



VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PULLMAN WASHINGTON

www.lwvpullman.org

October 2013

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: Shared by the Board; **Vice President:** Karen Kiessling, 332-4755; **Secretary:** Paul Spencer, 332-6699, Backup: Anne Lewis, 334-1075; **Treasurer:** Joan Folwell, 332-3946; **Voter Service Chair:** Deb Olson, 332-2114; **Voter Editor:** Susan Daniels, 332-6699; **Budget Chair:** Shelley Jones, 509-432-3428; **Finance Drive Chair:** Lenna Harding, 332-7749; **Membership Chair:** Janet Kendall, 432-3368; **Scheduling Chair:** Barbara Hammond, 332-4104; **Observer Corps Chair:** Deb Olson, 332-2114; **TRY Editor:** Lucy Linden, 332-2755; **Webmaster:** Paul Spencer: 332-6699.

Meetings and Events

Please check the date and place when you get the meeting notice a week before the meeting.

Voter Forum in Colfax

Date: Tuesday October 15th, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
 Program: Initiatives and Tax Advisory votes
 Place: Whitman County Library, Colfax
 Contact: Deb Olson, 332-2114 and June Crawford, 332-7186

Voter Forum in Pullman

Date: Wednesday October 16th, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
 Program: The three contested City Council seats.
 Place: Pullman City Hall
 Contact: Deb Olson, 332-2114 and June Crawford, 332-7186

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November Meeting

Date: Monday, November 4th, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Program: Troy Henderson, Whitman County Director of Public Health, speaking on the services they provide and the demographics of the people they serve.

Place: Neill Public Library, Hecht Room

Contact: Mary Collins, 334-2812

December Meeting

Date: Monday, December 2nd, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Program: Holiday Cookies followed by a speaker and discussion of Whitman County's program to keep minors out of jail

Place: Neill Public Library, Hecht Room

Contact: June Crawford, 332-7186

Brown Bag Meetings

Date: Third Thursdays, Noon – 1:00 p.m.

Program: See article below

Place: Congregational Church

Contact: Deb Olson, 332-2114

Board Meetings

Dates: Wednesdays October 23rd, November 27th

Time: 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Place: Daily Grind, back room

Chair: October: Deb Olson, 332-2114; November: Susan Daniels, 332-6699

Other Meetings of Interest

Eastside Action Workshop

Date: Saturday October 26th

Program: Learn about League programs and action; meet lobbyists; etc.

Place: Ellensburg, WA

Contact: Shelley Jones, 509-432-3428

November Social Event

Date: November 6th, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Program: Games and Conversation

Place: Anne Lewis' House, 915 SE Skylark St.

Contact: Anne Lewis, 509-334-1075, anneglewis2@yahoo.com

2013 Voter Forums in October

Deb Olson

Elections are fast approaching. Ballots will be coming out starting on October 18th. We have scheduled two voter forums, the first on Tuesday October 15th in Colfax and the second on Wednesday

October 16th in Pullman. The Colfax forum will be held at the Whitman County Library from 7 to 9 p.m. and will deal with the two initiatives, I-517 and I-522, and the Tax Advisory votes. (See the LWVWA positions on the initiatives on page 5.) Karen Kiessling has volunteered to be the moderator.

The Pullman forum will be held at the Council Chambers in City Hall from 7 to 9 p.m. and will be concerned with the three contested City Council seats: Council 2 Ward 2, Council 7 Ward 1, and Council 6 at large. I will moderate this forum.

As usual, we need League volunteers, so please come early to help with timing, sorting questions, handing out cards, and to help make a good showing at both forums. If you are interested in helping, contact me at olsonbones@aol.com or on my cell 509 595-0333. These events are a great opportunity to educate ourselves as well as the public.

Mark Your Calendar for the Inaugural * Social Event!! Anne Lewis**

When: Wednesday, November 6th from 10 am -11:30 a.m.

Where: Anne Lewis' House
915 SE Skylark Street
509-334-1075 or 503-380-9060
anneglewis2@yahoo.com
Helpful Hint: I live next door to Janet Kendall

What: Games (You'll have to come to find out what games)

Please help me make this first effort a success on which we can build and improve! I welcome any and all game (card, board, other) ideas as well as ideas for other Social Events.

*I believe inaugural is accurate, at least in terms of a non-traditional gathering and for the period of time I have been a member.

