

VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PULLMAN

August 2009

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

Chair of the Board: Sue Armitage, 332-4279; **Vice President:** Alice Schroeder, 334-2470; **Secretary:** Fran Law, 334-3002, Backup: Deb Olson, 332-2114; **Treasurer:** Joan Folwell, 332-3946; **Voter Service:** Karen Kiessling, 332-4755; **Voter Editor:** Susan Daniels, 332-6699; **Finance Drive Chair:** Lenna Harding, 332-7749; **Membership/Hospitality:** Judy Krueger, 332-8208; **Observer Corps Chair:** Lucy Linden, 332-2755; **Action Chair:** June Crawford, 332-7186; **TRY Editor:** Lucy Linden, 332-2755.

Meetings

Back To League Potluck

Date: Monday September 14, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Potluck 6:00-7:00 p.m.; Program 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Program: Meet with District 9 Representative Don Cox

Place: Hecht Room, Neill Public Library

Hostess: Joan Folwell

General Election Forum

Date: Monday October 5, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Program: Forum on candidates and issues.

Place: City Council Chambers

Chair: Karen Kiessling

Board Meetings

Mondays August 24, September 28

Time: 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Place: Home of Natalie Clark, 220 SW Mountain View Dr.

Other Events of Interest

Lentil Festival Table

Date: August 21, 5-10 p.m.

Program: Answer questions and hand out information

Place: LWV table
 Chair: Susan Daniels, 332-6699

Lentil Festival Parade

Date: August 22, 11:00 a.m.
 Program: March in the parade and hand out information
 Place: Pullman, WA
 Chairs: Diane Smerdon, 334-5413 and Karen Kiessling, 332-4755

Planning Meeting Results

Another Planning Meeting with salad luncheon was held at the home of Ruth Brown. Twelve members and one potential member attended and enjoyed the beautiful outdoor setting. From the list of potential programs, those attending agreed on the following as our tentative program for the coming year.

Date Time	Program (Committee)	Place (Hostess)
Mon. Sept. 14 6:00-9:00 p.m.	Back to League Potluck with District 9 Representative Don Cox (Lucy Linden)	Hecht Room (Joan Folwell)
Mon. Oct. 5 7:00-9:00 p.m.,	General Election Candidates Forum (K. Kiessling & comm.)	City Council Chambers
October	Field trip(s) to Pullman, Whitman County, Moscow, & Lewiston recycling centers. (Paul Spencer, Deb Olson, Dorothy Swanson)	To be announced
Mon. Nov. 2 7:00-9:00pm	Recycling Public Meeting (Paul Spencer, Deb Olson, Dorothy Swanson)	Hecht Room or City Council Chamb
Mon. Dec. 7 7:00-9:00pm	Port District Commissioners & Christmas Dessert	Hecht Room (Dorothy Swanson)
Mon. Jan. 11 7:00-9:00pm	The 2010 Census—Don Dillman, Nick Lovrich (Diane Smerdon)	Hecht Room
March	Co-sponsor Women's History Month Speaker (Sue Armitage, with WSU Depts. of History & Women's Studies)	To be announced

Date Time	Program (Committee)	Place (Hostess)
Mon. April 5 7:00-9:00pm	Health Care (Lucy Linden and Committee)	Hecht Room
Mon. May 3 6:00-9:00pm	Annual Meeting catered dinner. Business includes update on voluntary Pre-dev. Meetings by Pete Dickinson	Hecht Room
Fri. June 11, 6:00 pm—Sun. June 13, noon	Host LWVWA Biennial Council Meeting (Sue Armitage, A. Schroeder, J. Folwell, D. Smerdon, D. Olson)	To be announced

Sashes Flash at Johnson 4th of July Parade!



Eight Leaguers were part of the fun of the Johnson Parade on the morning of the 4th of July. Karen Barron suffered a Segway breakdown so the kids missed the fun of her cavorting on it but she and seven other League members handed out bright orange sheets of paper listing the time and place of two primary forums. We gave away all we had and got our usual greetings and thanks for the work League does. The walkers this year included Sue Armitage's daughter E.V., visiting her folks for the holiday. Thank you E.V. for joining us. We loved having you.

