



VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PULLMAN WASHINGTON

www.lwvpullman.org

October 2015

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: Chair – Paul Spencer, 332-6699; League Voice – Karen Kiessling, 332-4755; Information Coordinator – Anne Lewis, 334-1075; **Secretary:** Alice Schroeder, 334-2470; Backup: Jackie Miyasaka, 332-1248; **Treasurer:** Joan Folwell, 332-3946; **Voter Service Chair:** Deb Olson, 332-2114; **Voter Editor:** Susan Daniels, 332-6699; **Finance Committee:** Lenna Harding, 332-7749, Shelley Jones, 432-3428; **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:** Anne Lewis, 334-1075. **Brown Bag Coordinator:** Deb Olson, 332-2114

Meetings and Events

Election Forum in Colfax

Date: Monday October 12, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
 Program: Candidates for Colfax Mayor and for State Representative for District 9
 Place: Colfax Library
 Contact: Deb Olson, 332-2114

Election Forum in Pullman

Date: Wednesday October 14, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
 Program: Initiatives and the two contested City Council seats
 Place: Umpqua Bank, 225 N. Grand Ave, Pullman
 Contact: Deb Olson, 332-2114

November Public Meeting

Dates: Monday November 2, 6:30-9:00 p.m.
 Program: Money in Politics & Constitutional Amendments
 Place: Umpqua Bank, 225 N. Grand Ave, Pullman
 Contact: Paul Spencer, 332-6699

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Poverty Study Meetings

Date: Second Tuesdays - October 13, November 10, 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: Fourth Wednesdays - October 28, December 2 (change due to holidays), 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Place: Daily Grind, back room

Chair: Paul Spencer, 332-6699

Brown Bags

Date: Third Thursdays Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Place: Community Congregational Church, Opal and Campus

Programs: October 15 – Water Usage and Conservation; November 19 – What's New at NPL

Social Event – Game Day

Date: Tuesday October 6, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Place: Home of Anne Lewis, 915 SE Skylark Ct.

Program: Conversation, food, and a game

Contact: Anne Lewis, 334-1075

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

October Candidate and Issue Forums

Deb Olson

The League is holding two Voter Forums this October:

Monday October 12 we will be in Colfax at the Whitman County Library From 7 to 9 p.m. for the candidates for mayor, Todd Vanek and Jeremiah Roberts, and the 9th Legislative District Candidates, Mary Dye and Richard Lathim.

Wednesday October 14 we will be at the Umqua Bank from 7 to 9 p.m. for the two contested Pullman City Council races: Council position 4 candidates Francis Benjamin and Ann Parks and Council position 6 candidates Eileen Macoll and Tony Poston and the two initiatives, [I-1366](#) and [I-1401](#) (speakers TBA).

For information on the ballot initiatives [see the articles](#) at the end of the VOTER.

As usual I am looking for volunteers to act as timers, sorters, and card collectors. Help setting up and taking down rooms is also very welcome. Also let me know if anybody wants to moderate (it's not that

bad a job). If you are interested in helping out contact Deb Olson olsonbones@aol.com or 332-2114. Come and ask the candidates questions.

November Meeting Money In Politics and Constitutional Amendments Paul Spencer

The November League meeting on *Money in Politics and Constitutional Amendments* will be held at Umpqua Bank on Monday, November 2. A social half hour with snacks starts at 6:30 p.m. followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m..

The purpose of this meeting is to prepare for our January meeting where we will attempt to reach consensus on two LUVUS studies. One is the update of the LWVUS position on campaign finance and First Amendment-political speech issues. The second is the National LWV study on amending the U.S. Constitution. (Making a constitutional amendment is one of the ways which might be used to remedy the effects of the Citizen's United and other court rulings which have allowed unlimited and anonymous contributions to election campaigns.)

The two LWVUS committees working on these issues have produced excellent documents explaining the pros and cons for both matters. For our November meeting we hope to have a small panel of experts to help us learn about the issues during a lively discussion with questions and answers. This should help us to be able to make good decisions when answering the consensus questions for both studies during the January meeting with good efficiency.

