

VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PULLMAN

December 2010

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; **Secretary:** Deb Olson, 332-2114, Backup: Fran Law, 334-3002; **Treasurer:** Joan Folwell, 332-3946; **Voter Service Chair:** Diane Smerdon, 334-5413 332-4755; **Voter Editor:** Susan Daniels, 332-6699; **Finance Drive Chair:** Lenna Harding, 332-7749; **Membership Chair:** Elinor McCloskey, 334-3242; **Hospitality Chair:** Barbara Hammond, 332-4104; **Observer Corps Chair** and **TRY Editor:** Lucy Linden, 332-2755.

Meetings

Social Media Public Forum

Date: Monday December 6, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Program: Speakers and a panel will discuss the potential of using public media.

Place: Gladish View Room

Co-chairs: Janet Kendall, 332-4268 and Murial Oaks, 332-6986

State and Local Planning

Date: Monday January 11, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Program: Consider League positions and future studies.

Place: Neill Public Library, Hecht Room

Chair: Alice Schroeder, 334-2470

Board Meeting

Monday December 13

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

Place: Home of Karen Kiessling, 510 SE Crestview.

December 6 – Social Media Public Meeting

Shelley Jones

Social Media for Non-Profits and Small Businesses

For December, we have an exciting Forum planned: **Social Media for Non-Profits & Small Businesses**. League members are encouraged to attend to learn more about the possibilities, benefits, and pitfalls of social media as it pertains to our Pullman League and other organizations you are involved with. This event will be held at the Gladish View Room – we are hoping for a good attendance. We have sent out approximately 160 invitations to various local organizations. Brett Atwood, Communications Professor at WSU, will speak about the origins of social media; Barbara Chamberlain, Director of Communications & Public Affairs for WSU Spokane, will speak on social media policy; and Lorena O’English, Social Science Reference Librarian, will speak about tools for social media. There will also be a panel of members of local organizations that have implemented social media into their marketing campaigns. The panel will give examples and we will have ample time for discussion and questions from the audience. Come to learn more about the potential of Social Media!

Social Media for Non-Profits and Small Businesses

Monday, December 6, 2010, 7-9 PM

Gladish View Room

January 11 – State and Local Planning Meeting

Alice Schroeder

Each year we set aside one meeting to consider League positions and future studies. This year we will use the January meeting to look at State and Local issues. Our suggestions will be considered by the state board and discussed at next May’s State convention. We will be able to adopt program suggestions for local issues at the Annual Meeting in May and put them into action at our July planning meeting. Since we have exhaustively reviewed the State and Local positions two years ago, this year we will break into groups to examine some of the positions and brainstorm on the need for studies or updated positions. Then we will come back together to finalize our ideas for LWVWA and to present at the Annual Meeting. Later in this VOTER you will find our local positions and the WA state positions.

Pullman LWV Hosts Successful Forums

Karen Kiessling

The League of Women Voters of Pullman sponsored two candidate forums and ballot issue debates in October which were well attended and appreciated by those participating and those watching and listening. The Pullman League had several co-sponsors this year and the excellent help of the members of the League to run those events. We also enjoyed several firsts in voter service forums. This was the first time that we broadcast live both forums on radio. Station KCLX, 1450 am, broadcast both forums without

interruption. At the Colfax forum the League's partners were the Whitman County Library, venue for the event, as well as the Whitman County Gazette newspaper, the Moscow Pullman Daily News and the Pullman Chamber of Commerce. The second forum and debate was held in the council chambers of the Pullman City Hall on the following night. The nine ballot issues were divided between the two evenings and the contested races for the state legislature and the county auditor position had full participation by the candidates at both evenings.

Another first for these forums is that they were videotaped and rebroadcast through the website of the Whitman County Library. Any person in Whitman County could use a computer to see and hear the forum by entering the library website and pulling up the tape. We hope that by next fall we will have the Pullman League website able to handle this service for the public. It was an excellent enhancement to our public service and we thank Paul Spencer who videotaped the Colfax forum and made sure the tape was available on the library website.

