



# VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PULLMAN WASHINGTON

[www.lwvpullman.org](http://www.lwvpullman.org)

October 2014

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:** Chairman – Paul Spencer, 332-6699; League Voice – Karen Kiessling, 332-4755; Information Coordinator – Anne Lewis, 334-1075; **Secretary:** Libby Walker, 509-432-4756, Backup: Jackie Miyasaka, 332-1248; **Treasurer:** Joan Folwell, 332-3946; **Voter Service Chair:** Deb Olson, 332-2114; **Voter Editor:** Susan Daniels, 332-6699; **Budget Chair:** Pat Ager, 334-3374; **Finance Drive Chair:** Lenna Harding, 332-7749; **Membership Chair:** Janet Kendall, 432-3368; **Scheduling Chair:** Barbara Hammond, 332-4104; **Observer Corps Chair:** Anne Lewis, 334-1075; **TRY Editor:** Lucy Linden, 332-2755; **Webmaster:** Paul Spencer: 332-6699; **Community Update Editor:** Diane Smerdon, 334-5413; **Poverty Study Chair:** Mary Collins, 509-592-6929; **Nominating Chair:** Deb Olson, 332-2114.

## Meetings and Events

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

### Eastside Action Workshop

Date: Saturday October 11, Spokane

Program: See article on [page 2](#)

Contact: Paul Spencer, 332-6699

### Election Forum in Colfax

Date: Tuesday October 21, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Program: Candidates and Initiatives

Place: Colfax Library

Contact: Deb Olson, 332-2114

### Election Forum in Pullman

Date: Wednesday October 22, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Program: Candidates and Initiatives

Place: Umpqua Bank, 225 N. Grand Ave.

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Contact: Deb Olson, 332-2114

## **Update on City and Council Planning**

Date: Monday November 3, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Program: Coffee and cookies followed at 7:00 by presentations from City Planner, Pete Dickinson, County Planner, Alan Thomson and Public Works director, Kevin Gardes, on planning activities in our area

Place: Umpqua Bank, 225 N. Grand Ave.

Contact: Alice Schroeder, 334-2470

## **Brown Bags**

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

Programs: October 16 – Brett Haverstick from Friends of the Clearwater;

November 20 – Michael Largent on effective communication with our legislators

Place: Congregational Church, Opal and Campus, Pullman

Contact: Deb Olson, 332-2114

## **Poverty Study Meetings**

Date: Second Tuesday of the month: October 14, November 11, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Program: Presentations 5:30 – 6:00 p.m. followed by a working meeting until 7:00 p.m.

Place: The Community Action Center classroom, 350 SE Fairmont, Pullman

Contact: Mary Collins, 509-592-6929

## **Board Meetings**

Date: Wednesdays October 22, November 19, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Place: Daily Grind, back room

Chair: Paul Spencer, 332-6699

## **Other Meetings of Interest**

### **Game Day**

Date: Wednesday October 8, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Program: Games, conversation, caffeine, and light snacks

Place: Anne Lewis' home, 915 SE Skylark Ct.

Contact: Anne Lewis, 334-1075; [anneglewis2@yahoo.com](mailto:anneglewis2@yahoo.com)

## **Eastside Action Workshop**

We finally have a "true" east side LWVWA Action Workshop – Saturday Oct. 11 in Spokane. The focus of the workshop is looking at what will be coming up in the 2015 Legislative session – particularly on raising revenue, which is a top-flight priority for League. The time is 9:30 a.m. To 2:00 p.m. at the Administration Building of Spokane's Waste to Energy Facility. An optional tour will follow.

The Board of LWV of Pullman voted to pay the registration fee for those members attending the

workshop. We will car pool to Spokane. The workshop is a great opportunity to learn more about the League in action, meet energetic participants, and the drive over and back is always fun getting to visit with local Leaguers.

If you would like to attend and are not yet signed up, contact Paul Spencer at 332-6699 or [paul-spencer@pullman.com](mailto:paul-spencer@pullman.com).

