



# Voter

League of  
Women Voters of  
Bellingham/  
Whatcom County

September 2008

## From Co-President Elsie Heinrick



Welcome back after our Northwest summer holiday. We hope you have all enjoyed the up and down weather and are ready for another League year.

Members have had a busy summer. Jayne Freudenberger and I drove to Yakima for the Washington State League Council in May and then Tanya Baumgart, Margaret Woll, Judy Corliss and I traveled by train to the LWVUS Convention in Portland. We all listened to interesting speakers and learned a lot about League activities throughout the US. Attending caucuses, workshops and sessions and discussing issues with members from all over was energizing.

In August Georgia MacGregor, Voter Service Chair, Roni Beall, Program Chair, and Sherry Kew, Assistant Program Chair began to organize our *September kick off event, a Voter Registration Drive on September 20.*

***This will be a wonderful opportunity for all of us to get out and talk to people and register some new voters as well as show what the League stands for.***

Judy Corliss has agreed to be our Healthcare co-chair and coordinate member attendance at the September 9 Health Care Caucus in Everett. (*see page 3*). This is one of seven caucuses being held throughout the State, organized by the Healthy Washington Coalition. These Washington Health Care Caucuses will provide an opportunity for com-

## LWV Voter Registration Kickoff

**Saturday, September 20, 2008**

**Whatcom Educational Credit Union**

**Meeting Room at 511 E. Holly Street**

**2:00 p.m. Training & Social Time**

**(Refreshments will be served while we get materials and training)**

**3:00 p.m. Registration of Voters**

**(We'll disperse in pairs to go to various grocery stores.)**

**5:00-5:30 p.m. Return to WECU**

**(Georgia MacGregor, Voter Service Chair will collect completed registration forms for delivery to the Auditor's Office.)**

**Note: Our Treasurer, Ingeborg Paulus will be on hand to take your dues if you haven't already sent them in.**

munity discussion of the challenges we are currently facing in health care and how we can start to achieve reform. The goal is to get more people involved in shaping health care reform.

At the Board retreat at Jo Anne Feringer's we made plans for the coming year and discussed membership and ways to recruit new members as well as ways to increase the involvement of our longer term members. We hope everyone will help with recruitment and invite friends and neighbors to meetings. Meeting formats were also discussed and we plan to try some new things this year. And

*(cont'd on page 2)*

## From Elsie, cont'd

we will hope to coordinate topics with other organizations so there is minimum duplication.

Our tentative program for the coming year follows. Please mark your calendars now!

- September 9 – Health Care Caucus; Everett 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm; carpool
- September 20 – Kick Off Event – Voter Registration
- October 18 – Ballot Issues Forum
- November 15 – Workshop – Civil Discourse on Hot Button Topics
- January 3 – Wine and Cheese with the Legislators
- February 14 – Potluck with the old and the new

- February 21 – Health Care Forum
- March 21 – National Popular Vote of the President
- April 18 – Early Childhood Education
- May 16 – Veterans Health Care Issues (Armed Forces Day)

Please remember to check our wonderful website often. Tanya Baumgart continues to keep it current and you will find lots of information about our programs and activities. A new feature is “We joined the League because ...” where Board members tell why they joined the League. The URL is <http://lwvbellinghamwhatcom.org/>

-Elsie Heinrick – Co-president

## LWVWA Announces Gubernatorial Debates

The LWVWA, with KOMOTV and the Seattle PI are pleased to announce that Governor Christine Gregoire and Dino Rossi have accepted our invitation for a forum/debate. The live broadcast will occur Saturday, September 20, 9 p.m. immediately following college football. In addition to KOMO in Seattle, the program will be broadcast live on station KXLY Spokane and KATU Portland, and perhaps a station in Yakima and the Tri Cities. Following the live broadcast, the program will be streamed on the KOMOTV website.

The forum will be issue oriented and formatted as a dialogue with voters. All questions will be approved as to format and content by the state League Voter Service Committee. Issues such as health care, transportation, education, the environment, the budget and the economy, jobs, taxes will be among the questions asked.

