



# VOTER

Volume 3, Issue 3

FEBRUARY 2009

## CALENDAR

Feb. 26

LWVTC General mtg.  
Olympia Center  
5:30-8:30 pm  
**Topic:**  
**Costs of Future  
Health Care**

March 12

Lobby Day  
Columbia Room  
WA State Capitol

March 26

LWVTC General mtg.  
Tradition's Café  
6 pm  
**Topic:**  
**Transportation**

March 31

Dioxin  
Conference  
Location TBA

May 29-31

LWVWA  
Convention  
Murano Hotel  
Tacoma

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

LWVTC  
GENERAL MEETING

**February 26, 2009**  
**Olympia**  
**Community Center**  
**5:30-8:30**

TOPIC:  
**Costs of  
Future  
Health Care**

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## LUNCH ?

***"Interested in visiting informally with other  
members of the local League?"***

Join us on:

***Wednesday, February 11 at 12:30 upstairs at Bayview.***

Topics of discussion vary widely.  
Feel free to broach any subject in which you are interested.  
***See you there!"***

*President's Column*

## WHERE DO WE CONNECT?

The monthly VOTER you receive in your mailbox or in your "virtual" mailbox is our attempt to connect. We're always busy: as individuals and as an organization. But what exactly are we doing, and where do we connect? How can we be sure we've reached our core membership with the right information?

I've heard stories of how Obama was the first presidential candidate to use the internet to connect with both voters and workers. He did so by offering opportunities, some very small and others more demanding. Some people door belled, others made phone calls, and some opened their homes to invite neighborhood conversations about the nation. We think there is something to learn from his example.

We're discussing having a web

site that does many things. It would be interactive so that you can sign up as a new member, give your opinion on a blog or start a brand new conversation. It would tell about who we are, our calendar, our board and it would state our local positions. We're looking for a committee of persons interested in building and maintaining this website.

Do you have ideas about what is needed?

I must remind you that League activities are not just about work. Many of our members have commented on their need for intellectual conversation. If you're interested in meet-

ing new people, you may want to join us on the first Wednesday of each month upstairs at Bayview Market for lunch and discussion on any topic of interest. Right now, we're talking about the future of medical care in this country. Come join us and share your opinions and knowledge on this and other subjects.

You'll find a membership survey in this Voter from the Membership Chair, Zena Hartung. We hope to learn a bit more about each member and whether you'd like to hear more about opportunities to participate and, if so, what

interests you. We also want to hear about what you don't like. Your comments will help us to do a better job, to stay focused and to always be 'in League'.

*Marilyn Funk*

*LEAGUE ACTIVITIES  
ARE NOT JUST  
ABOUT WORK.*

<b>DON'T MISS IT</b>	<b>LWVWA CONVENTION</b> <b>MAY 29 - 31</b> <b>MURANO HOTEL, TACOMA</b>	<b>MARK YOUR CALENDAR</b>
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## Lobby Day is March 12<sup>th</sup>

This annual state League event is one of the best ways to learn about and help support the issues the League is "working" at the Legislature this year. League members and other experts will explain our positions and then we all go to speak with legislators or attend various legislative committee meetings.

This is a perfect opportunity to learn about things "on the hill" discover how easy it is to get involved in the action.

It will be March 12th in the Columbia Room (first floor of the Capitol Building) 8:30-3:00. Box lunches and beverages are included in the registration fee. Please watch for the State

League VOTER for more information and the registration forms.

Several of our members are working on all the logistics such as ordering food, handling registration, providing a publication table, etc. If you would like to help please email or phone Karen Verrill at 866-6187 [gokar1@comcast.net](mailto:gokar1@comcast.net)

*Karen Verrill*

# GET INVOLVED

## OBSERVER CORP

Concerned about the environmental effects of new development in our rural areas? Have you seen South County lately? The Observer Corps needs you!

The Thurston County Planning Commission will be holding public hearings on changes to the Critical Areas Ordinance, currently scheduled for April 2 and April 16. They are working on a draft ordinance now. The CAO is the primary regulation in Thurston County for limiting development in sensitive areas like wetlands, steep slopes, endan-

gered species habitat, etc. We need members to follow this process by attending meetings and helping us stay up-to-speed.

The Planning Commission meets 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. at the County Courthouse. We can contribute to how this regulation comes out. We also need volunteers to help with changes to the Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulations that are being proposed for this year. One long-running proposal would change the rules for Designated

Mineral Lands (code for gravel pits and asphalt plants), which were popping up around our rural areas with shocking frequency not long ago. A public hearing is scheduled for February 24 at 3:15 p.m. before the Board of Commissioners.

If you can help, please let us know: [getinvolved@comcast.net](mailto:getinvolved@comcast.net) or phone Jackie Kettman-Thomas at 870-6625.

*Jackie Kettman-Thomas*

## COOL THURSTON CAMPAIGN

Have you been hungering to make changes and be part of the solution to climate change, but unsure how?

Join others on March 2<sup>nd</sup> at a Global Warming Café workshop to launch the Cool Thurston Campaign.

This Campaign is a strategy to make big changes in the global environment by starting at the individual level. It is centered on the book "Low Carbon Diet, A 30-Day Pro-

gram to Lose 5000 Pounds" by David Gershon.

At the Global Warming Café you will learn how to take action on climate change, and form or join an Eco-team. Eco-teams can be anything from one individual or household, to a neighborhood, social group, workplace, or other group of 8-10 members. The teams help each other take actions that lower their household (or business) contribution

to the greenhouse gasses responsible for climate change. Your team meets four times, and ultimately you each lose 5000 pounds of your yearly greenhouse gas emissions.

