



VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PULLMAN WASHINGTON

www.lwvpullman.org

June 2016

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 – Anne Lewis, 334-1075; League Voice – Mary Collins, 509-592-6929; Information Coordinator – Libby Walker, 432-4756; **Secretary:** Alice Schroeder, 334-2470; Backup: Jackie Miyasaka, 332-1248; **Treasurer:** Shelley Jones, 432-4328; **Voter Service Team:** Deb Olson, 332-2114 & Maria de Jesus Dixon, 509-535-9996; **Voter Editor:** Susan Daniels, 332-6699; **Finance Coordinator:** Diane Smerdon, 334-5413; **Finance Drive Thank-You:** Lenna Harding, 332-7749; **Membership & Publicity:** Janet Kendall, 432-3368; **Scheduling & Notices:** Barbara Hammond, 332-4104; **Observer Corps Chair:** Judy Stone, 509-878-1519; **TRY Editors:** Susan Daniels, 323-6699 & Judy Stone, 509-878-1519; **Webmaster:** Paul Spencer: 332-6699; **Community Update Editor:** Diane Smerdon, 334-5413; **Nominating Chair:** Anne Lewis, 334-1075; **Brown Bag Coordinator:** Deb Olson, 332-2114

Meetings and Events

Primary Forums

Date: July 13, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
 Program: [See article](#) on page 2
 Contact: Deb Olson, 332-2114

Summer Planning Meeting & Potluck

Date: Monday July 18, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
 Program: Annual Planning Meeting followed by a salad potluck
 Place: Home of Mary Collins, 1104 Collins Rd.
[Directions](#) page 2
 Contact: Mary Collins, 509-592-6929

Board Meetings

Dates: Fourth **Tuesdays**, June 28, July 26, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
 Note the change from Wednesdays to Tuesdays!
 Place: Daily Grind, back room
 Chair: Anne Lewis, 334-1075

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LWVWA State Council

Dates: June 3 – 5, 2016
Program: See the April VOTER
Place: Vancouver, WA

LWVUS Convention

Date: June 16-19, 2016
Program: See the April VOTER
Place: Washington DC

Dedication of Elinor McKlosky's gift of land to Sunnyside Park

Date: June 11, 2:00 p.m.
Program: See [end of the Brown Bag report](#) on page 5.
Place: Sunnyside Park

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

Primary Forum Information

Deb Olson

This year the primary ballot will be packed with candidates for federal and state positions. Fifteen candidates filed to run for US Senator (Patty Murray's current seat). There are a plethora of candidates for state offices also: Governor (10), Lt Gov. (11), Sec. of State (3), Treasurer (5), Auditor (5), Attorney General (2), Commissioner of Public Lands (7), Superintendent of Public Instruction (9), and Insurance Commissioner (3). WOW!!!

Three Supreme Court Judges are up for election. Position 1 and Position 6 will be decided in the Primary as there are only two candidates: for Position 1 the candidates are Mary Yu and David Dewolf and for Position 6 Charles (Charlie) Wiggins and Dave Larson. Three candidates are running for Position 5: Barbara Madsen, Greg Zempel, and Zamboni (John Scannel). The top two vote getters for Position 5 will be on the General Election Ballot.

At the local level the ballot is less crowded. The two county commissioners up for election, Art Swannack and Dean Kinzer, are both running unopposed. A single candidate, Gary Libey, filed to run for Whitman Superior Court Judge. State Representative Mary Dye has two challengers: Jennifer Goulet, a Democrat from Pasco, and Hailey Roemer, a Republican from Pullman. I have heard from the two challengers, but not Mary Dye, about a primary forum. Four of the five candidates for 5th Congressional District have responded to my invitation to a forum in Pullman. The candidates who responded are Dave Wilson (Independent), Krystal McGee (Libertarian), Joe Pakootas (Democrat), and Tome Horne (Republican). Cathy McMorris Rogers has not responded to date.

Mark your calendar for a Primary Election Forum on July 13. Watch for more information on the forum and location.

