



VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PULLMAN WASHINGTON

www.lwvpullman.org

August 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-You:** 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

Back to League Potluck

Date: Monday September 12, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Program: See article on [page 2](#)

Place: Home of Dean & Ginger Glawe, 540 SE Derby,
332-2867

Contacts: Paul Spencer, 332-6699 & Deb Olson, 332-2114

Lentil Festival Booth

Date: Friday August 19, 5:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Program: Answer questions and register voters

Contacts: Deb Olson, 332-2114 & Maria de Jesus Dixon,
414-535-9996

Board Meetings

Dates: Fourth Tuesdays, August 23, September 27, 1:00 -
2:30 p.m.

Place: Daily Grind, back room

Chair: Anne Lewis, 334-1075

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Voter Registration Day

Dates: Tuesday, September 27

Place: WSU CUB – See page 3

Chair: Deb Olson, 332-2114 & Maria de Jesus Dixon, 414-535-9996

Brown Bags

Dates: Third Thursdays, Sept 15, October 20, noon to 1:00 p.m.

Programs: September – WSU Police Chief Bill Gardner; October – County Commissioners

Place: Community Congregational Church, Opal and Campus

Contact: Karen Kiessling, 332-4755

October Election Forums

Dates: Coming in October

Place: TBD

Contacts: Deb Olson, 332-2114 & Maria de Jesus Dixon, 414-535-9996

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

Back to League Potluck, September 12

Paul Spencer

Monday, September 12, is our annual Back-to-League potluck meeting. It will be held at the home of Ginger and Dean Glawe, 540 SE Derby. Bring a dish to share and let's get the League off to a great start with a large turnout. Bring a friend along to see how the League works.

The dinner will be from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. followed by the meeting which will focus on the League's voter services including the civics class presentations and voter registration. In addition there will be a very short introduction to the League and Judy Stone will distribute the LWV Primer she has put together containing often used data and important policies and guidelines. This will be a handy reference for all of us as well as new members.

Please RSVP to Dean and Ginger Glawe at 332-2867 so they can have enough tables and chairs ready.

Lentil Festival Booth

Deb Olson

The League will have a booth at the Lentil Festival on Friday night, August 19, from 5 – 11 p.m. We need people to take a shift at the table and answer questions about League, inform about our upcoming calendar of events, and to REGISTER VOTERS. If you can help out, please contact Deb Olson 595-0333 or olsonbones@aol.com.

National Voter Registration Day

Deb Olson

National Voter Registration Day is Tuesday, September 27. The League will have a table in the CUB and we need some people to help staff the table. I expect we will have lots of students and maybe staff who want to register and have a say in this historic election year. Contact Deb Olson if you want to participate this year, olsonbones@aol.com or 595-0333.

If you can think of other opportunities to register voters, Please let me know and I will try to make it happen.

Summer Planning Meeting Report

Anne Lewis & Mary Collins

Fifteen League members attended the summer planning meeting at Mary's gorgeous, happily situated home. It was a successful—albeit windy and easel-challenging day.

We began with the important tasks of brainstorming ideas for our evening programs and for brown bag meetings. I am happy to say that we had a surplus of engaging ideas and members willing to chair meetings throughout the year! It was suggested that new members be invited to participate in setting up the meetings so they get a feel for what we do as well as getting to know other members. Please consider contacting a new member and asking them to help if you are coordinating a meeting. You can find the year's schedule on [page 11](#) of this Voter. If you were not in attendance, please review the schedule with an eye toward what you would like to help with. The more members involved, the better!

Next, we conducted a survey on Climate Change. This survey is a key part of helping The Climate Change Committee (composed of League members throughout the state of Washington) determine what actions to recommend and what material to use in the toolkit.

Each attendee received 5 stickers to place on categories of his or her choice. The results (in order of greatest to least votes) were as follows: Water Quality & Quantity, Community Infrastructure, Agriculture, Human Health, Coastal Ecosystems, Cultural Problems (tied with Coastal Systems), Energy Distribution, and Tourism & Recreation.

The survey process was enjoyable, with only a hint of voting shenanigans. Our results for the survey identified the following top three topics of interest and programs we might pursue to expand knowledge of the subjects:

#1 Water: Invite organizations to present information on the local aquifer and gray water

#2 Community infrastructure: Experience the Poverty Workshop from DSHS?