## October Forums

There will be two Election Forums, on October 21 at the Colfax Library, and on October 22 at the Umpqua Bank, 225 N. Grand Ave., in Pullman, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.. With only two contested races in the county, and only three initiatives, it is possible to cover the candidates and the initiatives at both forums.

The contested races are Joe Reynolds and Jim Hawkes running for Assessor, and Brett Myers and Adam Assenberg running for Sheriff.

The three initiatives are:

**591** which would prohibit government agencies from confiscating guns or other firearms from citizens without due process, or from requiring background checks on firearm recipients unless a uniform national standard is required,

**594** which would apply currently used criminal and public safety background checks by licensed dealers to all firearm sales and transfers, including gun show and online sales, with specific exceptions, and

**1351** which would direct the legislature to allocate funds to reduce class sizes and increase staffing support for students in all K-12 grades, with additional class-size reductions and staffing increases in high-poverty schools.

For the LWVWA positions on these initiatives see the article on [page 8](#).

**We will need members to come early to help set up and greet the presenters, and to collect questions.**

## Update on City and County Planning Monday Nov. 3 Alice Schroeder

The League of Women Voters of Pullman has been interested in City Planning since the League began in 1950. We have done two formal studies on planning. The second was finished in 2003. We have used the positions that resulted from these studies to comment on many planning activities in both the City and the County. Over the last several years we have been urging Pullman to update its comprehensive plan. That is finally happening, along with an update of the City growth area plan. On Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> City Planner Pete Dickinson, and County Planner, Alan Thomson, will update us on these and other planning activities in our area. Public Works director Kevin Gardes will join them to tell us about water conservation efforts, especially using recycled water to irrigate large green areas in the city and at WSU. There should be plenty of time to ask other planning questions of these three. Come prepared!!

Also come early. There will be a social half hour beginning at 6:30pm. We will start the meeting with a short book presentation to Mayor Glenn Johnson. We will be presenting him with a copy of the Washington State League's Washington State history textbook, *The State We Are In*, which features him.

## **Back to League Potluck Report**

### **Paul Spencer**

The 2014-15 kickoff meeting was held at Mary Shirazi's home on September 8. About 30 members and guests attended the event, held on the back yard deck of her house on a beautiful Pullman Evening.

A meal from many delicious dishes was followed by a summary of the status of the League's 2-year Poverty Study by Mary Collins, the leader for the study. The overall purpose is to collect information about poverty in Whitman County and the organizations which interact with those in poverty and to suggest ways to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of services available to the poor.

This study will not collect data directly from individuals and families in poverty, but will obtain information about poverty indirectly from organizations which provide services and help to low income people. Mary reported that the subcommittees for the various aspects of poverty in Whitman County are active and are starting to present summaries on the contextual information obtained without interviews – that is information from libraries and the internet. Direct interviews with the organizations will be started at the end of 2014 or beginning of 2015.

Lucy Linden then introduced the speakers for a presentation of League Basics.

- Karen Kiessling talked about basic principles such as who speaks for the League – at meetings, in letters, in any formal capacity and what "non-partisan" and "consensus" mean.
- Lenna Harding talked about the history of The League of Women Voters and of the Pullman League.
- The current League Program and Action were described Alice Schroeder.
- Joan Folwell explained the sources of League funds and the uses of League dues for support of the State and National LWV organizations.
- Paul Spencer provided a short Introduction to the League of Women Voters of Pullman website.
- Anne Lewis explained what League Observers do and why they are important. Being an observer is an easy and valuable way to start helping with League activities.
- Deb Olson Explained the Voter Services activities of our League including National Voter Registration Day and the Voter Forums held before elections.

There were good questions for the presenters and lots of volunteers to help with League activities – an excellent start to the League season!

## **Brown Bags (Noon Meetings)**

### **Deb Olson**

Our September Brown Bag was a well attended discussion by County Commissioners Dean Kinzer and Art Swannock on the state of the county. County roads, budget and accounting difficulties were discussed.

