



Voter

League of
Women Voters of
Bellingham/
Whatcom County

September 2010

From Co-President Jayne Freudenberger



“We never talk politics when we get together with the Smiths.” “My brother and I just agree to disagree and ignore politics.” “Don’t mention the election to Mary—she doesn’t think like we do.”

Have words similar to these escaped your lips or does everyone you know have the same opinions you have. I expect not.

We should be proud of our country’s diversity and celebrate different points of view. But the debate has grown strident as the problems and challenges we face seem insurmountable at times.

I know you care –you are members of the League. So I say to you as hard as it is –as frustrating—don’t quit talking to your neighbors, your friends, your relatives. Their concerns are legitimate even if you disagree with their solutions. Now is not the time to retreat into a comfortable cocoon and let someone else do the hard work.

The essence of democracy is an exchange of ideas by its citizenry and the ability to listen to other points of view and reach a compromise for the public good.

Here is some help. At Lunch with League in September, Mary Dumas will be leading us in a discussion called “Cool Conversations on Hot Topics “ Mary will give us tips on how to discuss contentious issues without causing or acting out knee jerk reactions. She will help us figure out how to discuss politics in a civil way with a productive outcome. Please join us and bring that neighbor or relative. Democracy only works when we work at it.

LWV Lunch with the League
11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.
Tuesday, September 14
YWCA Ballroom, 1026 N Forest St.

“Cool Conversations on Hot Topics”

With the political season warming up the LWV Bellingham/Whatcom County invites you to a presentation by nationally known **facilitator Mary Dumas** on how to productively discuss with our friends, neighbors, and challengers, the ballot decisions voters will make in the fall elections.

Mary will give us tips on listening skills, respectful discourse, and position framing to elicit information and ideas instead of knee jerk reactions.

Bring a friend for a *free lunch*; and to learn about the League and our on-going, award winning series on “How to Have a Civil Discussion in Uncivil Times”.

Reservations required: Phone 734-2366 or E-mail Annette Holcomb at anholec@clearwire.net

Parking is available in the First Presbyterian Church parking lot, Laurel and Garden Streets

***Members only—If your last name begins with N through Z, please bring cookies to be served as dessert.**

LWV Forums

Come learn about the issues and candidates

Candidate Forum—Legislative Districts 40th and 42nd.

October 6th, 2010 6:30-9:30 pm
Building Industry Conference Center -1650 Baker
Creek Place

Ballot Issues/County Council Race
October 16th, 2010 9:30 am-noon
Bellingham Public Library 210 Central

Telling Our Story

On August 26th Equality Day, co-presidents **Jayne Freudenberger** and **Kay Ingram** were invited by the Cultural and Diversity Committee of the Customs and Border Protection division for the Blaine Service Area to share with them the history of the suffragist movement. In addition they wanted some insight into the work of the League of Women Voters of Bellingham / Whatcom County.

Jayne began by explaining the significance of August 26, 1920 when the largest enfranchisement in our history took place. The state of Tennessee ratified the 19th amendment giving woman the right to vote. Thus ended the struggle that began with Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton in 1848. The story of

the suffrage movement will be on our website www.LWVbellinghamwhatcom.org.

Kay followed with a bit of history of the LWV in Washington and Bellingham/Whatcom County. Since there were several men in the audience she also explained that the League is not just for women or only made up of women, but that nationally, statewide and locally both men and women have joined and are active in carrying out the LWV vision – to empower citizens to shape better communities worldwide.

She discussed our goals and the work on issues for which the League is known, our upcoming 2010-2011 program schedule and invited them to join us in our work.

LWV Bellingham/Whatcom Receives Award at National Convention

The LWV of Bellingham/Whatcom County won a national LWV award for our series How to Have a Civil Discussion in Uncivil Times. Co presidents **Jayne Freudenberger** and **Kay Ingram** and Board member **Elsie Heinrick** attended the convention and received the award on stage in front of the 700 delegates from outgoing national President Mary Wilson.

Jayne was asked to give a presentation on the workshop in a seminar about community development leadership; over 100 people attended. There was a lot of interest and we've gotten some good feedback and questions from other Leagues, including many hits on our website. Our league was also in the spotlight feature of the National E- Newsletter.

The convention was an exhilarating, inspiring and exhausting 4 days. As one of the speakers, Health and Human Services Director Kathleen Sibelius noted, League members got more done in one day than the Senate accomplished all year.

For all the resolutions, concurrences and studies we hope you will go to www.lwv.org, click on members, then on council and convention.

Rep. John Lewis exhorted us to "keep getting in the way" We learned from the past presidents panel that the League's voice is heard and our work is not in vain. We all came back energized for a new year in league, working for democracy for all citizens.

LWV Bellingham/Whatcom Proposed Calendar for 2010

Prepared: July 19, 2010

2010

September 14 (Tuesday 11:30am - 1:30pm): **Lunch with the League** –“Cool Conversations on Hot Topics” YWCA

October 6 (Wednesday 6:30 – 9:30pm): **Legislative Candidates** (10) – 5 Positions
Building Industry Association of Whatcom County

October 16 (Saturday 9:30am - noon): **Ballot Issues / County Council District 1** Forum – Bellingham Public Library

December 1 (Wednesday 5:30- 7:00pm): **“Conversations with Our Elected Officials and the 21st Century Suffragist Awards”** – (Wine & Cheese) YWCA

Honoring 21st Century Suffragists

On November 8, 1910 the Washington State Legislature granted women in our state the right to vote a full ten years before the 19th amendment was ratified for the United States. As part of celebrating 100 years of women’s suffrage in Washington State, the League of Women Voters of Bellingham/Whatcom County will mark this proud and historic event by honoring our local unsung heroes--Suffragists of the 21st. Century.—individuals who have made a continuing contribution to make our democracy work.

