

# VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PULLMAN

April 2008

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

**President:** Alice Schroeder, 334-2470; **Vice President:** Karen Kiessling, 332-4755; **Secretary:** June Crawford, 332-7186; **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; **TRY Editor,** Lucy Linden, 332-2755.

## Meetings

**Monday April 28**

**Storm Water Requirements for Pullman,** Co-sponsored with the City of Pullman and the Pullman Chamber of Commerce

Time: 7:00-9:00 p.m. League members please come at 6:45 p.m.

Place: City Council Chambers

Speakers: Rob Buchert will moderate and represent the city; Gene Patterson or Dwight Hagihira will represent WSU; John Knutson or Bill Rice will represent OTECH, the consulting firm that the city hired to help implement the storm water regulations; and Dave Duncan is from the WA Department of Ecology which is the administrative and enforcement body for the storm water regulations.

Committee: Joan Folwell, Lucy Linden;

## Annual Meeting

**Monday, May 5**

**Karen Kiessling's home:** 510 SE Crestview, 332-4755

**Time: 6:00 p.m. — Dinner:** Come enjoy our annual meeting at Karen's home. Swilly's is catering with a menu of Ginger Chicken Salad, Pasta Salad, bread and beverages. The cost will be \$14.00 per person. Please bring a check or cash.

**7:00 p.m. — Business and Program:** Please read the material in this voter and come to the meeting, even if you cannot come for dinner. This is the time each year when all members (not just the board) consider the most important aspects of our organization and its health: new officers, the budget, our communication with the state and national organizations. **Remember to bring the VOTER with you to the meeting.**

### **Agenda**

Call to Order and declaration of quorum (1/3 of 51 local members = 17)  
2007 Annual Meeting Minutes Report--Lucy Linden.  
Treasurer's Report – Joan Folwell  
Finance Drive Report – Lenna Harding  
Budget Report – Dorothy Swanson  
Nominating Committee Report – Dorothy Swanson  
Election of Officers and Nominating Committee  
Election of Delegate to National Convention and State Council  
Adoption of revised Local Planning Position  
Observer Corps Report—Lucy Linden  
Planning Ordinance Committee—Helen Stiller  
Suggestions for Local Program 2008-2009 -- Alice Schroeder

**Program:** Scott Adams, CEO Pullman Regional Hospital will give a brief presentation on the proposed hospital nursing Home.

### **July Planning Meeting**

Probable date: Monday July 14 or July 21, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Program: Plan the 2007-2008 meetings and enjoy a salad potluck.  
Place: Volunteer hostess needed  
Chairs: Sue Armitage and Alice Schroeder

### **Board Meetings**

#### **Monday April 21**

Time: 3:00-5:00 p.m.  
Hostess: Natalie Clark, 220 SW Mountain View Dr.

### **Other Meetings**

**LWVWA State Council:** May 31-June 1, Clarion Hotel, Yakama, WA

**LWVUS National Convention:** June 13-17, Hilton Portland & Executive Tower, Portland, OR

## President's Corner

It is hard to believe that this will be my last President's message. I would like to thank everyone who has worked so hard with me to make the last three years a success for the Pullman League. I think that is every member we have, so I won't list you all. However, I would like to give special thanks to the board and especially Karen Kiessling who has rescued me so many times. I'd also like to thank the Nominating Committee, Dorothy Swanson, Bev Webster and Karen Kiessling for their hard work in coming up with both officers and a new way to lead the League as outlined below. Finally, special thanks to Sue Armitage for agreeing to try this as our first board chair.

Paul and I are looking forward to traveling without having to consider League meetings. However, my arm has been twisted to remain on the board and I will be supporting Sue by writing letters and working on meetings when I am in town (ski season!).

Thanks again for all your support. To a great 2008-2009 year in League for us all!

