

VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PULLMAN

April 2010

The League of Women Voters of Pullman is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Officers

Chair of the Board: Sue Armitage, 332-4279; **Vice President:** Alice Schroeder, 334-2470; **Secretary:** Fran Law, 334-3002, Backup: Deb Olson, 332-2114; **Treasurer:** Joan Folwell, 332-3946; **Voter Service:** Karen Kiessling, 332-4755; **Voter Editor:** Susan Daniels, 332-6699; **Finance Drive Chair:** Lenna Harding, 332-7749; **Membership/Hospitality:** Judy Krueger, 332-8208; **Observer Corps Chair:** Lucy Linden, 332-2755; **Action Chair:** June Crawford, 332-7186; **TRY Editor:** Lucy Linden, 332-2755.

Meetings

Health Care — Public Meeting — All Welcome

Date: Monday April 5, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Program: Panel of Dr. Ben Adkins, M.D. and economist Dr. Phil Wandschneider give their perspectives on health care legislation. Audience questions to follow.

Place: Neill Public Library, Hecht room

Chair: Lucy Linden, 332-2755

Annual Meeting

Date: Monday May 3, 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Program: Catered dinner 6:30 - 7:00 (bring check for \$16 made out to Pullman LWV) followed by guest speaker Pete Dickinson and then our Annual Meeting.

Place: Neill Public Library, Hecht room

Chair: Sue Armitage, 332-4279

Board Meetings

Mondays April 26, May 24

Time: 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Place: Home of Natalie Clark, 220 SW Mountain View Dr.

Other Events of Interest

Here's to the Women

Date: Thursday March 25, 1:25 p.m.

Program: Linda Allen, Washington singer and songwriter. Co-sponsored by the League and the WSU History Department.

Place: WSU, CUE 407

Healing America's Health Care

Date: Wednesday March 31, Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Program: LWV of Moscow meeting with Janice Boughton, M.D..

Place: Fiske Room, 1912 Center, Moscow

For other Moscow LWV meetings see <http://community.palouse.net/lwvm/upcoming.htm>

LWVWA 2010 Council

Date: May 21-23

Program: Reason Isn't Enough — How to have Civil Discussions in Uncivil Times

Place: Bellingham, WA

Contact: Sue Armitage, 332-4279;

LWVUS 49th National Convention

Date: June 11-15

Program: Making Democracy Work: A History of Change. A Future of Hope.

Place: Atlanta, GA

For more information see: <http://www.lwv.org/> → News and Events → Events

Health Care Reform Meeting: What to Expect, April 5

Lucy Linden

The current health care system is endangering both our economy and our health. Voters have made it clear that they want change. A study reported in The New England Journal of Medicine reported that 70 per-cent of Americans surveyed believe that the health care system needs major changes, if not a complete overhaul. LWVUS has long advocated for comprehensive reform.

We have invited a physician and an economist to give their perspectives on health care reform legislation. Ben Adkins, M.D., and Phil Wandschneider, WSU economist, will address this topic to help us understand what it means if a bill has passed, or if it has not passed, where are we and what can we expect? What happens on this issue will have lasting implications for our country and its citizens.

We need League members to come at 6:30 to help set up and greet people.

Annual Meeting May 4th

Sue Armitage

This is our yearly chance to collectively consider what we've done in the past year and to think ahead to 2010-2011. We'll elect officers and adopt a budget. We'll want to discuss how we can make the best use of our strengths and interests in the coming year. This yearly meeting also provides an extended opportunity for all of us to catch up with the activities and concerns of other members, so do put the date on your calendar and plan to attend. Many of the specific items we will discuss are in this newsletter for you to read and consider before the meeting. We look forward to seeing you on May 4th! Look for the Agenda and Committee Reports starting on page 10 in this VOTER.

National Planning

Alice Schroeder

The board thought you would like to know our decision on LWVUS planning. We got very few responses from members so we will definitely hold general meetings on planning in the future! We looked at our responses to LWVUS planning and the two other responses I got and decided to make "no recommendation". Unfortunately, the response form did not allow us to give our reasons so I also sent the following comment to the LWVUS program planning e-mail address which explained our "no recommendation" response.

