



VOTER

Volume 8 Issue 3

FEBRUARY 2014

CALENDAR

February 27, 2014

LWVTC General mtg.
Traditions Café
6 pm Social
Speakers at 6:30
Topic:
**Citizens United -
Campaign
Finance Reform**

March 27, 2014

LWVTC General mtg.
Traditions Café
6 pm Social
Speakers at 6:30
**Topic: Follow up on
Sustainable Thurston**
PLEASE NOTE TOPIC CHANGE

April 24, 2014

LWVTC General mtg.
Traditions Café
6 pm Social
Speakers at 6:30
Topic: Health Care

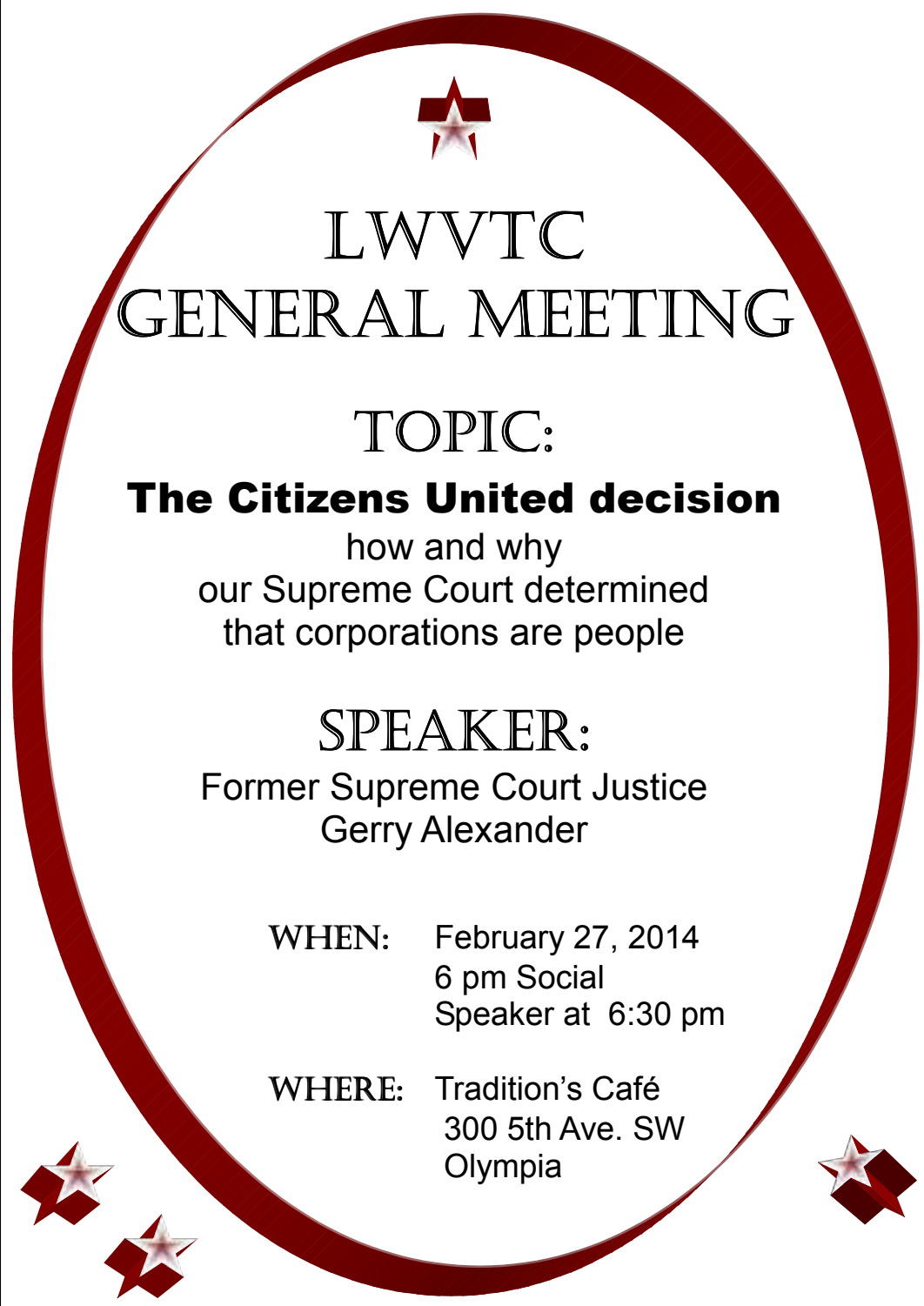
May 22, 2014


LWVTC Annual Mtg.
venue TBD

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**LWVTC
GENERAL MEETING**

TOPIC:
The Citizens United decision
how and why
our Supreme Court determined
that corporations are people