PLEASE READ YOUR BALLOT VERY CAREFULLY TO MAKE SURE YOU ACTUALLY VOTE FOR THE CANDIDATE YOU WANT!!!

Annual Summer Planning Meeting & Salad Potluck

Join us Monday morning, July 18, at 10:00 a.m. and help plan the programs, meetings, and other activities for our League in the coming year. This is a great time for members of the League to join in with ideas and suggestions so bring your ideas, your interests and your questions to the summer planning session. After the planning meeting we get to enjoy all the wonderful salads that are brought to the potluck.

We are meeting at Mary's house in the lovely Palouse country. Please RSVP to Mary, 509-592-6929 or marycollins1104@gmail.com so that she knows how many tables and chairs she needs to set up.

Directions to Mary's house – 1104 Collins Rd.:

From Albion: travel north on Main out of town (road becomes gravel). Proceed about 3 miles on Palouse-Albion Road. Turn left onto Shawnee Road. Proceed about 50 yards. Shawnee turns left – keep going straight onto Collins Road. Proceed about 1 mile. We are the log house with the RED roof.

Report on Pullman Schools Shelley Jones

The Pullman School District Update Meeting was well attended with both League members and the general public. The meeting started with a goodbye to Dr. Paul Sturm, who is retiring in June, and welcoming Dr. Bob Maxwell, who will be the Superintendent going forward.

Ned Warnick of Design West Architects and Dan Hornfelt began the meeting discussing the new elementary school. We viewed site plans of the land that was purchased earlier this year with a couple different building options. The timeline was discussed for the new elementary school. The school will be built so that it may be expanded to 24 classrooms in the future.

Next we heard about the progress at the Pullman High School. It is currently slated to be finished by December of this year. We saw photos of the Theater and it looks spectacular. We also saw photos of the commons area and the home economics room.

Finally, Joe Thornton and Desiree Gould discussed the *Personal Pathways* program and graduation requirements at the High School. They also touched on *College in the High School* and *Running Start*. Students may pick a variety of classes and electives to satisfy the graduation requirements. It was mentioned that many students come into the high school with some high school credits from the middle school. You may earn high school credits in the middle school via foreign language and certain math classes. *College in the High School* is offered through a few classes offered at the High School. The student is responsible for a fee (around \$200) if they want to receive college credit for the course. *Running Start* is offered through Washington State University and the local Community College located at Gladish. Mr. Thornton and Mrs. Gould gave examples of why one program may be better for you versus the other.

The school district always provides a good forum and this one was no exception.

2016 Annual Membership Meeting Report

Libby Walker

The 2016 Pullman League of Women Voters' Annual Business Meeting was very well attended with 28 members and 1 guest present. Mary Collins gave a brief presentation on the Whitman County Poverty Study that was launched two years ago and distributed consensus questions to be discussed the following Thursday night. All annual reports were approved unanimously as was the slate of officers for next year. A change to the bylaws officially incorporated the three person executive committee structure. The Pullman Chapter will send two delegates to the National Convention June 16-19 and three delegates plus an observer to the State Council meeting in Vancouver from June 3-5. Summer Activities include the annual planning meeting on July 18th from 10-1 at the home of Mary Collins. The meeting ended with recognition of the service of Paul Spencer, Joan Folwell, and Mary Collins.

Brown Bags

Deb Olson

April 21 – Xeriscaping with Fern McLeod from City of Pullman

This was one of our most well attended brown bags with over 20 people. Fern had lots of information and tips and suggested any one interested check out the xeric garden at Lawson Gardens. The City of Pullman has a Xeriscape Plant list to help with your projects. Moscow has a wise-scaping program also.

To maintain a nice green lawn an inch of water per week is needed. This is a lot of water. Some tips to avoid over-watering: use a 5 gallon bucket and time how long it takes to fill, or poke a rod in the ground to determine moisture depth; cut grass taller, about 3"; replace some of your lawn with a garden of drought tolerant plants (shrubs, grasses, flowers etc.) and mulch. Mulch should be 2 to 4 inches thick -- larger size rock or fir mulch allows water to seep into the ground better.

