



www.lwvpullman.org

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

Vision Statement: We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate.

President: Bobbie Ryder, 509-432-9619; **Vice-President:** Helen Catanese, hncatanese@gmail.com; **Voter Editor:** Anne Lewis; Complete officer list and contact information on page 10.



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“Fight for the things that you care about,
but do it in a way that will lead others to join you.”

– Ruth Bader Ginsburg

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

Meetings & Events



Voter Forums

Ballot Issues

Date: **Monday, October 12**

Time: 7- 8 p.m.

Location: The meeting will be conducted via Zoom.

Chair: Sue Hinz

County Commissioner

Date: **Thursday, October 15**

Time: 7- 8 p.m.

Location: The meeting will be conducted via Zoom.

Chair: Deb Olson

District 9 Representative

Date: **Saturday, October 17**

Time: 4-5 p.m.

Location: The meeting will be conducted via Zoom.

Chair: Deb Olson

Board Meetings

Date: **October 27, 2020**

Time: 10:00 am- noon

Location: Zoom

Contact: Bobbie Ryder

Pullman Regional Hospital Pandemic Update

Date: **Thursday, November 5**

Time: 7-9 p.m.

Location: The meeting will be conducted via Zoom.

Contact: Judy Stone

November Brown Bag

Date: **Tuesday, November 17**

Time: Noon- 1 p.m.

Location: The meeting will be conducted via Zoom.

Speakers and Topic: Dr. Leslie Robison and Sarah Rial;

“Mental Health on the Palouse: The beginning of the conversation.”

Committee: Kat Odell kat.m.odell@gmail.com ; Carolyn Joswig-Jones joswigjones@roadrunner.com

Rob Curley

Date: Thursday, December 3

Times: 7-9 p.m.

Where: The meeting will be conducted via Zoom

Speaker & Topic: Rob Curley, Spokesman Review Editor;

“Why locally owned newspapers keep communities alive.”

Contact: Bobbie Ryder

Voter Services- Deb Olson

ISSUES

Due to the continuing presence of COVID-19 the league will hold candidate and issue forums on Zoom. We are asking for questions for any and all of the upcoming forums to be submitted ahead of time to lwvpullman@yahoo.com. We are depending on our membership to supply a portion of these questions. When submitting a question please put which forum in the subject line. Example: Subject: County Commissioners. Questions cannot be submitted during the forum.



The Zoom links will be mailed to everyone on the Pullman League e-mail list 1-2 days before each forum. They will also be posted on the League of Pullman website, lwvpullman.org, at that time.

The **issue forum** will be held **Monday, OCT 12 at 7pm** and will address Referendum 90 Sex Education in public school, Senate SJR 8212 a constitutional amendment on investment of public funds, and the advisory votes. You can find out more about these at lwvwa.org/ballot-measures and the Voters Guide from the Secretary of state. Chair: Sue Hinz; Moderator: Mary Collins or Bobbie Ryder.

CANDIDATE FORUMS

Only two local races are contested, County Commissioner and 9th District State Representative. These will be held on Zoom on separate days and time. Jenn Goulet dropped out of the Senate Race, but her name may still appear on the ballot. Each forum will last for 1 hour and will be recorded.

The **County Commissioner** debate will take place Thursday, October 15, 7:00-8:00pm via Zoom. Candidates are Dean Kinzer (incumbent) and Tom Handy. Chair Deb Olson; Moderator, Karyn Hardy.

On Saturday, October 17, 4:00-5:00pm via Zoom the **District 9 Representative** candidates, Brett Broden and Mary Dye will debate. Chair: Deb Olson; Moderator: Karyn Hardy.

Ballots will start appearing in your mailboxes on Oct 16. If you do not receive your ballot by Oct 21 Call the election office in Colfax 397-5284. Please Vote Early.





VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

There are 28! volunteers for ballot opening. Libby Walker has spoken to Whitman County Auditor, Sandy Jamison. The office will make a schedule of times and dates to be filled.

