

VOTER

December 2022

LWVSJ HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

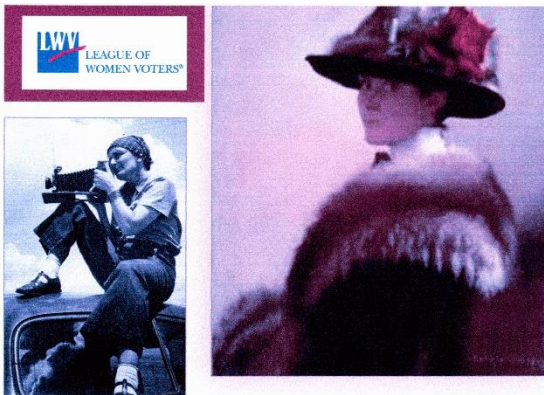
Monday December 12

12pm at the SJI Grange - \$25/person

Also available via Zoom

Out of the Drawing Room:

The Intersection of Art and Women's Rights



Join us for our annual luncheon featuring our speaker, Diane Martindale, who has been passionate about the arts since a child, and brings her creativity alive through her design and sale of art quilts. Martindale graduated from the University of Illinois with a BA in Biology and a MS/Microbiology from Rutgers University. A copy of her prize-winning quilt, *Island Icons* depicts historic barns of San Juan Island and hangs at the San Juan Island Grange. Working to advocate for the arts is the culmination of years of her appreciation of arts and culture.

As well as heading SJIMA as the President of its board, Diane was Chair of the WA State Arts Commission for nine years and continues now as a member. Diane was instrumental in establishing the Friday Harbor Arts Commission (ArtsWA) where she has served as a co-chair of the Advocacy Committee and a vice-chair of the commission. She is currently the commission chair and in her third three-year term.

OUT OF THE DRAWING ROOM:

Into the Intersection of Art and Women's Rights

League of Women Voters of the San Juans Holiday Luncheon

December 12 Noon-1:30 pm

The Grange 152 First Street N Friday Harbor, WA

Enjoy an entertaining presentation about art, media, the suffrage movement and women's issues by Diane Martindale

If you are attending in person: RSVP to Susan Martin at pres.lwvsji@gmail.com by end of day on Thursday December 8th. Cost for the lunch is \$25 per person.

To attend via Zoom: Register in advance:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYtc-6trzkqE9IObN4MatQdZPLjbZh-2aoq>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with information to join the meeting.

Meeting Dates Winter-Spring 2022/2023

Board Meetings	Membership Meetings
December 6	December 12 <i>Holiday Luncheon – Speaker – Diane Martindale</i>
Jan 3	January 9 <i>Shoreline Study Report Program Planning Meeting</i>
Feb 7	Feb 13
March 7	March 13
April 4	April 10
May 2	May 8
June 6	June 12
July 4	<i>Summer Break</i>
August 1 <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.

A Recap of our November Membership Retreat

Twenty LWVSJ members gathered for our Membership Retreat on November 12 at the Grange to reconnect and discuss local League activities and new initiatives going forward. It was fun and enlightening. Members were nearly unanimous that Voter Forums are our most important activity. We discussed how to cover the three main islands and balance blended meetings with in-person and Zoom components, providing guidance for Voter Services and the Board going forward. Outreach to build membership on Orcas and Lopez was raised but did not get much traction.

Keeping most membership meetings issue focused with speakers got high support. January 9th will be our program planning meeting when we propose and select topics for upcoming meetings. Members got a preview of the consensus process for the State Shoreline Study which also will take place at January’s membership meeting.

A new more robust website was called for. With money in the bank, there was support for hiring an outside expert to work with us to design a site that we can then manage and update.

