



VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PULLMAN WASHINGTON

www.lwvpullman.org

August 2013

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: Shared by the Board; **Vice President:** Karen Kiessling, 332-4755; **Secretary:** Paul Spencer, 332-6699, Backup: Anne Lewis, 334-1075; **Treasurer:** Joan Folwell, 332-3946; **Voter Service Chair:** Deb Olson, 332-2114; **Voter Editor:** Susan Daniels, 332-6699; **Budget Chair:** Shelley Jones, 509-432-3428; **Finance Drive Chair:** Lenna Harding, 332-7749; **Membership Chair:** Janet Kendall, 432-3368; **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

Please check the date and place when you get the meeting notice a week before the meeting.

Back To League Meeting

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

Program: Welcome back potluck at 6:00 followed by a League Orientation for new and not-so-new members.

Place: Janet Kendall's home, 925 SE Skylark Ct., see [directions](#) in Back to League article below.

Contact: Lucy Linden, 332-2755

Open Meetings Act Forum

Date: Wednesday September 25th, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Program: Panel discussion on open government laws and issues

Place: Conference room of the McGregor Co., 401 Airport Rd. West of Colfax (just south of the County Fairgrounds)

Contact: Karen Kiessling, 332-4755

October Voter Forums

Dates: October 15th (Colfax) and 16th (Pullman)

Contacts: Deb Olson, 332-2114 and June Crawford, 332-7186

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Board Meeting

Wednesdays August 28th, September 18th

Time: 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Place: Daily Grind, back room

Chair: August: Lucy Linden, 332-2755; September: Karen Kiessling, 332-4755

Other Dates of Interest

National Voter Registration Day

Date: September 24th

Program: Register Voters – see [article](#) below for details

Contact: Deb Olson, 332-2114

Back to League Potluck – September 9th

Lucy Linden

Confused by *consensus* or just what *non-partisan* really means? Want to learn more about the value of being an active member of League? These terms and the opportunities to be involved – a little or a lot – are on the program for our August potluck.

We'll cover a few League Basics to jump start the new year. After a brief history of the League of Women Voters, we'll define and discuss some important terms and activities for members and get an introduction to the League website. Concerned about good schools, open government, and clean air? You'll find many opportunities for active participation, such as Voter Service and Observer Corp., programs that address both your interests and other issues important to League and our work to strengthen our democracy. Come and enjoy the rewards of League membership.

We are meeting at Janet Kendall's home. Bring a dish to share and enjoy the chance to get acquainted during the dinner time from 6 to 7. It is also a great time to invite potential members as the orientation will be fun for those who might like what League does.

Directions to Janet's home – 925 SE Skylark Ct.:

Turn up the hill next to the Holiday Inn on Klemgard St., then turn right on Sunnymead. Turn left on Glen Echo. The first street on the left is Skylark Ct., a small cul de sac. Our house is at the top. You will probably have to park on Glen Echo and walk up our steep driveway. Let me know in advance if you need to drive up the driveway so I can help you negotiate the driveway. Call 432-3368.

WELCOME!

Pullman League To Host Forum on Open Government

Karen Kiessling, Chair, Committee for Open Meetings Act Forum

The Pullman League is trying something new to help our communities in Whitman County know the law they have to follow regarding doing the public's business. Transparency is the key and that simply

means being open and working to be sure that all discussion around an issue that will be addressed by a vote of the elected officials is done in public. Public sessions, advertised agendas, and correct procedure are necessary and failure to follow these rules can be costly. We will also address what the rights and legitimate expectations of the public are and how to make sure those rights are protected.

We are hosting a public meeting in the McGregor Company headquarters education room on Wednesday, September 25, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. A committee of leaguers has been hard at work to find ways to insure that all the citizens of Whitman County know they have been invited to take part.

The Coalition for Open Government is providing the experts for the panel on open government issues surrounding the Open Public Meetings Act, the rules and regulations related to the act, and best practices that public agencies can employ to ensure compliance with the law. The League is handling all the details of the meeting and welcoming the following members of the panel to the Palouse. The moderator is Anna King of Northwest Public Radio, the panelists are Washington Coalition for Open Government president and Kirkland City Council member Toby Nixon; Washington Newspaper Publishers Association executive director Bill Will; Scott Sackett of the State Digital Archives in Cheney, and attorney Emily Kelly Arneson of the Spokane law firm Witherspoon Kelley who will speak to the legal issues involved. Bill Will no doubt has stories to share of what happens when the law is not followed and Scott Sackett will talk about the legal requirements that surround the keeping of official minutes of meetings of boards, commissions and committees that have rule making authority. Those boards generally make decisions relating to the use of taxpayer funds.

This is the first in a possible series of public policy issues for Whitman County that will be sponsored by the League. The League committee hopes this is going to be an educational event that triggers questions about other issues we should address. Leaguers will greet those attending, time the panelists and the question and answer discussion that follows the panel presentations. We will leave the McGregor Company headquarters that night having been refreshed in our knowledge of the laws of the state. And we hope that the discussion will suggest other areas that need attention to preserve and protect our quality of life in the Palouse.

Put Wednesday, September 25th 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. on your calendar right now for the Open Public Meetings Act forum, held at the McGregor Company, 5 miles west of Colfax at 401 Airport Road (south of the County Fairgrounds). Of course Leaguers need to be at the site by 6 p.m. at the latest to meet and welcome the audience. If you have questions, contact Karen Kiessling, 332-4755.

