



VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PULLMAN WASHINGTON

www.lwvpullman.org

October 2016

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 – Anne Lewis, 334-1075; League Voice – Mary Collins, 509-592-6929; Information Coordinator – Libby Walker, 432-4756; **Secretary:** Alice Schroeder, 334-2470; Backup: Jackie Miyasaka, 332-1248; **Treasurer:** Shelley Jones, 432-4328; **Voter Service Team:** Deb Olson, 332-2114 & Maria de Jesus Dixon, 414-535-9996; **Voter Editor:** Susan Daniels, 332-6699; **Finance Coordinator:** Diane Smerdon, 334-5413; **Finance Drive Thank-Yous:** Lenna Harding, 332-7749; **Membership & Publicity:** Janet Kendall, 432-3368; **Scheduling & Notices:** Barbara Hammond, 332-4104; **Observer Corps Chair:** Judy Stone, 509-878-1519; **TRY Editors:** Susan Daniels, 323-6699 & Judy Stone, 509-878-1519; **Webmaster:** Paul Spencer, 332-6699; **Community Update Editor:** Diane Smerdon, 334-5413; **Nominating Chair:** Anne Lewis, 334-1075; **Brown Bag Coordinator:** Deb Olson, 332-2114

Meetings and Events

First Election Forum in Pullman

Date: Wednesday October 19, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00p.m.
 Program: Four ballot initiatives
 Place: Umpqua Bank
 Contacts: Deb Olson, 332-2114 & Maria de Jesus Dixon, 414-535-9996

Second Election Forum in Pullman

Date: Thursday October 20, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
 Program: Mary Dye and Jennifer Goulet and the remaining two ballot initiatives
 Place: Pullman City Hall
 Contacts: Deb Olson, 332-2114 & Maria de Jesus Dixon, 414-535-9996

Civics at Pullman High School

Date: Wednesday November 2
 Program: All Things Voting
 Place: Pullman High School civics class(es)
 Contact: Deb Olson, 332-2114

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Voter Registration

Date: Thursday October 6, 3:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Program: Register Voters

Place: Colfax Library

Contact: Deb Olson, 332-2114

Food Security

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

Program: Poverty Study information about food security in Whitman County

Place: Umpqua Bank

Contact: Mary Collins, 509-592-6929

Brown Bags

Dates: Third Thursdays: October 20, November 17, noon to 1:00 p.m.

Programs: October – County Commissioners, November – TBD

Place: Community Congregational Church, Opal and Campus

Contact: Deb Olson, 332-4755

Board Meetings

Date: Fourth Tuesdays, October 25, **November 29**, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. (moved due to Thanksgiving)

Place: Daily Grind, back room

Chair: Anne Lewis, 334-1075

Book Club

Date: Monday October 31, 1:00 -2:30 p.m.

Program: *I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai

Place: Susan and Paul's home, 1745 SW Baldwin Ave.

Contact: Diane Smerdon, 334-5413

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

Two Political Forums will be held this October.

Deb Olson

On **Wednesday October 19th** at the Umpqua Bank Meeting room in Pullman from 7 to 9 p.m. four of the six ballot initiatives will be discussed.

On **Thursday October 20th** at Pullman City Hall from 7 to 9 p.m. the two candidates for State Representative, Mary Dye and Jennifer Goulet, will answer your questions and the remaining two ballot initiatives will be discussed.

We always need help before the forum setting up and greeting people who attend. During the forum we need people to collect the questions and people to organize them for the moderator. Please consider helping with the forums. Contacts are Deb Olson, 332-2114 & Maria de Jesus Dixon, 414-535-9996.

November's Monday Meeting on Food Security

Mary Collins

The November program will address what we learned during our recent Poverty Study about the state of food security in Whitman County. We will begin with a brief overview of public and charitable programs providing food for low income households. Following this a panel of representatives from the Council on Aging, The Community Action Center, and Back Yard Harvest will describe innovations in food security they are currently developing. These include the formation of a Whitman County Food Coalition, a demonstration kitchen and educational programs, community gardens, and a program to recover left over food from the WSU dining halls for distribution in local food pantries.

