

VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PULLMAN

June 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:** Deb Olson, 332-2114, Backup: Fran Law, 334-3002; **Treasurer:** Joan Folwell, 332-3946; **Voter Service Co-Chairs:** Diane Smerdon, 334-5413, and Karen Kiessling, 332-4755; **Voter Editor:** Susan Daniels, 332-6699; **Finance Drive Chair:** Lenna Harding, 332-7749; **Membership Records and Notices:** Judy Krueger, 332-8208; **Observer Corps Chair and TRY Editor:** Lucy Linden, 332-2755; **Action Chair:** June Crawford, 332-7186.

Meetings

July Planning Meeting

Date: Monday July 19, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Program: Plan League activities for the coming year followed by a salad potluck.

Place: Home of Ruth Brown; see directions in Planning Meeting article below

Chair: Sue Armitage, 332-4279

Board Meetings

Monday July 26

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

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

Other Events of Interest

Fourth of July Parade

Date: Sunday July 4

Program: March with Pullman League in the Johnson Parade -- see article below.

Place: Johnson, WA

Contact: Deb Olson, 332-2114

Lentil Festival Parade

Date: Saturday August 21

Program: March with Pullman League in the Lentil Festival Parade -- see article below.

Place: Pullman, WA

Contact: Diane Smerdon, 334-5413

July Planning Meeting

Sue Armitage

Here is our annual chance to enjoy a lazy summer morning in Ruth Brown's sunny rural backyard (hats provided!) and feel constructive at the same time. It's time to plan our activities for the coming year. At the annual meeting in May we looked back on the year's activities, and now it is time to look forward. First we will hear brief reports from Janice Brown, who attended the state League Council Meeting in Bellingham, and Shelley Jones, who attended the national convention in Atlanta. Then we will consider some of the possibilities for study and action in the coming year. To list just a few:

- In the fall, although there will be few candidates' forums because almost all local candidates are running unopposed, there are several "hot" initiatives for which Voters Service will recommend a public forum.
- In November, a special 100th anniversary of woman suffrage exhibit opens at the MAC in Spokane, and there will be a 2-day women's history conference at the Davenport Hotel. We may want to carpool or van to the opening reception, and some of us may want to attend the conference.
- The national League of Women Voters will ask us to undertake a study and consensus on the federal role in education.

And then there are continuing Pullman issues:

- Is it time to re-propose our pre-development neighborhood meeting ordinance?
- Is there more to do on recycling?
- Should we push actively for civics education in the high school?

At the state level, should we sponsor a public forum on the budget?

And within our own organization, we need to consider ways to increase our membership.

At this July meeting we decide our priorities, and then share a delicious potluck salad lunch. Please bring your favorite salad to share.

Join us for discussion in the sun followed by a potluck salad lunch! If you can't come, we'll miss you. If you have issues you'd like us to consider, contact Sue Armitage (332-4279) and we'll put your item on the agenda.

Directions to Ruth's farm:

- From the Pullman-Moscow Highway turn south on Bishop Blvd.
- Go 0.3 miles and turn left on Johnson Road (just past Quality Inn and the old Pete's Restaurant).
- Go 3.3 miles on Johnson Road (WITHOUT turn-offs; do NOT turn onto the Old Moscow Road or Sand Road).
- You will now find yourself between 2 big white barns on either side of the road. Ours is the one on the left with the beautiful blue roof.
- The driveway is long and narrow, so stay in the middle.

WELCOME!

FLASH! FLASH!

WALKERS NEEDED FOR 4TH OF JULY IN JOHNSON!

Calling all Leaguers who want to have a great start to the 4th. The last two years we have walked in the Johnson parade on the morning of the 4th of July handing out sheets explaining the top two primary system in Washington State and informing voters of primary forums.

This year will be the best of all. We are handing out small American flags that have a brief message taped to the handle. That message gives voters the date of the primary election (August 17) and also the web address to register to vote. The League of Women Voters of Pullman is identified as the flag donor.

Please walk with us wearing the League sash while dressed in red, white and blue clothing and wearing a boater hat with a r/w/b hatband and handing out flags for all to wave.

Contact Deb Olson, 332-2114, to let her know you want to join the group and to arrange car pooling and the time to gather.