Back row: Alice, Fran, Dorothy, Lucy, Karen K., E.V.;
Front row: Karen B., Sue

Come March in the Lentil Festival Parade

Diane Smerdon and Karen Kiessling

August 22 is the Lentil Festival Grand Parade. We're hoping to have a strong contingent of League members walking. The Parade offers our League many opportunities. It will give us visibility, allow us to hand out forum information and also invitations to join the League.

Since the Johnson Parade the Pullman League has received a second Civics Education Grant for the creation of seven more sashes giving us a total of twelve and we will wear them in the Lentil Festival Parade on Saturday, August 22nd. We have decided to walk the parade route before the

parade begins, handing out our voter forum information to the people waiting for the parade to start. They then have the time to read the information (we plan to put some League publicity on the the flip side of the sheet) and we hope they will give more thought to what we are sharing than would be the case as the parade moves past.

League walkers will then walk together in the parade led by Karen Barron on her Segway dressed as a suffragette, wearing a sash saying, "You've come a long way, baby!" followed by Paul Spencer and Dick Law carrying our banner. The rest of the marchers will follow wearing the sashes and carrying a series of placards Diane Smerdon is making with "Firsts" for women and the dates, i.e., "First woman doctor 1849", "First woman elected to congress, 1914", etc. She will have placards for 10 walkers. So we will indeed be a splendid bunch. Now all we need for success is a great turnout of League members who will walk.

Please call Karen Kiessling, 332-4755 or Diane Smerdon, 334-5413 (or mdsmerdon@roadrunner.com) to let us know you will walk the parade route on Saturday, August 22nd. I know you will enjoy it. Diane will be contacting those of you who will be walking about time and place to meet--the Parade starts at 11:00 a.m.

Lentil Festival Friday Night Fair Table

The League is setting up a table at the Friday Night Fair again this year. It is a great way to publicize Pullman League and distribute information. If you would like to sit behind our table and watch the people, answer questions, distribute voter registration forms, visit with friends old and new, and haven't already signed up, then sign up for an hour from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. by calling Susan Daniels at 332-6699 or email susan-daniels@pullman.com

Back to League Potluck

Monday, September 14, 6:00-9:00 at the Hecht Room, Neill Public Library
Welcome to old and new members.

Karen Kiessling

Don Cox, our retiring District 9 representative, has agreed to join us at our Back To League Potluck. Some of the things he may talk about are the legislative process, what his priorities are even as a retiring legislator, how to create and maintain a climate of cooperation between parties and how individual actions can be tracked and reported when one is far from Olympia. He might be an excellent instructor in how Pullman League members can be more successful in contacting and influencing our legislators than we have been heretofore.

For the first time, we are holding this annual potluck/kickoff to the year's League activities at Neill Public Library. Just as League participation in the Johnson and Lentil Festival parades increases our visibility, so does holding our monthly meetings in a public location. Publicity can help increase our membership, but nothing is as effective as word of mouth. Do your best to actively recruit a friend or acquaintance to attend this potluck with you. If each of us does that, our pool of potential members will dramatically increase. There is an advertising slogan lurking

in my brain, something like “Come one and bring one.” Or how about “Bring your own b(est possibility for League membership)?” In any case, do bring a dish (a main dish, or salad, or dessert), and possibly a friend, to the September potluck at the public library.

General Election Forum

Monday, October 5, 7-9 p.m. at City Hall

Karen Kiessling

The Pullman League of Women Voters and the Pullman Chamber of Commerce will again partner to present a forum for candidates in contested elections. There are two races locally: Ward 1, Position 7, is a contest between incumbent Bill Paul and challenger Jeff Williams. Ward 3, Position 5 pits two newcomers, Dave Gibney and Jeff Hawbaker. Also the top two vote getters in the primary election for the legislative seat held by Don Cox will be asking for voters to support them that night as well.

