

2023 Bridge Builders



Teresa Torres
Clark County

“Oh, my goodness! Teresa Torres is everywhere! When she is not traveling the world, Teresa is a co-host on our monthly radio program, chairing the Civics committee, developing membership programs, educating our membership with the Civics Spot every month (currently going through the Constitutional Amendments), tabling events for Voter Services, and utilizing her amazing knowledge and contacts through her work with our library system.

Teresa is an incredibly welcoming woman and an ambassador for our League.

Thank you, Teresa!”

Nancy Halvorson, LWC Clark County

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Edri Geiger
Clark County

“Edri Geiger has fine-tuned our Election Observer team. We now have 35 EO's and an excellent relationship with the County Auditor and with the Elections Office staff. Along with the county's training, the EO's also must go through Edri's expanded training.

Our observers work every election, are highly visible, respected and very professional. They are a very public face of our League and have a strong impact in our county. Because of Edri's leadership, the elections office made some critically important improvements to the observing process.

Nothing gets past Edri, and we value her expertise and dedication to the League of Women Voters.”

Nancy Halvorson, LWV Clark County



Jean LaValley

*Bellingham/Whatcom
County*

“Jean was my gateway into the League, and I am absolutely not the first person to say that with a great deal of delight. She coordinates our directory of elected officials but her most laudable quality isn't that she gets things done (though she does) or that she is an effective volunteer coordinator (though she is). Jean's gift as a League member is her commitment to the LWV mission and her deep, clear enthusiasm for bringing other people into the work.

In the brief time I have known her, I have seen Jean spark curiosity and enthusiasm for civic education in college sophomores and juniors, encourage volunteers while holding herself and the whole team accountable for the quality of its work, and manage complex projects with grace, humor and efficiency. I cannot think of a better representative of the open, dedicated and effective work that the LWV can accomplish at its best. She is a happy warrior for democracy, and we are very fortunate to get to work with her.”

Betsey O'Donovan, LWV Bellingham/Whatcom County

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Christine Grantham
Benton/Franklin County

“Christine Grantham definitely deserves the Bridge Maker Award from our League. She reaches out to others wherever she is. Several newer members recently joined our League due to her invitation and encouragement. She made sure that they attended our in-person League Birthday Celebration and were enthusiastically welcomed. On several occasions, Chris has graciously hosted our Holiday Party in December in her beautifully decorated home. As part of the nominating committee the past two years, she has helped reach out to all members.

Chris can be found at many of our voter registration events, either attending or arranging them, greeting both members and participants. She also sends special cards to League members for various occasions. It’s easy to see why Chris is being recognized as the Bridge Maker for the League of Women Voters of Benton and Franklin Counties.”

Beverly Johnson-Torelli, LWV Benton/Franklin County

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Cindy Madigan
*Bellingham/Whatcom
County*

“Cindy is a very valuable member of the LWVWA Lobby Team (Issue Chair, Democracy/Money in Politics). Besides her own contributions to the passage of democracy-related legislation, she has mentored and assisted a new member of the team, worked with existing coalitions and been instrumental in establishing an important new coalition. She has frequently testified before the legislature and other governmental bodies.

Cindy is one of the most collaborative people you could hope to meet! She has good ideas, she develops them, explains them—and then listens to others’ ideas and modifies her own to accommodate them. She makes things work, with grace and without rancor. Still, she keeps her focus on the goal, whether it be a solution to a technical problem, or a way to move forward to achieve a legislative objective. Cindy is a fierce defender of democracy but does it with sensitivity to the feelings of others. Her contribution to League work is large, and we are grateful to her.”

Susan Fleming, LWVWA

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Cindy Madigan
*Bellingham/Whatcom
County*

“Cindy almost always has a smile on her face and her words are gentle but firm. Her deep knowledge of state advocacy issues and local league history has made her an important member of our local board, and a real mentor to me, their newbie president. To me, people who are reliable and knowledgeable make my League a positive experience.”
Robin Barker, LWV Bellingham/Whatcom County

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Dee Ann Finken
Clark County

“Dee Anne Finken is the heart and soul of our League's communications. She and her hard-working committee have expanded our reach to all corners of SW Washington. With her connections to the news media, our League's voice has expanded, plus the respect and credibility from our residents. She chaired the "Decline of Local News" study, produces our monthly VOTER, assists greatly in our op-eds, has a vast network to send our news releases and is always ready to help with letters to the editor or wherever our voice needs to be expressed.

