

VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PULLMAN

October 2010

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

President: Alice Schroeder, 334-2470; **Secretary:** Deb Olson, 332-2114, Backup: Fran Law, 334-3002; **Treasurer:** Joan Folwell, 332-3946; **Voter Service Co-Chairs:** Diane Smerdon, 334-5413, and Karen Kiessling, 332-4755; **Voter Editor:** Susan Daniels, 332-6699; **Finance Drive Chair:** Lenna Harding, 332-7749; **Membership Records and Notices:** Elinor McCloskey, 334-3242; **Observer Corps Chair and TRY Editor:** Lucy Linden, 332-2755; **Action Chair:** June Crawford, 332-7186.

Meetings

Election Forum in Colfax

Date: Tuesday October 19, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Program: Forum on candidates and 4 of the issues.
Place: Whitman County Library Meeting Room, Colfax
Chair: Diane Smerdon, 334-5413

Election Forum in Pullman

Date: Wednesday October 20, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Program: Forum on candidates and remaining 5 issues.
Place: Pullman City Hall Council Chambers
Chair: Diane Smerdon, 334-5413

Board Meetings

Mondays October 25, November 22

Time: 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Place: Home of Natalie Clark, 220 SW Mountain View Dr.

Other Events of Interest

Slide Show and Dessert

Date: Monday October 11, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Program: A Visit to Turkey and Greece

Place: The home of Alice and Paul Schroeder, 145 SW Arbor St., Pullman

RSVP: Alice Schroeder, 334-2470 or aschroede2003@yahoo.com

Action Workshop for 2010

Date: Saturday October 23, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Program: Budget Issues: How to save the things we love

Place: Kennewick, WA (Car pool)

Contact: Alice Schroeder, 334-2470

Women's Votes, Women's Voices

Date: Thursday November 4, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Program: Exhibit celebrating the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage. See article below for more information

Place: Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture, Spokane. (Car pool there)

Contact: Sue Armitage, 332-4279

Cap & Dividends vs. Cap & Trade

Date: Wednesday November 10, Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Program: Andy Ford, Professor WSU Environmental Studies

Place: Fiske Room, 1912 Center, Moscow, ID

Contact: LWV of Moscow, lwvmoscow@moscow.com

Kay Buss's 100th Birthday Party

Date: Saturday November 20, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Program: Celebrate Kay's 100 Birthday

Place: Holliday Inn Express on Bishop Blvd., Pullman

PULLMAN LWV HOSTS FORUMS

October 19: 7:00-9:00 P.M. (Colfax) – Whitman County Library Meeting Room

October 20: 7:00-9:00 P.M. (Pullman) – Pullman City Hall

Diane Smerdon

Once again, the Pullman League will be holding informational forums for the general election. We will combine candidate questions/answers and ballot issues. Candidates who have accepted invitations to speak are: Eunice Coker vs. Esther Williams for county auditor and Joe Schmick vs. Glen Stockwell for state representative, Legislative District 9. (These four candidates will be present both in Colfax and Pullman.) General invitations have also been sent to other candidates who might wish to attend these forums and be introduced.

Because of the large number of ballot measures, the Voter Service Committee elected to cover half the measures in Colfax and half in Pullman.

There are four State Ballot Measures being discussed in **Colfax**: **I-1107**--concerns reversing certain 2010 amendments to state tax laws; **RB-52**--concerns energy cost saving improvements to public facilities; **SJR-8225**--concerns limitation of state debt; and **ESJR-4220**--concerns denying bail for persons charged with certain criminal offenses.

There are five State Ballot Measures being discussed in **Pullman**: **I-1053**--concerns tax and fee increases imposed by state government; **I-1082**--concerns industrial insurance; **I-1098**--concerns establishing a state income tax and reducing other taxes; **I-1100** and **I-1105**--concerns liquor sales (retail and wholesale).