Because there are few contests this year we plan to cover the ballot issues in the same night. The final number of ballot items is not yet decided but it appears to be at least two. We will be searching for *pro* and *con* speakers on those issues. If you or someone you know wishes to debate the merits of one of the issues, please let the voter service committee know.

Tammy Lewis, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce, will be moderating that forum and we will videotape and replay on Channel 11 at that time as well. The Pullman League would like to be able to video-stream our tapes on our website and will be working with Claudia in the state office to see if that will be possible. It would be a great service to the community as most have computers and not all have cable service. Alice Schroeder is working to achieve that goal. Thank you, Alice.

As always, we need our Leaguers to help out at the forums by timing, by greeting, by distributing cards and collecting questions, by sorting and by clearing out leftover information. Our nonpartisan and civil chairing of these forums is a vital and much appreciated service -- and it furthers our goal of insisting on free and fair elections always.

Report on the 2009 AG Bio Tour

Janet Miller

The Ag Bio experience was delightful. The tour first stopped at the McIntosh Angus Ranch north of Pullman. This impressive cattle operation was the focus of a holistic management model where cattle were moved throughout multiple pastures on a 5 -8 day rotation. This produced healthier cattle and grass in addition to minimizing soil erosion, fuel expenditure, and soil depletion. Other benefits included cooler stream temperatures, improved water quality, return of native grasses, and diversity of plants and wildlife.

Our next stop was at Maple K Farms with a Scottish Highland cattle operation. Situated along the creek just upstream from Colfax, a nutrient management berm, fencing, and trees and brush

protect the water quality. A windmill pumps spring water for cattle consumption. All the animals are organically grown and include show cattle, breeding stock, and beef business.

On the extreme western edge of Whitman county we visited McGregor Farms. Here we learned about dry land range management and the restoration of native grasses after invasive species dominance for decades. Following a stop at the museum (formerly the general store) in Hooper, we visited WSU pilot experimental plots in Adams County. Dry land crops such as winter wheat, canola, milo, millet, chick peas, and grasses and foliage plants are tested and evaluated for local use.

Two tour highlights were lunch at Maple K Farms and a BBQ at the Palouse Empire Fairgrounds sponsored by area beef growers.

Hats off to Ag Extension agent Steve Van Fleet and his crew for arranging this informative and fun excursion.

Dues Due in September

In early September you will receive a letter reminder and return envelope for 2009-2010 Pullman League of Women Voters membership fees.

The rates are:

- 1) \$60.00 for individual membership,
- 2) \$85.00 for family/household membership or,
- 3) \$25.00 for student membership.

Please fill out the information at the bottom of the reminder sheet for an update of our membership list. Checks should be made out to Pullman League of Women Voters.

Thanks!

Judy Krueger, Membership Chair

Observer Report Briefs

Pullman Regional Hospital Board, April 1, 2009

Observer: Helen Stiller

The hospital is acutely aware of the financial challenges facing our community as well as the Hospital. In early February the hospital mailed a letter to each employee offering assurances about the hospital and reinforcing the commitment to the staff.

“The employment security of the staff at PRH is an essential part in the ultimate care and well-being of the patients we serve. In light of this, we establish an expectation that each of us commit to plan, lead, and manage the affairs of Pullman Regional Hospital to assure that no employee loses employment due to layoffs.”

“For this commitment to remain a reality requires that we devote necessary time and attention to identifying and implementing plans and activities that can restore and strengthen our financial

performance.” The hospital plans to organize employee groups to brainstorm opportunities for cost reduction and efficiency.”

At this meeting the Board agreed to abide by the law that was established with the passage of Initiative 1000—Assisted Suicide—provided that all requirements of the law are fulfilled. The hospital already recognizes the commitment to patient choice and flexibility in directing their personal care options: Do Not Resuscitate orders, Living Wills, and Advanced Directives.

