

## Presidents' Message

By Liz Martin and Joan Wilson

Dear Leaguers,

Summer's in and the League is busy. Elinor Hart testified June 23rd on inclusionary zoning. The administration has been slow to implement and we are out there pushing. The Board of Election and Ethics has dropped its proposed set of regulations due to letters from the League and others. They are formulating new regulations and we will be commenting. And visits to Council members continues successfully. There will be a full report in the September VOTER.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank Barbara Luchs and her team for getting the VOTER to you month after month. Barbara has been honoring this effort for at least ten years. We are very grateful.

With the vast changes in the education system in the District, we are grateful to Jeanette Miller who has rewritten the Education chapter in "Know the District of Columbia". It's our bet that most residents are unsure of the role and responsibilities of the State Board of Education as well as reporting responsibilities of the new Chancellor and State Superintendent.

The last day for filing for City Council is July 2nd and we are preparing questions for those candidates. At last count over 23 had filed.

No lying back in our hammocks for the League!

## Voter Service Projects

By Elinor Hart

This will be an active summer for the League on the Voter Service front. We are beginning to distribute the Spanish version of our "Let's Make Our Votes Count" brochure and to develop our on-line Voters Guide. We will also be recruiting Youth Pollworkers. Keep in mind that we have yard signs that say "Vote Tuesday," To get a sign or signs, call Judy Smith at 202-882-3021.

### *Where We Stand*

Next year, LWVDC selects new item(s) for study. A committee has been formed to review "Where We Stand" which lists all our positions. The committee will get to work next fall and bring their recommendations to the Board in late fall. Recommendations will then be presented at the local program planning meeting in January, and finally, to the membership for a vote at our 2009 Annual Meeting.

Natalie Howard will chair the committee. Members include: Naomi Glass, Reggie Yancey, Jane Jorgenson, and Vivianne Mozon.

## 2008 National Convention Highlights

*The League's "grassroots" are alive and well. Thank goodness for Roberts Rules of Order and our President, Mary Wilson, who led us skillfully through the resolutions, amendments, by-law changes and concurrences as well as electing officers, adopting the budget and program.*

*The LWVUS recommendation to "adopt a healthcare program to educate members and communities to do healthcare advocacy" was overwhelmingly approved. The big surprise was that the delegates adopted two additional national program items: 1) "a Multi-Level Education and Advocacy Campaign to promote solutions to global climate change;" and , 2) a study on "The advisability of using the National Popular Vote compact among the states as a method for electing the President."*

*The convention also amended the Principles of the LWVUS by adding, "The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that all powers of the U.S. government should be exercised within the constitutional framework of a balance among the three branches of government: executive, legislative and judicial."*

*You sent four DC delegates who had never attended a convention before. It was inspiring to see and interact with 700 Leaguers dedicated to making democracy work. Following, your three other delegates share their convention experiences.*

*-Liz Martin*

### ***Impressions!***

By Jane Varner Malhotra

This was my first time at a national League convention, except as a volunteer several years ago when it was held here in DC. I enjoyed meeting with strong, energetic and inspiring women and men from across the country, driven by a desire to learn and make a difference.

There was serious discussion about much-needed, major rethinking of our healthcare system. A fantastic presentation by former Oregon governor and longtime advocate of healthcare reform, John Kitzhaber, indicated that small or even medium fixes and patches wouldn't do it. We are all on a healthcare raft, paddling along on an increasingly fast-flowing river of time, just beginning to realize that we're racing towards the waterfall and we'll all crash down it together no matter how hard we paddle ourselves in circles! So abandon the raft, swim ashore, and start over was the message.

Rebecca Love Kourlis, a former Colorado Supreme Court Justice and director of the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System, spoke about the need for reform in our civil justice system. Momsrising.org presented an impressive workshop on family leave pay as well as e-advocacy and today's 20-something activists. Another hot issue, redistricting, was determined to be a state-level issue though many delegates supported a national-level concurrence on it. The National Popular Vote Compact was voted for review as well as a study on healthcare reform.

League business included concern about the per-member payment increases, as well as questions about the high cost of rent in DC (don't we know  
*continued on page 3*

## 2008 National Convention Highlights

it!), and many process questions about putting forward resolutions and how advocacy priorities are chosen.

Thanks for the opportunity to represent the DC LWV in Portland. I learned a great deal and enjoyed the program. I'm also happy to answer your questions as best I can.

