

VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PULLMAN

October 2008

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

Chair of the Board: Sue Armitage, 332-4279; **Vice President:** Alice Schroeder, 334-2470; **Secretary:** June Crawford, 332-7186; **Treasurer:** Joan Folwell, 332-3946; **Voter Service:** Karen Kiessling, 332-4755; **Voter Editor:** Susan Daniels, 332-6699; **Finance Drive Chair:** Lenna Harding, 332-7749; **Membership/Hospitality:** Judy Krueger, 332-8208; **Observer Corps Chair,** Lucy Linden: 332-2755; **TRY Editor,** Lucy Linden, 332-2755.

Meetings

Election Forums

Dates: Wednesday October 15, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. (candidates)

Thursday October 16, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. (ballot issues)

Place: City Council Chambers — Come early (6:30 - 6:45) and help.

Committee: Joan Folwell, Elinor McCloskey, Bev Webster, Sue Armitage, June Crawford, and Karen Kiessling

Early Childhood Education Study

Date: Monday November 3, 7:00 p.m.

Place: Home of Lucy Linden, 500 SE Crestview Dr.

Chair: Muriel Oaks

Board Meetings

Monday October 27

Time: 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Place: Home of Natalie Clark, 220 SW Mountain View Dr.

Other Meetings of Interest

Wednesday October 22: Pullman City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at City Hall

Our *Pre-land Development Community Meeting Ordinance* is on the agenda. See the article below for more details.

Saturday November 8: Action Workshop for the East-side in Kennewick

An interesting and invigorating day learning about how League works in Olympia to promote its positions. Pullman League will pay the \$20 registration fee for registered members who attend. See the article below for more information.

If It Is Fall, The League Is Hosting Voter Forums!!

Karen Kiessling

Our ballots will be arriving in the mail in the middle of October so we all need to know as much as we can about the candidates and their positions as well as the pros and cons of the ballot measures we will see when we open that big envelope and darken the oval that expresses our choice. (See the article on the ballot measures below.)

The Pullman League is co-sponsoring two voter forums this month, candidates on Wednesday, October 15, 7 - 9 p.m. and ballot issues on Thursday, October 16, 7 - 9 p.m., both to be held in the City Council Chambers in the Pullman City Hall. And of course we need all League members there to help with the forum on both nights. Our co-sponsors this year are the Pullman Chamber of Commerce and the Moscow - Pullman Daily News. The Daily News has granted us \$1000 in advertising space to run display ads for the event. Craig Staszko, Advertising Manager of the Daily News, is designing the ads which will run on Saturday, October 4 and Saturday, October 11, to call attention to the upcoming events. Craig has also agreed that we might use some of the funds to place an ad in their sister publication, the Lewiston Tribune, as Pullman has a significant number of readers of the Tribune.

League members are asked to arrive between 6:30 and 6:45 p.m. to serve as greeters of the public and the speakers and to help move audience members into the council chambers so that we are ready to begin the videotaped meeting at 7 p.m. We need greeters and audience workers to pass out and retrieve question cards. We will have sashes for those who wish to wear them and some pins for those who do not. If you have a League pin, please bring it with you to wear or share that night.

The video will be replayed on Channel 11, the public access channel of Time Warner Cable Company each weeknight at 8 p.m. with the exception of Wednesdays. The forums will alternate, candidates forum replay on October 20, 23, 27 and 30. Ballot issues will be shown on the 21st, 24th, 28th and 31st.

Please help us get this information out to the public in any ways you have to do so. I look forward to seeing you at the forum. If you have questions, please call me.

All League Members Needed At October 22nd Planning Commission Meeting -- 7:30 City Hall!!

Judy Krueger

The Planning Commission is expected to consider the Pullman League's proposed ordinance entitled, *Pre-land Development Community Meeting Ordinance*, at its Wednesday, October 22, 2008, meeting.

The ordinance requires a developer to publicize and hold a community meeting about a proposed project as part of the application process and before applying to the city for a permit. The purpose is to notify the community and "foster communication between the developer and interested citizens regarding potential issues and opportunities for solutions related to the proposed project." The Cities of Bellingham and Spokane have similar ordinances and found the community meeting to be a useful instrument in gaining public consensus for a project. The ordinance could be called, *The Developer's Ordinance*, because it gives the developer the opportunity to address community concerns early and avoid later conflict and lawsuits. The ordinance does not prevent the developer from going forward or compel changes in the plans, but does insure that the developer adequately notify the community first.