**Truthfully, I am a bit worried about titling this informal, specifics yet to be determined get-together as an "Event," but we will see how it goes!

Looking Ahead to Our Holiday Meeting June Crawford

Our annual holiday meeting will be held on December 2nd from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. The first half hour is for visiting and enjoying holiday treats. Please plan on coming to this holiday event and if you enjoy baking, we encourage you to bring a sample of your favorite cookies. Any member who cannot attend and would like to donate cookies is welcome to do so. Collection can be arranged.

At 7:00 p.m. there will be a presentation related to Whitman County's pre-charging divergent program, its purpose being to keep minors in trouble for possession of drugs and alcohol out of jail.

You are promised an interesting and thought provoking session.

Successful Back to League Potluck and Basics

Lucy Linden

The Pullman League opened the new program year with a Back to League potluck dinner at Janet Kendall's home in beautiful early September Palouse weather. After the most delicious meal and lots of getting re-acquainted after the summer hiatus, members were treated to an introduction to League Basics for new members and a useful review for experienced members.

Karen Kiessling addressed important understandings for all members: only the President (or an appointed representative) speaks for League ; the League is non-partisan—no individual candidates are supported or opposed and we speak only to issues the League has studied and upon which we have a position. June Crawford cited opportunities for involvement in League activities, especially the Observer Corps. Deb Olson emphasized the importance of Voter Service, our most visible community activity and the many options to be part of it. Shelley Jones cited the rewards of League leadership roles, both personally and professionally. Paul Spencer demonstrated the League website. Lenna Harding closed the program with personal views of our local League history since she “grew up with it”. Thanks to these members and their messages for the reminder that League remains the most trusted and respected political organization in the nation.

Report on The Forum on Open Government

Karen Kiessling, Chair, Committee for Open Meetings Act Forum

The lead story at the top of the front page of the Moscow Pullman Daily News on Thursday, September 26th, was the forum held the evening before on the open meetings laws of the state of Washington. It was a League forum providing a panel of experts from the Coalition for Open Government and was held at the McGregor Company Training Center to the west of Colfax.

The League provided a service to elected and appointed officials and a good number of them from the communities in the county were there. We had port commissioners, county commissioner, mayors, staff members and city council members. The audience count varied but was in excess of 50 participants and the information a good education or solid reminder of the strong laws that protect the rights of citizens to know what their representatives are doing and how they are making the decisions they do. We may not agree with the decision but we are guaranteed the right to know how it was arrived at. There was significant discussion of public records requests which all jurisdictions have to deal with and some solutions for keeping those requests within the bounds of the time staff can devote to it. That was perhaps the most tangible reward for those attending.

Many Leaguers helped in various ways on this meeting and we are very grateful for their work.

National Voter Registration Day

Deb Olson

National Voter Registration Day was September 24th. My thanks to the League volunteers who helped us this year: Liz and Austin Wilmerding, Anne Lewis and Francy Bose at Neill Public Library, Paul Spencer at Rosaeur's in Colfax and Karen Kiessling at Dissmores. We didn't get as many takers as we would wish (only five people registered on paper or electronically but several more took the registration form with them). Not too bad in an off election year. I hope to host another registration drive in the late spring at Pullman High school, so let me know if you are interested.

Keep Voter Registration Day in mind next year.

LWVWA Has No Position on Initiatives I-522 and I-517

I-522: Requires labeling on products that include GMO's and is an issue that is being studied at the LWVUS level. Our existing open government positions do not cover labeling. LWVWA can not support or oppose this initiative because we have no positions that cover those areas closely enough.

I-517: This is the Initiative about Initiatives. "The LWVWA Board felt that our positions supporting initiative processes could lead to a support decision, but our position on upholding the constitution and free speech rights would mitigate against the initiative. Neither position was completely on point and so the Board felt that no position should be taken."

LWVWA Information on Two Upcoming Initiatives

There are two initiatives concerning gun control currently gathering signatures. Signatures for both measures are due to the state Legislature on Jan 3, 2014. If you have any questions or comments about LWVWA's role you can contact kathysakahara@gmail.com.

I-594: LWVWA has endorsed Initiative 594 regarding background checks on gun purchases. The League encourages LWV members to participate in the campaign, including the collection of signatures. If you want to be part of this effort, please visit www.lwvwa.org to sign up and order petitions from the I-594 campaign. LWVWA has joined the Washington Alliance for Gun Responsibility and encourages local Leagues to join the alliance as well.