Some members were interested in learning more about League advocacy at the state level and how to participate from here in the Islands. We discussed possible study and advocacy of local issues, which members regarded with mixed feelings. Though we have done this in the distant past, we have avoided it recently. There was no consensus in either ruling it out or renewing such engagement, but it was suggested that the Board develop criteria and a process for considering proposals, as a first step to engage in further discussion. The pilot Observer Corps project garnered some support for moving forward and making an ongoing activity, if we get enough volunteers to handle stable coverage of a core set of meetings. More details to come.

Finally, we had a general brainstorming session that raised more suggestions and ideas that we will continue to explore with the membership. Members called for more social events, community listening sessions, increased civic education and more opportunities for member discussion of issues and activities.

If you missed the retreat, the board is still interested in your thoughts and feedback- so tell us what you would like to see us doing.

Necia Quast

November 8 Tuesday | Election Day



For the first time in three years, LWVSJ was able to set up their card table near the ballot drop box on the courthouse lawn in Friday Harbor and hand out “I voted” stickers to voters who dropped off ballots on Election Day. As usual the turnout was great in San Juan County, this time with 77% of registered voters turning in their ballots. League members covered shifts from 9:00 in the morning to 4:00 in the afternoon. We thanked

citizens for voting and were pleased to be warmly greeted by voters who praised us for being out in such cold weather, but at least we had the sun. Thanks to all members who volunteered that day!

Observer Corps

As noted in last month’s Voter, Necia Quast has been doing a pilot Observer Corps where League members attend and take notes on local public Meetings. At the November

Membership Retreat there was support for making this a formal LWVSJ program. Up until now, Barbara Sharp has been covering most of the Hospital District meetings and Necia has been covering the rest. They write up short notes, which the Journal of the San Juans publishes in their online edition, and we post links on our web page. The Islander has expressed interest in publishing them as well. If we get a stable Observer Corps established that can reliably cover a core set of meetings we can reach out to other publications, but it will take probably 4-5 volunteers to make it stable and viable. Ideally, members would volunteer to cover a particular set of meetings, or two members could share coverage. It would also be helpful to have a member or two who could cover for a regular who was travelling or had a conflict. Of the core set three are once per month, two are twice per month, and the County Council can vary from 2-4 per month. Of these core six, three must be attended in-person and three can be attended virtually or by phone. Everyone who signs up will get guidance on how to do notes and Necia will prepare a monthly calendar of meetings. Please contact Necia at collquas@netscape or 360-370-5502, if you are interested in learning more or in taking part.

Organization	Frequency	When	Time	Where	Virtual	Volunteer
SJI School Board	Monthly	4 th Weds	5pm	HS Library	No	
SJI Public Hospital District	Monthly	4 th Weds	5.30pm	849 Spring St	Yes	B. Sharp
Port of FH	2 x Month	2 & 4 th Weds	12pm	Yacht Club	No	
SJI Fire District 3	Monthly	2 nd Tuesday	3pm	Mullis Firehouse	No	
FH Town Council	2 x Month	1 & 3 rd Thurs	12pm	Council Chambers	Yes	
County Council	2-4 x Month	Tues/some Mon/Weds	9am	County Office	Yes	

Upcoming Public Meetings – San Juan County

Thurs December 1	12:00 Friday Harbor Town Council
Tues December 6	10:00 AM - 3:00 PM SJC Council Meeting at Lopez Center for Community and the Arts
Weds December 7	11:30 AM - 1:30 PM Board of Health Meeting
Tues December 13	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM SJC Council Meeting Council Hearing Room
Tues December 13	3:00 PM Fire District Board 1011 Mullis St
Weds December 14	12:00 Friday Harbor Port Commission, Yacht Club
Weds December 14	5:00 pm SJI School Board, High School Library
Weds December 14	5:30 PM Public Hospital District 820 Spring St.
Thurs December 15	12:00 Friday Harbor Town Council

Around the League – State & National Issues

Ketanji Brown Jackson brings needed public defense experience to SCOTUS



The national League has just released a very interesting blog bringing attention to the appointment of Ketanji Brown Jackson. A justice with the experience of a public defender representing those charged with crimes who do not have the resources for an attorney. In stark contrast to the usual practice of appointing former prosecutors in this role. You can access this thought-provoking text at:

<https://www.lwv.org/blog/ketanji-brown-jackson-brings-needed-public-defense-experience-scotus>

Gear Up for the 2023 Legislative Session – Action Workshop December 10

Get ready for the 2023 Legislative Session and mark your calendar for these important dates! More details regarding times and locations coming soon – check back at lwvwa.org/events.

