



VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PULLMAN WASHINGTON

www.lwvpullman.org

February, 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:** Deb Olson, 332-2114, Backup: Francy Bose, 332-5114; **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; **Hospitality Chair:** Barbara Hammond, 332-4104; **Observer Corps Chair and TRY Editor:** Lucy Linden, 332-2755; **Webmaster:** Paul Spencer: 332-6699; **State Board Member:** Karen Kiessling, 332-4755.

Meetings

Citizens United Discussion – When Money Talk\$

Date: Thursday February 2, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
 Program: Discussion on the Citizens United Decision co-sponsored with the Foley Institute
 Place: CUB Auditorium
 Contact: Lucy Linden, 332-2755

Pullman Security Camera Policies

Date: Wednesday February 15, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
 Program: Joint meeting with Police Advisory Committee
 Place: City Council Chambers
 Chairs: Karen Kiessling, 332-4755 and Barbara Hammond, 332-4104

Privatization Panel

Date: Monday March 5, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
 Program: Panel presentations followed by questions
 Place: Neill Public Library, Hecht Room
 Chairs: Alex Hammond, 332-4104 and Janet Kendall, 332-4268

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Board Meetings

Wednesdays February 22, March 28

Time: 1:00-2:45 p.m.

Place: Daily Grind

Chair: Alice Schroeder, 334-2470

Important Date

Ballots on Pullman School Levy due February 14

These are not new taxes, but a continuation of vital school support.

Other Meetings of Interest

LWV National Convention

Date: June 8-2, 2012

Program: **Imagine, Commit, Act! "The Power of the Vote!"**

Place: **Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington DC**

Information: LWV.org

When Money Talk\$

Political campaigns after the *Citizens United* decision will be addressed on Thursday, February 2, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the CUB Auditorium. The League of Women Voters of Pullman is cooperating with the Foley Institute and the Washington State University College of Business to present a distinguished panel to discuss the effects of this *Citizens United* ruling on political campaigns and the possible implications for elections and democracy in the U. S. Panelists are Brian Baird, Former U. S. Congressman, Washington's Third District, David DeWolf, Professor of Law, Gonzaga Law School, Michael Franz, Associate Professor of Government, Bowdoin College and Melanie Sloan, Executive Director, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington.

Recently, so-called Super PACs have spent millions supporting candidates. *Citizens United* has stirred controversy and shaken the presumptions involving campaign finance and corporate spending in democracy. You won't want to miss this event.

Pullman Police Seek Public Input On Camera Policy

The Pullman LWV together with the Pullman Police Department and the Pullman Police Advisory Committee is holding a public meeting February 15 in the City Council Chambers from 7-9 p.m. to obtain public input on a video policing policy that is being developed to establish best practices for authorized use of video cameras and to address privacy concerns.

The Pullman PD has been awarded a Department of Justice *Smart Policing Initiative* grant in the amount of \$300,000. The grant proposes to address violent crimes and neighborhood disorders through the use of video cameras placed at public locations where high frequencies of those types of incidents occur. Live video feed will be transmitted to the police station and police cars, and video will be recorded for use in criminal investigations and prosecutions. The camera locations will be determined through research and analysis conducted by the Washington State Institute for Criminal Justice at WSU

and the WSU Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology. Initial research indicates that the Adams Mall area of College Hill is a location where the cameras could have a positive impact, although other locations may also be identified.

All members of the public are invited to attend to provide policy development input. A draft policy is available on the [Pullman PD website](#) and at the Pullman Police Department, Pullman City Hall, Neill Public Library, and Pullman Chamber of Commerce.

Panel on Privatization

The League of Women Voters will sponsor a panel on privatization of public services/governmental functions on Monday evening, March 5, 7:00-9:00, in the Hecht Room of Neill Public Library. The panel constitutes a local part of a national LWV study, whose purpose is to “identify those parameters and policy issues to be considered in connection with proposals to transfer federal, state or local government services, assets and/or functions to the private sector. It will review the stated goals and the community impact of such transfers, and identify strategies to ensure transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good.”

Three panelists have been invited to make presentations. Following the presentations there will be discussion among the panelists and questions from the audience. The panelists include:

John Sherman, City Supervisor, Pullman who will address practices and examples of using private business to deliver and manage public services in the City of Pullman and similar practices by county and state agencies in WA;

Shelly Richardson, Ph.D., a utilities attorney and member of the board of directors of Columbia Grid, who will discuss legal issues involved in the intersections of government and private businesses (including her experience in such matters as bidding requirements, drawing up and monitoring contracts, ensuring effectiveness, and dealing with differences between Federal and state requirements);

Jon R. Miller, Ph.D., Professor of Economics, College of Business and Economics, University of Idaho, who will offer an academic perspective on the issues and policy concerns involved in privatization and on how economists formulate such matters as public and private goods, conflicts between public interest and private profit, and related issues such as maintaining public oversight and accountability.

The national LWV office has assembled background materials which may be found at <http://www.lwv.org/search/content/Privatization>.

We hope you will join us for a very challenging, informative evening.

Pullman League Member Honored

Our congratulations to Nancy Magnuson, Professor of molecular biosciences and director of the ADVANCE at WSU program, who was named a fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2011 in recognition of her distinguished contributions to cancer research, particularly for studies elucidating the function of the proto-oncogene PIM1 and its role in promoting cancer cell survival.

Nancy has been a member of the Pullman League for decades and is a stalwart supporter of the work League does. Because of the demands of her research life she is a funder of League rather than an active member.

