



VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PULLMAN WASHINGTON

www.lwvpullman.org

August, 2012

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:** Paul Spencer 332-6699, Backup: Deb Olson, 332-2114; **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; **Scheduling Chair:** Barbara Hammond, 332-4104; **Observer Corps Chair** Deb Olson, 332-2114; **TRY Editor:** Lucy Linden, 332-2755; **Webmaster:** Paul Spencer: 332-6699.

Meetings and Events

National Lentil Parade

Date: Saturday August 18th, 10:15 a.m.

Program: Lentil Parade. **PLEASE WALK WITH US!!!** We have purchased pencils embossed with our website and will affix a card advertising our upcoming general election forums.

The weather promises to be fantastic for our walk (fingers crossed) and I would encourage everyone to come out and join in the festivities. This is a good way to welcome everyone back for the fall, visit with fellow Leaguers, and it really is great fun!

Place: We'll meet on the west side of Neill Library at 10:15 a.m.

Contact: Diane Smerdon is organizing the LWV contingent for the parade and would appreciate an email if you can join us: mdsmerdon@roadrunner.com.

Back to League Potluck

Date: Monday September 10th, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Program: Potluck dinner followed by a discussion of Pullman teacher evaluation with Superintendent Paul Sturm

Place: Karen Kiessling's home, 510 SE Crestview Dr.

Contact: Karen Kiessling, 332-4755

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Honor John Sherman

Date: Tuesday September 11th, 7:30 p.m.
Place: Pullman City Hall
Contact: Karen Kiessling, 332-4755

Eastside Action Workshop

Date: Saturday October 13th, 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Place: Yakima, WA
Contact: Alice Schroeder, 334-2470 or Shelley Jones, 432-3428

Candidates and Issues Forums

Dates: Tuesday October 16th and Wednesday October 17
Contact: Diane Smerdon, 334-5413

Board Meeting

Wednesday September 19,

Time: 1:00-2:45 p.m.
Place: Daily Grind
Chair: Alice Schroeder, 334-2470

Bring a potential member!! Sept 10, Back to League Potluck

If the Pullman League is going to have the effect on good government it could have, we need more people power!!! What better time to get people involved than at the Back to League Potluck at Karen Kiessling's home, 510 SE Crestview Drive 6:00 to 9:00 pm on Monday Sept. 10, 2012. We will have time to network over wonderful food and hear a brief presentation on what the League of Women Voters is and does. Then our guest, school superintendent Paul Sturm, will discuss with us the new Washington State teacher evaluation program. Pullman was a pilot district for the evaluation development process so this should be a very informative evening. RSVP to Karen at 332-4755. Don't forget as you look for new members, it is the League of WoMen Voters. Men are members, too!!

Save the Date!! October 13 Action Workshop

Have fun carpooling to Yakima with other League members. Hear about what is coming up in the 2013 legislative session. Meet some of the great west side volunteers who lobby our Washington State Legislators about League positions. And learn what you can do to get legislative action, or inaction, on the bills that matter to you. The Eastside Action Workshop will be Saturday October 13 in Yakima, WA from 9:30-3:00. Look for sign up sheets in the LWVWA fall Voter or at www.lwvwa.org. Please let Alice Schroeder, 334-2470, or Shelley Jones, 432-3428, know if you are going.

President's Review of 2011-2012 LWV Pullman Activities

Alice L. Schroeder, President

The League of Women Voters is active in studying issues of public policy, educating the public on public policy issues and advocating for our positions at all levels of government. The Pullman League was active in all these areas in 2011-2012.

2011—2012 will undoubtedly be remembered as the year of the study. Four meetings were used for discussions of very informative studies. In November Paul Spencer led us through the sometimes very confusing consensus question for the LWVUS study of the *Role of the Federal Government in Education*. Our consensus was pretty clear. We agreed that the role of the Federal Government in education is to provide resources that help states improve their education systems. These resources are: ideas, databases and financial help for pilot studies, and financial help for states that are unable to provide adequate resources. We agreed that the Federal Government should not be involved in micromanaging education or sanctioning schools perceived to be failing.

December brought our consensus meeting on the *LWVWA Conservation District Study* with the able facilitation of Joan Folwell who is also a Conservation District Commissioner. She was joined by Ray Ledgerwood a Whitman County resident and member of the Washington State Conservation Commission that oversees the local districts in our state. We continue to be amazed at how much Conservation Districts accomplish with so little money and we strongly support them. We are also impressed with the work of the State Commission. We'd like to see better elections of commissioners and submitted several ideas for improvement.

