



VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PULLMAN WASHINGTON

August 2011

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:** Shelley Jones, 432-3428, ; **Secretary:** Deb Olson, 332-2114, Backup: Francy Bose, 332-5114; **Treasurer:** Joan Folwell, 332-3946; **Voter Service Chair:** Diane Smerdon, 334-5413; **Voter Editor:** Susan Daniels, 332-6699; **Finance Drive Chair:** Lenna Harding, 332-7749; **Membership Chair:** Janet Kendall, 332-4268; **Hospitality Chair:** Barbara Hammond, 332-4104; **Observer Corps Chair and TRY Editor:** Lucy Linden, 332-2755; **Webmaster:** Paul Spencer: 332-6699; **State Board Member:** Karen Kiessling, 332-4755.

Meetings

Back to League Meeting

Date: Monday September 12, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Program: Potluck dinner, followed by a talk by Pullman author Marty Mullen. This is an ideal time to bring guests and potential members to a League meeting.

Place: Karen Kiessling's home, 510 SE Crestview

Chair: Alice Schroeder, 334-2470

Open Government Forum

Date: Wednesday October 12, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Program: Forum co-sponsored by the Washington Coalition for Open Government. Panelists are Jerry Handfield, the Washington State Archivist; Steve Dixson, of the Spokane law firm of Witherspoon Kelley; Susan Fagan, our state representative from district 9, and Toby Nixon, president of WCOG and former state representative.

Place: Neill Public Library, Hecht Room

Contact: Alice Schroeder, 334-2470

Election Forum in Colfax

Date: Tuesday October 18, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Program: Forum on candidates for Port Commissioner, Colfax Mayor and School Board

Place: Whitman County Library Meeting Room, Colfax

Chair: Diane Smerdon, 334-5413

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Election Forum in Pullman

Date: Wednesday October 19, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Program: Forum on Port Commissioner candidates and the five initiatives

Place: Pullman City Hall Council Chambers

Chair: Diane Smerdon, 334-5413

Board Training

Date: Sunday October 30, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Program: Board Training for Pullman League members

Place: Holiday Inn Express

Contact: Alice Schroeder, 334-2470

Board Meetings

Date: Wednesday September 28, 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Place: Barbara Hammond's home, 1110 NE Indiana

Chair: Alice Schroeder, 334-2470

Date: Wednesday October 26, 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Place: Lucy Linden's home, 500 SE Crestview

Chair: Alice Schroeder, 334-2470

Review of 2010-2011 LWV Pullman Activities **Alice Schroeder, President**

The 2010-2011 year was one of goodbye's and new directions as well as continuing programs for the Pullman League of Women Voters. On July 3, 2010, 58 year member Dorothy Swanson passed away after a short battle with a brain tumor. Dorothy was passionate about the League. She was our unofficial historian and City Council watcher. Before falling ill in May, she helped prepare a wonderful exhibit at Neill Public Library for the combined Pullman League's 60th anniversary and 100th anniversary of Women's Suffrage in Washington State in February and continued her long time work on both the budget and nominating committees. Her family kindly donated her League papers to us and during the summer of 2010 several members worked to sort papers mostly from the 70's to the early 90's for the WSU archives. Most earlier papers had gone to the archives in the early 80's. Papers from the 90's and 2000's await sorting.

On Nov. 20th League members joined family and friends to celebrate founding member, Kay Buss's 100th birthday and read her a proclamation from LWVWA president, Linnea Hirst congratulating Kay on her 60 years of League membership and her advocacy for the LWVWA deferred giving program. Sadly, Kay passed away two weeks later. Her bequest will fund board training for local Leagues, including a planned Oct. 30 program in Pullman. At the Nov. 3-5 Women's History Conference in Spokane, former board chair Sue Armitage was honored for her contributions to Women's History. In March Muriel Oaks received the President's Distinguished Lifetime Service Award at the WSU Showcase. We were sorry to see both of them move from Pullman in their retirements. Their enthusiasm and hard work is sorely missed.

New directions were taken as we strove to incorporate digital technology into our program. In December the League held a well attended educational program, *Social Media for Non-Profits and Small Businesses*, organized by Janet Kendall and Muriel Oaks. Approximately 160 invitations were sent to local organizations to attend a meeting with three keynote speakers highlighting history, policy and tools for using social media. This was followed by a panel of local organizations currently using social media.

Shelley Jones organized a semester collaboration with the WSU Digital Technology & Culture class plus a spring intern which resulted in a much improved website at www.lwvpullman.org and Paul Spencer continues building it. We have learned that a good website requires continuing care but we hope it will benefit members and attract others.

