



VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PULLMAN WASHINGTON

www.lwvpullman.org

June 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: Chair – Paul Spencer, 332-6699; League Voice – Karen Kiessling, 332-4755; Information Coordinator – Anne Lewis, 334-1075; **Secretary:** Alice Schroeder, 334-2470; Backup: Jackie Miyasaka, 332-1248; **Treasurer:** Joan Folwell, 332-3946; **Voter Service Chair:** Deb Olson, 332-2114; **Voter Editor:** Susan Daniels, 332-6699; **Finance Committee:** Lenna Harding, 332-7749, Shelley Jones, 432-3428; **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. **Brown Bag Coordinator:** Deb Olson, 332-2114

Meetings and Events

Planning Meeting

Date: Monday July 20, 10 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
 Program: Annual planning meeting followed at noon by a salad potluck lunch.
 Place: Susan and Paul's home, 1745 SW Baldwin Dr.
 Contacts: Paul Spencer, 332-6699

Primary Forums

Dates: Coming in July
 Program: See article on [page 3](#)
 Contact: Deb Olson, 332-2114

Poverty Study Meetings

Date: Second Tuesdays: June 9, July 14, 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

Contents

Page 2 – [July Planning Mtg.](#)
 Page 3 – [Primary Forums](#)
 Page 3 – [LWVWA Convention](#)
 Page 4 – [Brown Bag Reports](#)
 Page 6 – [League Action](#)
 Page 6 – [Butterfly Nominees](#)
 Page 7 – [New LWVUS website](#)
 Page 7 – [What is MLD?](#)
 Page 7 – [Results of a health care survey](#)
 Page 9 – [Review of our past year](#)

Board Meeting

Date: Third Wednesday: June 24, 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 Event

Game Day

Date: Tuesday June 2, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

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

Program: Refreshments, conversation, and a game. Rhetorical query: What is not to like?

Contact: Anne Lewis, 334-1075

Action Log

April 7, 2015 – Karen Kiessling sent a letter supporting a Community Adjudication Board for a diversion program to Gary Jenkins, Pullman Chief of police.

April 2015 – Paul Spencer sent a letter to local newspapers speaking to legislators on the state budget. It appeared in the Daily News and the County Gazette.

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

Summer Potluck and Planning Meeting

Paul Spencer

Whip up your favorite salad recipe - It is time for our summer planning meeting and salad potluck for the Pullman League! We will meet on Monday, July 20, at 10 a.m. at Paul Spencer and Susan Daniel's yard. Each year we gather to discuss the meetings we wish to hold for the new League year. We meet and discuss ideas and timing from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 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. *This is a great time for members of the League to join in with ideas and suggestions.* We need more topic suggestions for evening meetings, forums and "Brown Bag" lunchtime sessions! So bring your ideas, your interests and your questions to the summer planning session. If you currently have ideas for next year, let me know at paul-spencer@pullman.com.

Bring a salad, pick up a League member who lives in your neighborhood and join in. Come even if you do not have time to bring food since there is always extra! Please let Susan know if you are planning to come (332-6699 or susanhdaniels@gmail.com) so she can have enough tables and chairs for everyone. If you have a chair that is easy to bring, please bring it.

Directions to Susan and Paul's home: Go south on Grand about 1/2 mile past Bishop Blvd. Turn right onto Baldwin Dr. (in Evergreen Community). We are the second house on the left. A few cars can park in the driveway; the rest can park along the edge of the road.

The Primary Forums are Coming

Deb Olson

August 4 is Washington's Primary, with Ballots being mailed out on July 21. Although the dates have not yet been set the League plans to have forums with the three candidates running for the position of representative from the ninth legislative district in Pullman and maybe Colfax. If possible we are also planning to have the three candidates for Mayor of Colfax.

As you know, it requires volunteers to help make these events successful. As soon as I know more details I'll be calling on all of you to help. If you have travel plans and know when you will be out of town let me know and I won't spend energy trying to contact you.

LWVWA State Convention

The 2015 LWVWA State Convention is June 12-14 and we are sending all four of the voting representatives we are allowed. Paul Spencer, Anne Lewis, Deb Olson and Mary Collins have volunteered and were elected to represent us in planning the next year for Washington State League.

Report on the May Annual Business Meeting

Paul spencer

Karen Kiessling hosted this year's Annual Business Meeting at her home overlooking southeastern Pullman and the WSU campus. Twenty-two members and two guests (Amy Volz and Becky Thorgaard) attended and enjoyed a catered dinner from Swilly's of two salads and tasty dessert treats.

