



VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PULLMAN WASHINGTON

www.lwvpullman.org

June, 2013

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.

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Meetings and Events

Please check the date and place when you get the meeting notice a week before the meeting.

Planning Meeting

Date: Monday July 8th, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Program: Plan League activities for the coming year and enjoy a salad pot luck

Place: Ruth Brown's home, see directions in [Planning Meeting](#) article below

Contact: Shelley Jones 509-432-3428

Primary Forum

Date: Wednesday July 17th, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Program: Forum on three candidates for the At-Large City Council seat and three city tax proposals

Place: City Council Chambers in Pullman City Hall

Contact: Deb Olson, 332-2114

Forum on Open Government

Date: Wednesday September 25th, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Program: Panel discussion on open government laws and issues

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Place: McGregor Company Training Center, 401 Airport Road in Colfax, see directions in [Open Government](#) article below
Contact: Karen Kiessling, 332-4755

Board Meeting

Wednesday June 19th

Time: 1:00-2:30 p.m.
Place: Daily Grind, back room
Chair: Karen Kiessling, 332-4755

Other Dates of Interest

Johnson 4th of July Parade

Time: Thursday July 4th 10:00 a.m.
Program: March in the Johnson 4th of July parade
Place: Johnson, WA
Contact: Deb Olson, 332-2114

Planning Meeting Monday, July 8th **Karen Kiessling**

Pull out your favorite large brimmed sun hat and whip up your favorite salad recipe. It is time for our summer planning meeting for the Pullman League. We will meet on Monday, July 8, at 10 am at Ruth Brown's farm in the country. Each year we gather for the pleasure of sitting in Ruth's beautiful garden while we discuss the meetings we wish to hold for the new League year. We meet and discuss ideas and timing from 10 am to 1 pm, usually breaking for lunch around noon or 12:30. A lot gets done in listing the programs we want while we sip lemonade and iced tea and gaze out at the verdant Palouse.

This is a great time for new members of the League to join in with ideas and suggestions. We have gotten excellent ones, reminders of how to do our League business in more open and welcoming ways. So bring your ideas, your interests and your questions to the summer planning session.

Bring a salad, pick up a League member who lives in your neighborhood and join in.

Directions to Ruth's farm:

From the Pullman-Moscow Highway turn south on Bishop Blvd.

Go 0.3 miles and turn left on Johnson Road (just past Quality Inn and the old Pete's Restaurant).

Go 3.3 miles on Johnson Road (WITHOUT turn-offs; do NOT turn onto the Old Moscow Road or Sand Road).

You will now find yourself between 2 big white barns on either side of the road. Ours is the one on the left with the blue metal roof.

The driveway is long and narrow, so stay in the middle. Phone 332-8038 if you get lost.

WELCOME!

Primary Forum

Deb Olson

The primary forum is set for Wednesday July 19th from 7:00 to 9:00 pm in the Council Chambers at Pullman City Hall. The primary forum will have the three candidates for the At-Large council seat and speakers for the three city tax proposals. Three individuals have filled for the at-large (city-wide) position. You probably have been following the news about the three tax proposals to reset to original rates the general fund, safety and park district. If enough people vote the tax proposals could be decided by the primary. Speakers pro and con for the taxes are still needed. If you have any ideas let me know.

We will need your assistance at the forum to keep time, pickup question cards, and sort cards for the moderator. There are lots of small but important jobs at forums so we need lots of League attendance. Contact Deb Olson 332-2114 or 595-0333 or olsonbones@aol.com

Annual Meeting Report

Shelley Jones

We had a wonderful turnout for our Annual Meeting on May 13th. We had great food (thank you to Deb Olson and Susan Daniels for planning the catering). A fabulous venue (thank you to Karen Kiessling). With both of those came a wonderful social hour – time to catch up, exchange ideas, meet old and new friends. After dinner, we heard from Jeff Guyett of the Pullman Community Action Center. It was very interesting to hear about what they do and learn more about this agency. Our Business meeting was successful. We passed the budget, bylaw changes and changes to our local positions. We elected our new Board and our new Board is looking forward to an exciting year!

