



Voter

League of
Women Voters of
Bellingham/
Whatcom County

January 2007

About the Program

Our program will feature representatives from the six small cities in Whatcom County. They will share with us information about each of their political entities. Topics will cover such subjects as:

- Growth issues
- Transportation
- Financial issues, and more.

Council of Governments Director, Jim Miller, will also be present to speak to us about transportation issues. The impact of the Canadian Olympics on the county will also be discussed.

There will be a Question and Answer time at the end of the program

Invite your friends and neighbors to what should be an interesting meeting.

From Co-President Rosemary Hostetler

League members and friends of co-president Jo Morgan are so happy to know that her husband, Chris, and her daughter, Elizabeth, are both doing well after the successful kidney donation and transplant. Jo and her family have not lacked for excitement in 2006. We all hope that 2007 will bring only the pleasure of being together AND healthy to the Morgan family.

Every two years League members in Wash-

LWV General Meeting Saturday, January 20, 2006

9:30 a.m. Social Time
(Refreshments will be served)

10:00 a.m. Program
Downtown Public Library
(Lecture Room in Basement)

***For Members Only—If your last name begins with N through Z please bring cookies or sweet breads to be served at this meeting.**

ington State need to look carefully at current State League positions and consider if the various statements on government, natural resources, social policy and transportation shall be kept, revised or dropped. The issues will all be reviewed at the state convention in June. At the February 7 board meeting we will be considering the State Program Planning 2007-09. Contact any board member with your ideas or concerns about state issues. Current State positions can be found on the LWVWA web site www.lwvwa.org.

At the January board meeting we discussed a request from Whatcom County's United for Health Care organization to add the local League's name to their list of supporters. After much discussion the board members agreed that both the state and national positions supported a single payer plan and the Board passed a motion to support the UFHC's educational programs.

(cont'd next page)

From Rosemary, cont'd

We have also been ask to support the LWV of Tacoma-Pierce County's efforts to place Health Care Action as a top Program Planning issue for the 2007-09 State program. Your board will finish that discussion in February. Any additional thoughts from members?

Both Jo and I would love to have feed back on any of these issues.

Please plan on attending the Saturday, January 20th League meeting. It is a wonderful opportunity to hear about the major issues facing the small cities and how they work together to solve problems.

Current Officers, Directors, & Chairs

Officers:

Co-Presidents:

Rosemary Hostetler	676-9456
Jo Morgan	756-0730
Margaret Woll, 1st VP	734-8427
Phyllis Haberstroh, 2nd VP	734-5595
Georgia MacGregor, Treasurer	738-4616
Elsie Heinrich, Secretary	671-1035

Other Directors & Chairs:

Joan Airoidi,	966-4898
Dorothy Davis	647-0959
Darlene McLeod	733-2032
Jo Pullen	752-2300
Chris Tucker	734-88
League Office Phone	734-2366

Legislative Newsletter

The first 2007 *Legislative Newsletter* is being published to coincide with the opening day of the **2007 Washington State Legislature** in Olympia and is being forwarded free of charge to all League members whose e-mail addresses we know. It is the hope of the LWVWA Board and Lobby Team that, with this broader distribution of the League's weekly newsletter, we will witness a growing member involvement in the legislative process.

The lobby team needs your assistance during the 2007 session to help secure passage of legislation supported by League policy positions. What you can do :

- **Be sure to read the *Legislative Newsletter* for timely legislative NEWS and alerts**
- **Make note of which three legislators represent your home district**
- **Plan to contact portfolio chairs about the status of bills League supports**

—Marilyn Johnston, LWVWA Lobby Team Coordinator mfjhip@aol.com



Needed: A Webmaster for our local League's website.

Small Tasks for Hospitality

People to Help Distribute TRY's (*They Represent You* brochure) around the end of February

(Call Margaret—734-8427)

“We Are Still Walkin’ and Talkin’ ”

We continue to meet at the Taylor Street Dock for our weekly walk at 2 p.m. on Fridays. Our route then will be to Boulevard Park and back, then on to Fairhaven and to Bookfair at Village Books for coffee or tea.