The State League supports I-1098 and RB-52, and opposes I-1053, I-1100, I-1105, and I-1107 (see the article on page 5). For more information, leaguers can find abundant information on the Secretary of State website [Online Voters' Guide](#), and the Washington State League website [Read About Positions](#).

We need a good showing of League members at both of the forums to help us set up, conduct and break down after the forums. Please plan on attending!

Suffrage Celebration in Spokane in November

Women's Votes, Women's Voices

Sue Armitage

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the winning of woman suffrage in Washington. To mark the occasion, the Washington Women's History Consortium created a touring exhibit, *Women's Votes, Women's Voices*. The exhibit opens in Spokane at the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture (MAC) on Wednesday, November 4. We plan to arrange carpools to assure a Pullman League presence at the reception from 6:30 to 8:30. We'll send out a carpool sign-up notice to you all in mid-October. Accompanying the exhibit is a three-day women's history conference, *Game Changers and History Makers: Women in Pacific Northwest History* at the Davenport Hotel, which is offering a special room rate.

For information, program and registration visit: <http://www.washingtonhistory.org/heritageServices/conferences.aspx>

Note that online registration is required with all types of payments and the reduced fee for "Early Bird" registration ends October 6.

- First Women's History Conference in the Northwest in 20 years
- Part of the 2010 Washington Women's Suffrage Centennial Commemoration
- Major speakers include Gail Dubrow, Stephanie Coontz, and State Senators Karen Fraser and Lisa Brown

- Special recognition of Sue Armitage and Karen Blair for their longtime contributions to Northwest Women's History
- 22 sessions, an oral history workshop, and new this conference, poster presentations
- Tours of the Hutton House, Hutton Settlement and Washington State Digital Archives
- Networking opportunities and a "connected conference"
- Hosted at the historic Davenport Hotel, a AAA four diamond hotel with conference rates starting at \$85.00 per night

Kay Buss's 100th Birthday Party

The League has been invited to the 100th Birthday celebration for Kay Buss. Kay joined the Pullman League as a charter member when it was organized in 1950. She served as First Vice President that first year. In 1962-62 she was Treasurer, and in 1965-66 she was First Vice President in charge of Program and Unit Organization.

Kay faithfully attended the annual meeting of the Pullman League for decades and has been a positive and vocal supporter of the League from the day of its formation in 1950 to the celebration of her 100th birthday in November. When interviewed about the formation of the Pullman League, she said that she "was one of the women of Pullman who wanted to create a better city, a better environment for the women and children who lived here. Pullman has always been a good place for people of intelligence and heart and we, those women of the 50's, wanted to make it stronger and better. I think we achieved our goal."

Kay has one additional first to her credit. She was the featured woman for the formation of the "Leave a Legacy for League" group who began a drive to ask League members of Washington State to put the LWVWA in their wills and estate plans. Thank you Kay for your many gifts to the life and success of the League of Women Voters of Pullman. And sincere congratulations on your long life rich with memories and accomplishments.

Action Workshop 2010

It is time to plan to go to the LWVWA action workshop. You will learn how the League works to support legislation we believe in and meet some great League people. Pullman argued hard to get a workshop on this side of the cascades so please plan to come. This is really great if you are new to League and want to know what we do. Our League has set aside money to pay mileage and registration for several participants, so it is an interesting, cost free day. Please send in your registration and let Alice Schroeder, 334-2470, know if you are going and would like to carpool.

Slide Show and Dessert

Alice and Paul Schroeder have responded to requests to see the slides of their recent trip to Turkey and Greece by inviting League for a slide show and dessert at their home on Monday,

October 11 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Their home is at 145 SW Arbor St., Pullman. RSVP to Alice Schroeder, 334-2470 or aschroede2003@yahoo.com

Another Successful Lentil Festival Parade

Diane Smerdon

As has been a custom in Pullman for the last 21 years, the National Lentil Festival celebrates the fact that eastern Washington and northern Idaho (the Palouse Region) grows 1/3 of the lentils in the United States. The celebration goes on for three days with music, good food (famous lentil chili), parade, crafts, and information booths. It is a much anticipated celebration for many returning WSU students and Pullman families getting ready for the start of a new school year.