I do want to share with you what I was most pleased and excited about that happened at our Annual Meeting. It was great to see many members sign-up for committees! We need you! Your help assists us in doing so many of our activities. We have jobs that are a few hours a year to a few hours a month; a project that lasts one day to a project that lasts many months. We can do all that we do because of you – our members – and your willingness! Thank you! If you are interested in participating on a Committee please see the opportunities that are discussed in this newsletter, contact Karen Kiessling or Shelley Jones, or come to our Planning Meeting on July 8th.

Pullman League To Host Forum on Open Government

Karen Kiessling, Chair, Committee for Open Meetings Act Forum

The League of Women Voters of Pullman is hosting a community forum on open government issues on Wednesday, September 25, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm in the training center of the McGregor Company, 401 Airport Road in Colfax (actually outside Colfax across the road from the Palouse Empire Fairgrounds, five miles north of town). Alex McGregor, Chairman of the McGregor Company, has invited the League and the Washington Coalition for Open Government (WCOG) to present the panel of experts in the area of the Open Meetings Act which is the law in the state of Washington. This meeting is intended to be an educational discussion on the issues relating to the requirement that boards and commissions make decisions in a transparent manner. Because it is important for all citizens to know

what the law says to protect their right to know, the League is encouraging attendance by everyone in the county.

The panel is an impressive one with expertise in all facets of the law and its implementation. Members who have already said yes to taking part are the President of WCOG, Toby Nixon, former state legislator and current member of the City Council of Kirkland, Bill Will, executive director of the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association who will be able to give us examples of not following the law and the consequences of that, Scott Sackett, who is with the State Digital Archives in Cheney, who will talk about the requirements under the law for all minutes to be kept in permanent form, and Anna King of Northwest Public Radio who will be the moderator. Anna King moderated the forum we held two years ago and did a fine job. Finally, an attorney from Witherspoon Kelley law firm in Spokane will discuss these issues from a legal viewpoint.

Mark your calendars right now for Wednesday, September 25th, 6:30 - 8:30 pm at McGregors. We will all learn a lot about our rights as citizens and how we can work to achieve League's goal of good government. We define good government as open, inclusive and transparent. This workshop will give us the tools to help make that happen. Please plan to attend to help League host this event. Bring friends and neighbors to share the learning. If you have ideas of ways to be sure that all citizens of Whitman County hear about the meeting, please let me know.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Call For Observer Corps Members

Deb Olson

What is the Observer Corps and Why is it important?

Briefly, the Observer Corps consists of League members who volunteer to observe public sessions of any board or commission with governmental ties. Why is our presence at meetings Important? One goal of the League is to promote good government by having open meetings. When governing bodies know they are being watched, we hope they act in the public's best interests.

What are the Observers responsibilities?

The hardest part of being an Observer is being an OBSERVER. You do not participate or speak. If you need to clarify some point you may ask questions, but you never offer opinions, even your own personal ones, if asked. If something comes up that you think may be of interest to the League, report it to the Observer Chair (me) or any board member. We have a report form available for use and reports or summaries can be included in the Voter.

You can find a list of the various government boards and commissions in our *2013-2014 Directory of Elected and Appointed Officials*. Please take a look at the list of boards and commissions and consider if any interest you. Most meet only once a month. A couple of members might share covering a particular commission or board. Please contact me if you are interested or have any questions and we can arrange a meeting over coffee to go over things in more depth at olsonbones@aol.com or by phone 332-2114 or 509-595-0333 if you have any questions.

New Members Report on LWVWA Convention 2013

Mary Collins

As a brand new LWV member the 2013 State conference served as a crash course in the history, character, and workings of the organization. It was inspiring to hear from and about the work of long-time members and Leagues and I value hearing about topics that are currently being addressed. I learned about Vote411, Forums, Studies, Resolutions, as well as the value, if sometimes tedious aspects, of Parliamentary Procedure. I was able to attend workshops on VOTE411 and how LWV Studies are designed, and caucuses on the Washington State Initiative for labeling foods for GMO content, and on efforts to pass legislation related to back ground checks for gun purchases. Both of these caucuses resulted in supporting resolutions that were passed during the plenary session. The experience in general left me inspired to think about some of the things that I might like to be involved in at our local level. The best part was getting to know Karen, Shelley, and Anne better. Thank you to the Pullman LWV for allowing me to participate in the conference.