### *Plenary Session Speakers*

By John Sherman

The three Plenary session speakers were all fine choices, presenting interesting and timely topics; well-recognized in their fields having served in various public offices and excellent lecturers.

Barbara Roberts was the state's first woman governor, occupying the office from January, 1991 to January, 1995. Her comments were directed largely about her growing up in the state and functioning as a ground-breaking woman in different capacities.

The second speaker was also an ex-governor, John Kitzaber, Roberts successor, who served two terms until January, 2003. As a physician as well as a politician, he spoke knowledgeably about healthcare reform, emphasizing the need for our society to face up to the need for recognizing the serious impact on the already dysfunctional "system" of the impending emergence of the "baby boomers". He covered comprehensively both the nature of the coming crisis and the political difficulties in realizing solutions because of the immense array and strength of forces predictably opposing any threat to their special interests.

The banquet speaker, Barbara Love Kourlis, who after experience in various functions of the legal system served 11 years on the State Supreme Court. Concerned about the steadily weakening state of our judicial system, she left the court to lead the establishment in 2006 of the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System and serves as its Executive Director.

### *Climate Change*

By Geraldine Whitley

Held in Portland, Oregon, this year's National Convention was an insightful journey into issues of climate change in the United States and throughout the world. Without this convention I would not have met so many knowledgeable people working on environmental issues. As a result, I discovered many concrete issues for study and, indeed, the convention adopted a multi-level education and advocacy campaign to fight global climate change next year.

At the Monday morning plenary session there was a Climate Change panel. The overview was given by V. Ramanathan, distinguished professor of Climate and Atmospheric Sciences, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC-San Diego. He gave a "state of climate change" assessment, what we know and what we don't know. Heather Kaplan, Senior Policy Advisor on Climate Change, Oxfam America, addressed climate change disparities and the effect on the developing world.

Oxfam invited the National and local Leagues to partner with them in an educational effort. They have developed study materials in areas of: investing in new technology; informing the public; engag-

*continued on page 5*

## “Freedom Week” and Beyond!

By Jane Malhotra

The DC Young Suffragists group was founded in 2003 by DC neighbors interested in helping kids learn about our city and democracy. Open to boys and girls of any age, we hold family workshops and go on field trips to learn about and improve Washington DC's unique status in our country.

We work together to better understand how democracy works, what it takes to be a good citizen and how to be leaders in our community, city and nation to solve the problems of today and tomorrow.

For those of you in town during "Freedom Week" (June 30<sup>th</sup> – July 5<sup>th</sup>), the Young Suffragists will be out in force for the **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Rally at the White House**. During "Freedom Week," we will hold a session on "What Makes DC Different" (Tuesday, July 1<sup>st</sup>) at the DC Vote headquarters followed by the White House Rally on Thursday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> in the morning.

If you would like to attend our “Freedom Week” events or participate in any of our other programs, please send an email to [youngssuffragists@gmail.com](mailto:youngssuffragists@gmail.com).

For questions about membership call the League office at 222-0710 or Jean Hall, membership chair, at 362-4526.

### LWVDC MEMBERSHIP FORM

I want to:  join or I want  to renew my membership!

Annual Dues Rate

\$45/Single Member

\$60/Joint Household Members

\$20/Student Member

\_\_\_\_\_ College/University

(Please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Apt. No.

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
zip code

\_\_\_\_\_  
home phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
work phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
fax number

\_\_\_\_\_  
email address

**Make check payable to LWVDC. Send with completed form to LWVDC, 1717 Mass. Ave., #600, Washington, DC 20036-2008**

In addition to my dues, I enclose a contribution to: "LWVDC" LWVDC Education Fund in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

**Tax Deductibility:** Dues & contributions to LWVDC are **NOT** tax deductible.

Contributions to LWVDC EF **ARE** tax deductible.

Please write separate checks to each.

## Public School Audit Volunteers Needed

The DC League is pleased to have joined the DC VOICE coalition for the Ready Schools Project.

DC VOICE is about to launch the 2008 Ready Schools Project (RSP) and is seeking volunteers to conduct community audits of all of the DC Public Schools. RSP involves interviewing local school principals to see whether the supports needed for high quality teaching and learning are in place for the students when school doors open in the fall. Volunteering involves a short training session during the last two weeks of August, and a school visit as part of a team during the month of September – a total of about three hours of volunteer time. To sign up, contact [RSP@dcvoice.org](mailto:RSP@dcvoice.org) or call 202-986-8535. Please visit our web site to learn more and to see a copy of the RSP 2007 report: [www.dcvoice.org](http://www.dcvoice.org).

