



VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PULLMAN WASHINGTON

October 2011

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; **Vice President:** Shelley Jones, 432-3428, ; **Secretary:** Deb Olson, 332-2114, Backup: Francie Bose, 332-5114; **Treasurer:** Joan Folwell, 332-3946; **Voter Service Chair:** Diane Smerdon, 334-5413; **Voter Editor:** Susan Daniels, 332-6699; **Finance Drive Chair:** Lenna Harding, 332-7749; **Membership Chair:** Janet Kendall, 332-4268; **Hospitality Chair:** Barbara Hammond, 332-4104; **Observer Corps Chair and TRY Editor:** Lucy Linden, 332-2755; **Webmaster:** Paul Spencer: 332-6699; **State Board Member:** Karen Kiessling, 332-4755.

Meetings

Open Government Forum

Date: Wednesday October 12, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Program: Forum co-sponsored by the Washington Coalition for Open Government. Panelists are Washington State Archivist, Jerry Handfield; Steve Dixson, of the Spokane law firm of Witherspoon Kelley; Palouse City Council Member, Connie Newman, and Toby Nixon, president of WCOG and former state representative.

Place: Neill Public Library, Hecht Room

Contact: Alice Schroeder, 334-2470

Election Forum in Colfax

Date: Tuesday October 18, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Program: Forum on candidates for Port Commissioner, Colfax Mayor and School Board

Place: Whitman County Library Meeting Room, Colfax

Chair: Diane Smerdon, 334-5413

Election Forum in Pullman

Date: Wednesday October 19, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Program: Forum on Port Commissioner candidates and the five initiatives

Place: Pullman City Hall Council Chambers

Chair: Diane Smerdon, 334-5413

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Board Training

Date: Sunday October 30, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Program: Board Training for Pullman League members
Place: Holiday Inn Express
Contact: Alice Schroeder, 334-2470

LWVUS Study – The Role of the Federal Government in Education

Date: Monday November 7, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Program: Discuss the study and look for consensus
Place: Neill Public Library, Hecht Room
Contact: Paul Spencer, 332-6699

LWVWA Study – Conservation Districts

Date: Monday December 5, 6:30-9:00 p.m.
Program: Coffee and Cookies followed at 7:00 by a discussion of the study and look for consensus
Place: Neill Public Library, Hecht Room
Contact: Joan Folwell, 332-3946

Board Meetings

Wednesdays October 26, November 30

Time: 12:30-2:30 p.m.
Place: Lucy Linden's home, 500 SE Crestview
Chair: Alice Schroeder, 334-2470

President's Message

Fall is League's active time and this one is particularly active with three forums, board training and two studies, whew!! The only way to do this is with everyone participating. Please plan to come to as many events as possible. We need people to set up and to sort and pick up questions at all three forums, Oct. 12, Oct. 18 and Oct. 19. You may join the Oct. 12 speakers afterwards for dinner at Swilly's. Let me know if you are coming. The two Barbara's promise an informative and interactive board training on Oct 30. Please plan to come even if you have sworn never to be on anyone's board again. After all we are a Board of the Whole, so it is too late. AND we need you. The people who always do it are wearing thin! Finally, our League was very interested in both the LWVUS "Role of the Federal Government in Education" and the LWVWA "Conservation District Study". The rubber now hits the road and it is time to do some work. Please read the background material and come ready to consider the consensus questions so we can cover this material in the two meetings we've planned. To get us all in a talking mood—never too hard with Leaguers—we'll have a Christmas desert and social from 6:30-7:00 p.m. before the Conservation District meeting on Dec. 5. Please join us for a fun chance to get to know your fellow members a bit better.

Hoping to see you soon and often,

Alice

Don't forget the Oct. 12 Forum on Open Government!!

Alice Schroeder

The Pullman League and the Washington Coalition for Open Government are sponsoring a Forum on Public Access to Public Records on Wednesday, October, 12, in the Neill Public Library Hecht Room from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. **We need League members to greet attendees, set up, pick up questions and sort questions.** Please plan to come.