League Book Club Starting Up

Jackie Miyasaka

LWV of Pullman's first book club meeting will be October 31, 1p.m., at the home of Susan Daniels and Paul Spencer, 1745 SW Baldwin Drive (turn right 1/2 mile south of Ace Hardware). Our first book will be *I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and was Shot by the Taliban*, by Malala Yousafzai and Christina Lamb, a memoir by the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. We hope you can join us to talk about this book together. Please feel free to come even if you have not finished reading the book.

Our second book will be *The Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg*, by Iron Carmon and Shana Knizhnik, to be discussed at the next book club meeting probably in early January.

Both books are available at Neill Public Library in various formats, as well as at local bookstores and online. Bookfinder.com is a helpful site that searches many booksellers at once.

Brown Bag Meetings Began in September

Karen Kiessling

The new year of League Brown Bag speakers began on Thursday, September 15, at the Congregational Church on Campus Avenue.

Our kickoff speaker was WSU Police Chief Bill Gardner, who also carries the title Associate Vice President of Safety at the University. Bill grew up in Pullman, his father was on the WSU faculty, and earned a Master's degree in English here while working as a police officer for the City of Pullman at night. He left the area and worked in Mexico investigating corrupt practices for the Mexican Department of Agriculture. He returned to Pullman when he was named the WSU Chief of Police. Bill talked about the culture of policing and what needs to change in the training of police officers from the warrior, military type training to the protector, helper type of officer. Cultures change very slowly and take persistent efforts to set the mindset and the reactions of officers. The value placed on caring and compassion is needed and is in contradiction to the warrior view of life. Washington state is fortunate in having a person at the head of the Police Academy who is fostering care and connection to the community over force and strength to control. Bill works to increase that activity here and shared his humor and stories to illustrate the points he made. He was a stellar start to our new year of noon speakers and I would urge all to attend as many as possible.

Upcoming Brown Bags

Deb Olson

On Thursday October 20th League will continue its tradition of starting the year with a visit from the Whitman County Commissioners. This is your chance to find out what is happening countywide, what the commissioners see as issues, and ask the hard questions. The Brown Bag meetings are from noon to 1:00 p.m. at the Congregational Church on Campus Ave. The meetings are always on the third Thursday of the month and are informal and interesting.

Watch for the announcement of the November 17 BB meeting topic.

Back to League Potluck, September 12

Paul Spencer & Deb Olson

A lively group of League members and guests enjoyed a potluck dinner at Ginger and Dean Glawe's home followed by the League program. Former League President, Alice Schroeder, reviewed League history, goals, policies and operation. She recommends checking out the website lww.org/history as a good source of interesting facts about League.

Paul Spencer explained League's process of starting with goals and plans, initiating and carrying out a League study, formulating consensus questions, determining League positions from the consensus answers and discussion. The League then uses these positions for advocacy and education.

Judy Stone talked about the opportunities and benefits (both personal and for the League) from participating in the League Observer Corps. Boards needing an observer are listed in Judy's article on page 8 of this VOTER. She also reported a significant increase in the number of observer reports being submitted. Deborah Olson then explained the goals and fall events for the League Voter Service program. These include Voter Registration Day and two voter forums in October as well as civics class presentations for both Spokane Falls Community College and Pullman High School. (Please see League events schedule on pages 1.and 2.)

We are all looking forward to another great League year!

Visit by the President

Karen Kiessling

On August 3, State League President Ann Murphy came to Pullman to deliver a bag of treats to Mary Collins. Mary had won the basket filled with various Spokane League gifts at the State Council meeting but had not realized it was hers. Ann Murphy is not only the state League president she is a long standing member of the Spokane League. Because she was coming to Pullman to deliver the goods, she said yes to having lunch at Karen Kiessling's home with Mary and any members of the Pullman League who might want to attend.

