

VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PULLMAN

August 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

Back To League Potluck

Date: Monday September 13, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Program: Potluck dinner, then catch up on ongoing matters and brainstorm on this year's programs

Place: Home of Joan Folwell, 1301 Kitzmiller Rd., directions are below

Chair: Sue Armitage, 332-4279

Board Meeting

Monday September 27

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

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

Other Events of Interest

Lentil Festival Parade

Date: Saturday August 21, 10:00 a.m.

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

Place: Meet at Neill Library, Pullman, WA

Contact: Diane Smerdon, 334-5413

Public Forum #1

Date: Tuesday October 19, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Program: Ballot issues on the November ballot
Place: Whitman County Library, Colfax, WA
Contact: Diane Smerdon, 334-5413

Public Forum #2

Date: Wednesday October 20, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Program: Ballot issues on the November ballot
Place: Pullman City Hall Council Chambers
Contact: Diane Smerdon, 334-5413

Back to League Potluck **Sue Armitage**

Pullman's League year begins September 13. Please plan to gather at 6 p.m. for our Back to League potluck dinner at Joan Folwell's lovely rural home (directions below). Bring a friend to introduce to League! We'll begin with short reports on ongoing matters: relations with the state and national Leagues, Voter Service activities, the work of the Observers. Then we'll ask you to help us brainstorm our Social Networking and Sustainability programs (see the Planning Chart), high school civic education, and membership concerns. Please bring a dish for supper and a friend for this special introduction to League!

Directions to Joan Folwell's Home

1. Drive north out of Pullman on the Palouse highway (Route 27)
2. At the first intersection (Albion Road/Wheelan Road) turn right onto Whelan Road
3. Drive approximately 200 feet and immediately turn right on Kitzmiller Road (do not go past the McGregor Plant!).
4. The house is located 1.3 miles from the beginning of Kitzmiller on the right side of the road (look for the blue address on mailbox). Drive up the lane: the upper driveway leads to the front door and has three parking spaces and requires no stairs into the house; additional parking space is located on the lower drive and in front of the shed. Wear sturdy shoes for walking on the gravel driveway.

See you and your friend there—Monday September 13, 6 p.m.

Heads Up

The annual dues notices will be sent out in September. It is really helpful when the dues come in promptly.

Results of our Annual Planning Meeting

On July 19 we had another productive and pleasant Planning Meeting in Ruth Brown's lovely yard. Here is the resulting schedule for 2010-2011.

Date	Program	Organizers	Place	
Sept. 13	Welcome Back to League Potluck		Joan Folwell's house	Bring a friend
Oct. 19 & 20	Public Forums	Diane Smerdon and Voter Service committee	Whitman Cty. Lib. & Pullman City Hall	
Nov. 3-5	Women's History Conference and Exhibit	Sue Armitage	Davenport Spokane	Carpool
Dec. 6	Social Media	Karen Kiessling Janet Kendall Shelley Jones Muriel Oaks	Gladish	
Jan. 10, 2011	State & Local programs		Hecht Room	
Feb. 2, 2011	open		Hecht Room	
March 7, 2011	Sustainability	Deb Olsen Alex Hammond Paul Spencer	City Council Chambers	
April 4, 2011	Health Care	Lucy Linden	Hecht Room	
May 2, 2011	Annual Meeting-- Police Past and Present	Karen Kiessling	Karen Kiessling's home	Catered

Join in the Lentil Festival Parade

Diane Smerdon

The National Lentil Festival is in its 22nd year! Each year, attendees look forward to the live entertainment, family activities, parade, and many delicious lentil foods. We can all be proud that Pullman, Washington is the home of this national festival. It is a perfect celebration to welcome back the students, see old friends, and greet many newcomers to Pullman.

Please consider walking in the parade with the Pullman League this year! It was great fun last year and we even won an award for our presentation! Most importantly, it gives the League

visibility, a chance to add new members, and an opportunity to inform voters of upcoming forums.

The parade is on **Saturday, August 21**, and we will gather between 10:00 and 10:30 a.m. to take our place in the parade. (I am assuming that our gathering point will be Neill Public Library once again.) Please mark this date on your calendar. Thanks to the efforts of Karen Kiessling, the Pullman League will pass out fans to viewers this year. Not only are the fans practical in dealing with the hot weather, but recipients will find forum information and League contact information on the back of the fans.

If you can walk, please contact Diane Smerdon at: mdsmerdon@roadrunner.com. We are hoping that many men and women from our League will join us. We will have League sashes, hats, and of course, the wonderful new fans. See you on the 21st!

In Memoriam

Dorothy Swanson, a stalwart Pullman League member since 1951, died on July 3, 2010 of a brain tumor. A memorial service was held on July 31 at Trinity Lutheran Church which a number of League members and friends attended. The League extends its condolences to the Swanson family. A tribute to Dorothy was in the June VOTER. We will all miss Dorothy.

