

Board Meeting Minutes
LWV Pullman
February 25, 2020, 10:00 am, Daily Grind, Back Room

Attending: Mary Collins, Sue Hinz, Anne Lewis, Deb Olson, Bobbie Ryder, Alice Schroeder, Judy Stone, Libby Walker, Carolyn Joswig-Jones, Guest: Debbie Bikfasy, US 2020 Census

Call to Order and Welcome: The meeting was called to order by Vice President, Sue Hinz, at 10:00 am. Sue reminded the group of the League's non-partisan policy.

Routine Business: The January Board Meeting minutes were approved with one spelling correction. The next board meeting will be March 24, 2020, at 10:00am at the Daily Grind.

Old business and Updates: Since the president was delayed until 10:30, Sue began with past events.

Past Events:

The *brown bag on Feb. 17* with County Auditor, Sandy Jamison, was well attended. The review of how ballots are handled was excellent. Sandy's update to us the next day on two questions, "How long is the party registration data public? The list is retained for 22 months after the election." and "Who pays for the election? The state." was most appreciated.

February 20 General Meeting: Eva Abrams portraying Dr. Nettie Craig Asberry. The portrayal of an early black suffragette in Tacoma was very moving for the 50 members of the audience. It was disappointing that, although several WSU groups co-sponsored the event, there were few WSU students or staff in the audience.

70th Birthday Celebration at Neill Library, Feb. 14. The wonderful display at Neill Public Library organized by Judy Stone, Helen Catanese, and Mary Collins, along with a cake reception organized by Libby Walker drew 25 or more attendees to celebrate the 70th birthday of the Pullman League. Among the visitors were Pullman Mayor, Glen Johnson, and some city council members.

Chamber luncheon: Deb Olson attended the February Chamber Luncheon at SEL with Ed Schweitzer as speaker. Of most interest to the League was his current work with the Pullman Regional Hospital to make costs transparent.

Old Business:

Finance Drive: Finance drive letters have been sent to potential donors along with a current calendar of our coming events. Libby will check if they were sent to current members as well.

MASC: League Papers collected by Dorothy Swanson, Lenna Harding and past presidents were sorted this fall by Judy Stone, Mary Collins, Helen Catanese and Alice Schroeder. The result was three boxes of Pullman League history. WSU Manuscripts, Archives and Special Collections will pick up these papers Feb. 26th. Mary Collins and Judy Stone will also talk to the archivist about the funds needed to properly sort and label the papers, as the League would like to help raise money for this.

Centennial Award: The Centennial Award will honor living women in the county who have served as Mayors, City Council Members and County Commissioners. Mary Collins, Sue Hinz and Karen Kiessling are planning the event for Saturday August 15 or 22. The League hopes to hold the event at The Center next to the Whitman County Library in Colfax. It was suggested that we try for August 15 as August 22 will be the main day of the Lentil Festival.

ERA Ratification: The Thurston County, WA League had a postcard writing event urging congress to extend the deadline for ratifying the ERA. Mary Collins has been researching this. It is a complicated issue as some states want to abolish their ratification. We may want to develop a flyer or have a general program that gives information on the pros and cons, instead. It was suggested that we delay action until after the LWVUS national convention which will most likely discuss this issue and formulate an updated position.

Membership: Judy Stone reported that we now have 52 members and at least two others who have expressed interest.

Reports:

Treasurer: Treasurer, Paul Spencer, was not available and there was no report.

Meld: Deb Olson participated in the February MELD call. All 4 Leagues in our group were represented. It was announced that there are 3 new grant opportunities: technology equipment, membership, and education fund special grants. Also recommended was a video on diversity from Denmark at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jD8tjhVOITc>. Note also that the LWVWA Council will be in Yakama May 29-3.

Community Outreach: Libby Walker reported that there was a Daily News article on the birthday party but not on other events. Also, NPR did a report on the auditor's presentation at the brown bag. We need to post our special events with NWPB.