It was a very happy gathering of members who had questions for Ann and who just wanted the chance to visit with each other and her. High on the list of questions for her was how strict is the prohibition

on League presidents and voter service chairs to indulge in any partisan political behavior during their term of office. Ann was clear that contributing funds or one's name, signing nomination papers, posting signs or engaging in any public comment on any candidate or party was strictly prohibited by the national non-partisan program of the League. Private, personal comments were up to the discretion and wisdom of those League members. Ann stressed that the non-partisan position we hold in highest regard and protecting it is important to the work League does in forums. Common sense prevails but caution is the watchword.

Other questions dealt with the page League purchases in the Community Update, Observer issues, and the Directory of Elected and Appointed Officials. Ann charmed us all by reminding us that she began her career in League in the Pullman League in the 1970's. We all enjoyed the visit and a lunch catered by Joan Swenson that Karen provided.

Judy asked questions about Observer Corps and whether those who observed needed to do it for rule making bodies only. Ann replied that local Leagues make their own decisions but reminded all that the purpose of observers was to alert the board to an item of business on which the League had a position and therefore could support or oppose the proposal. Having said that she also stated that Leaguers wearing Observer badges doing their jobs is a good public relations and visibility tool for us.

Ann later thanked Karen for hosting the meeting, "It was a great pleasure to visit with members of the Pullman League. I really value the informal face to face opportunity for conversation about items of concern to local Leaguers. It was especially fun to be in Pullman as that is where I first joined the League in the early 70's. All the best to you all as you start your League year."

Lentil Festival Booth

Deb Olson

The League had a booth at the Lentil Festival on Friday evening August 19 (non profit night). It was a beautiful evening with no smoke this year. Although we did not register any new voters, several people stopped by to chat and sign up for more information about League. We did give out some registration forms and really pushed for Vote411.

My Thanks to everyone who helped in the booth: Karen Kiessling, Maria de Jesus Dixon, Lucy Linden and Libby Walker. (If I missed you I'm sorry but its been awhile.)



Chamber of Commerce Non-Profit Showcase

Libby Walker

The League of Women Voters was pleased to participate in the Chamber of Commerce Non-Profit Showcase on August 9, 2016. The League banner was proudly displayed at our table,

along with information on our year long program activities and the website for the League voting guide - Vote411. Anne Lewis gave a two minute presentation on the League's purpose and objectives. A representative of the Rotarians approached the League about giving a presentation at one of their weekly meetings in December. In addition, a representative of the local Girl Scouts also asked about the possibility of giving the flag salute at one of our evening meetings. All in all, a very profitable two hours.

Civics Class at Spokane Falls Community College

Deb Olson

Another first for our League!!! On September 21, Karen Kiessling, Paul Spencer and Deb Olson were guest speakers in Alistair Boudreaux's Political Science Class. We call our presentation *All Things Voting* which includes the voting history game, an abbreviated version of the pre 1965 literacy test, and a discussion of the mechanics of voting. Registration forms were given to the few (2 or 3) who weren't already registered.

Again this Fall and Spring we will be going to the High School for *All Things Voting*. The first presentation will be on Wednesday November 2. The classes are 80 minutes long and we spend the day giving the presentation to several civics classes. If you are interested in participating in this very worthwhile project contact Deb Olson at olsonbones@aol.com or 509 595-0333.

National Voter Registration Day Was Sept. 27

Deb Olson

The League had a prominent position in the CUB in front of the Food Court thanks to the assistance of the Center for Civic Engagement. We registered (or changed addresses) for 30 and gave out forms to another 15 people. Others just stopped by with questions which we hope we answered fully. On the plus side lots of people when asked if they were registered said "yes". This is something we should definitely do every year regardless of a Presidential election. (Two other groups were also registering voters).