WA State Council Plans Shelley Jones

The Council Committee is hard at work making plans for this year's Washington State Council which is scheduled to be held at the Holiday Inn Express in Pullman on June 1-3. One of the exciting items that Karen Kiessling and Amy Cole have worked on is a panel on Judicial Diversity. The panel is going to consist of Supreme Court Justice Stephen Gonzales, Judge Jane Johanson of the Appellate Court, Judge Cameron Mitchell of the Superior court in the Tri-Cities area, our own Judge Douglas Robinson of the District Court, and an academic - Dr. Melinda Gann-Hall of Michigan. The Foley Institute and the Whitman County Bar Association are going to co-sponsor. We are also busy making plans for meetings, catering, and other activities. We will be asking for volunteers to assist us with various tasks as Council approaches and during the actual event, June 1-3. We are very excited to showcase the beautiful Palouse and our League during this event.

Meet New Member Shantel Martinez Lucy Linden

Thanks to Keiko Tuttle the Pullman League has a third new member who is a graduate student at Washington State University. Keiko joined last year and recruited her friend, Shantel, who became interested in joining after her first meeting. As a new member she joined other Pullman Leaguers in a road trip to the Fall Action Workshop in Ellensburg. I feel like I am part of something important," she said of her membership in the League of Women Voters.

Shantel, from Omak, Washington, is the oldest of 6 siblings who visit and are in communication with her often, thanks to Skype, so she is a big part of their lives. WSU was her choice for her undergraduate work and she studied bioengineering. Now she is a graduate student working on a Master's degree in the Crops Department and is excited and passionate about the research she conducts in a molecular plant science laboratory.

While Shantel played tennis in high school, she doesn't get to play much now; she loves pilates and does that when she has time. A recent book she is "obsessing over" is *The Hunger Games* Trilogy. Welcome, Shantel.

State Conservation District Study, Final Report

Joan Folwell, chair

Thanks to all of you who participated in the state conservation district study discussion and helped to answer the consensus questions on December 5. Conservation districts are always looking for ways to advertise themselves to the general public; I think that our expert speakers Ray Ledgerwood, WA State Conservation Commission, and Larry Cochran, Palouse Conservation District Supervisor Chair, were impressed by the turnout and the interest shown by our members. We all learned something, had the opportunity to congratulate Marge Grunewald for a lifetime spent in League, and enjoyed wonderful Christmas goodies with the spirits of Dorothy and Thor Swanson watching over us. You all made it so easy for me to fulfill my obligations and I appreciate it.

To read the consensus report that will be sent to the state office follow this link to our website: [Read Conservation District Study Response](#).



Alice presenting Marge with her 50 year certificate while Bob looks on.



Christmas Goodies!

Results of the January 9th Planning Meeting

Alice Schroeder

The LWV of Pullman met January 9 to discuss National Program suggestions for 2012-14. The members present broke up into small groups with each group discussing a different section and then regrouped to report, discuss, and determine the response to send back to National. We found that we support the LWVUS current action priorities and want to see them continued and suggested adding two action priorities: opposing the Citizens United decision and action against the Keystone Pipeline, plus a new study on services for active military and veterans and their families. A study on transport and storage of on Low Level Nuclear Waste was proposed but on further reading it appears that good positions are in place. To read the entire response, follow this link to our website: [Read Legislative Priorities](#).

Pullman League's Vision for Pullman's Future

On December 6, 2011, Pullman City Council held their meeting on the 2020 visioning process. To read the letter that Alice Schroeder, Pullman League President, read at the meeting, and the letter that she received from Pullman Mayor John Sherman in response, follow this link to our website: [Read Vision Letter](#).

Policies – League of Women Voters of Pullman

The Board of the Pullman LWV has been working on developing a set of policies for our local League concerning how to manage contact information, board meetings, decision making, public meetings, forums, speaking for the League, minutes, record keeping, etc. The board also wrote descriptions of the responsibilities of the various officers and committee chairs. The board approved the Policies and Responsibilities on January 25, 2012. To read the document follow the link to our website: [Read Policies](#).

National Convention – 2012

League of Women Voters will hold its 50th National Convention in June, in Washington DC. Have “the DC Experience” with many other LWV leaders from around the nation!

Pullman League can send one voting delegate. The energy and people at a League convention are amazing. All of us who have attended conventions in the past come back energized and impressed with the amazing people involved in League. Pullman League budgets to pay the expenses of our delegate. You do not need to be a long term member to be our delegate. If you are interested in going to the National Convention as our delegate, contact Alice Schroeder, 334-2470.

FIRST CALL TO CONVENTION 2012
From LWVUS President Elisabeth G. MacNamara
Join Us for the LWVUS 50th
National Convention in Washington DC!
June 8-12, 2012
Imagine, Commit, Act! "The Power of the Vote!"
Washington Hilton Hotel, 1919 Connecticut Avenue

Pullman League Audit Report

On December 13, 2011, Elinor McCloskey and Karen Kiessling met at the home of Pullman League Treasurer Joan Folwell to conduct a brief internal audit of the bookkeeping procedures in place. To read the report of this audit follow the link to our website: [Read Audit](#).

Pullman LWV Website Update

Paul Spencer

Recent changes are:

1) A rudimentary history page has been activated. It is available in the *About Us* drop-down menu.

We expect to be able to make this section have multiple pages and to be an entertaining tour of the Pullman League history. Please send history items to paul-spencer@pullman.com

2) There is now a first-cut *Member's Page* which will be gradually expanded to include items which are useful to League members but not available to the general public. On this page there is a calendar with League meetings and events highlighted. The link to this page can also be found in the *About Us* drop-down menu. I will send out an email to remind you of the user name and password required to view this page.