



VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PULLMAN, WASHINGTON

June 15, 2017

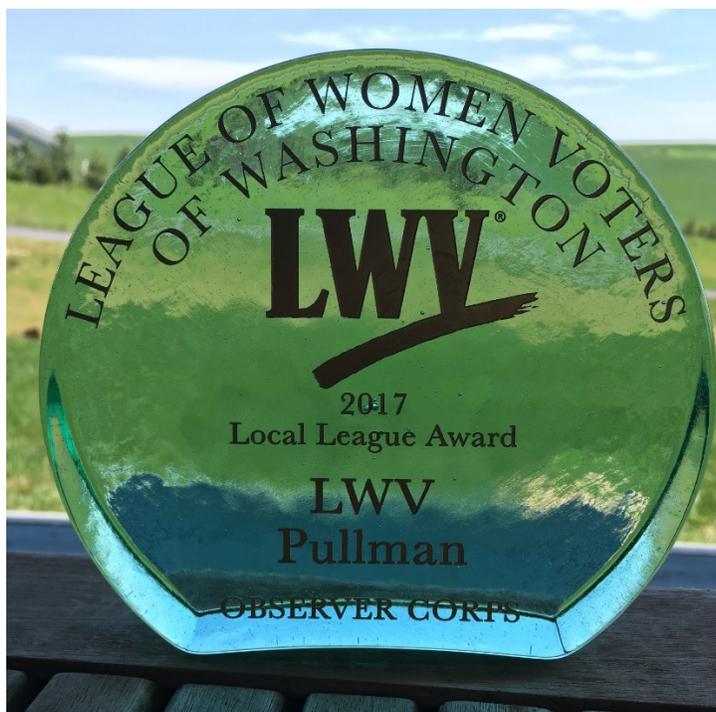
www.lwvpullman.org

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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.

President: Shelley Jones, 432-3428; **Vice-President:** Mary Collins, 509-592-6929.

Complete officer list and contact information on page 9.



3 Outstanding Local League Awards were presented at State Convention- including this one!

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

Meetings & Events in Brief

Board Meetings

Date: Fourth Tuesdays, June 27, (No July meeting), August 29, 10:00 a.m.

Location: Daily Grind, back room

Chair: Shelley Jones, 432-3428

Johnson 4th of July Parade

Date: Tuesday, July 4; 9:15 a.m. carpool from Pro Mall; Parade 10 a.m.

Contact: Deb Olson, 595-0333

Primary Forum

Date: Wednesday, July 12; 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Location: Umpqua Bank

Contact: Deb Olson, 595-0333

Summer Planning Meeting & Potluck

Date: Monday, July 24; 10am-1 pm

Program: Setting the year's programs!

Location: Home of Mary Collins; 1104 Collins Rd

Contact: Shelley Jones, 432-3428 or Mary Collins, 509-592-6929

Lentil Festival

Date: Friday, August 18; evening

Contact: Deb Olson, 595-0333

Book Club

Date: Monday, August 28, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Book: *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson

Place: TBD

Contact: Jackie Miyasaka, 332-1248

Meetings & Events- The Fuller Picture

Johnson 4th of July Parade

-Deb Olson

July 4th and the infamous Johnson Parade is fast approaching. The Parade is from 10 – 11 am. The League is planning to march and give out flags. We try to wear red white & blue (not obligatory). Due to limited parking, we carpool. Be at the Pro Mall parking lot (off Bishop) by 9:15 a.m. Contact Deb Olson olsonbones@aol.com or 595-0333 if interested.

Prior to the event, we need to wrap the flags with labels advertising the primary forum. Only skill needed is ability to use a glue stick. Let Deb know if you are interested in this activity.

Primary Forum

-Deb Olson

Good News!!! This year multiple candidates filed to run for city council and the school board. All three of the City Council Positions (Wards 1, 2, and 3) have at least two people running. Ward 1 has three people running, Ward 2 has four! For the two school board positions, Director 4 has four candidates and Director 5 has two. Exciting news- and choices-- for voters! Now we need to learn about the candidates.

For League this means we have primary forums. As you all know, Washington is a top two state (only the top two vote getters move on to the general election). This means we hold a Primary forum for two of the city council seats and one of the school board positions. **The League Primary Forum is scheduled for Wednesday, July 12.** We will need the usual card collectors, card sorters, timers, and a moderator (if anyone is champing at the bit).

In addition, Palouse ProActive is holding a Primary forum for these same positions on June 22 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at Neill Public Library. *I encourage you to attend this event since some of the school board candidates will not be available in July.*

Contact Deb Olson at olsonbones@aol.com or 595-0333 if interested.

