



---

# League of Women Voters of Idaho

# VOTER

---

August 2011

*"Serving the people of Idaho"*

---

*"The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, and influences the public policy through education and advocacy."*

---

## Streamlining the State Board

At the 31<sup>st</sup> Biennial LWVID Convention in Lewiston, Idaho, this past April, the State Board underwent a change. This change is part of what LWVUS is calling Streamlining. It is the hope of our National organization to help State Boards and Locals compete in the non-profit world. Compete? Yes, we are competing for people who are already giving time, money and attention to more organizations than ever. Even though everyone reading this article feels that the League is one of the most important ones with its long history and active civic and legislative agendas, the structure has needed updating to stay viable and visible in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. LWVUS recognized this need and created a program to address busy people with busy lives and we, here in Idaho are piloting that program for the 50 states.

Here's some background. In late winter there was a conference call discussing the idea of streamlining with more than ten longtime League leaders from around the state along with national LWV representatives. It was decided that the Nominating Committee would present a 'slate' of board leaders to the members at our convention. These leaders will work

together on many topics and some will focus on topics where they fit best. We are trying this change for one year and at our State Council next spring, we will decide what is working and what isn't. Our biggest goal is to become more active in advocacy and during the legislative session and to get more communication occurring between locals and the State Board.

### **Newly elected State Board members include:**

*Co-Presidents/Spokespersons*

Kathryn Bonzo and Susan Steele (Moscow)

*Director of Advocacy*

Muriel Roberts (Pocatello)

*Director of Finance*

Judi K. Hanna (CDA)

*Director of Communications/Voter*

Chris Vaage (Twin Falls)

*Director of Interactive Telecommunications*

Bonnie Douglas (CDA)

Please go to [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) or [www.lwvid.org](http://www.lwvid.org) or call me to learn about Streamlining and what you can do to be part of our returned presence in the state of Idaho! 208-882-7431

*Kathryn Bonzo*  
208-882-7431

## 2011 Member of the Year

Congratulations to Joan Klingler, Moscow League, for being named LWVID Member of the Year at the State Convention this year. Joan has done an outstanding job of bringing in new members, helping them get acquainted with the whole organization, and making sure everyone in Moscow stays connected. Thanks Joan, for your dedicated service!

## Torbet Fund Alive and Well

Since Idaho League members continue to benefit from the leadership and bequests from our first state president, Elise Torbet, this will recap the history of the Torbet Fund. Elise Torbet (sometimes Torbert) was the first state president and when she died in 1973 she gifted to us a total of \$18,544.38. Of which, about \$11,000 of unrestricted funds remain in a secure investment fund.

Over the years special projects were paid from this fund, including a 1987 legislative office in Boise which cost \$4629. Each year convention or council delegates discuss whether these funds are available and how they are to be used for the League in Idaho at the discretion of the state board,

Elise was an organizer and served as president of the Boise League. She also helped organize Leagues in Caldwell, Nampa, Pocatello and Coeur d'Alene. Her health failed after launching a provisional state League, with Elise as president. Carrying on after Elise was Leone Homer of Idaho Falls.

A tribute to Elise by Catherine Walker (who was state president from 1959-63) at the Boise League's annual meeting in 1973, reads: "She had joined the League of Women Voters of the U.S. at the age of 21 and had participated in

League activities in at least four states. She also could write superb journalistic copy, she could speak well, she enjoyed meeting people, and she did not discourage easily..."

The tribute continued, "...she had a sense of humor which enabled her to laugh at herself and that and her interest in others sustained her in her recent years of severe illness."

I was the incoming state League president in 1975 when the exciting news and first installment of the Torbet bequest arrived and I was thrilled to announce the news at the convention in Pocatello. I continue to urge the League to find good use for the money, increase our visibility statewide and honor Elise Torbet.

*Marjorie Slotten  
Twin Falls, State President 1975-77*

## Websites for Each Local League

To be effective in our communities, LWVID needs to be visible. Our website is our public face on the Internet. Today it is essential that we have an online presence that is current and informative. Thanks to the efforts of our Webmaster, Bonnie Douglas, there is now a page for each Local League on the state website. Visit [www.lwvid.org](http://www.lwvid.org) and check out your page! If you want to make changes, contact Bonnie at 208.664.5659 or [rdoug@roadrunner.com](mailto:rdoug@roadrunner.com).

## Call for a Nominating Chair

We urgently need someone to chair the Nominating Committee for the 2012 State Board elections. There are positions on the State Board that will need to be filled at Council in the Spring. If you are willing to serve as Nominating Chair, please contact Judi Hanna, LWVID Director of Finance, asap at 208-664-0633 or [judyth.ann@millennium-business.com](mailto:judyth.ann@millennium-business.com).

## ADVOCACY

The Board agreed to support a program for keeping the conversation going in Idaho about public school education. Though LWVID has positions that could allow us to speak to some of the points in the legislation that is up for a referendum vote in November 2012, we agreed that there are enough groups on that bandwagon, and the League could best try to help the voters understand what they will be voting on in 17 months.

The proposal is that each Local League hold three forums. There would be one this fall, which would focus on the big picture of what Idahoans really want their public school education system to be and do. We would try to bring representatives of the various stakeholders together for panels to discuss *ideas*, rather than the specifics of the laws. We would try for maximum press coverage, to get the public thinking about what public schools are supposed to do - what are our priorities? Then, early next year, after the school districts have had some experience working under the new laws, we would have another forum, at which people actually in the schools could talk about what is good and what is bad about the situation. And, in the fall of 2012, before the election, we would hold a third forum at which we would try to present statistics about the results of the new laws, and inform the voters what it is they would be voting on, and what would be the results of repealing the laws.

