



Voter

League of
Women Voters of
Bellingham/
Whatcom County

January 2008

From Co-President Tanya Baumgart



Happy New Year Dear Leaguers!

Welcome to 2008. We are starting off our new year with an incredible consensus study on Immigration. If you receive your mailings via regular US postal mail, you should have received your packet. If you get your mailings via email, it was forwarded to you by mhilde408@aol.com (Margaret Woll) on 12/29/07 under the subject heading "Immigration Consensus Meeting Study Packet" Please print and read your packet and bring it, along with a brown bag lunch to the **Whatcom Educational Credit Union Meeting Room @ 511 E. Holly St (note the change of venue)** on January 19, 2008. The morning will be filled with immersing ourselves into the process of immigration to the United States. Whether you stay for the consensus in the afternoon or not, you won't want to miss the morning line up of terrific speakers. A copy of the complete agenda is enclosed in this newsletter.

Lobby Day is coming up soon on February 1, 2008! Are you interested in participating? If you are, please contact Judy Corliss @734-1992. Look for more info on the last page of this newsletter.

Have you joined your fellow Leaguers on our weekly walks yet? If not, let me encourage you to do so. Every Friday, at 2 PM Leaguers meet at the Taylor St. Dock (next to the Chrysalis) to walk & talk. Then at 3 PM the group enjoys coffee at the Book Fare restaurant in Village Books – so if you don't wish to walk, please feel free to join us for coffee!

LWV Immigration Forum

Saturday, January 19, 2008

**Whatcom Educational Credit Union
Meeting Room
511 East Holly Street, Bellingham, WA**

9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Immigration Forum open to General Public & League Members

11:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Break for Brown Bag Lunch

Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Consensus Questions - League Members only

***For Members Only—If your last name begins with A through M, please bring cookies, sweet breads, or fruit/nuts to be served at this meeting.**

Are you a new member? If so mark your calendars for February 23rd. After our regular general meeting we will be hosting a new member luncheon, and you will be invited. It's a great opportunity to meet board members and learn more about your league.

Our National League is seeking input on our current positions. Your board is currently reviewing and considering our positions. If you have input with regards to whether certain issues need review and/or changes

(cont'd next page)



From Tanya, cont'd

please feel free to contact any of the board members. They can be found at www.lwvbellinghamwhatcom.org/2007-Board Our current National positions can be found at: www.lwvbellinghamwhatcom.org/Positions.html

We have reports from two of our Off-Board Chairs, Pam Went on Southside Issues & Ruth Norman on Women's Issues. Ruth's report appears on page 5 of this issue. Please read Pam's

report at www.lwvbellinghamwhatcom.org/Reports

Those are the highlights for now! We have some great things in store in the upcoming months, so stay tuned. If you'd like to get involved, please contact our membership chair, Dorothy Davis - Membership@LWVBellinghamwhatcom.org or 647-0959.

Until next time,
Tanya Baumgart

Getting Acquainted with Some New Members

Jayne Freudenberger

Jayne has lived in various parts of the U. S., and has energetically traveled much of the world, but luckily for Bellingham she made this home base almost 40 years ago, and has since distinguished herself in several ways: as a business co-owner of the Sugar Plum Tree for 16 years, as an Eldridge neighborhood activist, home tour organizer and historian; as board member of the YWCA and the Bellingham Public Library, and as a political campaigner. The latter activity may have led to her current concern, campaign finance reform. Plunging into other League work, she is working on the immigration committee for our January meeting. She has two daughters, and four grandchildren.

Roni Beall

Roni Beall joined the LWV board as a link with public campaign financing and became active right away; coordinating our September forum. Before coming to Bellingham in 2004, Beall owned and managed a vocational consulting business in the San Francisco Bay area, providing a number of specialized services. One such service involved providing expert vocational testimony for the Social Security Administration, which she continues to do here in Washington.