The upcoming Brown Bag Meetings are:

October 16<sup>th</sup> – Brett Haverstick from Friends of the Clearwater will give a presentation about the Wilderness Act (50<sup>th</sup> anniversary). The Wilderness Act has been described as Nature's Bill of Rights. There are numerous Wilderness areas in Washington and Idaho. In the changing political climate there are constant threats to the wilderness.

November 20<sup>th</sup> – Michael Largent (who was once a legislative aid) will come and talk to us about effective communication with our legislators.

If there is a subject you are passionate about or even just mildly interested in that you think would be good for a noon meeting contact Deb Olson 332-2114 or 595-0333 or [olsonbones@aol.com](mailto:olsonbones@aol.com)

## Voter Registration Day was September 23

Pullman League manned tables at several locations including a couple of coffee shops and Neill Library to provide information and forms for voter registration. There was a nice picture in the Daily News of Mary Collins and Deb Olsen who were on campus. I couldn't get that picture for the VOTER, but here is one of Shelley Jones and Anne Lewis at Thomas Hammer.



## Report on the Lentil Parade

Once again the League marched in the Lentil Parade led by Karen Barron on her Segway. Karen gave high-fives to the kids along the way and the marchers carried signs about women who were firsts in their fields. The weather was perfect and the crowd was enthusiastic so it was a fun event that gave League some visibility.

## Observer Corps Update Anne Lewis

Observer Corps is underway! Paul Spencer, as Director of the Board, is sending out the first Letters of Introduction. Soon after, Observers will begin attending the public meetings they selected.

I greatly appreciate your interest and commitment (8 people signed up for specific entities!) as we revitalize this important League activity. In equal measure, I appreciate your patience as we slowly roll out this program.

Many unfilled positions remain, so contact me at [anneglewis2@yahoo.com](mailto:anneglewis2@yahoo.com) if you have questions or are ready to join in the fun. The 2 positions I most want to fill are: Pullman School District Board (meet 2nd Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.) and Pullman City Council (I'm looking for another volunteer to share duties as the Council meets every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.).

## **Game Day Anne Lewis**

The September 10 Game Day was held at Susan and Paul's home. The game played was Dictionary but the highlight of the gathering was talking with June Crawford about her experiences in the Peace Corps in Gold Coast, Africa.

The next Game Day is Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, from 10-11:30 at Anne Lewis' house: 915 SE Skylark St. Come for games, conversation, laughter, and light snacks. Due to popular demand, the likely group game will be a variation of Dominoes. However, I recently discovered and purchased the board (dice) game Sharp Shooters, which is another possibility. If you haven't already, now is the time to give Game Day a try! Contact Anne Lewis, 509-334-1075; [anneglewis2@yahoo.com](mailto:anneglewis2@yahoo.com)

## **Pullman League Has a New Meeting Space Karen Kiessling**

The October meeting of the League of Women Voters is traditionally our voter information forum or forums. This year it is the same pattern, a forum in Colfax and a forum in Pullman. However, the forum in Pullman will take place in a new venue, the meeting room of Umpqua Bank, the former train depot that has been home to the WSU Information Center and most recently to Sterling Bank.

The local manager of Umpqua Bank, DJ Swindell, has welcomed the League and worked with us to acquire the necessary furniture, namely chairs, to be able to handle the members of the public who wish to attend our public meetings. The newly decorated room is large and handsome and the parking adjacent to the building is ample and is lighted at night.

Our first meeting in this new space is set for Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, and will be a candidate forum and a ballot issues debate. It is set for 7 - 9 pm and all Leaguers will want to arrive between 6:30 and 6:45 to welcome the public and to make sure the room is ready for the evening events. The candidates for the two contested races in the county will speak and the initiatives on the ballot will be debated.