The key provisions include:

- An applicant for a significant project requiring a planning permit under Title 17 of the City Code shall conduct a community meeting regarding the proposed project before the submission of an application to the City of Pullman.
- At the meeting, the applicant shall present a description of the proposed project and be available to respond to questions about the proposed project from meeting participants. The applicant shall record the proceedings of the meeting and submit the recording and an accurate summary of meeting issues to the Planning Department for inclusion in the permit application file.
- If a traffic study will be required as a part of an application, the scope of the study shall be discussed at the community meeting.
- The applicant shall provide public notice of a community meeting by individual notice, public display, newspaper and sign (four feet by four feet or larger as needed.)

The League used the Janet Miller Memorial Fund to hire a land use attorney to assist in preparation of this ordinance. Janet was a strong proponent of careful and informed planning and this ordinance was created in her memory.

The League encourages fellow Leaguers and interested members of the public to attend the October 22, 2008, Planning Commission meeting in support of the ordinance. A reminder will be sent out before the meeting.

Early Childhood Education Study

LWVWA has issued their report on early childhood education in Washington State and a summary will be in your next Washington State VOTER. We will be discussing this report at our meeting on November 3rd, so please read the report ahead of time, and bring your copy to the November 3rd meeting. The Report, *Early Care and Education of Young Children Birth to Five*, can also be found on the LWVWA web site — go to LWVWA.org and click on *Early Care and Education* on the right hand side under **Studies**. We will also receive five printed copies of the report. Check with our Board Chair, Sue Armitage, if you would like to borrow one of the printed copies.

Action Workshop in Kennewick November 8

Action Workshop -- What is it? Action Workshop is the place where League members get in-depth information about issues we think are important to our advocacy program for the coming legislative session. Has the time come for the legislature to seriously discuss public financing of campaigns for state offices? Is the independence of the judiciary in danger? What does our crystal ball tell our Lobby Team about the hot button issues for the next legislative session. Besides information on key issues for the coming legislature, we'll get helpful hints on how each of us can become more effective citizen lobbyists right from our homes.

If you haven't attended an Action Workshop, this is a perfect opportunity to spend a day getting informed, inspired and invigorated. The Pullman board voted to pay the registration fee for those members attending the workshop, and we will car pool to Kennewick for the day. Lunch will be provided.

If you want to attend the workshop on Saturday, November 8, 2008, let me know by October 15th and Pullman League will send in the registrations for all the attendees. Contact Susan Daniels, 332-6699 or susan-daniels@pullman.com. I hope you can join us.

Welcome To Our New Member MaryAnn Boehmke

We asked MaryAnn (on very short notice) if she would write up a short biography to put in the VOTER and she graciously gave us the following.

MaryAnn R. Boehmke

I was introduced to LWV by my mother during my teenage years while growing up in Michigan. She brought LWV issues to the dinner table for discussion. My husband Karl and I lived in

Georgia for a couple of years early in our marriage. There I joined LWV. This was 1973/74 when lines at the gas pumps were long. So at the top of the local LWV agenda was studying energy policies. We moved to Pullman in 1975, and shortly after I joined LWV. Voter registration has always been an interest of mine. I remember registering voters at Dissmores with Lena Harding with many multi-colored forms to pass out. Life got busy with a job as an academic librarian, two girls to raise, hosting various exchange students, and teaching conversational English to foreign wives. I dropped out of League for awhile. Karl and I retired from our careers last December and now have more time to explore new and old interests. I'm delighted now to spend more time with my 93 year old mother at Bishop Place, to visit my two month old grandson in Missoula and to attend our youngest daughter's high school soccer games. Other endeavors include yoga classes, family bicycling adventures and scrap-booking thirty years of family photos. Registering students at the high school this fall gave me impetus to join LWV once again.

Successful Potluck Meeting with Barbara Seitle

Joan Crawford

On Monday September 8, 2008, LWV Pullman held a meeting at the home of Joan Folwell. Twenty people were present to enjoy the evening, a potluck and the spectacular views from the house.

After dinner our speaker and special guest was introduced. We were honored to have with us Barbara Seitle, President of the LWVWA who chose as her topic: *LWV101. Everything you ever wanted to know about League but were afraid to ask.* The talk started with a summary of the League's history, noting that it is a dynamic, vibrant organization which adapts to change as needed. Its purpose is to inform and advocate in order to accomplish goals that will benefit the organization, the community and the nation. The Washington State League was incorporated in 1955 and its bylaws follow those of the National League. Since 1974 men have been welcome to join.

Barbara discussed *Program vs Program in Action*. *Program* is the League's reason for being, In January, all local Leagues are asked for a review of Program positions in order to decide whether to update, take action, or offer new study ideas to the State organization. The result becomes *Program In Action*.

At State Council in Yakima, the possibility of working on issues statewide via a "Virtual" committee was considered. This would encourage input from the entire State without the need to travel long distances for frequent meetings.

A reminder that on <www.LWVWA.org> there is a wealth of information about the League, plus League's position on issues and guidelines for leaders and officers in carrying out their responsibilities.