#3 Agriculture

After taking care of business, we partook of much appreciated cool drinks and a bounty of delicious food. Thank you to all who attended!

4th of July Parade Maria de Jesus Dixon

The League took part in the annual 4th of July Parade in Johnson last month. This was the classic “city girl meets small town parade” experience. After being in Pullman for two years, this was my first time not only bringing my family to the parade but also being a part of it on behalf of the League. It certainly was an all-American experience! The 15 minute drive to Johnson was quite an adventure from paved road to gravel road back to paved road. After the dust settled, a small one road town came into view and I’m pretty sure it was my first time parking in a cow pasture. My husband, son, daughter, and 3 grandkids unloaded the radio flyer wagon, folding chairs, and a recyclable bag for candy since I was informed candy is given out to kids at the parade. They navigated through the long country road and lined the lawn chairs up in perfect position to take in all the action. They got set up close to the beginning of where the parade begins and once situated, the anticipation was so strong it was palpable. Then the festivities began with popsicles for breakfast. The grandkids loved it.



Paul, Casey, Maria, Alice, Deb

Deb brought me up to speed on the flag distribution strategy to ensure parade goers were well equipped to celebrate our nation’s birthday. I scanned the one mile route and was ready to go after seeing my family get settled in and the grandkids’ excited faces. Deb, Paul, Casey, Alice, and myself headed out and started handing out the 1,000 flags with candidate forum information on them. Surprisingly, I have to say it was a fun time. The parade goers were gracious to receive flags and I saw quite a few people in the audience from work and church. In the end, we didn’t have a lot of flags left over and my grandkids had a bag full of candy. I also met my 10,000 steps goal for the day. I have to say, this city girl looks forward to next year.

The Primary Forums A Success Deb Olson

This year the League hosted two candidate Forums for the Primary (REMEMBER TO VOTE BY AUGUST 2). I hope everyone who was not able to attend was able to watch the forums on the League website. On Wednesday, July 13, we hosted two of the five candidates for the 5th Congressional District (I originally had four candidates but two made other commitments). We had a near capacity crowd at City Hall and numerous questions (many more than we could get to). On Friday, July 15, we were in Colfax at the County Library for the State Representative 9th District. All three candidates attended and answered some tough questions. It was a smaller crowd but it was a Friday night. Both forums were well reported by the Daily News, but it is always better to be there in person since space is limited in the paper.

I want to thank everyone who helped out, especially Paul who spent a lot of his time getting the forums on our website and Mary Collins for moderating the Colfax Forum. Many thanks to everyone else who helped in numerous ways: Maria de Jesus Dixon, Zuma Lee Staba, Joan Laundry, Judy Stone, Anne Lewis, Franci Bose and Susan Daniels. If I have forgotten anyone, my apologies. I hope everyone had fun and is willing to do it again for the General Election Forums in October.

Brown Bags are Starting Up Again

Karen Kiessling

Our first two brown bag meetings are arranged and very interesting ones indeed.

All brown bag meetings take place the third Thursday of the month and are held in the Community Congregational Church 525 NE Campus Avenue from 12 noon to 1 pm. They are informal, informative and open to all.

The first brown bag meeting is to be held on Thursday, September 15, with our speaker the WSU Chief of Police Bill Gardner. He will be speaking on the topic *Fostering Care and Concern for Each Other – Police and the Public*. Come to hear what Chief Gardner has to say about creating the climate of care and respect among his officers and in the public's response as well. Bring your lunch if you wish, but do bring your questions and suggestions.

The second brown bag meeting of the League year will be with the Whitman County Commissioners. They will talk with us on Thursday, October 20, at noon. Traditionally they have begun each year but this year their budget hearings with department heads in Whitman County will fill that day to capacity. They asked for the October date and we are happy to oblige. This is always a good discussion of county priorities in the eyes of the commissioners and it helps them to hear our concerns as well.

Put these dates on your calendar now and remember there is free parking in the lot beside the church. Bring a friend and take part.

Washington State Council – June 3-5, 2016

Mary Collins, Anne Lewis, Judy Stone, Libby Walker

Anne Lewis, Libby Walker, Judy Stone, and Mary Collins all attended Council this year. We traveled together and began the event by being near the front of the line of traffic routed around the oil train spill at Mosher in the Columbia Gorge. The experience was annoying but really added meaning to the Saturday night dinner speaker, Mary Christina Wood, a UO law professor who spoke on innovative legal approaches to addressing climate change.