My thanks to everyone who volunteered: Alice Schroeder, Katie Bittinger, Paul Spencer and Mary Collins. We had one student volunteer, Zoe Campbell, who on a very busy day stopped by for an hour and has volunteered to do it again on October 6 when we will be registering voters at the Colfax Library from 3:00 - 6:30 p.m. If you are interested in helping, contact Deb Olson at olsonbones@aol.com or 509 595-0333

Action to Tackle Climate Change

Judy Meuth

"Global climate change is one of the most **serious threats** facing our nation and our planet today" states the LWV *Toolkit for Climate Action*¹.

This article briefly discusses four ways to address climate change – fossil fuel regulation, cap and trade,

tax, and fee and dividend. The latter three options put a price on carbon, “putting the market to work”². The idea is to price carbon accurately to correct the market failure that currently doesn’t price carbon to include all the costs it actually introduces, such as climate warming, polluted waters and air, negative health impacts, failing food production, desertification, species extinctions, and much more. If carbon is accurately priced, it will be more expensive to the point that the market will shift away from carbon use toward other energy sources.

Regulation is one avenue to slow the release of green house gas (GHG) emissions. Regulation is often unpopular with industry and sometimes with states since a government agency or official alone determines the rule. Regulations are often complex, difficult to understand, implement, comply with, and monitor. They grow government and can be expensive to government and industry. Regulations also are fragile since a new administration may alter them. On the other hand, regulations can be quicker to ‘put on the books’ than other approaches, insure uniformity, and avoid some special interest pressures. Regulations can be quite successful, especially when authority for the regulations is backed by laws like the Clean Water Act (we no longer have rivers catching on fire as they did when I was younger!). President Obama last year announced the Clean Power Plan regulation, backed by the Clean Air Act, to achieve significant, measurable decreases in GHG emissions from some power generation facilities by 2030³.

Cap and trade is one carbon-pricing vehicle that has had little overall success. Industry doesn’t like cap and trade, but generally prefers it to regulations. Cap and trade tends to be a complex set of rules, so the system is not easy to implement or monitor, but it can encourage alternative energy innovation. Cap and trade often addresses only some major GHG contributors and these can buy offset credits and continue to burn more fossil fuels. In cap and trade systems, energy prices sometimes swing wildly, which can hurt all energy consumers, especially low income people and small businesses. In this system, traders often make money, and utilities and manufacturers pass trading costs onto smaller consumers who end up paying the costs for the system. Cap and trade’s shortcomings, though, may be attributable primarily to program design⁴.

A **tax** on fossil fuels is another approach to pricing carbon to lower GHG emissions. A tax brings revenue into the government to be used as it sees fit. Some oppose taxes as a matter of principal; they see taxes as government overreach that leads to expansion of ‘useless’ government programs and a dampening effect on the economy. Others see taxes as an effective way for government to alter behavior (lessen fossil fuel use in this case), raise revenue, and fund ‘useful’ programs. Even within like-minded groups, there is division about what to do with tax revenue.

In 2008, British Columbia instituted a carbon tax that is *revenue neutral*. That means that the revenue collected via the tax is returned to the people. To make the tax neutral, income and corporate taxes were significantly cut. Since the tax was initiated, per person consumption of carbon has dropped 16% in BC while it rose 3% in the rest of Canada. At the same time, the BC economy has grown more than the overall Canadian economy.

In November, Washingtonians will be voting on I-732 that would institute a revenue-neutral tax on carbon. That means that the revenue collected via the tax would be recycled back to Washingtonians. The initiative would reduce the state sales tax by 1%, fund a previously passed but unfunded tax rebate for working families, and eliminate the B&O tax on manufacturing. Backers of I-732 say it will decrease GHG emissions, make the environment cleaner, bolster poor families, and boost the economy, among other results⁶. Some opponents of I-732 oppose it because it does not provide for mitigation of

climate change detriments to those most at risk, poor communities and communities of color⁷.

