

# VOTER

## LWVSJ Happenings

**Holiday Luncheon – Tuesday December 10**  
**12pm – 2.30pm - The Grange**  
**Catered Lunch by Katrina’s Secret Kitchen**  
*Lunch \$30 per person – RSVP by December 5<sup>th</sup>*



Join us on December 10<sup>th</sup> at 11.30am for sign in and social time prior to our program that will start at 12pm. We are excited to welcome Jessica Hudson, the recently hired County Manager. With plenty of experience, she was formerly the Director of the Fairfax County Public Library in Fairfax Virginia, where she oversaw a system of 23 public branches, a budget of \$35 million, and 550 employees. She has experience in developing and administering strategic plans, initiating public service operation expansions, and supporting major capital projects. Jessica has a bachelor’s degree in Finance, a master’s in Library Science, and a master’s in Public Administration, as well as completing a fellowship in County Senior Executive Leadership from the California State Association of Counties. Her career in local government has spanned more than twenty years, the last fourteen at the Director level.

*Please RSVP to [jbelcovson@gmail.com](mailto:jbelcovson@gmail.com) by 12/5.*

*Let us know if you prefer a vegetarian option for lunch.  
\$30 per person payable at the door.*



Join us for our first membership meeting of 2025 on January 13<sup>th</sup> at the San Juan Island Library in which we will introduce a panel from the SJ County Public Health Department to answer your questions. Ellen Wilcox, Community Health Services Manager is working to put together an informative program taking into account the mission to promote, protect and preserve, with dignity, the health and well-being of the people and communities of San Juan County. Their goal is to provide population-based

services and assure access to preventive health services in the community. They provide extensive referral and coordination with other health and social service providers and have clinics conveniently located on Lopez, Orcas, and San Juan Islands.

### **An Update on Reproductive Health Services and Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood**

It was very encouraging to learn that San Juan County Health & Community Services and Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood announced they are partnering to make reproductive health services easier to access in San Juan County. Starting in January 2025 Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood will be operating out of Health & Community Services' Friday Harbor clinic office one day per week. Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood (MBPP) will use the health department's Friday Harbor clinic to conduct appointments and offer reproductive health services in our community. [County residents can make an appointment directly with MBPP.](#) By sharing clinic space, Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood can provide important healthcare and Health & Community Services (HCS) can expand reproductive and sexual health testing and services in a sustainable manner for county residents.

### *In Memoriam*

*Louise A. Dustrude October 12, 1931 - November 10, 2024*



Louise was born in Racine, Wisconsin to parents Arthur and Dorothy Arnold in 1931. After graduating from High School she furthered her education at the University of Wisconsin with a major in Journalism.

Louise married John Dustrude in 1952 and after John's two-year stint in the Army in Korea, they traveled all over Europe for their honeymoon. They found jobs in Norway and lived with a family in a large house for six months through the winter. They

traveled by bicycle all over England, and finally wound up in Italy where they boarded a steamer for passage back to the United States.

After eventually moving to Colorado, John found work with the National Forest Service. While living in Pueblo, CO in 1959, they drove an hour east to La Junta, Colorado to give birth to their oldest son Eric because this was the nearest doctor they could find who would allow John in the delivery room with Louise. This was an early manifestation of Louise's strong sense of and fight for women's rights and dignity. Three years later in 1962, finding such a doctor was not as difficult and their younger son Tim was born in Denver.

John's work with the Forest Service kept them hopping around every few years from Denver to Juneau, Alaska, to San Bernardino, California and finally to San Francisco, where after

two years they said that was enough and John retired from the Forest Service. While in San Bernardino when Louise was unable to find fulfilling work, she went back to school to learn Court Reporting. Later, in San Francisco, she was assigned a legal proceeding at Fort Lewis, Washington, and John decided to go along for a week's mini vacation. So they left the boys with some friends in San Francisco and drove to Seattle, only to find the proceeding had been canceled. But all was not lost as they had friends on Bainbridge Island who said, "Well since you have the whole week now, you should go see Their friend convinced them to take the car and drive the big circle - up to Anacortes, ride the ferry through the islands to Sidney, BC, drive to Victoria, take the ferry to Port Angeles and finally back to Seattle.