Save the Date for the Lentil Festival Parade

Pullman League will be walking in the Lentil Festival Parade again on Saturday, August 21. Last year we won the Non-Commercial Sweepstakes Award! This year we will hand out clever fans with forum information printed on the backs. Joining the parade is lots of fun, and great visibility for League, so put it on your calendar and contact Diane Smerdon, 334-5413 to let her know you'll join the parade, and to get the time and place to meet.

NEW MEMBER PROFILES - BARBARA AND ALEX HAMMOND

Barbara and Alex Hammond joined the Pullman League in June. We are delighted to have their talents in the group and we provide this introduction to them for our members.

1. When did you come to Pullman and why?

[Barbara] 1975--family move for Alex's hire in the WSU English Department. Although the move was for husband's job, Pullman offered me the opportunity to complete a PHD in Psychology and practice for 25 years as a Psychologist, in both private practice and as Director of WSU Counseling Services and adjunct faculty member in the Department of Psychology.

[Alex] Joined American literature faculty in Department of English at WSU in fall 1975, where I served until retirement in 2009. Co-edited and edited *Poe Studies* from 1975 until 2008, a journal on which I continue as consulting editor.

2. What were your community interests over the time you have been in Pullman? Do you have family here? Hobbies?

[Barbara] Elementary and high school activities when our children were younger; issues related to community mental health, including service on Advisory Board for community mental health center, liaison activities with WSU Counseling Services and Pullman Regional Hospital and Counseling Center of the Palouse; Pullman Police Advisory Committee; College Hill Association; Professional Psychology organizations and state Ethics Hotline; WSU committees and boards prior to retirement. Family--two adult children currently in Los Angeles and Seattle. Hobbies--gardening, reading, traveling.

[Alex] SANE nationally and locally during its existence; Democratic Party nationally and locally at various times, including currently; College Hill Association (board member and secretary since 1994); Palouse Alliance for Responsible Development (board member and treasurer since 2004/5); relative to those organizations, community politics. Community and university drama, especially as linked to my WSU courses. Film, sailing, travel.

3. Why did you decide to join the League of Women Voters? In what areas of the League program do you have the greatest interest and desire to be active?

[Barbara] Have always respected the local members, League values, and the stance the League takes on civic and political issues, particularly the emphasis on bias-free education/information. Areas of greatest interest--local community issues and elections.

[Alex] Identical points, with addition of awareness of LWW's work in monitoring City government boards and recognition of importance of LWW's voice in maintaining/improving the procedural and decision-making standards of the Planning Commission, Board of Adjustment, and City Council.

Dorothy Swanson Recognition

Dorothy Swanson, longtime leader of the LWV of Pullman, is fighting an aggressive brain tumor. Mayor Glenn Johnson read the following letter to Dorothy at her residence in Bishop Place on Wednesday, June 16. We thank him for the recognition she received.

Dear Dorothy,

One of my most pleasant tasks as mayor is to recognize residents who are truly involved in the community. It is my privilege to thank you for your unstinting efforts over the years in making Pullman a better place to live.

You have been keenly involved in city government in action and have been a frequent observer of city council meetings on behalf of the League of Women Voters. Just one year shy of charter membership in the Pullman League, you have worked tirelessly for nearly 60 years to become informed about significant issues and to pass along that information to both legislators and voters.

I know that you've had a long time interest in the recycling aspect of solid waste and that you were a leader in the creation of Pullman's curbside recycling program. You truly had your finger on the pulse of residents in that regard -- as more and more people have expressed a willingness to reduce, reuse and recycle.

You are so appreciated and I thank you for your dedication and work on behalf of us all.

Cordially,
Glenn A. Johnson, Mayor

Tribute to Dorothy Swanson **Lenna Harding**

Dorothy Swanson epitomizes the ultimate League member. Since my mother brought her into League in 1951, Dorothy served in almost every office and position League has to offer on the local level and she authored both editions of Pullman League's *Know your City* publications. She served on several state study committees and has been either the principal author or contributing author on several state studies and *The State We're In*. She has been our delegate to several state and national conventions and state councils. She also compiled the information and wrote the TRY brochures for a number of years. As our unofficial historian, she has also put together several displays on League's activities for Neill Public Library.

Dorothy has been our spokesman before City Council and other local boards and commissions. She is best known for her untiring work in promoting Pullman's recycling efforts and, until recently, has continued to serve on the Whitman Co. Solid Waste Advisory Committee. In recognition of this work she received an Ed. Fund grant to attend recycling workshops in Newark, N.J. in 1990 and West Palm Beach Florida on 1994.