The Global Warming Café will be held from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm on Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, at the Thurston County Courthouse. RSVP to Barb Scavezze, 360-878-9901 or [barb@scavezze.com](mailto:barb@scavezze.com)

Bring your own mug.

*Barb Scavezze*

**Save the date**

**DIOXIN  
CONFERENCE**

**March 31, 2009  
Location TBA**

**HELP! HELP! HELP**

Luella Wells, LWVWA Transportation Chair needs help following transportation bills through the Legislature during this next session, so that ***we can take action on issues important to the League.***

If anyone has an interest in transportation and can monitor some of the Senate and House meetings, please let me know.

Luella Wells,  
[lawells@wavecable.com](mailto:lawells@wavecable.com)  
360-598-3267

## MEMBERS CHOOSE THEIR INVOLVEMENT CATEGORY FOR NEW MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

As the LWVTC Membership Committee Chair, I'm unfamiliar with many of the members listed in the new directory. Hence, I'd like to take a survey to determine whom I should contact for different activities. Please help me by:

1. Reading through the categories below.
2. Sending me an email ([zhartung@gmail.com](mailto:zhartung@gmail.com)) or calling me (360-951-8445) and just stating which category suits you.
3. If you don't have email, or if I don't hear from you, I'll be calling and asking you to look at your VOTER and help me to learn your involvement.

Even if you already know me and think I know your preference, please contact me so everyone has chosen their own category. As you can see, I've given a "none of the above" category for those who see their involvement differ-

ently than the categories I've made.

Thanks for your attention. I hope this helps the League to compile a current list of those who wish to be active, and not to bother those who do not.

### Categories:

**Active:** I want to know everything that is happening in the League and choose when and where to participate. I expect to be on a committee in 2009, if I'm not presently working in one today.

**Preparing:** I'm too busy with my other commitments just now, but I expect I'll want to take an active role in the future. I'd like to take follow-up surveys to further explore how I would like to work

with the League.

**Participation:** I had specific expectations when I signed up for membership and I'm meeting those expectations at present. I'm aware how to increase my involvement if and when I choose.

**Inactive:** I have had greater participation in the past and I'm pleased the League is busy, but I've done my part. I remain a proud member of the League.

**None of the Above:** Please explain, in your own words, your wishes for involvement in League activities. No one knows better than you and we'd like to honor your wishes :

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Zena Hartung

→ Please note these New Member email changes from the January issue of the VOTER ←

[joeleemonte@yahoo.com](mailto:joeleemonte@yahoo.com) (Lee Montecucco)  
[emilyrayjmlengelfelder@msn.com](mailto:emilyrayjmlengelfelder@msn.com) (Emily Ray)

## The State We're In: Washington

### Your guide to state, tribal and local government

The 6th edition of this textbook is now available. It is designed for 7-12 grade but also perfect for gifts, personal reference and for ESL and GED classes. For more information and order forms go to the League website [www.lwvwa.org](http://www.lwvwa.org).

Our own Carolyn St. Claire and

a teacher from Kent School District have taken on the huge responsibility of revising the *Teacher's Curriculum Guide* that is a companion to the book. They have done a tremendous job of making it student and teacher friendly, easy to use and have provided many teaching materials.

### Hats off to Carolyn!!

If you are interested in purchasing a classroom set to donate to schools in Thurston County please fill out the order from that is on the website listed above.

Karen Verrill

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN !

**LWVTC**

**RUMMAGE SALE**

START SAVING YOUR DONATIONS

DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED

## **BOTTLEMANIA, by Elizabeth Royte**

When Europeans first arrived in North America, growing things, wild life, land, air and water were all free for the people to use as needed. Today air, although heavily polluted in some areas, is free. The other gifts of nature are increasingly commodities.

Bottlemania: how water went on sale and why we buy it, by Elizabeth Royte is a lively account of the process of commercialization. With personal accounts of bubbling springs, contentious town meetings and examinations of human health, Royte keeps the reader alert.

For example, it takes a thousand tons of water to grow one ton of grain. I didn't know that. Clearing

land, cutting trees and paving surfaces, building more roads, all allow erosion and speed the flow of sediment into creeks. I did know that.

Some of the stories Royte tells of constant battles, especially against Nestle are depressing. Big international corporations are not easily discouraged. It's not over until its paved over, is a truism known to many in Thurston County.

An amount of oil equal to the contents of a plastic bottle is required for its manufacture. So in buying bottled water, not only is the environment harmed from the collecting and bottling of the water, but the carbon emissions are increased by the manufacture of the

container.

All is not gloom and doom however. The book contains ways we can reclaim this natural resource for free public consumption. First, of course, is to kick the bottle water habit.

Royte details the circumstance in which bottled water is appropriate: in an emergency when fresh clean tap water is unavailable. The more people relish water in bottles the less they seem to care about pure tap water.

Keeping municipal water supplies drinkable is the first line of defense against privatization of a public resource.

*Eve Johnson*

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THURSTON COUNTY

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

For more information about the League's activities or membership call Marilyn Funk, 360-259-4424, or mail in the membership form below.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_

◇ \$60 for my membership

◇ \$\_\_\_\_\_ for an Educational Fund Donation

*For Lifetime Membership and Scholarships contact Marilyn Funk, 360-259-4424.*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ FAX NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

*LWVTC Newsletter, the VOTER will be distributed by e-mail unless you specifically request a hard copy in regular mail.*

† Please send my copy of the VOTER by postal mail to the above noted address.

† Please send my copy of the VOTER to \_\_\_\_\_

#### **LWV Purpose**

***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**

1063 Capitol Way South #212

Olympia WA 98501

Phone (360) 352-8220