



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 5.



Please note that due to this Editor's schedule and energy level, the descriptions in this edition of the Voter may be briefer than usual. For additional detail or information, contact the contact  associated with the activity.

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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

Board Meetings

Date: Fourth Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m.; February 27

Location: Daily Grind, back room

Chair: Shelley Jones, 509-432-3428

Shortly following the February board meeting (at 12 noon), an Observer Corp meeting will be held in this same location.

Brown Bag Meetings

When: 3rd Thursdays of the month; noon

Location: Congregational Church, 525 NE Campus Avenue, Pullman

Upcoming Topics:

February 15- Pete Dickinson, How Planning Works

March 15- Meet the new City Councilors

April 19- Francis Benjamin, Topic TBD

Contact: Deb Olson, 509-595-0333

February Meeting

Date: Monday, February 5

Program: Serenity House, Annie Pillars

Location & Time: Umpqua Bank; 6:30 p.m. Social, 7:00 p.m. program

Contact: Libby Walker, 509-432-4756

Annie Pillars, Executive Director of Friends of Hospice will present information on the Serenity House - the new home purchased for hospice in Pullman. Please come with your questions for Annie. This will be a great presentation!

Observer Corps Meeting

Date: February 27, 2018

Time & Location: 12 noon; Downtown Daily Grind meeting room

Contact: Judy Stone, 509-878-1519

March Meeting

Date: March 5, 2018

Program: "Healthcare for Everybody"

Location & Time: Umpqua Bank; 6:30 p.m. Social, 7:00 p.m. program

Contact: Judy Stone, 509-878-1519

There will be a showing of the video "Now is the Time: Healthcare for Everybody" followed by a presentation by "Health Care for All – WA" and a discussion/question period about the increasing momentum in WA to establish a single-payer system. The National LWV has had a strong position supporting this since 1993.

Pi Day

Date: Wednesday, March 14

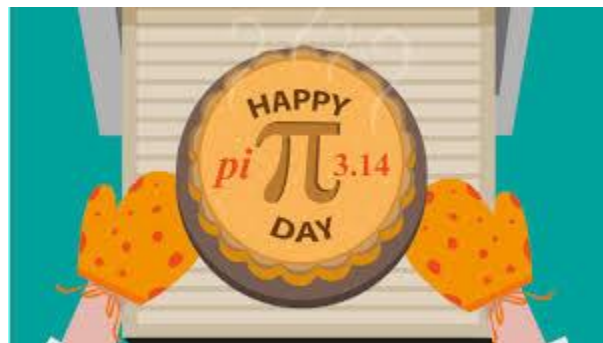
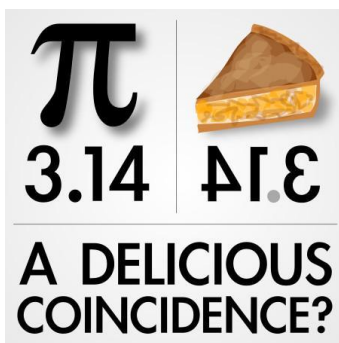
Time: 11 a.m.

Location: 915 S.E. Skylark Street (Anne's House)

Contact: Anne Lewis, 509-334-1075

Program: Conversation, consumption of delectable foods, and celebration of the good things in life.

In honor of the mathematical wonder of Pi (3.14.....), and as an excuse to eat Pie, we gather together for this 4th League Pi Day. If possible, please bring a pie (sweet or savory) to share. The event is not meant to be stressful, so come even if the baking of a pie does not fit into your schedule.



Book Club Program: Stay tuned ☺



Book, Date, Time, Location: TBD.

Nominations

The process of preparing for league year May 2018- May 2019 is underway! Please consider serving on the Board of our Pullman League. The last page of this Voter includes a list of all Board positions and the current officers.



Nominate yourself!

Nominate an unsuspecting friend!



Known Position Opening:

Brown Bag Coordinator:

Responsibilities –

- Organizes casual, monthly, noon educational and information sharing meetings.
- Garners suggestions for topics from League members.
- Engages a speaker.
- Moderates the presentation and questions and writes a brief report.
- Topics relate to League issues, community organizations and people, upcoming events/issues....

If interested in this or any other position (or to nominate that unsuspecting friend), please contact Nominating Chair Anne Lewis at anneglewis2@yahoo.com.

The Position of Social Media Coordinator has been filled! Thank you, thank you to Bobbie



Ryder for diving into this position!

A Selection of Memories

Brown Bag Summaries- Libby Walker

Fake News, November 16, 2017

More than 20 people attended Peter Haug's "Fake News" presentation. Haug has an extensive background in systems ecology and has taught a 6-class course on climate change. He became involved in the topic of fake news in his attempt to determine the validity of sources of information on this subject.

Haug noted that although we previously relied on newspapers and network news to establish reliability, now we must be individually responsible. Misinformation and disinformation shouldn't be confused. Disinformation is a lie and an abuse of power. A common tactic is to mix some factual information with deception and lies.

We can, however, evaluate information! Consider and research what data supports the narrative. What is the motivation for the piece? Are gaps or omissions apparent? Haug and several attendees recommended *Merchants of Doubt* by Orestes and Conway and *Dark Money* by Jane Mayer for further reading on this topic and phenomenon.

Alternative Sentencing, December 18, 2017

About a dozen people attended the Brown Bag with Judge Doug Robinson, District Court Judge for Whitman County. As a result of a court decision, ability to pay fines and costs must be considered in sentencing and probation violations. A person cannot be jailed because he or she cannot pay fines nor can a person be jailed for refusing to do community service. In fact, compelling a person to do community service is the equivalent of "involuntary servitude" according to the courts!

The judge shared a case in which he asked three shoplifters to compile lists of all of the items they had stolen in the past three years and promise to make restitution to the merchants in exchange for reduced jail time. They complied under threat of a polygraph test for which they would be obligated to pay if they failed the test. When asked, Judge Robinson stated that community service must include a constructive contribution to the community. His goal is to impose an experience that will force the guilty party to learn a life lesson. He views being in court as an educational experience. Robinson is the sole District Judge who is imposing alternative sentencing. It is labor intensive, and many other district judges simply don't have the time.

Port Fiber Optic System, January 18, 2018

Chief Operating Officer for the Port of Whitman Kara Riebold spoke on the county's fiber optic system. In 2001, the state legislature gave rural port districts the right to develop a fiber optic cable network. Policy goals for Whitman County included greater economic prosperity, increased competition for telecommunications, and more options for businesses.

The fiber optic cable started with a line that connected WSU and the UI in the early 2000s. The next big project was to extend the cable to the Pullman Industrial Park and eventually to the entire Pullman community. Work began to extend the cable from Colfax to Spokane in 2008 and is now complete. There are currently nine towers throughout Pullman. The fiber optic cable was installed as part of the Pullman Airport project.

14 companies, including Schweitzer Engineering and First Step Internet, lease fiber from the Port. The leasing fees go back into the communities when fiber optics is provided.

Don't these summaries make you want to be more involved in planning them? Don't despair, remember, the position of Brown Bag Coordinator is Open!

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, 509-595-0333; **Voter Editor:** Anne Lewis, 509-334-1075; **Webmaster:** Paul Spencer, 509-332-6699; **Community Outreach:** Libby Walker, 509-432-4756; 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:

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

