



VOTER

Volume 8 Issue 2

JANUARY 2014

CALENDAR

January 23, 2014

LWVTC General mtg.
United Churches
7:00 pm
Topic:
Agriculture

February 27, 2014

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

March 27, 2014

LWVTC General mtg.
Traditions Café
6 pm Social
Speakers at 6:30
**Topic: Membership
Round-table**

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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DON'T MISS IT!
LWVTC January General Meeting
January 23, 2014
7 pm - 9 pm
United Churches of Olympia
Topic:
Thurston County agriculture forum

Don't forget; invite your friends and interested others, and attend the **LWVTC Agriculture Forum on January 23, 2014.**

Time and place: 7:00 – 9:00 pm, at the United Churches of Olympia, 110 11th Avenue SE.

The forum format will be a panel of local farm advocates talking about issues facing farmers in the county. The panel members and their main foci are: Erik Hagen, WSU Extension, -- an overview of farmland in Thurston County; Steven Drew, County Assessor, -- economic aspects of farming in Thurston County; Chris Wilcox, Owner of Wilcox Farms, -- a large farmer's perspective;

Lisa Smith, Executive Director of Enterprise for Equity, -- efforts to increase the number of small farms; Loretta Sepanen, Citizen Board Member, South of the Sound Community Farmland Trust, -- efforts to purchase and preserve farmland.

Then, before you know it, we will be distributing Ag Update Consensus Questions developed by a committee at LWVUS.

"Guidance" for responding to the Questions will be provided sometime in January. The date for getting our State materials back to National has been extended to the middle of April. This should allow the consensus to be considered at the 2014 Con-

vention. This means we will not have much time. Here is the website for Update materials now posted: <http://www.lwv.org/member-resources/agriculture-update>

Fortunately, a statewide Agriculture Study Group was formed last summer. Members of this group have been trying to stay in front of the curve, and they will be doing what they can to assist Local Leagues through the Update process.

The LWVTC Agriculture Study Committee is still hoping for additional members. To become involved, simply contact: R. Peggy Smith, rpps4u@comcast.net

R. Peggy Smith

President's Article

This past year was a very successful one for our League. Our fundraisers managed to raise additional revenue for operations and education, and we continued having well attended candidate forums and public programs.

The only difficulties we are encountering are the same as those facing other county Leagues, a membership that is stagnant. This is not just a League issue. Numerous different types of membership organizations are confronting the same problem. The Millennials and Gen Y don't join organizations the way the Boomer and Silent Generation

joined. Rather than regular face to face contact, social media has become a major communication tool that is increasing in its use. In fact, our Facebook page, followed by 137 people, has more followers than we have members. So with that, I would encourage you to remind your friends and others, to please join us as members!

In 2014 our first two public programs will be very interesting! Our January program, led by R. Peggy Smith, will focus on the topic of local agriculture. In February, we are very excited to have former Supreme Court Justice, Gerry Alexander, speaking to us about the Citi-

zens United decision and how we move forward as a nation. How and why did the Supreme Court consider corporations people? Where did that come from? Should that be changed and if so, how would we change the legal concept of corporations having the same free speech rights as individuals? This will be a fascinating lecture and discussion on our current situation which will inform all of us as to the bigger issue of campaign finance reform. So please join us for our public programs in both January and February!

Allyson Brooks
President

The State We're In: Washington ***Your guide to state, tribal and local government***

The League's compelling civics textbook, *The State We're In: Washington*. Your guide to state, local, and tribal Government, and its companion Teachers Curriculum Guide are now available to everyone as a free online resource (www.moodle.esd113.org), courtesy of Education Services District 113.

This highly praised civics textbook covers the basics of government and is illustrated with graphs, photos and drawings. It is the only book that describes current and historic tribal governance and their interrelationship with state governments and local government in Washington. It includes sidebars about

people, current and historical events and reflects the ethnic and geographic diversity of our state.

Professionally written for grades 7-12, it is 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 18,000 copies have been distributed statewide.



To view sample pages from the book (6th Edition, 116 pages.) go to www.lwvwa.org.

To order *The State We're In Washington* text books

and Teacher's Guides, please fill out and submit the online order form. Currently we are unable to take your credit card information via the web-form, but once you submit your order, we will contact you regarding payment and shipping. Schools, administrators and teachers, if you are inquiring about a complimentary gift set, please be sure to include the percentage of your students who qualify for the federal subsidized lunch program.

- Please consider sponsoring a gift set or sets for a deserving school or classroom.
- Questions? Contact the state office by email or phone: 206-622-8961.

www.lwvwa.org

2013-2014 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The League of Women Voters of Thurston County (LWVTC), via its Nominating Committee, is beginning the process to identify potential candidates for the LWVTC Board of Directors. In 2014, there will be four vacancies including President, Vice President and two directors. A concerted effort is also being made to identify a Treasurer from the Board, or an appointee.