Without even disembarking the ferry in Friday Harbor but watching from the passenger deck as the cars and passengers loaded and unloaded, they saw a black lab sleeping in the middle of Spring Street, with cars diverting around it so as not to disturb it. They looked at each other and said "I think we've found our new home"

So in February of 1971, they moved the family to Friday Harbor to begin the most fulfilling chapter of their lives. Louise worked for several years as a reporter for the Island Record based on Lopez, and then as part-owner. This is where the 8.8 mile "Record Run" originated, an annual race around Turn Point which has remained a very popular event Louise has always been active in the community - volunteering, promoting and fighting for politics and policies and organizations that enrich people's lives - from the SJI Trails Committee to the Land Bank to the Library to the Public Hospital District to Long Term Health Care to the SJC Democrats and to the League of Women Voters. She was the recipient of our *People Who Make a Difference* award a few years ago and we loved to see her at our meetings.

*In lieu of flowers, Louise would have loved for you to donate time or money to the Land Bank or the Library or any community organization that enriches people's lives.*

## **Meeting Dates Winter-Spring 2024/2025**

<b>Board Meetings</b>	<b>Membership Meetings</b>
December 2	December 10 <i>Holiday Luncheon – The Grange</i>
Jan 6	January 13
Feb 3	Feb 10
March 3	March 10
April 7	April 14
May 5	May 12
June 2	June 9
July 7	<i>Summer Picnic</i>
August 4 <i>Board Retreat</i>	<i>Summer Break</i>

*All members are welcome to attend our board meetings – please send any board member an email and we will send you the zoom link.*



## We Had A Retreat!

Last month LWVSJ members and Board gathered at the Grange for our Annual Retreat and to brainstorm and program plan for next year. After some social time to catch up with each other, President Susan Martin recapped our year to date including one of our top priorities, the Voter Forums. We held primary and general election Voter Forums on San Juan, Orcas, and Lopez which were sparsely attended but live streamed via SanJuans.Today which accessed many additional viewers. (see more info on SanJuans.today below). Our brainstorming sessions included discussions about ways to increase our membership, engage current and future members in our activities and establish partnerships with other organizations with similar interests. We would like to see more of our members become active volunteers to maintain and carry out key programs such as Voter Forums, Civic Education outreach and the Observer Corps.

The national League is encouraging state and local Leagues to develop partnerships to broaden our engagement with the community and our members brought forward ideas on groups and organizations we could partner with and specific joint activities or projects in which we could partner. Libraries, schools, resource centers, service clubs and other non-profits topped the lists. We also talked about taking some steps towards having a county-wide Civics Bowl and in the interim possibly sponsor some civics questions in the Knowledge Bowl. Many good ideas circulated in the room and we are looking forward to moving forward on these in 2025.

### **San Juans.Today Operating Fund**

*San Juans.Today is a local nonprofit streaming video and audio service focused on news and entertainment in San Juan County. Donations to this fund support the ongoing operational costs associated with reporting on issues and information relevant to San Juan County residents. So far in 2024, SanJuans.Today (formerly CNL2) has **televised 87 local events** and shows, **60 of them live!** More are scheduled for January. And in 2025, you can count on a level of coverage of the San Juan County Council the likes of which you've never seen! Please donate to their cause at [https://sjicf.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/fund?funit\\_id=2980](https://sjicf.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/fund?funit_id=2980)*

## **Necia Quast reports on her trip to the COP29 Summit in Baku, Azerbaijan**

*Earlier this year I responded to a notice in the LWVUS newsletter for people interested in being one of the LWVUS observers at the Annual Convention of Parties (COP) Meeting of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, This is the large annual session in which the nations of the world try to coordinate a global response to global warming. The League had fewer spots this year, but they drew names from a hat, and I was one of two to attend in person. We had a single slot, but a League member from Colorado covered the first week, and I covered the second from November 18-22. It took place in Baku, Azerbaijan, an oil producing state on the Caspian Sea that formerly a Soviet republic.*

