

League of Women Voters, Pullman

Observer Corps - 2016 End of Year Report

The Pullman League's Observer Corps has grown over the years into a vigorous, active group that involves about a third of our members. For many of our Observers this is the only League activity they are involved with and therefore is a good way to get new members involved and current members to take on a more active role in League. We believe an active Observer Corps is essential for good government.

We currently have 20 members observing 10 City of Pullman and four Whitman County government-related agencies, selected from our local TRY document of elected and appointed officials. Each observer attends from one to four meetings per month, depending on the agency's schedule. Meetings average one hour but sometimes expand to two or three hours. Fifty percent of meetings are held in the evening but one is at 7:30 a.m. and six are during workday hours.

Members are either recruited to observe an agency of interest to the League or someone expresses an interest in a specific agency. New observers are given information about the agency's mission and procedures along with observer guidelines and a report form. The agency is sent a letter of introduction and the observation begins! Most agencies send agendas and other documents to their observer prior to each meeting and our observers report being welcomed at the meetings they attend.

We keep some data about the number of monthly meetings attended, based on reports submitted for meetings that were available to be attended; meaning they were not cancelled by the agency or the observer did not give notice they would be unavailable to attend. During the year our attendance rates increased from 50% to 73%.

During the past two years, two issues of concern to Observers were reported to the League's Executive Board for discussion. They were investigated and resolved.

Groups currently being observed include Pullman City Council, Whitman County Commissioners and the Port, Pullman and County Planning Commissions, Pullman City Council and entities that oversee the Airport, Arts, Civil Service, Hospital, Library, Parks and Recreation, Police Advisory, and Pullman School District.

The Pullman League is proud of the Corps' growth and plans to continue and expand our efforts as interests and/or needs arise.

Judy Stone
Current Observer Corps Chair