Sue Armitage Honored

At the women's history conference, *Game Changers and History Makers: Women in Pacific Northwest History* held in Spokane on November 3 - 5, Sue Armitage received a Proclamation from the State of Washington signed by Governor Gregoire. Congratulations Sue on this well deserved recognition of your many contributions.

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Sue Armitage, Professor of History and Women's Studies, Emerita, Washington State University, has been a pivotal figure in women's history and study in the Northwest; and

WHEREAS, Sue is a pioneer in western women's history -- authoring and editing numerous publications, serving as project director for the first *Women's West* conference and the eastern portion of the Washington Women's Heritage project, and receiving several awards for work in advancing women's issues; and

WHEREAS, Sue drew graduate students from across the United States to Pullman, and as a result of her tutelage, guidance, and mentoring, many of her students have become authorities in the field of western women's history; and

WHEREAS, Sue was appointed to the Women's History Consortium Advisory Committee at its inception in 2006, and has been a vital part of guiding the work of the Consortium and the 2010 Washington Women's Suffrage Centennial Commemoration; and

WHEREAS, on November 4, 2010, the Pacific Northwest History Conference, *Game Changes and History Makers: Women in Pacific Northwest History*, will recognize Sue for her longtime contributions to women's history in Washington State and the Northwest;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby honor Sue Armitage for her achievements and leadership in the field of women's history.

Signed this 19th day of October, 2010
Governor Christine O. Gregoire

Kay Buss Honored at her 100th Birthday Party

On November 20, at the birthday party celebrating her 100th year, Alice Schroeder presented the following Proclamation from the Washington State League to Kay Buss in honor of her years of service in the Pullman League of Women Voters.

PROCLAMATION

Whereas Kay Buss is not only a founding member of the League of Women Voters of Pullman, but also was the vice president in that founding board, and

Whereas Kay Buss has remained an active member of the League of Women Voters of Pullman for the succeeding 60 years of the League's life in Pullman, and

Whereas Kay Bus has enthusiastically helped found the League of Women Voters of Washington deferred giving program whereby league members put the state League in their wills, and

Whereas Kay Buss not only let her name and story be used to promote the bequest program for the state League but also made a bequest to the state League in her own will, and

Whereas Kay Buss has reached her 100th birthday with a sound mind, a sharp intelligence and a ready humor,

Now, Therefore, I, Linnea Hirst, President of the League of Women Voters of the State of Washington, do hereby declare that the 2000 members of the state League send birthday greetings and congratulations to Kay Buss on this joyous occasion.

Signed, this 20th day of November, 2010
Linnea Hirst, President, League of Women Voters of Washington

East Side Action Workshop Report

Alice Schroeder

Six thirty am Saturday morning, October 23, found Shelley Jones, Susan Daniels and Alice Schroeder on their way to the Lampson building in Kennewick for the annual Eastside Action Workshop. Thank you Shelley for driving. This workshop is given each fall in the Tri Cities and on the West Side to help LWV members be aware of upcoming legislation. To our surprise Susan and Alice remembered correctly how to get to the hidden Lampson building and we were there in plenty of time to register and enjoy bagels, donuts, coffee and juice before the session began at 9:30.

After a brief introduction by Washington State League of Women Voters President, Linnea Hirst, the first speaker, Rep. Larry Haler-R, Benton-Franklin counties, spoke. Like all the speakers he emphasized that the budget will be the main concern. Rep. Haler is particularly concerned about education. The state now has two budgets, Capitol Improvements and Operations. To make spending and funding choices clearer, Rep. Haler is proposing four budgets, following priorities set in the constitution: Education, Transportation, Operations and Capitol Improvements. He is also proposing an amendment that would require that the state budget be presented to legislators and the public at least 7 working days preceding any vote as a means to stop the games that both parties have been playing. He was followed by Tim Roach a Tri-Cities immigration lawyer. He spoke with passion and humor about the immigration problem and spoke against state laws such as the Arizona law. He encouraged League to fight legislation that would refuse instate tuition to undocumented students who have finished high school in Washington and legislation that would deny drivers licenses to illegal immigrants. When students can't increase job skills we lose skilled workers, and when people are driving without training or testing we are only threatening public safety, not discouraging immigration.