Social Media: Bobbie Ryder has put pictures of all three of our February events on Facebook. It was suggested she also send the pictures to LWVWA. Carolyn Joswig Jones has started an Instagram account for the Pullman League, hashtag#lwvpullman. She gave a brief overview of this service. The most important thing is it allows you to target an audience. If you have material to post, send it to Carolyn

Voter Services: Deb Olson reported that Civics Classes were held at Pullman High yesterday, Feb. 24. The curriculum was slightly different, leaving out some history in order to have time to discuss the upcoming Presidential Primary and how the auditor's office counts ballots to ensure privacy and security. We are also doing voter registration with several students registered at the high school, voter registration today at the CUB and registration from 4:00pm to 6:00pm planned for Neill Public Library tomorrow. Deb will deliver filled out forms to Colfax on Thursday. We also need to be thinking of questions for candidates for the VOTE411.org statements for the August primary for local and state candidates. Send your questions to Deb.

Observer Corps: Judy Stone reported that we now have 14 observers handling 7 city and 4 County agencies. The planning report for downtown will be presented to the City Council tonight and to the planning commission tomorrow. Public comment can be given at the planning commission. Some members of the board were concerned about the lack of transparency in the study process. The observers and others at the two meetings will consult on a possible letter to the council and the papers about their concerns.

TWIL: This Week In League, the LWVWA news e-mail would like input on League history in Washington State. Karen Kiessling and Lenna Harding were suggested as possible contacts.

Legislative: Karl Johanson will take on the job of Legislative Action Chair. Susan Daniels will continue to work on Action as well.

Community Update: The current Community Update has our League page, highlighting our upcoming events, an interview with long time member and past president, Alice Schroeder, and information on the presidential primary.

Nominating Committee: Mary Collins reported that with the addition of a Legislative Action Chair, we now have a complete slate for 2020-2021.

The Voter: Anne Lewis will have a new Voter out at the end of March. It needs to contain the required information for the Annual Meeting on May 7.

New Business:

Upcoming Census: Guest, Debbie Bikfasy, is heading the census in our area. This mostly involves recruiting and hiring workers for follow up visits to those who don't participate on-line. Workers must be 18 and a citizen. They will have a three day training in March. They can be accompanied by another person who is not an employee. She would like help in recruiting. It was suggested that people who don't need a job might want to take it on as a way to raise funds for a charity. League agreed to write a letter to local papers encouraging applicants. We will also do a letter encouraging on-line participation around March 20, as letters are received by households. Mary Collins, Sue Hinz and Alice Schroeder will draft a letter for Bobbie to send.

Annual Meeting Planning: The board needs to approve the business agenda for the annual meeting on May 7, by the March board meeting on March 24, so it can be published in the Voter a month ahead. We have a full slate of nominees and delegates for the national convention but still need the annual treasurer's report and the 2020-2021 proposed budget. A committee of treasurer, Paul Spencer, Alice Schroeder, Libby Walker and either past treasurer Shelley Jones or Joan Folwell was suggested. The current treasurer needs to formulate a proposed budget for the committee to consider before the March board meeting. Alice will contact Paul and Bobbie will contact Shelley or Joan.

Harvard Case Study: The Penwells, whom we sponsored for the Harvard Case Study training, will hold a public event with a case study as part of their obligation. The event is scheduled for the evening of May 18 at the Colfax High School and will be a case study of the ERA.

Additional Business: Judy Stone pointed out the 40 day protest against legal abortion planned in front of the Planned Parenthood building. Since the League strongly supports a woman's right to choose, the board agreed to send a letter to the editor supporting legal abortion. Judy will draft the letter.

Upcoming Events:

Monday, March 2, WSU CUB, 7:00pm. Luis Cortes Romero will speak on the Supreme Court case he participated in on behalf of DACA.

Tuesday, March 3, WSU Foley Institute, noon. Louis Cortes Romero informal Q and A session.

Thursday, March 12, Neill Public Library, 6:00pm. Eleanor Roosevelt enactment by Cathryn Cummings.

Saturday, March 14, home of Anne Lewis, 11:00am. Pie Day (3.14). Please bring a sweet or savory pie to share, if you can. We will have a good time eating and socializing. Guests are welcome. Please let Anne know you are coming.

Tuesday, March 17, Hecht Room, Neill Public Library, noon. Brown Bag with Superior Court Judge Gary Libey.

Monday, April 6, noon in the Foley Center and 6:00pm in the Hecht room of Neill Public Library.

Alison McCaffree will present programs on Redistricting and the Census.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alice Schroeder, Secretary