

VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PULLMAN

February 2010

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

Chair of the Board: Sue Armitage, 332-4279; **Vice President:** Alice Schroeder, 334-2470; **Secretary:** Fran Law, 334-3002, Backup: Deb Olson, 332-2114; **Treasurer:** Joan Folwell, 332-3946; **Voter Service:** Karen Kiessling, 332-4755; **Voter Editor:** Susan Daniels, 332-6699; **Finance Drive Chair:** Lenna Harding, 332-7749; **Membership/Hospitality:** Judy Krueger, 332-8208; **Observer Corps Chair:** Lucy Linden, 332-2755; **Action Chair:** June Crawford, 332-7186; **TRY Editor:** Lucy Linden, 332-2755.

Meetings

Anniversary Celebration

Date: Monday February 8, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Program: Birthday celebration for Pullman League's 60th birthday and celebrating women in politics

Place: Neill Public Library, Hecht room

Chair: Sue Armitage, 332-4279

Local Conservation Districts

Date: Monday March 1, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Program: Mary Rosen from the Palouse Conservation District and Kimberly Morse from the Whitman Conservation District will talk about their organizations and the projects and services they provide to the public.

Place: Neill Public Library, Hecht room

Chairs: Joan Folwell, 332-3946, Alice Schroeder, 334-2470

Board Meetings

Mondays February 22, March 29

Time: 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Place: Home of Natalie Clark, 220 SW Mountain View Dr.

Other Meetings of Interest

Health Care Reform in Rural Communities

Date: Wednesday March 3, Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Program: LWV of Moscow meeting with Dan Schmidt, M.D.

Place: Fiske Room, 1912 Center, Moscow

Healing America's Health Care

Date: Wednesday March 31, Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Program: LWV of Moscow meeting with Janice Boughton, M.D..

Place: Fiske Room, 1912 Center, Moscow

Birthday Party!

On February 8th, we will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Pullman League as well as the 100th anniversary of woman suffrage in Washington. At our meeting in the Hecht Room of Neill Public Library, we will honor five women for their political activity: former Pullman mayor Karen Kiessling, former Whitman County commissioner Nora Mae Kieffer, former City Councilperson Helen Stiller, Natalie Clark for her service on the Pullman Planning Commission, and Kay Buss, a founder of the Pullman League in 1950. Each will speak briefly about the significance of their public service and will entertain questions from the audience. Birthday cake will be enjoyed by all.

Local Conservation District Study

Joan Folwell and Alice Schroeder, Co-chairs

What is the mission of a Conservation District? How does it benefit you? How is it funded? How is its Board of Supervisors elected? These and many more questions will be answered at a public meeting presented by our League on Monday, March 1, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Neill Public Library. Mary Rosen, district manager of the Palouse Conservation District headquartered in Pullman, and Kimberly Morse, coordinator of the Whitman Conservation District headquartered in Colfax, will talk about their organizations and the projects and services that they provide to the public. You will find that it doesn't matter whether you live in town or in the country – the Conservation District is a resource for you!

As background material for this meeting, we are using the study on the Pierce County Conservation District conducted by the Tacoma-Pierce County League. To read their information, click on these links [Section 1](#), [Section 2](#), or go to the League of Women Voters of Washington website www.lwvwa.org and click on *Local Leagues*. Select *Tacoma-Pierce*; their 2008 Conservation District Study is listed under *Recent Local Studies*.

Port of Whitman Information

After December's meeting on the Port of Whitman, the executive director, Joe Poire, sent the League a copy of his power point presentation on the port's activities. If you would like to see a copy, email Sue Armitage at armitage@wsu.edu and she will forward it to you.

2010 Census Meeting Report

Diane Smerdon

On January 11, 7:00 p.m., the Pullman League of Women Voters sponsored an informational meeting in the Hecht Room of Neill Public Library. Dr. Don Dillman, Professor of Government and Public Policy at WSU, was the keynote speaker on United States Census 2010. Dr. Dillman's credentials are impeccable. Indeed, he was "loaned by WSU" to the Census Bureau from 1991-95 and served as a Senior Survey Methodologist in the Director's Office. He helped design and implement a number of experiments that resulted in significant changes to the 2000 Census, as well as the current one.