Anne Lewis

There wasn't much downtime at The 2013 League of Women Voters of Washington State Convention! This three day event included, but was in no way limited to: plenary sessions, knowledgeable and experienced league members, workshops, social activities, engaging speakers and topics, and caucuses. Although I recognize that I am just touching the surface of all the League involves and offers, I left convention with at least a bit more knowledge and understanding of the League of Women Voters.

I was most excited by – and want to be involved in – a resolution that the national LWV adopt a formal Resolution to reinstate the League-sponsored Presidential debates. Passed unanimously at closing plenary, this resolution brought forward by LWV Shelton asks that LWV Washington be resolved to write a letter encouraging the *National* LWV to adopt this Resolution. I am convinced that in addition to the benefits the League's return to – or even proposal to return to – the Presidential debates gives the American people in terms of a wider, less biased, and more informative debate, this is an *incredible* opportunity to present and showcase the LWV to a wider and more diverse audience. I cannot imagine that increased participation in LWV will not follow.

A copy of the resolution and a fantastic video that gives a “Brief History of the LWV and the Presidential Debates” can be found at www.lwvmasoncounty.org (click on “Information on Presidential Debate Resolution”).

Call For Parade Participants

Deb Olson

This is a general call for members to participate in fun, healthy (you will be walking) League activity. The Pullman League participates in the July 4th Johnson Parade every year. The parade begins at 10am. This year we will again be giving out American flags that will advertise the upcoming primary forum in Pullman. For marchers we have a very snazzy sash and/or hats to wear. We try to dress in red white and blue, but not required. Parking is limited so we try to carpool. This really is a fun activity that still leaves the rest of the day for other activities.

We also march in the Lentil Festival Parade, August 17th at 11 am. This parade is longer and more structured. If we have enough people show up we have pencils with our website to hand out. But if we

only have a small turn out (last year), we just march. We have signs about women's history that we are planning to carry.

If you are interested contact Deb Olson 332-2114 or 509-595-0333 or olsonbones@aol.com

Meet Our Intern, Amanda Jeney

Amanda is an intern from WSU, working on various projects for our League this summer. She is helping 1) Karen Kiessling with the preparations for our LWV meeting on the Washington State open meetings act which will be held in September; 2) helping the LWV history group organize and prepare the paper history documents for use on the LWV website; 3) and planning for how our League can use internet social media such as Facebook to enhance our League operation and publicity. We asked her to write up a brief profile for the VOTER and she complied with the following.

I am from Reardan, Washington. I am graduating with a Bachelor in Women's Studies and minor in Human Development. My next step is moving to Washington D.C. this upcoming August. I plan to nanny and get involved in the community through volunteer work until I make any further career plans. I will be with the League until the end of July and look forward to understanding more of the League's role in the community. I had never heard of the League before, so when I was looking at organizations that most interested me, the League caught my eye. I was really attracted to the organization's various interests in the community, especially that the League is nonpartisan. During the time I have had so far with the League, the idea has come up to continue with the organization when I move east. I enjoy everyone I have worked with so far and would really like to keep in touch with the Pullman League and provide them with what I learn in my future activities.

More On the Brown Bag/Noon Meetings

Deb Olson

Our informal noon meetings will be starting up in September. They will be the third Thursday of the month from noon to one pm. A tentative schedule for the first three meetings has been decided.

September 19th – We would like the first meeting to be with the County Commissioners (our preference is that this be a yearly event).

October 17th – The Moscow League discussing their poverty study, how they went about it and problems encountered. Would like this to be mostly a question and answer session.

November 21st – Jeff Guyett from Community Action Center (CAC). He was great at the annual meeting but needed more time. This time we would like to talk about volunteer opportunities.

Again this is tentative. Nobody has been asked yet. If there is a subject you are passionate about or even just mildly interested in that you think would be good for a noon meeting contact Deb Olson 332-2114 or 509-595-0333 or olsonbones@aol.com

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