Dr. Duffy is continuing to work toward recruiting physicians. There are several family practice candidates who have been presented to Pullman Family Med, as well as Palouse Med., for consideration. No final decisions have been made. The most challenging activity of physician recruitment is “the Internist”. Inland Orthopedics is also hoping to add another orthopedist.

Pullman Arts Commission, June 11, 2009

Observer: Diane Smerdon

A good portion of the meeting was occupied by Rod Schwartz, chairman of the Pavilion Committee. He showed a diorama of the proposed Sunnyside Park Pavilion, and it is quite an ambitious and noteworthy project. Members of the Committee (in addition to Rod) are: Mark Workman, Public Works; Heidi Jarvis, past Exec. Dir. of the WA/ID Symphony; MarySue Itani, Citizen at Large; Gerald Berthiaume, Dir. WSU School of Music; Kathleen Bodley, Pullman Civic Trust; Alan Davis, Parks & Rec.; Kevin Gardos, Public Works; and Kurt Dahman, Park & Rec. I think this roster makes this project believable. The city has already directed \$125,000 to the architecture firm that drew up the plans. Rod is confident they will find a \$3 million donor to get the project started--the project would bear his/her name. Total project will cost \$5.5 million. The Pavilion will be at Sunnyside Park and a good portion of the funds will go to relocating the ball field. The spectator part of the project is incorporated into the natural hillside and they feel concerts might entertain up to 10,000 people!! In addition to the Pavilion, they will have a green room, building shop and teaching classroom adjacent to the Pavilion. The only thing holding up the fundraising is establishing a 501(c)3 account. Kathleen Bodley offered to have Pullman Civic Trust accept initial donations until this problem is solved. The Inland NW Comm.Fdn. is willing to set up an account, but they would keep any interest. Mike Yates (owner of Prune Orchard and Market Apts.) pointed out that the money would probably pass through quite quickly anyway. The City Attorney, Peter May, is working on the logistics of setting up a 501(c)3 because the City of Pullman wants to remain an integral part of the project.

Mike Yates noted that Cooky's is being bought out by the chef from Cafe Nectar in Moscow. It will be nice to have another quality restaurant in town. Mike is also working with a music organizer from Moscow to set up a Music Festival in Pullman in September. Guests will wear wristbands (\$75) and the three-day event will feature about 25 bands in various downtown locations.

The Committee is working on a New Entry to Pullman and setting Policies and Procedures for art acquisitions and fundraisers for the Commission.

Banners designed by middle schoolers are mounted on city streets. They will bring visibility to the Pullman Arts Commission.

Neill Public Library Board meeting, June 17, 2009

Observer: Diane Gillespie

Of immediate interest to LWV members:

- 1) Jim Belcher (Adult Services Librarian) and Melissa Layton (Information staff) are both leaving NPL. During the next few months, patrons should be especially supportive and encouraging to the severely stretched staff remaining.
- 2) With these departures, NPL must look for volunteers to help with the outreach program for the homebound. During the summer NPL had planned to go to Pioneer Square on the first Monday of each month, to Bishop Place on the second Monday of each month, and to Avalon on the third Monday of the month. All visits occur at 1:30 p.m. The library delivers materials requested by phone or takes a selection of materials from which residents may choose. Having two people visit each site for 20-60 minutes is the goal. Anyone interested in helping out should call NPL and ask for Beth Davidson.
- 3) The furnishing of the Shirrod addition is 95% complete; the patio project will continue to happen in stages.
- 4) NPL is one of three departments currently part of an audit of city operations; a report is due later in the summer.

Neill Public Library Board meeting, July 15, 2009

Observer: Diane Gillespie

- 1) Karen Sires, Human Resources manager for the city of Pullman, reported on the labor contract agreement reached with the Teamsters who represent, among others, regular library employees. Given the economic situation, a cost of living increase of 2%, and several areas of non-agreement, a contract was signed for only one year rather than three.
- 2) Interviews have concluded for the part-time reference position and the position has been filled.
- 3) Applications for the Adult Services Librarian position (to replace Jim Belcher) will be reviewed for the first time at the end of July and the search continued if necessary.
- 4) Circulation in June 2009 increased 32% over May 2009 and 10% for the year so far. The job of checking in and re-shelving sometimes has involved 4000 items in a single day. Use of the library continues to increase.
- 5) Summer reading sign-ups exceed 1,205 children and attendance is high at the special programs and events.

