—5:00
January 25	Planning Meeting	Sequim Library	1:00—4:00
January 27	Education Committee	Sequim Library	2:00—4:00
February 7	Health Care Committee	102 Owl Creek Lane	2:30—4:00
February 14	League 90th Birthday		
February 24	League Lobby Day in Olympia		

President's Message: *What to Expect From the Rabbit*

According to the Chinese Zodiac, 2011, the year of the rabbit will bring "a much welcome year of good taste and refinement that will shine on everything. People will acknowledge that persuasion is better than force."

Sounds good, doesn't it? Persuasion is more in line with how the League does things, and just imagine what we can accomplish with good taste and refinement shining on everything we do.

As we look to 2011, I hope every one of you will consider how you can take part in the work of the League. Many of you participate in one or more of our programs already. Not all can commit to ongoing programs, but how about a short-term project? If that's not possible, share your ideas and concerns. Your input is valuable.

The calendar offers many involvement opportunities. February 14 is the League's birthday. How can we make the event significant for the League and the community? On February 24, perhaps you can join local members going to Olympia to meet legislators and lobby on issues supported by LWVWA

March is Women's History month. A creative planning committee is already at work and no doubt could use help. March 13-19 is Sunshine Week, a perfect time to remind the community how important transparency and open government are. How about helping sponsor an essay competition in the schools? Earth Day follows on April 22, which is wide open for ideas and suggestions.

Come to Program Planning January 25, 1-4 pm at the Sequim Library when issues on local and state levels are decided for 2011-2012. Your say is important to this planning process.

You will want to help implement the plans, too. The Year of the Rabbit should be very interesting, right?

Lou Templeton

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

League of Women Voters Named "2010 Public Health Hero"

Clallam Public Health Advisory Committee chose the LWVCLA as one of the four 2010 Public Health Heroes. League president Lou Templeton and vice president Nancy Esteb accepted the award from advisory committee chair Mel Melmed in a ceremony December 9 in county commissioners' boardroom.

For over six years, the League Health Care Committee has provided the public with health reform information. Between 2007 and 2010, forums included information on the kind of health reform Clallam residents want, the high cost of present health care, bill passage process in Congress, and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Sara Johnson is chair of the committee.

In naming the League as a recipient of the award, the proclamation states that the award is in recognition of the League's accomplishments, leadership, and example promoting Public Health.

Presenting the award, Melmed explained that various individuals, groups and programs that contribute to overall good health of Clallam residents are selected.

She said the League was selected "because of all the efforts they made to share information about health care and bring various groups from across the county together to discuss important public health issues of our time."

Nancy Amadei was the presenter at the Hot Topics Luncheon held at Sunland Country Club November 13. Her speech on Reclaiming Democracy was well received by those in attendance.



(L -R) Nancy Esteb talking with speaker Nancy Amadei and guest Andy Meyer



Patricia MacRobbie and Clare Hatler



Lou Templeton with Jeri Weinhold



Sue Erzen with Eileen Romano



Happy Birthday League of Women Voters



On February 14, 1920, six months before the 19th amendment to the Constitution was ratified, the League of Women Voters of the United States was formally organized in Chicago, thanks to suffragist Carrie Chapman Catt.

The League's initial purpose was to help 20 million American women carry out their new responsibilities as voters. It encouraged them to use their new power to participate in shaping public policy. From the beginning, the League was an activist, grassroots organization. Most of the early items it dealt with were what we might call "family issues" today, e.g., child labor laws, minimum wage, compulsory education, equal opportunity. Not long after its founding, the League expanded into the areas of world peace, as well as civil and human rights. In the 1930's, the League fought to solve government corruption issues, advocating the merit system for government jobs. Legislation to establish

Valley Authority was the beginning of the League's involvement in environmental issues.

The League is political, but non-partisan. It never supports political parties or candidates, but it does study issues, develop consensus positions and then actively work to support those positions. As Carrie Chapman Catt noted at the time of the League's founding, *"Is the (League) political? Certainly, but not partisan. Its members are as free as other women to join and vote with the party of their choice. They make no pledge otherwise in joining the League."*

Ninety-one years later, the League is recognized as a unique, nonpartisan organization, capable of shaping public policy and promoting informed citizen participation at all levels of government.

Aren't you proud to be a member of this vital organization.