Alice Schroeder

## Annual Meeting Business

### Revised Local Planning Position:

City Planning: The Board was requested to rewrite sentence 3 of position 4 at the 2007 annual meeting. At the December 12, 2007 meeting the board recommended replacing sentence 3 (shown in parentheses) with the sentence shown in bold.

4. **City and Regional Planning:** Support of principles of planning, subdivisions and zoning. Support of more restrictions on developments for both contractors and private land owners. (Support of the City Council and the Planning Commission in land use decisions.) **Support the principle of making land use decisions through a process that requires review by both the Planning Commission and City Council, or County Commissioners.** Support of growth within carefully defined areas for commerce and light industry. Support of annual review by the City Council of a Capital Improvement Program for the City. Additional consensus on development in 2002-2003 study. ..

## LWVWA News

**The State League Board has recommended adopting two new positions** They will be voted on at council May 31-June 1:

(1)Ferry position as adopted by LWV Washington Board of Directors on January 11, 2008

The League of Women Voters of Washington believes that: Ferries in Washington State are

part of the highway system and should be funded as such. Passenger-Only ferries should be funded as are other modes of public transportation. The fare box should not be expected to totally fund ferry operations in Washington State.

(2) Election Methods position as adopted by LWV Washington Board of Directors on January 11, 2008

The League of Women Voters believes that: The Voter Registration State Database (VRSD) should not be used to deny people the right to vote. No proof of citizenship other than the sworn signature on the registration form should be required for Voter Registration.

Random audits of all ballots, with the percentage of ballots audited to be determined by a statistician. The mail-in ballot postmark deadline should be Election Day.

## LWV Pullman Annual Treasurer's Report

July 1, 2007 to June 31, 2008\*

Joan Folwell, Treasurer

### INCOME

1.	Dues		\$2340.00
2.	Contributions		\$1940.00
3.	Candidates/Issues Forum Reimbursement	\$18.87	
4.	Bank of Whitman TRY Donation		<u>\$425.00</u>
			\$4723.87

### BALANCES IN EARMARKED ACCOUNTS

1.	LWVWA Education Fund	\$1020.00
2.	Janice Miller Memorial Fund	<u>\$332.60</u>
		\$1352.60

TOTAL ASSETS      \$6076.47

### EXPENSES

1.	Operation and Administration	\$724.57
2.	State Council	\$300.00
3.	National Convention Set-aside	\$300.00
4.	LWVUS and LWVWA Per Member Payments	\$1405.00
5.	The Voter	\$85.31
6.	They Represent You Brochures	\$435.51
7.	Candidates/Issues Forums	<u>\$29.66</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES      \$3280.05

\* report prepared March 25, 2008, for inclusion in the April Voter

## Non-partisanship of the League

The LWVWA reminds all of us that the League is a non-partisan organization that does not support candidates. This means two things: 1. Candidates for office can not be invited to speak at League events, except candidate forums, until after the election is certified. 2. While League members can and should support the candidate of their choice, they should not mention their League affiliation when doing so. Also, the President and Voter Service Chair of local Leagues

should not participate in campaigns in a public manner.

## LWVUS National Convention and LWVWA Council

This spring Pullman members have two opportunities to learn and participate in League at the State and National level. On May 31-June 1, the State League will hold its Council meeting. Each League may send two delegates. This short but intense meeting will be at the Clarion Hotel in Yakama. You will be amazed at the fantastic women in the State League as you help set the LWVWA's course for the next year. Karen Kiessling will drive over Friday afternoon, May 30 (returning Sunday afternoon) to attend the State Board meeting that night. All delegates are invited to attend as well. The main meeting will start at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, finishing at noon on Sunday. Karen would love company on the drive and we have money set aside to send two delegates if they share a room. Please consider attending and let Alice or another board member know soon, as hotel reservations need to be made by April 30. Read all about it at [www.lwvwa.org](http://www.lwvwa.org). Click on members only, ID is *lwvwa*, password is *voter*. Click on *COUNCIL* part way down the list on that page.

