



VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PULLMAN WASHINGTON

www.lwvpullman.org

October, 2012

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; **Vice President:** Shelley Jones, 432-3428, ; **Secretary:** Paul Spencer 332-6699, Backup: Deb Olson, 332-2114; **Treasurer:** Joan Folwell, 332-3946; **Voter Service Chair:** Diane Smerdon, 334-5413; **Voter Editor:** Susan Daniels, 332-6699; **Finance Drive Chair:** Lenna Harding, 332-7749; **Membership Chair:** Janet Kendall, 332-4268; **Scheduling Chair:** Barbara Hammond, 332-4104; **Observer Corps Chair** Deb Olson, 332-2114; **TRY Editor:** Lucy Linden, 332-2755; **Webmaster:** Paul Spencer: 332-6699.

Meetings and Events

Voter Forum in Colfax

Date: Tuesday October 16th, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Program: Candidates and Issues Forum. See article on page 2

Place: Whitman County Library, Colfax

Contact: Diane Smerdon, 334-5413

Voter Forum in Pullman

Date: Wednesday October 17th, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Program: Candidates and Issues Forum. See article on page 2

Place: Pullman City Hall

Contact: Diane Smerdon, 334-5413

Panel on Renewable Energy Sources

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

Program: A panel will discuss various sources of renewable energy followed by questions from the audience.

Place: Hecht Room, Neill Public Library

Contact: Paul Spencer, 332-6699

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Energy Study Consensus Meeting

Date: Tuesday December 4th, 6:30-9:00 p.m. (Note Tuesday)

Program: Holiday cookies followed by a discussion of the consensus questions and a search for consensus

Place: Hecht Room, Neill Public Library

Contact: Paul Spencer, 332-6699

Other Meetings of Interest

Eastside Action Workshop

Date: Saturday October 13th, 9:30 am.-3:00 p.m.

Place: Yakima, WA

Contact: Shelley Jones, 432-3428

Board Meetings

Tuesdays October 23rd, November 27th (Note change to Tuesdays)

Time: 1:00-2:45 p.m.

Place: Daily Grind

Chair: Alice Schroeder, 334-2470

Voter Forums on Candidates and Issues **Diane Smerdon, Voter Service Chair**

Once again, the Pullman League will be holding information forums to the general election. We will combine candidate questions/answers and ballot issues. Candidates who have accepted invitations to speak are:

Art Swannack and Bill Tensfeld for Commissioner Position #1 and

Pat O'Neill and Dean Kinzer for Commission Position #2.

These four candidates will be present both in Colfax and Pullman.

We are dividing the ballot issues between the two nights.

On **Tuesday, October 16**, at the Whitman County Library in Colfax, we will discuss:

I1185 – concerns tax and fee increases imposed by state government

I1240 – concerns creation of a public charter school system

SJR8221 – the Legislature has proposed a constitutional amendment on implementing the Commission on State Debt recommendations regarding Washington's debt limit.

On **Wednesday, October 17**, in Pullman City Hall Council Chambers, we will discuss:

Ref. 74 – the legislature passed Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6239 concerning marriage for same-sex couples, modified domestic-partnership law, and religious freedom, and voters have filed a sufficient referendum petition on this bill

IL502 – concerns marijuana

SJR8223 – the Legislature proposed a constitutional amendment on investments by the University of Washington and Washington State University.

We expect KWSU and KLEW to film the event, in addition to our wonderful Paul Spencer!! As usual, our leaguers are much appreciated for sorting, timing, banners, and set-up.

This year KWSU TV is also airing balanced reviews of the ballot issues on Channel 10, in partnership with our local League, and the Foley Institute is collaborating with us on Coffee and Politics Discussions on Ref. 74 and IL502. This has been a wonderful addition to our efforts to inform voters.

Renewable Energy Sources Panel

Paul Spencer

Our League is holding a public meeting to learn more about the pros and cons of various sources of renewable energy, a topic of current interest and research. The meeting is on **November 5 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Hecht Room of Neill Public Library**. The goal is to provide an introduction to the subject of renewable energy sources and to help LWV members prepare for the consensus meeting for the Renewable Energy Study just completed by the Washington State LWV. (Our president, Alice Schroeder wrote the biofuels section of the study, and Paul Spencer helped with proofreading several parts of the study.)

There will be four speakers during the first hour for the following topics:

- 1) General overview of renewable energy
- 2) Biofuels from renewable sources
- 3) Business perspective on alternative energy sources --Paul Kimmel of Avista
- 4) Economics for renewable energy, effects of subsidies etc. --Dr Phil Wandschneider from WSU

The speakers for the first two topics have not yet been determined. For the remainder of the meeting the speakers will answer questions from the audience.

Membership Leadership Development (MLD) Program

Shelley Jones

Deb Olson and I had the opportunity to attend the Membership Leadership Development (MLD) Program Training in mid-August in Sea-Tac, Washington. This program was developed by LWVUS in order to increase membership and develop future League leaders. However, the MLD Program is really a partnership with all three levels of League – National, State, and Local. With our involvement in this program we receive a State Coach with whom Deb and I have monthly phone calls to discuss current activities and plan for further action items. Our State Coach is Marilyn Perkins from LWV-Benton-Franklin County. Our State Coach, Marilyn, then shares this information with the State League and our National League liaison, Sarah Diefendorf of LWV-San Francisco.