Annual Summer Planning Meeting & Salad Potluck

-Shelley Jones

Join us Monday, July 24, at 10:00 a.m. and help plan programs, meetings, and other activities for our League in the coming year. This is a great time for members of the League to join in with ideas and suggestions so bring your ideas, your interests and your questions to the summer planning session. After the meeting, we get to enjoy all the delicious salads that are brought to the potluck. We are meeting at Mary's house in the beautiful Palouse country. **RSVP to Mary, 509-592-6929 or marycollins1104@gmail.com** so that she knows how many tables and chairs she needs to set up.

Directions to Mary's house – 1104 Collins Rd.: From Albion: Travel north on Main out of town (road becomes gravel). Proceed about 3 miles on Palouse-Albion Road. Turn left onto Shawnee Road. Proceed about 50 yards.

Shawnee turns left – keep going straight onto Collins Road. Proceed about 1 mile. We are the log house with the RED roof.

Lentil Festival

-Deb Olson

The Lentil Festival is August 18th and 19th. The League will have a booth at the Friday nonprofit night. A chance to chat up league and register voters. And, YES!, I am looking for volunteers to take a turn at the booth.

As for the parade, I made an executive decision years ago that we would not participate unless I had at least 12 people willing to do this. The usual 5 or 6 made a poor showing. I will arrange if we have enough marchers, but be aware it's a longer parade than Johnson.

Contact Deb Olson olsonbones@aol.com or 595-0333 if interested.

Book Club -Jackie Miyasaka



The membership was invited to vote on the next book for the LWV Pullman Book Club, and Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson won the vote. We will read this for our next book club meeting on August 28 at 1:00 p.m. We hope that many of you book lovers will join us for some interesting conversation about Just Mercy.

Observer Corps

-Judy Stone

The Observer Corps is composed of members who attend meetings of public agencies and report on issues of interest to League. The monthly calendar of public meetings and the observers assigned to them is available on our website on the [home page](#). Check it out and see if there is a meeting you would like to attend. Contact Judy Stone, 509-878-1519.

Whitman County Board of Commissioners Report- 5/15/17

-Mary Collins

Most of the meeting was basic business, letter/contract signing etc. The Aging and Long Term Care of Eastern Washington, an agency that coordinates federal and state programs for the elderly, reported on support they provided to Whitman County in 2016. They fund a range of programs that provide case management, care coordination, caregiver assessment and support, transportation, and meals. Whitman County received \$532,857 worth of services through them in 2016. They helped 861 individuals. They reported that about 34% of the elderly they serve in Whitman County are low income. The County planner reported that there will be a public hearing on June 7 regarding changes in the agriculture and cluster zoning language. It was noted that

there are no applicants for the 3 vacant positions (total of 9 positions) on the planning commission. The Public Works staff reported that as soon as things dry out work will begin on this year's major road projects.

Of interest to me was the report on Sand Road. One of the factors involved in that project, that slowed work because it was not adequately addressed in planning, was that a bridge to be replaced is considered to have unique historic properties. Having worked in Cultural Resource Management this caught my attention. The outcome is that the Corps of Engineers is requiring that they mitigate the loss of the bridge by doing a public service program about the bridge. They have 5 years to do this. I was put off by the attitude of the Commissioners and staff that this was a trivial thing and that the requirements involved were not worthwhile. I plan to personally look into this more.

Exciting News & Updates!

New Position: Community Outreach

-Libby Walker

I have agreed to serve in this new role. My duties will be to expand the publicity of League events by reaching out to new media sources, including the WSU campus, to email notices to the League membership as Barbara Hammond has been doing, and to follow up with the leadership of the Daily News in an effort to increase coverage and publicity for our events. I look forward to the challenges of this position and would like to thank Janet Kendall for her efforts in the past to publicize our chapter's programs and events.

New Member Spotlight: Austin Peasley

I came out to Pullman to start my undergraduate degree in microbial biosciences. I started working in a research lab on campus my first summer here, and worked there for half a decade before moving to work at VMRD in Pullman. After a year there, I moved to my current position working with Dr. Kelly Brayton on tick diseases and genomics as part of the Veterinary Medicine department, and have been there for the last three years.

I wanted to join the League because I wanted to join a local group focused on both local advocacy and community connection, but also one that had a national scope and a strong focus on civic engagement and voter awareness. I am very interested in the efforts the Pullman chapter has taken in connecting research material results with community groups who can help use those conclusions, and I'm also very interested in promoting accountability for local government through the Observer program as well.

In terms of public policy, I'd love to see the League do more of the local-focus research, and also continue to promote voter registration and public awareness of issues and representatives at all levels of government. As for being involved with specific programs or issues, I think I'd want to find out more about what's available so I can see what piques my interest the most.

Oh...the Memories (aka “Reports”)

Convention!