Through Dee Ann's team, our presence on social media has increased and we now have a YouTube channel. She is well deserving of state-wide recognition.”

Nancy Halvorson, LWV Clark County

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Judie Stanton
Clark County

“Judie Stanton and Jane Johnson have been the "angels on our shoulders" for the LWV of Clark County. They have taken us through thick and thin, through small and large membership and through changes in leadership. Their calm guidance, collaborative spirits and League wisdom have been invaluable in assisting our League to where we are now with the many and varied ways we are helping and educating our County residents.

Our candidate forums and debates are the result of Judie and Jane sharing their insights and guiding the rest of us through the needed steps. Their work in our County has opened many, many doors for us - they have worked hard to develop their widespread credibility.

We respect, honor and treasure these two outstanding women and are so humbled to call them friends.”

Nancy Halvorson, LWV Clark County

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Jane Johnson
Clark County

“Jane Johnson and Judie Stanton have been the "angels on our shoulders" for the LWV of Clark County.

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Our candidate forums and debates are the result of Jane and Judie sharing their insights and guiding the rest of us through the needed steps. Their work in our County has opened many, many doors for us - they have worked hard to develop their widespread credibility.

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Nancy Halvorson, LWV Clark County

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**Mary Lynne
Courtney**

*Bellingham/Whatcom
County*

“Mary Lynne is a co-leader of our Bellingham-Whatcom County LWV Health Issues Team and has been a committed LWV member for over 10 years. She has a passionate commitment to Behavioral Health issues for the citizens of Whatcom County because of her professional work as a psychologist, and from her years of volunteer work in community organization efforts. She has a careful eye on needed policy changes for health issues that is appreciated by the LWV Lobby Team.

I have known Mary Lynne for two and a half years and find her a supportive, adaptable, collaborative and effective person in our group. She listens to all and has a quiet yet impactful style to address concerns with great sensitivity and honors the value to include all. She always has ideas to get folks involved, or just together—whether it be for LWV projects, or to meet and connect for coffee or apple picking.

I know I will always be listened to and given permission to express myself with Mary Lynne. And you would too!”

Barbara Sardarov, LWV Bellingham/Whatcom

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Amy Davis
Mason County

“Amy was invited to join in 2007 and immediately became active as co-chair of Voter Services. She registered voters in Mason County schools and at community events. For a number of years, she rotated the positions of President, co-President and Vice President and eventually found her niche in Programs and she still arranges the speaker for the monthly Membership Meeting.

Amy has a strong interest in social and economic justice and served several years as the LWVWA Social and Economic Justice Chair. She takes part in almost every League 101 (for new members). With her incredible historical knowledge and experience, Amy is a real backbone in the Mason County League. She continues to lead us in new and interesting directions.”

Dee Ann Kline, LWV Mason County

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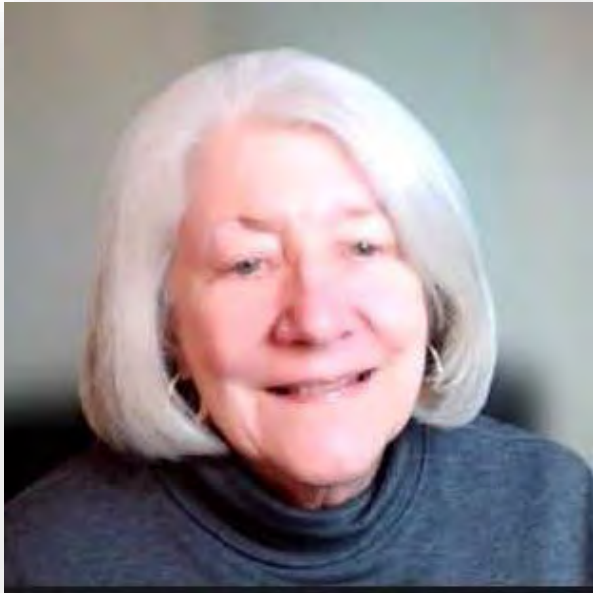
Criss Bardill
Yakima County

“Criss has been a valuable member of our League of Women Voters of Yakima County (LWVYC) since 2010, serving as co-president from 2016-2017 and then as sole president from 2018-2020.