Other 😊 Upcoming Events

When League Goes to Court- Libby Walker

Please join in watching this fascinating video, featuring Celina Stewart, LWVUS director of advocacy and Jessica Jones Cappareli, LWVUS legislative affairs manager. This October brown bag will take place Tuesday, October 20 from noon- 1 pm via Zoom.

Pullman Regional Hospital Pandemic Update- Judy Stone

At our **November 5 evening meeting**, Pullman Regional Hospital, which has been reviewing and implementing their disaster plans since the beginning of this pandemic, will update us on their preparedness for dealing with COVID-19 in our community. Topics will include testing, bed capacity, regional partnering, ongoing prevention measures inside the hospital, and much more. Presenters: Scott Adams, CEO; Jeannie Eylar, CCO; and Dr. Gerald Early.

Mental Health on the Palouse- Kat Odell & Carolyn Joswig-Jones

On Tuesday, November 17, Dr. Leslie Robison and Sarah Rial will discuss “Mental Health on the Palouse: The beginning of the conversation.” Please join us for this noon brown bag meeting over Zoom. Committee Chairs: Kat Odell and Carolyn Joswig-Jones.

Rob Curley- Bobbie Ryder

Dating back to the early days of the Internet, Spokesman-Review editor Rob Curley has long been considered one of the newspaper industry’s biggest innovators. Through his times at some of the biggest news organizations in the nation like The Washington Post and Orange County Register to working at small Midwestern papers like the Lawrence Journal-World and Topeka Capital-Journal, it’s his passion for community journalism that drives him.

After building some of the most award-winning news sites on the Internet, he has been featured on the cover of national magazines and even an Apple commercial. Creativity Magazine named him one of the 50 Most Creative People in the World, and he’s one of the only newspaper editors in the world to give “Tech Talks” to Google’s programmers on the web giant’s main campus in Silicon Valley.

This talk will focus on how and why locally owned newspapers keep communities alive. Come listen to an incredibly engaging speaker-- Thursday, December 3 at 7 pm on Zoom.

JANUARY BROWN BAG- Anne



Start reading! More details to follow.

Membership & Outreach

Our membership has grown by **18** in 2020 resulting in a total membership of **68!** Twenty-seven members are primary, seventeen are household (equals 34), six are lifetime, and one is a student. We welcome our new members and look forward to meeting them in person as soon as possible.

At the September board meeting, Libby Walker reported that our advertising efforts via the newspapers and our e-mail list seems to be working. We had **36** participants for the September general meeting on Covid-19 and **28** at the Brown Bag with Judge Libey.

We are hopeful everyone will renew their 2020/2021 membership. The time to do so is NOW! Easy directions can be found on the League's webpage: <http://lwvpullman.org/>



A Selection of Memories

Judge Gary Libey- Karen Kiessling

The new year of brown bag presentations began on Tuesday, September 15, with a zoom meeting that was handled magnificently by our tech wizard Helen Catanese. Karen Kiessling hosted the gathering and was

delighted that on this third attempt, his Honor, Judge Gary Libey, was able to meet with us -- all safely distanced -- to discuss the workings of the Whitman County Superior Court.

Judge Libey is running unopposed for a new term on the Superior Court of Whitman County. He said he was honored that when his predecessor, David Frazier, stepped down from the office and an interim appointment was required, he applied for the job, and as no one else requested consideration, he was appointed. He feels that running unopposed means that the law community believes he is doing a good job.

Superior Court forms and procedures were explained, the difference between District Court and Superior Court was also discussed and then the meeting opened for questions from those of us in attendance. It was noted at the beginning that this meeting was recorded and that it is available on the League website.

One question that may be worth exploring is the possibility of establishing a mental health court, along the lines of the drug court that is in place in Whitman County now. Judge Libey assured the audience that he is always interested in ways to make the court function more efficiently and with a better outcome for those who appear there.

Karen Kiessling closed the meeting and thanked the Judge and those attending for their presence.