With a couple of month's rest, we were able to undertake the *LWVUS Privatization Study*. In March an informative panel put together by Alex Hammond and Janet Kendall gave us a varied background from the view of Pullman City Supervisor, John Sherman, to that of classical economist, Jon Miller, of the University of Idaho. In April, Alex led us through the consensus questions. In general we were very wary of privatization which led us to conclude that serious study of the potential long term economic effects of privatization on the community were essential along with strong regulation and oversight.

Education of the public also occupied much time. Our primary and general election Candidates Forums held in Colfax were very well attended as hotly contested races for Mayor and School board were discussed. Pullman was less exciting with a race for Port Commissioner and various initiatives on the Agenda. It was very rewarding to be able to put tapes of these forums on our website thanks to the outstanding work of Paul Spencer. We also joined with the Washington Coalition for Open Government to sponsor a public meeting to which all public and appointed officials in the county were invited. In February the League worked with the Police Advisory Committee to let the public comment on policies for the security cameras to be installed in Pullman. We also worked with The Foley Institute at WSU to sponsor the public program *Citizens United Discussion--When Money Talk\$* on the potential effects of unlimited money from undisclosed sources on the upcoming elections.

Through the year several action letters were sent: a letter to the editor giving voting information, another supporting the right of all women to receive contraceptive coverage in their health insurance, no matter who their employer, and a letter encouraging support for Neill Public Library. We also spoke at City Council meetings about the 2020 Visioning Process, the 2012 City Goals, and co-mingled recycling.

The year also involved hosting the LWVWA 2012 Council meeting in Pullman. Vice President Shelley Jones, with the help of a dedicated committee, organized a fantastic meeting June 1-3 at the Holiday Inn attended by approximately 40 League members from throughout the state. The highlight was a forum on the importance of a diverse judiciary organized by Karen Kiessling with the Foley Institute at WSU and supported by a grant from the Transparency and Integrity Fund of the Open Society Foundation via the LWVUS. The Forum included judges from each level of the judiciary. It was open to the public and provided continuing education credits for lawyers. The forum was followed by a dinner which featured State Supreme Court Justice Charles Wiggins speaking on the need for an Independent Judiciary.

Of course there was fun as well, July 4 saw several members handing out flags at the Johnson 4th of July Parade. The children especially loved the flags. Many spectators thanked us for all we do and we were glad that water guns had been banned. In August Leaguers were walking again in the Lentil Festival Parade, this time with pencils with our name and attached information on the October Election Forums. Dinners and holiday cookies before several meetings gave us time to visit. The September “Back to League Potluck” speaker, Marty Mullen, educated us in a most delightful way on our County as she described and illustrated her adventure driving all the county roads in Whitman County.

Civility in Our Democracy – Moderator Training 07-21-12

Diane Smerdon, Voter Services Chair, attended the kick-off workshop for this training in Seattle at St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church. The project team consisted of Mary Dumas, Susan Mancuso, Lisa Meucci, Laura Cava Northrop and Kim Abel. The training was conducted by Mary Dumas of Dumas & Associates, Inc. Mary is a mediator, facilitator and trainer specializing in the design and facilitation of public involvement processes that engage diverse perspectives in policy, research and community-action projects. Twelve League members (out of 20 Leagues in Washington) were in attendance.

The training requires a commitment to participate in: one full day and one half-day training, a phone conference call with webinar, volunteer service applying skills in a place of one’s own choosing (practicum) and learning assessments. The training will culminate in November, 2012.

The League of Women Voters of Washington Training Team will:

- Provide training manuals and worksheets to support practical application and testing of training concepts in volunteer civility commitment activities.
- Organize and facilitate meaningful learning experiences and practice opportunities to study, apply and reflect on the information and ideas explored in the training.
- Engage participants in expanding regional network of trained, nonpartisan volunteer moderators to support ongoing league voter education and engagement programs.
- Use participant input, feedback and program assessments to develop improvements to the program training materials and methods that will be used in Year 2 program activities.

Diane hopes to gain insight into how to improve attendance at voter education and engagement programs. She hopes to increase community involvement in League activities! In addition, one important message from this workshop was that “assertiveness is good—aggressiveness denies other people’s point of view”. The moderator is solely responsible for setting the tone and productivity of

public discourse by attitude and organization.

Report on the July Primary Voter Forums

Diane Smerdon

On July 17, a voter forum was held at the Whitman County Library in Colfax. On July 18, the forum was repeated in the Pullman City Hall Council Chambers. Candidates for Commissioner 1 (Greg Partch, Art Swannack, and Bill Tensfeld), and Commissioner 2 (Pat O'Neill and Dean Kinzer), answered a good number of questions from the audience. The most pressing questions were about the \$15,000,000 pledge that commissioners Partch and O'Neill made to the Hawkins Development Company for infrastructure in a proposed new mall at the Washington/Idaho border. Greg Partch and Pat O'Neill, the incumbents, were overwhelmingly opposed on this decision by all their challengers.