Our two October Candidate and Initiative Forums probed new approaches as well. The Whitman County Library offered its new meeting room for a Voter's Forum in Colfax. Radio station KCLX, 1450am, broadcast both the Colfax and Whitman County Forums live and the Colfax Forum was video taped by Paul Spencer and placed on the Whitman County website so voters from throughout the county could see it. We hope to put future forums on our new website and are continuing to work with the library to provide Voter Forums and other programs of interest to county residents outside of Pullman.

We continued to participate in the 4th of July Johnson Parade handing out flags and information on the primary election and in the Lentil Festival Parade in late August reminding voters of the October forum. A grant of \$500 from the LWVWA Education Fund for Civics Education/Engagement funded the hand-outs and advertising for the Voter's Forums.

At the February State and Local Planning meeting we divided into three groups to brainstorm about needed updates and studies at both levels and it was much more interesting than our former format of leader/audience discussion and resulted in many ideas for local programming.

Regional and local land use planning continued to be important in educational activities and action. When we learned that the county did not plan to require a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for the proposed wind farm near Garfield, Joan Folwell organized a meeting reviewing the permitting process for wind farms including when and how the public can comment. Joan gave an overview of the state permitting process. County Planner, Alan Thomson, discussed the County process and Mike Denny of the Blue Mountain Audubon Society described the role of TACs. TACs are committees of various stakeholders which function as post-construction, quasi-judicial advisory committees to review results of post-construction monitoring data such as effects on migrating birds. They can make suggestions for adjusting mitigation and monitoring requirements and serve as an important link between concerned citizens, government and the company. There has been much bitter controversy over the wind farm and County officials were concerned about holding this meeting. They were impressed with the League's ability to run a civil and informative meeting that did not take sides. Later written comments by the public, including a letter from the League urging the addition of a TAC to requirements for building and operating the wind farm, resulted in a requirement to form a TAC being included in the final Environmental Impact Statement. In other planning action the League submitted a letter to the City Council supporting the creation of a Certified Local Program of Historic Preservation in Pullman, which was enacted by the Council.

Action on other topics included a letter urging candidates to run for elective offices in the county as

several have one or no candidates. We also continued to support the Pullman Transit System's application for grant funding which was successful.

The Pullman League continued to be active in LWVWA activities with three members attending the Eastside Action Workshop in October and four attending the LWVWA state convention in May. Both were held in the Tri-Cities. Karen Kiessling accepted an appointment to the LWVWA State Board as a director in charge of membership recruitment and retention for the 2011-2013 biennium.

We continued to educate ourselves on two long standing interests, recycling and health care. In March we heard from Eric Zacharison on the pros and cons of converting a traditional wheat, barley, lentil farm to organic produce sold locally. In April two LWVWA board members, Linnea Hirst, president, and Susan Eidenshinck discussed what the LWVWA is doing on health care legislation. Our annual meeting on May 16 at Karen Kiessling's home was attended by 19 members, including new member Amy Cole, a graduate student at WSU. Business included changing part 1 of our position on libraries to better reflect the current situation to read "Support equitable salaries for library employees in comparison with city employees." We had the chance to meet our new police chief, Gary Jenkins, and hear his views and answers to our questions on current and future policing issues in Pullman.

September Potluck -- Back to League Night!

Karen Kiessling

The League year is beginning on Monday, September 12, with a potluck supper at Karen Kiessling's home, 510 SE Crestview, starting at 6 pm. Bring a casserole or a dessert or a salad and get a good hour of eating and visiting in before President Alice Schroeder calls the meeting to order. We have a delicious program that night as well. Marty Mullen, author of *Reflections on the Road, A Journey Through Whitman County Past and Present*, will be talking with us about the writing of the book. Marty decided to drive every road in Whitman County and she did. Two and a half years, 658 roads and 10,000 miles later, she was done. Hear Marty tell us about the sights we should not miss, the stories she heard and the way she sees these country roads now. We will have time to ask questions and perhaps tell Marty about someplace she might have missed!

This is a great meeting to bring a friend that you would like to see in League. Please invite your neighbors, your workout buddy, your bridge club partner and the person who reads and loves to talk about what was learned. We need lots of members in League to do the many jobs that make membership special. This is the informal setting and good fellowship that makes visitors welcome. Be sure you introduce yourself to everyone there -- to facilitate that we will all be wearing name tags.