“ No recommendation. The Pullman, WA LWV recommends that LWVUS resources be used on action to deal with the recent Supreme Court “Citizens United” decision allowing corporations and other groups to spend unlimited amounts in campaigns; Action to change rules at the national and state levels that allow the minority to rule in the Senate and on tax increases in many states—What happened to One Person One Vote?; Action to support public campaign financing and to support other “Democracy Agenda” and action priorities of the LWVUS.”

We got 2 comments from LWVUS in answer to our e-mail. Both agreed that it is important for the LWVUS board to understand why a local League chooses "no recommendation" and that a comment section should be available for the no recommendation slot.

Here's to the Women

The Pullman League is co-sponsoring (with the WSU History department), two performances by Linda Allen on March 25, 2010 to mark the centennial of women's suffrage in Washington. Linda Allen is a Bellingham songwriter, performer and educator with a passion for telling the stories of women whose stories may have been lost. Linda is currently touring with a collection of songs celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of women's right to vote in the state of Washington. She's traveling to small communities throughout the region presenting these stories

of the silencing and the raising up of women's voices. Featuring songs, stories, and readings with a special emphasis on the fifty-year struggle for the vote, you'll want to join us for this wonderful afternoon (or evening) event! Thursday, March 25, 1:25 pm, at WSU CUE 407, and Thursday March 25th for an acoustic house concert in the Attic at 314 E 2nd St in Moscow, 7:00 PM. Hosted by the Palouse Folklore Society. Admission by free-will donation.

Interview With New Member Janice Brown

Janice Brown:

I came to Pullman in May of 2004 from Portland, Oregon. I was born in Lubbock, Tx and graduated from Texas Tech University and completed my master's at Portland State University. I came to Pullman because the State of Idaho recruited me to move here to do consultation work for them for a year. After a year with Idaho, I got stuck here when that contract ended and I couldn't afford to move.

I am a retired Oregon teacher from Portland Public Schools and I've taught everything from Parent Trainer Birth to Age 3 to High School. My favorite job was teaching Second Grade in a small rural school district which I left when I adopted a 10 month old girl. My daughter is now my best friend and we enjoy taking a few Mom/Daughter trips together each year. She is still in college in Oregon.

I joined the Pullman League because Karen Kiessling invited me to. I wanted to support the League since I've learned so much from their public forums. I joined to show support. I believe in encouraging everyone to VOTE and our education system is a failure by the numbers who actually vote or register to vote. At the moment, I'm recovering from a broken foot from cross country skiing. I will eventually volunteer when you put a call out for volunteers but it'll be awhile.

My major hobby is as a Forex Trader - currency trading on the internet 24 hours a day. You bet on whether the US Dollar will go up or down against another currency such as the Euro. I lost \$16 last year so not very good but practicing in hopes, which is looking less likely, I might supplement my retirement income. So I'm glued to the internet and my computer 24/7. I love the outdoors - joining birding group in Spokane. Bike/hike but foot has me sidelined for awhile now. I hate sports and sports aren't allowed anywhere in my life although I did go to a sports bar to see US Hockey Canada and I've been to Spokane to watch the Portland Winter Hawks play the Spokane Chiefs. I like wine and specialty dark beers. My main focus right now is to lose 50 pounds and EXERCISE when my foot co-operates.

In Pullman I love the intellectual community and all its offerings except no sports for me. I've enjoyed lectures and when one is 60 you can take 2 courses at WSU as an AUDIT for \$5 - a real treat! I loved the City of Pullman tour and Pullman Police Citizen Academy and Whitman County Sheriff Citizen Academy offerings for citizens. As an educator my job was 24/7 so I lived/ worked in a subculture somewhat removed from the real world - these community activities have shown me I even neglected areas of basic US citizenship.

Oregon Legislature is threatening to tax those Oregon retirees who moved out of state and if that happens I'll return to Oregon and be near my daughter. Until that time - can't afford to go anywhere else so I'll Day/Night Trade - Exercise and enjoy the outdoors.

I have a small memory problem so if I've met you - I may or may not remember! You'll have to remind me!

Court ruling affirms the Constitution

Catherine Ahl, Education Chair, LWVWA

On Feb. 4, Superior Court Judge John Erlick ruled that the State is in violation of Article IX, Section 1 of the State Constitution, "It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders..." The lawsuit, brought by the McCleary and Venema families and the Network for Excellence in Washington Schools (NEWS), a coalition of which LWVWA is a member, asked the court to define paramount, ample, all and education.