Update on COVID-19- Judy Stone

In the September 3rd evening meeting conducted on Zoom, Dr. Bronwyn Gunn, WSU Assistant Professor in Virology and Immunology, gave an awesome presentation clearly explaining the novel coronavirus that causes coronavirus disease 2019, or COVID-19. Her data was specific to understanding how this virus causes the illnesses we are experiencing. Troy Henderson, Director of the Whitman County Department of Public Health then detailed the demographics and incidence of COVID positive infection being seen in Whitman County. Although his information was not joyful it did affirm how the Health Department is keeping track of this pandemic for our community.



We give a shout-out to all our wonderful observers who have been attending the virtual meetings being held for their agencies. If the meetings are not cancelled – our observers are watching and/or listening. Please contact Judy Stone with questions about how to participate in this vibrant, important, and able to fit in one's schedule part of League.

Select League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Port of Whitman County Date: 09/03/2020 Length of Meeting: 1' 26"

Observer Reporting: Carolyn Joswig-Jones and Kimberly Thompson

Members Present/Absent: Commissioners: ~~John E. Love (District 1) Retired July 15~~
Kristine Meyer (District 2) Tom Kammerzell (District 3)

Staff: Joe Poire - Executive Director

Kara Riebold - Chief Operating Officer

Debbie Snell - Properties & Development Manager

Brenda Stav - Finance Director

Sarah Highfield - Communications Director

Matthew Johnson - Port Attorney

Others Present (i.e., media, public): Linda Fowler - Whitman County Gazette; Steve Peterson, University of Idaho economist; Brian Kraft, WSU Innovation and Research Engagement; Nathan Weller – Pullman City Council; Tom Handy, a local business owner and private sector investor

To view Meeting Agenda, Minutes and all supportive materials follow this link:

<http://www.portwhitman.com/about/commissionmeeting>

Business pertaining to League Positions or topics of interest:

Port of Whitman County Commissioners Meeting took place via Zoom and teleconference. Commissioners and some staff and the special guests were in the office practicing social distancing and wearing masks.

Commissioner Kammerzell ran the meeting and called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

OLD BUSINESS:

Central Ferry Rail Project

Ms. Riebold reported that the rail crossing at Central Ferry is complete and is a huge improvement.

Policy Project- Update for Industrial Development Corporation Resolution No. 186 (3-10-1982)

The Port Attorney reviewed the resolution and statute. He didn't see any reason for the Port to revoke the policy for now. He stated it is unlikely the Port will use the corporation for revenue bonds, but it doesn't hurt us to keep the resolution for now.

Pioneer Ports Meeting Update

During the last meeting the commissioners wanted to check with the Valley Ports to see if they would host an in-person meeting at a local park. The Valley Ports were not comfortable with this and would like to see a Zoom meeting format. Oct 19, 20, or 21 are being considered for this virtual meeting.

Digital Communications Update

During the Commission's August 6 meeting, the board approved the creation of a Port blog as part of the website update. Commissioners would rotate authorship of one blog per month with staff help.

A draft of the blog guidelines is at: <http://www.portwhitman.com/about/commissionmeeting>

NEW BUSINESS:

Economic Development and Value-added Ag Update

Mr. Peterson (University of Idaho economist) gave an executive summary of his newly completed work on the Port Economic Impact Study. There are 4 key county economies in the area. He said that "the Port of Whitman County is arguably the most impactful economic development agency in the region" with a notable increase in entrepreneurship. Whitman county used to be constrained in the past but "Whitman County is the Industrial leader of the 4-county region."