The forums were well attended! Diane Smerdon moderated in Colfax and Deb Olson moderated in Pullman. A big "thank you" to the many League members who sorted, timed, made signs and helped set up!

New Member Profile

Welcome to Annette Pettenger, a new member of Pullman League. Annette was born and grew up in Southern California and earned a B.A. from Scripps College in Claremont, CA and a M.Ed. from WSU. She moved to Pullman in 1974 and taught in Pullman School District 267 for 26 years.

Annette and Roger have been married 53 years and have 3 children and 7 grandchildren.

Many years ago she was a member of League in Durango, CO and always wanted to get involved again. Now that she is retired she has the time to do so. Annette needs time to get acquainted with Pullman League before committing to committees. She would like to see Pullman League get involved in election reform.

We are glad you are back in League!

More about National Convention: The Caucuses

Deb Olson

The agenda was loaded with caucuses (27 on the agenda) starting Friday night. Shelley and I went through the lists and picked those that interested us avoiding duplication as much as possible. As usual several that we were interested in were scheduled for the same time. The caucuses appeared to be well attended; some were standing room only.

I'm sure you're not surprised but I went to several caucuses involved with the environmental issues. On Friday night I attended the caucus *Extreme Fossil Fuel Extraction*, yes fracking, but also information on oil sands, pipelines, and the practice of longwall mining, especially of coal. The only practice that has the potential in the very near future to affect eastern WA is hydrofracking. Just because the vertical well is miles away, the horizontal wells can travel for miles having potential impact on our aquifers. If you are interested in more information contact me, olsonbones@aol.com.

The PA League has created a DVD on hydrofracking that they distributed to all participants.

On Saturday night I attended the caucus *Water, Water... Everywhere*. For a while I was the only “western” there. The problems with water in the east are different from those in the west. One focus of the meeting was the Great Lakes. Another was the problem of ground water contamination from, you guessed it, hydrofracking, pipeline failures, and the inability of pipeline companies to respond quickly or to remediate the problems. Also discussed were the continuing efforts to roll back the Clean Water Act. A lot of problems. Solutions?? The need for vigilance was stressed.

On Sunday Morning both Shelly and I attended *Our Food, Our Future* by a PA league. A wide range of topics were discussed but a lot of emphasis was on small family farming and sustainable agricultural practices. This led to the proposed and accepted update to the League’s farm policy. The current policy is from 1988 and many things have changed since then. They provided a nice hand-out about what can be done on food and farm issues at local (individual and League), state, and national levels. This hand-out also has a reading list which includes Michael Pollan’s excellent book.

On Sunday Night I went to *What Can You and the League Do About Climate Change?* The National League has an online Toolkit for Climate Action (I haven’t played around with it yet) with actions everyone can do to make an impact. Since the topic is so large, much of the caucus focused on energy efficiency and renewable energy. Finding new energy sources is NOT the solution and must be teamed with energy conservation; the biggest energy hog is your house. Lots of resources were provided.

FlackCheck. Org (or Let’s Fight Deceptive Ads Together!) Shelley Jones

An interesting speaker we had at National Convention was Kathleen Hall Jamieson, Professor of Communication at the Annenberg School and Director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania. She spoke about the website “flackchecking.org”. Her entire presentation can be viewed here: <http://library.lwv.org/content/address-kathleen-hall-jamieson-convention-2012>.

FlackCheck.org’s mission is to use parody and humor to debunk false political advertising, poke fun at extreme language, and hold the media accountable for their reporting on political campaigns. This site is a project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center of Pennsylvania and a sister site to Factcheck.org.

This site is a great way for you, your neighbors, and your friends to tell television stations to drop the most deceptive advertisements. TV stations have the right to refuse to run ads that they believe are inaccurate. The problem lies in the fact that the Super PACs are willing to pay top-dollar to run these ads. These are not the ads that are sponsored by the candidates – those ads are charged a regulated rate. The TV stations need a reason to turn down the Super PACs ads. That reason is public pressure – we don’t want deceptive ads!

This is how the website works: it monitors ads and identifies the ones that are outright lies or serious distortions. When you log onto the site, tell it who you are and what stations you watch, the site will 1) Email the stations on your behalf to request that they refuse to run deceptive ads, 2) notify you when a

deceptive ad is run by any of the TV stations you identified previously, and 2) notify you if the station pulls a deceptive ad so you can thank them. You may go here (<http://www.flackcheck.org/stations/>) to email your TV stations or to view FAQs.

FlackCheck.org also has examples of deceptive ads which don't single out any specific party... they show ads from both sides that are deceptive. They have also created some samples of deceptive ads that may have run against Abraham Lincoln. You can view those here:

<http://www.flackcheck.org/lincoln-campaign/>.

