



VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PULLMAN, WASHINGTON

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:** Sue Hinz, 509-332-1168, **Voter Editor:** Anne Lewis; Complete officer list and contact information on page 9.



“We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.”

-Martin Luther King

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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

Board Meetings

Date: Fourth Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m.; February 25, March 24, April 28

Location: Daily Grind, back room

Chair: Bobbie Ryder

Brown Bag Meetings

When: 3rd Tuesdays of the month; noon

Location: Neill Public Library (Hecht Room)

Upcoming Topics:

February 18: Sandy Jamison, County Auditor, speaking on Presidential Primary Registration and Voting Law Changes. Contact: Sue Hinz

March 17: Superior Court Judge Gary Libey; Contact: Karen Kiessling

April 21: Fair Vote WA- Ranked/Choice Voting; Contact: Helen Cantanese

February Event

Date: **Thursday, February 20**

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Program: Eva Abram; Suffragette re-enactment

Location: Washington State University, Floyd Cultural Center

Contact: Libby Walker

Luis Cortes Romero

Speaking dates, times, and locations:

1) Monday, March 2, 7 p.m. in the CUB Junior Ballroom

2) Tuesday, March 3, noon, Foley Institute in Bryan 380 (WSU Campus)

March Meeting

Date: **Thursday, March 12** (Note: Not usual 1st Thursday)

Program: Cathryn Cummings/Eleanor Roosevelt re-enactment

Location & Time: Neill Public Library

6:00 p.m.- 7:30 p.m.

Contact: Bobbie Ryder

Pi(e) Day!

Happy Pi Day



Being rational is hard.
Take the day off.

FromPiDay.com

Date: Saturday, March 14

Time: 11 am

What: A chance to relax, converse, and eat pie!

Location: Home of Anne Lewis, 915 SE Skylark St. Pullman

Contact: Anne at 503-380-9060 (phone/text)

April Meeting

Date: MONDAY, April 6

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Program: Redistricting and the Census, Alison McCaffree

Location: TBD

Contact: Libby Walker

May Meeting

Date: Thursday, May 7

Time: 6:00 social; 7:00 meeting

Program & Location: TBD

Contact: Bobbie Ryder



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



New Member Spotlight- Lennis Boyer-Watts

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

Lennis: We moved to Pullman from Reno in 1990 when my husband was offered a faculty position at WSU. I worked as a pediatrician at Palouse Pediatrics until my retirement in December.

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

Lennis: I have always been interested in the LWV but have not had the time to be involved until now. I love the commitment of LWV to community/state/national issues and the way the organization provides educational opportunities so the public can learn about these issues.

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?

Lennis: I'm interested in continuing the focus on poverty locally. Other topics of interest include combating climate change and pursuing innovation in recycling.

Our membership is currently 51, which includes 3 new members added in January! Welcome Karyn Hardy, David Dolezilek and, of course, Lennis Boyer-Watts!

Upcoming Events (in More Detail)

February 18 Brown Bag- Sue Hinz

New rules about party registration for the presidential primary is one of several discussion topics to expect at the Feb. 18 Pullman League of Women Voters noon meeting in the Library's Hecht Room.

Sandy Jamison, Whitman County auditor, will address changes in voting laws, procedures for managing an election, and her goals during a presidential election period.

The League encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The LWV neither supports nor opposes any political party or candidate for elective office, but it does encourage its members as individuals to take part fully in the political process.

February 20th Event- Libby Walker

Eva Abram, an award-winning actress and storyteller, will appear at the Floyd Cultural Center at WSU at 7:00 pm on February 20, 2020. Ms. Abram will portray Dr. Nettie Craig Asberry, an early African American suffrage leader who lived in the Seattle area in the late 19th century and died in Tacoma at the age of 103. She helped found the Tacoma NAACP and the Washington State Association of Colored Women's Clubs. Dr. Asberry refused to wait for

the National American Woman Suffrage Association to recognize the need for African American women to be included in the efforts to secure the vote for women.

The Pullman League of Women Voters received a Centennial Grant to pay for this event. Many campus groups have agreed to be co-sponsors.

DACA Attorney Luis Cortes Romero- Libby Walker

On November 12, 2019, Luis Cortes Romero, a 2013 graduate of the University of Idaho College of Law, argued for the continuation of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program (DACA) before the United States Supreme Court. He brought his skill as an expert in immigration law but also his perspective as a DACA recipient. An estimated 800,000 DACA recipients will be impacted by the ruling in this case.

Luis Cortes Romero will speak at WSU on Monday, March 2 at 7:00 pm in the CUB Junior Ballroom and at noon on Tuesday, March 3rd at the Foley Institute in Bryan 308.