Representing the City of Pullman were John Sherman, City Supervisor, and Pete Dickinson, Planning Director. They also gave brief presentations on the upcoming census and its effect on our area. (It is widely recognized that population and housing censuses are vital for the planning of any society.)

The ten-question Census pamphlet ascertains how many people live in a household, what their origin and race are, what their age and gender are, and who owns the residence. This information is used at the federal, state and local level, to determine political representation. State districts are drawn up based on population, just as the city wards are in Pullman. The State of Washington is close to gaining a 10th congressional seat! In addition, the allocation of federal, state and local money, which amounts to about \$400 billion every year, relies on population and demographics determined by the census. Population within areas like Moscow and Pullman also determine where parks, fire stations, schools, transit facilities and other public facilities and services are centered.

Participation in the 2010 Census is required by law. People will be contacted by a pre-notice letter, questionnaire mailing, reminder postcard, and finally, non-responding households will be visited by an enumerator. A prompt and accurate response is vital! The cost of the 2000 census in the U.S. was estimated to be \$4.5 billion. Additional mailings and canvassing of non-responding households adds much to the cost. (For every 1% of added response to the national census, the bureau will spend \$85 million.) That means that we must all be diligent and timely in completing the census and encouraging others to participate.

February is National Planning, Right?

Alice Schroeder

Indeed it is! By March 1, 2010 we need to tell LWVUS what program we support for 2010-2012. This biennial discussion is how we stay a grass roots organization. However, this year instead of spending a meeting on this, the Board decided to ask each of you to do some homework. You will receive information by e-mail (snail mail if you don't have e-mail) the first week of February on how to participate in Pullman's discussion of National Planning. Please let me know what you would like for LWVUS program by Feb. 18. The board will discuss all the suggestions looking for the one that has the most support, as we can send only one to LWVUS.

Also consider participating in the Board discussion. After all, we are a board of the whole. If you are interested, please join us at 3:00 p.m. on Feb. 22 at Natalie Clark's home, 210 Mountain View Dr. Just let me know if you are planning to come, so I can give Natalie a count of how many people will come.

Finance Drive Coming in March!!!!

We are putting together a small committee to work on the finance drive materials that we mail out to supporters of the Pullman League each March. If you are interested in meeting just a couple times to cull lists of names and addresses and help organize the mailing of these letters, please call Karen Kiessling at 332-4755 or email her at kkiessling@hotmail.com. This work will be brief but necessary and our League depends on the funding we get from this mailing. Call Karen and get involved.

New Members

Mary Collins by Karen Kiessling

Mary Collins joined the League of Women Voters because she attended the candidate forum in Colfax last fall and was impressed with what she saw. She says the meeting was handled with a level of decorum and courtesy that she appreciated. The forum was an important public service that was even more valuable because it was nonpartisan. She decided she wanted to be part of such a group.

Mary was born in Pullman, a member of the large Clark and Collins farming families, a family she describes as "made up of diverse opinions."

Mary's training is in anthropology, specifically in archeology. She is the Director of the Museum of Anthropology on the WSU campus, which is the repository for federal and state artifacts from the building of dams along the Columbia. She has been very involved with the tribes and the repatriation and reinterment of remains, such as the Marmes Man remains which have recently been reinterred close to the site of the mouth of the Palouse River. Her activity in this area is mandated by the passage in 1990 of the Native American Protection and Repatriation Act by Congress.

Mary is married to Mike Jepson, who works in salmon recovery research at the University of Idaho. They live on the family farm outside Pullman and are small producers of food which Mary laughingly describes as "a large garden, 4 chickens and an orchard of cherry and apple trees." Mary plans to become involved with the League on committee work and will attend night meetings with much greater frequency in a couple years when she retires.

Welcome Mary, we are delighted you want to be involved.

Shelley Jones by Alice Schroeder

Shelley Jones contacted the League through our e-mail box last summer to ask about the League and about joining. She hopes working with the League will help her better understand

government. She says she is one of those kids you hear about who never had a civics course and now she would like to know more about how government works and how better to use her voice.

Shelley came to Pullman as a WSU student and completed a BA and an MA in accounting here. She worked as Assistant Controller for the The McGregor Company for six years before her twins, a boy and a girl, were born four years ago. Since then she has been a stay at home mom while developing a small business making bath and body products and also acting as a local leader for the mom's group "PS I love you", a non-denominational group affiliated with Simpson United Methodist Church here in Pullman. This year she has also added a part time job doing agricultural analysis – looking at the bottom line of growing crops on the Palouse. Shelley is hoping to have time to work on the Voter Service Committee this fall.