While her husband had leave in other cities she attended League meetings in New York City, Juneau Alaska, and Fairfax Co. Virginia. In Virginia she helped lead a study committee on intergovernmental relations of the various governmental jurisdictions in the D.C. area.

Pullman League owes Dorothy a huge debt of gratitude for her service over these many years. She played a large part in our most successful projects and represented the Pullman League with distinction. Thank you Dorothy.

HEADS UP FOR VOTER SERVICE!!

The voter service committee hopes to explore ways to do our job of voter education in new and expanded forms. We are looking for a few people with lots of ideas to throw out and kick around. Some of the areas we are thinking about are:

1. The Secretary of State is not printing a voters guide for the primary. What can the Pullman League do to get information to Whitman County voters about the individuals running for the August 17 Primary. Many good candidates are lost in the primary election, yet the voter turnout is abysmal. Where and how should we try to change that?
2. We still have the desire to work with Pullman High School and with Lincoln Middle School to develop a "training" session for students on how to choose a candidate, how to evaluate campaign material, how to find the truth and how to work toward some of the League goals for campaign finance reform.
3. We would like to propose a program on the changes in law and legal judgments that face the nation today in terms of elections. Perhaps this could be a public meeting for the Pullman and Moscow Leagues to jointly sponsor.
4. We would also and always want to look at our candidate forums and ballot issue debates to seek ways to improve what we do there.

If these suggestions trigger ideas for service, please share them with the Voter Service Co-Chairs, Diane Smerdon and Karen Kiessling. Better still, bring those ideas with you when you join the Voter Service Committee.

Leaguers In The Limelight!

We note with pleasure the honors awarded to two longtime Pullman League members, James M. Krueger, winner of the WSU Eminent Faculty Award, and Nancy Magnuson, Distinguished Faculty Address.

James Krueger, Regents Professor, Veterinary and Comparative Anatomy, Pharmacology and Physiology, is a pioneer in sleep research focused on the biochemical regulation of sleep, the relationships between sleep and infectious disease, and how the brain is organized to produce sleep. He joined WSU in 1997, and immediately joined the Pullman League of Women Voters along with his wife, Judy, an officer in the organization from that time to the present day. Congratulations, Jim!

Nancy Magnuson, Eastlick Distinguished Professor in the School of Molecular Biosciences, delivered her address, "Why Target PIMI for Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment?", during the spring celebration of faculty and staff achievement. At WSU since 1978, she has achieved international distinction for her research in immunology and cancer. She has published more than 95 peer-refereed articles and lectured in Canada, Korea, India, Australia and the People's Republic of China. The Distinguished Faculty Address is the oldest award created to honor WSU faculty members. It was first presented in 1958. Nancy has been a member of the Pullman League for decades, and supports us with her membership fees because she believes in the work the League does even if she is so busy doing her research she cannot be active. Just wait until you retire, Nancy. There is work to be done with us then! We salute you!

Report on LWVWA State Council

Janice Brown

On May 21-23, 2010, I attended State Council in Bellingham, Washington. The conference theme was **Reason Isn't Enough - How to Have Civil Discussions in Uncivil Times**. I will bring packet materials to our July 19th meeting and members can check out this packet to read conference handouts. Eighteen of twenty-one local Leagues were represented at council and everyone cheered when one member announced she brought her daughter. I was truly impressed with our League leaders and awe struck as it was a WOW experience.

The state board met prior to the meeting and general members attended. The major news was the board's decision to Support 1098. Petitions were handed out for local Leagues to collect signatures by July 2nd. More information is at YES on Initiative 1098 <http://www.yeson1098.com/learn.html>.

State and National membership was expressed as a major concern as League celebrates 90 years of non-partisan civic education. Concern was expressed with the drop in membership and shortage of members to take leadership positions. There is no shortage of ideas but a shortage of leaders for studies and committees. Statewide membership peaked at 2323 in 2005 and has dropped to 2048 in 2009. Several WA Leagues have raised membership and some have even hit the 100 mark for their local Leagues. Ideas to grow membership were given.

Civic Engagement Project (CEP) <http://www.lwvwa.org/studies.html>

Each League received a FREE copy of the new revision of *The State We're In: Washington, Your guide to state, tribal and local government*. After discussion it was suggested that each League should take the responsibility of introducing these materials to their local school district as well as home and private schools within their League area. This is the only text that gives the Native American information in Washington State.

Civil Discourse - organization of meetings that may be contentious.