Vicci Rudin

This is What It's All About

League of Women Voter's Day, formerly Lobby Day, is the culmination of studies and consensus at the national, state and local levels. We have educated our members and the public and now it's time for the final piece...talking to our legislators and urging them to pass the laws and hold the line on further cuts to our essential services.

LWVWA has almost 20 off-board portfolio chairs covering education, natural resources, transportation, health care, children's issues, reproductive rights, taxation, energy and climate change. They constitute the Lobby Team who, along with our part-time paid lobbyist, spend many days during the legislative sessions at the capital talking to our legislators about bills that support League priorities.

The work of the Lobby Team includes reading the laws pertaining to their issue, working with appropriate coalitions, educating our legislators, and writing up the issues for a weekly legislative newsletter that is emailed to all Leaguers in the state, urging them to contact and tell elected representatives why we support or oppose a particular bill.

The Lobby Team hosts Voters Day in Olympia. Those attending first hear from several state legislators, and then individuals can join one of the lobby teams to hear about the top two or three issues, which provides further information to use when visiting with their legislators.

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Lobby Day, Continued from Page Three

Last year three local Leaguers went to Olympia the night before, enjoyed dinner with Leaguers from Olympia, and spent the next day in an exciting adventure. We each took one issue, learned as much as we could from the lobby

team and proceeded to the offices of our legislators.

Join us in Olympia on Thursday, February 24 for an exhilarating time and an opportunity to network with other Leaguers across the state on issues that are important to you.

Penney Van Vleet

All Members Program Planning January 25, Sequim Library, 1:00—4:00

Program Planning is "League-speak" for determining what our League will focus on next year. It will have two parts: State and Local. Because our decisions are made through consensus, your participation is very important.

Now is your chance to share what local issues concern you and cause you to wonder why the League isn't doing more. Share those concerns with other Leaguers and convince them to get involved. Look for people who may be willing to work with you on the issue. Whether your concern is schools, the environment, social justice, campaign finance reform, housing or something else, this is a time to get your ideas into the mix. Get busy **now** and plan to come to the January 25 meeting ready to lobby for your recommendations.

Questions to consider in recommending an issue:

- Is the issue of such vital concern to our members and our community that it demands attention now?

- Will the issue benefit from the League's special expertise or perspective?
- Is there a real possibility that citizens working on the issue can bring about positive change?
- Will League work on the issue have a measurable impact on our community? How will it be evaluated?
- Will working on this issue give the League opportunities to collaborate with other groups and individuals?
- Who will head up the work?

You will also want be familiar with the *State Program 2009-2011 LWVWA Positions in Brief* found on page 14 of your blue Member Handbook. Bring the handbook to the meeting. We will review current LWVWA positions and decide if any positions need to be revised.

If you would like to receive the complete Program Planning Packet, let me know. I will email the packet to you.

I'm excited and eager to hear what great recommendations you may have. **Now** is the time to unleash them.

Lou Templeton

New Track for Education Committee

The Education Committee is being resurrected as there are League members now leading an effort to support civic education in our schools and finding ways to involve students in civic participation in League and in local issues. The State of Washington has mandated that one unit of civics be added to the graduation requirement, but because of the present budget situation, it may be

some time before this requirement is implemented.

The first meeting of this group will be Thursday, January 27 from 2:00 to 4:00 at the Sequim Library. Please contact Carrol Hull at cahull@msn.com or by phone at 683-5199 for further information

Carrol Hull, Chair

We're Growing! New Members

Who Do You Know to Help Us Grow is our motto for recruiting a vibrant membership. With every new member, we expand our ability to study issues, educate the public and make positive changes in our local, state and national government. Each one of us has a part in growing the League. Together our voices are heard. Together we make change.

The Suffragettes organized themselves to get the vote. It took a commitment to the cause—women inviting other women to gain momentum until change finally happened. Today the League of Women Voters still carries that commitment to grow our membership as a powerful voice for change. We study issues, work together through non-partisan consensus and advocate for transparent government, quality health care, educated voter services, environmental well being, civics education in the schools and so much more. Your commitment to growing the League is essential to sustaining the endless good work we do.

Since September, we have enrolled eleven new members. Your friends and colleagues have joined us. We're excited to welcome Paula and Aaron Barnes, Lucille Celestino, Nancy Chambers, Ellen Fetchiet, Dorothea Hover-Kramer, Carolyn Gill, Jennifer Pufff, Rebecca Redshaw, Mickie Vail, and Marjorie Whitmore. These new members bring their talents, energy and interest to our League. Some will participate in Voter Services, Education, Sustainability, Health Care and the Observer Corps. Others say they will help with events, publicity, and membership and some will participate in the book study group. Watch for new things happening because of these new members.