For native plant ideas check out the [Palouse Prairie Foundation](#) , [Plants of the Wild Nursery](#) in Tekoa , and the University of Idaho's [Pitkin Forest Nursery](#) .

May 19 – Lawson Gardens and other things happening at Pullman's Parks with Alan Davis

Alan started with a history of Lawson Gardens, which we have due to the generosity of Gerald Lawson. Then he talked about the proposed Garden House to be located adjacent to the parking lot between the two stairs that access the gardens. The proposed facility is a 3800 feet² multipurpose four season building with a central multi-use room, 2 conference rooms, a kitchen and restroom (open to Garden visitors). The building will be available for rent for weddings etc. The plan is to make the building available to civic groups rent-free. Approximately half of the total cost (\$1.4 million) has been raised. A fundraiser is planned June 23.

In other park news, work on Mary's Park on Johnson Ave. is proceeding. This park will be fully ADA accessible, including a proposed orchard. A WSU design class has installed *winds* and *xylophone* structures. Other planned additions include a structure "ranger station", zipline, diggers and more, all handicap accessible. There is one possible problem to the plans. The South By-Pass goes through a portion of the park, but the playground is safe.

Welcome signs on Grand Avenue are being landscaped. Work continues on Grand Ave Greenway. Removal of junipers on the north side of Stadium Way continues. Reaney Pool splash pads opens with

official dedication on June 10 at 1 pm.

Our good friend and fellow League member Elinor McCloskey has donated land to Sunnyside Park with proviso it stays as is. Dedication is June 11 at 2 pm at Sunnyside Park.

Future plans include adding more acres to the cemetery in 2019, developing a second ADA playground at Emerald Point in 2017, and continuing to add and connect paths.

Another Day in The Classroom

Lenna Harding

Being behind the teacher's desk in a classroom was an entirely new experience for me and it's also been a long time since I've had much contact with teenagers, but taking part in our civics class was fun. I decided to emphasize the shenanigans political parties have gone to in order to either deprive certain people of the opportunity to vote, or to manipulate districting to dilute the power of their votes. The others had already covered the old issue of literacy tests and mentioned requiring a government issued photo ID at the polls so I took another tack.

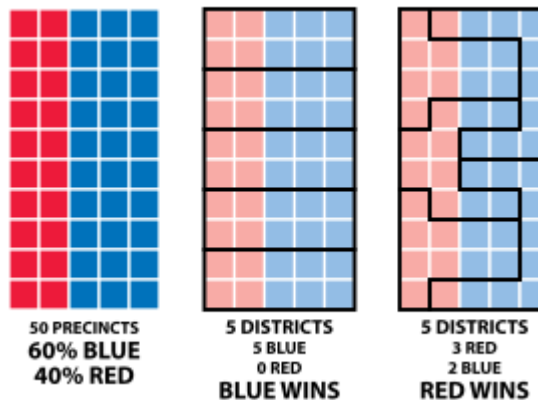
While our emphasis was how to vote in Washington and the issues involved, it is easy to say that we do it right with our mail-in voting—and we would be wrong. For instance, there is still a problem with gerrymandering. There was a recent court ruling that finally did away with the gerrymandering in Yakima that kept Latinos off the city council even though, percentage wise, they should have been able to elect a Latino Councilman/woman. Yakima now has Latinos on the city council. The same week as the class there was a ruling in west Texas that the redistricting there was a gerrymander keeping Latinos from legislative representation.

To prepare for this, I googled "Gerrymander" and was able to come up with a picture of the original gerrymander as it appeared in a newspaper of the time. Along with that, I found an illustration of the "perfect" gerrymander and prepared a two sided handout.