*The event includes delegations of from the nearly 200 countries who are signatories, over 3000 journalists, and tens of thousands of observers. The total number of accredited attendees was over 50,000. It is like a cross between a trade show and an academic convention. Aside from the negotiations themselves, there are hundreds of expert panels and*

*discussions, press conferences by various attending groups and coalitions, and daily demonstrations by a range of activists.*

*I did not observe any of the negotiations directly, although I could have. My brief from the League was to seek out things that were of interest to me and then to write up short reports. With the negotiations themselves covered in great detail by both journalists and experts, my role was perhaps more in line with a color commentator. I attended discussions and panels on topics ranging from agriculture, to sea ice, health impacts and youth activism. The NGOs and observers are roughly groups into twelve categories-- nine formal: Business and Industry, Environmental Groups, Farmers and Agriculture, Indigenous Peoples, Local Governments and Municipalities, Research and Science, Trade Unions, Women and Gender, and Children and Youth; and three informal: Faith-based, Education and Outreach, and Parliamentarians. The League is part of the Environmental Coalition and the Women and Gender Coalition.*

*Necia Quast*

Necia has posted several dispatches for each day on the LWVSJ Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/17bhA7YH6j/>

She will work on collating them all and post them to our web page to make them easier to read in order.

On November 12th, we celebrated the birthday of **Elizabeth Cady Stanton**, a visionary who dedicated her life to advancing women's rights and challenging the status quo.

In 1848, Stanton boldly demanded equality at the first Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, igniting a movement that reshaped history. She wasn't afraid to speak out about suffrage, bodily autonomy, and social justice, even when her ideas were considered radical. Her work laid the groundwork for future generations, inspiring us to continue the pursuit of a world where all individuals can live freely and equally.

Elizabeth's courage reminds us that real progress often begins with a single, unwavering voice calling for change. Today, we honor her legacy and the strength of all those who work tirelessly for equality and justice.

May her words and actions inspire us to persist in our efforts to create a world where every voice is valued and every person empowered.

[hashtag#ElizabethCadyStanton](#) [hashtag#WomensRights](#) [hashtag#Equality](#)  
[hashtag#SocialJustice](#) [hashtag#HerStory](#)

## **The President must immediately publish the Equal Rights Amendment**

In the United States, women are still not guaranteed equal rights. We have seen the devastating consequences of this reality. Yet, the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), which

will update the US Constitution to protect the equality of rights under the law regardless of sex, can be added to the Constitution with one action. With just months left in office, we are urging President Biden to act to ensure that the ERA is published.

The ERA will protect against the rollback of rights, provide a vital tool for the judicial branch to decide sex discrimination cases, and pave the way for further legislative progress toward sex and gender equality.

The 2024 election results were not friendly to women's equality, and our future status in the country is at stake. It's imperative that President Biden take urgent action to ensure the process of publishing the Amendment is completed since it has been fully ratified since 2020. Urge President Biden to instruct the US Archivist to certify and publish the ERA in the Constitution! Equality cannot wait.

Contact President Biden at:

<https://www.lwv.org/take-action/president-must-immediately-publish-equal-rights-amendment>



**Help Wanted** – Our nominating committee are hard at work reaching out to those in our community to consider becoming a member of our Board. There are many reasons why members choose to apply for a board position, including:

- Expanding their commitment and understanding of the League
- Sharing their League's successes with other members
- Continuing to build leadership skills, and
- Helping set the future for the LWV of the San Juans.