For those of you who want to learn more, the web sites for these two committees are:

<http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/our-work/money-politics-review>

<http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/our-work/constitutional-amendment-study>

Back to League Potluck Report Paul Spencer

The 2015-16 Back-to-League Potluck meeting was held at Ginger and Dean Glawe's home on September 14. Twenty-two members and guests attended the event. A meal of many delicious dishes was followed by several presentations:

Paul Spencer gave an overview of the League as an organization along with a little history of the Pullman League and a review of some of the projects and accomplishments which have resulted in improvements for Pullman. These included encouraging formation of a city planning commission, asking them to issue a newsletter and develop a long range city plan, advocating for updated zoning rules, city trails, improved library and Parks & Recreation funding, and for a public bus system.

Mary Collins, Libby Walker and Ginger Glawe made a lively presentation highlighting recent interviews with some of the providers of services for poverty families and individuals in the schools and medical offices.

Judy Stone and Dawn Baerlocher talked about their experiences as members of the Observer Corps. The advantages for both the League and the individual observers are the increased knowledge of what

is happening in our community, and the fact that the presence of members of the public at the meetings has a positive effect on the operation of the Board being observed.

Deborah Olson explained the operation of the Voter Forums which will be held this year on October 12 in Colfax for the Colfax Mayor candidates and 9th Dist. State Representatives, and on October 14 in Pullman for the City Council candidates and state initiatives.

Shelley Jones gave a brief explanation of the *Membership and Leadership Development Program* which uses volunteer mentors to help plan how to attract and retain new members and to encourage participation of members in League activities and planning.

Paul Spencer described his experiences participating in the state study about alternative energy sources and explained the steps to be taken after a study is complete. These are writing and distribution of consensus questions and the development of League positions using the results of the consensus process. These positions can then be used for education and lobbying.

Anne Lewis finished the presentation by talking about the fun and value of attending both State and National LWV Conventions.

We should have a lively and interesting 2105-16 League year!

2015 Lentil Festival Booth

Paul Spencer

The LWV Pullman table for the Lentil Festival was in operation on Friday August 21 from 5:00 - 10:00 p.m. Some preliminary effort was necessary to arrange the liability insurance required by the administration for the Festival. (The expense of this has prevented our participation for the past several years.) This year the State LWV League is able to co-sponsor local LWV Leagues so that the State League insurance can be used for individual events. Jennifer Brown, the new LWVWA administrator, helped us arrange this and sent the necessary Certificate of Insurance just in time for our Festival application to be accepted.

Deb Olson, Alice Schroeder, Karen Kiessling, Barbara Hammond, Anne Lewis, and I were on duty for an hour each with very good success. A number of voter registration forms were requested by visitors, and 14 people gave their contact information to be informed about future League meetings. Vote 411 information bookmarks and our League's Directory of Elected Officials brochures were both popular.

September Brown Bag Meeting a Success

Mary Collins

This year's Brown Bag series kicked off with a visit from all three of the County Commissioners who reported to the thirteen attendees on what is happening at the County level. Topics covered included the on-going issues with auditing the county's finances, the challenges of working within a system where revenue opportunities can't keep up with inflation, working out bugs in the new solid waste facilities and implementation of the Voluntary Stewardship Program that works with farmers to help meet requirements for the protection of critical areas. Of note was the report that the Parks Department is almost financially self sufficient.

Also discussed were changes coming about in the Cluster Opportunity Zone associated with the recently signed tax sharing agreement between the County and the City of Pullman. The agreement will reduce the total area designated as Cluster Opportunity but will reduce the impact of such developments on the future growth of Pullman.

Comments from community members included concerns about reductions in work being done by the Public Health Department, allowing firing ranges in Cluster Developments, the value of the proposed Pullman to Colfax rails to trails project, and concerns about what is happening to "prosperity" in Whitman County. To the last topic the Commissioners responded that more money is being spent on accountability and reporting to the State and Federal agencies who fund County projects leaving less money to spend directly on projects.