The next speaker was Kim Abel who heads the volunteer lobby team of 14 that works closely with our paid lobbyist. She encouraged us to contact our representatives, remembering to be unemotional, have the facts and be succinct. When legislators hear from several constituents on an issue they do pay attention, especially if the contact is not a mass phone in or e-mail and is civil and informed. She asked that each League person make just one more contact than last year and we can make a difference.

After a wonderful soup and salad lunch where we had an opportunity to talk with other League members and the members of the Lobby Team who had made it across the mountains, Rep. Tim Ormsby-D from Spokane spoke. Rep. Ormsby is a concrete finisher who is now working for his Union. He had to go to work instead of finishing high school and strongly supports educational opportunities for all Washington residents. He too, stressed budget issues. About 70% of the Washington State budget can not be cut without running into legal blocks or jeopardizing federal matching funds. That means all cuts must be made from the remaining 30%, including higher education and health and human services. He also stressed contacting legislators in a productive manner that gives them concise arguments they can use.

The final session was a Lobby Team Panel with Wayne Martin, M.D. who watches Reproductive health, Susan Eidenshenk who watches Health Care and Kim Abel. All stressed that the League's priorities are to defend programs we have fought for and to push those issues that do not require additional funding. Important issues are requiring anti abortion pregnancy crisis centers to give accurate information, to OK a new morning after pill, to comply with the National Health Care laws, to get toxic chemicals out of baby bottles and to improve campaign finance laws.

After thanking the speakers, Judy Goldberg of the Benton-Franklin County League reminded us that the State convention will be May 19-20 in the Tri-Cities and invited all to come. We were on our way home at 2:35 and actually home in time to attend the *Nod to Bob* Concert (a tribute to Bob Dylan) in Moscow that evening.

Observer Report Briefs

Neill Public Library Board Meeting, November 17, 2010

Observer: Diane Gillespie

Among the current NPL achievements and good news:

- 1) The 2010 Summer Reading Program was a great success, with 1331 registrants (878 girls and 453 boys) and 71% (all ages) who completed the program. Compare 2001 with 697 registrants and a completion rate of 53%.
- 2) The 10th anniversary events of the adult program, *Everybody Reads*, earlier this month were well received and attended.
- 3) The Washington State Library praised NPL for the high number of patrons using the new downloadable collection option.
- 4) Joanna Bailey, Temporary Library Services Manager, and James Morasch, Systems Administrator, have been invited to attend the *Broadband in Washington Libraries* Project Launch Meeting in Tacoma in December. The state's Northwest Open Access Network (NOANET) recently received \$54.5 million for state-wide broadband service.
- 5) Cheryl Brinkley, Adult Services Librarian, is applying to the Inland Northwest Community Foundation for Shirrod Endowment funds to support a Palouse Heritage Assistant Staff member through 2012. This person, working with other regional organizations that have historical collections, would preserve, expand, publicize, and plan exhibitions and programs around the NPL Palouse Heritage Collection.

Other items under discussion:

- 1) The 2011 NPL budget, recently submitted to the City, will closely approximate what it was in 2010;
- 2) Public printing from the NPL computers (suspended in 2009) may resume if NPL can implement a patron-paid, self-service option. Some of the start-up costs could be paid out of the Gates Foundation grant for improving computer services, but the remainder, as well as the yearly rental and service fees for the equipment would have to come from the NPL budget or from the Friends. The matter will be explored further.

Update on the Pullman League Website

Shelley Jones

Earlier in November, I had the opportunity to preview and discuss website mock-ups with the students of Digital Technology & Culture 477. I am very excited to see the final three sites in early December! The students are all quite talented and have some amazing visions. Here are examples of the mock-ups:



A request has been submitted to WSU for an intern in the Spring to assist with “fine tuning” the site, implementation, and assisting with the “Historical” pages of the site. This has been an exciting project and I am anticipating a “live” site up early in 2011.

