



VOTER

Volume 8 Issue 10

NOVEMBER 2014

CALENDAR

November 1, 2014

LWVTC
Education Fund
Luncheon
Indian Summer

December 13, 2014

Holiday Party
Potluck dinner

2015

January 22, 2015

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

PLEASE NOTE TOPIC CHANGE

**Topic:
County
Charter**

February 26, 2015

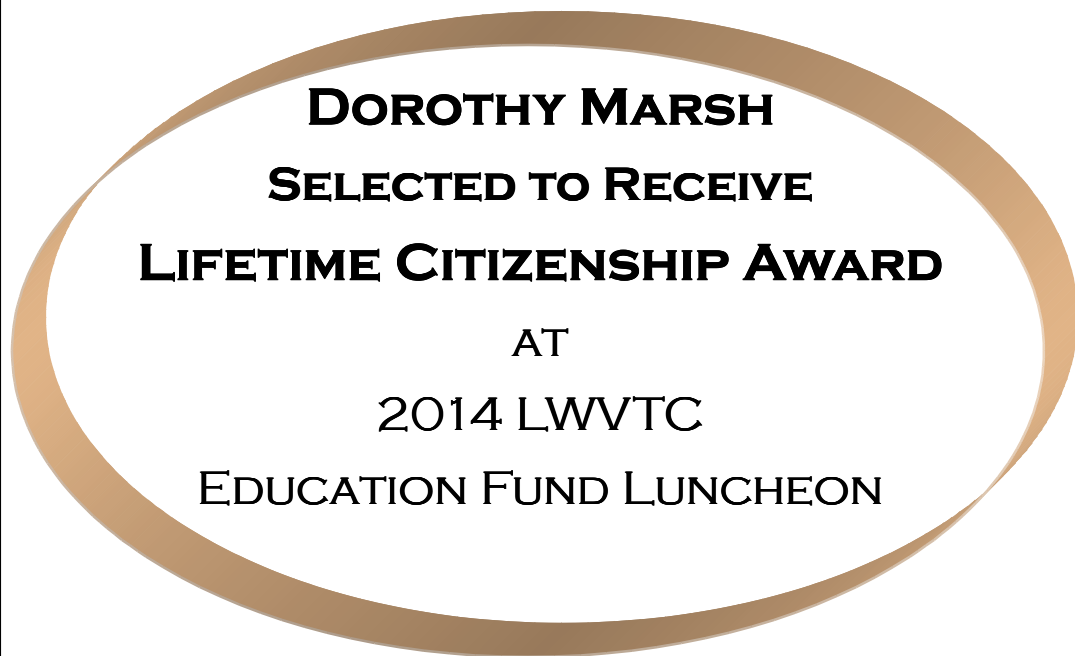
LWVTC General mtg.
Traditions Café
6 pm Social
Speakers at 6:30

**Topic:
Water quality/
fish consumption**

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DOROTHY MARSH
SELECTED TO RECEIVE
LIFETIME CITIZENSHIP AWARD
AT
2014 LWVTC
EDUCATION FUND LUNCHEON

Dorothy has been selected for this honor in part for the ten years she served as our Voter Service Chair. She began the practice of having all the debates between candidates for public office filmed at TCTV so that everyone could view them. In those days it was a very time consuming work as it all had to be arranged by letter, snail mail and phone calls. She also coordinated several public forums for Candidate Debates. She says it was easy because she had such good help.

She moved to Olympia from Hawaii where she had been active in the League. Shortly after, she served as our very capable President from 1996-1998. She was a member of the state League study committee on Forest Issues. She likes to focus on land use issues and has been known to say: "What I love about the League is meeting such interesting people."

In addition she was a very active member of the Children's Network Board where she was involved in multiple projects along with Margie Reeves, Pat Dickason and other Leaguer's.

Dorothy has moved a total of 50 times in her busy life. She was born in Michigan, lived in Japan for eight years, helped run a business in Hawaii and has traveled to France several times in recent years. She is a lovely, capable and gracious person.

Karen Verrill

President's Article

This past month, the state League lobby team has concentrated its efforts, via three action workshops, in educating local League members about the importance of advocacy in the upcoming legislative session. Feedback from Thurston League members who attended the Bremerton action workshop found it to be very helpful, instructive and fun! A number of new League members participated and this is critically important to our efforts going forward.

