



VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PULLMAN WASHINGTON

www.lwvpullman.org

December 2016

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 – Anne Lewis, 334-1075; League Voice – Mary Collins, 509-592-6929; Information Coordinator – Libby Walker, 432-4756; **Secretary:** Alice Schroeder, 334-2470; Backup: Jackie Miyasaka, 332-1248; **Treasurer:** Shelley Jones, 432-4328; **Voter Service Team:** Deb Olson, 332-2114 & Maria de Jesus Dixon, 414-535-9996; **Voter Editor:** Susan Daniels, 332-6699; **Finance Coordinator:** Diane Smerdon, 334-5413; **Finance Drive Thank-You:** Lenna Harding, 332-7749; **Membership & Publicity:** Janet Kendall, 432-3368; **Scheduling & Notices:** Barbara Hammond, 332-4104; **Observer Corps Chair:** Judy Stone, 509-878-1519; **TRY Editors:** Susan Daniels, 323-6699 & Judy Stone, 509-878-1519; **Webmaster:** Paul Spencer: 332-6699; **Community Update Editor:** Diane Smerdon, 334-5413; **Nominating Chair:** Anne Lewis, 334-1075; **Brown Bag Coordinator:** Deb Olson, 332-2114

Meetings and Events

Civics Education for the Community

Date: Monday December 5, 6:30 p.m. – 9:00p.m.
 Program: Socializing and holiday treats, 6:30 p.m.; Program on civics education begins at 7:00 p.m.
 Place: Umpqua Bank
 Contacts: Karen Kiessling, 332-4755

State and Local Planning Meeting

Date: Monday January 9, 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
 Program: Time to socialize, 6:30 p.m. Business meeting starts at 7:00 p.m.
 Place: Home of Libby Walker, 840 SE Lori Ct.
 Contacts: Anne Lewis, 334-1075 & Libby Walker, 432-4756

Eastside Action Workshop

Date: Saturday January 7, 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
 Program: Provide tools and opportunities regarding the Action component of League. More on Page 3.
 Place: Spokane, WA
 Contact: Anne Lewis, 334-1075

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Brown Bags

Dates: Third Thursdays: December 15, January 19, noon to 1:00 p.m.

Programs: December – Brad Jackel from the WSU Organic Farm and Deb Pherson from Tukey Orchard; January – TBD

Place: Community Congregational Church, Opal and Campus

Contact: Deb Olson, 332-2114

Board Meetings

Date: Fourth Tuesdays, **No December meeting**; January 24, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Place: Daily Grind, back room

Chair: Anne Lewis, 334-1075

Book Club

Date: Friday January 13, 1:00 -2:30 p.m.

Program: *Notorious RBG* by Irin Carmon & Shana Knizhnik

Place: Susan and Paul's home, 1745 SW Baldwin Ave.

Contact: Susan Daniels, 332-6699, susan-daniels@pullman.com

PIE/PI Day

Date: Tuesday March 14, 11:00 a.m.

Program: Details to follow as we get closer to this delectable event.

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

Civics 101 for the Pullman Community **Karen Kiessling**

Calling all Leaguers! Our December public meeting promises to be great fun because our intrepid Civics Team will be performing for us all.

On Monday, December 5, we gather at Umpqua Bank for our annual Holiday Cookie Exchange from 6:30-7:00 p.m. and at 7:00 we will take our seats to have the Civics Team take us back to the classroom for the fun of learning voting history in the US, rules of Washington State voting, history trivia quiz and national issues on the subject.

This team teaches civics at Pullman High School and Spokane Falls Community College and ends the classes by registering all who wish to do so to vote in all upcoming elections.

Those who attend on December 5 and take the class will receive a graduation gift to take home as a reminder of all they enjoyed learning that night. This is a great meeting to bring friends and family. You

can bring treats to share at the beginning or just come to sample and stay to learn. Remember, you get a graduation gift as a keepsake.

Happy holidays from all of us in League and see you at the 5 December meeting. Back to school night with treats!

January Meeting – State and Local Planning

On January 9, LWV of Pullman will have its annual Planning Meeting. We will meet at the home of Libby Walker, 840 SE Lori Ct. in Pullman. There will be a social time at 6:30 p.m. followed at 7:00 p.m. by the Planning Meeting which will be devoted to planning the activities of our local League and LWVWA for the next two years. During the meeting our state and local positions will be examined to determine if any need to be updated, or are ready for action, or if there is an area that is not included in the current positions for which a new study should be done.

As well as reminding us of all the League does and how the League works, the results of this meeting will inform the Washington State League of our interests.

Please mark this date on your calendar and help plan the next two years of League activities.

Action Workshop- Saturday, January 7, Spokane, WA Anne Lewis

Description, as provided by League of Women Voters of Washington:

Help us flex our political muscle in Olympia! (Exclamation added by this writer!)
Get the inside scoop on what to expect for the upcoming legislative session.
Learn about critical issues facing our state, such as climate change, the challenge of raising revenue, education, and campaign finance.
Discuss the issues of greatest interest to you with legislators and our lobby team.
Gain the knowledge, skills, and confidence to be a more effective, powerful advocate for the issues you care about.
Network with other advocates involved in the League.
Meet LWVWA's dynamic lobbyist team: Nancy Sapiro and Pam Crone.