October Voter Forums -- Leaguers Mark Your Calendars Please! Karen Kiessling

The League of Women Voters of Pullman together with the Pullman Chamber of Commerce and the Whitman County Library will conduct two forums in October for the voters of Whitman County. Those two forums will focus on the ballot issues on the November ballot and will begin with the legislative race and the county race for the position of Auditor. There are six certified ballot issues and the bulk of the evening will be taken up with pro and con debates on those topics.

The League is looking for speakers on all of the ballot issues and urges any persons, Leaguers included, who wish to speak for or against any issue to contact the voter service committee to say so. Any League member speaking is doing so as an individual and will not identify as a League member. The state board has taken positions on some of the ballot issues and those positions will be made clear on material available at the forum site.

The first forum is Tuesday, October 19 and will take place at the new Whitman County Library on Main Street in Colfax. League members are urged to carpool and to arrive at the library by 6:30 pm so that the forum can begin promptly at 7 pm. The forums will be held from 7 - 9 pm.

The second forum is the following night, Wednesday, October 20, at the City Council Chambers of City Hall in Pullman. The same format will follow. League members come at 6:30 to help get

speakers and the public seated and ready to videotape the forum at 7 pm. The videotaping of the forum at city hall will be replayed on Channel 11 on Time Warner cable.

As always, the League provides timers, moderators, question card distributors and pickup, question sorters, greeters and general administration of the event. This is our most visible public service during the year and we garner great public esteem for these events. Both the candidates and the proponents and opponents of the ballot issues recognize that the League is the most civil and educational of voter information events. You are an important part of that public service.

Perhaps this year we might think of it as the Dorothy Swanson Memorial Forum. Dorothy loved these events and worked on them for at least 50 years.

Johnson 4th of July Parade

Alice Schroeder

Once again The Pullman League participated in the Johnson, July 4th Parade. Sue Armitage, Deb Olson, Janet Kendall, Shelley Jones, Karen Barron and Alice Schroeder marched and were joined by Sue's daughter, E.V., and longtime supporter and former member, Joy Dillman and her family.



This was our most successful parade yet. We had League sashes, straw hats with red, white and blue bands, and small flags to hand out. All were purchased with Education Fund Grants in the last few years. The flags had a small note attached to remind people to vote in the primary. We also handed out our TAX FACTS bookmarks.

Children and adults loved the flags and many adults asked for the bookmarks. The flags were easy to hand out and we stuck to the right sidelines, so, for once, we were able to stick together behind Karen as she worked the crowd from her Segway.

We were thankful for a cool day and that the water fighters kindly let us stay pretty dry. Best of all was the spontaneous applause and thank you's we heard along the way. This is clearly one of the most enjoyable and effective

ways to remind the public that we are here and serve them in many ways. Now, we need lots of members to march in the Lentil Parade on Saturday Aug. 21.

Attention Pack Rats

Alice Schroeder

Do you have LWV materials you no longer want but hate to throw out? Now is the time to contact Alice Schroeder (334-2400, e-mail: aschroede2003@yahoo.com) or Lucy Linden (332-2755, e-mail: lindenluc@gmail.com) and we will sort your material to send to the WSU archives. We would like to thank Thor Swanson and his family, who donated Dorothy's extensive League files to us. This has inspired several members to help sort them and the president's files. At least two apple boxes of material will go to the WSU archives, to join material from 1950 to 1978 already there. Once the material is processed, anyone interested in the League's history or local history can access it. If we want it for a display, to see the basis of a local study, or find out if someone was a League member, it is much easier to access it in the archives than in your basement or attic. While we are in a sorting mode, let us attack any unwanted League materials you have!

Observer Report Briefs

Pullman Regional Hospital Board, July 7, 2010

Observer: Helen Stiller

Topics of interest:

The Hospital "Gala" raised \$16,610 for the Hospital Foundation. This is 4X the amount raised last year. Attendance was 275. Megan Guido was complimented by the Board on the job that she is doing as head of the Foundation. Marcia Sanholtz is President of the Foundation Board.

The Strategic Planning Committee reviewed information on the possibility of developing medical building 3 in the Pullman Care Community. They looked at the possible location of the building and addressed some of the parking issues associated with this development. They also discussed the already existing parking problems and concluded that additional parking options would come prior to the development and construction of additional buildings. The committee also recommended that this project be a partnership with physicians wishing to occupy office space in the new building.

The Auxiliary has approved funding for 7 requests (out of 14 applications) for a total of \$10,525.

The Board accepted a policy re: accepting a patient's choice with respect to Initiative 1000—including some exceptions. Also accepted a policy re: Professional Conduct and Behavior. They also developed incentives to work toward having all employees vaccinated against the flu—consistent with the Employee Health Policy.