Welcome Shelley. We are so glad to have you.

Observer Report Briefs

Pullman Regional Hospital Board, November 4, 2009

Observer: Helen Stiller

- This meeting took place at City Hall and was televised. There were no other citizens attending the meeting.
- There was some discussion on the HIPAA (Healthcare Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) how it impacts the hospital and what the hospital is required to do.
- The Quarterly Financial Report was presented by Steve Febus, CFO. The Hospital's Excess Revenue over Expenses through 9/30/09 was \$944,437 compared to an estimated loss of \$264,075 so things were looking better as year end was approaching. They discussed the efforts that had been taken to improve the financial performance of the hospital.
- The hospital has agreements with several entities as Limited Liability Corporations. These are partially owned by the hospital and include the following: Palouse Pediatrics, Palouse ENT, Palouse Behavioral Health (the newest LLC). I am not sure if Palouse Urology is an LLC
- The building that houses Palouse Medical, Palouse Surgical, Palouse ENT, and Palouse Orthopedics is now functioning in a Condominium relationship with the hospital.
- The 3rd Quarter report on Clinical Outcomes indicates that the hospital is doing very well when compared with the National Averages.

Pullman Regional Hospital Board, December 2, 2009

Observer: Helen Stiller

- Plans for staff 2010 (if feasible)
 - Re-implementation of 2 % annual increase in salaries
 - No increase in medical insurance premiums.
 - Employer contributions to retirement funds will be re-instated.
- A Maxillofacial surgeon will be joining the ENT in January or February.
- H1N1 vaccine available to all employees.

- To maintain active staff status at the hospital an MD must admit 10 patients per year.
- I had the opportunity to join the Board members for a tour of the Skills Laboratory. This is really impressive. There are multiple medical set ups of lifelike manikins in beds with IVs, and other medical equipment. These are used for teaching staff new techniques or for annual re-evaluation of abilities to perform techniques. The nursing students also have access to this training. CPR testing of all staff is now performed in this lab.
- The Hospital Foundation owns 2 sites at the Professional Mall. The occupants are interested in the purchase of these sites.
- The 5th Anniversary of the opening of the new hospital took place on Dec. 11, 2009

Pullman Regional Hospital Board, January 6, 2010

Observer: Helen Stiller

- The hospital received the national Summit Award for top customer satisfaction ratings.
- The 3rd Quarter customer satisfaction ratings remain high.
- The hospital board performed a self evaluation of their performance over the year and expressed the need to revise the format of the self evaluation process. Board Committee assignments for 2010 were provided and approved.
- Megan Guido, Administrator of the hospital Foundation, gave a report on the annual giving, a plan of activities for the upcoming year, distribution of funds, etc.

Neill Public Library Board, December 16, 2009

Observer: Diane Gillespie

Of interest to LWV members:

- Cheryl Brinkley has accepted the Adult Services Librarian position and will begin at NPL on 1-4-10;
- NPL will provide a help desk (3-19 through 4-19, 2010) for Census Bureau staff to assist the public in completing census forms;
- Marian Hood ends ten years of service (2 terms) on the NPL Board; trustee job description, vacancy announcement, and application form will be reviewed at the next Board meeting.
- The City Council approved the 2010 budget but will review it at the end of the first fiscal quarter to see whether year-end savings have replenished the 13% reserve fund.
- The main discussion concerned the laboriously achieved decision to reduce open hours at NPL. Nancy Collin-Warner (supported by Trevor Bond of the Friends) was at the meeting to protest this reduction, a decision she insisted should have involved better communication between staff, Board, Friends, City, and especially taxpayers who deserve access to the library. The decision should not have been made, she added, without having considered alternatives, like charging for out-of-city (non-tax-paying) user library cards, minimal staffing during hours of less-heavy use, and more fund-raising to support library services. Library staff pointed out that the monetary figures she used were simplistic; that filling the Adult Services Librarian position would not improve staffing until she was trained; that without consistent leadership, which the library has not had, and would continue not to have for some time, current staff

would have to continue to do double duty; that part-time and time-slip people should not consistently be asked to work over-time as they have been doing; and that funds from the Friends have been for specific, extra purposes and materials, not basic services. Two good possibilities came out of this discussion:

- a) that a committee be formed with members from the Board, Friends, and the community to review the budget as it progresses in 2010 and to review what is wanted in a director before that hiring process begins again and
- b) that a paid, outside consultant (Trevor Bond will suggest names) be brought in to review the current library staffing, services, and objectives prior to the search for a new director.

