



VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PULLMAN WASHINGTON

www.lwvpullman.org

February 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: Chairman – Paul Spencer, 332-6699; League Voice – Karen Kiessling, 332-4755; Information Coordinator – Anne Lewis, 334-1075; **Secretary:** Libby Walker, 509-432-4756, Backup: Jackie Miyasaka, 332-1248; **Treasurer:** Joan Folwell, 332-3946; **Voter Service Chair:** Deb Olson, 332-2114; **Voter Editor:** Susan Daniels, 332-6699; **Budget Chair:** Pat Ager, 334-3374; **Finance Drive Chair:** Lenna Harding, 332-7749; **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.

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

Meetings and Events

Update on Poverty Study and Anniversary Celebration

Date: Monday February 2, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Program: An update on the Poverty Study: what we have learned so far and what comes next, and the kickoff for our 65th anniversary year.

Place: Umpqua Bank, 225 N. Grand Ave, Pullman

Contact: Mary Collins, 509-592-6929

Voting Rights

Date: Monday March 2, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Program:

Place: Umpqua Bank, 225 N. Grand Ave, Pullman

Contact: Paul Spencer, 332-6699

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Brown Bags

Dates: Third Thursdays, Noon – 1:00 p.m.

Programs: February 19 – History of LWV of Pullman; what was happening 50, 25, 10 years ago.

March 19 – Pullman Parks and Recreation Update

Place: Congregational Church, Opal and Campus, Pullman

Contact: Deb Olson, 332-2114

Poverty Study Meetings

Date: Second Tuesdays: February 10, March 10, 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: Third Wednesdays: February 25, March 25, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Place: Daily Grind, back room

Chair: Paul Spencer, 332-6699

LWVWA State Convention

Date: June 12 - 14

Place: Yakima, WA

Program: Plan the LWVWA agenda for the coming year. Convention is a great place to connect with other Leaguers from around the state, share experiences, and learn new skills.

Social Events

Game Day

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

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

Program: Friends, food, conversation and a game

Contact: Anne Lewis 334-1075

Pie Day

Date: Saturday March 14 (3/14), 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

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

Program: Friendship, joy, and pie. Bring a pie to share, dessert, savory or ?

Contact: Anne Lewis 334-1075

February Meeting: Anniversary and Poverty Study

Our February meeting will cover two topics of interest, an update on the Poverty Study and the kickoff for our year of celebrating the 65th anniversary of LWV of Pullman. Details are below.

Where we are on the Poverty Study

Mary Collins

On Monday, February 2, the League of Women Voters of Pullman will hold their regular monthly

meeting at the Umpqua Bank in Pullman. The meeting will begin with social time at 6:30 p.m. followed by the program at 7 p.m. The Poverty Study update will consist of a panel of people working on the League's study of Poverty in Whitman County. We are still in the first year of this two year study so the presentation will be a description of what we are hoping to accomplish and an update of progress made to date.

Kick Off of the 65th Anniversary of Pullman LWV Libby Walker

The Pullman League of Women Voters was founded on February 14, 1950. On February 2nd, we will host an event to kick off the 65th anniversary of our chapter. Please join us at 6:30 at the Umpqua Bank to enjoy a beautiful birthday cake and share a social time with current members and guests. At 7:00 PM, Chairman Paul Spencer will share reflections on the past and present work of the League.

Other upcoming anniversary events include a February display at Neill Public Library which will chronicle the history of the Pullman Chapter and a showing of *Iron Jawed Angels* at the Cordova Theater in March or April. There may be an additional showing in the Hecht Room of Neill Public Library as well as on the WSU Campus.

Please plan to attend the February 2nd meeting to learn more about the Whitman County Poverty Study and join us in this important celebration. Questions are welcome from the audience. Bring a friend!

March Meeting – Voting Rights Paul Spencer

The detailed plans for the Monday, March 2 meeting about voting rights in the U.S. are still not determined. We had hoped to be able to have the Washington State Secretary of State speak to us, but this effort has apparently failed. **However, we will have a discussion of current U.S. voting rights issues, of the efforts to improve voting rights and about the organizations involved, with one or more speakers.**

Voting rights continues to be a highly contentious issue in America. Approximately one in four Americans is not registered to vote and many registered voters do not actually vote. Starting after the 2010 midterm elections, legislators in dozens of states introduced scores of laws to make it harder to vote. Voters and advocates pushed back at the ballot box and the courts. Some lawmakers have started pushing laws that improve access to the ballot box. These are some of the issues which we will discuss at next month's LWV meeting.

As usual, the social half hour will be at 6:30 with the meeting itself beginning at 7:00 and ending at 9:00 p.m. More information about the meeting will be distributed when it is available.