According to the present schedule, ours will be the first of four debates.

-Barbara Seitle, President, LWV of Washington

## Sites to Check Facts in Political E-mails

On the Issues is found at [www.ontheissues.org](http://www.ontheissues.org) The site claims to be nonpartisan and allows you to check political information.

Another site is Fact Check found at [www.factcheck.org](http://www.factcheck.org) This is another site purported to be nonpartisan and comes from the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania. Good places to check before passing on bogus political information.

## YWCA Programs of Interest

The YWCA has announced several programs which might be of special interest to our members. Excerpts from their invitation appear below. Note especially the program on Tuesday, October 21st when our League's program on Immigration will be discussed.

### “Mark Your Calendars for a Fall to Remember

With the ballroom and kitchen renovation nearly completed, we invite our members and friends to savor the restored beauty and a Fall Luncheon Series lineup of challenging topics as well as some very special events.

Cost of the three-part luncheon series, including box lunch, is \$30; individual presentations, \$12. Brown bags are welcome without charge. And donations are always welcome. Seating is limited; reservations are strongly advised (734-4820 or [ywca@ywcabellingham.org](mailto:ywca@ywcabellingham.org)).

#### **Tuesday, September 16, noon-1 p.m., *Perspectives on Education.***

Northwest Indian College President Cheryl Crazy Bull discusses the unique challenges of retaining traditional culture while preparing Native American students for success in a technology-driven society.

#### **Tuesday, October 21, noon-1 p.m., *Perspectives on Immigration.***

Tanya Baumgart, Co-President of our local League of Women Voters, which participated in a two-year national study of U.S. policy, and immigration attorney Hannah Stone discuss thoughtful and fair guidelines for reform.

#### **Thursday, October 2, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Cheryl Chow Encore Engagement.**

By popular request, Seattle School Board President Cheryl Chow, our May Leadership Breakfast speaker, will return to expand her all-too-short remarks on “Stepping Up to Leadership.” **This event is free; light refreshments provided, donations requested.**

### ***Join fellow League members and others in attending:***

**Washington State Health Care Caucus  
Tuesday, September 9th  
6:30—8:30 pm  
Everett Station, 3201 Smith Avenue, Everett**

**Lend your voice** to the effort to achieve quality, affordable health care for all Washingtonians  
**You're invited** to participate and help shape the principles and values we want in Washington's health care system.

**Learn** what steps have been taken and what the next steps will be.

We will meet to carpool at 5:00 p.m. Contact Judy Corliss (735-1992)  
or email for details: [judycorl@comcast.net](mailto:judycorl@comcast.net)



## League of Women Voters of Bellingham/ Whatcom County

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## League of Women Voters Celebrate Constitution Day

### *Civic Engagement Crucial for a Healthy Democracy*

Washington, DC – This September 17 marks the 221<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Constitution.

“Constitution Day marks an important opportunity for us to reflect upon the foundations we still rely on today,” said national League president Mary G. Wilson. “In a year of unprecedented civic energy, it is especially critical for us to all realize why our constitutional rights are so important.”

*“It is essential for Americans to remember key ideals such as responsive government, individual liberties and the separation of powers, especially an independent judicial branch. It is our responsibility to teach those lessons to future generations, and also to ensure our leaders are actively protecting the basic civil liberties we fought to obtain.”*

## LWVUS Climate Change Task Force Seeking Members

The LWVUS is looking for new members to join the Climate Change Task Force (CCTF). The CCTF was established in 2007 to use the expertise of the membership to provide information and assistance to the LWVUS Board and staff on issues pertaining to climate change. If you have experience with climate change and/or energy issues, we are looking for you. Interested? [Download the application form](#) from the LWVUS Web site. The deadline is September 30, 2008.

## Event of Interest

AAUW Meeting, Saturday, September 13, 2008  
10:00 a.m., YWCA, 1026 North Forest St.  
Speaker :Amanda Werchan, Director Fairhaven Girls School  
Topic:: Education of Adolescent Girls