



VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PULLMAN, WASHINGTON

www.lwvpullman.org

<https://www.facebook.com/LWVPullman/>

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

Complete officer list and contact information on page 8.



The League of Women Voters of Pullman kicks off the 2017-2018 league year with our Back to League Meeting on Monday, September 11.

LWVWA president Ann Murphy will be on hand to discuss the important and timely topic of "What is Non-Partisanship?"

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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: Generally Fourth Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m.; Upcoming meetings: September 19 (3rd Tue), October 24

Location: Daily Grind, back room

Chair: Shelley Jones, 509-432-3428

Back to League

Date: Monday, September 11, 6 pm

Subject: Ann Murphy, LWVWA President presents 'What is Non-Partisanship'

Contact: Karen Kiessling, 509-332-4755

Brown Bag Meetings

When: 3rd Thursdays of the month; noon

Location: Congregational Church

Upcoming Topics:

September 21- City of Pullman Bond: "New Capital Proposal"

October 26 (4th Thursday) –County Commissioners

November 16- Fake News

Contact: Deb Olson, 509-595-0333

Candidate Forums

Date: TBD

Location: Neill Public Library

Contact: Deb Olson, 509-595-0333

November Meeting

Date: Monday, November 6, 6:30 p.m. Social, 7 pm Program

Program: Food Insecurity

Location: Hecht Room of Neill Public Library

Contact: Mary Collins, 509-592-6929

Meetings & Events- The Fuller Picture

Back to League Potluck

- Shelley Jones

Welcome Back Leaguers! The LWV-Pullman Board and I invite you to attend our "Back to League" Potluck on September 11th at 6PM. It will be held at Karen Kiessling's Home, 510 SE Crestview Drive. Bring a dish to share and let's start our League year! Invite a friend who is interested in League!

We will begin with a potluck dinner and then hear from our guest speaker, Ann Murphy, LWVWA President. Ann will be speaking on the topic "What is Non-Partisanship?"

For those of you unable to make it to the supper, please still come for the meeting at 7 pm. ***Please RSVP to Karen Kiessling at 509-332-4755 so she can have enough tables and chairs ready.***



Finally, bring your checkbook as it is your Membership!

Dues have increased slightly this year and are as follows: **\$65 Individual, \$90 for a couple, and \$32 Student.**

Remember, only a small percentage (approximately 20%) stays with our local league, so if you are able and willing to contribute a greater amount that is welcomed and appreciated. Conversely, we do not want cost to be an impediment to membership. Sponsorships are available- please speak with a Board member for details.

September 26 is National Voter Registration Day!

-Deb Olson

The League will have a table in the CUB and Neill Public Library. Additional locations may also be available. Please contact Deb Olson with questions and to sign up! olsonbones@aol.com or 509- 595-0333.

Brown Bags

-Deb Olson

The League will hold its inaugural Brown Bag September 21 noon to 1 pm. This meeting is very important. Adam Lincoln, the "new" city supervisor, will talk about the general bond (\$10.5 million) which will be on the ballot. Come, bring your questions, and learn about the issue.

Due to the schedules of the commissioners, the October Brown Bag "Meet the County Commissioners" is going to be held October 26 (4th Thursday).

Candidate Forums

-Deb Olson

Date is TBD, but hoping to hold the forum for the three city council races and the two school board races the week of October 16th. The ballots will be mailed starting October 20th. We will need volunteers to help at the forums. Contact Deb Olson; olsonbones@aol.com or 509-595-0333.

Civics Class at Pullman High School

-Deborah Olson

Start thinking about the upcoming civics class. School has not started yet, so the date is not yet set. We have an Ed Fund grant (Thank you, Judy Stone!) to continue this very worthy project. Please consider volunteering for at least part of the day. I CAN'T DO IT ALONE! It is a lot of fun and the kids are great. Contact Deb Olson;

olsonbones@aol.com or 509-595-0333.

Exciting News & Updates!

New Member and Position Spotlight: Erin McIlraith/Social Media Coordinator

Tell us about your background -- how did you come to live in Pullman? What has your career been on the Palouse?

I came to Pullman from Wisconsin July 2008 to pursue a Master's degree in Anthropology, and I ended up finding a full-time job at the WSU Center for Civic Engagement as the Marketing and Communication Coordinator. I've been working at the CCE for seven years.

What caused you to join the League of Women Voters of Pullman and what interests you about the League?

I've been interested in the League since I learned about it a couple years ago when the League completed the Whitman County Poverty Study. I'm very passionate about increasing democratic engagement and protecting voter rights. I ran the *Cougs Vote* democratic engagement campaign at WSU this last year. This spring I decided I had enough time to dedicate to being an active member of the League, so I joined with my husband, Austin Peasley. Being an active citizen is important to me, and I felt like the League was a good way to get more involved in my community.

What topics would you like the League to pursue in the area of public policy? Are you interested in being involved in League programs or issues?

