

VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PULLMAN

January 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:** Elinor McCloskey, 334-3242; **Voter Service:** Joan Folwell, 332-3946; **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 January 7

Immigration Consensus I

Time: 7:00-9:00 pm

Chairs: Dorothy Swanson and John Kramer

Place: Lucy Linden's home, 500 SE Crestview, 332-2755

Discussion Leaders: Alice Schroeder and Lenna Harding

Recorders: Meg Knight and Anne Melton

Monday January 21

Immigration Consensus II

Time: 7:00-9:00 pm

Chairs: Dorothy Swanson and John Kramer

Place: Sue Armitage's Home, 1205 NE McGee

Discussion Leaders: Alice Schroeder and Lucy Linden

Recorders, Meg Knight and ??

Monday February 4

National and Local Program Planning

Time: 7:00-9:00 pm

Chair: Alice Schroeder

Place: Judy Krueger's home, 824 S.E. Edge Knoll Dr.

Monday March 3

Public Meeting with Washington's Sec. of State, Sam Reed

Time: 7:30-9:30 pm

Committee: Alice Schroeder, Muriel Oaks, John Kramer

Co-sponsored with the Foley Institute and Neill Public Library

Place: Congregational Church

Board Meetings

Friday January 25

Monday February 25

Time: 3:00-5:00 pm.

Place: Natalie Clark's home, 220 SW Mountain View Dr.

President's Corner

I am putting this together in bits and pieces along with all that other holiday stuff so perhaps this should be the President's meanderings! Most important are my wishes that all of you will have an enjoyable holiday and come back ready to do some League work on Jan. 7 when we discuss the positions LWVUS should take on immigration. Then, there are the end of the year thank you's. I'd have to list everyone here if I got into names so I'll just say thank you one and all. Without all of you our local League would not be increasing in membership and influence, and our many projects: membership and public meetings, forums, watching ballot counting, lentil festival table, TRY, The Voter, recruiting new members and honoring old ones, etc. would not happen. Many, Many Thanks.

2009 promises to be equally active as we discuss immigration, hold candidate and issues forums, run the finance drive, and welcome Secretary of State Sam Reed to Pullman on March 3 and 4. So keep up the good work and have a wonderful New Year in everything you do.

Alice

LWVUS Immigration Study Consensus Meetings

Dorothy Swanson & John Kramer

In preparation for these meetings we encourage all members to become familiar with the Consensus Questions. A shortened copy of these was included in the October VOTER. If you no longer have your VOTER, you can find it on our website

<http://www.lwvwa.org/pullman>

An overall question for identifying values associated with Immigration Policy Issues follows:

What values should form the basis of immigration policy in the United State? Examples of a value could be "job security for American workers" or "fair wages for all workers".

The questions on Jan. 7 focus on criteria for immigration laws and who should be preferred for legal entry. Another question looks at coordination between foreign policy and living conditions in countries with large emigrating populations.

On Jan. 21 the questions focus on how to treat undocumented immigrants in the country and enforcement of immigration law. The final question deals with balance between financial benefit from immigrants and costs borne by state and local governments.

There are excellent League materials available at the LWVUS site, www.lwv.org. After entering the site on the left side of the page under *Immigration Policy* select *Follow Our Study and Get Educated*. That page in turn gives access to the Immigrant Study Briefs, 1, 2, 3, & 4 and "A Historical Perspective," (These all appeared in issues of the NATIONAL VOTER).

Also on that page is access to eight Background Papers written by members of the national study committee. One copy of these background papers was available at our Dec. 3 meeting and is circulating with in the Pullman League membership. If you do not want to read them on line or print out a copy, you might inquire around League membership for this copy. Anyone who takes the time to read all eight papers will have a good base of understanding for consensus questions.

As was mentioned in the October VOTER, the book, *Immigration and America's Future: A New Chapter*, the report of the independent Task Force on Immigration and America's future is excellent reading. Two copies of it are also circulating among the Pullman League. If interested send out an inquiry.

March 3-4—Washington Secretary of State Sam Reed

Mark your calendars! On March 3 we will welcome Washington's Secretary of State, Sam Reed, to Pullman for a two day visit to meet with several public and University groups. He will give a public lecture at 7:30 pm on Monday, March 3 at the Congregational Church, discussing the many and varied duties of the Washington State Secretary of State. We hope to have at least one other event for the Pullman League, since Voter Service is one of our main goals and one of his main jobs. We have invited the Foley Institute and Neill Public Library to join us in sponsoring his visit and will keep you posted on his schedule.