We are looking for women and men who promote civil liberties, encourage participation in the election process, work with others to improve our community and educate citizens in their civic responsibilities.

The awards will be presented at our “Conversations with Elected Officials” reception in December. Winners of the 21st Suffragist Award will be announced in a later issue of the Voter.

THANK YOU

The Rotary Club of Bellingham has awarded the LWV of Bellingham/Whatcom County a \$500 start up grant to begin our project of placing the Washington State League’s civics book “The State We’re In” into the curriculum of all of the county schools. We are currently forming a committee and fundraising efforts for this worthwhile project.

Thank you to Rotary for joining us in our work to educate the voters of tomorrow in the principles of civic education. It takes informed citizens to make democracy work.

A Hearty Welcome to our Newest Members

Jeanette Cochrane
Lee Shapiro
Chris Symonds
J. Lynne Walker
Terry Wechsler

LWV of Bellingham/Whatcom County Board of Directors for 2010 - 2011

TITLE	NAME	CONTACT INFO	ADDRESS	PORTFOLIO
Co President	Jayne Freudenberger	734-5283 freudbj7@comcast.net	1704 Euclid Ave. Bellingham 98229	
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Secretary	Sheila Hardy	671-3074 shardy40@msn.com	2709 Sunset Dr Bel- lingham 98225	Conservation Study
Treasurer	Elsie Heinrick	671-9534 elsieheinrick@comcast.net	6 Pattle St Belling- ham 98225	Finance Budget
Directors:	Robbi Ferron	715-9588 rferron@comcast.net	214 Bayside Rd. Bellingham 98225	Advocacy/CEAC
	Annette Holcomb	318-7551 anolc@clearwire.net	1123 17 th St Bellingham 98225	Program
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	Isabel Vanderslice	292-9905 Isabel.vanderslice@gmail.com	1001 Larrabee Ave #203 Bellingham 98225	
	Mary Ellen Woods	738-1796 mewandjc@aol.com	3020 W Alpine Dr Bellingham 98226	
Chair - Off-board	Georgia Macgregor	738-4616 rmac2@comcast.net	1716 Golden Court	Voter Service



Kudos to this great group of women who stepped up to be on your board of directors for 2010-2011. Some are returning to the board and some have joined for the first time. These women have been working throughout the summer to make sure the 2010-2011 League year is successful and productive. Be sure and thank them.

Worth All the Hard Work

Our local league hosted the Washington State Council meeting in May and it was a resounding success—18 of the 21 Leagues in the State participated plus 9 board members. Most of the feedback was very positive.

Along with a civil discussion workshop, we had sessions on membership, how to design a Facebook page, how to handle unruly participants at forums and best of all a roll call session where each League shared their best ideas of programs and activities they had found successful.

Our state president, **Linnea Hirst**, surprised each of the Bellingham members attending the banquet with a red rose in honor of our league’s winning the National award for our civil discussion workshop.



Thanks to everyone who helped make the event so successful. Special thanks to **Lynne Rein** who coordinated all the hospitality and **Tanya Baumgart** who wrote and presented a presentation on Facebook.

I’m sure you’ve just forgotten!!

If you haven’t renewed your dues, please renew today

BELLINGHAM/WHATCOM COUNTY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

ANNUAL DUES RENEWAL STATEMENT FOR JULY 1, 2010 to JUNE 30, 2011

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ e-mail _____

Please let us know of any changes

PROPOSED DUES – 2010 – 2011 INDIVIDUAL - \$60 _____

PROPOSED DUES – 2010 – 2011 FAMILY - \$90 _____

Donation to the League - _____

Make all above checks payable to LWV Bellingham/Whatcom County

Donation to the LWV Education Fund- -tax deductible _____

Make check payable to the LWV Education Fund

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Send to LWV Bellingham/Whatcom County P.O. Box 4041, Bellingham WA 98227



League of Women Voters of Bellingham/ Whatcom County

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The State We're In: Washington

Want to get involved in an outreach to our schools in Whatcom County? Our mission: to get the excellent civics textbook that was recently updated by the LWV of WA Education Fund into the hands of our secondary students and their teachers. The book is very readable and full of interesting photos and graphs and current information. The Teacher's Curriculum Guide is an excellent tool with many activities to make civics fun and interesting for the learners.

We have a few good people on our committee and would like a few more to make the project successful.

Contact Annette Holcomb (anholec@clearwire.net or 360 318-7551)

We Still Walk and Talk

For a bit of exercise, join our weekly "Walk and Talk" group every Friday at 2 p.m. We meet at the top of Taylor Street Dock. Following the walk we go to the Book Fare, upstairs in Village Books for coffee and more conversation. If you can't walk, come talk.



Join Our Fans
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The search words are "League of Women Voters of Bellingham/Whatcom County"!