SPEAKER:
Former Supreme Court Justice
Gerry Alexander

WHEN: February 27, 2014
6 pm Social
Speaker at 6:30 pm

WHERE: Tradition's Café
300 5th Ave. SW
Olympia

President's Article

In January our League hosted a very well attended program on farming in Thurston County. Thanks to R. Peggy Smith, Cynthia Stewart and Ilene Lee Vee we were able to learn about agricultural issues in Thurston County and the difficulties facing our local farmers. We are hopeful those members who attended will join us for our upcoming consensus meeting on agriculture that will be organized by R. Peggy Smith in the next month or so. Please be on the lookout for information on that meeting including articles on agriculture that must be read be-

fore attending. We look forward to seeing you there!

In February, we are delighted to have former Supreme Court Justice Gerry Alexander as our speaker. Our program will focus on the Citizens United decision, specifically understanding how and why our Supreme Court determined that corporations are people. Most of us, who haven't attended law school, don't understand the legal history behind that decision. The program will be at 6:30 at Traditions but please remember to join us for dinner and socializing at 6:00 before the program!

Legislative session is once again upon us and our Lobby Team is working hard to support or oppose bills based on our League positions. Please look for the weekly legislative alerts sent out by our team!

Finally, we are on the lookout for new Board members including a President, Vice-President, and Treasurer. If you an interest in any of these positions or wish to nominate one of our members please contact Rita Robinson.

I look forward to seeing you at our meeting in February!

Allyson Brook
LWVTC President

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Dear League Member:

**Interesting and interested people doing interesting work and having interesting dialog...
Does this sound like a group that might interest you?**

**An experience to remember: demanding, rewarding, challenging, satisfying...
join the LWVTC Board of Directors to be part of a dynamic, fun group of people.**

You will be able to:

- Share your League successes with other Leagues.
- Build your leadership skills.
- Learn to use your skills to make things happen for the League and for your community.
- Help to set the direction for LWVTC.
- Expand your commitment to the League.
- Raise your visibility.

This year the terms expire for president, vice president, and two elected board members; and a Treasurer is needed to fill the vacancy. A Nominating Committee chair and two members of the Nominating Committee also need to be elected. If this sounds like an opportunity you or someone you know might want to pursue, contact Rita Robison, Nominative Committee chair, at ritarr@comcast.net, or call 360-754-9651, by March 24.

Rita Robison

PLEASE MAKE NOTE

**LWVTC March General Meeting topic change:
from a Membership Round Table to a follow-up on Sustainable Thurston**

PLEASE MAKE NOTE

LWVTC AGRICULTURE/FARMLAND PRESERVATION FORUM

Members, friends, and interested others were provided plenty of food for thought during the January 23, 2014 LWVTC Agriculture/Farmland Preservation Forum.

Although each member of the panel had a somewhat

different perspective on the topic, there was considerable commonality among their remarks. Common themes emerged during the evening: Land is expensive; farming is fun but hard work; urban develop-



ment places huge pressures on farming; connecting farms to markets is vital.

During the open mic session, following the panel presentation, questions from some of the 50 or so people in attendance, made it clear that there is no simple, single approach to preserving farmland in Thurston County. New thinking and creative solutions are needed. There seemed to be general agreement, whatever it takes, this is an outcome worth pursuing.

The planning committee of R.

Peggy Smith, Ilene Le Vee, and Cynthia Steward want to acknowledge all the support we got to put on this timely and informative event. Thanks:

- ◆ Panel Members Lucas Patzek, WSU Extension; Steven Drew, County Assessor; Chris Wilcox, Wilcox Farms; Loretta Sepanen, South of the Sound Community Farmland Trust; and Lisa Smith, Enterprise for Equity.
- ◆ LWVTC Board and Members.
- ◆ LWVWA Education Fund Board.

