



Montana VOTER

The Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Montana

Spring 2011 Issue

CALL TO CONVENTION

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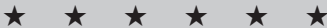
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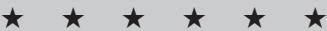
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The *Montana Voter* is the newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Montana.

League Board Members for 2010-2011 are:
 Gladys Hardin, President, Missoula
 Jan Young, Vice-President, Bozeman
 Geneva Van Home, Secretary, Missoula
 Barbara Martin, Treasurer, Helena
 Linda Andrus, Missoula
 Joy Bruck, Helena
 Nancy Detrick, Billings
 Milly Gutkoski, Bozeman
 Barbara Harris, Helena
 Sally Maison, Bozeman
 Theresa Schneder, Billings
 Judy Mathre, Nominations Chair
 Cathy Weeden, *Montana Voter* Editor

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The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

THE LWV-BOZEMAN welcomes all members of the Montana League of Women Voters to the Annual Convention in the historic Beall Park Arts Center near downtown Bozeman.

The Convention will begin at 11:30 on Saturday with a delicious catered lunch and a discussion with our lobbyist, Drew Geiger. The business meeting will begin at 1:00. The buffet dinner, at 6:00, will be followed by our speaker, Superintendent of Schools Denise Juneau. On Sunday, Bozeman members will provide a light breakfast and the business meeting will reconvene afterward.

This is a wonderful time to reconnect with long-time but far-flung League friends and to discuss issues vital to our state. Please plan to attend all or any part of the Convention activities. Get together with other Leaguers in your area and carpool on over! Bozeman members are providing free B&B!

Enjoy the May sunshine! Stroll beautiful downtown Bozeman and enjoy our many, varied restaurants. Take a side trip to Yellowstone and look for wolves, bears and their tiny cubs, and watch the little orange buffalo babies cavort!

When: Saturday, May 14, 11:30 AM to Sunday, May 15 ending at 12:00 noon

Where: Beall Park Arts Center at 415 N. Bozeman Ave., Bozeman

An agenda and registration form is enclosed in the Voter.

Directions: From the West on I 90, take the 7th Street exit toward town. Turn left on Peach Street. Drive to Bozeman Ave. and turn right. The center is approximately 2 blocks on the right, a large brick building with an adjoining 2.2 acre Park. From the East on I 90, take the Main Street exit toward town. Turn right at Bozeman Ave which is the first turn past Rouse. The Beall Center is 4 blocks and on the left.



Beall Park Arts Center is the restored home of William and Rosa Beall, early Bozeman settlers and co-founders of the city. It sits on 2.2 acres of park, converted from their farm.



LOCAL LEAGUE NEWS

BILLINGS by Theresa Schneder, President

The Billings LWV had their Annual Meeting on April 7th. Newly elected were Pam Ellis as Secretary and Janice Munsell is our new Treasurer; both will serve through 2013. Elected as at-large Directors were Constance Heidenrich and Claire Coleman, both of whom previously served on the Board. We adopted changes to our bylaws calculated to make them easier to read. New to the byLaws are provisions for Board decisions being made by email communication. Our guide for Board decision by email was the National LWV suggested bylaw.

The membership voted to further investigate having a public education program on Constitution Day regarding the "Implied Congressional Powers" of the "General Welfare," "Necessary and Proper" and "Commerce" clauses contained in Article 1, Section 8 of the US Constitution." These are the clauses that have been used by Congress and the President since 1792 to do everything from the Louisiana Purchase to the National Health Care Act Of 2010.

The Development Committee reported donations of over \$2,900 to our general operating and education funds and gave us a glimpse of their future development plans.

The Board is moving right along on our ambitious goals for this year. Our Development Committee, headed by Carole Jones, is actively implementing strategies for us to be more visible in the community, increasing our member-

(continued on p. 8, see BILLINGS)

BOZEMAN by Sally Maison, President

Under the able leadership of Cathy Weeden, the Bozeman League made a presentation to the Bozeman City Commission in support of climate action recommendations by the city's climate protection task force. The initiative passed by a large majority, and now Cathy and her group will continue to make sure that implementation takes place.

