



# VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PULLMAN WASHINGTON

[www.lwvpullman.org](http://www.lwvpullman.org)

August 2015

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

**Executive Committee:** Chair – Paul Spencer, 332-6699; League Voice – Karen Kiessling, 332-4755; Information Coordinator – Anne Lewis, 334-1075; **Secretary:** Alice Schroeder, 334-2470; Backup: Jackie Miyasaka, 332-1248; **Treasurer:** Joan Folwell, 332-3946; **Voter Service Chair:** Deb Olson, 332-2114; **Voter Editor:** Susan Daniels, 332-6699; **Finance Committee:** Lenna Harding, 332-7749, Shelley Jones, 432-3428; **Membership Chair:** Janet Kendall, 432-3368; **Scheduling Chair:** Barbara Hammond, 332-4104; **Observer Corps Chair:** Anne Lewis, 334-1075; **TRY Editor:** Lucy Linden, 332-2755; **Webmaster:** Paul Spencer: 332-6699; **Community Update Editor:** Diane Smerdon, 334-5413; **Poverty Study Chair:** Mary Collins, 509-592-6929; **Nominating Chair:** Deb Olson, 332-2114. **Brown Bag Coordinator:** Deb Olson, 332-2114

## Meetings and Events

### Lentil Festival Table

Date: Friday August 21, 5:00 –10:00 p.m.

Program: Volunteer at the LWV of Pullman table, hand out literature and answer questions

Place: Olsen St., near the library

Contact: Deb Olson, 332-2114

### Back to League Potluck

Date: Monday September 14, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Program: Potluck dinner at 6:00 p.m. followed at 7:00 by a short program: *Back To League, Back For League*;

Place: Home of Ginger and Dean Glawe, 540 SE Derby, 332-2867

Contact: Paul Spencer, 332-6699

### National Voter Registration Day

Dates: Tuesday September 22

Program: Provide information and voter registration forms

Place: Neill Public Library, and maybe the campus CUB – see [article page 4](#)

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Contact: Deb Olson, 332-2114

## **Election Forums**

Dates: Coming in October

Program: See article on page 3

Contact: Deb Olson, 332-2114

## **Poverty Study Meetings**

Date: Tuesdays August 18, September 8, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Program: Presentations 5:30 – 6:00 p.m. followed by a working meeting until 7:00 p.m.

Place: The Community Action Center classroom, 350 SE Fairmont, Pullman

Contact: Mary Collins, 509-592-6929

## **Board Meetings**

Date: Fourth Wednesdays August 26, September 23, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Place: Daily Grind, back room

Chair: Paul Spencer, 332-6699

## **Brown Bags**

Date: Third Thursdays Noon – 1:00 p.m.

Place: Community Congregational Church, Opal and Campus

Programs: September 17, Whitman County Commissioners; October 15, Water Use & Conservation

## **Social Event**

### **Game Day**

Date: Wednesday August 12, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Place: Home of Anne Lewis, 915 SE Skylark Ct.

Program: Conversation, food, and a game – Quiddler!

Contact: Anne Lewis, 334-1075

## **Action Log**

June: Karen Kiessling and Paul Spencer sent statements that League supports revenue generation for the budget to WA state legislators as requested by LWVWA for action. They also sent letters to Mary Dye upon her appointment as WA state representative for the 9<sup>th</sup> district.

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

## **Back To League Potluck**

### **Paul Spencer**

Monday September 14 will be the Back-to-League potluck meeting. It will be held at the home of Ginger and Dean Glawe and non-members interested in the League are welcome to attend. Please RSVP by sending email to [paul-spencer@pullman.com](mailto:paul-spencer@pullman.com) or calling Paul and Susan at 332-6699.

The dinner will be from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. followed by a meeting with talks about what the League does and how people can be involved including examples of tasks and projects from the past several years. These activities can change the lives of those involved, and make a difference for our community. There will also be a discussion about activities of the League at the State and National levels and the value of attending State and National League conventions.

**Join us for a tasty and interesting evening!**

## **October Candidate and Issue Forums**

### **Deb Olson**

October is Forum Time. The General election is Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> with ballots being mailed on October 16th. Ideally I would like to hold the forums the week before the ballots are mailed. As you know, it requires volunteers to help make these events successful. If you are interested in helping out send me your schedule [olsonbones@aol.com](mailto:olsonbones@aol.com).

