



VOTER

Volume 9 Issue 1

DECEMBER 2014

CALENDAR

December 13, 2014

Holiday Party
Potluck dinner
6402 63rd Ave. NE
5:30 pm

2015

January 22, 2015

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

PLEASE NOTE TOPIC CHANGE

February 26, 2015

LWVTC General mtg.
Traditions Café
6 pm Social
Speakers at 6:30
Topic:
**Water quality /
fish consumption**

March 26, 2015

LWVTC General mtg.
Traditions Café
6 pm Social
Speakers at 6:30
Topic:
**Carbon Tax /
Cap & Trade**



LWVTC HOLIDAY PARTY

**DOROTHY MARSH / JUDITH BARNES HOME
6402 63rd Ave. NE; Olympia, WA 98516**

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From exit 108B:

North on Sleater-Kinney to South Bay Rd. Right on South Bay (it curves left and becomes Johnson Point Rd.) Take the first right onto Puget Road and follow to the end. Take a right on 63rd to 6402.

From exit 111:

North on Marvin Road to the end. Turn left onto 56th (it curves to become Puget Beach Road) Take a left on 63rd to 6402.)

**This is a great chance to get to know other Leaguers
Parking is limited / carpool when possible**

**POTLUCK DINNER
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

VOTER Editor:
Dawn Brooks Gibbs
dawn8152@msn.com



President's Article

Fellow Leaguer's!

I'm pleased and excited to report that our Nov. 1 Education Fund Luncheon had our highest attendance, to date! The event raised \$4539.95 and over 100 attendees were present to award and give recognition to long-time Leaguer, Dorothy Marsh. Dorothy's contribution to our League and to our community is evident by her skilled management of our voter services for 10-plus years. Our second awardee, Dr. Thomas (Les) Purce, retiring President of The Evergreen State, was introduced and given high praise by Congressman Denny Heck who has known and worked with Dr. Purce for many years. Attendees also learned important information from our main speaker, Dick Thompson, who has held many executive level government ap-

pointments and played key advisory roles in several administrations. He spoke on the potential consequences of the McCleary decision accompanied by implications for the next biennial state budget building process. Our thanks to all who planned and executed the successful luncheon!

I also want to share those areas in which our League is currently exercising energy, time and attention. They include but are not limited to:

- ◆ Held successful televised and audience-supported forum at Washington Center for District 10 congressional candidates while competing with a Sea Hawks-winning game!
- ◆ Engaging in a new partnership effort to offer voter registration

to new U.S. citizens at citizenship induction ceremonies;

- ◆ Secured Board meeting space large enough to accommodate guests.....Board meetings are now open for member and public input/participation;
- ◆ Offering county-wide public forum opportunities to educate voters about potential for county/city charters along with other important issues effecting our residents;

Last but not least, re-attaining IRS 501-(c) 4 tax status.....HOORAY and KUDO's to V.P. Allyson for staying on track with this process to reach a successful conclusion!

Your League Board continues to work diligently for you.....enjoy the coming holiday season!

*Ilene Le Vee
President*

November 20, 2014

Colleagues and friends:

In mid-September I was offered an appointment to, "**four-state public/private consortium responsible for setting policy on: public land use, Columbia River system protection, maintaining affordable and reliable energy, enhancing fish/wildlife habitat and sustaining abundant and clean water**".

I initially declined this offer given my current role as President of the Thurston League along with other civic activities. But after repeated overtures to me and much soul-searching I have accepted the appointment. Opportunities to influence public policy of this magnitude come around seldom particularly when one is female, retired, and zooming in on age 70.....it is an opportunity I cannot let pass!

I have agreed to withhold total disclosure until the official announcement occurs upon conclusion of current member(s) appointments in January 2015. Requirements of my appointment will include travel across Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and occasionally British Columbia/Alberta provinces in Canada. This time and travel commitment, complicated by League political activities, disqualifies my further participation as your President and ends my League activities effective November 30, 2014.

Providing this notification now allows all League members time to give thoughtful and prudent consideration of potential candidate(s) for the office of Thurston League President. Our nominating committee customarily begins their work soon after the first of the year. Please be ready to support your League and respond when you are called upon to assist where needed.

My sincere thanks to all for your support and many kindnesses.....it has been my privilege to serve the League and I intend to remain interested and active in local issues as my time permits.....my very best wishes to each of you!

Ilene Le Vee, President

League of Women Voters of Thurston County

HOME RULE CHARTER

Most League members are aware that there is a new proposal for Thurston County to have a home rule charter. This is a proposal that has emerged within the last few months and the League is called upon to help with it. The Thurston County Commissioners are deliberating on whether to place this on the ballot. Alternatively, there may be a petition of the electorate to put it on the ballot.

The League has been a strong proponent of a home rule charter since 1978. In that year, a study was done and a position adopted by consensus. Unfortunately, that

effort failed at the ballot box, as did two subsequent efforts. In 2010, another study was done and the position was modified slightly. To read both studies, go to www.lwvthurston.org/files/2010_OPTIONS_FOR_LOCAL_GOVERNMENT_study.pdf. The 1978 study is an appendix in the 2010 study, Options for Local Government. To see the League position on county governance, go to [www.lwvthurston.org/files/Local Govt Consensus Positions 10-7-10.pdf](http://www.lwvthurston.org/files/Local_Govt_Consensus_Positions_10-7-10.pdf).