A **revenue-neutral fee and dividend** that prices carbon is another way to decrease GHG emissions. This approach is the simplest and most transparent of the four systems discussed here. Under this plan, a fee is assessed on the fossil fuel and that fee is returned directly to the people, a revenue-neutral system. Proponents predict that the market will transition more quickly and more profoundly away from GHG emitting fuels under a revenue-neutral fee and dividend system than under other approaches. For example, the 2015 Clean Power Plan regulation will become moot with carbon fee and dividend because decreases in carbon use will outpace the regulation.

Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) proposes a revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend system be enacted by Congress in 2017. Under the CCL plan, an accelerating fee is collected on GHG emitting fuels at the point they enter the market (the well, coal mine, etc.) and is distributed in equal shares to residents in a monthly dividend. People can use their dividend however they want. The market will respond as fossil fuels become more expensive: businesses will find cleaner ways to produce their product or service and consumers will follow the lower price. A border adjustment protects American businesses that export and keeps jobs here. Along the way, CO₂ emissions drop to 31% below 1990 levels by 2025 and then continue to drop, alternative energy innovation and jobs increase, human and environmental health improve, and the overall economy grows⁸.

¹League of Women Voters, Toolkit for Climate Action.

http://participate.lwv.org/c/9217/t/6398/p/salsa/web/common/public/content?content_item_KEY=3766. Accessed 7/19/16.

²Price on Carbon, <http://priceoncarbon.org/pricing-mechanisms/pricing-pricing/>. Accessed 7/19/16.

³Fact Sheet: Overview of the Clean Power Plan. <https://www.epa.gov/cleanpowerplan/fact-sheet-overview-clean-power-plan>. Accessed 9/20/16.

⁴Kaufman, N. 2016. Carbon Tax vs. Cap-and-Trade: What's a Better Policy to Cut Carbon Emissions?

<http://www.wri.org/blog/2016/03/carbon-tax-vs-cap-and-trade-what%E2%80%99s-better-policy-cut-emissions>. Accessed 9/23/16.

⁵The Economist, 2014. Americas View Blog. British Columbia's Carbon Tax: The Evidence Mounts.

<http://www.economist.com/blogs/americasview/2014/07/british-columbias-carbon-tax>. Accessed 7/19/16.

⁶Yes on I-732. <http://yeson732.org/>. Accessed 9/23/16.

⁷Sierra Club Washington State Chapter. Sierra Club Position on Washington State Initiative 732. . Accessed 9/20/16.

⁸Citizens Climate Lobby. REMI Report: The Environmental, Economic, and Health Impact of Carbon Fee and Dividend. <http://www.sierraclub.org/washington/sierra-club-position-carbon-washington-ballot-initiative-732>. Accessed 9/23/16.

Observer Corps Update

Judy Stone

The Observer Corps currently is composed of 11 members observing nine agencies. Of the meetings that were available to attend in June, July, and August, submitted reports increased from 50% to 67%. Kudos to all our wonderful observers who attend and report on these focal governmental agencies. Having no observer since April 2016, we are thrilled to have Libby Walker and Anne Lewis now observing the Pullman City Council and in January 2017 Mary Collins will become a co-observer with Paul Spencer of the County Commissioners meetings. The Corps' Wish List for agencies we would like to be observed include the Whitman County Planning Commission, County Solid Waste Advisory Committee, Pullman Parks and Rec Commission, and the Pullman-Moscow Regional Airport Board, plus a co-observer for the Library Board. Please consider becoming a set of 'eyes and ears' for your

League on community and public policy issues.

The monthly calendar of public meetings and the observers assigned to them is available on our website on the home page. Check it out [here](#) and see if there is a meeting you would like to attend.

Excerpts highlighting items of particular interest to League from two of the recent Observer Corps reports are given below.