Mark Your Calendar for These Upcoming Brown Bags

Deb Olson

October 15: Kevin Gardes , City of Pullman Director of Public Works, will speak on water usage, conservation and xeriscaping.

November 19: Joanna Bailey from Neill Public Library will present *Check What's New at the Library*. Let's all support the library.

A Busy National Voter Registration Day

Deb Olson

National Voter Registration Day was Tuesday September 22. The League was available at two locations to register voters, Neill Public Library and WSU Cub (with sponsorship of the Center for Civic Engagement). Mary Collins manned the CUB table from 10 to 1:30. She had to close down early since she ran out of forms. We turned in 54 new voter registration forms from this venue. It was so successful we will be holding another event in the spring. Unfortunately, there were only three registrations from the Library. I would like to thank all my volunteers: Mary Collins, Zuma Lee Staba, Franci Bose, Austin Wilmerding and our very busy chair Paul Spencer.

Game Days

Anne Lewis

Last month, 4 stalwart game day attendees played the card game, Quiddler. If you have never attended a game day, please consider trying out this relaxed, fun, and enjoyable time with friends. The next Game Day is Tuesday, October 6, 10 -11:30 a.m. at Anne's home- 915 SE Skylark St. The game is yet to be revealed.

Observer Corps

Anne Lewis

Still a few (just a few!) details to work out re: the posting of Observer Corps reports. Stay tuned!

In the meantime, Observer Corps members June Crawford and Karen Barron are taking a much

deserved hiatus (temporary or permanent to be seen) from their assignments.

Thus, there is even more opportunity and options for all interested in joining the team. I am seeking volunteers for the following positions:

- Airport Board** – Last Wed. of the month, 3:30 p.m. Airport
- School Board** – 2nd Wed of month, 6:30 p.m. Pullman High School
- Parks & Recreation** – 2nd Wed. of month, 6:30 p.m., City Hall
- Solid Waste Advisory** – 3rd Wed, odd numbered months, 1:30 p.m., Colfax

Don't delay! Like Black Friday specials, some of these will be snapped up quickly!

This activity, which requires a limited time commitment and no prior experience, provides substantial benefits to our League, the community, and the individual. Please contact Anne Lewis at anneglewis2@yahoo.com with questions, suggestions, or the date you are available to join in!

The observer report for the August 5 meeting of the Pullman Regional Hospital Board of Commissioners is printed below. Judy Stone was the observer. There are several references to documents as an [attachment](#). If you are interested in reading any of those, contact [Anne Lewis](#) or [Judy Stone](#).

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: **Pullman Regional Hospital Board of Commissioners** Date: **08-05-2015**
 Observer Reporting: **Judy Stone** Length of meeting: **6 pm – 8:45 pm**
This was a massive meeting--in time and content!

Business pertaining to League program or topic of interest:

The body of this meeting was devoted to a presentation by Scott Adams, CEO – “Global Planning Overview”. There is so much information that I’m just going to report significant topics and then if you want more detail I’ll send it. Although it was a very long meeting, it was great to hear about and gain more understanding of the many programs this innovative and community-centered hospital has accomplished and has in their Community Health 2020 Plan.

At the national level:

*There is a Medicare-related program called *Accountable Care Organizations (several iterations)* that originated in 2005, intended to save the federal government \$ and be a cost-sharing/rewards program for providers. According to non-government assessments, they have been risk/reward failures, working well for only a very small % of the voluntary participants and the “*Medicare Advantage* market, which allows providers to keep 100% of the savings they generate and share them with beneficiaries in the form of lower out-of-pocket expenses” is what should be further developed.

*A mandatory Medicare alternative payment model for hospitals will begin implementation

01/01/2016/17. As an alternative to traditional fee-for-service reimbursement, payments will be bundled to cover all services related to hip and knee joint replacement surgeries (the first targeted service) from admission through 90 days. This will require hospitals to coordinate care and manage costs across surgery teams, primary care, rehab and skilled nursing, home care, and PT. The WA State Health Care Authority will initiate bundled payments for total hip and knee replacements beginning 1/1/17. PRH is preparing for this.