I (Anne Lewis) appreciated the opportunity to attend Council, especially as I was able to do so with 3 other engaging and fun women! This was my first council, and it was my favorite of the state level events I have been able to attend.

During roll call, our League was honored with applause during—as well as after—our slide and verbal description of this year's highlights: completion of the Poverty Study, the registration of 79 voters as

part of the Civics Engagement class at Pullman High School, and the success of our Observer Corps (13 members, 10 city and county entities). What a rewarding response! Plus, it is representative of how highly regarded I have found Leagues around our state view LWV of Pullman. This is a testimony to our members' dedication, creativity, and performance.

It was announced that next year's State Convention will be hosted by Seattle King County. To save costs, the convention will likely take place in either Issaquah or Renton, rather than Seattle proper. It is not too early to consider the possibility of participating in this fun and informative opportunity.

As part of the "Civics Education" workshop at the convention, the Pullman League was asked to describe the curriculum that was developed by a team of members from our League. I (Libby Walker) briefly described the three part curriculum that was presented to three different sections of the new civics education course at Pullman High School. Over two semesters, 150 high school seniors and juniors learned about the gradual enfranchisement of all sectors of the American electorate, participated in a mock election, tried to complete the Louisiana literacy test in place until 1965, and learned about current and historical state barriers to voting. I concluded by sharing that 79 new voters were registered as a result of these presentations and gratefully acknowledged the financial support of the League State Education Fund Board for a grant that covered the expenses of this project. The presentation was warmly received with many questions from the audience - Where can we get a copy of this curriculum? How did you find the materials that you used? What was the students' reaction to your presentation? Throughout the remainder of the conference, I was approached by several workshop attendees who thanked me for sharing our curriculum project and assured me that they had learned a lot. It was a very rewarding experience, and I am very glad that I had this opportunity to showcase a very successful effort by the Pullman League of Women Voters.

This was my (Judy Stone) first League of Women Voters of Washington Council and it was a good choice for me; not overwhelming yet providing me with a nice orientation to the goings-on at the state level. I appreciated the orientation materials given to "first-timers"; in fact I'll be incorporating some of them into our new League of Women Voters of Pullman's *Primer*. "Roll-Call" was probably what impressed me most – intelligent, informed women gave quick synopses of what their local Leagues have been working on this past year. So many issues are similar across the local Leagues and both successes and disappointments were shared. Anne's report for our Pullman League received the lone applause! Our League is very well respected and admired. Other sessions, clearly presented, explained and discussed, covered specific issues of concern at the state and national levels (e.g. state initiatives, global warming) and the importance of the non-partisan policy at all League levels was sternly voiced.

I (Mary Collins) attended sessions on fund raising and changing IRS status from 501(c) (4) to 501 (c) (3). Under the first (our current) classification lobbying is unlimited but dues and contributions are not tax deductible. It has been determined that 501 (c) (3) can do lots of lobbying so long as they do not spend more than 20% of their funds on direct lobbying. Oregon made the change last year and Washington is looking into making the change as well.

“A Little Open Space to Play In”

When Elinor McCloskey, active LWV of Pullman member for more than 30 years, was a young girl, her parents bought property on Skyline Drive in Pullman. As the neighborhood developed, they decided to purchase the grassy field behind their home where Elinor enjoyed playing. This fall, Elinor donated a conservation easement to the Palouse Land Trust that will ensure the land will remain in its natural state and provide important open space next to Sunnyside Park for all children of the future who wish to play there. (For complete story, go to <http://www.palouselandtrust.org>)



Elinor receiving plaque from mayor Glenn Johnson

LWV National Convention Deb Owens

Maria de Jesus Dixon and I would like to extend our thanks to the League for allowing us to attend this year's National Convention in Washington DC. As usual, it was exciting, engaging, reinvigorating and exhausting. This year's programs started at 7:15 a.m. with caucuses and ended at 10 p.m. or later (caucuses almost always ran long), too much interesting information and discussion. The guest speakers were for the most part excellent. I might even buy some of their books. If you are interested contact Deb Olson olsonbones@aol.com. We were also introduced to the new CEO, Wylecia Wiggs Harris (now you know who is sending all those emails).