Criss has been instrumental in guiding our league through many important projects, such as connecting us more strongly with the Washington League of Women Voters, and leading us through a two-year study on homelessness, just to name a couple.

As the current LWVYC president, I have been fortunate to have her as a mentor. Criss embodies a welcoming and positive culture by fostering an atmosphere of inclusiveness, curiosity, and effectiveness, while remaining sensitive to member concerns and encouraging freedom of expression and collaboration. Her commitment to our community is inspiring, and her leadership has led to a passionate and engaged membership within the LWVYC. Through her past leadership, we have a strong, supportive, and collaborative culture within our league. I highly recommend Criss for the 2023 Member Recognition Award.”

Lee Murdock, LWV Yakima County



Cynthia Stewart
Thurston County

“Cynthia Stewart, who went out of her way to be instructive on a myriad of issues, even holding separate zoom gatherings to explain the budget.”

Susan Daniel, LWV Pullman Area

2023 Bridge Builders



Carol Sullivan
Snohomish County

“Talk about reaching out! Talk about civic education! Talk about coming together! Carol Sullivan delivers all of those, through a weekly online program which many of us enjoy on Monday mornings during legislative sessions. The program is called ACT, for Action Coffee Time: Grab a cup and tune in via zoom on Monday mornings at 10. Keeping up with goings-on in the legislature can be a full time job, with so many areas to follow. Carol picks an area or two to cover each week, and over the course of a legislative session, week by week, you obtain a good picture of what’s happening! Carol encourages discussion, and her low key, friendly approach makes appearing on her program something Lobby Team members and others are happy to do. Besides this, Carol is a relatively new Issue Chair on the Lobby Team, working on Democracy/Elections. She has been busy this just-past session, and perhaps should be her own guest when the subject is Elections.”
Susan Fleming, LWVWA

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Carol Sullivan
Snohomish County

“Carol Sullivan single-handedly created and hosted (with technical help from Cindy Madigan) the ACT via Zoom program each Monday throughout the legislative session. Each of the programs had timely topics and guest speakers and was very informative. ACT enriched the lobby/advocacy efforts of LWVWA.”

Susan Daniel, LWV Pullman Area

“Carol has been running the LWV Advocacy meeting every Monday at 10 .m. She brings in speakers that are dealing with issues that LWV very much care about. Her Monday advocacy group gathers many participants from all over WA. Skagit County, King County, Snohomish and way beyond (Mason County) and brings action items to our attention. She's quite an amazing individual! She's very active in the League and is a model for us all.”

Edwyna Spiegel, LWV Seattle/King County

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Lynda Links
Mason County

“Lynda is one of Mason County's longest-term members; joining in the 1980s when they were still a UAL. Lynda served 3 terms as President and then went on to become active in the Programs, Climate Change and Voter Services Committees. She was an originator of "Speed Dating with the Candidates and has organized the last three events. She hosts Climate Change Committee meetings and Neighborhood Gatherings at her home. She is currently scouting out and leading hikes for league members interested in learning about Legacy Forests.

Lynda is always willing to pick up the phone to call someone to invite to a meeting or event, or to ask them to participate in league activities. Advocacy is very important to her, and she regularly follows up with issues highlighted in the Action Newsletter.”

Dee Ann Kline, LWV Mason County

2023 Bridge Builders



Lynn Busacca
Mason County

“Lynn Busacca is a tireless force in the Mason County League of Women Voters since she became a League member in 2007. She has served as treasurer; she is still currently a co-chair of the Membership Services Committee and co-president of our league as well as a Meld Pod facilitator.

Most importantly, Lynn is quite often the first contact new members have with the League. She is a welcoming force to new members and provides a very warm personal touch by making sure each new member is individually welcomed to the LWV Mason County. She has for many years followed up an initial telephone call with a meeting at her home (when it is safe to do so due to the pandemic) for a League 101 presentation.

Lynn provides a very personal presence to membership activities and to our community. The Mason County League is very lucky to have her!”

Francesca Ritson, LWV Mason County

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**Bonnie Bless-
Boenish**
Clallam County

“When our league was struggling to find a president and vice-president, Bonnie stepped in and guided our path. She is always listening and bringing diverse voices together. Bonnie chairs our local civics education committee and is also active at the state level in issues of education. She embodies the spirit and dedication of the LWV principles and ideals.”