Ten hardy Leaguers, carrying birthday balloons, marched in the 21st annual Lentil Parade on August 21! Muriel Oaks led the charge after cursory Segway training! She led our Leaguers with a placard that paid tribute to the long history of the League in Pullman, which read: "Happy 60th Birthday Pullman League of Women Voters". Good job, Muriel!

It was a "run to the finish" as Leaguers were pressed to close the gap (created by parade staff) in front of us! Leaguers ran along the sidelines distributing about 300 fans advertising the League and upcoming forums on October 19 and 20. Many thanks to all Leaguers who participated this year! We hope next year to "walk" in the parade!

Mildred Stout

Lenna Harding

The Pullman League lost one of its longtime members, Mildred Stout, on Sept. 5 of this year. During her years in League, Mildred served as president and chaired many studies. Over the years, she was a prolific letter writer and scarcely a week went by without a letter from her championing some cause or candidate, both as a League member and as an individual. She was the consummate activist and the model for us all. Her causes included establishing a chapter of FISH here, involvement in peace and civil liberties groups, striving for better government, and most recently, she was a one of the initial group to buy and develop the old high school into the Gladish Center. She and Kemble loaned a substantial sum for its purchase and gave a house to Gladish to sell to raise money for the elevator. She was active on its board until she moved to Spokane to be near her daughter. She sang in her church choir and was deeply involved in investigating and writing about the genealogy of her family. This tiny dynamo of a woman left a big important mark on the world she lived in. She set an example that would be hard to emulate.

LWVWA Positions on Statewide Ballot Issues

The League of Women Voters of Washington Board of Directors has voted to support the following:

Referendum Bill 52: Engrossed House Bill 2561 passed the 2010 legislature and was signed by Governor Gregoire. The bill was named the Jobs Act. The bill provides for state general obligation bonds of up to \$505 million to fund energy efficiency projects in the state's K-12 schools and higher education facilities. The bonds would be funded by extending the current state tax on bottled water beyond its current expiration date of 2013.

Because this bonding amount exceeds the state's current debt limit, the bill must be submitted to the state's voters.

The national League's positions on Natural Resources, particularly those related to global climate change, together with the extensive work the national League has done in support of national climate change legislation, are the basis for League to support Referendum 52. LWVWA supported EHB 2561 in the 2010 legislative session.

Initiative 1098: concerns establishing a state income tax and reducing other taxes. This measure would tax "adjusted gross income" above \$200,000 (individuals) and \$400,000 (joint-filers), reduce state property tax levies, reduce certain business and occupation taxes, and direct any increased revenues to education and health.

League of Women Voters of Washington position on tax structure states: Inequities in the distribution of the tax burden should be removed. Ability to pay is an important criterion. Flexibility and recognition of changing times and needs is important in tax policy. Income should be part of the tax base preferably through a graduated net income tax.

The League of Women Voters of Washington Board of Directors has voted to oppose the following:

Initiative 1053: concerns tax and fee increases imposed by state government. This measure would restate existing statutory requirements that legislative actions raising taxes must be approved by two-thirds legislative majorities or receive voter approval, and that new or increased fees require majority legislative approval.

National League position includes that government must have the knowledge, resources and power to make decisions that meet citizens' needs and reconcile conflicting interests and priorities, and it must be able to function in an efficient manner with a minimum of conflict, wasted time and duplication of effort.

Initiative Measure No. 1100 concerns liquor (beer, wine and spirits). This measure would close state liquor stores; authorize sale, distribution, and importation of spirits by private parties; and repeal certain requirements that govern the business operations of beer and wine distributors and producers.

According to the Office of Financial Management, I-1100 would lower state revenue approximately \$25 million per year through the privatization of liquor.

Initiative Measure No. 1105 concerns liquor (beer, wine and spirits). This measure would close all state liquor stores and license private parties to sell or distribute spirits. It would revise laws concerning regulation, taxation and government revenues from distribution and sale of spirits.