New Members

Tim Kohler and Marilyn Von Seggern came to Pullman in 1978 for jobs at Washington State University, Tim in the Dept. of Anthropology as an archeologist and Marilyn in the Libraries as a science reference librarian. Pastimes are typical for many in this beautiful Palouse region:

outdoor activities and gardening. The LWV has been known to them for the years they have lived here as an activist civic organization which has had a big hand in making Pullman such a great place to live. They thought it was time to join.

Local Positions

LWVoters of Pullman - Positions for 2009-2011

1. **Whitman County Health Services:** Support for a public health program for Whitman County which promotes the physical and mental health of all residents of the county. Action: Unit or public meetings on the problem of recruiting doctors (Resource, Dr. Duffy) and establishing a strong rehabilitation center in Pullman (Resource, Scott Adams).
2. **Environmental Quality:** Support of policies and procedures which promote coordinated planning and method of enforcement for the conservation and development of land. Support of policies to promote coordinated planning and implementation of solid waste management procedures which conserve natural resources, are ecologically sound, and aesthetically pleasing. Support of policies to establish city-wide curbside recycling and composting, to maintain a Recycling Center, to hire a recycling coordinator, to encourage procurement of recyclable materials, and development of markets for recyclable materials. Action to keep recycling going by establishing a committee to examine the current problem and possible solutions.
3. **Whitman County Transportation:** Support of a system of transportation for the Pullman area which will adequately serve all segments of the population. Action to support our bus and dial-a-ride system in the face of budget cuts.
4. **City and Regional Planning:** Support of principles of planning, subdivisions and zoning. Support of more restrictions on developments for both contractors and private land owners. Support the principle of making land use decisions through a process that requires both a Planning Commission and City Council or County Commissioners. Support of growth within carefully defined areas for commerce and light industry. Support of annual review by the City Council of a Capital Improvement Program for the City. Additional consensus on development in 2002-2003 study. Action: Continue to work for the adoption of the pre-development community meeting ordinance.
5. **Local Government Budget and Finance:** Support (1) tax measures necessary to maintain an adequate level of financial support for Pullman City Government, (2) long-range Capital Improvement Plan for the City of Pullman, (3) finance implementation of long-range capital improvement. Monitor.
6. **Schools:** Support of measures for a school program adequately financed by the State Basic Education Act. Support of special levies for specific purposes unhampered by a levy lid. Support of the following criteria for schools: (1) Given the present economic constraints of the levy lid law, basic education funding and fluctuating enrollment, it is important to have quality instructional programming and low student teacher ratio. (2) Energy efficiency (fuel & transportation) is an important criteria in considering use or lack of use of a building. (3) In any major redistribution of students, the maintaining of small neighborhood clusters of children should be considered. (4) Complete financial estimates of each option should be made available when considering changes in the use of facilities. Action: Unit or public meeting on

the WASL replacement test(s). Invite the new superintendent of Public Education, possibly working through the Pullman Superintendent's office.

7. **City Government:** Support of the principle of separation of administrative and policy-making functions. Monitor.
8. **Library Services:** Support of (1) a more equitable relationship of library employees compared to other city employees. (2) Additional sources of funding and any expansion to maintain at least the present level of services, (3) cooperative relationships with other area libraries while maintaining local autonomy. Action: invite the new director to speak at a unit meeting; then review our positions.

State Positions

LWVoters of Washington – Positions for 2009-2011

Government

Education Action to support in principle the Basic Education Act (1977) and the Levy Lid Act. Action to obtain a balanced tax structure and to maintain uniform assessment practices to ensure equitable and sufficient financing. Action to support adequate and stable state funding of common schools in Washington including the costs of in-service training. Action to increase visibility, accessibility and accountability of the office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education. Action to support closer links between schools and social services, so that every child is ready to learn. Action to support greater involvement of parents, an increased role in decision making for teachers, and more flexible state education requirements. Action to provide greater access to public higher education to all, at whatever point in life it can be beneficial. Action to expand the definition of Basic Education to include the birth to five years.

Port Districts Action to encourage cooperation among port districts, but with local options for voter control over major policy and expenditure decisions.