I suggest we request Whidbey Island League member - Mendy McClean-Stone's power points as she outlined good procedures for the organization of a meeting that may get rowdy.

The afternoon workshop was conducted by Mary Dumas, Dumas and Associates, Inc. If you ever need a professional paid speaker for an event, Mary's presentation workshop: **Civil Discussions Workshop - How to Have Civil Discussions in Uncivil Times** was excellent.

The meeting closed with an evening banquet with the guest speaker, Representative Kelli Linville (42nd legislative district which includes Bellingham), Chair of House Ways and Means Committee WA State Legislature, and a Bellingham League member. She supports 1098 and expressed concern over possible continuing state budget deficits and challenges - it all depends on voters.

Report on National Convention

Shelley Jones

First, I want to say that I am so thankful to have been given this opportunity to attend the LWVUS National Convention by the Pullman Board and Membership. It was fabulous!

I had the wonderful opportunity to meet many other League members – of all ages. I roomed with Lois Detrick, the President for the LWV of Missouri. Through Lois, I met many other Missouri League members (a delegation of 17) and past and present board members. Additionally, the “younger” members had a caucus on Monday night which I attended. Their focus was to have a voice at the National level and encourage other “young people” to join League.

Here are some notes on the caucuses I attended:

- The main focus at the Sentencing Reform Caucus was the Democracy Restoration Act (http://www.brennancenter.org/content/resource/democracy_restoration_act_of_2008/).
- I attended two caucuses on Medicare for All (<http://www.healthcare-now.org/>). Both were quite informative. At the first Dr. Rob Stone from Hoosiers for a Commonsense Health Plan (<http://hchp.info/index.html>) spoke. The second caucus was a panel of League members that worked on Healthcare committees and/or are doctors. There was some focus on Bill H.R.676 (<http://www.pnhp.org/publications/united-states-national-health-care-act-hr-676>). The main focus was to educate delegates in order to pass the resolution during plenary sessions. There are shocking statistics in both our current healthcare system and our improved system, which recently passed. Additionally, one of the Healthcare Caucuses focused on educating the public on Medicare for All.
- The caucus I attended on the Federal Role in Education focused as a brainstorming session for ideas to give to the LWVUS Board if this study passed.
- The Fair Elections Now Act caucus focused on two Bills – Disclose Act (<http://www.discloseact.com/>) and the Fair Elections Now Act (FEN)(<http://>

www.fairelectionsnow.org/). The FEN appears to give an average person an “even” playing field in campaigning for Federal Office. There should be a vote on each of these this summer in Congress.

- I also attended a caucus on Campaign Finance Reform (<http://freespeechforpeople.org/>). The focus here was to educate delegates the far reaching effects of this Supreme Court decision and the need for a constitutional amendment.
- Finally, I attended a caucus on utilizing internet and technology in our local Leagues. This was primarily a sharing session where other Leagues commented on what they are doing, and what they feel is working.

On Saturday, at the plenary session, we adopted the convention rules and approved the nominating committee’s slate for the LWVUS Board.

On Sunday, at plenary, we moved to debate The Federal Role in Education Study (LWVUS Board Recommended), and a study on Privatization (introduced by LWV of Seattle). We moved to debate the concurrences on Arms Control, Marriage Equality, and National Popular Vote Compact. The following resolutions were moved for debate: Lifting the Travel Ban to Cuba, Safe Drilling and Mining for Energy Resources, Limiting the Use of the Filibuster, Adding the principle of “Transparency” to the SARA Resolution, Medicare for All, and Emergency Resolution of the Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill. The delegates defeated a study for a Department of Peace and a study on Regulating Financial Institutions. The Treasurer’s Report, proposed increase in PMP, and the proposed Budget for 2010-2011 was introduced.

The plenary session on Monday began with the proposed changes in the Bylaws. All were approved by the delegates, except for the change to Article XII, Principles and Program, Sec. 3 which was defeated. The delegate body approved both studies – The Federal Role in Education and Privatization. (This led to a donations basket being passed around the delegate body to fund the Privatization study. They ended up raising \$3500 by passing the basket at Convention. In the proposed budget, only one study was budgeted for.) All Concurrences were approved – Arms Control, Marriage Equality, and National Popular Vote Compact. Additionally, all resolutions were approved – Lifting the Ban on Travel to Cuba, Safe Drilling and Mining, Limit the Use of the Filibuster, adding “Transparency” to the SARA Resolution, Medicare for All, Emergency Resolution for the Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill.