Barbara Seitle mentioned the debate between Governor Christine Gregoire and challenger Dino Rossi, which has since been held on September 20, 2008 and was broadcast live on KOMO TV and KXLY. It was significant because it will be the only TV debate sponsored by the LWV, and the only one to be broadcast statewide.

The Education Fund has an important role in paying for copies of studies and making them available to each League member. It will increase the amount assigned for publications and has an abridged version of *Early Childhood Education* in progress which will appear in the State Voter and mailed to every member in time for the November meeting.

In conclusion, Barbara Seitle thanked the League for inviting her to Pullman and Karen and Nick Kiessling for being her hosts over the weekend.

Plastic Grocery Bags

Dorothy Swanson

In 1971-72 LWVUS started study of solid waste issues and in the 1980's there was renewed enthusiasm for recycling. In the 1990's it strongly supported the "reduce, reuse, recycle" philosophy and pushed for mandatory recycling measures and a national bottle bill. LWVWA's position on Natural Resources includes action for coordinated control and reduction of solid waste. In the early 1990's with the LWV of Pullman's leadership the City Council adopted mandatory recycling for Pullman.

In late August 2008 the Pullman City Council received a proposal to charge for plastic bags used in grocery stores. At that meeting Elizabeth Siler pointed out that the average person uses 300 plastic bags/year. These bags not only litter the landscape and harm animals, but as part of solid waste, they will last for over 100 years in a landfill. With a minimum of debate the Council quickly rejected that proposal; however, they did give a little time to a discussion of reusable bags.

As it did for curbside recycling, the Pullman League could provide leadership for community education on reusable bags. Some stores already give a credit if these bags are brought to the store. Locally, Dismore's gives 5¢/bag and Safeway, 3¢/bag. Sometimes you have to remind the checker to give this credit. Nationally, Whole Foods has discontinued the use of plastic bags. Many countries either ban plastic bags or charge for their use and Seattle instituted that charge. It will be interesting to learn the results of the November ballot where Seattle's charge is being challenged. Internationally, there is also a movement called "Morse Bags" in which local groups get together to make cloth bags from old material and give them to locals so that they can kick the plastic bag habit.

Reusable bags can be acquired from various sources. They are sold in grocery stores and locally they are available at Dissmore's. Various non-profit organizations either give them away or use them for fund raising, e.g. Neill Public Library. The Pullman Lentil Festival could consider selling reusable bags each year as they sell t-shirts with the Festival design on them.

Many League members, no doubt, have other ideas for the promotion on the use of these bags. If you are interested in joining a committee to discuss education and promotion of reusable bags, please email Dorothy Swanson, denktwswanson@gmail.com.

LWVWA Ballot Measures Summaries

Three Initiatives are on the November ballot. LWVWA has positions on two of them.

I 1000 -- Death with Dignity. "This measure would permit terminally ill, competent, adult Washington residents, who are medically predicted to have six months or less to live, to request and self-administer lethal medication prescribed by a physician." LWVWA has **no position** on this initiative.

I 1029 -- Long-Term Care. "Initiative No. 1029 concerns long-term care for the elderly and persons with disabilities. This measure would require long-term care workers to be certified as home care aides based on an examination, with exceptions; increased training and criminal background check requirements; and establish disciplinary standards and procedures." LWVWA **supports** this initiative.

I 985 -- Reduce Traffic. "Initiative Measure No. 985 concerns transportation. This measure would open high-occupancy vehicle lanes to all traffic during specified hours, require traffic light synchronization, increase roadside assistance funding, and dedicate certain taxes, fines, tolls and other revenues to traffic-flow purposes." LWVWA **opposes** this initiative.

For more information on the initiatives go to the LWVWA web site *LWVWA.org* and click on *Read the non-biased, non-partisan summaries of the State Wide Ballot Issues **here***.

Observer Report Briefs

Neill Public Library Board meeting, September 17, 2008

Observer: Diane Gillespie

Two items of business are of most interest to the LWV:

1) The Director Search Committee is pleased with the quality of applications and will be conducting telephone interviews of four applicants. The hope is to have a new Director on board at the beginning of 2009.

2) The budget request for 2009 is conservative, since there is belt-tightening here as everywhere and the NPL needs to be a team player right now. The Board will make clear that there is a history of materials under funding; that funds from the Friends are supplemental, not basic; that both circulation and the cost of books continue to increase; and that an increase of 15% remains the goal. However, the Board agreed that the time to push for increases is once a new director is on board.

Usefull Pullman League Numbers

Yahoo Mailbox: lwvpull@yahoo.com, password palouse

Online VOTER: www.lwvwa.org, Local Leagues, Pullman

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 366, Pullman, WA 99163

Online Voter Information Resources

Remember our online voter information resources: www.VOTE411 and *Elections 101* on the website www.lwv.org