Cathy is also heading up an informal study of redistricting in Montana. Currently, the redistricting committee is currently holding hearings around the state on its discretionary redistricting criteria and will implement a new map in time for the 2014 elections.

With representatives from several other community groups, we continue to look for a way to hold a meaningful public forum on civil discourse and mutual understanding. This will be a goal for next year.

We held our Annual Meeting on April 2 at the new Gallatin County Detention Center. After our business meeting we were treated to lunch, a talk by Training Director Jamie Young, and, finally, a tour of the new jail. It was fascinating.

HELENA by Rita Blouke

As with every legislative session, the Helena League has been busy and stretched thin. Helena members have attended the Pro-Choice Rally, International Women's Day, the environmental support rally, and committee hearings and floor sessions. Our January and February meetings were focused on educating the membership about bills and positions that the League is following and on providing a workshop about how to effectively contact legislators.

On March 15 we welcomed Dennis Unsworth, ex-Commissioner of Political Practices, who talked about the challenges involved in keeping elections clean. Commissioner Unsworth is a strong advocate of campaign finance reform and hopes the League will continue to fight for the Political Practices Office and for clean campaign legislation.

MISSOULA by Gladys Hardin, President

LWV-Missoula has survived the past year pretty much in limbo. Our membership dropped to 21, we decided to drop regularly scheduled lunch meetings, and we improvised League leadership by asking the 2010 board to stay on another year after being unable to offer a slate of officers for election.

LWV-Missoula will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, April 9. This year we propose some changes in our by-laws that will make it easier to find leadership (we hope), we have a nominated slate of officers, a budget proposal and a proposed program, so it looks like we are in better shape.

This is the 60th year of League in Missoula and we will be finding ways to celebrate publicly all year. We will be working on increasing and involving our membership. We expect to join the LWVUS study on 'The Federal Role in Education' and to support the LWVUS and LWV Montana.



BILLINGS EDUCATION STUDY REPORT

by Nancy Detrick, LWV-Billings Education Study Group

AT THE NATIONAL CONVENTION last June, LWVUS adopted a proposed study of the Role of the Federal Government in Education. The committee working on this study at the national level has narrowed the scope to issues of equity, assessment, and funding.

In October, the Board gave approval to our study group to engage in a two-year study of The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education. The study of the federal role in pre-K through grade 12 public education is to be limited to issues of equity, funding, and standards/assessment.

The national committee will begin with an overview of the history of the federal role and where it is today. They will then focus on the components of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act which will speak to equity issues. Finally, the committee will address the Common Core Standards and the subsequent assessment issues. We expect that this committee will soon publish a resource list and will then publish consensus questions for our members to address.

Our committee's role is to provide information on these topics to our members and to prepare our membership for the consensus process. We think we have a good start with the information we have gained from the book and other resources we've been investigating.

Our group has ten members at present. We have been collecting articles related to the national conversation about the state of our education system and proposals to fix it.

continued next column



NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of candidates for 2011-2013:

President: Nancy Detrick, LWV-Billings

Vice President: Roxanne Klingensmith, LWV-Bozeman

Secretary: Mary Lee Reese, LWV-Bozeman (to fill the one-year unexpired term of Geneva Van Horne)

Nominating Committee for 2012:

Gladys Hardin

Cathy Weeden

Judy Mathre

Continuing officers and directors with terms expiring in 2012:

Barbara Martin, Treasurer, LWV-Helena

Milly Gutkoski, LWV-Bozeman

Nancy Detrick leaves a one-year unexpired term as director, which will be filled by a nomination from the floor.

In addition, the board is comprised of:

Presidents of the local leagues (four, total)

Nominating Committee Chair

Montana Voter Editor (appointed by board)

Appointments by the board (one from each League, if possible)

—submitted by Judy Mathre and Cathy Weeden

In addition to articles from magazines, newspapers and the internet, we have been reading and discussing a recently published book by a well-known and respected education historian, Dianne Ravitch. But we have talked about many education issues facing our nation and our state, beyond the material in Ravitch's book.