Ilene Le Vee

VOLUNTEER MOTIVATION

- ⇒ to feel needed
- ⇒ to share a skill
- ⇒ to get to know a community
- ⇒ to demonstrate commitment to a cause/belief
- ⇒ to gain leadership skills
- ⇒ to act out a fantasy
- ⇒ to do your civic duty
- ⇒ because of pressure from a friend or relative
- ⇒ satisfaction from accomplishment
- ⇒ to keep busy
- ⇒ for recognition
- ⇒ to repay a debt
- ⇒ to donate your professional skills
- ⇒ because there is no one else to do it
- ⇒ to have an impact
- ⇒ to learn something new
- ⇒ for freedom of schedule
- ⇒ to help a friend or relative
- ⇒ for escape
- ⇒ to become an "insider"
- ⇒ guilt
- ⇒ to be challenged
- ⇒ to feel proud
- ⇒ to make new friends
- ⇒ to explore a career
- ⇒ to help someone
- ⇒ as therapy
- ⇒ to do something different from your job
- ⇒ for fun!
- ⇒ for religious reasons
- ⇒ to earn academic credit
- ⇒ to keep skills alive
- ⇒ because an agency is geographically close
- ⇒ to have an excuse to do what you love
- ⇒ to be able to criticize
- ⇒ to assure progress
- ⇒ to feel good
- ⇒ to be part of a team
- ⇒ to gain status
- ⇒ because you were asked
- ⇒ to test yourself
- ⇒ to build your resume
- ⇒ to be an agent of change
- ⇒ because of personal experience with the problem, illness, or cause
- ⇒ to stand up and be counted

**WHATEVER YOUR MOTIVATION
LWVTC NEEDS YOU**

League of Women Voters of Washington

2014 Legislative Priorities

Democracy

- ♦ Expand voter registration opportunities e.g., same day & 16/17 year-old pre-registration.
- ♦ Reform election systems so all communities have equal opportunity to elect candidates of their choice.
- ♦ Reform campaign finance laws.

Agriculture

- ♦ Promote productive farms by responsible, sustainable agriculture practices & policies.
- ♦ Adopt policies that ensure farms are economically viable, reduce barriers to entry to farming and increase local food production and distribution.

Budget

- ♦ Adopt balanced, fair, adequate & flexible state revenue policies to meet critical needs.

Education, Early Learning, Families and Children

- ♦ Fully fund Basic Education as defined by the Legislature and required by the State Constitution and the State Supreme Court.
- ♦ Protect and enhance basic needs funding and programs for families and children.
- ♦ Promote early learning and the well-being of all children by providing high quality services through policies, practices and funding.

Gun Responsibility

- ♦ Require criminal background checks for all gun sales.
- ♦ Reduce gun violence through education and intervention programs.

Health Care

- ♦ Ensure access for all residents to comprehensive, uniform, and affordable health services, including the full range of reproductive services.
- ♦ Use the Affordable Care Act to fund public health, health coverage for low income populations, Medicaid expansion, and continuity of care as individuals move between subsidized care options.
- ♦ Provide incentives to expand primary care provider options in under-served areas.

Natural Resources

- ♦ Adequately fund State Parks to protect them as public assets.
- ♦ Protect water resources from depletion or pollution.
- ♦ Implement best practices in greenhouse gas emissions, air and water quality.
- ♦ Incorporate environmental quality & public health impacts in transportation decisions.
- ♦ Eliminate toxic chemicals in children's products.

Transportation

- ♦ Provide adequate funding to implement the comprehensive and balanced statewide transportation plan (Washington Transportation Plan 2030).

Member Spotlight



**ILENE
LE VEE**

Ilene was born in White Salmon and raised on a ranch in Klickitat County. She is actively involved with the Columbia River Gorge Commission and advocates on issues affecting the Scenic Area along with economic development and water resource uses statewide.

Her professional life included work in both the private and public sectors. She retired from state service in July 2010 after more than 30 years. Ilene started as a social worker in children's services and ended her career as Director of Consumer Affairs for the State mental health hospitals. Her areas of specialty are conflict resolution; negotiation/mediation/communication/advocacy; employment law interpretation; rule/contract/policy development; and skills-based training.

Ilene became a Thurston League member in October 2011 and a Board member in 2013. Her areas of interest include offering opportunities for rural residents' participation in League activities, and enlarging the Thurston League's sphere of positive influence on issues having county/regional/statewide/national impact.

Ilene's educational background includes a Bachelors of Science, double major, in Nursing and Psychology along with a combined MBA from Cal-Western and Stanford Universities.

Ilene Le Vee

**We would like to continue to spotlight a member each month
Please consider volunteering**

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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