I'm interested in helping more eligible voters become more actively engaged in government, so I'm excited about the ways the League works on this issue already. I'm excited to be involved in voter engagement efforts, and I'm the new Social Media Coordinator, so I'm excited to share events and news on the League's Facebook page as well. **If members haven't liked the page or invited others to like it yet, I encourage them to do so! It can be found at facebook.com/lwvpullman.**

Breaking News: We just heard that Erin's last day in the CCE will be Friday, September 15. She has accepted the Civic Engagement Coordinator position at Oregon State University. We congratulate Erin and wish her well in her new (ad)ventures!

League Website

Thanks to Paul Spencer, the Know Your Government (TRY) 2017-18 is now on our league website. www.lwvpullman.org. It is available from the Voter Services menu at the top of the page, and there is also a direct link at the bottom of the sidebar on the home page.

The URL is: <http://lwvpullman.org/pdf/KnowGovt2017-18.pdf>

Oh...the Memories (aka “Reports”)

Lentil Festival

-Deb Olson

The League had a booth Friday night on August 18th. This year they moved us to the Pool parking area and we were a little worried we would not get the same volume of foot traffic but that was not the case. Several people stopped to chat and we gave out TRYs and flyers with our upcoming meetings. We registered a few folks and gave others the information they needed about registering. For next year we need to spruce up our display (although my rocks were a hit). Any Ideas would be helpful, maybe some photos or a large sign with our mission statement.

I would like to thank Paul Spencer for assembling and breaking down the booth. I would also like to thank Bobbi Ryder, Alice Schroeder, Erin McIlraith and Austin Peasley for sitting at the booth.

Book Club

-Judy Stone

On August 17th, four League members attended the Book Club’s discussion of Just Mercy, a nonfiction work by Bryan Stevenson. As a young lawyer, his career began by giving legal assistance to persons on death row who were either wrongly convicted or were the recipients of horrible injustice from the legal, correctional and law enforcement systems. Everyone agreed this is a powerful and very disturbing indictment of the U.S. prison system, specifically its: blatant abuse of power, racial politics, and indifference towards non-whites. We shared our own stories of injustice we have experienced or witnessed and ended with the upbeat sharing of a delicious coffee cake.

Non-Profit Showcase

-Deb Olson

The nonprofit showcase was held from 10 – 2 at SEL on August 8. This year was different from last in that the chamber lined up speakers to give ideas to non-profits and let us know what kinds of resources are available. The leader (and keynote speaker at lunch) was Nancy Bacon from Washington Nonprofits (www.washingtonnonprofits.org). She was a very good speaker with lots of ideas (I have flyers if anyone is interested in learning more.) Other speakers included: Jon Carson from Inland NW Broadcasting who spoke of community partnership grants for advertising events and help with messaging; Lauren Nissen of Inland NW Community Foundation; Mike Allen Wayfind (pro bono lawyers for non-profits); and Jeff Guyette (Palouse Resources Guide and Palouse nonprofit network). We set up our displays at 11:30 then broke for lunch. Attendees-mostly other event participants- visited the booths after lunch.

Primary Candidate Forums

- Deb Olson

The forum for the two city council races and the school board race with more than two candidates was held on July 12. Considering it was an evening in the middle of summer, the event was well attended. As usual there were more questions from the audience than could be asked. Thank you to all the candidates who participated.

Thanks to all Leaguers who helped at the forum. Our Forums would not be the success they are without your participation.

On a side note, once again some of the ballots sent out were inaccurate. It was thanks to one of our members that this was brought to the attention of County elections Office

Annual Summer Planning Meeting & Salad Potluck

-Mary Collins

The annual planning meeting was held on July 24th at the home of Mary Collins. We had a good discussion about what we might try and have for programming next year. The calendar/list shows what we came up with for 2017-2018. One big change is that the January National and State Planning meeting will be a brunch rather than evening event to try and avoid winter night driving. We are looking to host some of the meetings at Neill Public Library, as well as Umpqua Bank, so be sure to check the location information as it becomes available. Following our meeting we had our usual delicious pot luck salad lunch.

2017-2018 League of Women Voters of Pullman Calendar of Events resulting from the Planning Meeting

September 11, 6-9PM: Back to League Potluck "What is Non-Partisanship?" with Ann Murphy, LWVWA President

September 21 (BB): City of Pullman Bond: "New Capital Proposal"

September 26: National Voter Registration Day

October TBD: Candidate Forums

October 26 (BB): County Commissioners

November 6, 6:30-9PM at Hecht: Food Insecurity (Chair: Mary Collins)

November 16 (BB): Fake News

December 4, 6:30-9PM at Hecht: Membership Recognition & Community Award Cookie Dessert (Chair: Mary Collins & Shelley Jones)

December 14 (BB): Alternatives to Incarceration

January 8 (Breakfast Meeting 10-Noon at Old European): National Planning (Chair: Paul Spencer)

February 5, 6:30-9PM at Umpqua: Friends of Hospice: Serenity House (Chair: Libby Walker)