This election there are only two initiatives on the ballot, 1366 – Tim Eyman’s latest tax constraint, and 1401 – trafficking in endangered animals. Pullman has two contested Council seats, Colfax has the mayor's race, and Palouse has a mayor's race. I will try to get the state representative candidates to come again. No dates have been selected yet. Stayed tuned for more information.

## **Lentil Festival**

### **Deb Olson**

The League will not be participating in the Lentil Parade this year. I decided that we needed at least 10 marchers and only 6 signed up which makes a very poor showing.

However, this year we will have a booth on Friday (nonprofit) Night from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m.. Those interested in helping out contact Deb Olson (509) 595-0333 or [olsonbones@aol.com](mailto:olsonbones@aol.com) or Paul Spencer (509)-332-6699 or [paul-spencer@pullman.com](mailto:paul-spencer@pullman.com). We will distribute information pamphlets about League, Vote411, voter registration forms and information on voting. This is great visibility for League and an opportunity to meet people and answer questions about voting and the League.

## **Brown Bags are Starting Up Again**

### **Karen Kiessling**

HEADS UP LEAGUERS! The first Brown Bag is coming up in September. Brown Bag meetings are always the third Thursday of each month and run from 12 noon to 1 pm at the Congregational Church

on Campus Avenue. A huge parking lot sits beside the church so it is a piece of cake to attend by driving up college hill with a guaranteed place to park.

League has begun a tradition that we like very much of inaugurating each new year with a visit from the Whitman County Commissioners to tell us what they see as issues for the county in the new year. Brown Bags are informal, very casual and great fun. The learning is a treat and the company excellent. So do join us for the September 17th first Brown Bag of the year. You can bring your lunch or just come to listen and discuss. Deb Olson runs the Brown Bag series and is always looking for topics you would like to know more about. If you have an idea, a question, see a need, are hopping mad about something in city life, well here is the place to bring that for discussion and idea sharing. Give Deb a call or send an email.

## **Mark Your Calendar for These Upcoming Brown Bags**

### **Deb Olson**

September 17th will be our third annual visit with the Whitman County Commissioners.

On October 15<sup>th</sup> the topic is water use and conservation. Timely after this hot dry summer. Speaker will be Kevin Gardes, City of Pullman Director of Public Works.

On November 19<sup>th</sup> Joanna Bailey from Neill Public Library will present *Check What's New at the Library*. Let's all support the library.

## **National Voter Registration Day**

### **Deb Olson**

National Voter Registration Day is Tuesday September 22. The Library has graciously given us space again this year. I would like to have someone there from 10 to 7 (library hours if possible). In the past there haven't been many takers there (or anywhere), but if we get the message out maybe this year will be different. If possible we would also like to be present in the CUB on campus. If you are interested or have any ideas contact Deb Olson (509) 595-0333 or [olsonbones@aol.com](mailto:olsonbones@aol.com)

## **Report on the July Planning Meeting**

### **Paul spencer**

The weather cooperated for our 2015-16 planning meeting on July 20 in the front yard at Susan's and my house. Sixteen members and two guests helped choose the topics and dates for the evening meetings during a lively discussion. [See the schedule](#) at the end of this VOTER.

This was followed by a discussion of possible League Action Goals and proposals for Brown Bag Lunchtime meeting topics. The first and second Brown Bag meetings will be the County Commissioners, and Water Conservation and Uses.

Paul Spencer is arranging insurance for a table at the Friday night Lentil Festival as well as organizing volunteers for time slots from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Alice and Anne volunteered to work on coordinating a quarterly book club based on the "Common Book" proposed by the LWVUS.

This was followed by an excellent potluck salad lunch with a wide variety of tasty dishes!

You can read the minutes of the meeting on our website [www.lwvpullman.org](http://www.lwvpullman.org) or follow this link [Read Minutes](#)

## **Primary Forums A Success**

### **Deb Olson**

The League presented three candidate forums for the primary. On July 14<sup>th</sup> the three candidates for the 9th District State Representative came to Pullman. Around 40 people were present at the Umpqua Bank and the whole two hours were filled with questions from the audience. Karen as usual did a fantastic job moderating. The next (July 22) week we were in Colfax for the mayor's race at the Whitman County Library. Thank you Kristie Kirkpatrick for having the room set up for us. Around 50 people attended and supplied a stack of questions. This year the board approved of my ambition to do more in the county, so we held a Forum in Palouse for the first time on July 23. It was a packed room (over 50 people) and they supplied lots of questions. All three Forums were a success.