If you are interested in learning more please contact any of our nominating committee members -*Leslie Veirs, Chair; Audra Adelberger, Mary Campanella or Barbara Marrett*

## **Around the League – State & National Issues**

**WASHINGTON** — The League of Women Voters of the **United States president Dianna Wynn** and **CEO Celina Stewart** released the following statement on the 2024 election results:

“The 2024 election underscores the dedication of poll workers, election officials, and volunteers nationwide, who ensured that every eligible vote was counted, and every voice was heard. This year's election was marked by integrity, transparency, and high turnout. The American people have spoken.

While we celebrate a fair and secure election, the outcome of this election has made the future for women unclear. Given the disturbing rhetoric made during this election season, we are deeply concerned about challenges we may face, particularly regarding the issues that disproportionately affect women, from health care and reproductive rights to economic security and equal representation.

We are thankful to Leagues across the country for their tremendous work supporting the election infrastructure and supporting voters, as well as every election worker and

democracy defender who guaranteed our fair and free voting process. We are thankful for the work they have done so far this cycle and the counting, curing, and certifying work that will take place in the weeks ahead.

The League is dedicated to our mission of defending democracy. As we move forward, we remain steadfast in our commitment to advocate for policies that uplift women and ensure equitable representation in all levels of government.”

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## **WA's Legislative Session Starts in January—don't miss out on all of the Action!**

The League of Women Voters of Washington Presents the Annual Action Workshop (Virtual Event)

December 7, 2024 at 9 AM

Gear Up for the 2025 Legislative Session

Saturday, December 7 | 9am–12pm | Virtual

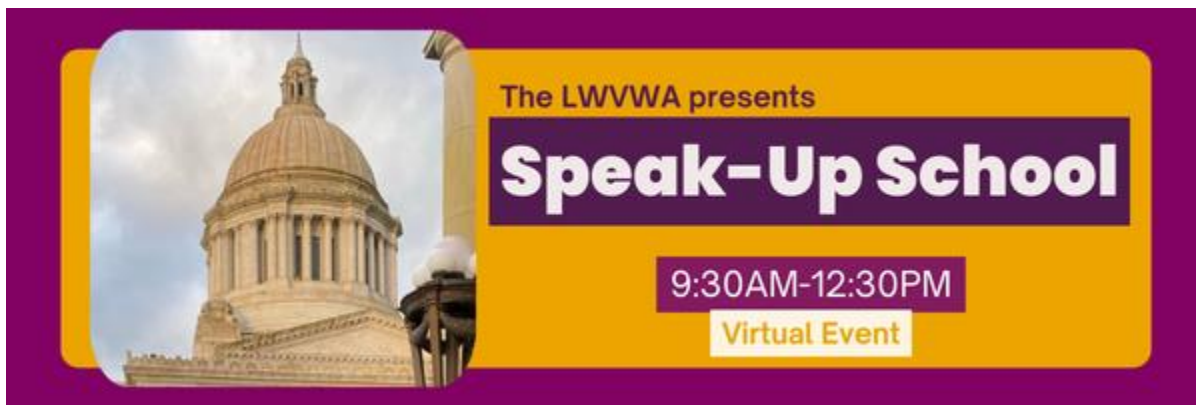
Action Workshop is an annual event to help prepare League members for advocacy during the upcoming legislative session. Attendees will learn about the issues, relevant League positions and how to be involved.

Register Here: <https://secure.everyaction.com/94-zAauiqE6Opj57-Xtsnw2>

### **2024 Legislative Issues**

Our dedicated lobby team members write issue papers before each legislative session that provide the background behind the League's position on each issue as well as outline the anticipated plans and legislation for the upcoming session. As we get closer to the start of the 2024 legislative, we will add more content tracking the progress of the bills we are following. Get more information here:

<https://www.lwvwa.org/current-issues-2024>



**SAVE THE DATE:** [Attend Speak-Up School](#) and learn how to effectively engage with legislators and use resources like the legislature's [website](#) and the League's [Legislative Action Newsletter](#).

**JAN 11:** This is a unique training opportunity aimed at empowering citizens to actively engage with the legislature and contribute to the democratic process. The 3-hour virtual session will focus on educating participants about the tools and skills needed to make their voices heard.