Judge Erlick reaffirmed the Supreme Court's 1978 ruling that paramount means "preeminent, supreme and more important than all others" and that funding education is "the State's first and highest priority before any other State programs or operations." Ample means "considerably more than adequate or sufficient" – "to be ample so no public school has to rely upon local levies, PTA fundraisers, private donations, or other non-State sources." All means "each and every child... not just those children who enjoy the advantage of being born... more privileged, more politically popular, or more easy to teach." Education means "the basic knowledge and skills needed to compete in today's economy and meaningfully participate in this State's democracy."

As the plaintiffs asked, the Judge ordered the State to determine the actual costs of providing all children with an education and to fully fund that actual cost with stable and dependable State sources – and to proceed with real and measurable progress. It was a total victory for Washington's school children.

Thank You Karen

Pullman League members serve on many boards and commissions as well as attending rule-making boards as observers. An example of such service is Karen's term as Mayor of Pullman and her long membership on Pullman's Police Advisory Committee. She is resigning from the Committee after serving for 18 years.

Karen was honored for her service at the March meeting of Police Advisory Committee in Pullman. She is a founding member of the board and has represented College Hill for 14 years and Pioneer Hill for the last 4 years. Police Chief Ted Weatherly presented Karen with a letter listing the issues with which she has dealt on the committee as well as a bronze medallion for

setting a leadership standard. Chief Weatherly said in the letter of commendation, "She was involved in a number of major incident reviews to include a drive-by shooting incident, alcohol and noise enforcement and a riot." We are happy to learn that she helped resolved these issues and did not cause them! It might also be of interest to note that Karen hired Ted Weatherly as Police Chief 30 years ago when she was Mayor. Chief Weatherly retires in June.

Observer Report Briefs

Neill Public Library Board, February 17, 2010

Observer: Diane Gillespie

Of potential interest to LWV members:

- 1) Joanna Bailey reported that the City goal-setting process is going on now and that she has met with incoming Friends of NPL President Karen Weathermon.
- 2) Systems Administrator James Morasch reported that matching money is available from the Neill endowment and the Friends for the second year of the Gates grant that is providing more of the heavily used computers for the public area in NPL.
- 3) Since there was only one application for the NPL Board vacancy, the deadline has been extended to the end of the first week in March.
- 4) The main discussion concerned the need to begin the search for a new Director and the possible concurrent hiring of an outside consultant to help clarify the roles and relationships of the Board, the Friends, and the City. Joanna Bailey has identified several qualified consultants. Ideally, hiring one of them would help to define the kind of Director NPL would like as well as help that Director to succeed in the position. The matter must be discussed first with the Friends, the Board decided, since the suggestion for a consultant came from them, as would the money to hire one. William Brock will discuss the possibility with Karen Weathermon, and Judy Busch will raise the issue at the Friends Annual Meeting on March 1st. Meanwhile, William Brock and Joanna Bailey will meet to form a search committee charged with looking at the job advertisement for a Director and placing the advertisements.
- 5) All NPL policies are being evaluated and updated. At this meeting, the Board discussed revisions of the policies on Collection Development, Meeting Room use, and Open Hours Staffing.

Neill Public Library Board, March 17, 2010

Observer: Diane Gillespie

The most important decisions made at this meeting were as follows:

- 1) The Friends, NPL staff, and NPL Board of the Library agreed on the need to hire an outside professional library consultant to deal with the retention of professional staff and clarification of the relationships among stakeholder entities (Board, Friends, and staff). At its upcoming Friday meeting, the Friends will set budget limits so that Joanna Bailey can contact one or two of the already identified consultants with this narrowed list of issues to see if they can be addressed for the specified amount.
- 2) The two candidates who applied will be interviewed for the vacant Board position.

- 3) The target date for reinstatement of open hours on Sundays will be June 6th, depending upon whether or not the supervisor of part-time and time-slip personnel can replace the five out of eight circulation and three out of six shelving staff by that time.
- 4) NPL will be closed from 3/21-3/28 for the annual in-house work week.

Pullman Regional Hospital Board, March 20, 2010

Observer: Helen Stiller

Here are a few statistics from the hospital's year-end report.

Admissions:

Variance 2008 – 2009

Med/Surg	-14%
Birth Place	8%
<u>Intensive Care</u>	<u>-12%</u>
Total Admissions	- 7%

Patient Days:

Med/ Surg	-17%
Birth Place	16%
<u>Intensive Care</u>	<u>-18%</u>
Total Patient days	-10%

Financial Summary “Bottom Line” Excess of Revenue over Expenses: \$149,976 compared to estimated gain \$400,221.