I would like to thank everyone who helped at the forums and especially the core group who made it to all the forums: Karen Kiessling, Mary Collins, Zuma Lee Staba, Susan Daniels, and Paul Spencer. Paul did a fantastic job videotaping the forum and getting them on our website quickly. He set the bar pretty high. Susan's grandson, Dominic, helped with the video also. Judy Stone in addition to helping out at two of the forums made the name signs. Thanks to everyone who helped set up and take down the rooms. Thank you Karen and Janet for getting the word out to the media. The Daily News, Colfax Gazette and Lewiston Tribune came to all three Forums.

## **2015 LWVWA State Convention Reports**

### **Paul Spencer**

The LWVWA State Convention was two half days and one full day including evening caucuses from noon Friday, June 12, through 11 a.m. Sunday, June 14. Having never attended a State Convention, I did not know what to expect – it was fast-paced with many informative workshops and caucuses. The abilities, enthusiasm, and knowledge of the participants was very inspiring to me. Especially interesting were the many examples of projects and ideas explained by members from other Leagues.

Suggestions by Mary Wilson in the workshop *Encouraging Leadership* will be helpful for our Board. The caucus *Money in Politics* was very interesting to me because I have been proofreading documents for a State League Toolkit on this subject. A panel on *Water Issues in Central and Eastern Washington* was lively and especially relevant for the Pullman-Moscow area. At a workshop on *Strengthening League Advocacy*, the soon-to-be-elected State advocacy vice-president stressed the importance of building relationships and coalitions for successful advocacy.

Pullman League chose four of our excellent League actions as candidates for the Butterfly Award all of which would have been competitive. Unfortunately we were only allowed to submit one, Diane Smerdon's idea to write a page for the Community Update four times a year. This was given an Honorable Mention. We also received special recognition for our large membership increase in 2014.

In Summary it was an interesting and very worthwhile meeting. I would encourage anyone interested to participate when the next State Council meeting is held in Vancouver WA as a joint meeting with the Oregon State League.

## **Deb Olson**

I would like to THANK the League for sending me to the state convention. It was fun and informative. I always enjoy meeting fellow Leaguers from around the state. This year I was asked to participate in the workshop on candidate forums. The room was packed. Marilyn Perkins (who some of you met at our planning meeting) handled the moderator section. Kim Abel led the section on what to do about the “Empty Chair”. We used up so much time that Shari Gasparino (the organizer) didn’t have a chance to present new ideas and tips. I have copies of the “empty chair” policy and moderator job description/work book for anyone interested.

There were plenty of workshops and evening caucuses to attend. I attended three workshops: *Be Seen, Be Heard, Have Impact, Your Role in Strengthening League Advocacy*, and *Program, Persistence and Personal-How to grow your League*. I always try to learn something at conferences so I went to the caucus on the Growth Management Act (Whitman Co has opted out) but learned a lot including a new word, “vesting”. Very complicated. The other caucus I attended was on a topic near to my heart, *Climate Change*. (Even volunteered to take part on the Climate Change Task Force). On Saturday there were two speakers related to climate. One, *Putting the Price on Carbon*, presented two groups with differing proposals. The other was *Water Issues in Central and Eastern Washington* with the emphasis on the Yakima Watershed. The speaker provided a very clear explanation of the issue of water rights and the magnitude of the problem, especially this year with subpar snow pack and early melt which meant most of the water was not captured in holding reservoirs.

## **Anne Lewis**

In addition to attending workshops on *Small Leagues Talk About Big Ideas* and *The State We’re In* (a civics textbook published by the League), I was a panelist on the *Young and Enthused: Ideas to Encourage Younger Generations* Panel. I expressed my thoughts and ideas for the 30-55 age group- a group I think at least as worthy of attention and cultivation as true youth.

At Convention, 2 new-and very cool!- opportunities were revealed. Next year’s Council will be a joint Council of Washington and Oregon Leagues. It is scheduled for June 3-5, 2016 in Vancouver, WA. Although I am less familiar with the work and activities that take place at Council, I think the idea and resulting possibilities of this “combining of forces” are fantastic.