Brian Kraft, WSU Innovation and Research Engagement, stated that the grant proposal they were working on in March 2020 was not funded. The Port signed a letter of support for this project. Brian spoke of developing strategies and opportunities that he has been working on this summer. **I did not hear any of this since they were having technical difficulties.**

Tom Handy has been a supporter of micro-malting and use of different crops grown in the region for his business. Tom is past president of Whitman County Development Association, President of the Pullman Chamber, and has been involved in economic development on the Palouse for decades. Tom is also running for county commissioner this fall. **I did not hear any of his update due to technical difficulties.**

Commission Task Summary- September-December 2020

A summary of this Task Summary can be seen on the Port website in the agenda supportive material. http://www.portwhitman.com/pdf_agendas/2020-09-03%20Agenda.pdf

Schedule Strategic Planning Meeting

It was discussed to hold this in Oct after the new Port commissioner is on board.

Port Meeting Minutes

Staff recommended a transition to action minutes as defined in Roberts Rules of Order, which records only the action outcomes of the meeting and not what was said by its members. Discussion minutes, which are lengthy and may include information which is not essential to the focus of the meeting, is what the port currently uses. Commissioner Kammerzell likes to review the minutes for the details on what was last discussed and prefers to keep it that way or suggested that the meetings be recorded for review when needed. Commissioner Meyer would prefer the action minutes but conceded to keeping the discussion minutes to end discussion.

Central Ferry Termination Association (CFTA) and Pomeroy Grain – Sale of Assets & Assignment of Lease

Pomeroy Grain Growers is working on purchasing the CFTA infrastructure at Central Ferry. CFTA will be requesting to assign their current lease, which runs through 2040, to Pomeroy Grain Growers in order to complete the sale. A motion was made by Commissioner Meyer and passed for staff to work with both tenants at Central Ferry on the paperwork required to assign the lease and assist completion the sale.

Added to agenda by Mr. Poire

Resolution 2013 – Trust Fund Grant Application

A motion was made, and the port was authorized to move forward with the application for a \$2,000,000 loan, with a \$2,000,000 match, to be used for telecommunications projects.

Upcoming Meetings

- Inland NW Partners Virtual Fall Meeting, September 23, 9:00 -11:00 a.m. (If previously registered for the INP Spring meeting, you have been automatically re-registered)
“2020 Regional Economic Forecast: Economic Implications of the Unimaginable”
- WPPA Environmental Seminar, Sep 24 & 25, Online Zoom meeting
- PNWA Annual Meeting, October 6-8, General sessions 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., via Zoom meetings and webinar
- Inland NW Partners Virtual Fall Meeting, October 28, 9:00 -11:00 a.m. (If previously registered for the INP Spring meeting, you have been automatically re-registered)
“The Importance of Digital Inclusion”

Process & Protocol:

I asked at the start of the meeting that they identify themselves when speaking. They did a better job with that but there were technical difficulties during this meeting and the public missed most of the Economic Development and Value-added Ag Update. The Port will probably bring those speakers back for another update in the next couple of months.

Your additional comments/opinions:

I am very glad that the port will continue taking discussion meeting minutes which will allow the public to see the details of how decisions are made during the meeting.

Complete List of Board Officers:

President: Bobbie Ryder, 509-432-9619; **Vice-President:** Helen Catanese, hncatanese@gmail.com; **Secretary:** Alice Schroeder, 509-334-2470; **Backup Secretary:** Libby Walker, 509-432-4756; **Treasurer:** Paul Spencer, 509-332-6699; **Voter Service:** Deb Olson, 509-595-0333; **Observer Corps Chair:** Judy Stone, 509-595-0187; **Brown Bag Coordinator:** Rotating; **Voter Editor:** Anne Lewis, 509-334-1075; **Webmaster:** Paul Spencer, 509-332-6699; **Social Media:** Bobbie Ryder, 509-432-9619; **Community Outreach:** Libby Walker, 509-432-4756; **Community Update Editor:** Susan Daniels, 509-332-6699; **Membership:** Judy Stone, 509-595-0187; **Finance Coordinators:** Libby Walker, 509-432-4756 and Paul Spencer, 509-332-6699; **Finance Drive Thank-Yous:** Lenna Harding, 509-332-7749; **Nominating Chair:** Mary Collins, 509-592-6929; **TRY:** Susan Daniels, 509-332-6699