Representative Government Action to facilitate changes in the state constitution to achieve a representative and effective state legislature. Action to promote an informed electorate. Action to limit methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the election process. Action to support the initiative and referendum process, adopt improvements to the process and require additional information for voters. Action to protect the interests of all affected parties in considering the formation of new counties. Action to clarify in legislation the processes in county formation and to require that the entire county have the ability to vote on separation. Action to support election methods that promote "representative-ness," citizen participation and accountability and that produce proportional representation. Action to support a majority vote requirement if achieved through a mechanism such as Instant Runoff Voting (IRV). Action to support a primary that is "open" and encourages minor party participation if a primary continues to be used.

State Tax Policy Action to obtain a balanced tax structure that is fair, adequate, flexible and has a sound economic effect.

Washington State and Indian Treaty Rights Action to enhance salmon resources, establish a procedure for retrocession of jurisdiction to the tribes and support tribal land use planning of trust lands.

Transportation The League supports a balanced state transportation policy that defines the role of the state and supports increases in funding to provide adequate revenue and flexibility for a multi-modal system of transportation.

Natural Resources

Energy Action to support an energy policy within Washington State. Action to educate the public on energy conservation. Action to establish incentives for efficient use of current energy sources and the greater use of alternative energy sources.

Global Climate Change See LWVUS Impact on Issues.

Resource Management Action to obtain coordinated planning and ensure environmental quality in the use of water, air and land resources. Action to insure that forest management is carried out in a manner that will sustain healthy forests, streams and habitats.

Waste Management Action for coordinated control and reduction of solid waste. Action to reduce the amount of hazardous waste generated in Washington and action to promote safe management of that waste which is produced, including toxics in the home.

Social Policy

Administration of Justice Action to ensure that our courts are fair, efficient, accessible and staffed with qualified personnel. Action to maintain a separate court system and facilities for youths that will balance the procedural rights of the adversary system with the protection of youth's basic rights. Action to realize equity in sentencing standards. Action to obtain alternatives to incarceration is of prime importance.

Children's Programs

Child Support and Custody The League of Women Voters supports vigorous, efficient and innovative child support enforcement methods and broad education regarding the responsibilities and consequences of parenthood. The best interest of the child should be the overriding consideration in determining custody, visitation and an appropriate level of child support. The physical and emotional security of the child should be paramount. Children are entitled to support adequate to meet basic needs commensurate with the parents' income, resources, and standard of living. Courts should have the discretion to order post secondary educational support in appropriate circumstances.

Children's Services Action to support stable and adequate funding for children at risk, with priority given to prevention, early identification and intervention services, community based treatment programs, day treatment programs and residential care.

Day Care for Children Action to provide for the general welfare of children in day care centers. Action to ensure that the state enforce minimum standards that include provision for a safe, healthy, clean environment. Action to support sufficient staff with emphasis on competence and ability to provide a creative, challenging and caring environment.

Early Care and Education of Children Action to support the quality of early care and education, birth – 5, to maximize the child's future development. Action to support parents so all children develop to their full potential. Action to support improvements to child care

programs, quality child care programs for children birth to five, increased access to preschool programs, programs for special needs children, home visiting and encouraging public-private partnerships.

Economic Diversification

Action to ensure a balanced state economy with a strong mixture of large and small businesses. Measures to contribute to long-range planning and cooperation between all levels of government with local initiatives wherever possible.

Gun Control

Action to provide governmental regulation of ownership and possession of firearms, and measures to limit their accessibility.

Health Care

Action to provide universal access to affordable health services for all residents of the state of Washington and to control total system expenditures with seamless coverage regardless of one's health status.

Human Resources

Action to achieve equal rights for all. Action to achieve equality of opportunity for education, employment and housing regardless of race, color, gender, national origin, age, sexual orientation or disability. Action to obtain measures that provide basic human needs for those unable to provide for themselves. Action to ensure that there are emergency support services for those involved in physical and/or mental violence.

Useful Pullman League Numbers

Contact Us: lwvpull@yahoo.com

Online VOTER: www.lwvwa.org/Pullman