Linda Benson, LWV Clallam County

“Bonnie leads by example, and I am constantly amazed by her ability to tactfully guide council members to make wise decisions that are inclusive and fair. She welcomes and includes new members, and honors and consults with seasoned members. Without Bonnie’s tenacity, patience, HARD WORK, and diplomacy, I do not think the Clallam league would have made it intact through the pandemic years. Bonnie is a Goddess!

Teresa Lyn, LWV Mason County

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**Bonnie Bless-
Boenish**
Clallam County

“Bonnie IS the League in our community. She works tirelessly on civics ed, voter registration, election integrity, and member meetings. She is always giving 110% to every project. Our League has credibility because of her. Two days after I sent in my dues, she biked to my house to introduce herself. Because of Bonnie I found my niche in a community where I didn't know anyone. She helped me make an impact and I am grateful to know her. We want everyone to know the diamond we have in Clallam County.

Susan Fisch, LWV Mason County

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**Carolyn Joswig-
Jones**
Pullman Area

“Carolyn Joswig-Jones provides creative and attractive advertising for meetings and events on social media and on the website for the LWV of Pullman. Carolyn is the founder of the *Visual Arts and Civic Education Competition Program* for students in Whitman County in grades 3-12. The first year there were 12 entries. The second year there were 38 entries! Having a larger committee, a mass distribution list for more outreach, and a power point presentation related to the theme were some of the components that gained 3 times as many entries. Carolyn is a retired research associate, a want-to-be artist in all things creative, and an outdoor lover.”

Bobbie Ryder, LWV Pullman Area

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Lennis Boyer-Watts
Pullman Area

“Lennis Boyer-Watts is Civics Education Coordinator for the LWV Pullman. She is credited with the distribution of *LWV The State We’re In, Washington* textbooks to branches of the Whitman County libraries and schools. Lennis was one of the three founding committee members of the *Visual Arts Competition* who provided support and lots of leg work in helping to get this program started. Lennis is a retired pediatrician and an avid hiker.”

Bobbie Ryder, LWV Pullman Area

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Deb Olson
Pullman Area

“Deb Olson organizes and moderates the LWV Pullman Voter Forums. She is a retired archeologist and uses those investigative skills in her League work. Deb also coordinates the Civics Ed classroom program each semester at Pullman Hight School. Deb was also one of the three founding committee members of the *Visual Arts Competition* who shared her knowledge of league and civics in general which helped get this program off the ground.”

Bobbie Ryder, LWV Pullman Area

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Sherri Dysart
Mason County

“Sherri Dysart is finishing up her last year as an Issue Chair on the Lobby Team – Environment/Forests. Here in Washington we love our forests, and Sherri has been very active in trying to protect them through the passage of proper forest management legislation. In her years on the Lobby Team there has been legislation that looked good but contained aspects that would have been quite harmful. Through research and questioning, she figured it all out, exposed it, and made a difference. She is a true environmentalist, and a fierce defender of our forests and forest land.

Sherri will be staying on the Lobby Team next year as an Advocate, continuing with the research that has proved so valuable over the last several years.”

Susan Fleming, LWVWA



Jeanne Crevier
Snohomish County

“Jeanne has done a wonderful job of organizing our postcard brigade and tabling events while acting as voter service chair this past year. This is a wonderful way to encourage new members to get involved and she's so friendly and accommodating, they can't help but to say yes! She also strives to teach us all to consider elements of inclusion when we plan events or projects.”

Jen Winckler, LWV Snohomish County

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Necia Quast
San Juan County

“Necia Quast recommended to other board members that the LWV of the San Juans pilot test an Observer Corps, which would attend and take notes on discussions at county and city councils and commissions. She spent several months identifying the agencies to be observed, attending meetings, recruiting other volunteers, and preparing guidelines and standards for volunteers to follow. The pilot was highly successful. As a result, LWV SJ launched a full-time observer corps in January 2023. All three of the San Juan County media outlets publish the reports that Necia compiles from the volunteers. The feedback from residents has been very positive and increased the League's visibility. Without Necia's leadership, we would not have undertaken this important service initiative. Her continuing and effective collaboration with the volunteers, the county agencies, and the media outlets help ensure that the Observer Corps will continue to function in the years ahead.”

Susan Martin, LWV of San Juan County