ORIGINAL GERRYMANDER

HOW TO STEAL AN ELECTION



"PERFECT" GERRYMANDER

I also suggested to them that, given our mobile society, the chances were great that many of them would be spending at least part of their voting years in other states and, when they move, one of the first things they should do is to check out the voting laws and get registered since some have residency requirements before you are eligible to vote there.

For those who know me, once I start talking, stopping is hard for me. Karen finally called time since we still needed time to register voters. I was gratified to see how eager these kids were to take part in the process. I hope this means our future is in good hands—I think Pullman's is anyway.

Welcome To New Member Katie Bittenger

Welcome to Katie Bittenger. Janet Kendall, membership chair, sent her some questions which she graciously answered so we can get to know her a little better. (To read about Katie as WSU's 2016 Woman of Distinction – Graduate Student Division, checkout the April VOTER.)

I arrived in Pullman in 2008 as an undergraduate at WSU in Psychology and Sociology. After I graduated in 2011, I decided to stay in Pullman to pursue my PhD in Sociology. I am currently teaching courses at WSU and doing research for my dissertation. While I was a teaching assistant, I became involved in the League of Women Voter's Poverty Study and with the Community Action Center Health and Social Service Needs Assessment. I currently serve on their Board of Directors for the Community Action Center and I enjoy being involved in the Food Bank Garden programs.

I decided to join the League of Women Voters after being very impressed with the process underlying the Poverty Study and the dedication to an unbiased reporting of the information discovered throughout the study. I also greatly appreciate the League of Women Voters approach to politics (providing a well-rounded view of the issues at hand). The areas of public policy I am most interested in are: food security, environmental issues (particularly those related to toxic waste and environmental cleanup), and issues related to poverty. I am definitely interested in being involved in League programs or issues. Thank you for the opportunity to become involved in this organization and I look forward to collaborating with many of you.

LWVWA Endorses Three Initiatives

(all are in the signature gathering phase)

I-1433 concerns labor standards.

This measure would increase the state minimum wage to \$11.00 in 2017, \$11.50 in 2018, \$12.00 in 2019, and \$13.50 in 2020, require employers to provide paid sick leave, and adopt related laws.

I-1464 concerns campaign finance laws and lobbyists.

This measure would create a campaign-finance system; allows residents to direct state funds to candidates; repeal the non-resident sales tax exemption; restrict lobbying employment by certain former public employees; and add enforcement requirements.

I-1491 concerns court orders temporarily preventing access to firearms.

This measure would allow police, family, or household members to obtain court orders temporarily

preventing access to firearms by persons who, because of mental illness or other factors, may harm themselves or others.

LWVWA Board Votes Not To Take A Position on I-732

“After extensive research, review and discussion, the LWVWA Board voted to take no position on I-732, the carbon tax initiative sponsored by Carbon WA. This means that the League will neither support nor oppose the measure. This was a difficult decision, especially because climate change issues and carbon emission reduction are high priorities for the League.”

“Members are free to work either side of the issue as long as they do so as individuals and do not do such activity in the name of the League. Local Leagues may not act contrary to LWVWA position.”

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Reports

**Pullman City Council, April 2, 2016
Observer, Amy Volz**

Business pertaining to League program or topic of interest:

Special Meeting:

Goal Setting Retreat with Department Heads

Already received public input at March retreat

Goal one – Airport realignment; Whitman Port and Whitman County adding money

Goal two – wastewater project, green spaces

Goal three – economic development, meetings with other councils

Goal four – bicycle and pedestrian trail improvements

Goal five – supporting Pullman Regional Hospital in addressing the health needs of the community
Added “community para-medicine endeavors” to these goals to support

Goal six – continue to update records/tech systems; opening up opportunities for feedback. Person in charge of website gets lots of feedback, not sure how much easier they can make it.
Did say that social media uniformity and coordination on city pages is desired.