League Founding Member celebrates 97th Birthday

Karen Kiessling

Kay Buss, last surviving founding member of the Pullman League of Women Voters, celebrated her 97th birthday on Thanksgiving Day, November 22, 2007. The Pullman League presented Kay with a glorious bouquet of white roses on the day. Kay was an officer in the Pullman League from its inception in February, 1950. She served as First Vice President of the League and said she liked to be active in organizations that did things and League was one of them. She has continued to be active with the Pullman League and comes to meetings as weather conditions and health challenges allow. She is a sparkling woman with a generous heart and a superb sense of humor. She is grateful for her life and amazed that she has lived so long and well. We salute you Kay, and thank you for helping found our Pullman League.

HEADS UP LEAGUERS!!!

The Nominating Committee will start meeting soon to identify officers for the Pullman League for 2008. Nominees are elected at the Annual Meeting in May and take over their jobs as soon after that as is convenient. This year we need to identify members willing to serve as: President or Co-President, Vice President, Secretary, Voter Service Chair or co-Chair. There are also hostesses needed for all the programs we plan for the next year. It is an exciting time for the Pullman League I think. If you are willing to help out on a committee or share an office or take one on, please contact Dorothy Swanson, who chairs

the nominating committee or Bev Webster or Karen Kiessling, who are members of the committee. Happy 2008!

November State Board Meeting Notes.....

Karen Kiessling, State Board Member

Items of interest to the Pullman League:

Good News, Bad News Department: The \$50,000 Challenge Grant to the State Education Fund was reached! League members all over Washington contributed to a total of \$50,000 so the donor would match that amount. The Education Fund is in great shape and the State Education Fund and the State Board of Directors want you to know how much we appreciate your investments in the Ed Fund.

The Bad News is that the fund to keep the state office operational is about half where it usually is at this time. Members gave to the challenge in place of the operations budget not in addition to doing so. If you have not yet made your investment in the state League operation, please do so soon. The office is run as tightly as possible, is small and lean and has only one employee. Claudia Downing, our executive assistant, is an amazing gift to all of us. If you call Claudia with a question she has the answer for you with amazing speed. Cheerful, professional, and great at her job, Claudia is a jewel. We have to find funds to operate that office for all of us, the Education Fund, the State Board, every League in the state. We will do that but I would ask any who have not yet sent in a check and plan to do so to do that now.

Continuing good news are several items for the good of the State League -- that means you and me as we are the League. The State Board voted to purchase insurance for the members of the Board. This is an errors and omissions insurance such as the League of Women Voters of the US has for its board of directors. A very sound protection for the members who volunteer their time and energy for the good of the state.

The State Board has purchased software to record donor information on the various projects we do for agencies and the investments made in the League by individuals, corporations and foundations. Volunteers have begun entering the information on that data base and a separate computer is used for security reasons. This is a big step forward in the planning for a stable base of funding for the work of the League.

The Good In Government Brunch is scheduled for March 8, 2008, in Seattle at the Bell Harbor Conference Center overlook the water in downtown Seattle. March 8 is International Women's Day and the Board has chosen an outstanding woman recipient of the Good in Government Award and another outstanding woman speaker. Put these dates on your calendar and do think about traveling to Seattle for this fun and inspirational event. The committee working on the brunch is also planning to have a state League event the evening before the brunch so we will have an extra incentive to make that drive. The Seattle area League members will be asked to offer beds to League members from out of town so you will have the chance to get acquainted with League members from the west side of the state as well as be inspired by the work of

Kristin Rowe-Finkbeiner, co-founder of *MomsRising.com*. Carpooling to Seattle in March is a great spring idea. Start thinking about it now.

Legislative Session Alert!!