Let us get a great League year started. Ask a friend to be your guest, pick that person up and bring them home again when we finish at 9 pm. There is always plenty of food so no guest is asked to bring a dish.

If you have questions, call Karen at 332-4755. We will need a count so when Barbara Hammond sends out the meeting notice on email, please let her know numbers.

See you there.

Membership dues for LWV of Pullman are due in September.

Reminders will be mailed out shortly.

Dues are \$60 for individuals, \$85 for a household, and \$25 for students.

Dues can be brought to the Sept. 12 meeting
or mailed to Janet Kendall at 925 SE Skylark Ct., Pullman, WA 99163.

Report on the July Planning Meeting

The 2011 Planning Meeting was held at Ruth Brown's home and started at 10:15 a.m. with members Shelley Jones, Karen Kiessling, Janet Kendall, Janet Miller, Lucy Linden, Susan Daniels, Paul Spencer, Joan Folwell, Ruth Brown, and Deb Olson. Muriel Oakes made a guest appearance for lunch.

The planning session resulted in the following events for 2011-2012:

- Sept. 12: Back to League potluck with guest speaker Marty Mullen at Karen's home
- Oct. 12: Open Government Forum with the WA Coalition for Open Govt. at Hecht Room
- Oct. 18 & 19: Voter Forums in Colfax and Pullman; Diane Smerdon
- Nov. 7: Role of Federal Govt. In Education – study and consensus; Paul Spencer; Hecht Room
- Dec. 5: Conservation Districts – study and consensus; Joan Folwell; Hecht Room
- Jan. 9: Planning Meeting; Alice Schroeder; Hecht Room
- Feb. 6: Privatization – Panel discussion; Janet Kendall; City Council Chambers
- Mar. 5: Storm Water Runoff; Paul Spencer and Deb Olsen; Hecht Room
- Apr. 2: Biomass – state update study panel; Alice Schroeder; Hecht Room
- May 14: Annual Meeting with school superintendent as possible guest; Alice; Hecht Room
- June 1-3: Host LWVWA Council

After the business part of the meeting a salad potluck lunch was shared in the shade of the trees in Ruth's pleasant yard.

October 12th Forum on Open Government

Alice Schroeder

On October 12th the League will be cosponsoring a forum with the Washington Coalition for Open Government (WCOG). This is an educational forum on the laws and issues surrounding “Public Access to Public Meetings and Records”. WCOG has put together a very knowledgeable group of panelists: Jerry Handfield, the Washington State Archivist; Steve Dixon, of the Spokane law firm of Witherspoon Kelley, which has handled several open records cases; Susan Fagan, our state representative from district 9, and Toby Nixon, president of WCOG and former state representative. It will be moderated by Anna King of the Northwest News Service. They have asked the League to provide timers, question sorters and people to collect written questions. We have also been asked to invite elected and appointed officials from Pullman and the surrounding area, as well as the general public. This is a wonderful opportunity for the League to gain visibility doing one of the things it does best, conducting informative (and civil) discussions looking at all sides of important topics concerning

governance. It is also a unique opportunity to help the staff and the many volunteer, or nearly volunteer, elected and appointed members of city and county government, port, conservation, hospital, school and cemetery districts, etc. learn about these very important and often confusing laws.

Bev Webster and Zuma Lee Staba have volunteered to time the speakers, but we still need question gatherers and sorters. Please plan to attend. If you are interested in meeting the speakers, they will be glad to have you join them at a no-host dinner afterwards. Please let Alice Schroeder know if you would like to attend the dinner.

Summer Voter Service Activities

Karen Kiessling

Rosauers Voter Registration -- In July Rosauers Grocery Stores in Washington State partnered with Leagues to register voters in their supermarkets. The Colfax Rosauers wished to participate -- and as we are the League in Whitman County -- we responded that we would do this at the Colfax store on one day in the final week before the deadline for registering for the primary election.

Three Pullman Leaguers did the work. Karen Barron, Janet Kendall and Karen Kiessling sat at a table answering registration and election questions and registering ten voters. We wore our sashes and used the League banner/ table cloth on the table. We also handed out sheets urging attendance at the primary forum in Colfax on July 27th in the Whitman County Library. We got one woman who was interested in joining the league but who wishes to attend day meetings because she is far from Pullman. Janet Kendall took her information and did talk on email with her.