Also, a caucus that I attended resulted in the establishment of a League “Common Book” (similar to what local libraries and colleges have done). It is up to local Leagues to determine how, if at all, they want to organize a book discussion, have a meeting, etc. The first book selection (there will be two books each year) is *The Secret History of Wonder Woman* by Jill Lepore. Please let Alice Schroeder or me know if you are interested in this Common Book reading “assignment” and/or are interested in a League Book Group that meets more regularly.

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to attend the State Convention and represent Pullman. Our League is highly thought of by members and Leagues across the state—we should all be proud of the work we are doing and continue to be active participants, leaders, and idea generators.

## Mary Collins

The main things I came away with were:

- Other Leagues are doing smaller scale poverty studies. Specifically one group is looking at the impacts of poverty on mental health and another did a meeting program on the topic in their county. The idea of having the State keep a list of on-going studies on their web site was discussed and I hope it will happen.
- I attended workshops on the Growth Management Act and the practice of developers filing open ended development proposals which allow them to be "grandfathered" on any change in zoning regulations. This is a special concern for the Spokane League and they are taking the lead in further exploration.
- I very much enjoyed the luncheon presentation on water issues in Eastern Washington, came away with a better sense of concerns we should be expecting, ie. not enough water for any of the current uses.

Generally I thought this conference was a good one and set realistic goals for the next two years. Thanks to the Pullman League for allowing me to represent them, Mary

## Johnson 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade

### Deb Olson

As usual this was a very fun event but we missed you Karen Barron and your Segway! This year was a hot one and largely an off election year, so there were fewer people "marching" and a smaller crowd watching. We gave away about 700 flags to a cheering crowd. I would like to thank the parade marchers and those who put labels on those 700+ flags, Karen Kiessling, June Crawford, Anne and David Lewis, and Susan Daniels.



Paul Spencer, Joan Folwell, Deb Owens, Karen Kiessling, Susan Daniels, Malachi Stevens

## Observer Corps

### Anne Lewis

There was an amazing turnout and level of participation at last month's Observer Corps meeting at The Daily Grind. Thank you to attendees: Dawn, Franci, June, Judy, Karen B., Karen K., Mary S., Paul, and Uta.

Now that Observer Corp is in place and functioning smoothly due to the work of so many of you, it is time to focus on what to do with the gathered information! In the next few weeks, and with the help of Paul & Karen K, I hope to solidify how the OC reports will be made available to League members. In addition, the board will work to identify and evaluate particular issues the League may wish to act on.

There is still room on the Observer Corps team! This activity requires a limited time commitment and no prior experience. And yet the benefit it brings to our League, the community, and the individual observer is considerable. Please contact Anne Lewis at [anneglewis2@yahoo.com](mailto:anneglewis2@yahoo.com) with questions, suggestions, or the date you are available to join in!

This month we are highlighting the Pullman School Board with an observer report to give you an example and perhaps inspire you to participate in the Observer Corps.

### **Summary of the July 8, 2015 Pullman School District meeting by Dawn Baerlocher**

Janice Brown, a Pullman citizen approached the board and asked for the school district to pay for a Pullman City Police Officer to serve as a DARE Officer for the school district. Ms. Brown objects to the citizens of Pullman paying for a DARE Officer when the Pullman police department is financially strapped.

High School construction is moving right along.

#### **All Day kindergarten**

Starting with school year 2016-2017, it will be required that every school district in Washington State offer full-day kindergarten.

The state budget was passed on June 30, 2015. Partial funding for all day kindergarten for Franklin and Sunnyside was included in that budget for **this coming school year**. Jefferson did not make the cut....Jefferson might qualify if money becomes available – and it might. Many schools will not be able to accept state money because they do not have the facilities for all day kindergarten. Jefferson would need to add 4 to 5 classrooms which could be accomplished by moving some computer labs etc.

Under this newly passed state budget, partial funding is available. The Pullman School District would need to pick up the remainder and has the capacity to do so. Next year, school year 2016-2017, full day kindergarten will be fully funded by the state.

The district must indicate by July 9, 2015 what their intended plan is. The district can



implement full day kindergarten at Franklin and Sunnyside and hope Jefferson gets funding **or** the district can deny all funding until all three schools can be funded at the same time.

Superintendent Sturm has been talking with the local principals to get a feel for how feasible full day kindergarten is. New teachers would need to be hired...furnishings would need to be purchased, curriculum would need to be purchased....it is kind of late in the game.