The short session of the Washington State Legislature takes place Jan. 14, 2008 until mid March. The LWVWA lobby team writes a weekly digest charting the progress of bills of interest to the League based on our positions. If you would like to actively contact your representatives or just be informed, e-mail lwwwa@lwwwa.org to request a free e-mail copy. For a printed copy, write LWVWA, 4710 University Way NE, Suite 214, Seattle, WA 98105-4428 and send a \$15 check. The Washington State League will put most of its efforts into supporting HB1551 which gives local governments the option to institute public campaign financing. Our district 9 legislators are against this as they are sure local governments will misuse the funding. They also think spending public money for clean, fair and open elections is a low priority compared to police, roads, etc. as if the surest way to good government wasn't through fair and honest elections. Needless to say the League feels fair elections where anyone can afford to be a candidate are one of the highest priorities of government. We need to do some work!! Let your legislator know if you support HB1551. For more information see the *Public Campaign Financing* article in this Voter.

PUBLIC CAMPAIGN FINANCING

LWVWA has rolled out a statewide action plan to pass the local option campaign finance bill in this coming session of the legislature. It calls for concerted effort by all of us.

All members are asked to contact their legislators before the session starts in January to ask them to support House Bill 1551 and Senate Bill 5278. Below is information about the companion bills and arguments you can use to support them. There is additional information in the two attachments to this VOTER. [A tip from a legislator at the workshop: Begin your conversation by thanking your representative for something they have done.]

1. **Why Local Option?** Campaigns for local office are too expensive! Candidates cannot afford to run without personal wealth or support from special interests. The result? Voters are denied real choice. Public campaign financing helps to level the fundraising playing field and reduces the time candidates and officeholders spend fundraising, increasing the time available to listen to concerns of voters and conduct public business.
2. **Should local government (appear to) be for sale?** Increasingly, candidates for local office must raise campaign cash from special interests that expect access and political favors in return. Advocates for human services, for environmental sensitivity, for good government – cannot match the campaign resources of special interests, who often seek short-term profit rather than long-term community stability.
3. **Local Option is NOT a Mandate!** Under the Local Option proposal, the state legislature simply removes an inappropriate ban, so that local voters and councils can establish local programs – and only if they choose to! Why prevent local control? Local jurisdictions – cities, counties, PUDs, and port authorities – should be allowed to offer public financing for campaigns, at their option, for local elections.
4. **What would it cost?** At the state level – nothing! Any public financing for local campaigns would be up to local jurisdictions and voters. Locally, it is affordable: Seattle's program cost less than \$1 per voter, a pittance, to make sure local government works for the people, not special interests.
5. **History of public financing for local jurisdictions in Washington State.** The City of Seattle had the first-in-the-nation program, approved in 1978, providing public matching funds for candidates for city council. Challenged in court, the program won approval from the State Supreme Court. However, in 1992, statewide Initiative 134 was enacted. Portrayed as "campaign finance reform," I-134 contained a little-known provision that prohibited using public funds for state or local campaigns. This provision has prevented local jurisdictions from enacting a program of public financing for local races. HB 1551/SB5278 would eliminate the local campaign ban.

Voter Service

The year 2008 is a very important one for voters. The Pullman League will undertake a number of projects. We have already had representatives from League at ballot counting and at the recount for Pullman City Council Ward II and hope to continue this next year.

Project Vote Smart, a project supported by LWVWA, will have a bus touring the country with displays, etc. on how to get reliable information on candidates on line. We have volunteered, with the Moscow League to have it visit Moscow and Pullman. At this point we do not know if or when that will be. Our main job will be publicity as the project is staffed and provides meals and lodging for staff.

The Whitman County Library has volunteered to help sponsor candidate and issue forums in Colfax. We will also explore involving the Whitman County Gazette.

Thanks to Lenna Harding and Joan Folwell we are using some of the generous donations to our education fund to purchase 14 copies of the LWVWA publication, *The State We Are In*. This award winning civics text is researched, written and published by the LWVWA. Copies were given to the Pullman middle and high schools when the latest edition was published. Now we can give them to each school in the county that has students from seventh to twelfth grade. Karen Kiessling plans to present some in person and would love to have other members accompany her. Call her before she calls you.

Of very great importance: thanks to the persistence of Lucy Linden and Karen Kiessling, the *TRY*, our yearly pamphlet that lists elected and appointed officials in Pullman and Whitman County, is being supported by the Bank of Whitman. It will now include numbers for the City Hall in each of the five towns with a Bank of Whitman branch, helping us raise our profile in the county.