I encourage you to visit the site and to contact your TV stations. We can fight deceptive ads together!

You can watch videos of all the speakers at the 2012 convention by following this link [2012 Convention](#).

(Or go to LWV.org and in the League's Search box enter *2012 convention*.)

League to Honor John Sherman at September City Council Meeting

Karen Kiessling

John Sherman has been the City Supervisor of Pullman since August of 1981. He has brought a strong professionalism to his office as the right hand of the Mayor in our Strong Mayor system of government in Pullman. He handles the day to day operations of the city and is the face of the city in many of the meetings within the region. John has served first under Mayor Pete Butkus, who hired John. After Mayor Butkus, Mayor Carole Helm was John's boss, followed by Mayor Al Halvorson, Mayor Mitch Chandler and Mayor Glenn Johnson. Five Mayors in 31 years. John has seen many leadership styles and managed to serve and educate all of the executive and administrative heads of the city that were elected.

The League will be presenting John with a Good in Government award certificate for his open leadership and desire to include all in the decision-making process. He has worked increasingly closely with the League in recent years, appreciating the nonpartisan approach the League practices as well as the tight control it maintains in handling a public meeting so that courtesy and civil discourse are the result. He has been open in his praise of the League's approach on public issues and the League's desire to educate voters and encourage voting. John knows that getting consent from the public to move in any direction is hard work and never ends as there is always a new issue to discuss and clarify. The League wishes to recognize John's work for the citizens of Pullman, Whitman County, the region and the state. In addition to the plaque the Pullman League is giving John and Debbie Sherman a household membership in the League for one year.

LEAGUERS ARE ASKED TO ATTEND THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 11 AT 7:30 PM. THE LEAGUE PRESENTATION WILL TAKE PLACE EARLY ON THE AGENDA AND

WILL BE BRIEF. LEAGUERS MAY LEAVE WHEN THE PRESENTATION IS COMPLETED. PLEASE HELP SHOW JOHN OUR APPRECIATION FOR HIS SERVICE.

Pullman League Marches in Johnson 4th of July Parade

Once again Pullman League was represented in the Johnson 4th of July Parade. You too can be in a parade – see the announcements at the beginning of this newsletter and [sign up](#) for the upcoming Lentil Parade! See friends, hand out pencils, have a jolly time!



Left to Right: Lucy Linden, Shelley Jones, Karen Kiessing, Deb Olson, and Alice Schroeder

It's That Time of Year

Just a reminder that membership renewal time is here. Dues are:

\$25 for student memberships

\$60 for single memberships

\$85 for family memberships (two people)

Of the dues we collect, \$17 is paid to state and \$26 to the national LWV. Of the basic \$60 dues, \$16.70 remains in our treasury to help with all the varied local programs we carry out during the year.

Please send a check to Pullman LWV, PO Box 366, Pullman, WA 99163. Indicate the type of dues you are returning; also note any changes in your address, phone and email. You may also pay at the *Back to League Potluck* at Karen Kiessling's house on Sept. 10, 6-9 pm.

PULLMAN LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
Proposed Schedule: 2012-2013

Date & Time	Topic	Chair	Place
Mon. Sept. 10 6-9:00 pm	Back to League Potluck Supt. Sturm: the New Teacher Evaluations	Alice Schroeder	Karen kiessling's home
Sat. Oct. 13 9:30-3:00	East Side Action Workshop	LWVWA	Yakima WA
Oct. 16 & 17 7-9:00 pm	Candidates and Issues Forums	Diane Smerdon	Whitman Cty. Library Pullman City Hall
Mon. Nov. 5 7-9:00 pm	LWVWA Energy Update 1 Panel Discussion	Paul Spencer & Alice Schroeder	Hecht Room, Neill Public Library
Tues. Dec. 3 6:30-9:00 pm	Holiday Cookies Energy Update 2 & Consensus Questions	Paul Spencer & Alice Schroeder	Hecht Room, NPL
Mon. Jan. 7 7-9:00 pm	School Bond update with Dr. Sturm L WVWA & Local Planning	Alice Schroeder	Hecht Room, NPL
Mon. Feb. 4 7-9:00 pm	Historic Preservation in Pullman with the Preservation Commission and City Planning Director	Alex Hammond Allison Munch- Rotolo	Hecht Room, NPL
Tues. Mar. 5 7-9:00 pm	LWVUS Agricultural Policies Update	Joan Folwell Shantell Martinez	Whitman County Library, Colfax
Mon. Apr. 1 7-9:00 pm	Canada – US health care comparison CD and panel discussion	Lucy Linden, Diane Smerdon, & Amy Cole	Hecht Room, NPL
Tues. May 14 6-9:00ppm	Annual Catered Dinner and Business Meeting Program: Community Action Center Chair	Alice Schroeder	TBD