Did you know – state law does not require that children go to kindergarten at all. Parents can also opt-out of full day kindergarten and pick up their children after a half day.

A good and thoughtful discussion between administrators and the School Board ensued. Many pros and cons were discussed. A motion was made to see if there was a way to accept only half of the money from OSPI and start full day kinder in January 2016. With the start of the coming school year on the horizon, it is generally felt that there is not enough time to put into place the staffing and the other necessities needed to successfully implement a full day kindergarten program. If OSPI does not accept this compromise, the School District will implement full day kindergarten at the start of the following year, the 2016-2017 school year.

#### **Jefferson needs to grow!**

The School District is looking at different ideas for adding at least two (and up to four) classrooms at Jefferson. A motion was presented to pursue financing through non-voted debt for the purpose of design and construction for these two (maybe four) additional classrooms. Mr. Dan Hornfelt has been researching loan options. The capital needed is around \$600,000 for two classrooms. This motion was passed.

## **Poverty Study Update**

### **Mary Collins**

The Food Security working group is almost done with interviews of the food pantries. Next in line for them is other entities working in the area of food security. The Housing workgroup is nearly done with interviews and will present a synthesis of their work at the July meeting. The intent of the presentation will be to get input from all working on the study and to serve as a first go at how other working groups might begin to bring their information together. George Kennedy and Judy Meuth continue to set records for numbers of interviews completed and the Healthcare and Eldercare groups are making good headway. Efforts in other areas also continue. We hope to have all of the interviews completed by the end of September and to have each workgroup to a summary report each month from now until the end of the year. We are also keeping abreast of the results of the Community Needs Assessment thanks to Katie Bittinger who is working with both efforts. Their results are showing some interesting patterns that they will be reporting to the public soon. Our goals and methods are different but hopefully our study will be a useful companion to their effort. The August Poverty Study meeting date has been changed and will be on Tuesday the 18th of August. All are welcome to attend and participate or just listen and learn about what we are doing.

<b>2015-2016 LWV Pullman Calendar</b>			
Date	Program	Chair	Place
08/21/15	Table at the Lentil Festival	Paul Spencer	Downtown
Mon. Sept. 14	Welcome Back Potluck Business Mtg. and Short Program: Back to League, Back for League: The Observer corp, League successes and the Poverty Study	Janet Kendall & Anne Lewis	Home of Dean and Ginger Glawe, 540 SE Derby, 332- 2867; RSVP Paul Spencer, 332-6699 or paul- spencer@pullman.com
Thurs. Sept. 17	Brown Bag with County Commissioners	Deb Olson	Congregational Church on Campus Ave.
Mon. Sept. 22	National Voter Registration Day	Deb Olson	Neill Public Library and possibly the SUB
Mid October	Voters' Forums	Deb Olson	Whitman Co. Library Colfax; Pullman City Hall
Thurs. Oct. 15	Brown Bag on water use and conservation	Deb Olson	Congregational Church on Campus Ave.
Mon. Nov. 2	LWVUS Studies: Money in Politics & Constitutional Amendments	Paul Spencer	Umpqua Bank
Thurs. Nov. 19	Brown Bag on Neill Public Library	Deb Olson	Congregational Church on Campus Ave.
Mon. Dec. 7	The Port Commission	Diane Smerdon & Alice Schroeder	Umpqua Bank
Mon. Jan. 11	Consensus on LWVUS Studies.	Paul Spencer & Anne Lewis	Umpqua Bank
Thurs. Jan. 21	Brown Bag	Deb Olson	Congregational Church on Campus Ave.
Mon. Feb. 1	National Planning	TBA	Umpqua Bank
Thurs. Feb. 18	Brown Bag	Deb Olson	Congregational Church on Campus Ave.
Mon. March 7	Schools update	Anne Lewis & Shelley Jones	Umpqua Bank
Thurs. Mar. 17	Brown Bag	Deb Owens	Congregational Church on Campus Ave.
Mon. April 4	Final Report: Poverty Study	Mary Collins	Umpqua Bank
Thurs. April 21	Brown Bag	Deb Olson	
Mon. May 9	Annual Meeting and Observer Corps Reports	Paul Spencer & Anne Lewis	Private Home
Thurs. May 19	Brown Bag	Deb Olson	Congregational Church on Campus Ave.
Late April, May or June	Special Meeting to discuss Poverty Report Consensus Questions	Mary Collins	Umpqua Bank