National Voter Registration Day

Deb Olsen

National Voter Registration Day is Tuesday September 24th. One focus of League is voter registration. Last year Pullman League had tables at several locations in Pullman and Colfax to provide information and register voters. This year I am looking for volunteers to man the booths. At this point I have two volunteers and one location – Neill Library. How many locations and how many shifts will depend on how many of you will volunteer to help.

If you are interested contact Deb Olson (509) 595-0333 or olsonbones@aol.com

Primary Forum Report

Deb Olson

The Primary forum was held Wednesday July 17th at Pullman City Council Chambers. I would like to thank all of the League members who came and helped out. Your participation insured a good forum.

We began the evening with the contested council position. We had a good sized crowd for the three candidates for the at-large council seat and lots of good questions from the audience. I tried to ask questions that would show the differences among the candidates, since most of us do not personally know them or how they stand on issues.

The second part of the forum concerned the proposed Pullman tax levies. Roughly half of the audience left which I hope means they support the levy. Even though I called a couple of dozen people I could not find anyone to speak in opposition to the levy, although some volunteered to speak for the levies. Even the person I thought I had lined up (a Tea Party member) said on studying the levies he could not speak against them. I would like to thank former mayor Mitch Chandler for agreeing to speak for the tax levies. I lost control of this portion when questions were asked directly from the audience.

We received excellent press coverage of the event with a front page headline in Thursday morning's Daily News and coverage of both the candidates and tax levies. With Lenna's column on voting that same day we hope we made an impact. We also made the evening news on KLEW regarding the tax levy question.

Next up are the general election forums in October. In Pullman there are three contested city council seats and an undetermined number of initiatives. I will be contacting you when I get back from vacation in August. So contact me first, Deb Olson (509) 595-0333 or olsonbones@aol.com

July 4th Parade Report

Deb Olsen

We had lovely weather for the parade in Johnson and luckily it was slightly cooler than earlier in the week. We handed out over 400 flags with a sticker announcing the July Primary Forum. Even though flags were plentiful we could easily have given out more. We had a good size group of walkers, but we got spread out along the route. Ten people walked including Anne Lewis' son David. I would like to thank all of you who walked: Karen Kiessling, Lucy Linden, Alice Schroeder, Susan Daniels, Paul Spencer, Annette Pettenger, Anne Lewis and David, and Amanda Jenny (our intern).

July Planning Meeting Report

Shelley Jones

We had a great time on July 8th at our Annual Planning Meeting. Great planning, good food, and amazing company. We generated many ideas and had some good discussions both in the meeting and during lunch. If you are interested in assisting with any of the programs please let the chair know. A couple items of note came from our planning meeting. We are going to begin a majority of our

meetings at 6:30 p.m. to allow for informal discussions and socializing among members during the first 30 minutes. Also, we have a few members interested in a study of Poverty in Whitman County – if this interests you contact Mary Collins at collinsm@wsu.edu. Below you can find our schedule for the next year.

Date	Topic	Committee Chair
09/09/13	Welcome back/Orientation	Lucy
09/24/13	National Voter Registration Day	Deb
09/25/13	Open Meetings Act Forum	Karen
10/15/13	Voter Forum	Deb
10/16/13	Voter Forum	Deb
11/04/13	Agriculture Consensus Questions	Joan
12/02/13	Diversion of Minor Offense Program	Alex and Alice
01/13/14	National Planning/School Construction Update	Shelley (Planning) Anne (Construction)
02/03/14	Whitman County Director of Public Health	Mary and Shelley
03/03/14	Citizens United	Susan and Paul
04/07/14	Healthcare: Obamacare Effect on Local Hospitals/ Mental Health	Barbara, Alice, and Paul
05/12/14	Annual Meeting	TBD

Who's On First

This year the office of president of the LWV of Pullman is being shared among the board members with each board member taking one month to organize and run the board meeting for that month. The list of months and the board member(s) responsible is:

August: Lucy Linden

September: Karen Kiessling

October: Deb Olsen

November: Joan Folwell

December: June Crawford

January: Shelley Jones/Anne Lewis

February: Susan Daniels

March: Paul Spencer

April: Barbara Hammond

May: TBD

Join Us in the Lentil Festival Parade

Deb Olson

August 17th is the Lentil Festival Parade. The parade starts at 11 a.m. This parade is longer and more structured than the Johnson parade on the 4th of July. We have signs about women's history that we are planning to carry. For marchers we have a very snazzy sashes and/or hats to wear. We try to dress in

red, white and blue, but not required. Right now only six people have signed up, but I would like to have as many as were in the Johnson parade and several of those walkers will be out of town for the Lentil Parade.

This is a fun way to support League and help make League visible to the Pullman community. If you are interested contact Deb Olson (509) 595-0333 or olsonbones@aol.com

Just A Reminder – Brown Bags Start in September

Deb Olson

Our informal noon meetings will be starting up in September. They will be the third Thursday of the month from noon to one p.m. at the Congregational Church (large parking lot). The first meeting is September 19th and the County Commissioners have agreed to attend and talk about working together, what they feel they have accomplished since January, and answer questions. The rest of the schedule is not finalized yet but here are a couple ideas for upcoming meetings.

- Asking the Moscow League about their poverty study, how they went about it and problems they encountered. This would be mostly a question and answer session.
- Having Jeff Guyett from Community Action Center (CAC) talk about volunteer opportunities. He was great at the annual meeting but needed more time.

Again this is tentative. If there is a subject you are passionate about or even just mildly interested in that you think would be good for a noon meeting contact Deb Olson (509) 595-0333 or olsonbones@aol.com

Read your VOTER with your calendar next to you so you write in the meetings immediately. You are what makes the League a success.