Most of us have finished the book, *The Death and Life of the Great American School System: How Testing and Choice are Undermining Education*, by Diane Ravitch. Ravitch addresses three main issues in the book--The No Child Left Behind law (NCLB--test and punish); Choice, the story of an idea; and the Trouble with Accountability. Everyone in the group is very positive about the book and wants to encourage other members to read it.

At our March 17th meeting we began a conversation about our timeline which includes when and how we will inform members about what we have learned. We are still waiting for the national committee working on this study to publish its suggested reading list. Most of the group wants to work through the summer, developing "white papers" on the three topics of NCLB, Choice and Accountability. We have lots of "con" evidence. What we will be looking for in the next month is "pro" evidence. Michelle Rhee, the former chancellor of the D.C. schools is one who would disagree with Ravitch on a number of points. After discussion, we will develop a list of resources of our own, both in print and online.

At our May meeting we will develop a more solid timeline, so it can be shared with the Board and program chairs, and eventually, our entire membership.

Editor: The Montana leagues participating in the LWVUS education study will pool resources and information about education in Montana for the proposed state study.



LWVMT 2011 State Convention

Sat., May 14, 11:30 — Sun., May 15, noon, Beall Arts Center, 415 N. Bozeman St., Bozeman

Registration Form

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____ Local League _____

Are you a voting delegate? (Y/N) _____

Convention registration (\$40/person) \$ _____
(includes materials and Saturday lunch and dinner)

Lunch only (\$10/person) \$ _____
(Chicken Caesar salad and a discussion with lobbyist, Drew Geiger)

Convention only (\$5/person) \$ _____

Dinner only (\$25/person) \$ _____
(buffet at the Beall Center and a talk by Supt. of Public Instruction, Denise Juneau)

Late fee if applicable* (after May; \$5/person) \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Bed and Breakfast (# of people) _____ (compliments of Bozeman members)

Make checks payable to LWV of Bozeman and mail to Susie Becker, Registrar, 1615 S. Black #93, Bozeman, MT 59715
(or call 522-4162 after April 13).

Conventions are Open to all League Members. Please attend!

(clip here)

RECOMMENDED PROGRAM FOR 2011-2012

THE LWV MONTANA Board of Directors recommends the following program for 2011-2012:

- Reaffirm all the current state positions with the intent of appointing a committee to review them for relevancy.
- The State Legislative Action Committee will meet through the legislative session interim and the State Board will encourage local leagues to continue their legislative action committees for the purpose of monitoring and taking early action, if warranted, on legislative interim committees' proposals, referenda, legislation, or regulations about the constitution, election issues, environmental and energy issues, and the redistricting process.
- Proposed study: Study and update the LWVMT education positions.

IT IS NOT TOO LATE to have additional suggestions considered. According to the bylaws, changes in the suggested program made to any board member at least two weeks prior to the convention—that would be April 30th, may be considered by the board prior to the convention.

Program includes both studies and action proposed on any adopted positions. If you have suggestions, please get them to one of the board prior to April 30. Program proposals received after that date cannot be discussed at convention.