Lucy Linden paid a special recognition to Becky Thorgaard for her design work on the 65th Anniversary edition of *TRY*. Becky donated her time to make this edition very special for the Pullman Chapter. She was presented with a plant. Libby Walker recognized Joanna Bailey for her efforts to publicize and show *Iron Jawed Angels* as part of the 65th Anniversary celebration. Joanna was unable to attend the meeting but received a plant and thank you note from the League.

The Business Agenda included approval of the budget, election of the board committee and State Convention delegates, reports on the past year's activities and fund drive, followed by appeals for volunteers for groups and upcoming activities. A highlight was Anne Lewis's enthusiastic report of the

Observer Corps' successes in the past year and handing out of presents to the Observer Corps volunteers. The local *Positions and Actions for 2015-2017* document, slightly updated from two years ago, was approved unanimously.

Mary Collins, the chair of the 2-year Poverty Study reported briefly about the progress achieved after one year by the large group of hard-working volunteers and gave a summary of milestone goals for the next several months.

Special commendations were given to several people for their efforts during the past year, and all League members are to be praised for helping make the League 2014-15 year very interesting and successful!

Hope to see you at the July 20 Planning meeting where we decide on next year's activities!

Brown Bag Reports

Deb Olson

Brown Bag Report: April 16 – Pullman Parks and Recreation

Alan Davis and Kurt Dahmen presented a great overview of Pullman Parks and Recreation. Alan started us off with a short discussion on the problems faced trying to bring our parks up to current ADA standards. There are two main problems Pullman parks face. The obvious one is slope and a second is age. The two oldest parks in Pullman are Reaney (1904) and Kruegel (1903). Some fixes are relatively easy: fix curbs, repave paths and repurpose the existing service road at Sunnyside to provide access to the shelter, and to build handicap parking. Other fixes will be more expensive and harder, like making restrooms handicap accessible.

Kurt Dahmen presented an excellent power point on the facilities and programs Parks and Recreation offers to Pullman residents. I hope everyone checks out the brochure for programs. It is amazing with something for everyone from preschool to seniors. Parks and Rec has an agreement to share facilities and green spaces with schools, and agreements with WSU for coaches, for the numerous youth sports programs. Over 400 kids participated in Spring Youth Soccer. The Summer Concerts in the Park and Movies in the Park will continue. Construction on Reaney Pool Splash Pad has started and will continue through the summer so Reaney Pool will be closed. In other exciting news Pullman has two new parks (in development). Mary's Park on Johnson Road is 5 acres gifted to the city in 2010 by Herbert Neil. The playground area will be ADA compliant since it is being built from scratch and is level. The Kiwanis are helping with funding. The second new park is Emerald Point Park at the Golden Hills development. Plans are still being made for this facility. There is a bike trail looping the park and there are plans to connect this trail to the existing trails in Pullman.

Brown Bag Report: May 21 – Biking on the Palouse

Mark Workman, Pullman City Supervisor, summarized plans to improve biking in the city.

- 2016 a pedestrian crossing (HAWK signal) on Grand at Ritchie. (I can attest to taking your life in your hands trying to cross there).
- Extend the maintenance access path out Grand to Albion Road with plans for paving next year

- Connecting path to North Terre View
- Reconstruct City Playfield path
- Path from Darrow St. to Canyon View Drive scheduled for 2017

The City and WSU are talking about the possibility of ASWSU extending their bike share program by adding a bike station downtown.

Lisa Carolye, president of Pullman Civic Trust, gave an excellent presentation on bike trails and the problems and complexity of the fate of two rail corridors that connect Pullman to the rest of the system.

Pullman currently has an 8-mile loop trail around College Hill with a network of routes connecting each hill, downtown and the loop. This loop connects to the Chipman Trail to the east and then to the Latah Trail in Idaho. These bike trails are an engine of tourism. They encourage people to stay an extra day or two in the area, especially in the “offseason” spring and summer.

The ultimate goal (wish) is to expand to the west using the rail corridor between Pullman and Colfax. A second line of concern is from the state line north to Fallon. Lisa explained the differences between railbanking and abandonment. Although WSDOT bought the shortlines throughout eastern Washington in 2005, they are administered by the PCC made up of the four counties' Port Commissions. (Confused yet?). Regardless of final action the next step is to determine whether any business served by the lines is interested in shipping by rail currently or in the future. This determination may take up to a year. The presence of the rail connection acts to keep shipping prices down.