Update on Pullman Schools Anne Lewis

In spite of the ice, cold, and dark of night, approximately ten League members and four community

members ventured out for December's League meeting. Fortunately, upon arrival (and break time and departure) there were plenty of holiday cookies and warm drinks to enjoy.

The speakers consisted of: Superintendent of Pullman Public Schools Paul Sturm, Assistant Superintendent Bob Maxwell, and Principal of Pullman High School Joe Thornton. The 3 speakers were very well-prepared and seemed to enjoy the more informal back and forth question and answer format.

We were updated on the progress of Pullman High School construction. When asked about the disruption to students, Joe Thornton responded that the students (more than teachers!) take the changes in stride and enjoy watching the process. The majority of work will be complete by the start of the 2016 school year, with "finish work" taking place throughout winter and spring.

Time was spent discussing a subject close to the League's heart and purpose – the "new" civics requirement required for the class of 2016 and beyond. Although still under construction—in terms of the teacher(s) and content—the representatives of the school district expect this stand alone course to be rich in current debates and discussion. The class is expected to have frequent guest speakers, which may include representatives of the League of Women Voters.

The last half of the meeting was focused on an overview of the almost incomprehensible number of federal and state education laws. To paraphrase a speaker observation, it is a really expensive and interesting dilemma as to how the state will address full day kindergarten, compliance with the McCleary decision, and the ramifications of the recent passage of I-1351.

The PowerPoint of the panel's presentation is available online by clicking on this link: [Read School Update](#). This is an engaging (there are pictures!), informative, and comprehensive resource. I encourage anyone with an interest in education and local schools (in other words, each of you!) to check it out. Attendees received a handout titled Federal Education Laws which is available by clicking on the link: [Read Federal Education Laws](#).

Report on State and Local Planning Meeting

Paul Spencer

The State and Local planning meeting was held on Monday January 12. The purpose was to re-examine the Pullman League and Washington State League positions and to provide feedback to the Washington State League organization about their positions.

To do this we divided the state positions into 2 parts, with Alice Schroeder leading the Government and Transportation sections, and Libby Walker leading the Education and Natural resources sections. Each group discussed its positions.

This purpose of this examination was to:

- Make minor revisions for incorrect grammar or confusing wording OR
- Decide if a position is ripe for action such as lobbying, writing an initiative, a citizen education program, etc. OR
- Consider whether an update to the position is needed. (This is a serious undertaking since a committee is needed to gather information, talk to experts, group discussions, writing a document,

consensus and so on.) OR

- Decide if there is some area which is not included in the current positions for which a new study should be done. (As with the updates described above, this requires a serious effort.)

For Government and Transportation the following items were selected as possibilities for the three items which we can recommend to the Washington State LWV: (NOT in order of priority)

A.

- 1) Find out the LWV positions that are used by the League to oppose charter schools.
- 2) Action to increase State financial support for higher education thus decreasing student tuition.
- 3) Support the Tacoma LWV proposed study to determine the causes of low voter turnout for elections.
- 4) Action to improve the State initiative and referendum processes.
- 5) Determine if there are any League positions which are applicable to the recent ride sharing or private taxi service by means of the internet such as "Uber" or "Lift"

The Education and Natural Resources group possibilities were:

B.

- 1) Action to support reduction of greenhouse gas emissions such as Governor Inslee's carbon tax proposal.
- 2) Determine LWV positions relevant to preventing global warming.

The Pullman League Board at the Jan. 21 Board meeting made the final selection and determination of priority as follows (in order of priority):

1. B1) -- Action to reduce greenhouse gasses
2. A2) -- Action to increase State financial support for higher education
3. A3) -- Support the Tacoma LWV proposed study about Voter turnout

The Board decided to add comments inquiring about League positions relevant to internet ride sharing and charter schools and to add a disclaimer that our League is working hard on the local League Poverty Study, so that our capacity to work on State studies or action may be quite limited. The Board Chairman must send the report to the Washington State LWV by Feb. 15.

The group as a whole examined the Pullman League Positions (last revised in 2013) and found a number of items which were not up-to-date. A draft of proposed revisions will be made and distributed for comment. The final draft will be submitted for approval at the Annual Business Meeting in May.

Brown Bag Reports

December's Airport Update

Deb Olson

The December Brown Bag featured Tony Bean, the Airport Manager, who gave us an update on the Airport Project. Why is the airport realignment project needed? Quick answer is the current airport is out of FAA compliance. Fix it or forget having an airport, an outcome that would be detrimental to the two universities and the businesses in Pullman and Moscow and the surrounding area.