As chair of the Whatcom County chapter of Wash-

ington Public Campaigns, she speaks often in Whatcom & Skagit counties. (She'll speak to your group, too!) Active in local politics, she is also a member of Whatcom Fair Voting and serves on the Citizens Election Advisory Committee. She loves living in the northwest, and as an avid gardener, designed the landscaping for the Geneva home she shares with husband, Ron. You may encounter her walking their two toy poodles around Lake Padden, now up to two energetic circuits!!

Rosemary Woodyard

New to us but already working on the immigration committee, Rosemary Woodward, retired, has lived in Bellingham about four years. Active politically, she is interested in campaign finance reform. Her other interests are varied—but the first she mentions is her art work—her watercolors can be seen currently at the Tennis Club or Banner Bank, venues for the local Art Guild. Living in Fairhaven, she enjoys the readings and discussions at Village Books and playing bocce ball on the green. "I also shoot pool," she claims, "at the senior center." She swims at the YMCA, practices yoga, and walks a lot. She supports Planned Parenthood. She belongs to Audubon, but the birds she watches most often are the six finches she keeps as pets. We are lucky that with this schedule she finds time for the LWV; she joined, she says, "because Eve Pryce recruited me and because the League encourages active citizenship."

AGENDA

Immigration Consensus Meeting

Whatcom Educational Credit Union Meeting Room
511 East Holly Street, Bellingham, WA
Contact Person: Tanya Baumgart – 671-5172

January 19, 2008

9:00 a.m. – 11:30 p.m. Immigration Forum open to General Public & League Members

11:30 a.m. – noon

Break for Brown Bag Lunch

Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Consensus Questions - League Members only

Please read: the email or mailed packet, and online:

<http://www.lwvbellinghamwhatcom.org/Studies.html> read the articles under Current Studies- Immigration, and at <http://www.lwvbellinghamwhatcom.org/Voters.html> there are immigration articles in the September, October, and November Voters.

Please bring: A brown bag lunch for you to eat, your packet, scratch paper, and a pen or pencil.

Additional Instructions:

Dear League Members,

The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) adopted a study of Immigration at the 2006 National Convention. The LWVUS does not currently have a position on immigration. Immigration is an extremely complex issue, with many different views, eliciting deep emotion on all sides. For our meeting, we have invited speakers to address different aspects of immigration as they impact Bellingham and Whatcom County as well as the nation. We look forward to your participation on this very important issue. Reaching a comprehensive position on immigration would empower the LWVUS to advocate for positive change in current policies.

Please come prepared to learn, to think, and to help us give good input regarding our consensus questions. To review the questions please go to: Consensus Questions, with Discussion & Background

Warm regards,

The Immigration Study Committee for LWV of Bellingham/Whatcom County

AGENDA

Immigration Consensus Meeting

January 19th, 2008 – Whatcom Educational Credit Union Meeting Room – 511 Holly East Street

Detailed Agenda:

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	<p>Coffee & Introduction Welcome – Judy Corliss Immigration to America Timeline – Sheri Lambert</p>
9:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.	<p>Rosalinda Guillen, Community to Community – Executive Director</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Moderator: Tanya Baumgart</p>
10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	<p>Paul Grey - Executive Director Henry Bierlink, Director/Public Policy WHATCOM Farm Friends</p>
10:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.	<p>Hannah Stone, Immigration Attorney Immigration & the Law, how it is, how it could be</p>
11 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	<p>Dr. James Loucky, Prof. Of Anthropology, Western Washington University</p> <p>The Global Perspective of Immigration – Sustainability & Can Migration be Stopped?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">unconfirmed</p>
11:30 a.m. – noon	<p>Brown Bag Lunch Break</p>
Noon – 2:15 p.m.	<p>Consensus Questions Timer – Tanya Baumgart</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Discussion Leaders: Dorothy Davis Jayne Freudenberg Elsie Heinrick Rosemary Hostetler Sheri Lambert Rosemary Woodyard</p>
2:15 p.m. – 3 p.m.	<p>Summation of Consensus</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Recorders report results</p>

Meeting Adjourned

Is Immigration an International Women's Issue?