We realize that many Leagues have already made plans for the next year, and trying to add these forums would be a burden. However, we know that education is one of the top concerns of our citizens, and we see this as an opportunity to help educate voters, while providing visibility for the League, and attracting new members.

The second item I want to mention from the LWVID board meeting is the LWVUS study on The Federal Role in Education. This was a study authorized by last year's LWVUS Convention. Unfortunately, it has to be completed in time for the next Convention, and the National Board has set a deadline for Consensus of the end of November 2011. The LWVID Board is urging Local Leagues to undertake the study, if they have not already. The materials are available on the LWVUS website at: [http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Public\\_Education&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=191&ContentID=17596](http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Public_Education&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=191&ContentID=17596)

If you can fit this into your fall schedule, that would be great. If you cannot, we understand. But, even if you cannot meet the Consensus deadline, it would be a good idea to inform your members about the study and give them some of the information, so they will be ready to act if/when LWVUS Convention adopts a Position on the Federal Role in education. Our hope is that this year, LWVID will do a better job of communication with our members and with the public. The result should be better informed voters, a League more active in advocating for our many positions, more visibility statewide for LWVID, and many new members.

### RENEW THE PROMISE

LWV has been a leader in enacting, improving and protecting the Clean Air Act for decades. This summer, LWVUS launched a campaign to renew America's promise to protect clean air and public health. The Clean Air Promise campaign will call on citizens, elected officials and community leaders around the country to join in making the promise to protect the health of our children and families. To learn more visit: <http://peoplenotpolluters.org>.

Muriel R. Roberts  
Director of Advocacy

## SEPTEMBER IS VOTER REGISTRATION MONTH!!!

### PRESIDENTIAL BIO...

Featuring Kathryn Bonzo



Strolling through a Moscow, Idaho Farmer's Market one Saturday some years back, a very intelligent woman named Amy Ford (who just happened to be the President of the LL here in Moscow) started a conversation with me about Confined Animal Feeding Operations in the south of the state. She spent quite a bit of time fielding my questions and in general informing me of all the thorough work done by the League and what this organization was really about. I joined the League that morning. She inspired me, along with many other women in our community, to be part of this worthy advocacy and lobbying team which up until that time, I had only thought of in historical terms as the organization that brought the Presidential Debates to television.

Once I joined the league I was active as a director on the local board and was able to visit Boise with Sally Fredericks (who was President of the LL at the time) to see the organization

from the State perspective. At that convention, I met Muriel Roberts (in her 2<sup>nd</sup> term as State President), Judy Edwards, and Elinor Chehey to name a few and watched as Ginny Foote and Maxine Miller stepped forward to become Co-Presidents. I have learned much from these women, from what they really love about the organization and their desires to see it continue to be a vital non-partisan force in Idaho politics.

This is my League history. I hail originally from Alabama which is the start of my history. I have been a K-12 educator since 1986. Presently, I teach a terrific combo class of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders at Palouse Prairie School. My husband (fabulous Math/Physics high school teacher has roots in Florida where we met 26 years ago) and we have taught overseas for more than a decade in Algeria, Singapore (where our daughter was born 18 years ago, graduates next year) and The Dominican Republic. We love to travel and are active Idahoans reveling in all the outdoor opportunities in this amazing state. I am on several boards here in Moscow, advise Chi Omega at WSU and am DJ on our community radio station.

### What Happened to the National Voter?

During State Convention in Lewiston in April, LWVUS guest speaker Susan Wilson informed us that National decided to end the print version of the National Voter because it had become too expensive to publish. Instead, LWVUS is putting their resources into the national website. Visit [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) to keep up on national issues and to access valuable resources.

Sign up to get all the latest news from National, go to: <https://member.lwv.org>.

## Idaho League of Women Voter Officers 2011-2012

Position	Name	Address	City	Zip	E-mail
Co-President/Spokesperson	Kathryn Bonzo	1148 Highland Dr	Moscow	83843	<a href="mailto:ktbonzo@yahoo.com">ktbonzo@yahoo.com</a>
Co-President/Spokesperson	Susan Steele	519 N. Grant St.	Moscow	83843	<a href="mailto:steeles@clearwire.net">steeles@clearwire.net</a>
Director of Information Technology	Bonnie Douglas	214 Lakeview Dr.	Coeur d'Alene	83814	<a href="mailto:rdoug@roadrunner.com">rdoug@roadrunner.com</a>
Director of Finance/Member Coordinator	Judi Hanna	3005 E. Fernan Hill Rd.	Coeur d'Alene	83814	<a href="mailto:judyth.ann@millennium-business.com">judyth.ann@millennium-business.com</a>
Director of Communications/Voter Editor	Chris Vaage	715 Greentree Way	Twin Falls	83301	<a href="mailto:vaagchri@isu.edu">vaagchri@isu.edu</a>
Director of Advocacy	Muriel Roberts	545 1/2 South 19th Ave.	Pocatello	83201	<a href="mailto:murielroberts@cableone.net">murielroberts@cableone.net</a>

**The Next Board Meeting Will Be August 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Teleconference 6:30 pm, Pacific / 7:30 pm, Mountain**

**Special Thanks to the League of Women Voters  
of the LC Valley for hosting the 31<sup>st</sup> Biennial  
Convention on April 30<sup>th</sup> 2011**