The hospital provided \$200,000 in care to non-insured. This is unusually high and not surprising in these economic times.

First Call to Council 2010

The 2010 Washington State Council will be held in Bellingham on May 21-23. The Theme this year is *Reason Isn't Enough -- How to have Civil Discussions in Uncivil Times*, a very timely topic. Pullman League can reimburse up to three people \$300.00 each to cover their expenses. Council is always interesting and invigorating with lots of information and discussions. If you are interested in learning more about how League works, do consider attending Council. There is more information at <http://www.lwvwa.org/pdfs/Voter10spring.pdf>.

Pullman League Endorses Proposed Health Care Resolution **Lucy Linden**

Susan Eidenshinik, State League Board Member, writes: For four years I have been working with an active group of League of Women Voters from across this country who believe strongly in the League's position on health care. We call ourselves Health Care Reform for the United States (HCR4US). During the 2008 LWVUS Convention we successfully worked for a Health Care Action Committee.

At the 2010 LWVUS Convention we will propose a Health Care Resolution. We are asking that Local Leagues and our State Leagues consider endorsing this resolution. I will ask that the Washington State League endorse this resolution at our next board meeting, March 12th. I encourage you to do the same at your Local League board meetings during March.

I reported to Susan that a majority of our Pullman League Board responded that they endorse this resolution which follows:

Proposed Health Care Resolution for 2010 LWVUS Convention

Whereas, the League of Women Voters of the United States believes quality health care at an affordable cost should be available to all U.S. residents; and

Whereas the current and proposed systems benefit the health care insurance industry at the expense of taxpayers and do not achieve the League goals of affordability and access to everyone; and

Whereas an improved Medicare for All, or publicly funded and privately delivered national health care plan, is consistent with this goal;

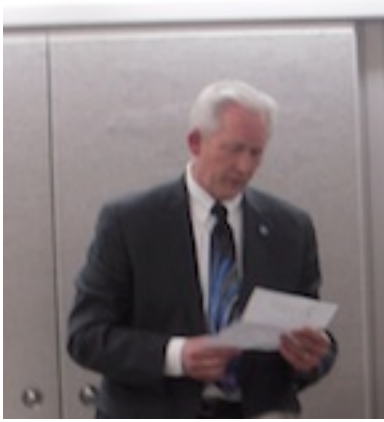
Therefore, be it resolved we, the representatives of local and state Leagues assembled at the 2010 LWVUS Convention, call upon the LWVUS Board to advocate strongly for bills that legislate for improved Medicare for All.

On March 5th the proposed health care resolution for the 2010 LWVUS Convention was revised slightly after receiving some input from some state and local leagues. The revision was in the second paragraph. The words "benefit the health care insurance industry at the expense of taxpayers and" were deleted. This revised resolution will be submitted to the 2010 LWVUS Convention.

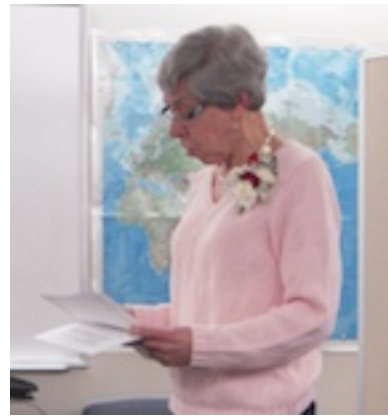
Our Birthday Party

At our February meeting we celebrated the Pullman League's 60th anniversary with cake and coffee and a special recognition for 5 women (out of the many) who have held public office and served on city and county boards and commissions. A surprise addition was the presence of Pullman Mayor Glenn Johnson, who brought an official proclamation honoring the League.

The five women we honored were Kay Buss, 99 years old, a founding member of the Pullman League in 1950; Natalie Clark, who served on the Pullman Planning Commission for so long (1965-81) that they dedicated the 1982 comprehensive plan to her; Karen Kiessling, Pullman mayor 1976-80; Nora Mae Keiffer, Whitman County Commissioner 1988-2000; and Helen Stiller, member of the Pullman City Council, 1991-2003. Because the meeting was held at the library, we were all able to view the exhibit about the League and women's suffrage in the library's main display case, and to inspect the materials gathered by Dorothy Swanson, who also took the excellent photos. A good time was had by all! Special thanks to Diane Gillespie, Lucy Linden, and Dorothy Swanson, the committee that put the exhibit and the celebration together.