A big thanks to those of you who continue to help us grow. Did you know that the Clallam County League of Women Voters is one of the largest Leagues in the state in relation to population demographics? That speaks to your commitment to grow the League. Bravo!

Ruth Marcus, Co-Chair

Water Torture??!??

It's enough to make a member of the Water Study Committee scream! The Dungeness Water Management Rule that Ecology first promised would be adopted back in 2007, then 2008, 2009, and was really, REALLY TRULY supposed to happen by the end of 2010, has now been delayed for at least another year.

When Ecology released a sneak preview draft of the final draft rule last December and promised that the rule-making would begin in mid-2010, the Water Committee actually began to believe it, and planned a series of outreach activities to help educate the public about the issues. Months went by; the anticipated rule introduction was delayed "but still imminent," Ecology said.

The committee sponsored educational water forums on August 11 and October 18, and began to prepare for public hearings to

follow the rule's formal introduction date. However, that date never came.

On November 16, 2010, Governor Gregoire issued an unprecedented Executive Order directing her cabinet agencies to suspend "non-critical rule development and adoption" until 2012. Ecology Director Ted Sturdevant thereafter sought advice on which rule-making efforts should continue, but the Dungeness Rule didn't make it onto the "critical list".

Despite the torturous year-long suspension of rule-making, members of the Water Study Committee still view water availability as a critical issue facing citizens in the Dungeness watershed, and will discuss new ways to approach this problem at upcoming meetings.

Shirley Nixon

Equitable, Quality, Affordable Health Care for All?

That is our stand! It might take longer than it took women to get the vote, but if we are ever going to accomplish it, compassion and commitment are necessary.

We must challenge those who say we can't afford it. We can't afford not to. We need a healthy workforce, free from bondage to a job because it provides health insurance; innovators who can take risks to find creative solutions for problems facing society without losing access to medical care.

People need to know that high tech medical care developed in the U.S. is impressive but expensive and can sometimes be dangerous. Prevention saves more lives than treatment. Early intervention reduces the need for more expensive intervention.

The Affordable Health Care Act passed this year addresses some of the egregious tactics that private insurers use to assure profitability for their companies and stock

holders. Some insurance companies, while claiming to have patient interests at heart, are cushioning potential losses by raising premiums beyond affordability now, although most changes required don't start until 2014. A market approach for delivery of health care is never going to work. When people feel taxed out and the economy is struggling, what is the alternative? We need to restructure how we pay for and deliver health care to make it affordable.

If health care is your passion, join our committee as we continue to study the issues, look for sound political solutions we can support, and attempt to keep the public adequately informed about the issues and what is at stake.

Our committee will next meet February 7, 2011, 2:30 - 4:00 PM at 102 Owl Creek Lane, Sequim (in Carlsborg) Join us! For more information, call or email Sara Johnson. 582-0272, sara@waltandsara.com

Sara Johnson, Chair

Update on Food Policy Council

Explorations toward forming a Clallam County Food Policy Council began subsequent to the Food Policy Summit sponsored by the League in October. Members of a transition team are Curt Beus of WSU Extension, Mark Ozias of Red Rooster Grocery, Colleen Teevin of the North Olympic Land Trust, Holly Clark of Clark Farms and Jane Heilman of Sunsets West Coop in Clallam Bay. The team is organizing and guiding the exploration.

One meeting of all interested parties was held on November 2. This meeting included a presentation from a member of the Kitsap County Food Policy Council. Several committees were formed at that time:

1. Committee to explore possible structures for a local food policy council, including such issues as organization, membership and locating a sponsoring entity. Anne Hastings Murray is providing information to this committee.

2. Committee to develop the issues in establishing a USDA Slaughter, Cut and Wrap facility to serve Clallam, Jefferson and Kitsap counties
3. Committee to focus on Community Gardens in Clallam County, identifying their needs for support
4. Committee to research regulations regarding the operation of farm stores in Clallam County
5. Committee to propose a mission statement

The next meeting is Thursday, January 6, 1:00-4:00 p.m. in the Port Angeles Library. The public is welcome, and time will be given to new issues, questions, and/or potential focuses.