The September 27th primary forum in Colfax was well attended by the public and well handled by Pullman Leaguers. Our timers and question sorters and members handing out and picking up question cards were efficient and most gracious. In Colfax the candidates for Colfax Mayor and those for the Whitman County Port Commission were the program. Karen Kiessling got a thank you call from one of the candidates for the forum and the way it was handled. So our job to keep order and impose restraint is important and appreciated.

We had a small contingent of walkers for the 4th of July Parade in Johnson (Alice Schroeder, Ruth Brown, Shelly Jones, Diane Smerdon). We handed out American flags with information on how to register to vote. At the Lentil Festival Parade in Pullman (Karen Barron on her Segway, Susan Daniels, Paul Spencer, Karen Kiessling and Deb Olson), Leaguers handed out patriotic pencils with the Pullman League's web address.

Upcoming Voter Service Activities

Diane Smerdon

FORUMS

Colfax Forum: October 18, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.

Pullman Forum: October 19, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.

We are planning to focus on the Port Commissioner, Mayor, and School Board races in Colfax. In Pullman, we will introduce the Port Commissioner candidates and five initiatives which will be on the ballot. The Voter Services Committee will meet on August 30 to lay down the groundwork for the two

forums. This year, these forums were planned “in advance” of when ballots will be mailed to voters.

2012 YOUTH VOTER REGISTRATION PROJECT

The Board discussed this new \$1,000 grant at its meeting on August 22. This grant is geared toward voter registration activities in high schools, community colleges and alternative/vocational schools in underrepresented communities. Grant applications are due by September 30 and, after discussion, we felt that the lack of time to submit the application, our small community and the distance between surrounding schools would be too big a challenge this year. However, it was decided that the Voter Services Committee would pursue getting young voters registered in 2012 by working with history teachers in the schools. Diane Smerdon will secure a copy of the LWV *Empowering the Voters of Tomorrow* and contact teachers to implement voter education and registration in the target schools. (Sadly, in November 2008, more than half of all 18-year-old citizens in the United States were still not registered to vote.)

State League Board Training for All League Members

Karen Kiessling and Lucy Linden

The Pullman League was given a special gift by our longtime member Kay Buss, who died last year after celebrating her 100th birthday. Kay put the League of Women Voters of Washington in her will, leaving a gift of money that the State Board could use as they saw fit. The State Board, following the lead of State President Linnea Hirst, decided that the greatest good for the most members of the Leagues within the state would be to offer board training to any League that asked for it. Well, Pullman asked first, and will have a training session that covers everything we want to know from very experienced League members chosen for their ability to involve us in training that will help us remember it vividly. Ask any and all questions, share problems and solutions as they relate to League on this special day.

Help build a better League by marking October 30, 2 to 4 p.m., on your calendar now for League of Women Voters board training at the Holiday Inn Express on Bishop Boulevard. But it’s not just for the board—all members of the Pullman League are urged to attend and invite potential members to see how we operate. No lectures, but interactive learning in small groups that address real organizational problems will be the tenor of this session.

Trainer Barbara Bush and possibly Barbara Seitle, former State League president will come prepared to cover concerns identified at the last board meeting: recruiting and retaining members, levels of involvement for new members, resources offered by the State League, conveying the importance of Observers to alert us to the local issues that affect our families and communities.

Please plan to attend this short but valuable opportunity to ask that question and to hear what others want to know.

Palouse Leager Awarded Medal Of Valor

Karen Kiessling

Annie Pillars, a League member who lives in Palouse, was honored in a ceremony in Pullman in July. Annie was presented a Medal of Valor for extraordinary feats performed as an Emergency Medical

Services professional at the scene of an accident in November of 2009. Annie responded to an accident in which a vehicle on an icy road flipped upside in a ditch full of water. The driver was still trapped inside with the seat belt holding him in as the water slowly rose up to his nose before he could get out.

The Fire Department Operations Chief Mike Heston explained the danger of the situation, "You can't just go in and pop the person loose from these kinds of situations, because they could end up with neck or spinal cord injuries, so they had to have someone laying down in the creek, holding their head out of the water so they wouldn't drown." Emergency personnel had to be in icy water for 10-15 minutes before the victim could be extracted and safely brought up the bank.

Annie and her husband Marvin are both members of the EMS team in Whitman County and Marvin explained that they do not allow interviews or make any public comment on any rescue work they do as professionals. They feel this is important protection for victims and keeps the focus on the training they do to be ready to face emergencies as they arise. A decision was made "higher up" to allow the description of this accident as the reason for the awarding of the medals.

Congratulations Annie on this signal recognition for your vital role in emergency medical service. We are proud of you and grateful for your work.