I headed out a day early to attend Lobby Day when Ann Murphy was able to get an appointment with Representative Cathy McMorris-Rogers for a brief meeting. Of course we were standing outside her door when she was rushed to the floor for a vote. So we didn't get to meet with her but met with a senior staffer. In the strategy/training session prior to the trip to the hill, we were instructed to push just one thing, fixing the gutted Voting Rights Act with the Voting Rights Advancement Act which was sitting in committee. We urged the Representative to sign the House discharge petition to move the bill to the House floor for discussion and a vote. We were informed that Cathy McMorris-Rogers NEVER signs discharge petitions even when she is in favor of a bill. Very Interesting! I did not stay to visit the state Senators since there was a large group of Washington Leaguers present.

In other business, the League voted to accept the new LWVUS positions on Money in Politics, and Constitutional Conventions under Article V of the US Constitution. The League approved the adoption of the two LWVUS Board recommended concurrences: Redistricting and Colorado's on Behavioral Health. Six Resolutions were approved including statehood for DC, and the three climate change resolutions.

The delegates voted to change the language of the By-Laws regarding types of membership after much discussion. New Bylaw reads *Persons at least 16 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues, and of the LWVUS*. New officers were elected and the budget approved and good news – dues stay the same.

Letter to Palouse Regional Transportation Planning Organization

The following letter was sent to the Palouse Regional Planning Organization (PRTO) to report on the results of the poverty study recently concluded by the LWV of Pullman. It gives a concise account of the findings related to transportation.

Palouse Regional Transportation Planning Organization
845 Port Way
Clarkston, WA 9403
June 10, 2016

Dear Palouse RTPO,

The League of Women Voters of Pullman recently completed a two year-long study of Poverty in Whitman County. Transportation was one of the eight subject areas we examined. In our study we looked at transportation service needs and services currently available to those living in poverty in Whitman County.

In 2014 USA Today reported that Whitman County is the poorest county in Washington State with a poverty rate of about 32%. In the course of our study we found work done by the US Census that adjusted these figures to account for the high proportion of student households in Pullman. This report, as well as data collected by the recently completed Community Needs Assessment, found that the actual figure for the number of poor households in the county is somewhere between 16% and 20%. While much lower than figures that include students, this is still above the Washington State average of 14%. We also found that while most low income households are in Pullman, the relative proportion of these households is greatest in the smaller towns, most notably in the northern part of the county.

We found that transportation services within Pullman are very good. Public transportation is readily available and free or very low cost. In 2012 Pullman Dial-A-Ride provided 18,653 passenger trips to seniors and the disabled. Pullman transit provided 1,472,626 regular, fixed route passenger trips during the same period.

We found the greatest transportation needs to be for those living in the 15 small towns in Whitman County. It should be noted that our data used zip codes to identify location such that those living outside of any town limits could not be separated out and are therefore not separately considered. We found that COAST transportation is doing a good job of providing demand response transportation to the county at large. In 2014 they provided 12,645 passenger trips using both paid and volunteer drivers. Their rides are not limited to medical services nor do they serve only the elderly or disabled. They reported to us that they have not reached their full service capacity and are attempting to increase awareness of their services. The need that is not being met is for regularly scheduled transportation between the small towns and Pullman where most

of the employment opportunities are.

The lack of transportation between the small towns and Pullman is a significant factor in limiting the economic opportunities of poor households. These households may not be able to take advantage of lower cost housing opportunities in the smaller towns because of unreliable transportation to work in Pullman. COAST currently is able to provide this type of service to individuals with disabilities and has said they would have the capacity to expand to others if additional funding sources allowed such transport.

We urge the Palouse RTPO to consider ways to encourage public and private systems of transportation that might address the problem of regularly scheduled transportation for work and access to services by all, but particularly low income households throughout Whitman County. We believe that it is possible to provide opportunities and incentives for such systems.

The LWV Pullman has adopted through consensus the following statement related to transportation in Whitman County. “The LWV of Pullman supports development of a variety of county-wide transportation systems for Whitman County. They should include both on-demand and regular, dependable transportation to employment opportunities and to services.” This position allows us to speak in favor of pending legislation or funding as well as in opposition to activities and legislation that might cut or remove funding.