Learn about what's expected in the upcoming legislative session on the League's key issues from our lobbyist, legislators, and Advocacy Team. On the agenda:

- Legislative forecast from LWVWA's contract lobbyist
- Panel discussion with elected state legislators
- Attend breakout groups focused on the League's key issues: Democracy, Natural Resources, Housing and Homelessness (including Growth Management), Redistricting, Climate Change, Children's Issues and Education, Criminal Justice, Health and Behavior Health Care, and Revenue
- Learn how to effectively work with your state legislators from the LWVWA Lobby Team
- Training session on tracking the legislative process

Open to the public.

[**Register Now**](#)



December 10, 2022 | Action Workshop

Learn how to effectively take action at the Legislature and in your community!

February 6-10, 2023 | Democracy Lobby Week

Meet virtually with your legislators!

The Decline of Local News and Its Impact on Democracy

League Study Reports on Washington State's Local News Crisis

Local newspapers in Washington state are so gravely diminished that our democracy is at risk, according to this study that has been published by the League of Women Voters of Washington Education Fund. The study focuses on the closure of more than two dozen Washington newspapers, the loss of more than two-thirds of the state's newspaper editors and reporters, large cutbacks in news coverage, and significant decreases in circulation and readership. Read more at: <https://www.lwvwa.org/journalism-study>

A great way to stay current and involved is to sign up for the Legislative Newsletter from the WA League. This provides a weekly update on key issues in the legislature, including Action Alerts for upcoming votes and information on current activity on major bills. Newsletters come out every Sunday during the Legislative Session.

Click here: [sign up for the Legislative Newsletter](#)

Join Your Local League!

Are you passionate about democracy and looking for a community of like-minded people? The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Any person 16 and older may become a voting member of the League. When you join a local League, you automatically become a member of the state and national Leagues, as well.

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	martinsf@georgetown.edu
Barbara Sharp	Vice-President	360-472-0148	b_gsharp@hotmail.com
Steve Bowman	Voter Services	360-370-5814	steve.bowman52@gmail.com
Michael Martin	Treasurer	360-370-5205	martinml@ieee.org
Jill Belcovson	Secretary	805-689-2260	jbelcovson@gmail.com
Clare Kelm	Roster	360-378-3373	twopilots@interisland.net

Members-at-Large

Audra Adelberger	Nominating Committee	360-378-6322	audraaeaba@gmail.com
Mary Campanella	Nominating Committee	800-364-1984	marycampanella@icloud.com
Chita Miller		360-378-2153	chita.miller@gmail.com
Necia Quast		360-370-5502	collquas@aim.com
Kari McVeigh		310-678-1403	kmcveigh630@gmail.com
Stephanie Butler		907-209-5885	sjbutlerak@gmail.com
Diana Sibert		360-370-5269	dianasibert@gmail.com

Nominating Committee: Audra Adelberger, Mary Campanella, Robbie Lawson, Leslie Veirs

Hello Members:

A big thank you to members who have recently paid dues. We are well into our current fiscal year which started on June 1, 2022. When you receive an updated roster in your email box please look at the column (labeled "Paid thru") near the far-right-hand side to see if you are paid through 5/31/2023. If not, please consider sending your check in to our PO Box. Also please 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.

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!

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:

	Regular	Carrie Chapman Catt	Susan B. Anthony
Individual	\$60	\$100 to \$249	\$250 and up
Family	\$90	\$150to \$374	\$375 and up
Student	\$35		

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

Contributing Editor - Susan Martin