-Mary Collins

This year’s State LWV convention was hosted by the Seattle-King County League and took place in downtown Seattle. The theme was “Democracy: Must be Present to Win”. Shelley Jones and Mary Collins attended as our delegates. The program was full of informative and inspirational speakers. Of particular interest was the Friday evening speech by Noah Purcell, Solicitor General for the State of Washington who spoke about the recent efforts of Washington State and the Attorney General to challenge executive orders made by President Trump.

Perhaps the most informative of the breakout sessions were two that addressed redistricting, including the history and processes involved nationally and in our State. The business work of LWVWA included setting program goals for the 2017-2019 biennium that include a one year survey and development of an action plan addressing the status of healthcare coverage in Washington. Also adopted was a one year study of current LWVWA Position HC-1 to focus on behavioral health diagnosis, treatment, and facilities in the State. The final recommended action adopted was a review of LWVWA current positions on tax structures in Washington State.

In addition to the work recommended by the Board of LWVWA, two additional actions were adopted at convention. The first is to develop a study on Internet Privacy in our state. The second is to follow up on what is being done to further efforts supported by the passage of I-735 which calls for an amendment to the Constitution to overturn the Citizens United decision.

Finally, the best news of all was that the LWV of Pullman won an award for the amazing growth and success of our Observer Corps. Good on us!

Annual Members Meeting

- Jackie Miyasaka

The 2017 Pullman League of Women Voters’ Annual Business Meeting was well attended with 22 present at the lovely home of Francy Bose. Thank you, Francy, for your hospitality! Mary Collins spoke about action in terms of education and advocacy, referring to examples resulting from the Poverty Study. All annual reports were approved unanimously as was the slate of officers for next year. Changes to the bylaws reduced membership age from 18 to 16 and clarified membership dues and nominating committee language. A proposal was made and passed to raise individual dues by \$5 to \$65, effective September 2017. The Pullman Chapter will send two delegates to State Convention meeting in Seattle, June 2-4. Summer activities include the annual planning meeting on July 24 from 10-1 at the home of Mary Collins. The meeting ended with recognition to Dean and Ginger Glawe for their service, and best wishes were extended for their move to Seattle.

Public Forum on Drones

-Barbara Hammond

On Wednesday, May 3, the League sponsored a Public Forum, at the request of and in conjunction with the Pullman Police Department, to allow for public input regarding the PD's proposed policy for use of Unmanned Aerial Systems/Drones. Chief Gary Jenkins and Dr. Matthew Turner, Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, provided background and answered questions from the audience. Approximately 24 members of the public were in attendance, including State Representative Joe Schmick, and posed questions and offered concerns and perspectives. The forum was broadcast live on Facebook and one question was received from that channel as well. Copies of the draft policy were provided by Chief Jenkins. This information is also available on the Pullman Police Department website.

Brown Bag Reports-Deb Olson

April 20th – Pullman 2040

Francis Benjamin came and talked to us about Pullman 2040. What do we want Pullman to be like in 2040? This project is strictly voluntary and receives no city funding. They are one year into the process and are wrapping up the results of the survey. Pullman 2040 has collected 600+ responses. All 4 hills are represented with a good cross-section of age and gender. 75-80% respondents live in Pullman and 45% have lived in Pullman over 11 years. The next phase sets up 6 task forces to work on questions resulting from the survey questions. The Task Forces are: Community Identity, Economic Development, Education, Environment/Recreation, Visual Appeal, and Wellness. The group should be drafting an action plan from August to October.

May 18th – Progress & Challenges to Realizing Roadside Detection of Acute Marijuana Consumption

Dr. Nick Lovrich (professor emeritus), Peyton Nosbusch (PhD candidate in Chemistry), and Nathan Weller (consultant) presented a fascinating and informative talk on THC detection.

This is very timely. To date, 8 states & the District of Columbia have legalized recreational marijuana and 28 states have legalized medical marijuana. In 2017 Canada is expected to legalize marijuana but will leave the details up to each province. Even in Europe where marijuana is only legal in one country and location, Holland coffee shops, marijuana is decriminalized. Although the current U.S. Attorney General is threatening to crack down on legal marijuana, Nick explained that this is unlikely to happen because of state government addiction to MONEY. Average daily sales in Washington in 2016 were 48 million dollars. The Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WISPP) is preparing a cost benefit analysis of legalized pot available in September.

The problem with roadside evaluation has been identified (breathalyzer does not seem to work). Most accurate tests require blood samples, a lab, and time. A middle ground needs to be developed. Accurate detection can be done with saliva (swabs of cheek and tongue). This presents another problem as saliva also contains DNA. There must be guarantees in place that the sample will be destroyed and not used in other criminal cases. What is needed is a device that can perform rapid detection for THC in field settings that is portable and timely (less than 1 minute). I will spare you all the chemistry.