Some of the major problems with the current airport are:

- the runway and taxiway are too close together;
- the terminal is too small for existing traffic;
- the current runway points at Moscow Mountain;
- 90 to 120 flights a year are cancelled due to navigation difficulties;
- the airport can't expand – there is no room for additional hangers.

The new project realigns the runway and increases it to 7100 feet and adds additional all weather landing and lighting allowing planes to land in a wider range of adverse conditions. It adds an additional 150 acres of new hanger and business capacity. The new improved facilities would open the market to other airlines and new destinations.

How will this be done? 6.6 million cubic yards of cut and fill will raise the ground level to the current road level. The plan is to continue service while construction is on-going. Construction is planned for phases as money becomes available from 2015-2018 (fund as you go). Total costs are 90 to 119 million dollars with the community match of 8.25%. For 2015 the Federal contribution is expected to be \$16 million with Pullman/Moscow match of \$ 1.5 million.

The Environmental Assessment is complete with a finding of no impact. The Final EA is available at www.puw-EA.com. The next phase is Land Acquisition and Design. Most of the property to be acquired is the WSU animal science area and Tukey Orchard.

January's Brown Bag by Friends of Hospice Paul spencer

The January 15 Brown Bag meeting was a presentation by Annie Pillers of The Friends of Hospice and Sandy Okeefe, an oncology nurse at St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center in Lewiston. They spoke about the importance of advanced planning stating that the average length a person spends in hospice care is 19 days. By the time a person enters hospice care there often isn't time to develop a plan for end of life care.

They explained the Advance Care Planning process – it is to help a person to understand, reflect upon and discuss goals, values and beliefs for future health care decisions. It involves choosing a decision maker (Health Care Agent), discussing your goals for care when there is little chance you will recover the ability to know who or where you are, or to recognize people. Also, the process should include identifying the personal or religious beliefs that may affect life-sustaining treatment decisions.

They explained that this should include meaningful **and continuing** conversations with parents, children, medical providers, clergy, etc. to allow a deeper understanding of your wishes. An Advance Directive is a written plan such as a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care. An excellent detailed booklet, *FIVE WISHES*, and brochures explaining the process are available from Friends of Hospice, 115 NW State, Suite 117, Pullman. These documents and more information and are also available on their website <http://friendsofhospice.net/contact.html>

Upcoming Brown Bags – Deb Olson

Feb 19, 2015 – Let's Talk About League

This year is the 65th Anniversary of the Pullman League. Ever wonder about what League has done in the past? Unfortunately in the past few years several long time League members, including founding members, have passed away. Ever wonder what the League was doing 65 or even 20 years ago? The Pullman League continues a tradition of strong community involvement and is adding new members. Let's get together and find out about our history and then brag all over town.

A Display on League History will be up a Neill Public Library for the month of February. Remember to stop by and check it out.

March 19, 2015 Police Chief Jenkins – an update on the Body Camera issue and anything else he would like to bring to our attention.

April 16, 2015 - Tentatively Planned - Pullman Parks and Rec. What are the plans for the upcoming year? What's happening with Reaney Pool? How are they coping with funding?

Observer Corps Update Anne Lewis

Observer Corps was a bit less active these past 2 months, largely due to holidays and rescheduled meetings. Now that the calendar has turned, meetings should be more regular and I will start making Observer Reports available in whole or part.

For those already involved—thank you! **We now have a team of 11 observers covering 7 entities.** As a gentle reminder to all observers, please send in your reports within one week of covering a meeting.

There is still room for more participants! Observer Corps requires approximately 2-3 hours of your time per month. It is (or should be J) a low-stress activity that fulfills important League, community, and (I believe) personal needs.

Please contact Anne Lewis at anneglewis2@yahoo.com with questions, comments, and interest.

Game Days Anne Lewis

Although December is a busy time, several people attended a morning filled with food, drink, and conversation. And, no, I did not accidentally leave out “games”— we skipped them this time☺

Please consider joining us for the next game day: **February 11 (Wednesday) at 11 am at Anne's house.** We will definitely throw in a bit of game time...even if the majority of time is spent noshing on food and engaging in pleasant conversation.

Pie Day

Anne Lewis

This event, which debuted last year, was so delicious and fun it must be repeated! Come join in as we celebrate Pi's (3.14159...) birthday with PIE. No math is necessary, although people may discuss this mathematical ratio if they choose. The focus is on friendship, joy and this wondrous food. Loose clothing recommended.

Time: March 14, 11 a.m.

Place: Anne Lewis' home, 915 SE Skylark St.

Bring: A pie to share – dessert, savory or ???

I hope to see a variety of faces, in addition to a variety of pies!