This workshop will provide tools and opportunities for you to increase your involvement in the action component of League. I especially encourage new members, those who have yet to attend a workshop, and those who wonder, "What do we *do* with all our studies, concerns, and positions?" to take part in this event.

Members attending the Action Workshop usually carpool which makes the drive up and back an enjoyable time. The registration fee is covered by League.

Political Forum Report

Deb Olson

We held only one candidates & issues forum this October. I had to cancel the Initiative Forum scheduled for October 19th due to the difficulty in finding speakers on the initiatives. The forum on October 20th was held with the two candidates for State Legislature, Mary Dye and Jennifer Goulet, and two Initiatives: I-735 – a proposed amendment to the constitution, and I-732 – a proposed carbon tax. The forum was well attended and many questions were submitted and answered.

November's Monday Meeting on Food Security

Mary Collins

The November program consisted of a panel of folks working for organizations that contribute to food security in Whitman County. Following a brief overview of the LWV of Pullman's findings related to food security presented by Mary Collins, the panel presented information on innovative programs they are currently working on. These included expansion of the local gardens program to several small towns in the county by Back Yard Harvest, a teaching and demonstration effort and kitchen at the Community Action Center, Food Recovery work being led by the Center for Civic Engagement at WSU, and the formation of a Food Coalition led by the Council on Aging in Colfax. All of these groups are actually collaborating on these efforts which promise to promote greater self sufficiency, better use of resources, and healthier diets.

Brown Bag Meetings Reports

October 20: County Commissioners

Karen Kiessling

All three Whitman County Commissioners attended the brown bag meeting of League held in the Congregational Church the third Thursday in October.

Commissioners Largent, Swannock and Kinzer stated their pleasure at meeting with the League each fall to start talking about the new year, the budget process and specific issues of the town and county. This year the topic of considerable interest was weeds in the county roads and along property lines, especially those considered poisonous to humans or of danger to crops in the area. The enforcement of the removal of such weeds is hampered by small staff and inadequate support by landowners to take care of their own weeds. Leaguer Joan Folwell asked the Commissioners to consider placing a weed assessment before the voters but they unanimously replied that they would not do so unless the weed board assumed responsibility for selling the ballot issue to the voters. There the issue stands.

Another topic they were interested in mentioning is that the Auditor has announced she is not running for re-election and any interested in taking on the job should start planning to run at this time. Elections are close to the hearts of the League and election issues and errors have been a pattern over several years. A strong leader is sought and all were urged to begin thinking of competent people and asking them to consider public service.

November 17: Tony Bean, Pullman Airport Manager Deb Olson

Tony Bean, Pullman Airport Manager, presented an update on the airport realignment project. This program was well attended (18 people) by both Leaguers and the public. Tony explained again why this project is needed. The taxi way and runway are too close together and the runway heads straight toward Moscow Mountain; these problems need to be fixed or we lose air service. The realignment will fix these as well as increase the length of runway to accommodate 737's and provide all weather landing & lighting. The new approach will allow planes to land with 300 ft. altitude and 1 mile visibility. New snow removal equipment has already been purchased.

All negotiations with private property owners are complete. Negotiations are ongoing with WSU, using the Federal system – Uniform Relocation Action – which formalizes negotiations and conduct of them.

As anyone driving down airport road can see, lots of earth moving is taking place. Topsoil is being stripped down to the clay and saved to re-contour the topography. The October rains slowed this down and work on the creek relocation has started. The creek is being dug down to bedrock then covered with a 6' by 8' concrete box and diverted around the airport to the south. The creek will reconnect to the original channel at the east end of the runway and be open to handle flood events. The Avista Power line relocation will also be complete by the end of the year.

One interesting tidbit is that the current approach is privately owned by Alaska. In the future this approach may be opened to other airlines with FAA approval allowing other airlines to come to Pullman. Currently Alaska uses 70-90 seat planes that are almost always full. The 737's have a seating capacity of 150-180. Passenger use of the airport for 2016 is estimated to be greater than 60,000. Another interesting fact is that the Pullman airport is one of only a few airports its size that has a body scanner.

Lots of questions were asked concerning the terminal and parking. A section of land is earmarked for a new terminal and parking west of the current terminal.

Upcoming Brown Bags Deb Olson

The Brown Bag meeting on December 15 will have two speakers: Brad Jackel from the WSU Organic Farm and Deb Pherson from WSU Tukey Orchard. Come with your questions and learn about how the airport re-alignment will affect the future of the organic farm and Tukey Orchard.

Voter Registration October 6 Deb Olson

This year we held an additional Voter Registration Event at the Whitman County Library. We registered a few people (new and address change). My thanks to Kristie Kirkpatrick who is always very helpful. We hope to do a similar event next year. Thanks to my League volunteers Karen Kiessling and Zumma Lee Staba and student volunteer Zoe Campbell.