—Gladys Hardin, President



LWVMT Proposed Budget, 2009-2010

	09-10 Budget	09-10 Actual	10-11 Proposed	10-11 Actual*	11-12 Proposed
Income					
MAL Dues	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$180.00		\$100.00
General Fundraising	\$0.00				
Gifts Received	\$50.00	\$250.00			\$0.00
Grants	\$0.00				
Education Fund	\$0.00	\$1,410.00	\$600.00		\$500.00
Other	\$0.00	\$37.40		\$800.00	\$0.00
In-Kind Contributions	\$0.00			\$25.00	
Interest	\$200.00	\$147.05	\$150.00	\$48.87	\$50.00
Legislative Action	\$650.00	\$0.00	\$5,500.00	\$2,235.00	\$100.00
Member Contributions	\$50.00			\$410.43	
Pledges	\$300.00	\$675.00	\$400.00	\$275.00	\$400.00
PMP	\$1,700.00	\$1,477.40	\$1,525.50	\$1,480.50	\$1,600.00
Transfer from Reserves	\$765.00		\$561.50	\$5,166.34	\$4,600.00
Total Income	\$3,915.00	\$3,996.85	\$8,917.00	\$10,441.14	\$7,350.00
Expenses					
Board & Administration					
Board Expenses	\$300.00	\$179.74	\$200.00	\$231.87	\$300.00
Committee Expenses	\$0.00				
Other Board & Admin.	\$0.00				
Membership & Fundraising	\$200.00		\$150.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Council and Convention					
National	\$700.00	\$0.00	\$800.00	\$1,405.58	\$1,400.00
State	\$700.00		\$650.00	\$176.35	\$100.00
Educational Activities		\$1,410.00	\$600.00	\$452.04	\$500.00
Voter Service	\$100.00				
PMP to LWVUS	\$65.00		\$117.00	\$89.10	\$0.00
Position Support					
Legislative Action	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00	\$5,500.00	\$1,250.00	\$3,850.00
State Voter	\$600.00	\$771.66	\$900.00	\$1,009.08	\$1,100.00
Miscellaneous				\$329.68	
Total Expense	\$3,915.00	\$3,611.40	\$8,917.00	\$4,943.70	\$7,350.00
Net Income/(Expense)	\$0.00	\$385.45	\$0.00	\$5,497.44	\$0.00
Balance in Checking 3/31/2011		\$6,800.74	3/31/2010	\$1,377.17	
CD Balance 3/31/2011		\$5,542.29			

FY 2010-11 Budget Assumptions

Income:

- Ed Fund grants – we put \$500 in as a rough estimate if we participate in the "We the People Symposium".
- Legislative Action – \$100 as a starting point for raising funds for the 2013 session.
- Pledges – assumed \$100 per league.
- Transfer from reserves – \$3200. Note that \$1747.44 of this will be carried over from this past fiscal year (\$5497.44 net income - \$3750.00 remaining due for legislative action). This includes the \$638.27 in remaining donations for legislative action from the 2009 session.

Expenses:

- Membership – \$100 for expenses to build MAL membership
- LWVUS Council/Convention – \$1400 to send Nancy to LWVUS Council

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(BILLINGS continued from p.3)

ship and generating funds for us to be financially sound. We voted to continue our Education Study Group for another year, with plans on coordinating with the Bozeman and Missoula League's efforts.

The membership gave special recognition and thanks to Marge Eliason and Joan Hurdle who are leaving the Board. Both of them have contributed their ideas, time, energy and money to the Billings LWV, as well as to our community, for which we are grateful. Both Joan and Marge will continue to be active participants of the League, serving on various committees and assisting on a variety of activities from the education study group to voter registration.



(BUDGET continued from p.7)

- Educational Activities – \$500 contribution for "We the People Symposium"
- State Voter – \$1100 to cover increased postage and printing costs.
- Legislative action – shows the \$3750 we owe for legislative action during the 2011 session plus \$100 for general legislative action

Notes and Explanations of FY 2010-11 Income and Expenses:

- Legislative action income – includes pledges made by local leagues for legislative action, donations received as of March 31.
- Member contributions – includes the \$329.68 Bozeman League reimbursed LWVMT for printing (see miscellaneous expense below).
- Interest accrued except for \$6.34 received on 4/7/10 has been reinvested with the CDs.
- Legislative action expense – report shows \$1250 we have paid to date, but we are committed to pay an additional \$3750 for the session.
- Miscellaneous expense – \$329.68 LWVMT spent for printing for Bozeman for invitations to their anniversary event. This was reimbursed as member contributions.
- Net income for this past year is \$5497.44 that includes \$5166.34 transferred from reserves.