Speak Up School will cover essential topics to equip attendees with the knowledge and confidence to testify effectively in committee hearings, use our Legislative Newsletter and support legislation on [leg.wa.gov](http://leg.wa.gov), as well as interact with legislators in small group settings. Learn how to speak up about issues you care about in this supportive and engaging session.

[Register Today](#)

### Follow Us on Facebook!

Follow what local, state and national league are up to at our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LWVSanJuans>

### Board Members of the League of Women Voters of the San Juan's

#### Officers

Susan Martin	President	360-370-5205	<a href="mailto:martinsf@georgetown.edu">martinsf@georgetown.edu</a>
Barbara Sharp	Vice-President	360-472-0148	<a href="mailto:b_gsharp@hotmail.com">b_gsharp@hotmail.com</a>
Stephanie Butler	Voter Services	907-209-5885	<a href="mailto:sjbutlerak@gmail.com">sjbutlerak@gmail.com</a>
Michael Martin	Treasurer & Roster	360-370-5205	<a href="mailto:martinml@ieee.org">martinml@ieee.org</a>
Diana Sibert	Secretary	360-370-5269	<a href="mailto:dianasibert@gmail.com">dianasibert@gmail.com</a>
Jill Belcovson	The Voter	805-689-2260	<a href="mailto:jbelcovson@gmail.com">jbelcovson@gmail.com</a>

#### Members-at-Large

Audra Adelberger	Nominating Committee	360-378-6322	<a href="mailto:audraaeaba@gmail.com">audraaeaba@gmail.com</a>
Mary Campanella	Nominating Committee And Action Chair	800-364-1984	<a href="mailto:marycampanella@icloud.com">marycampanella@icloud.com</a>
Susan Eberhard		360-378-3608	<a href="mailto:eberhard@rockisland.com">eberhard@rockisland.com</a>
Chita Miller		360-378-2153	<a href="mailto:chita.miller@gmail.com">chita.miller@gmail.com</a>
Necia Quast		360-370-5502	<a href="mailto:collquas@aim.com">collquas@aim.com</a>
Steve Bowman – Board Member Emeritus		360-370-5814	<a href="mailto:steve.bowman52@gmail.com">steve.bowman52@gmail.com</a>

*Nominating Committee: Leslie Veirs, Chair; Audra Adelberger, Mary Campanella, Barbara Marrett*

When you join the League, your dues go to three different places: to National League to help support voting rights advocacy efforts, to State League for voter education as well as advocacy for state issues that League supports; and then there are a few dollars left to support our local forums and programs. Below are the different levels of dues payments and the PO Box



number. If you choose to give at a higher level than the “Regular” level, the extra money stays with our local League to support our important work here. Thanks for supporting LWV at all levels!

*A Note from the Treasurer:*

*A big thank you to members who have recently paid dues.  
We are well into our current fiscal year which started on June 1, 2024. If you have not yet made your dues payment please send it to our PO box below.  
The national league will be introducing a new payment system next year and we will keep you updated as they roll out the new program.*

*Let us know of any changes that need to be made to your contact information.  
Thank you for continuing to support the important work that we do.*

YES! I want to become a member of the League of Women Voters of the San Juan's.

**Name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one:

	<b>Regular</b>	<b>Carrie Chapman Catt</b>	<b>Susan B. Anthony</b>
<b>Individual</b>	\$60	\$100 to \$249	\$250 and up
<b>Family</b>	\$90	\$150 to \$374	\$375 and up
<b>Students</b>	Free		

I would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the League of Women Voters of WA Education Fund and have enclosed a separate check (to LWVWA—EF) in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

**PLEASE RETURN TO:** League of Women Voters of the San Juans  
PO Box 784  
Friday Harbor, WA 98250

**Voter Editor: Jill Belcovson – 805-689-2260 – [jbeltcovson@gmail.com](mailto:jbeltcovson@gmail.com)**