The Whitman County Port Commission voted to abandon the lines due to the cost of maintaining the rail corridors. The Civic Trust is circulating a signature page to show the support for railbanking and the Chipman Trail. They have collected 1300 signatures to date. Landowners adjacent to the rail corridors are mixed with some in favor of abandonment and some in favor of trail. The discussions about the future of the rail lines has led to a threat to the Chipman Trail. The trail is on railbanked land. If this line is no longer connected to another rail line it is abandoned and ownership could revert to private landowners. Lawyers are working on the problem but the threat is real.

Carol Cooper, director of tourism for the Chamber of Commerce, mentioned the addition of bike racks downtown. A big draw to the area is photographing the Palouse and trails enhance this. The Chamber is also working with WSU to coordinate trail rides and bike races.

There were so many questions and discussions I had to cut the discussion off at 1:00 but discussions continued afterward for a while. We are at the start of the process and conversations will continue.

Upcoming Brown Bags

Hiatus June –August.

September 17, 2015 – our annual meeting with the County Commissioners.

Pullman League Takes Action

Karen Kiessling

Washington State Governor Jay Inslee was in Pullman for a few hours to participate in "throwing the switch" on a new mega-battery energy storage project at the local Schweitzer Engineering Laboratory. While in town he met with a few groups including the Whitman County Democrats. The Party leaders invited a representative from the LWV of Pullman to participate and hopefully share something about our on-going study of poverty in the county at the intimate gathering of about 30 people. As soon as the governor was introduced and thanked for his and his wife's work in helping homeless children he asked "What's happening in Pullman?" Mary Collins, chair of the Poverty Study underway by the League of Women Voters of Pullman took that opportunity to expand on the topic of homelessness by introducing the League's study. "The first thing I made clear was that we are non-partisan in all we do and that what concerned us was why our seemingly prosperous community ranked so low in poverty standing in the State." Governor Inslee immediately and enthusiastically commented that "The League of Women Voters has great credibility and I'm glad you are undertaking this work." Mary promised substantive results and said she will see that he gets a copy when it is ready in the spring of 2016. There was time for only one more comment so Pullman League study really was the center piece of the conversation, it felt good to hear his support.

Butterfly Award Nominees

Paul Spencer

Our League nominated several members for the Butterfly Award from the State League. This is intended for activities which will have a ripple effect in our community.

Diane Smerdon for her idea to create a **Community Update Page**, and for writing and editing it. Having a League page in this publication has increased the non-member attendance at League forums and public meetings, has helped increase League membership, and improved public awareness of League goals and activities.

Mary Collins for being the Chair of the **Poverty Study**. The purpose is to learn more about poverty in Whitman County and about the organizations which provide services or help for those in poverty.

65th Anniversary of Pullman League. **Diane Gillespie and Diane Smerdon** constructed an attractive and informative exhibition of both local and National LWV history highlights in two large display cases at the Pullman City Library. **Libby Walker** worked through many difficulties to eventually arrange a public showing of the movie *Iron Jawed Angels* with the help of Library director Joanne Bailey

Anne Lewis rejuvenated our **Observer Corps** by determined and enthusiastic recruiting and follow-up encouragement of the volunteers. We now have 13 members attending 8 government meetings including the City Council, School Board, Library Board, Hospital Board etc.

FYI – The US League of Women Voters has a New Website

Welcome to the League of Women Voters Education Fund Clearinghouse, which contains studies and research conducted by League members. Visitors may download and print the documents. League members may submit documents for this site.

The purpose of this site is to share League study documents among some 800 national, state and local Leagues and with the public. Leagues can save time by not reinventing study materials and see how other Leagues have approached a tough issue. Leagues can also gain inspiration for program planning.

To visit the site click on this link [Visit Clearinghouse](#), or you can go to *forum.lwv.org*, click on *Our Work* and the dropdown menu will have *Clearinghouse* as a selection.

What is the MLD Program?