Goal seven – commitment to recognizing our diversity

Goal eight – ADA transition plan, including plans for Mary’s Park (focus on accessibility)

Goal nine – start the process of replacing the bond issue

Goal ten – south bypass investigation

Administrative Items:

Removing junipers from street sides

Addressing sexual harassment/harassment in the city employees’ work place; department heads provided with questions to ask; looking for training for employees to feel more comfortable reporting

Sick leave policy for city employees

Karen from HR against a sick leave “bank” for employees to share sick leave because of the potential conflicts and difficulty of regulating

Air quality testing in city buildings happening soon!
City art ideas
Electric vehicle charging stations

Regular Agenda:

Alternatives to Violence of the Palouse spoke about Sexual Assault Awareness Month!
Short agenda, all items listed approved.

Observations about the participants, conduct, procedures, subjects of discussion, etc. of the meeting:

It was refreshing to see that the special meeting was open to the public even though public input was over; it created an atmosphere of transparency and openness. That being said, they adjourned the special meeting at 6:55 pm to conduct the regular agenda and then reconvened the special meeting upstairs at 7:25 pm after the regular agenda. This made for a disjointed arc of the meeting.

Neill Public Library Board, April 13, 2016
Observer, Mary Shirazi

As always, I received the same packet of meeting printouts that the Library Board members received.

For the first time in a long time, there was no Spring Break in March. That shows in the increase in statistics for both circulation and patron visits for March 2016.

Joanna Bailey, NPL Director, reported that English as a Second Language classes were promoted to the City Council. The City wants to promote diversity. The Library has increased the materials budget but still looks to increase it again.

Ken Carver will be the photographer whose art will grace the utility boxes around Pullman. They will be covered with UV wraps to prolong their beauty for 8 years. A special anti-graffiti wrap will be added over the UV wrap.

The NPL won't be participating in Art Walk this year, as NPL can't host a reception for an artist as required to participate.

WSU hosted a library-themed cake contest open to all members of the WSU community. Ms. Bailey enjoyed helping to select the winner, as a "celebrity" judge.

The carpet has been selected for the carpet replacement project. Carpet samples were placed on the floor in different areas in the NPL. The carpet selected is pressure sensitive and keeps re-adhering itself, as more patrons walk across the carpet. Color selection is currently underway. A special "walk-off" carpet will be installed from one entrance to the other entrance. This is for heavily used areas and is an abrasive carpet, which cleans off the patrons' shoes as they enter.

The NPL is sponsoring, for the first time, a workshop for Washington & Idaho libraries, even though NPL has been a dues paying member of the INCOL for many years. That workshop will be held on 4/14/16, at WSU.

Ms. Bailey is in the process of evaluating which are the best databases for three types of libraries: RFP

Academic, Public, and Tribal. The cost will be \$700.00/year for the special databases. The decision will be made by July 2016.

Ms. Bailey reported that City-wide department spending less has brought a better outcome to the City of Pullman budget, which will now be only 3% over budget.

None of the NPL Goals made it into the City of Pullman Goals, except promoting better computer use.

The City is planning to put art on the cement wall on Stadium Way and on the cement wall in the back of the parking lot at Davis Way and Grand. First the City must determine who owns the walls.

The Debby Dark Fund is paying for the NPL Computer Classes, for NPL visits to Adult Homes (Bishop Place, etc.), and some NPL materials.

While the NPL is closed in October-November for the carpet and parking lot storm water projects, the NPL is looking for a temporary space to have a "branch library". August-October 2016 will find limited access to the NPL and October-November will find no access to the NPL.

Currently, the NPL can't add to the open hours of the Library. **The City budget is still not settled because the cost of the Runway Project at the Pullman-Moscow Airport is still not settled.**

For the first time, the NPL will be written into the City of Pullman City Code. Currently there is no definition of the relationship of the Neill Public Library, the NPL Library Board, and the City of Pullman.

Four videos were presented that were made by WSU students, as part of a class assignment, to promote the NPL. Ten videos were submitted.

The next meeting will be a Special Meeting, on Thursday, May 12th, at 4:30 p.m. The June meeting will be on June 8th, at 3:00 p.m., the day of the FNPL fundraiser.