From June 13 to 17 the LWVUS National Convention will be held in Portland, OR at the Hilton Portland Tower and Executive Suites. This is the closest the Convention has ever been to Pullman! Pullman is allowed one voting delegate and the Pullman League has money set aside for that person's costs. You can also attend as an observer or a volunteer. Volunteers work one half day and get free registration for the convention on that day. Unfortunately, our new Board Chair, Sue Armitage, cannot attend, so we need a delegate. Don't worry if you are new to League or have never been to a League convention, both Alice and Lucy will be there as volunteers and non-voting participants to mentor you. But, we and the board would really like to see someone who has not been to a national convention before have the opportunity to be our delegate. By the way, **young members**, will have a special caucus, so don't hesitate to be our delegate just because you are younger than most of us! You will have colleagues there. Let Alice or another board member know if you are interested. You can read the details at: [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org). Click on *Members only* and then *Convention and Council* in the pull down menu. You do not need to log on to view the convention schedule or hotel details. Contact Lucy or Alice for a copy of the printed materials. For details on volunteering refer to the Pullman February VOTER.

## League Communication

We are truly in the digital age. Don't forget the following League tools. We have a Pullman League e-mail box where communications from local, state and national groups come. For example, we get the LWVWA topics list e-mails and starting April 1 should get the LWVUS convention list e-mails, as well as receiving the legislative newsletter for the Washington State Legislature each spring. It is [lwvpull@yahoo.com](mailto:lwvpull@yahoo.com). To read e-mail there, go to [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com). Click on mail. The ID is *lwvpull* and the password is *Palouse*. On the national level, the

LWVUS maintains a web site at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org). Much is available on it. For members only you must sign in following the format they give. In Washington state, the LWVWA has a web site at [www.lwvwa.org](http://www.lwvwa.org). For members information the ID is *lwvwa*, the password is *voter*. Finally, don't forget our web site maintained by the state League. It is: [www.lwvwa.org/pullman](http://www.lwvwa.org/pullman). The Pullman VOTERS are now posted there, so you will never misplace another voter.

## **A New Paradigm for League Leadership**

The nominating committee has found new leadership and a new way to lead the League which will distribute the responsibilities of the President throughout the membership. Sue Armitage has bravely agreed to be Board Chair. Thank you, thank you, Sue. Her job will be to organize board meetings, while each board member will be responsible for overseeing one meeting each year. Since board members already have many jobs, they will be asking all of you to participate in planning and carrying out our meetings and activities. The positive response to Karen's leadership coffee in February and the many people who signed up for committees indicates that this new way of leading League may also be a better way. The first place to start is our July planning meeting. Please attend if you can. Consider this message your call to help and volunteer. Whether it is a fifteen minute project, an evening or larger, it helps. If you can't attend in July, read the plans in the August Voter and speak up. We need everyone!

## **New Member Biographies**

### **Judy Krueger**

The **Shirazi's** have all decided to become League members-that's Mary, her husband Behrooz and their 14 year old daughter, Katie. The family moved to Pullman from Dallas Texas in August 2005. Behrooz is a Washington State University professor and the Director of the Washington State University Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. Katie is in middle school at Lincoln, and plays volleyball and participates in the Destination Imagination program. Mary says she personally joined in hopes she can do things in the League that will make a difference. She wants to encourage people to vote and to take a stance on what is going on in the world and in our country. She loves the Palouse weather and the friendly people here. She very much enjoyed participating in the recent caucuses. Although not a League member, the Shirazi's have a miniature seven year old Schnauzer named Max.