At the state level:

*WA State Health Care Authority has published a five year “State Health Care Innovation Plan” that recommends three core strategies and is estimated to save \$730 million. www.hca.wa.gov/shcip

- 1) Improve how we pay for services by rewarding those providers achieving good outcomes.
- 2) Ensure health care focuses on the whole person by integrating care and connecting with community services.
- 3) Build healthier communities through a collaborative regional approach, driven by local partners.

It is mentioned in this plan that “Washington is among the leading states for successful implementation of the Affordable Care Act; cutting the rate of its uninsured population in half. This success has been driven in large part by the expansion of Apple Health (Medicaid) which covers an additional 550,000 newly eligible adults, most of whom previously lacked health insurance.” It also states that “Washington is 2nd in the nation in providing quality long-term care to seniors and people with disabilities..”

At the local level:

*Strategic Framework at Pullman Regional Hospital – **Attachment**, 1 page

*Overview of the Endowment for Quality and Access – **Attachment**, 1 page

*Medical Education –

Rural Training Track – A 3-year Graduate Medical Education Residency **proposal** submitted to PRH; to be embedded at Palouse Medical; hosted by Spokane Family Medicine Residency Program.

Undergraduate programs that already exist on the Palouse:

- ◆ UW WWAMI training
- ◆ TRUST (Targeting Rural and Underserved Track) site in Pullman and Moscow. Pullman welcomed its first medical student from the UW School of Medicine Underserved Pathway, to the “First Summer Experience”, a one-week program, in July. This program introduces brand-new medical students to rural health need, care, and delivery.
- ◆ WRITE (WWAMI Rural Integrated Training Experience) site in Pullman.
- ◆ Internal Medicine clerkship in Pullman.

*Whitman County Health Network – Established May, 2015 – **Attachment**, *Memorandum of Agreement between Whitman County Health Network and Member Organizations*, 3 pages

*Orthopaedic Centers of Excellence – A Joint Commitment between Inland Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine and PRH. There are currently 3 orthopedic doctors and 2 more will be recruited over the next 2-3 years.

*Pediatric Center of Excellence – A Joint Commitment between Palouse Pediatrics and PRH. Will eventually become part of the Women’s and Children’s Center.

*Planned:

**The Center for Learning and Innovation – A Wellness Model versus an Illness Model.

Intended to explore alternative models of care delivery and payment for care that give more attention to prevention of illness and support each individual’s desire to achieve and maintain optimal fitness and wellness in his/her life. Three strategies:

- 1) Furnish every community member with a personal, electronic health record.
- 2) Supply every community member with access to a health coach.
- 3) Provide access to life care services regardless of distance, through telemedicine and other technologies.

Interviewing for the Director of this Center will occur in August.

**The Center for Women and Children’s Health – Intended to implement new care delivery models that coordinate and facilitate services related to women and children “under one roof”.

Three phases over several years.

**Telemedicine Projects

Emergency Stroke Care – in place

Speech therapy with Whitman County Schools – USDA Grant

Pediatric consultation for Pullman Schools

Mental Health – with InSight Telepsychiatry

Garfield Clinic – developed by CAC, Free Clinic, Palouse Medical

Observations about the participants, conduct, procedures, subjects of discussion, etc. of the meeting:

There appears to be multi-department involvement and interest in every project/program. This hospital includes Whitman and Gritman Hospitals in the planning of some programs, especially those involving bringing physicians into the region. Sometimes either of the other two hospitals will be interested and the collaboration works, but PRH is very protective of their priorities and commitment to excellence which has apparently been a deal-breaker with Gritman at times. People voted to stay until CEO Adams’ presentation was completed!