I-591: LWVWA opposes Initiative 591 which prohibits additional background checks on gun purchases.

Welcome to Our New Member Mary Collins

We asked Mary if she would send us a quick biography so we could get to know her a little better and she graciously wrote the following:

I was born and raised on a farm just north of Pullman. After doing my freshman and sophomore years at WSU I transferred to the UW where I earned my first degree in Anthropology. I worked as an archaeology technician in Montana for a few years and took an MA in Anthropology at the University of Montana. I then decided to pursue a PhD and thought coming back to Pullman to do so would not only be good professionally but would give me a chance to live among my extended family again for a few years. This was in 1988.

In 1990 I met "Mr. Right" and by 1993 was ABD (All But Dissertation) and "spouse bound" in Pullman. After worrying about how life would work out for a couple of years I had the opportunity to direct the Museum of Anthropology and found that it was the perfect job for me. So my intended brief return to Pullman became permanent and I count myself as very lucky.

A few years ago I attended a LWV forum in Colfax and was so impressed with the mission of the organization and the quality of work done that I decided when I retired (2013) I would like to become involved with their work. I appreciate the opportunity to be informed about issues on both the local and national level and to feel like I can make a meaningful contribution to the workings of Democracy on the local level. I am especially interested in issues facing agriculture and society on the county level so in addition to helping with candidate forums I look forward to working on studies and helping to organize informational public programs

Brown Bag Meetings

Deb Olson

Our first "brown bag" noon meeting of the year was a resounding success and was the headline story the next day in the paper. For our first meeting we invited the Whitman County Commissioners. Two of the commissioners attended, Michael Largent and Dean Kinzer. Sixteen people attended (not counting the two County Commissioners and Bill McKee from the Daily News). Dean Kinzer presented an update on what's been happening in the county for the past year including the fiscal problems in the county. Then the meeting was opened to questions. There was a lively discussion on the possibility of a bike path on the railroad right of way to Colfax. The article in the paper covered the meeting very well.

Upcoming "Brown Bag" meetings are as follows:

October 17 - Jeff Guyett from the CAC will discuss volunteer opportunities in the community.

November 21 – Members of the Moscow League will discuss their poverty study, how they accomplished it, what they would do differently, etc.

December 19 – Brad Jaekel WSU Organic Farm update on expansion plans

If you have a topic that you think would interest us contact me at olsonbones@aol.com or by cell phone 509 595-0333. I still have to fill the calendar for Jan. thru May and there is always next year.

*Politicians are people who, when they see light
at the end of the tunnel, go out and buy some more tunnel.*

~ John Quinton ~

Preparing For the Agricultural Consensus Meeting

Joan Folwell, local Ag Committee chair

The Agricultural Update will focus “narrowly” on: 1) current technology issues in agricultural including genetically modified organisms (GMOs), herbicides, pesticides, agricultural water pollution, water technology, antibiotics in livestock, and accurate food labeling; and 2) current agricultural finance issues including consolidation of agricultural industries, crop subsidies and the federal agricultural regulatory process. Phew!

The modifier “narrowly” is an understatement. The national Agricultural Update Committee has made this recommendation to help local Leagues be better equipped to answer consensus questions (which have not yet been developed). “The update is complex and involves understanding issues that impact our food supply: 1) the technologies used in agriculture, 2) the interactions of farmers, suppliers, processors and consumers , 3) the role of government in regulating and financially supporting the food industry, and 4) how natural processes (often related to climate and weather) affect practices and decision-making. It is the committee’s recommendation that Leaguers should develop a general understanding of agriculture within their own state, so that they can then view the system as it relates throughout the country and the global market.”

To educate our members on so many topics is an enormous task and only parts of it may be accomplished, but the journey will be interesting! To get you started, there is a lot of information and many links on the national website under the Agricultural Update Forum. This site also keeps you abreast of what the national committee is intending. You have to register as a member to access the website. (Note: I had not done so and the registration process would not allow me to confirm my email address; I sent a note to the webmaster stating the problem and my registration was accepted within a few days.) I am planning on peppering some of the Brown Bag Meetings with ag topics. Having read the topics, let me know which ones particularly interest you; contact me at rjfolwell@pullman.com or 332-3946. Please take every opportunity to read related articles as you come across them. A good start is the Northwest Farm and Ranch issue that recently appeared in the Daily News and Lewiston Tribune on September 30. It included a very balanced argument of both the pros and cons of GMO food labeling and several other interesting articles. The evening program on the Agricultural Update scheduled for November has been deferred until our February meeting. I will do my best to prepare this League to give an educated response to the consensus questions. Your assignment is to read, read, read!