The panel has both those with experience in wanting information and those required to provide it. The panelists are: WA state archivist, Jerry Handfield; Former WA Representative, Toby Nixon; Attorney, Steve Dixon; and Palouse City Council Member, Connie Newman. The moderator will be Anna King, NPR News Service.

Following the Meeting those wishing to meet the panelists may join them for dinner. Please let Alice Schroeder know if you want to attend.

We have invited about 150 members of boards and commissions in Pullman, Whitman County and surrounding towns as well as the general public to learn what these laws mean for both the general public and those who must keep the records.

Voter Forums are Coming

We are holding two Voter Forums again this year. The first one on Tuesday October 18 will be at the Whitman County Library in Colfax and will focus on the contested Colfax elections for Mayor and the School Board, and also the candidates for Port Commissioner. The second one will be on Wednesday October 19 at the Pullman City Council Chambers and will focus on the five initiatives which will be on the ballot. The candidates for Port Commissioner will also be introduced.

Both forums are from 7:00 p.m. To 9:00 p.m. and will need League members to come early to help set up and to pick up question cards during the question and answer periods.

Calling All Current and Future Board Members!

Karen Kiessling

The Pullman League is recruiting board members and leaders with a special event. Please put Sunday, October 30, on your calendar, from 2 - 4 pm at the Holiday Inn Express in Pullman for an uplifting and entertaining afternoon. The Pullman League is the first League in the state to benefit from the bequest given the the League of Women Voters of Washington by our very own founding member, Kay Buss. In 1950 when the Pullman League held its first meeting Kay Buss was elected vice president. She was a steadfast member of the Pullman League for 60 years, dying last year at age 100. She put the League of Women Voters of Washington in her will and when the state received the bequest they wanted to use it to benefit the greatest possible number of League members in the state. They decided that offering board training to any League that asked for it would be the best way to honor Kay's gift. Recruiting leadership in the League is a constant challenge so we are very happy to have two outstanding League Leaders as our guests for that day.

Barbara Bush, former member of the state board of directors and the Action Chair for two terms, and

Barbara Seitle, former President of the League of Women Voters of Washington for two terms, will be our trainers. They promise an interactive two hours with all who attend. This is the League with its sleeves rolled up, working hard to make our cities a better, more fair and open place to live. We will talk about and work through the problems that come along -- from recalcitrant elected officials to folks who plain have never heard of the open meetings act, the appearance of fairness, or how to engage in dissent while remaining civil. Just hearing from these two women who have worked with state and local leaders is worth your time. What will make it even more important for you to attend is that you will have the chance to raise questions you have about how the league works at all levels and what we might do to make the Pullman League more dynamic. You are the Pullman League's future so think about board participation as well.

Attendance will be limited so please respond as soon as the call goes out to register. Or, if you know now that you want to be there, just email Alice Schroeder and ask that your name be put on the list. Let's flood Alice with replies. I am sure it would make her day.

The Role of Federal Government in Public Education

Paul Spencer

The National League has made a study of the role of the Federal Government in Public Education and a large amount of information about the study is available on the LWV national web site. Our meeting on November 7 is to briefly review the issues, and then to answer the consensus questions provided by the National League.

Because many of these issues are not simple and cannot be completely discussed and explained in a 2 hour meeting, each of the **LWV Pullman members should prepare for the consensus meeting by looking at the consensus questions and study the materials referenced in the links below.**

[Public Education Study Consensus Questions](#)

[Common Core Standards and Assessments](#)

[Early Childhood Education, Equity and Funding](#)

[Funding and Equity Issues](#)

[Legislation and Funding for the Education of Children Who are Disadvantaged](#)

[Role of Federal Government in Public Education: Historical Perspectives](#)

Additional Information can be found at [The LWVUS Education Study](#)

For information on the consensus process go to [Leaders Guide](#)

If you have a paper copy of the VOTER, here is how to access the information:

- 1) In the address field of your internet browser, type *www.lwv.org* and then hit the return key
- 2) Put your cursor on the blue colored "FOR MEMBERS" and then move down and click on "Projects and Programs".
- 3) On the right side, click on *The Education Study: The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education*. This page (The LWVUS Education Study page) is the access page to the links above.