Security Council Resolution

Should LWV be interested? Should YOU???

What it is about: Women, Peace and Security

Immigration includes all three

"Women hold up half the world"... but they are not given credit for doing so nor are they often encouraged to take that role, particularly in times of war. Women are often viewed as victims while they should be viewed as active agents in building all aspects of peace.

The UN Security Council (SC), reacting to the insistent work of women within the UN family as well as NGOs (The LWV is an NGO), passed Resolution (SCR) 1325 in 2000 titled, "Women, Peace and Security".

Key provisions of SCR 1325: Insert "immigration" into key spots

- Include more women in decision-making positions relating to peace and security at all levels – including all national governments...
- Consult with women and include a gender perspective when negotiating peace agreements, reconstructing post-conflict areas and preventing further conflict situations
- Provide training on the protection of women, their rights and needs and their participation in post-conflict peacekeeping operations
- Treat sexual and gender based crimes against women as war crimes.

What about the implementation of SCR1325?

Now women are working to make sure that SCR 1325 becomes a living document by holding the Security Council accountable for including women.

Women attending the 2007 session of the Commission on the Status of Women expressed serious concern about the lack of commitment to action on the national level (of **ALL** countries) to SCR1325.

In a letter sent to the Secretary General and the President of the Security Council requesting full implementation it was pointed out that many studies and documented best practices confirm that women's representation and active participation in decision making processes at all levels was essential. **Where women were not present, problems persist.**

Couldn't the same thing be said about immigration problems?

- Ruth Norman, Off Board Chair, Women's Issues



**League of Women Voters of
Bellingham/ Whatcom County**

LWV of Bellingham/Whatcom County
P.O. Box 4041
Bellingham, WA 98227-4041

Phone: 360-734-2366

Fax: 360-734-2366

Website: www.LWVbellinghamwhatcom.org

Inside :

— *Immigration Consensus Meeting, Saturday,
January 19, 2008, Whatcom Educational Credit
Union*

— *Security Council Resolution SCR1325*

Lobby Day—Friday, February 1, 2008, Olympia, WA

Observe the action; be part of the action!

Three weeks after the legislature goes into session, we should have a good sense of what (and who) we need to work on!

LWVWA is trying some new things this year to give you more time to spend meeting with your legislators, attending hearings, or observing floor action. An abbreviated schedule follows:

8:30-9:15 Coffee & donuts with our legislators
9:15-10:30 House and Senate Leaders speak
10:30—11:00 Sorting out the issues
11:00 Descend on the legislature
12:00-1:30 Box lunches available
2:30—Officially adjourn

LWV Thurston County will host the event and will once again offer B & B facilities in members' homes for those Leaguers wishing to come to Olympia on Thursday. The charge for the B & B is \$10. Contact Marilyn Funk at bfmz@comcast.net or call 360-357-7967.

Some of our local leaguers plan to drive to Olympia on Thursday, January 31st, and take advantage of the B & B facilities being offered. Call Judy Corliss (734-1992) if you would like to car pool with them.

You will find the Lobby Day Registration form on page 15 of the Washington State Voter (which you received recently). This Winter issue also lists the LWVWA 2008 Legislative Priorities on page 8 and a form for subscribing to the Legislative Newsletter.

Experience Lobby Day & Make Our Issues Known!

LWV Walking Group Change of Route

Beginning Friday, January 4, the walking group will resume its former route, starting at 2 p.m. at Taylor St. Dock, walk to Boulevard Park and return to BookFare in Village Books in Fairhaven for coffee. If you do not wish to walk, come meet us anyway at BookFare about 3 p.m. for conversation and refreshments.

- Phyllis Haberstroh