Hope to see you then.

- Phyllis Haberstroh



Lobby Day

DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER FOR LWVWA

LOBBY DAY

January 19, 2007

Special events, exhibits and a beautiful room in our state Capitol building promise to add interest to our Lobby Day this year.

Speakers will include Governor Christine Gregoire, and topics will range from reduction of toxins in our environment to education and health care access. A buffet luncheon with our legislators promises an opportunity to discuss our issues with the decision-makers. Please see the flier in this *VOTER* for more information.

An exhibit co-sponsored with Women's History Consortium including *Women's Suffrage in Washington, Women's Rights Movement of the Late 20th Century, Elected Washington Women, Women's Clubs and Organizations, Expanding Participation of Women in Modern Society* will be on display. This one of a kind exhibit is being developed for us but will be used at a wide variety of events over the next year. In addition the room will be "wrapped" with a tapestry depicting the Lewis and Clark Expedition hand woven by a group from Vancouver, WA.

Special Suffragettes will be on hand to describe their history and answer questions.

Members of the LWV Thurston County are offering bed and breakfast. Contact Marilyn Funk for reservations: 360-357-7967, bfmz@comcast.net Download the program and registration form at www.lwvwa.org.

LOBBY DAY REGISTRATION Friday, January 19, 2006 \$20.00

NAME: _____ Phone _____

ADDRESS _____

Email _____

Lunch will be provided.

Make all checks for \$20.00 payable to LWVWA. Mail with this form to LWVWA, 4710 University Way, Suite 214 Seattle, WA 98105. Phone-206-622-8961 for more information

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: January 12, 2006. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED.



League of Women Voters of Bellingham/ Whatcom County

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Website: <http://lwvwa.org/bellingham/>

Inside :

*— General Meeting, January 20, 2007
Featuring Jim Miller (COG), and
representatives from Whatcom County's
small cities: Bob Bromley, Jerry
Landcastle, Jack Louws, Gary Tomsic,
plus reps from Everson and Nooksack.*

Network for Excellence In Washington Schools Files Suit

The LWVWA has been a member of an education coalition called NEWS, for Network for Excellence in Washington Schools since it formed in the Spring of 2005. The purpose of the group is to convince the State, particularly the Legislature, of the true meaning of the constitutional mandate that ample funding of education is the paramount duty of the state; if necessary by filing suit against the State. We always understood that a suit was a very real possibility because even though the term "basic education" was defined by the court 30 years ago and reaffirmed in 1993, the Legislature has even today not determined what full or ample funding means.

One requirement for the Washington Learns Commission, established by the Governor 18 months ago, was to develop a plan for full funding of education in Washington. Although the K-12 subcommittee of the Commission did fund a consultant to study the issue, and did discuss, and perhaps even devise a draft plan, it was not included in the final report of the Commission, which was released in November 2006. (www.washingtonlearns.wa.gov) They have requested a two year extension to develop a funding plan.

The Governor has clearly laid down the challenge with her excellent budget to fund essential improvements in the very critical areas of math and science, Early Learning and daylong kindergarten. And the Legislative leadership has declared this the "Education Legislature". The NEWS Coalition has determined this is the time to act and file the lawsuit that asks the court to require the State to live up to its Constitutional mandate in the hope it will assist the leadership in developing a plan for ample funding for basic education as defined by the court in 1977. The suit will be filed in Seattle today, followed by a news conference announcing the action. The LWVWA Board of Directors met this past Tuesday to reaffirm our decision to remain part of the coalition and file suit at this time. The Board voted in favor.

If your local news media calls you, please feel free to refer them to Catherine Ahl at 360-679-7924 (our portfolio chair for education and our representative to the NEWS coalition) or to me directly at 360-221-3792.