-Erika Lundsberg, Program Director, DC VOICE

**Convention Highlights**, continued from page 3

ing with key developing countries; fossil fuel elimination; adoption of aggressive controls on emissions; achievable long-term goals for limiting greenhouse gases; and, mandatory participation by developing countries.

The United States accounts for about one-quarter of world emissions of greenhouse gases, but our ability to act alone is limited. Every one of us can take part through individual action (using public transportation and switching to long-lasting electric light bulbs, for instance); however, global change will involve all agencies of government.

## Donations to General Fund

Member donations to the General Funds this spring have been numerous and generous. Grateful thanks to all who have contributed!

Ms. June C. Bashkin  
 Ms. Suzanne Campagna  
 Dr. Billie Day  
 Ms. Reba M. Diggs  
 Ms. Adrienne Fields  
 Mrs. Vinna Freeman  
 Ms. Ann R. Gardener  
 Mrs. Naomi Glass  
 Mrs. Virginia L. Gorman  
 Ms. Audrey Hatry  
 Mrs. Cecilie Jones  
 Ms. Joan Keenan  
 Sheila & Spurgeon Keeny  
 Anna B.J. & Luther Marsh  
 Dr. Jeanne-Marie Miller  
 Mrs. Jeanette Miller  
 Ms. Kristin Moore  
 Abigail C Nichols & Carl W. Nelson  
 Dr. William L. Rice  
 Mrs. Leona J. Rumsey  
 Ms. Patricia A. Wheeler  
 Mrs. Elizabeth "Reggie" Yancey  
 Mrs. Barbara T. Yeomans

## Thank You!

Many thanks to the following members for their recent contributions to the LWVDC Education Fund:

Mrs. Goody L. Braun  
 Mrs. Catherine Burnight  
 Ms. Suzanne Campagna  
 Mrs. Susan A. Carpenter  
 Ms. Maria Hoyt Cashin  
 Ms. Ethel C. Cooper  
 Ms. Reba M. Diggs  
 Dr. Dorothy R. Dillon  
 Page and Gordon Hawk  
 Mrs. Natalie A. Howard  
 Mrs. Norma M. Hunton  
 Mrs. Cecilie Jones  
 Ms. Ruth Kahn  
 Ms. Joanna London  
 Dr. Maureen I. McCarthy  
 Abigail C Nichols & Carl W. Nelson  
 Ms. Marilou M. Righini  
 Ms. JoAnn Scott  
 Elaine and William Simons  
 Dr. Harriet J. Smith  
 Ms. Anne Meredith Smoke  
 Ms. Barbara R. Stout  
 Mrs. Constance Sullivan  
 Mrs. Constance P. Tate  
 Ms. Patricia A. Wheeler  
 Ms. Diane Wilbur

## Coming This Fall!

Keep these upcoming events in mind as your calendar starts filling up!

Sept. 3rd: Board Meetings resume

Sept. 8th: Unit Council Meeting

Sept. 18th: Evening Unit Meeting

Sept. 18th: Opening Meeting & Luncheon  
(Dr. Alice M. Rivlin, Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution has been invited to speak.)

Sept. 22nd: Brown Bag

Sept. 26th: NCA Reception

## Unit Council Update

By Naomi Glass

There will be no regular unit meetings in September but the Unit Council (consisting of representation from each unit) will resume its schedule (the first Monday after the first Wednesday of each month) and meet at my house at **10am on September 8.**

The exciting news is that the Evening Unit met to consider whether to resume meeting in the evening, thereby offering opportunity for leaguers who cannot attend daytime activities to participate. We gladly note that there is strong support for the continuation of the Evening Unit. Linda Softli and Goody Braun will co-chair with the rest of us helping with associated chores. Jane Malhotra has offered her home for a meeting from **7pm to 9pm on Thursday, September 18; INTRODUCTION TO THE LEAGUE** will be the focus of the meeting and ALL are welcome, whether new to the League, or a veteran League member. Jane's home is at 4619 Verplanck Place NW; her telephone number is 202-302-0120. For directions to either meeting, call 202-686-0124 or email [Naomisol@juno.com](mailto:Naomisol@juno.com).

The *DC VOTER* is the publication of the **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. National membership is included in the local League membership. See membership form on page 3