Right now, the League can educate voters and support the idea of hav-

ing a ballot proposition to elect freeholders and draft a charter. If that happens, once a charter has been drafted and is on the ballot for an election, the League may take a position on that proposition if it is consistent with the League's adopted position.

After hearing the discussion at the January 22 membership meeting at Traditions, League members who would like to help prepare a series of voter forums on Thurston County governance and how a charter works should contact Jeff Jaksich, eastbay4@comcast.net, and 360-352-2735.

Jeff Jaksich

Program Planning /Study Identification for the LWV of Washington State

As a grassroots organization, the League of Women Voters **Program Planning Process** begins at the local level. During this process, members all over the state consider what issues their own local League believes are important and need to be addressed. The inputs from the local Leagues are gathered and discussed by the LWVWA board which will decide on a recommendation to the delegates at Convention 2015 where members will decide which issues from the local Leagues are to be placed on our state level public policy agenda for the next two years (2015-2017).

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.

Local League planning usually takes place in January. In 2015 our State Convention will be held June 12-14. State study recommendations must be received from LWVTC by February 21, 2015.

In preparation, it is important to be familiar with the current positions. You can find these on the LWVWA web site (www.lwvwa.org)

A good way to determine a state issue or study to suggest (and would be willing to work on) is to ask yourself "What is My Passion?"

2015 LWVWA Program Planning Packet

**Please submit your state study recommendations to Dawn Brooks Gibbs
before January 10, 2015.
LWVTC will send the complete list to the state League.**

LWVTC-2014 Silent Auction

We appreciate those of you who supported this year's silent auction by donating and purchasing items prior to the Education Fund Luncheon. We raised a total of \$1,252 for our operating budget while enjoying opportunities for networking and early holiday shopping.

Among popular items were gift baskets donated by Marilyn

Funk and Allyson Brooks, a Brighton bracelet from Fran Williams, a gift certificate to Vivala from Cheryl Selby, a scarf and hat knitted by R. Peggy Smith, prints donated by Don and Cherie Davidson, Karen Fraser, and Zena Hartung, and earrings crafted by Dawn Brooks Gibbs.

Experiences such as a trigger

point massage, a Thurston County tour with Ken Balsley, and breakfast and kayaking also received multiple bids.

Special thanks go to Valerie Hammett for helping with auction set-up and to Dawn Brooks Gibbs and her daughter Grace for managing the sale of items.

Karen Tvedt

VOLUNTEER

LWVTC NEEDS YOU!

LWVTC BOARD POSITIONS AVAILABLE

THURSTON REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

This was my month to observe the Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC). I prepped for the Nov 7 meeting by having attended a meeting of the Thurston Food System Council (TFSC) the day before. My rationale for this was the fact that "local food systems" is one of the nine focus areas of the TRPC's Sustainability Plan. Of course, my involvement in agricultural advocacy was also a motivator.

The bulk of the **TFSC** meeting involved representatives of a wide range of food-focused organizations report on "policy issues" relevant to them. Setting priorities among issues and deciding how to approach them in a concerted manner will be topics for future meetings. It was gratifying to hear many of the members speak about policies and prac-

tices the LWV is committed to.

Having done some "homework," I felt up to speed for the **TRPC** meeting. Three of the jurisdictions represented on the Council reported on what they are doing with respect to Sustainability Plan Actions. LOTT and Tumwater are using reclaimed water in new ways, and the City of Bucoda is maintaining a community garden.

The Council's Work Program for 2015 was presented as a draft and will be voted on in December. Two major items in the draft, Transportation Improvements and continued pursuit of Functional Collaboration were reported on in the October 2014 Thurston County Voter. A new item is an Ecosystem Valuation Study. All of these, and additional Work Program items, are subject to availability of funds.

Legislation to address counties' ability to retain tax money and allow them to institute increases was mentioned in last month report. In addition the TRPC legislative priorities include:

- ⇒ Clarifications related to marijuana regulations and revenue sharing
- ⇒ Water-specific concerns related to septic and wells
- ⇒ Transportation funding
- ⇒ Homelessness and affordable housing.

Finally, a highlight of the meeting was the presentation of an APA/PAW award to the Council for the Sustainability Plan, "Creating Places, Preserving Spaces." You might want to take a look, by going to www.trpc.org

R Peggy Smith

WELCOME 2014 NEW MEMBERS



Member Spotlight



SANDY BAXTER

I have worked nearly 16 years in Washington State elections; 9 years as San Juan County Elections Supervisor and I just recently retired from 7 years with Thurston County Auditor's Office. My last position was Voter Outreach Specialist where I worked with candidates during filing week and assisting them in getting their material submitted for the Local Voters' Pamphlet. I also am proud of my outreach work to disabled/senior Thurston County voters. As a result of my work with disabled voters I was co-recipient of the "Secretary of State's Champion for Voter's with Disabilities Award" this year.

I consider Washington my home state, although I have strong ties to Nebraska where I was born and where I worked for the Nebraska Equal Opportunity Commission and Fair Housing Center investigating civil rights and housing discrimination cases.

Elections and civil rights are two passions of mine and I hope to bring my expertise in these areas to the Thurston League of Women Voters.

Sandy Baxter

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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