We value and respect the work of the Palouse RTPO and appreciate the opportunity to participate in this effort. If you would like to learn more about our study of poverty the report it is available at our website www.lwvpullman.org. The Community Needs Assessment which also looked at transportation can be found at www.cacwhitman.com. Please call upon us if there are things we can do to assist you.

Sincerely,

Mary Collins, Executive Committee Member

The League of Women Voters of Pullman

Observer Reports

Pullman Arts Commission (PAC), May 26, 2016

Observer: Uta Hutnak

Business pertaining to League program or topic of interest:

The main focus of the meeting was feedback on the Pullman Art Walk on May 12 to 14, 2016. Art Walk 2016 was successful with 715 people signing in. It has become an important community event, thanks to the dedication and work of the PAC. It deserves the full support of the community.

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

Lively discussion and brainstorming regarding Art Walk:

- Positive feedback on the Utility Box Project; covering the remaining utility boxes could be a community project.
- Involvement of volunteers so the PAC members don't have to do the work all by themselves – there are only 9 members.

- More balance between the requirements and contributions of businesses and artists.
- Art Walk needs to be put on the September agenda of the PAC to get a head start for next year's planning.

This was the last PAC meeting of the year.

PULLMAN-MOSCOW REGIONAL AIRPORT BOARD, June 29, 2016 Observer, June Crawford

All eight board members were present and the meeting began promptly at 3.00 p.m. with Pullman Mayor Glenn Johnson presiding. In attendance also were: Tony Bean, Airport Executive Director; Kelly Brown, Legal Counsel; and an audience of approximately 20 people, comprised of airport employees; representatives from Mead & Hunt, project engineers; and a reporter from the Moscow-Pullman Daily News.

The mood of the meeting was congenial and the board seemed well prepared for the agenda. Items requiring a vote were discussed amiably, motions proposed, seconded and passed unanimously.

Airport Manager's report comprised much of the meeting and stated that: the grant from FAA for the work will be received in increments as and when the money is appropriated by Congress.

However, there is a date scheduled for the start of the work on July 12th marked by a ground breaking ceremony on July 11th at 12 noon. It is significant that the early phase will be on property already acquired for the airport at the West end. There are still negotiations to be completed with Avista, Washington State University and property owners. It may be necessary to acquire through eminent domain but this is not yet known. Offers have been sent to all owners involved.

A drone policy is being developed as a safety measure with the WSU and Pullman Police Department.

Small items of interest:

A new water fountain was installed in the airport waiting area; rest room redesign in progress; a calendar for 2017 is being created by Design West of Pullman.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m to allow for the Executive meeting, not open to the public. All board members will attend the discussion of a public employee.

Discussion concerning the acquisition of real estate will exclude Avista and WSU board members.

Calendar for League Year 2016-2017

Date	Topic	Coordinator	Place
Sept 12	Back to League: Voter Services, Civics class, LWV Primer	Deb Olson & Paul Spencer	Glawes' home
Sept 15	BB: WSU Chief of Police Bill Gardner	Karen Kiessling	Congregational Church
Oct	Election Forums	Deb Olson and Maria Dixon	TBD
Oct 20	BB: County Commissioners	Karen Kiessling	Congregational Church
Nov 07	Food Security	Mary Collins	Umpqua Bank
Nov 17	BB: TBD	Deb Olson	Congregational Church
Dec 05	Civics education for the public	Diane Smerdon & Karen Kiessling	Umpqua Bank
Dec 15	BB: TBD	Deb Olson	Congregational Church
Jan 09	State and Local Planning	TBD	Umpqua Bank
Jan 19	BB: TBD	Deb Olson	Congregational Church
Feb 06	Citizens Climate Lobby	Judy Meuth	Umpqua Bank
Feb 16	BB: TBD	Deb Olson	Congregational Church
Mar 06	Criminal Justice Issue	Karen Kiessling	Umpqua Bank
Mar 16	BB: TBD	Deb Olson	Congregational Church
Apr 03	Housing and Eldercare	Judy Stone & Mary Collins	Umpqua Bank
Apr 20	BB: TBD	Deb Olson	Congregational Church
May 08	Annual Member's Meeting	TBD	TBD
May 18	BB: TBD	Deb Olson	Congregational Church