10 Ways to Reduce Waste When You Shop

Brochure from Whitman County Waste Reduction & Recycling

Most products and packaging not only use up limited natural resources, they also take up landfill space when tossed out. So shopping smart to reduce waste, you'll conserve resources and turn an ordinary shopping cart into an environmental protection device.

1. **Think Ahead** -- Thinking ahead before you shop is one of the best ways to reduce waste. Start by making a list and following it as if your earth's life depends on it!

When you use a list you won't buy products you don't need. In fact, ask yourself, "Do I really need it?" If not, then don't buy it. Unneeded products just end up in garbage. Another tip: don't go empty handed. Take durable shopping bags as you need. Keep your bags in the car in case you need them.

2. **Buy Durables & Avoid Disposables** -- Say NO to disposables.....they are only convenient for a short time; they soon take up ever shrinking landfill space and precious resources. Try to avoid throwaways. Instead of paper towels and coffee filters, stick to durable cloth towels and coffee filters; while you're at it, switch to reusable lunch boxes, thermos bottles, and closable sandwich containers instead of sandwich bags.
3. **Avoid Excess Packaging** -- Look for products that have less packaging, or buy in bulk -- you'll have less to throw away. You can also buy items with packaging that can be reused or recycled Fresh fruit is great! It comes in its own packaging.
4. **Buy Recycled Products** -- Nothing recyclable is really conserved until it's been used once, recycled and then used again. So to close the loop, buy recycled products and products with recycled packaging. Look for the recycled symbol when you shop. You'll also find paper products, including toilet paper and note cards, in many stores. Give earth's resources a second chance!
5. **Buy Recyclable Products** -- Before you shop....find out what can be recycled in your area, then choose that kind of packaging and recycle it. In Whitman County we can recycle glass, tin, aluminum, newspapers and cardboard.
6. **Shop to Reduce Toxic Waste** -- Before you purchase any household hazardous chemical product -- that's anything with a caution, warning, poison or danger label -- ask yourself if you really need it. After all, there's probably a safer and cheaper way to do the job that won't hurt the earth. But if you need a toxic product, only buy what you need to get the job done.
7. **Buy Concentrated** -- Always buy the largest size you can use since it likely has the least packaging. A good example is yogurt. A gallon yogurt container leaves you with a lot less trash than 16 single serving yogurt cups and lids. When you have a choice between different forms of the same product, choose the form with the least packaging. Juice is a good example. A two quart frozen concentrate container has much less packaging than 8 single serving juice boxes.
8. **Switch to Package-Free Foods** -- Most fresh produce and bulk-bin foods have absolutely no packaging. It's good food, good for you, good for the environment and costs less than packaged food. Do more! Bring your own containers from home!

9. **Help Kids Become Waste Busters** -- Teach kids how they can help reduce waste and they'll get into smart shopping habits that will last a lifetime. School lunches are a great place to start. You can help kids learn to avoid the single-serving trap: mini puddings, mini applesauces, and juice boxes. Instead, aim for sandwiches, chips, drinks and desserts in re-useable containers. Above all teach kids to care about the earth.
10. **Encourage Your Grocer to Help** -- Your grocer can help make smart shopping easier. Ask him to do the following:
 - Stock durable bags and offer rebates
 - Offer environment-safe product alternatives
 - Stock recycled products & packaging
 - STOP prepackaging produce
 - Identify items good for the environment
 - Provide space for information for Green Choices.

Useful Pullman League Numbers

Yahoo Mailbox: lwvpull@yahoo.com, password palouse

Online VOTER: www.lwvwa.org, Local Leagues, Pullman