R. Peggy Smith

Program, a three-part process that is a core component of the League's mission, is composed of program planning, study and consensus, and advocacy.

PROGRAM PLANNING

The Program Planning process is an important League tool for identifying issues for study, review and update, and/or concurrence. It gives members and Leagues the opportunity to balance the pros and cons, assess possible support, and consider the viability of issues. During the process, members have the opportunity to organize support based on factual materials before the Program Planning reporting deadline.

As a grassroots organization the program planning process begins at the local level. Members choose programs/issues to place on the public policy agenda at the

state or national level for the next two years. Identification of these issues is part of our Citizen Education program aimed at helping people understand the complexities of an issue and encouraging people to participate in reaching a solution and can also lay the groundwork for successful advocacy.

During these discussions, members can also decide which topics to identify for local study or recommend to the State or National Leagues as study priorities. This process culminates when the recommendation of the study is adopted at the local annual meeting or at the biennial state or national convention.

This year, we will identify issues for LWVUS Program Planning. Each League is allowed 2 submissions (weighing at 100% and 50%).

The LWVTC board will address this matter at the next board meeting, which is scheduled for February 20, 2014, at 5:30 pm.

All members wishing to participate in the LWVUS Program Planning discussion are welcome. In order to allow enough space for all participants, please let us know if you would like to attend this meeting. Or, if you prefer, you may just email your suggestions for board consideration. Please contact Dawn at dawn8152@msn.com.

LWVTC PROGRAM PLANNING

It is the practice of the League to ask members to propose items for study, updates of current positions and for major public education projects.

Now is the time to be thinking about these items for consideration at the LWVTC Annual Meeting in May. Our current Positions are available online at www.lwvthurston.org.

Studies are part of League Program and, in League parlance, League Program includes all of the positions the League uses to affect public policy as well as the procedure for adopting these programs. Program is such an integral part of the League that, according to *League Basics*, “Program is the League’s reason for being.”

LWVUS AGRICULTURE STUDY UPDATE IN FULL SWING LWVTC CONSENSUS MEETING COMING SOON

By the middle of January, nearly all of the LWVUS Ag Update Study Documents had been posted. Copy and paste the following into your web browser to get to study materials: <http://www.lwv.org/member-resources/agriculture-update>

In response to Local Leagues’ messages that there is too much to read and not enough time to read it in, the date for submission of Consensus Questions has been pushed back to April 18. Still not all that much time, so get ready for a wild ride.

For now, here is how LWVTC will

be moving ahead with our study: R Peggy Smith will be working with Ilene Le Vee, Cynthia Stewart, and Barbara Roberts to orchestrate the process. We will be communicating with members using the LWVTC Listserv, with a subject line TC-AG BULLETIN.

First thing we need to do is set the date(s) for our consensus meeting (s). A poll of when members want to meet will be sent soon – maybe even before you read this in the *Voter*.

We will be sending members some “hints” about how to ap-

proach the study materials. There are approximately 23 documents that need to be read. A bit of organization may make this a less formidable task

Final thing for now, there are a variety of other resources that may be informative. When and how we use these resources to augment the reading of the official study documents will become clear as we move ahead.

Suggestions, questions, and other helpful comments can be sent to rpps4u@comcast.net.

R. Peggy Smith

WHAT IS A CONSENSUS?

It is easier to say what consensus is not, than what it is. Consensus is not a vote; rather, consensus is mutual agreement of League members arrived at through discussion.

During discussion, everyone has an opportunity to express their viewpoints, and the issue is examined from all sides.

Consensus questions, created by the study committee and approved by the Board, provide structure for the meeting. Members discuss the pros and cons until it becomes apparent that consensus has or has

not been reached on each question. A committee will analyze the consensus responses, look for areas of member understanding and agreement and, using this information, will create a position statement.

Background materials: After the scope is adopted by the LWVUS Board, committee members research and write about various issues included in the scope, compile a list of resources, consolidate information, develop a glossary and a list of acronyms, and propose the consensus questions to the Education Fund Committee.