- 4) To access the papers listed above click on *Get Informed* in the “Background Paper” box on the right side of the page

If you have questions, or have difficulties finding the material, please call Paul Spencer at 332-6699 or send email to paul-spencer@pullman.com. If you do not have internet access I can provide a limited number of printed copies.

DECEMBER MEETING: CONSERVATION DISTRICT STUDY

Joan Folwell

Get a head start on all the holiday activities by reading the material for the state study about conservation districts early either by following these links:

[LWVWA Study](#)

[Consensus Questions](#)

If you are reading a paper VOTER you can access the papers on the LWV-WA home page: go to www.lwvwa.org, select “studies.” Scroll past the Education Fund information. The first study listed is about state conservation districts; you can download both the study and the consensus questions. If you do not have internet access, ask Joan Folwell (332-3946) for one of the 8 hard copies provided to us.

LWVUS Response to Concern About Ads

Below is the response of LWVUS National Council to the concern several of our members had about the ads the LWVUS ran targeting senators about clean air. This appeared in the Tacoma August/September Voter.

From: Elizabeth G. MacNamara
Sent: Tuesday, August 02, 2011
Subject: LWVUS Guidelines for Major In-State Initiatives

Dear League Leaders:

From conference calls to National Council over the last couple of months, we heard you as you called on LWVUS to share with Leagues sooner about plans and opportunities around major initiatives, so we have taken action and are sending this note to all Leagues.

In a special meeting, the LWVUS/EF Board of Directors adopted Guidelines for Major In-State Initiatives. The Board has adopted these Guidelines (see below) in response to concerns voiced by members regarding major in-state initiatives undertaken by the LWVUS/EF Board. The Guidelines outline communication and consultation procedures to state LWV leaders, local League leaders and notification of other members who should be informed of the initiatives. The guidelines were adopted in a special meeting on July 28, 2011.

On behalf of my colleagues on the LWVUS/EF board, we thank you for your communications and if you have questions, please contact your national Board Liaison. In a time when the country needs the reasoned voice of the League of Women Voters now more than ever, we thank you for your willingness to help advance that voice consistently and collectively from the community level to the national level.

In League, Elisabeth MacNamara, President, LWVUS Board

Guidelines for Major In-State Initiatives

In General

From time to time, the LWVUS/EF may undertake major advocacy, educational, visibility or membership campaigns or initiatives in one or more states. Major initiatives may enhance the League's effectiveness in achieving its educational, advocacy and organizational goals or further a current program or organizational priority. All aspects of major initiatives must be consistent with LWVUS/EF bylaws, policies, and positions.

Consultation with State and Local Leagues

In advance of the launching of a major initiative, the LWVUS/EF Board and staff shall do the necessary consultation and appropriate pre-planning with the state Leagues directly involved in the initiative.

The LWVUS/EF will brief state League presidents on the rationale and scope of the initiative. The consultation may include communicating, coordinating and reinforcing the League's activities and/or message, and ensuring that the League speaks with one voice.

Information will be shared with state League(s) first, and unless otherwise directed by the state League leadership, the LWVUS/EF will work to ensure that appropriate supporting materials are prepared and distributed in a timely manner to state and local League leaders. Materials will be designed to help League leaders understand and assist in the initiative at the state and local level as appropriate. Examples of materials include information and response templates, additional fact sheets, press releases, model letters to the editor and other substantive documents prepared in support of the initiative.

The LWVUS/EF will work to help insure that appropriate spokespersons are identified and briefed on the initiative.

The LWVUS/EF will inform the LWVUS Lobby Corps members and the Ruth M. Shur Fellows of any major in-state initiatives in a timely manner.

Monitoring and Results

The LWVUS/EF will monitor the progress of major initiatives, including implementation challenges and successes, internal feedback and external response, and level of impact at the national, state and local levels. As initiatives progress, the information obtained may lead to adjustments.

Approved by LWVUS Board 7/28/2011