Pullman City Council, August 30, 2016

Observer: Libby Walker

The Public Hearing included the 2015 Pullman Transit Report by Wayne Thompson. The five dial-a-ride routes were up 19% over 2014 (total of 23,000 rides); the 9 fixed routes were down 2% but still included 1,400,000 rides.

WSU and the School District represent important revenue contracts for the Transit system. Two new buses have been ordered but not yet received. 2015 ended \$225,000 under budget. The 6 year projection includes declining reserves, a gradual 1% decrease in riders on the fixed routes, and a gradual 1% increase in Dial a Ride. Thompson emphasized that his department will be focusing more on grant writing, starting in September of this year.

Ordinances:

Two ordinances were passed unanimously with little discussion. The first lifts the moratorium on additional marijuana shops in Pullman (5 maximum by state law) but establishes a 1000 foot buffer between pot shops and primary and secondary schools and playgrounds, which is mandated by the state of Washington. A buffer of 500 feet will be required between pot shops and recreation centers, child care centers, public parks, public transit centers, libraries and arcades. The state requires at least 100 feet for these sensitive uses which is what the Planning Commission recommended.

This ordinance makes downtown Pullman ineligible for any pot shops. (YAY!)

The second ordinance reflects the fact that the state merged medical and recreational marijuana industries. All recreational establishments must now have medical endorsements. This ordinance revises the licensing and taxation code for Pullman to accommodate this new policy.

Resolutions:

A resolution was introduced and approved unanimously to address traffic congestion around Sunnyside Elementary School. After a careful study, parking will be restricted on Shirley Street from 8-5 on Monday-Friday.

Police Advisory Board, August 8, 2016

Observer: Maria de Jesus Dixon

- Joint meeting once a year with Moscow – it was held in July. At the meeting discussion on marijuana in the 2 states and on collaboration efforts - evidence collection, mobile devices and computers - share resources for these (example porn on a computer or evidence on a phone).
- Later this year they will implement car cameras since 2013 body cameras went into effect. Car cameras won't run constantly but will run when car lights are turned on. They will also be

turned on for officer emergency response and drunk driving documentation as well.

Washington State Initiatives on the 2016 Ballot

Six initiatives are certified to appear on the Washington ballot on November 8, 2016. LWVWA supports three of them: I-1464, I-1491, and I-1433, and has no position on the other three. LWVWA is especially proud to be the lead sponsor of I-1464, the Government Accountability Act.

Initiatives LWVWA supports:

I-1464 would create a campaign-finance system allowing residents to direct state funds to qualifying candidates, repeal the non-resident sales-tax exemption, restrict employment of former public employees and lobbying, and revise campaign-finance laws. This would increase transparency and accountability and reduce the influence of money in the electoral process. More information is available [here](#)

I-1491 would allow police, family, or household members to obtain court orders temporarily preventing access to firearms by persons who, because of mental illness or other factors, may harm themselves or others. Family members and law enforcement are often in the best position to see the warning signs of violence and, by creating Extreme Risk Protection Orders, Initiative 1491 will give them a tool to prevent a tragedy before it happens. More information is available [here](#).

I-1433 would increase the state minimum wage to \$11.00 in 2017, \$11.50 in 2018, \$12.00 in 2019, and \$13.50 in 2020, require employers to provide paid sick leave, and adopt related laws. More information is available [here](#).

Initiatives LWVWA has no position on:

Initiative 732 would impose a carbon emission tax on certain fossil fuels and fossil-fuel-generated electricity. More information is available [here](#).

Initiative 735 would urge a federal constitutional amendment that limits constitutional rights to people, not corporations. More information is available [here](#).

Initiative 1501 would increase criminal identity-theft penalties and expand civil liability for consumer fraud targeting seniors and vulnerable individuals. It would exempt certain information regarding vulnerable individuals and in-home caregivers from public disclosure. More information is available [here](#).