The materials and resources are posted at www.lwv.org.

When the LWVUS Board of Directors approves changes to the position created from consensus responses, it immediately becomes the League’s position and is the basis for action on the issue. This type of member involvement in the consensus process tends to ensure member commitment to the resulting positions. In addition, members have the opportunity at each Convention to decide whether or not to re-adopt these positions or update them.

Every Thursday while the legislature is in session, the League's lobby team meets in a basement room in the Pritchard Building (the old library) surrounded by a priceless collection of old law books.

Made up of portfolio chairs and team members, this group addresses Legislative Priorities which are based on State Programs adopted yearly and approved by the LWVWA State Board. Action must be based on League positions or principles (national, state or local).

Among the many topics currently covered by lobby team members are budget and revenue, children

LOBBY TEAM

and family issues, education, energy, climate change and toxics, gun safety, reproductive rights, parks, transportation and water resources.

The lobby team includes a contract lobbyist, Rebecca Johnson Arledge, who advocates for League positions, works to inform lobby team members of legislative processes and practices, helps lobby team members develop legislative strategies, and on occasion, testifies on behalf of the League.

During its weekly meetings, the lobby team discusses legislation

and budget matters, plans legislative strategy, obtains updates from our contract lobbyist, and determines the content for the legislative newsletter. This newsletter is distributed weekly during session to inform League members and request their help in contacting legislators around issues.

If you are interested in knowing more about the lobby team including ways you can be involved in supporting the League's priorities, please contact Pat Dickason, p.dickason@comcast.net, 360-556-2905; or Karen Tvedt, tvedtkl@msn.com, 360-584-4526.

Karen Tvedt

Member Spotlight



DAVE PEELER

I was born in, and attended public schools in, Seattle. I attended the University of Washington, graduating with degrees in biology and English literature. During my last year, I married fellow Husky student Maria Victoria Hernandez.

After graduating we moved to Spokane where I started working for the newly formed Dept. of Ecology as an inspector and permit writer. My territory included everything east of the Columbia River, and I greatly enjoyed the freedom to travel to the far parts of the state, working with farmers, industries, and local governments on water rights and shorelines issues. During our time there our daughter Sarah Beth was born.

In 1983 I accepted a promotion to work in Ecology's headquarters office in Lacey, where I focused on ground water resources and the new ground water management act, and entered the brand new Masters of Environmental Studies program at The Evergreen State College. A few years later I transferred to the

Water Quality Program where I continued to work for the next 20 years on recovery of Puget Sound, water quality standards, waste discharge permits, forest practices, nonpoint source pollution, and various grant and loan programs.

I ended my 33 year career at Ecology after five years as the manager of the Water Quality Program and a stint as a special assistant to the Director. After retirement I worked as a consultant and for People For Puget Sound as their policy director until their unfortunate demise a few years later at the height (or bottom) of the recession. Currently I am working part time for the Puget Sound Partnership, and am looking forward to complete retirement in the future.

Since I left Ecology in 2008, I have become much more involved in the local community. I am currently on the boards of the Deschutes Estuary Restoration Team (President), Scott Lake Board of Trustees, Thurston Conservation Voters, and Olympia Kiwanis Club (President-Elect). Oh yes, I ran unsuccessfully for Olympia Port Commissioner.

Looking towards retirement, after almost 20 years we decided to sell our waterfront home on the shores of Totten Inlet and moved to a smaller home at Scott Lake last year, where we are enjoying meeting the residents and exploring the area.

Dave Peeler

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THURSTON COUNTY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please refer to www.lwvthurston.org for more information about League activities and membership,
or mail in the membership form below.

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$_____

DATE:

◇ \$60 for my membership

◇ \$_____ for an Educational Fund Donation

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ WORK PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

LWVTC Newsletter:

The LWVTC newsletter, VOTER, will be distributed by e-mail.

Check this box to specifically request a paper copy by regular mail

LWV Mission

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan, nonprofit political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government. The League influences public policy through education and advocacy. Anyone of voting age may become a League member.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS THURSTON COUNTY

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