Shelley, Deb, and Marilyn

While attending the MLD Training we learned about Best Practices and went through various activities

that involved planning events. We also discussed strategies to recruit members and identify future leaders. We practiced using “our voice and our stories” to talk about League. It was an intense 8 hours of training, but Deb and I generated many ideas to implement in the coming year.

If you have interest in being on the MLD Committee for LWV-Pullman, please contact Shelley Jones at 509-432-3428 or shelley.jones@gmail.com.

New Member Profile

Welcome to Jennifer Heim, a new member of Pullman League. Jen was born at Fort Lewis in Tacoma, WA. Her father was in the military and spent time in Saigon. After his service ended, her parents returned to their home state of Idaho and she and her younger sister were raised in Boise.

Jen went to Gonzaga University for two years and then transferred to Boise State University where she earned her B.A. in History. She started a graduate degree at the University of Oregon but, “it ended up not being the path for me so I put an end to that!”

Jen's husband, Rory Heim, works for SEL as a firmware engineer. They have 2 daughters. Kelli is in 5th grade at Sunnyside and Gwyn is in 2nd grade at Sunnyside. They also have a Shetland Sheepdog named Juno plus a Tortoise calico kitten adopted last January named Lentil, and two Diamond Firetail Finches who are sitting on a nest of eggs right now. If anyone wants a baby Finch please let her know!

Her husband worked for Hewlett-Packard for several years and during that time they moved for his career to different places in the Pacific Northwest. They even lived in Singapore for a 6 month stint. As a result, it was difficult for Jen to build a career but she did work for some time at Oregon State University and until their oldest daughter was born she worked for Hewlett-Packard in Corvallis, OR. While they were in Singapore she kept herself busy by volunteering at the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, SPCA, which basically served as their animal adoption facility, doing data entry, working on membership, and helping with fundraisers. After their first daughter was born she decided to be a stay-at-home mom and that has been her "job" ever since.

When her youngest daughter started school full-time, she started looking around the community to see where she wanted to contribute. She had always volunteered for her daughters' preschools and elementary schools but wanted to broaden her horizons a little bit. Jen noticed local members of the LWV marching in the Lentil Festival Parade and went home and checked out the website and was immediately impressed with the work we do. She really likes the stress on non-partisanship and in-depth study of political issues. Learning about different political viewpoints does not intimidate her. “Like most people, I have friends and family whose stance on political issues cover the entire political spectrum and as long as conversations remain civil (big point there!) then I enjoy learning how different people feel and think about current issues. In fact, I feel my own opinions are best formed by having a better understanding of an opposing side.”

“We love living in Pullman and we cannot imagine raising our kids anywhere else. I'm looking forward to volunteering with the LWV and hopefully positively giving back to my community!”

Update on Palouse Wind Farm

Susan Daniels

The Palouse Wind farm is about ready to start sending electricity to Avista's power lines. Pullman League worked to get the best possible rules for overseeing and mitigating the impact of the wind farm on the local environment. Palouse Wind must mitigate any damage to areas of native Palouse prairie within the project's boundary and either repair disturbed habitat or pay state or local officials to oversee repairs. Whitman County Planner Alan Thompson is planning to establish a procedure for those who have interests in restoring areas touched by the construction to apply for mitigation funds. Joan Folwell, vice president of Palouse Prairie Foundation, is the first to request funding to be used to pay legal fees for the transfer of ownership of two pioneer cemeteries that are "superior examples of native Palouse prairie remnants." Ownership would be transferred to the Whitman County Historical Society and both it and the Palouse Prairie Foundation would maintain the sites.

Preserving pioneer cemeteries is a creative and innovative idea and probably sets a precedent for mitigation funding.

Update on the Technical Advisory Committee and Mitigation for Disturbed Prairie on the Generation Site

Joan Folwell

The Pullman League was instrumental in establishing a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) as a permit requirement for the Palouse Wind Project. According to Alan Thomson, Whitman County Planning Director, there will be a meeting early next month with Whitman County personnel, the WA Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Palouse Wind to discuss the operation of the TAC. So far, they have agreed to meet at least once annually for a minimum of one year. After the first year, the committee will evaluate whether there are any environmental issues to mediate/mitigate and whether there is a need to continue the committee. Besides establishing the TAC, First Wind has also agreed to provide funds to mitigate any effects that the construction of the wind farm has had on Palouse Prairie or any other habitats/ecosystems.

The Palouse Prairie Foundation has recommended that the funds available for Palouse Prairie mitigation be used only for the preservation and enhancement of native remnants of the highest quality. This recommendation was made because it is virtually impossible to restore disturbed areas such as those on the project site. Whelan Cemetery (located north of Pullman) and Pitt Cemetery (located at the south end of Kamiak Butte) are two abandoned pioneer cemeteries that contain Palouse Prairie remnants that have never been cultivated and both include an endangered plant species. Grants totaling \$35,000 from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Palouse Conservation District have already been obtained to help preserve and protect these sites and as well as other Palouse Prairie purposes. However, any legal fees incurred in the effort to put these sites into conservation easements cannot be paid for with these funds. Therefore, application will be made for some of the county mitigation funds to pay for these costs. The county has not yet announced the application process. Currently, the Palouse Prairie Foundation is still seeking to partner with the Whitman County Historical Society to save these remnants.

Other Sources of Information on this Election

Nonpartisan information on this election is available at the Leagues website www.VOTE411.org and at www.commoncause.org.