Finally, don't forget your own voting. There is a lot of general information and information on candidates on the League's www.vote411.org web site. Just posted is the *Presidential Primary Voters' Guide* with answers from each candidate to LWVUS posed questions. Look under candidate information near the top of the home page.

Pullman League Recording Oral Histories of Life Members

Karen Kiessling, Vice President

This September the Pullman League honored its four Life Members with a luncheon and special recognition by former Mayors of Pullman, the current Mayor and the League of Women Voters of Washington President, Barbara Seitle. At the luncheon the life members agreed to be interviewed about their memories of the League in Pullman. Life members are those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more. Our life members have belonged for 52, 54, and 57 years. Pullman league members are interviewing these women and tape recording their conversations. New member Sue Armitage gave a training session on taking oral histories to a group of volunteers and those tapes are being made now.

National and Local Program Planning

Monday February 4th is our chance to influence National Program Planning. We are asked to look at the National Positions printed below and decide if we would like to see an updated study of any area or recommend a study of a new area. The ideas with the most support will come up at the National Convention in Portland, OR June 13 to 17 and determine what the National League of Women Voters does for the next two years.

There are many ideas already out there. New York would like to see a study of “The Advisability of Using the National Popular Vote Compact among the States as a Method for Electing the President.” Other issues are Net Neutrality and the legislation controlling the media in general; the Independent Judiciary; update the *Arms Control* and/or *Military Policy and Defense Spending* positions (1983 and 1984/86 respectively), as our current positions reflect the Cold War era; Eminent Domain; ways to increase *voter turnout* such as early voting, no-excuse absentee voting, voting stations in malls and grocery stores and online voting; public education looking at accountability, data collection, standardized curriculum and testing, teacher qualifications and certification, federal financing and federal oversight vs. local control; and privatization of government services such as libraries and prisons. Have a look at the LWVUS positions and think about where League could do the most good in advocating for responsible, good government. If you want more details on the positions, they are in Impact on Issues 2006-2008 which can be found at the LWVUS web site: www.lwv.org. Alice has a hard copy to share as well.

If there is time we will also discuss possible local studies. Do we want to continue looking at our positions on Library services? Particularly important is the possibility of a Library District. Do we want to do more on planning such as big box stores? What about election policies and policies for mail-in-ballots?

PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS

League of Women Voters of the United States

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT

Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.

Voting Rights

Citizen’s Right to Vote. Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.

DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation. Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and full voting representation in both houses of Congress.

Election Process

Apportionment. Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.

Campaign Finance. Improve methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public’s right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the political process.

Selection of the President. Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct-popular vote and work to abolish the Electoral College.

Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. Support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates.

Citizen Rights

Citizen’s Right to Know/Citizen Participation.

Protect the citizen’s right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision making.

Individual Liberties. Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.

Public Policy on Reproductive Choices.

Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

Congress and the Presidency

Congress. Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision-making capability and effective performance.

The Presidency. Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Promote peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international organizations.

United Nations : Support a strong, effective United Nations to promote international peace and security and to address the social, economic and humanitarian needs of all people.

Trade : Support U.S. trade policies that reduce trade barriers, expand international trade and advance the achievement of humanitarian, environmental and social goals.

U.S. Relations with Developing Countries : Promote U.S. policies that meet long-term social and economic needs of developing countries.

Arms Control : Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures.

Military Policy and Defense Spending : Work to limit reliance on military force. Examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.

Natural Resources : Promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems.

Resource Management : Promote resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government.

Environmental Protection and Pollution Control

Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment.

Air Quality: Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources.

Energy: Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation and encourage the use of renewable resources.

Land Use: Promote policies that manage land as a finite resource and that incorporate principles of

stewardship.

Water Resources: Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater and drinking water.

Waste Management: Promote policies to reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes.

Nuclear Issues: Promote the maximum protection of public health and safety and the environment.

Public Participation

Promote public understanding and participation in decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources.

Agriculture Policy

Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices and increased reliance on the free market.

SOCIAL POLICY

Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.

Equality of Opportunity

Equal Rights: Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA.

Education, Employment and Housing: Support equal access to education, employment and housing.

Fiscal Policy

Tax Policy: Support adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax.

Federal Deficit: Promote responsible deficit policies.