Help Support the Neediest People in Our Community

Liz Wilmerding

The Community Action Center Food Bank of Pullman located on SE Fairmont Rd. needs donations! The recent reduction in the Food Stamp and WIC programs means more people lean on our community’s resources. The LWV in Pullman can help in two ways. First, if you plan to attend a board meeting or brown bag lunch discussion, please bring something to share with others in our community. Liz Wilmerding or June Crawford will collect all donations and get them to the Food Bank. Secondly, we can organize a food drive this fall or next spring to help fill the shelves. Look in future VOTER issues for more information on how you can help!

Items needed: A monetary donation to the CAC is always welcome. Direct general donations can go on the shelves immediately. Here are the things the CAC welcomes:

Food items: Peanut butter, jelly, rice, pasta, beans, canned/frozen meat, canned fruit and vegetables, tomato products (sauce, paste, diced, whole, etc.), pancake mix & syrup, sugar, flour, oil, breakfast cereal, mac & cheese, boxed dinners (i.e., Hamburger Helper), etc.

2nd Harvest/Backyard Harvest: extras from your garden or fruit trees that have a couple of days' unrefrigerated shelf life in them.

Non-food items not covered by Food Stamps: toilet paper, paper towel, dish soap, laundry soap, toothpaste & toothbrushes (a place to put all your extra dentist gifts!), personal hygiene products (shampoo, soap, razors, shaving cream, feminine hygiene), baby food, diapers of all sizes.

Large non-consumables: blankets, baby clothes & supplies, winter coats & hats. Please make sure things are clean and only gently used or are new.

CURRENT NEEDS (9/19): breakfast cereal, box dinners, mac & cheese, canned fruit, tomato products.

Eastside Action Workshop is Coming

Attending an Action Workshop is an interesting and invigorating experience. We have funds allocated to pay the expenses of several attendees. We usually car pool and the drive over and back is one of the highlights with its opportunity to visit and get to know other Leaguers. If you are interested in attending, contact Shelley Jones, 509-432-3428.

2013 Eastside Action Workshop

Advocate for League!

October 26 Ellensburg

Hosted by Yakima LWV Wild Horse Wind & Solar Facility 25905 Vantage Highway Ellensburg, WA 98926 (about 15 miles outside Ellensburg)

Special Program: Orientation to Wind & Solar Facility; optional tour

Additional information and online registration will be available on the LWVWA website (www.lwvwa.org) around October 2.

What Does the Secretary of LWV Do?

Paul Spencer

(It was suggested that if the VOTER ran a series of articles describing the various offices in League, it might encourage more members to be interested and willing to take an office. We're starting in this issue with Paul Spencer's description of the office of Secretary.)

As anyone would expect, the primary task of the secretary of the Pullman LWV is to take notes for meetings where business is transacted, write them up into clear and organized form, and distribute the result. Usually they are first sent out in draft form with a request for corrections and additions and then distributed in final form to all the membership.

The meetings for which this is necessary are the monthly League board meetings, the May business meeting, and the summer planning meeting. As a member of the board, the secretary also participates in the discussions and in making the board decisions.

Other occasional tasks are distributing documents, and writing up drafts of a letter or other document based on a discussion during one of the board meetings.

Board Member in Charge

This year the office of president of the LWV of Pullman is being shared among the board members with each board member taking one month to organize and run the board meeting for that month. The list of months and the board member(s) responsible is:

October: Deb Olsen

November: Susan Daniels

December: June Crawford

January: Shelley Jones/Anne Lewis

February: Joan Folwell

March: Paul Spencer

April: Barbara Hammond

May: TBD

LWVWA Office has Moved

LWVWA VOTER, Summer 2013

The LWVWA office has moved from their University District office to the downtown Seattle Vance Building, "a historic building with eco-conscious updates. The League is pleased to be in a space where many other not-for-profit organizations are housed, as well as to have our office more convenient to transit for out of town visitors. You can visit us at: 1402 Third Avenue, Suite 430, Seattle, WA 98101"

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