I traveled to Spokane for the action workshop on the east side of the state. I personally find tremendous value in meeting with and hearing from folks from the four corners/center of the

state about those issues important to them and where they plan to give emphasis in their advocacy work. We all participated in the speed chat process which identified those particular League positions that will be given emphasis by the League lobby team. We each committed to rallying our local membership when a particular League position(s) requires active membership advocacy before the legislature and community groups.

I was truly impressed with Spokane Schools Superintendent, Shelley Redinger, who spoke on district Charter Schools. District 3 Senator, Andy Billig, a democrat, spoke on the challenges that lay before the legislature, particularly impacts of the McCleary court decision and the

continuing gridlock associated with transportation and social service needs in mental health, homelessness, etc. In response to my question, Senator Billig stated that the senate may eye state agencies' consolidation as a method to find cost savings that could give budget support to education and transportation.

Bottom line.....the next legislative session will be long and one of the more interesting, if not frustrating, sessions for all participants. All Thurston League members must be prepared to assist with the advocacy effort as the needs arise!

*Ilene Le Vee
President*



STATEMENT OF POSITION ON FEDERAL AGRICULTURE POLICIES WILL BOOST AGRICULTURE ADVOCACY

In May 2014, after nearly a year of study, the League's National Board adopted an updated Agriculture Position Statement. The LWVWA Lobby Team is now in a much stronger position to support legislation that works to preserve or expand farms lands and encourages sustainable agricultural practices.

The updated statement covers most of the policy areas found in the 1988 document: Sustainable Agriculture, Research and Development, Farm Credit, and Agriculture Trade and Prices (market factors). But the update also covers newer areas of concern, such as food safety and product labeling. It has a much greater focus on environmental and health concerns.

Because local leagues in Washington took part in the Ag Update, our contribution to the study is reflected in the overall consensus and the final Statement of Position. The May 2014 Statement, can be accessed at www.lwv.org.

R Peggy Smith

REVIVING OBSERVER CORPS?

COUNTY BUDGET MEETING

In an attempt to revive the spirit of the Observer Corps, our President has encouraged Board members to attend significant local meetings and then to write short reports.

Given my interest in the County, I attended the public meeting on October 6 on the 2015 budget.

Here are a few pertinent points from that meeting:

- ⇒ The proposed budget of \$294 million is close to the same level as the 2014 budget. The intent is to build up a 2 month reserve.
- ⇒ The presented budget was incorrect and that was noticed by a citizen and presented at the meeting.
- ⇒ John Snaza, the Sheriff, stated that his budget was, in effect a 3% cut given increased costs.

- ⇒ Snaza says that he needs more deputies & that he has more calls involving firearms.
- ⇒ Much of the public commentary was about the sheriff's office.
- ⇒ Several speakers accused the Commissioners of being anti-growth and anti-business.

Marilyn Zuckerman Funk

THURSTON REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Some League Board members have taken on assignments for covering local and state government meetings having implications for Thurston residents. One of my assigned areas is the Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC).

The principle issues I took away from a meeting in early October include, but are not limited to the following:

- ◆ The state's new Department of Enterprise Services has a

pivotal role impacting state agencies' information technology, real estate, buildings/ grounds maintenance, construction, etc. It is the current best example of consolidation of varied state services.

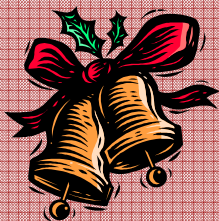
- ◆ Legislation is contemplated to address counties' ability to retain tax money and allow them to institute increases.
- ◆ The TRPC requests direction from the participating government entities regarding the

long-discussed merging of cities' services intended to reduce cost to taxpayers, reduce/eliminate redundancies/ duplication, etc.

- ◆ County transportation infrastructure, maintenance and upgrade are severely curtailed due to lack of funds.
- ◆ Affordable housing remains an on-going concern.

Ilene Le Vee

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



LWVTC Holiday Party
Saturday, December 13, 2014

5:30 pm

at Dorothy Marsh / Judith Barnes home

Potluck supper

DON'T MISS IT!

SAYING NO TO COAL AND CRUDE OIL BY RAIL

A series of major hearings on proposed new crude oil transport and processing facilities at Washington Ports, as well as the Governors' study of safety issues raised by the elevated level of crude oil transport by rail are now behind us, and the state League - along with some local Leagues and many individual members, have voiced our serious and compelling concerns. But of course the fight goes on, as it will for decades to come. As the indefatigable scholars at Sightline institute have calculated, the carbon footprint of all the coal, oil and gas proposed to be transported through our region is equal to five times that of the Keystone XL pipeline. Clearly, we are seen by proponents of these schemes as a "sacrifice zone," where the environment, safety, and quality of

life are seen as subordinate to the distribution and processing of fossil fuels, and the profits thus to be realized.