Neill Public Library Board, January 20, 2010

Observer: Diane Gillespie

- Cheryl Brinkley, the new Adult Services Librarian, who has begun her training in NPL procedures, was introduced to the Board.
- This meeting was Rob Rembert's last as Chair although he has two more years left of his five-year term. The Board unanimously elected William Brock as the new Chair, with John Anderson as Vice Chair.
- Joanna Bailey reported on:
 - a) budget projections that came out at a City department heads' meeting and a recent City Council meeting. An unanticipated City General Fund expense is a Verizon NW request for a \$187,250 refund for past utility tax payments on DSL service;
 - b) mixed responses to reductions in NPL hours/services; library staff will be trying to phase back in of some lost library hours during the second quarter;
 - c) the planned attendance of different NPL staff members at each Board meeting to increase communication.
- Mary Reed of the Friends of NPL reported that Trevor Bond had resigned from the Friends Board and his position as Chair as of the end of December. The Friends Board is therefore looking for a new member. Mary reported on other Friends activities, including a retreat on January 26th and the annual meeting on March 1st.
- Announcement of a NPL Board vacancy, resulting from the end of Marian Hood's term, will be posted on January 26th so a new member can be on board by the March meeting.
- The Board will seek an outside consultant (at the Friends' expense) to look at NPL systemically (problems, challenges, leadership...) with the hope of having results in hand by the time candidates for a new Director are interviewed. A focus group made up of Friends and Board members will discuss the overall process.
- The Board reviewed the NPL goals, the same three as last year, to be submitted to the City. NPL wants to keep before the City the need for an incremental increase in the materials budget and the need for permanent employees in Circulation and Young Adult services. Added were a statement of the need to begin planning for future increased library space and a statement to support a citywide concern with inadequate downtown parking and safety at intersections.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES 49TH NATIONAL CONVENTION JUNE 11-15, 2010

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK: A HISTORY OF CHANGE. A FUTURE OF HOPE.

The LWVUS invites all members to join fellow Leaguers from 50 states, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Hong Kong to celebrate 90 remarkable years of League achievements and chart the course for the next biennium of League programs.

All League members are invited to attend Convention, but Presidents of local, state and ILO Leagues appoint their allotted delegates. Non-voting members can be part of the excitement as the Convention delegate body debates and adopts the 2010-2012 National Program, the LWVUS Budget for the next fiscal year, and amendments to the LWVUS Bylaws. Delegates will also be choosing the LWVUS Board officers, directors and nominating committee for the next biennium.

Convention 2010 site, the Marriott Atlanta Marquis, is located in the downtown area known as Atlanta's heartbeat. It's where you can experience the world's largest aquarium, relax in Centennial Olympic Park, tour CNN Worldwide, and enjoy myriad dining, cultural and shopping experiences. Nearby are the President Jimmy Carter Library and Museum and the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site and Visitors Center. For detailed information on this fabulous metropolis, visit the website www.Atlanta.net and click on 50 Things to do in Atlanta. Do plan to arrive early or stay a few extra days to explore the many attractions the Atlanta area has to offer.

The Marriott Atlanta Marquis recently completed a \$120 million renovation including a new Ballroom and meeting rooms on the Atrium level which will accommodate all of the LWVUS Convention events. Guests enter the hotel and a soaring 50 story atrium, and can check-in at the front desk or at a self-serve interactive kiosk which produces your room key with a swipe of a credit card. Hotel restaurants include a Starbucks Café, SEAR, for breakfast, lunch and dinner and the M-Shop Deli. The hotel has an indoor/outdoor pool and a Health Club and Spa. A two minute walk on an indoor covered pathway leads to Peachtree Center, with over 60 restaurants and shops. For more information please call 404-521-0000 or visit www.Atlantamarquis.com

Useful Pullman League Numbers

Contact Us: lwvpull@yahoo.com

Online VOTER: www.lwvwa.org/Pullman