**Janet Miller** is a new League member who has lived in Pullman with her husband since 1985. Janet taught textile science and the history of costumes at Washington State University for 8 years. She now runs a small antique business, selling antiques at various booths and maintains a booth in Lewiston at "Yesterday's Treasures." Janet grew up in Ohio and graduated from Ohio State University. She taught Home Economics in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Iowa and Kansas. She then entered Kansas State University to obtain her Master's degree, but with the encouragement of the former Dean went on to get her PhD, in General Studies with an emphasis on clothing and textiles. She then taught at Washburn University before moving to Pullman. Janet's husband,

Walt, is a retired Presbyterian Pastor. They have three daughters who live in Paris, France, Cleveland, and Denver and four grandchildren. Janet and her husband spend many week-ends sailing with another Leaguer, Lucy Linden and her husband. The two couples own a sailboat and are sailing partners. Another favorite pastime for the Millers is the WSU Basketball games. Janet has been a friend of the League for many years before joining and especially enjoys the League process-deciding by consensus. Welcome Janet!

## **Nominating Committee Report 2008-09**

**Dorothy Swanson, Bev Webster, Karen Kiessling**

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. That has, of course, been led by President, Alice Schroeder, who has done an impressive job and has been ably assisted by Vice President Karen Kiessling. As the following report will note we continue to have a good corps of leaders; however, when the Nominating Committee met we were at a loss for a person to become president. We decided on a different course of action and asked Sue Armitage if she would serve as Chair of the Board. In that capacity she would serve as facilitator and organizer to chair board meetings and to help the board address the work that needed to be done. To make this organization work we believe that each board member should be willing to supervise one meeting of the year and although they might not present the program, they would be responsible for organizing others to handle that work.

Sue, as Chair of the Board, would have the cooperation and help of the board in meeting the needs of the group. Board members are knowledgeable about the League and have held a variety of League positions.

The Committee also wants to involve new members in the monthly meetings, so they would become knowledgeable about the work of the League and, if interested, be officer candidates in the future.

Alice, with either the title of Past President or Vice President, is willing to draft the letters and statements that need to be presented for League Action. A board member could present such a statement to the appropriate rule-making body.

### **OFFICERS**

Chair of the Board – Sue Armitage

Past or Vice President – Alice Schroeder

Secretary – June Crawford

Treasurer – Joan Folwell

Finance Drive Chair – Lenna Harding  
Membership Records and Notices – Judy Krueger  
Voters Service – Karen Kiessling  
Voter Editor – Susan Daniels  
TRY Editing – Lucy Linden

### **COMMITTEES**

Voters Service – Karen Kiessling, chair, June Crawford, Lenna Harding, Bob Grunewald, Marj Grunewald, Bev Webster, Helen Stiller, Diane Smerdone

Nominating – Dorothy Swanson, June Crawford

Budget - Dorothy Swanson, Alice Schroeder, Susan Daniels

Health Care - Lucy Linden, Helen Stiller, Karen Barron (when in town), June Crawford, Lenna Harding

National Program – (no one at present); State Program –Alice Schroeder, Judy Krueger; Local Program - Karen Barron

Observers Corps – Lucy Linden and many others

## **Observer Report Briefs**

**City Planning Commission, February 27, 2008**

**Observer: June Crawford**

Pete Dickinson, City Planning Director and Jason Radtke, Asst. Planner were present.

Downtown Parking was discussed with direction from City Council that the Commission provide final recommendations at this meeting. Two and half hours of testimony followed from individuals and citizen's groups who had commented at previous hearings but no new suggestions offered. A draft of recommendations prepared by the Planning Director's office was essentially passed in toto, i.e.

1. No parking requirements for dwellings of 1-9 units.
2. For larger developments there were the following options:
  - a) provide on-site parking at one space per dwelling unit.
  - b) Provide off-site parking within 500 feet of property at one space per dwelling unit (through purchase or lease of the applicable parking spaces).
  - c) Supply a fee to the city (equivalent to the cost of furnishing on-site parking at one space per dwelling unit) to be used for future downtown parking improvements.
  - d) Utilize spaces within public parking lots through a permit system after authorization is granted by the City Council.

3. If an existing structure is to be partially or totally demolished to provide parking spaces, the developer would need a conditional use permit from the Board of Adjustment.