March 5, 6:30-9PM at Umpqua: Public Health (Chair: Judy Stone)

April 2, 6:30-9PM at Umpqua: How to Run for Local Office (Chairs: Judy Meuth & Libby Walker)

May 14, 6-9PM at TBD: Annual Meeting Potluck (Topic: TBD) (Chair: Shelley Jones)

Note: January- May Brown Bags TBD

Observer Corps

Judy Stone is the Chair of The Observer Corps which 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

Observer Report- Pullman City Council: July 18, 2017

Observer Reporting: Anne Lewis Length of Meeting: 7:00-8:06 pm

Members Present/Absent: All present

Others Present (i.e., media, public): Approx. 4-6 community members including City council candidate Eric Fejeran. Several department heads. Taylor of Moscow-Pullman Daily News.

Announcements: Construction "list" by Kevin Gardes: SR 270- almost done; N. Grand water line, College Hill, Evolve on Main. Lots of construction.

Presentation: **Pullman 2040 Initiative Update** presented by Francis Benjamin & Garren Shannon. Currently a year + in and Task Force groups are meeting to distill core ideas and present actionable items. Material was quite similar to what Francis Benjamin presented at the spring brown bag. Benjamin and Shannon noted people could still become involved in Pullman 2040.

Regular Agenda Resolutions Authorizing:

- Transit Agreement between City of Pullman and WSU
- Ground Lease between city of Pullman and Augustine Properties- Essentially Cougar ____ (a restaurant/bar on campus) gets a conditional permit for outdoor seating and city gets right of way access.
- Bond proposition of (amount not to exceed) \$10,500,000 "for the purpose of providing funds to finance the acquisition, remodeling and equipping of a new Recreation Center, Senior Center, City Administrative offices, the acquisition, construction and installation of a new Lawson Gardens Pavilion and event facility, and the site acquisition for a future third fire station."
 - o Passed unanimously. This requires 60% voter approval and participation of 40%+ of those who voted in the general election.
- Bond proposition of (amount not to exceed) \$2,400,000 "for the purpose of providing funds to finance improvements, repairs, and upgrades to certain city parks, and improvements to and creation of certain parks."
 - o Passed unanimously. Same voting requirements. This bond will have a maximum term of 10 years and essentially a replacement for the expiring parks & recreation bond.

New Business

Citizen Janice Brown. Wants transparent and "better" communication by city council re: the bonds being presented to the community. Suggests they consider something similar to the school district website when school bonds were proposed. I.e. Frequently asked questions and answers and a forum where people can post questions and questions are answered for all to see. The mayor thanked Ms. Brown for her comment and noted that now that the bond resolutions passed by council, info to be dispersed as appropriate.

Overall Observation: This was a smooth meeting with little discussion. Multiple city council members did express interest in, support of, and concurrence in the findings of Pullman 2040. As for the bonds, it appears that the majority of discussion occurred at last week's council meeting.

4th of July Parade

-Deb Olson



It was a great sunny (not too hot) day for the Johnson 4th of July Parade. **We had ten walkers and distributed over 1100 flags.** Two of our newest members, Erin McIlraith and Austin Peasely, brought their three pups all decked out in red white and blue (A Big Hit with the crowd). I want to thank all who marched and participated in our glue stick party to paste labels with the upcoming primary forum information. Thank You Susan and Paul for hosting!

Complete List of Board Officers:

President: Shelley Jones, 509-432-3428; **Vice-President:** Mary Collins, 509-592-6929; **Secretary:** Alice Schroeder, 509-334-2470; **Backup Secretary:** Libby Walker, 509-432-4756; **Treasurers:** Susan Daniels & Paul Spencer, 509-332-6699; **Voter Service:** Deb Olson, 509-595-0333; **Observer Corps Chair:** Judy Stone, 509-878-1519; **Brown Bag Coordinator:** Deb Olson, 509-898-0333; **Voter Editor:** Anne Lewis, 509-334-1075; **Webmaster:** Paul Spencer, 509-332-6699; **Community Outreach:** Libby Walker, 509-432-4756; **Social Media Coordinator:** Erin McIlraith, 509-432-3368; **Community Update Editor:** Diane Smerdon, 509-334-5413; **Membership:** Janet Kendall, 509-432-3368; **Finance Coordinator:** Diane Smerdon, 509-334-5413; **Finance Drive Thank-Yous:** Lenna Harding, 509-332-7749; **Nominating Chair:** Anne Lewis, 509-334-1075

From the Editor:

Coming Soon!

A VOTER SURVEY! Who doesn't love a survey?!?



Here are some questions to start you thinking/whet your appetite for a survey of our VOTER: How often do you refer to it? What do you wish was included that isn't? Is anything redundant or excessive? What do you think of having fewer "lengthy" Voters supplemented with shorter "Bite-Sized" Voters?

If you have any ideas for the survey or wish to respond to the above "leading" questions, please contact me. As always, 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!