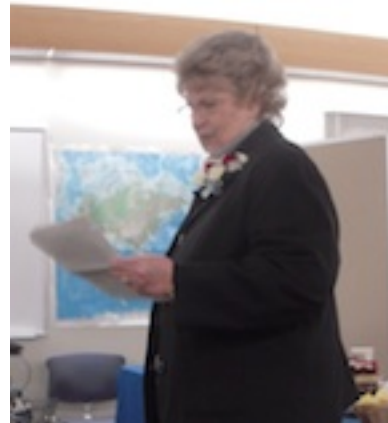
Mayor Glenn Johnson



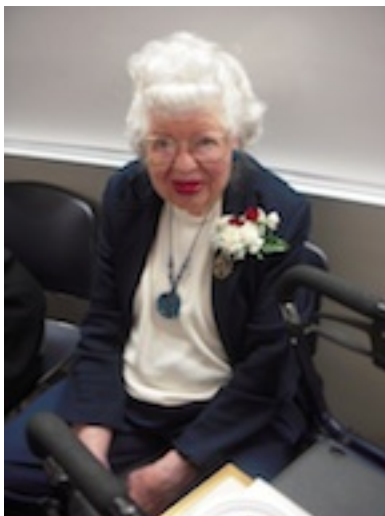
Helen Stiller



Karen Kiessling



Nora Mae Keiffer



Kay Buss



Display of Women in Politics

2010 Birthday Party Photos

Annual Meeting Agenda

1. Speaker: We have invited Pullman City Planner Pete Dickinson to discuss the voluntary use of the Predevelopment Neighborhood Meeting Ordinance proposed by the League to the Planning Commission (and rejected by them) last June. We intend to ask them to consider the proposal again.
2. Call to order and declaration of quorum (1/3 of 48 local members=16) – Sue Armitage
3. 2008 Annual Meeting Minutes Report – June Crawford
4. Treasurer’s Report – Joan Folwell
5. Finance Drive Report – Lenna Harding
6. Budget Report – Dorothy Swanson
7. Nominating Committee Report – Dorothy Swanson and June Crawford
8. Election of Officers
9. Election of Delegates to National Convention and State Council
10. Observer Corps Reports – Lucy Linden
11. Suggestions for Local Program 2008-2009 Based on Our Positions – Sue Armitage

Treasurer’s Annual Report July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010

Joan Folwell

INCOME

Dues	\$2510.00
Total Donations*	\$1805.00 (of this \$435.00 for Ed Fund)
State Grant for LWV Sashes	\$347.20
Bank of Whitman Donation for TRYs	\$385.00
Refund from Basilio’s	\$20.00
Total	\$5067.20

*Donations deposited from July 1, 2009 to March 12, 2010

In-Kind Donations: \$71.15

EXPENDITURES

Operating Costs:	
P.O. Box	\$70.00
Thank You Gifts	\$225.00
Administrative Costs:	
Finance Drive	\$75.92

Membership (Fall Potluck)	\$97.21
Public Relations (2 nd Set of Sashes)	\$245.00
Miscellaneous (Treasurer costs)	\$16.83
Delegates, Travel, Affiliations:	
National Convention June/2010	\$1200.00
State Council May/2010	\$300.00
Chamber of Commerce Dues	\$110.00
Friends of Neill Public Library	\$100.00
WA News Service (for 2009 and 2010)	\$100.00 (paid by Ed Fund)
Financial Support:	
State PMP	\$722.00
National PMP	\$1109.60 (\$552.80 paid by Ed Fund)
The Voter:	
Supplies	\$14.48
Postage	\$16.72
Educational Activities:	
Program (women's recognition & birthday party)	\$141.14
Voters Service	\$120.42
TRY Brochures	\$384.24
Total	\$5048.56

Regular Account Balance 3/12/2010: \$7576.31

Ed Fund Balance 3/12/2010: \$2132.20

Finance Drive Report: March 1, 2009 to February 28, 2010 Lenna Harding

Total Donations: \$2960.00

Total Regular Donations: \$2065.00
 Member: \$1155.00
 Non-member: \$910.00

Total Ed Fund Donations: \$895.00
 Member: \$130.00
 Non- member: \$765.00

TriState donated \$150.00 twice during this period. This does not include \$385.00 donated by Bank of Whitman for the cost of the TRY brochures. Regular member donations include \$600.00 from one member.