Other topics that were discussed but not resolved were:

Increased handicapped parking; strict enforcement of parking time limits; research into the construction of a downtown parking facility.

**City Planning Commission, March 26, 2008**

**Observer: June Crawford**

Pete Dickinson, City Planning Director, was present.

The College Hill Tomorrow Neighborhood Enhancement program was discussed. Boundaries do not include WSU.

Tentative date April 28, 2008 for an informal open house in City Council Chambers, hosted by the Planning Department. Comments solicited from all interested parties to set goals for improvements which will be referred to the Planning Commission. However, Planning Director Pete Dickinson does not see any action or programs initiated until later this year.

**Neill Public Library Board, January 16, 2008**

**Observer: Diane Gillespie**

Much of the discussion concerned 2008 Library Goals and use of the Shirrod Endowment Funds. The LWV figured in the list of goals being prepared for John Sherman, Glenn Johnson, and the City Council. Goal No. 2 is to increase the materials budget (now at 7%) to 10% of the total library budget and to increase it by 1% each year until it is 15% by 2015. (State-wide averages are 11-15%.) The goal statement adds, "Patrons are becoming very concerned about the low materials budget at the library. The League of Women Voters recently expressed their concerns in their end of the year meeting. A long time donor mentioned that she felt donations were 'supplanting' the library's materials budget rather than 'supplementing' it" which often violates donors' wills and is not "a long-term, sustainable solution" to an inadequate materials budget. Further discussion emphasized the need to inform patrons how the Shirrod endowment funds, now available, will be used to further the preservation and acquisition of Palouse history materials. The Director's Report also mentioned the LWV, the Foley Institute, and the NPL as co-sponsors of the visit of Sam Reed, Secretary of State.

**Neill Public Library Board, February 20, 2008**

**Observer: Diane Gillespie**

Two items may be of interest to League members. 1) The Director's Report emphasized the Library's co-sponsorship (with the League and the Foley Institute) of Secretary of State Sam Reed's visit on March 3rd and the Public Reception at the library from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 4th. 2) Under discussion is a partnership between state public libraries that

emphasize early learning (pre-kindergarten), as Neill Public Library does, and the newly formed (by Melinda Gates and former Governor Locke's wife) Foundation for Early Learning. If the Foundation has sufficient influence in the state, perhaps more public monies will go to libraries. A decision about membership was tabled pending further information.

### **Neill Public Library Board, March 26, 2008**

#### **Observer: Diane Gillespie**

The following items may be of interest to LWV members: 1) NPL will be represented at Pullman Civic Trust's Loretta Anawalt Day, 3:30-6:30 p.m., May 1, 2008, in the Pine Street Plaza; 2) The reception and tour for Secretary of State Sam Reed at NPL was a great success; it was good to partner with the LWV and the Foley Institute for his visit; 3) Plans are underway with Kathleen Ryan, interior designer, for use of \$20,000 from the Shirrod Endowment Funds for improvements indoors (mostly furniture) to the new NPL addition. 4) Plans are also underway for use of money from the McQuarry Fund via Friends of the NPL for patio improvements (sidewalk redo, tables, trellises, water feature). 5) The Friends have provided funding for a new book drop on the Davis way side, for the summer reading program, and for board books and early non-fiction materials. 6) The Systems Administrator reported the purchase of four new Dell workstations and a new printer for patron use. 7) Wendy Bates will formally resign from the Board when a new member begins; a press release and applications are ready, with a deadline of April 21<sup>st</sup>. 8) The regular meeting time for the NPL Board will be changed from 4 p.m. to 3 p.m., third Wednesday of the month.

### **Pullman Regional Hospital Board, March 8, 2008**

#### **Observer: Hellen Stiller**

There is an opening on the Hospital Board. It will be advertised, interviews held in May and the seat filled by June.