I hope all Leaguers will make time to stop in at Umpqua Bank and thank Mr. Swindell for his generosity in making this public space a League meeting place as often as we wish to use it throughout this academic year. It is noteworthy that Umpqua Bank does not require the League to provide additional liability insurance in order to use the meeting room, the public restrooms there and the small kitchen for those meetings that will feature refreshments. We are fortunate indeed to have friendly and helpful bank personnel move into Pullman. Please make sure the bank personnel know the League appreciates them.

## **Meet our New Members**

Welcome to two new members. Janet sent them some questions which they have graciously answered so we can get to know them a little better.

**Donna Scott**

My husband Rich and I both got our undergraduate and masters degrees here at WSU. We lived in northern California for several years and then returned to Pullman. After a few years of volunteer work with the juvenile court system and when my kids got a little older, I returned to school and got my PhD in Counseling Psychology. I had a private practice here in Pullman for a number years, then about 3 years ago went back to work at WSU. I'm a psychologist at Counseling & Testing Services where I work 60% of the time for 10 months of the year. Just right to be able to enjoy my work and also do some other things I want to do like join LWV. Rich is the manager of the Biomedical Communications Unit (BCU) at the Vet School, where they make posters and do all kinds of other media-related work. He's done work for some League members in his shop!

Our son Kenn graduated from PHS in 1993 and got a degree in Hotel & Restaurant Administration from Cornell. After working in the hospitality industry in subsequent years, he decided to go to England for a year to obtain a master's in Sustainable Tourism. Now he is in his second year of teaching at a little institute in Zanzibar that trains locals for work in hotels and restaurants. Although he will return to the US next summer to work and replenish his coffers, we think he's hoping to ultimately return to Africa again in the future.

Our daughter Kristin graduated from Seattle Pacific University (PHS 1997), but met her husband James, a New Zealander, here in Pullman while he was working on his PhD. They live in Corvallis, OR, where James is a professor at OSU. Besides teaching and research, he does extension work with the OR wine industry. Kristin is thinking about the next steps for herself now that Noah—7 and Sophie—5 are both in school.

I've been curious about League of Women Voters for many years, but I think just busyness kept me from exploring my interest further. When I saw the information in the Pullman Community Update this summer, it seemed like the time might be right! I like the idea of gathering the facts and studying issues, as well as promoting informed participation in our political process. I think I'd like some time to decide how I'd like to be involved and what topics I'd most like the League to pursue!

**Tessa Scholl**

I have lived on the Palouse for about eleven years. I went to the University of Idaho for undergrad and law school. I work at Irwin, Myklebust, Savage & Brown as an associate attorney. I am married to Keith Scholl and I have a beautiful ten year old daughter named Athena. My husband is currently a second year law student and my daughter is about to start fifth grade.

I wanted to join the League for a couple of reasons. First, I think it is very important that people exercise their right to vote and I think that voters should be informed. Second, I like the fact that the League is non-partisan and only chooses a side of an issue after thoroughly researching the issue.

I am interested in participating in the poverty study as I find it very interesting. I am also interested in helping with the candidate forums when we hold them.

## **LWVWA Positions On Statewide 2014 Ballot Initiatives**

**LWVWA website [www.lwvwa.org](http://www.lwvwa.org)**

**Initiative 594** - The League of Women Voters of Washington **supports** this initiative. I-594 would apply currently used criminal and public safety background checks by licensed dealers to all firearm sales and transfers, including gun show and online sales, with specific exceptions.

**Initiative 591** - The League of Women Voters of Washington **opposes** this initiative. I-591 would prohibit government agencies from confiscating guns or other firearms from citizens without due process, or from requiring background checks on firearm recipients unless a uniform national standard is required.

**Initiative 1351** – The League of Women Voters of Washington **did not take a position** on this initiative. I-1351 would direct the legislature to allocate funds to reduce class sizes and increase staffing support for students in all K-12 grades, with additional class-size reductions and staffing increases in high-poverty schools.

For background on these positions go to [www.lwvwa.org](http://www.lwvwa.org), or click on this link: [Initiatives](#).

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