2010 Finance Drive -- New Approach

Lenna Harding

Last year was a banner year for the finance drive due to some large contributions. This year, because of our 60th anniversary, we are trying something new. We are using an anniversary theme and the mailing list was culled considerably, limiting it to those who donated last year. We did not print personalized letters, just envelopes, but added personal notes on each letter.

LWV Of Pullman Budget for July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

Dorothy Swanson and Joan Folwell

EXPENDITURES

A. Operating costs		\$ 500.00
General Supplies		
P.O. Box	75.00	
Thank you gifts	100.00	
Miscellaneous	325.00	
B. Administrative		\$ 490.00
President/Board	50.00	
Administrative Committees		
Finance	120.00	
Membership	110.00	
Public Relations	150.00	
(e.g. Lentil Festival)		
Miscellaneous	60.00	
C. Delegates, Travel, Affiliations		\$1,660.00
National Conv. (to accrue)*	300.00	
State Convention **	900.00	
Workshops	200.00	
Chamber of Commerce	110.00	
Washington News Service	50.00 (From Ed Fund)	
Friends of Neill Pub. Lib.	100.00	
D. Financial Support (43+1 student PMP) \$2,036***		
State (17.00)	739.50	
National (29.80 proposed)	1,296.30	
E. VOTER		\$120.00
Supplies	75.00	

Postage	45.00	
F. Educational Activities		\$550.00
Publications	100.00	
Program	150.00	
Voters Service	300.00	
(TRY (2009 \$400 good for two years))		
G. Position/Action Activities		\$ 200.00
H. Working Reserves		\$4,000.00
I. Education Fund		\$1700.00 (1,697 as of 3/1/10)
		=====
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$11,256.00

*Includes funds to accrue for 2010-11, ** Transportation @ \$0.15/ mi for state meetings
 ***50 members (2/1/10) from LWVUS: 23 Individuals, 10 Households (2 members each), 2
 National, 1 Student, 4 Life
 ****If 2010 Nat'l. Convention votes for proposed PMP of \$29.80

INCOME

A. Dues		\$2,255.00
(50 Members 2/01/2010, including 4 Life Members)		
23 Individual Members	1380.00	
10 Households	850.00 (2 individuals each)	
1 Students	25.00	
2 National Members		
4 Life Members		
B. Contributions		\$2800.00
Regular		1,900.00
Members	900.00	
Non-members	1,000.00	
Education Fund		900.00
Member	150.00	
Non-member	750.00	
C. Sales of Publications	(NONE)	
D. Reserves		\$4,201.00
E. Education fund (accumulation)		\$2,000.00
		=====
TOTAL INCOME		\$11,256.00

Nominating Committee Report, 2010-11

Dorothy Swanson and June Crawford

First of all, the Nominating Committee would like to thank all board members who have served in the past year. LWV of Pullman has had an excellent corps of leaders who have been led by Chair of the Board, Sue Armitage. She has been ably assisted by Vice President, Alice Schroeder, and Voters Service Chair, Karen Kiessling and other Board Members. Alice has drafted many of the letters and statements that have been presented by League to government bodies. The work of the League has been well served not only by board members but also by committee members.

The Nominating Committee hopes that new members will be increasingly involved in committees and monthly meetings, and in that way become more knowledgeable about the work of the League and, if interested, become board members in the future. COMMITTEE MEMBERS can be chosen at the Annual Meeting. Committees include: Voters Service, Observers Corps, National Program, State Program, Health Care, Recycling, Budget, and Nominating.

OFFICERS

Chair of the Board – Sue Armitage

Vice President – Alice Schroeder -

Secretary – Deb Olson with Fran Law as possible although she may be gone frequently to babysit in Post Falls

Treasurer – Joan Folwell

Finance Drive Chair – Lenna Harding

Membership Records and Notices – Judy Krueger

Voters Service – Co-chairs: Diane Smerdon & Karen Kiessling

Action Chair – June Crawford

Voter Editor – Susan Daniels

TRY Editing – Lucy Linden

Useful Pullman League Numbers

Contact Us: lwvpull@yahoo.com

Online VOTER: www.lwvwa.org/Pullman