PRH ranked number one in Washington state on all but one measure on the most recent Hospital Consumer Assessment Of Healthcare Providers and Systems.

Avalon Health Care and the Hospital have re-initiated conversation relative to the potential for a partnership regarding construction of a new nursing home as part of the Pullman Care Community. The first meeting of this round of discussions will take place in July. (Personal opinion: I think that moving the Nursing Home onto the campus of the Hospital is extremely necessary. The nursing home is extremely outdated by today's standards.)

Neill Public Library Board, Special Meeting, May 19, 2010

Observer: Diane Gillespie

(I apologize for omitting this report in the June VOTER -- editor)

Of possible interest to LWV members:

- 1) Elizabeth (Beth) Hindman, WSU College of Communications, attended as a new Board Member.
- 2) Joanna Bailey reported that the 2009 Year End City of Pullman budget numbers were "better than projected" and that the 2010 General Fund projections are "not too bad."
- 3) Karen Weatherman reported that the Friends of NPL are working with library staff to define budget categories and to set priorities and procedures in compliance with the Friends' 301c3 nonprofit restrictions.
- 4) Given progress in staffing, NPL may be able to resume open hours on Sunday by July 11th.
- 5) The NPL contract with Ruth Metz Associates, Consulting Services for Library Leaders will be reviewed by the City Attorney, and any concerns will be brought to Metz at a conference call from Rob Rembert and Joanna Bailey.
- 6) A fresh contract will be brought to the Board for approval either at the June meeting or at a special meeting.
- 7) The Board then went into Executive Session for "performance review of a public employee."

Neill Public Library Board, Special Meeting, June 22, 2010

Observer: Diane Gillespie

This meeting produced several items of good news:

- 1) Cheryl Brinkley, Adult Services Librarian, is the recipient of a year-long IMLS Western Regional Fellowship (Transforming Life After 50). Through live and online coursework she will gain "a new framework for serving and engaging adults ages 50+" as well as establishing "libraries as centers of lifelong learning and civic engagement."
- 2) An NPL application for a Paul G. Allen Grant (Returning Readers Advisory to the Library) has been well received so far although winners will not be announced until December.
- 3) James Morasch, Technical Services, and NPL applied for, and now received a Washington State Library Laptop Lab grant. It provides \$15,000, 10 notebook computers, and the necessary equipment for a mobile notebook computer teaching facility beneficial to the Library and the City as a whole.
- 4) NPL has received an Inland NW Community Foundation Pullman Community Grant of \$2000 to update the materials used for ESL teaching.

- 5) Additional blinds for the Heritage Addition will come from the Shirrod Family Memorial Fund.
- 6) On July 11, Sunday open hours (1-5 p.m.) will be restored.
- 7) Kathleen Ahern has done an excellent job of primary school recruitment and innovative program organization for the well-attended NPL summer reading program, currently in process.

Other news:

- 1) Because of City insurance regulations, Friends of the Library and not the NPL Board will sign the library consulting contract with Ruth Metz. Otherwise her work with Library stakeholders (Board, Staff, Friends, City) will proceed as already defined. She will likely begin in September.
- 2) Applications are coming in for the Director search; a second Search Committee meeting will occur in early July.
- 3) A technical services person has been hired and the selection process is underway for circulation hiring.
- 4) Joanna Bailey circulated a draft of her NPL Annual Report, to be presented to the City in July. She also circulated a draft of the NPL page to be part of a city-wide survey.

Neill Public Library Board, Special Meeting, July 21, 2010

Observer: Diane Gillespie

Of potential interest to LWV members:

- 1) Joanna Bailey and Rob Rembert will have a conference call conversation with Ruth Metz of Ruth Metz Associates on July 26th to finalize the revised contract and other details of her proposed trips to Pullman to consult with NPL staff, Board, Friends, and the City.
- 2) Karen Weatherman reported that The Friends of Neill Public Library, who are funding the consulting, are also investigating various insurance options for their nonprofit organization.
- 3) The Director Search Committee has reviewed six applications for the position and will conduct phone interviews with two of them on July 27th.
- 4) NPL has reopened on Sundays. Patrons know about the added hours and are using them. The Library will continue to keep track of staffing needs with the aim of bringing back some of the remaining six evening hours that had to be cut due to financial and staffing exigencies.
- 5) The Summer Reading Program is a huge success with 1,302 registered as of July 19th. Summer reading is largely responsible for increases of June circulation by 18%, library visits by 48%, and reference questions by 119% over May.

Useful Pullman League Numbers

Contact Us: lwypull@yahoo.com

Online VOTER: www.lwvwa.org/Pullman

League of Women Voters
P.O. Box 366
Pullman, WA 99163