Anne Hastings Murray



The League Book Club

The Book Club will meet to discuss

Hijacked

by Dr. John Geyman

Health Reform Bill Political Process

January 11, 2011 2:00 till 4:00

Port Angeles Library Carver Room

The Book Club met November 9th to discuss *Shock Doctrine, the Rise of Disaster Capitalism*. Naomi Klein traces "neoliberal" and "neo-conservative" economics to Milton Friedman (at the University of Chicago) who fifty years ago produced the "free market" ideology dominating Washington today.

Klein asserts that these policies have come to dominate the world through the exploitation of political, economic or ecological disasters that have rendered shocked citizenry vulnerable to the rapid-fire corporate reengineering of societies. Friedman advocated the tactics of deregulation, privatization, and lowering or eliminating social welfare protections to accomplish the restructuring.

Klein explodes the myth that the global free market triumphed democratically, and she exposes the advanced planning, the money trail, and the puppet strings behind the world-changing crises of the last four decades.

Examples: Immediately following 9/11, the Bush Administration quietly out-sourced the "War on Terror" to Halliburton and Blackwater. At the most chaotic juncture in Iraq's civil war, a new law allowed Shell and BP to claim the country's vast oil reserves. After the 2004 tsunami destroyed the coasts of Southeast Asia, the pristine beaches (home to many indigenous people) were auctioned to corporate tourism. After Hurricane Katrina 2005), New Orleans' residents discovered that their public housing, hospitals and schools would never reopen.

Cataclysmic events such as wars, terrorist attacks, or natural disasters initially create mass shock and public disorientation.

It is hiatus in the public order that allows extraordinary opportunities for top-down or foreign intrusion into established economic institutions. The neoliberal corporatists managing these enormous restructurings in wealth distribution have named this weapon in their arsenal "shock economics".

This disaster capitalism has manifested repeatedly: in Pinochet's 1973 coup in Chile, the 1982 Falklands War, the 1989 Tiananmen Square Massacre, and the 1991-93 collapse of the Soviet Union.

Disaster capitalism has recreated a large portion of the world's economies, so that crisis and war have become not only the foundation but the bread and butter of staggeringly unequal wealth.

Patricia MacRobbie

Laura O'Neal, executive director of the Peninsula Dispute Resolution Center, spoke at our Christmas Potluck. If you missed hearing her, you may want to check out the Peninsula Dispute Resolution Center www.pdrc.org to learn about the center.

Her interesting, helpful, funny presentation showed how conflict can be resolved peacefully. Why mediate? There are no losers in mediation. Thanks, Laura, for sharing with us.

Sustainability Committee Expands Action Teams

The Sustainability Committee is divided into action teams based on interests and concerns of League members. Teams meet separately as needed. The entire committee meets every other month. Our next meeting is scheduled for January 14 at the Sequim Library 3:30-5:00pm. Please feel free to drop in and join in the discussions.

Sustainability Education: This team of Leaguers continues to work with Sequim School District and educators. Don Wilkin and Carrol Hull attended a Sequim School Board meeting in December to support the efforts of Dave Ketter and other educators who are introducing programs that provide information and experiences in environmental/sustainability education. Future plans involve meeting with the curriculum director and principals to identify specific teachers and curriculum which support Washington state's sustainability/environmental standards. We continue to encourage linking teachers and students to community resources. Don helped conduct ten fieldtrips to the Sequim Waste Water Reclamation Project. We also hope to support student projects for Earth Day 2011. Interested Leaguers can contact Carrol Hull at cahull@msn.com.

Food Health and Safety Policy: This team has now met several times and is increasing its knowledge base about genetically modified organisms and

other food issues. They have lobbied on a national level for several different bills and are exploring an educational effort to inform local citizens of the issues surrounding food production and processing in our country. Leaguers interested in this effort are encouraged to contact Jeri Weinholt Email: eriwein@hotmail.com Phone:457-4174

Carrying Capacity and Quality of Life: This team has been meeting weekly to decide what would be the most effective action that could be taken to alert the State League and local citizens of the pending crisis presented by the growth of population and the coming exhaustion of our natural resources. A proposed statement of the issue has been forwarded to the LWVWA so it can be considered as one of the issues the State League could consider in the coming year. The team is investigating a second avenue of action to be implemented locally, wherein our local League would conduct a "carrying capacity/quality of life" study of Clallam County. Leaguers interested in joining this team should contact Judith Parker rypins@earthlink.net or Don Wilkin wilkin@olypen.net

Carrol Hull, Chair

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