On Monday at plenary, the delegate body approved a PMP rate of \$29.70 in 2011 and \$30.00 in 2012. The 2010-2011 Budget was approved. Other business attended to included introducing the new LWVUS Board and Nominating Committee, awards to local Leagues (including LWV of Bellingham that won the ‘Connection with the Community Award’ for a series of meetings they had entitled “How to Have a Civil Discussion in Uncivil Times”).

In addition to the caucuses and business that had to be attended to, we had the opportunity to hear from some inspirational speakers: Congressman John Lewis (who spoke at the March on Washington in 1963), Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services, and a panel of past LWVUS Presidents. Additionally, Elisabeth MacNamara, LWVUS President 2010-2012, spoke about the LWV's core values and challenged us not to be afraid to ask – ask to join, ask to do a task, or ask LWVUS Board.

As you can see, this is a complete, yet quick overview of the National Convention. If anyone has specific questions on a topic I attended, please don't hesitate to ask. I have notes from the various sessions and I came home with lots of paper that was passed around. Additionally, I am hoping to have some time at the July Planning Session to be able to speak on my experience at the National Convention, because it was truly one-of-a-kind. However, I have been called to jury duty in Spokane (Federal Court) during that week and the week prior. I am hoping that somehow it will all work out and I will be able to attend the Planning Session, though.

Again, I would like to thank both the LWV of Pullman Board and membership for allowing me this opportunity to represent the League. Also, it was most helpful for both Alice Schroeder and Lucy Linden to meet with me prior to attending – my sincere thanks to both. I believe I did my best to vote with Pullman's best interest in mind and concentrated on priorities to the Board.

Thank You LWVWA Education Fund

Pullman has been awarded its third Civics Education/Engagement Grant. This year the award is for \$500 to perform additional voter education activities. The areas funded include

- 1) Handouts for parade walkers on 4 July and on August 21
- 2) Additional advertising for candidate forums and ballot issue debates
- 3) Permanent accessories for League identification as sponsors of voter education events.

In prior years these grants purchased the handsome League of Women Voters sashes that members wear at events including our current effort to gain signatures to put 1098 on the November ballot.

We salute the Education Fund Board for its decision to allocate money for which local Leagues in the state can apply to help accomplish Civic Engagement activities. We deeply appreciate the support and encouragement this fund offers.

Observer Report Briefs

Neill Public Library Board, April 21, 2010

Observer: Diane Gillespie

Of interest to LWV:

- 1) The Board and the Mayor approved Beth Hindman as a new NPL Board member.
- 2) With input from library staff and the Friends of the Library, and after considerable discussion, disagreement, and confusion about parliamentary procedure, the Board voted to hire (pending final approval of funding from the Friends) Ruth Metz Associates, Consulting Services for Library Leaders. Metz's charge is to clarify the roles and responsibilities of staff, Friends, Board, and City; she will also identify "blind spots within each group and the collective organization."
- 3) The NPL Director vacancy has been advertised for one month; applications are preferred by May 25th but the position is open until filled. So far there are no applications. Since word is out in library circles about NPL's leadership history, staff noted that it will be helpful to indicate the hiring of a consultant in response to inquiries.
- 4) NPL is working on new inter-library loan procedures, and, with a state-wide consortium, on a downloadable audio book service. New databases are TERC (Testing & Education Reference Center) and Mango (excellent for foreign language learning).
- 5) Two results of the recent In-House Work Week were a) a new layout change that highlights the Palouse Heritage Collection and b) the discovery of extensive damage to books from water and food (and often mold), the long-term effect of increases in circulation without increases in staff to handle maintenance. Staff had to discard hundreds of extensively damaged items, many of which cannot be replaced because of materials budget constraints, book price increases, and books going out-of-print. The staff will increase its efforts to encourage its patrons to help take care of library books. The public is also encouraged to donate new books or money for books to the library.
- 6) Sunday opening hours will be reinstated, possibly in the middle of the summer, when there is sufficient trained, temporary and part-time replacement staff on board.

The Susan Bee Available Online (NEW)

The first issue of [*The Susan Bee*](#), the LWVUS biannual newsletter, is now available on our website. The newsletter contains short updates on LWVUS work and provides the location on the national website for more detailed and timely information.

Useful Pullman League Numbers

Contact Us: lwvpull@yahoo.com

Online VOTER: www.lwvwa.org/Pullman