New League Position! Book Club Leader

Our state League has launched a “Common Book” this year. The first book is *The Secret History of Wonder Woman* by Jill Lepore. Several board members have expressed interest in participating, but are reluctant to add another responsibility (albeit a fun one) to their plate. Primary “duty” is deciding (via vote, consensus, edict, etc) the initial where, when, and focus. Please let a board member know of your interest.



Reporters Wanted!

Susan Daniels

Have you ever dreamed of being a reporter? Do you like to write? The VOTER is looking for you. You may have noticed that the VOTER articles are written by the same few dedicated members every issue. We would like to expand the number of members reporting on events and writing on topics of interest to the League.

Currently, the person who takes on the responsibility of putting together a meeting has also been responsible for writing up the report after the meeting is held. It is a lot of work organizing and presenting a meeting and it would not only be helpful to have the report writing done by someone else, but also interesting to get another viewpoint.

Please consider being the reporter for a meeting that you attend. I will try asking for a volunteer at the start of the meetings and see if I get any takers. If you have any ideas on how to increase the number contributors, let me know. susan-daniels@pullman.com

Chamber Lunch Assignments

October 13 - Karen Kiessling

November 10 -- Libby Walker

December - date to be announced - Karen, Deb, Libby

January 12 - Anne Lewis

February 9 - Deb Olson

March 8 - Alice Schroeder

April 12 -

May 10 – Lucy Linden

Ballot Initiative I-1366

LWVWA

Washington State League **opposes** I-1366.

Initiative 1366 must be defeated! This Initiative would reduce Washington State’s sales tax to 5.5% from 6.5% unless a constitutional amendment requiring a 2/3 vote of the legislature to enact any state tax increase (instead of the simple majority of 50% plus one) is passed. **This is blackmail and bad policy.**

The League of Women Voters of WA Board voted to oppose I-1366, and we ask that League members step up and help defeat this terrible plan. LWVWA has two positions which are fundamental in this opposition to Initiative 1366:

- One is from the position on Education (see [Program in Action](#), page 12), which says, “Obtain a balanced tax structure and maintain uniform assessment practices to ensure equitable and sufficient financing.”
- The other is the position on State Tax Policy, (see [Program in Action](#), page 19), which says, “Obtain a balanced tax structure that is fair, adequate, flexible and has a sound economic effect.”

Tim Eyman, the initiative sponsor, says, “I-1366 is essential; without the 2/3 majority vote,

Olympia consistently raises taxes (\$17.5 billion in tax hikes this year alone)". However, he neglects to explain that \$16 billion of that was an increase [small] in the gas tax, which we don't even notice, to finance a badly needed 16-year transportation revenue package and improvement plan for necessary transportation projects. Very little new revenue was generated to assist the General Fund, which finances most of government's services, including education, parks, health care, social services, etc.

Eyman's previous initiatives have hurt state and local governments. They have caused revenue to lag far behind inflation and have removed funding for needed programs. And now there is the McCleary decision by the Supreme Court, which requires that the State generate several billion more dollars to amply fund education. This is on top of serious declines in revenue from the 2008 recession, from which the state is just beginning to emerge.

The Legislature was established as a deliberative body in which policy and funding decisions would be negotiated in the best interests of the public at large. A simple majority is hard to achieve when funds are scarce and so many programs are needed. To require a 2/3 vote would prevent most decisions from being feasible and stop progress in Washington State.

I-1366 would be contrary to League positions and would seriously undermine the efficacy of Washington State's public services. Please act today and until the November election to defeat this Initiative.

Ballot Initiative I-1401

LWVWA does **not** have a position on this initiative. The text for the ballot summary is:

"This measure would prohibit sale, purchase, trading, or distribution of elephant, rhinoceros, tiger, lion, leopard, cheetah, pangolin, marine turtle, shark, or ray species listed as endangered or vulnerable in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species or the International Union for Conservation of Nature's red list, including items made from listed species. Violations would be a gross misdemeanor or class-C felony. It would exempt certain distributions, including musical instruments and transfers for educational purposes."

There is more information on Washington ballot initiatives at the website:

http://ballotpedia.org/Washington_2015_ballot_measures