According to the Office of Financial Management, I-1105 would lower state revenue approximately \$100 million per year through the privatization of liquor.

Initiative 1107 concerns reversing certain 2010 amendments to state tax laws. This measure would end sales tax on candy; end temporary sales tax on some bottled water; end temporary excise taxes on carbonated beverages; and reduce tax rates for certain food processors.

According to the Office of Financial Management, I-1107 would lower state tax revenue by 55 million in the current fiscal year and \$218 million in the upcoming biennium by removing the tax on candy & gum, bottled water, soda and reinstating tax loopholes.

League believes all initiatives proposed should “require how revenue losses or budget increases might be covered, either through program cuts or increases in revenue sources.” (League position on Initiatives, IR-4)

Pullman League Gets a Web Page

Shelley Jones

The League of Women Voters of Pullman was selected by a WSU Digital Technology & Culture class to have a website created for us. The class will be divided into 3-4 groups with each group developing its own idea of a website for our League. This is an incredible opportunity for the League! Due to this wonderful news, at our September meeting, Susan Daniels, Lucy Linden, Paul Spencer, Alex Hammond, Sharon Walbridge, and I brainstormed ideas about what the website should include. Additionally, we came up with three goals: 1) increase visibility to younger members of the Pullman Community, 2) be a ‘go to’ for Voter Information for the community, and 3) be an archive location for local League history. We are off to an excellent start! I will be presenting our ideas at a meeting with the class on Thursday, October 7th.

Observer Report Briefs

Neill Public Library Board, Special Meeting, September 14, 2010

Observer: Diane Gillespie

Of interest to LWV members:

1) Minutes from the August 18, 2010 meeting, which I was unable to attend, includes the announcement that the “Library director search is on hold.” Although phone interviews produced two candidates, one of these accepted another position during the process of

scheduling in-person interviews. “The board will continue discussion on when to reactivate the director search in early 2011.” Meanwhile, the Board is working with the City to approve the hiring of a temporary assistant for Joanna Bailey who must continue to function as both interim library manager and administrative assistant.

- 2) At today’s meeting Joanna Bailey announced that she has three in-house applicants for the temporary assistant position and hopes to have someone in place by October 1.
- 3) Meetings of several City Council members, NPL Board members, and Friends of the Library members have been scheduled with library consultant Ruth Metz .
- 4) NPL, as part of a state consortium of libraries, has unveiled a downloadable audio collection (Overdrive); although some difficulties need to be ironed out, the response has been good.
- 5) The bronzed books Jan Maguire donated in memory of her husband James have been secured to a bench on the NPL patio and her tribute posted on the NPL web site.
- 6) Banned Books Week will be September 25-October 2. The theme is “Think for Yourself and Let Others Do the Same.”
- 7) Karen Sires, Human Resource Manager, reported that a two-year agreement with the Teamsters Union local includes full maintenance of benefits in exchange for no cost-of-living increases. The NPL Board ratified the contract.
- 8) City budget hearings will occur the week of October 4th. The NPL Board approved a year-end estimate of money to be turned back, a budget request for 2011, and a revenue estimate for 2011. Whether the City will ask for a budget cut and, if so, how much, is currently unknown.

Pullman Regional Hospital Board, September summary, 2010

Observer: Helen Stiller

- The Hospital has updated it's Web Site. You might want to take a look.
www.pullmanhospital.org.
- There are several new physicians who are now practicing in Pullman. The hospital will host a New Physician Welcome on Oct.14,2010, 6-8pm, at Banyon's on the Ridge.
- Palouse Audiology will be moving from Pro Mall up to PRH Summit Therapy building. One of the new doctors affiliated with the hospital is an Ear, Nose and Throat specialist. An Audiologist will be working in the office on a regular basis.

Useful Pullman League Numbers

Contact Us: lwypull@yahoo.com

Online VOTER: www.lwvwa.org/Pullman