Deb Olson

MLD (Membership Leadership Development) is a program developed at the national level to address the problem of declining membership and the struggle to find League members willing to become leaders at the local, state, and national levels. It is the League's goal that by providing coaching and promoting additional connections to the state and national Leagues, membership will increase and more members will be encouraged to enter leadership roles. Leagues that participate have a member or members that are in contact with a state coach; each coach usually has two or three Leagues they stay in touch with. The state coaches in turn are connected to each other in the state and at the national level. Contact is a monthly conference call. Pullman's state coach is Marilyn Perkins (from the Tri-Cities League). She forwards me Guidelines (ideas about increasing our visibility in the community and membership, how to make League more welcoming etc.). We talk about what we have done in the past month, how these meetings went, who came, ideas to improve attendance, and plans for the future. Marilyn in turn passes on what and how we do things to other coaches (Leagues).

Anyone can join us on these calls and would be welcomed and encouraged for new ideas and perspectives.

Results of a Health Care Survey

Susan Eidenschink, LWVWA Health Care Committee

Survey Findings on Health Care

During the fall of 2013, the League of Women Voters of Washington (LWVWA) participated in Community Forums Network (CFN) survey on Health Care in Washington. Nearly 3,000 survey

responses were received, and over 150 people (actually 153) designated LWVWA as the organization they chose to be a grant recipient. Non-profit organizations participating in the Health Care Survey totaled 114. As a result of those of you who took the survey and made this designation, LWVWA received a grant of \$1000. You can see other information on the survey grants at <http://www.communityforumsnetwork.org/>.

The results of the survey will be presented to Washington state legislators to show them the opinions of those who took the survey. It is the hope and expectation of CFN that the areas of consensus are useful to policymakers in creating more solution-based approaches to the biggest challenges we face in our communities. The survey questions that received consensus were the following:

1. **Should the state Legislature allow Registered Dental Hygienists to provide independent prevention services to those in need of dental care who are not currently being served by the private practice dental model?** **75% answered YES** to this question.
2. **Should the state create financial incentives, such as guaranteed student loan repayment plan, for physicians who choose to do a family medicine residency in Washington, and for general internists, family physicians and pediatricians to practice medicine in Washington for at least five years?** **66% answered YES** to this question.
3. **Should the state expand health care insurance through Medicaid to all immigrant family members who qualify and are lawfully residing in Washington, even if they have been in the U.S. less than five years?** **33% answered YES** to this question, and **30% more answered a qualified YES if they established Washington residency for one year.**
4. **Do you believe that health care insurance should be universal?** (In other words, health care insurance is something the government should provide for everyone, or require every adult to purchase for themselves and their families, or something that government should allow each adult to choose to buy, or not?) **44.9% answered that government should provide health care insurance to everyone;** and **15.4% answered that the government should require every adult to purchase health care insurance for themselves and their families.**
5. **If someone has adequate financial resources or government assistance, they have a moral duty to get health care insurance for themselves and/or their family members.** **64% answered that they agree or strongly agree with this statement.**

League was provided a breakdown of areas in Washington State where League members took the survey and indicated LWVWA as the organization to which they wanted grant money to go.

- 53 of the 153 survey respondents were from areas with zip codes of 980xx, 981xx, and 982xx.
- 75 of the 153 survey respondents were from areas with zip codes of 983xx, 984xx, and 985xx.

Information on Affordable Care Act (ACA) enrollment in areas of Washington State can be found at <http://www.hca.wa.gov/Pages/index.aspx> under News Releases. You will be able to see how enrollment in Medicaid Expansion compares with the goals that were set.

Thank you to those of you who took the survey. Information on future surveys will be available soon.

LWV of Pullman

A Review of our public meetings of the past year

July 14, 2014	: Planning Meeting and salad potluck
September 8, 2014	: Back to League potluck supper followed by information on the Poverty Study
September 18	: Brown Bag with the County Commissioners
October 21,22	: Election Forums
October 16	: Brown Bag with Citizens Climate Lobby
November 3	: Update on City and County Planning
November 20	: Brown Bag on effective communication with our legislators
December 1	: Update on Pullman schools
December 11	: Brown Bag Update on Airport
January 12, 2015	: Planning Meeting
January 15	: Brown Bag Friends of Hospice
February 2	: Update on Poverty Study
February 19	: Brown Bag History of LWV of Pullman
February 28	: Showing of Iron Jawed Angels
March 2	: Voting Rights
March 19	: Brown Bag with Pullman Police Chief Gary Jenkins
April 6	: Forum on Guns and Gun Violence
April 16	: Brown Bag with Pullman Parks and Recreation
May 11	: Annual Business Meeting
May 21	: Brown Bag on Biking on the Palouse