So what is next? Our League needs to be a key player in several major areas:

We need to pressure our elected leaders at all levels, and urge others to do so. Local governments - cities, counties, ports -- need to pass resolutions opposing any new terminals or processing facilities for oil or coal, and demanding an immediate ban on extremely unsafe (DOT 111) tanker cars in our state. We need to insist on full and accurate information on all rail cars carrying these products through our states, and the condition of rail infrastructure and equipment; the

rails have resisted supplying such information, citing entirely unwarranted "security" concerns.

Public safety must not be sacrificed to corporate profit; beyond that, we cannot acquiesce in facilitating a massive and irremediable increment of atmospheric carbon. The prospect of a planet no longer hospitable to human civilization is the biggest safety hazard of all.

To help strategize and organize, contact me at <gimletheye@comcast.net>. And for unimpeachable factual information, go to sightline.org, and type in "crude by rail."

Peggy Bruton

COUNTY CHARTER

I shared with you in a previous President's letter that League member, Jeff Jaksich, asked your Board to re-activate the Thurston League's interest and advocacy for a county charter.

Long-time residents can recall that a county charter has been tried and failed many times previously. Jeff is actively working with an exploratory committee and community advocates on a refined proposal and potential ballot initiative.

In addition to Jeff, local activist, Jim Lazar, approached your Board with a similar proposal and asked for the League's support in pursuing a ballot initiative to institute a charter

form of government for the City of Olympia.

For both proposals, the Board agreed to present or co-sponsor public forums to educate county/city residents about charter government.

This would offer residents the opportunity to ask questions and gain a better understanding of how a charter would work for Thurston County and/or the City of Olympia, and why or why not.

The board will review and discuss details of the information gained from such forums. They and other interested members will take a look at the designs of the 6 Home Rule counties.

In addition, our League may choose to participate in the planning processes and in the future use our Positions to support or oppose proposals as they develop.

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Stay tuned!

Ilene Le Vee

Member Spotlight

I was born and raised in Helena, MT.

I received my education at Carroll College in Helena, St Vincent Hospital School of Medical Technology in Portland, OR and Eastern Washington University (MSW).

I worked as a medical technologist for five years, an environmental chemist for three years and a Health Care Facility Surveyor, inspecting mostly nursing homes, for 25 years. While working for the survey agency, I published a book about pain management.

I met my husband, William Gary, when he came to work for the agency. He and I married on Christmas day, 2010, at the chapel in Mammoth Hot Springs, Yellowstone National Park. We are outdoor and wildlife photographers. After we retired from the State, we moved to Lacey for a milder climate and bluer politics.

I joined LWVTC because I want to become involved in my community.

Linda Chapman



THE STATE WE'RE IN: WASHINGTON

The League has just published the seventh edition of its acclaimed civics textbook, *The State We're In: Washington - Your Guide to State, Tribal and Local Government*. The book is a friendly, easy-to-read primer that covers the basics of what government is, how it works, and why we need it. It's generously illustrated with graphs, photos and drawings.

It is the first book to include tribal history and government as an integral part of civics education. And its telling of Washington State's history is fully inclusive of all the peoples of our state.

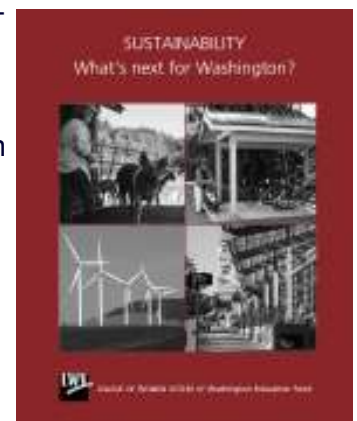
Written for grades 7- 12, it is also a useful tool for ESL, GED, Basic Ed and Immigration programs. A companion *Teacher's Curriculum Guide* is also available. Teachers, librarians and the Washington State Indian Education Association endorse it, and over 20,000 copies have been distributed statewide.

This and the previous (6th) edition of *The State We're In: Washington* and their *Teacher Curriculum Guides* are available as a free online resource, which you can view at www.lvwva.org.

ORDERING

The 7th Edition of *The State We're In: Washington* is available to order online or via mail or fax at www.lvwva.org. This also includes ordering options for supplementary materials such as the:

- ◇ Teachers' curriculum guide
- ◇ What's Next for Washington? supplement to the 6th edition



www.lvwva.org

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.

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