Physician recruitment activities continue to occupy a significant portion of time and attention. PRH is involved in the recruitment of physicians in family medicine, internal medicine, hospitalist, ENT, and orthopedic surgery.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid will begin to withhold payments to a treatment facility on patients who develop a higher intensity diagnosis that could reasonably have been prevented by the treatment facility. This will begin Oct.1 2008. Since PRH is designated as a critical access hospital it will not be held to this standard at this time.

Opinion of some members of the board is that insurance companies may be watching this new procedure and if the savings to medicare are significant they will incorporate this process into their insurance policies. (My comment/concern: If private insurance companies do this the expenses may become the responsibility of the insuree.) If Medicare denies payment for a procedure performed on a Medicare recipient. The provider of the service is not allowed to charge the patient for the denied expense.

## **Whitman County Commissioners Meeting, March 24, 2008**

### **Observer: Paul Spencer**

In addition to a number of routine items in the New/Old Business, there was an update of Whitman County ADO (Associated Development Organization) by Tammy Lewis, the director. She outlined recent activities and plans such as press releases and sending information packets out to attract businesses to Whitman County. She also mentioned a number of community development activities including the Affordable Housing Forum of March 20, and meeting with the Pullman Economic development Committee. I can supply a copy of her summary sheet to anyone who is interested.

In addition Sharon Cunningham of Administrative Services gave a report on the finances for the year to date. The revenue is about as expected, but she has some concern about interest income because the interest rates have dropped so much. This may require tightening of expenditures later in the year. I can supply a copy of her 6 pages of tables and graphs to anyone who would like them.

The current agenda for the Board of County Commissioners is available at <http://www.whitmancounty.org/Commis/BOCC/pdf.aspx> and the detailed minutes of previous meetings are available at <http://www.whitmancounty.org/Commis/BOCC/Minutes.aspx>

## **County Services Affect Our Daily Lives**

The following is excerpted from an article by Kitsap County Commissioner, Steve Bauer, in the Kitsap County VOTER, March, 2008. While it is written about Kitsap County, much of it applies to Washington counties in general.

...The County General Fund receives only 10% of the total property taxes you pay each year. For the average homeowner in Kitsap County, County services cost less than 70 cents per day!...

The State created Counties and directs the services that Counties must provide. Virtually every service the County provides is mandated by the State. (By comparison, local residents create cities and decide what services to offer.) The State also directs how we do it. What this means is that the County has very little discretion in what it does or how it does it. So when citizens suggest we just stop doing some things, that often is not possible.

The County provides many services that are "in the background" that most people never think about. We all expect a Deputy to come when we call the Sheriff's office. But arresting someone is just the start of the process. The County Prosecutor prosecutes offenders in County Courts and those found guilty are either sent to the County jail or some form of County diversion. A parallel system exists for kids. All together, Public Safety consumes about 2/3 of the County's General Fund....

The remaining 1/3 of the General Fund has to be stretched to cover the other State-mandated services. Here are some examples. The County manages all elections county-wide. When you get married, buy a house, or license a vehicle or boat you do it through the County or a County-supervised agency. The Assessor and Treasurer combine to operate the property tax system that funds all governments in the County. ... Immunizations for school kids, teen suicide prevention, septic approval and water quality monitoring are provided by the County-supported Health District. The County Coroner investigates ... deaths each year. The Fire Marshal investigates all arson fires. The County's comprehensive plan provides for future growth while protecting our environment and resource lands. ...

About the only significant "discretionary" (meaning we can decide to do it or not do it) program offered by the county is our excellent Parks system....

As you can see, County services touch every one of us countless times each day.

The State not only mandates service areas - like jails - that the County must provide, it also mandates how we deliver those services. The state usually doesn't fund these mandates. A good example is a recent law that requires drunk drivers or those with suspended licenses to spend some time in jail. This may be good policy but the State didn't pay the County for the \$3 million this will cost local [Kitsap] taxpayers this year. The State legislature passes the law but leaves it to the County to ask local taxpayers to pay the bill....

League of Women Voters  
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