Research is particularly challenging as there is no federal funding for any marijuana research since marijuana is listed as a schedule 1 drug. If this classification changed, more experiments-especially medical- would occur. Currently, marijuana research requires DEA permission.

Dr. Lovrich and Peyton Nosbusch are entering the data collection phase. The team is looking for volunteers- at least 50 people (20 chronic users and 20 casual users)- to determine if there is a difference. Testing will be completed by the end of June.

Please note that Brown Bags are taking a summer hiatus and will resume in September. We meet on the third Thursdays of the month from noon – 1 pm at the Congregational Church. I will gladly accept any suggestions for topics. Contact Deb Olson at olsonbones@aol.com.

Spring Civics Classes at Pullman High School -Deb Olson

On Wednesday, April 19 three League members, Paul Spencer, Susan Daniels and Deb Olson were at the High School presenting “All Things Voting” to the 3 civics classes. Our program begins with voting History (with different candies representing citizen categories), and moves to an actual literacy test used in Louisiana until 1965. This is the students’ favorite part-- every time the test is “administered” numerous responses result. We then discuss a timely topic. This year was gerrymandering and redistricting. The teacher, Craig McCormick, found an online game to illustrate redistricting and the problems involved. We needed more time to play this. If you want to play the game here’s the link www.redistrictinggame.org. We always save the last 10 minutes to register new voters.

This is a fun, important, and enjoyable activity for everyone. If you are interested in participating in the fall (you do **not** have to sign up for all day) contact Deb Olson olsonbones@aol.com or 595-0333. We need a larger pool of Leaguers to participate.

Housing & Eldercare Report

-Susan Daniels

The Monday meeting in April was a very informative panel presentation on low-income housing and elders in Whitman County. The panel members were: Jeff Tietjen and Camille Jessop from the Community Action Center, Rebecca Hatley from Pullman Regional Hospital, Andree Marcus-Radar from Rural Resources, and Holly Mooney from Circles of Caring.

Research for the Poverty Study made clear that Pullman doesn’t have enough one-bedroom apartments and the competition for them is high. Housing costs less in the smaller towns, but transportation is difficult. 30% of the low-income residents are elderly; most of them live in Pullman but the smaller towns have a greater proportion of them, and those needing low-cost housing are getting younger. Affordable one-bedroom housing is a problem state-wide.

The Community Action Center has some vouchers for either a single person or a couple that provide a maximum of \$635 per month and cover rent and utilities. In Pullman, seniors have a couple of housing options where rent is based on income. Palouse has one option. CAC also offers help with weatherizing that can help a senior to stay in their home.

Rural Resources works with all seniors helping them get connected to resources. They work toward enabling seniors to age in place, helping them remain independent as long as possible. They also provide family caregiver support and Medicaid case management.

Circles of Caring's goal is to help families keep loved ones in home as long as possible and prevent caregivers from burning out. They provide a safe and stimulating day-care facility where caregivers can take their loved ones and get some time to run errands, relax, etc.

Pullman Regional Hospital has Social Work Extenders, seniors from WSU's human development studies, who help people with housing and transportation needs connect with services.

All the panelists agreed that one of the biggest gaps in Whitman County is transportation. Transportation is provided by two services, COAST and Dial-A-Ride which is operated by Pullman Transit, and both require planning ahead. COAST can bring people to and from, but not within Pullman. Other needs are chore services and short term end-of-life care.

Complete List of Board Officers:

President: Shelley Jones, 432-3428; **Vice-President:** Mary Collins, 509-592-6929; **Secretary:** Alice Schroeder, 334-2470; **Backup Secretary:** Libby Walker, 432-4756; **Treasurers:** Susan Daniels & Paul Spencer, 332-6699; **Voter Services:** Deb Olson, 332-2114; **Observer Corps Chair:** Judy Stone, 509-878-1519; **Brown Bag Coordinator:** Deb Olson, 332-2114; **Voter Editor:** Anne Lewis, 334-1075; **Webmaster:** Paul Spencer: 332-6699; **Community Outreach:** Libby Walker, 432-4756; **Social Media Coordinator:** Erin McIlraith, 432-3368; **Community Update Editor:** Diane Smerdon, 334-5413; **Membership:** Janet Kendall, 432-3368; **Finance Coordinator:** Diane Smerdon, 334-5413; **Finance Drive Thank-Yous:** Lenna Harding, 332-7749; **Nominating Chair:** Anne Lewis, 334-1075

Final Words from the Editor:

I appreciate your ideas, helpful criticism, and feedback regarding this Voter and future Voters. I can be reached at anneglewis2@yahoo.com or 509-334-1075. Thank you for reading and for your valuable participation in the League of Women Voters of Pullman!