Another Civics Presentation

Paul Spencer

Deb, Paul, and Susan gave the LWV Civics 101 presentation to three Pullman HS eighty-minute civics classes on November 2. To experience *Civics 101* yourself come to the League meeting on Monday, December 5th. For more information read about the December meeting on page 2.

League Book Club First Meeting

Paul Spencer

The LWV of Pullman Book Club had its first meeting on October 31 and discussed the book *I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai. The six members there discussed the issues illustrated by the book, the people involved, and what the future might bring for those people, and for that area of Pakistan.

It was interesting to speculate what our own reactions might have been if we had been participants there. We all learned much about the tensions and risks for people living in the Swat Valley of Pakistan. Any American reading this book will feel fortunate for our own situation.

Welcome to New Member Jane Sielken

Welcome to Jane Sielken. Janet Kendall, membership chair, sent her some questions which she graciously answered so we can get to know her a little better.

I am a pediatric nurse who did Public Health Nursing in Florida and Texas and was also a school nurse in College Station, Texas (Home of Texas A&M University). I grew up in the Midwest (Michigan, Ohio and Indiana) and graduated from DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana.

My daughter and her family (husband and 3 girls) live in Pullman and when I retired in 2015, I moved here to be closer to them.

I belonged to the League in College Station when my children were preschool and elementary age. I enjoyed working on a project to have the city build sidewalks so the children walking to school would be safer and I later continued that work on 2 city committees (sidewalks and housing for the poor).

I'm very interested in the League's study on poverty. I have worked with many families in poverty trying to help them get health care, food, jobs, etc.

I was disappointed that the local League did not publish a voter guide for the upcoming elections (federal, state and local). I have been coming to your meetings at the invitation of Janet Kendall. I am interested in the local schools, (buildings, class sizes, security, volunteering).

Thanks for having the meetings on the bond elections.

Observer Corps

Judy Stone

The Observer Corps is composed of members observing various public agencies. The monthly calendar of public meetings and the observers assigned to them is available on our website on the home page. Check it out [here](#) and see if there is a meeting you would like to attend.

Excerpts highlighting items of particular interest to League from two of the recent Observer Corps reports are given below.

Pullman School District Board Meeting – October 26, 2016

Observer: Dawn Baerlocher

Michael Church came and thanked Dr. Maxwell for his efforts in working towards agreement on the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the school district and teachers. The Bargaining Agreement was approved by 99% of teachers in August. Mr. Church said that he appreciated Dr. Maxwell's willingness to work together on the agreement.

The Jefferson PTA earned \$21,000 in the "Dive In" Fundraiser.

PHS Construction is moving rapidly inside...a little slow outside due to record rain fall this month. The new theater will be named the Dana Cleveland Theater (this was the name of the previous theater). The new Community and Board Room at the High School will be named the Paul Sturm Room. A scholarship is being proposed in Memory of Noah Evermann.

Recommended school calendars were discussed for 2017-2018 and 2018-2019.

Current Full Time Enrollment (FTE) is 2,792, budget of 2,740 FTE

Members do their homework before coming to the meetings. Mrs. Susan Weed discussed a committee she met with in Fife for the OSPI (Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction) earlier this week. The meeting was on Construction procedures etc. What struck me is that so many of our administrators and Board Members do so much outside of showing up to Board meetings. They are a special group of people who appear to really put kids first. Refreshing.

Pullman Regional Hospital Board Meeting – November 2, 2016

Observer: Judy Stone

A public hearing on the proposed 2017 budget had been advertised prior to this meeting. Only a *Daily News* reporter attended and he was given materials that the rest of the Commission had. You may have seen the article he wrote the next day. I thought it was very accurate. The proposed budget was passed.

Bids for the surgery expansion project were discussed in detail. Scott Adams, CEO and Steve Febus, CFO discussed the other building projects planned for the next few years. These have previously been put on a tentative timeline and Adams explained that funding and sustainability concerns might need to move projects around within that timeline or modify them. He asked the Commissioners to agree to that flexibility and they did. The primary focus in the 2017 budget is to finalize several outstanding projects including the OR remodel, Same Day Services expansion, expansion of the Clinic Network

(Pediatrics and Behavioral Health), support of primary care and expansion of hospitalist services.

Psychiatric Interagency Collaboration apparently now exists between Palouse River Counseling, WSU Health and Wellness, WSU Counseling Services, Pullman Regional Hospital Emergency Department, Palouse Psychiatry, and local law enforcement. There was no explanation about how this collaboration works.

The Whitman County Health Network is preparing an application to HRSA for funding to develop a program that will integrate primary care services along with behavioral health medicine through telemedicine technology.

Financial Report: The District as a whole (hospital plus their LLCs) experienced a consolidated excess of revenue over expenses YTD of \$299,000 compared to last year's YTD \$1,121,000. Yes, the commas are in the right places.

There is still no applicant to fill the Commission vacancy and the deadline is around the third week of December. If there are no applicants the County Commissioners will appoint someone.