Funding of Entitlements: Support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability and health insurance.

Health Care

Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents and controls health care costs.

Meeting Basic Human Needs

Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

Income Assistance: Support income assistance programs, based on need, that provide decent, adequate

standards for food, clothing and shelter.

Support Services: Provide for essential support services.

Housing Supply: Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.

Child Care

Support programs and policies to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it.

Early Intervention for Children at Risk

Support policies and programs that promote the well being, development and safety of all children.

Violence Prevention

Support violence prevention programs in communities.

Gun Control

Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.

Urban Policy

Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life.

Death Penalty

The LWVUS supports the abolition of the death penalty.

Whatever the issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement and well defined channels for citizen input and review.

For more information on the League of Women Voters US go to www.lwv.org. A more complete description of the LWVUS positions is in the publication Impact on Issues. You can get their under Library on the home page or go directly to:

www.lwv.org/Content/ContentGroups/ImpactIssues/2006_Impact_web.pdf

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PULLMAN PROGRAM ITEMS FOR 2007-2009 BIENNIUM

1. **Whitman County Health Services:** Support for a public health program for Whitman County which promotes the physical and mental health of all residents of the county. — Monitor and consider a meeting on transportation especially that needed to assist travel to medical and dental appointments.

2. **Environmental Quality:** Support of policies and procedures which promote coordinated

planning and method of enforcement for the conservation and development of land. Support of policies to promote coordinated planning and implementation of solid waste management procedures which conserve natural resources, are ecologically sound, and aesthetically pleasing. Support of policies to establish city-wide curbside recycling and composting, to maintain a Recycling Center, to hire a recycling coordinator, to encourage procurement of recyclable materials, and development of markets for recyclable materials. — Action: Look into increasing types of recycling and reviving the Environmental Quality Commission.

3. Whitman County Transportation: Support of a system of transportation for the Pullman area which will adequately serve all segments of the population. . — Monitor and update, see #1.

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 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. . Monitor and Action:

Use Jan Miller Memorial funds to develop an ordinance that would require a public meeting as part of development applications.

Further define sentence 3. *Summaries of Planning consensus in the past suggest that this was meant to support a process that required both Planning Commission and City council deliberation and action on land issues, not all such decisions. This is probably state law now but worth keeping as developers are always hoping to find a way around it. The May Annual Meeting asked the board to propose alternative wording.*

Board suggestion, Dec. 14, 2007. Support the principle of making land use decisions through a process that requires both a Planning Commission and City Council or County Commissioners.

5. Local Government Budget and Finance: Support (1) tax measures necessary to maintain an adequate level of financial support for Pullman City Government, (2) long-range Capital Improvement Plan for the City of Pullman, (3) finance implementation of long-range capital improvement. . — Monitor

6. Schools: Support of measures for a school program adequately financed by the State Basic Education Act. Support of special levies for specific purposes unhampered by a levy lid. Support of the following criteria for schools: (1) Given the present economic constraints of the levy lid law, basic education funding and fluctuating enrollment, it is important to have quality instructional programming and low student teacher ratio. (2) Energy efficiency (fuel & transportation) is an important criteria in considering use or lack of use of a building. (3) In any major redistribution of students, the maintaining of small neighborhood clusters of children should be considered. (4) Complete financial estimates of each option should be made available when considering changes in the use of facilities. — Monitor

7. City Government: Support of the principle of separation of administrative and policy-making functions. . — Monitor and work with City Government to provide more transparency by posting agendas of boards and commissions.

8. Library Services: Support of (1) a more equitable relationship of library employees compared

to other city employees. (2) Additional sources of funding and any expansion to maintain at least the present level of services, (3) cooperative relationships with other area libraries while maintaining local autonomy.—Monitor

They Are Serious

The 2007 legislative session made using a hand held cell phone illegal as of Jan. 1, 2008. (Hands free phones are OK). Fines for speeding, using a HOV lane, driving on the shoulder, blocking intersections and not wearing seat belts were also raised, while DUI's will now stay on your record for 10 years.

Voter Online

Take a look at the site <http://www.lwwwa.org/pullman>.

This is our web site, set up by the State League. This is a good site to bookmark since the current VOTER is posted on it so you can always find it, even if you accidentally lose your copy.

League of Women Voters
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