Our league donated funds to assist WSU in bringing Mr. Cortes Romero to WSU.

March 12th Meeting- Bobbie Ryder

On Thursday, March 12, 6- 7:30 p.m., The League of Women Voters of Pullman and Neill Public Library are co-sponsoring “Women of Strength and Courage” to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment, ensuring the right to vote for most women, though not all.

“Women of Strength and Courage” is by Cathryn Cummings. Cathryn grew up in Walla Walla, WA and holds a Doctor of Divinity from Princeton University. She is nationally recognized for her theatrical story telling. She is a featured speaker on Ted Talks and has created a one-woman show that tells the stories of five remarkable women in history that inspired her to be who she is. In this performance Cathryn will reenact Eleanor Roosevelt.

This event is free to the public and requires no registration, but please note seating is limited.

This program is also supported with funds from the [Washington State Historical Society](#).

Pi(e) Day!- Anne Lewis

11 am, Saturday March 14



Please join in a laid-back celebration of life, friends, magical food, and mathematical wonder on Saturday, March 14 at the home of Anne Lewis. Bring your sweet and/or savory self (and a pie if you are up to it). Loose fitting clothing recommended. Home of Anne Lewis, 915 SE Skylark St. in Pullman. Questions/concerns/favorite pie quotes: 503-380-9060.

March 17 Brown Bag- Karen Kiessling

On St Patrick's Day this year the League will host Superior Court Judge Gary Libey at the Brown Bag meeting. Judge Libey will be talking with those who attend about his life as a Judge in Whitman County. He will tell us the difference between the District Court and his court and will answer questions we have about legal issues and the workings of

the court. He has been in office for more than a year and can give us a sense of how he views Whitman County law enforcement and the legal issues that fill his days. So do come with your questions. Noon at the Hecht Room in Neill Public Library. I look forward to seeing you there.

Brown Bag meetings are sponsored by Pullman LWV and Neill Public Library.

April 6 Meeting- Libby Walker

The Pullman League has received a grant to invite Alison McCaffree to Pullman on April 6, 2020. Alison is the Chair of the Washington State League of Women Voters Redistricting and Census group and the Executive Director of Politics of the Possible in Action. She will discuss the importance of the decennial census and the process of redistricting in Washington State. These are issues that will impact every part of our state. Come and learn what changes we might see in Eastern Washington. Location: TBD.



National Convention- Bobbie Ryder



Pullman League members, Bobbie Ryder and Helen Catanese will be attending the National League of Women Voters 54th Convention in Washington DC, June 25 – June 28, 2020.

We invite our Pullman League members to join fellow passionate and engaged leaders for this biennial national gathering to celebrate the centennial of the ratification of the 19th amendment which guarantees all American women the right to vote. Achieving this milestone required a lengthy and difficult struggle, with victory only after decades of agitation and protest. May we not forget our continued struggles for equal rights for all citizens granted by the Equal Rights Amendment that has yet to be ratified by Congress.

NEWS & UPDATES

Timeline Display- Judy Stone and Helen Catanese

One of the ways we are celebrating the Centennial of Suffrage and the 70th birthday of the Pullman LWV is a timeline display placed in the Neill Public Library entryway for the month of February. National, state and local Suffragettes will be honored, along with a timeline of the historical development and accomplishments of the Pullman League. Thank you to Judy and Helen for their work on this awesome display! Be sure and stop by and admire our history!



Message from Voter Services- Deb Olson

The **Presidential Primary is March 10th**. This is unrelated to the primary for State and local elections in August. In order to vote in the Presidential Primary, you **MUST** declare a party. Ballots will be mailed on Feb 21 with the Primary on March 10th.

More information is available on the Secretary of State website, www.sos.wa.gov/voters/presidentialprimary-faqs.

Important Dates regarding upcoming Elections:

- Special Election Feb 11
- Presidential Primary March 10 (ballots mailed 2/21)
- State/Local Primary August 4 (Ballots mailed 7/17)
- General Election November 3 (Ballots mailed 10/16)

DO NOT FORGET TO RETURN YOUR SCHOOL BOND/LEVY BALLOT BY FEB 11. YOU STILL HAVE TIME TO REGISTER IN PERSON (FEB 11) AT THE ELECTION OFFICE IN COLFAX.

PLEASE COME TO THE FEB 18 BROWN BAG WITH SANDI JAMISON TO HEAR HER DISCUSS CHANGES TO THE ELECTION LAWS IN OUR STATE!

State Level Activities- Susan Daniels

Here are just a few examples of your LWVWA dues In Action!

Lobby Day

January 21st was *Fix Democracy First* Lobby Day for LWVWA. So many League members signed up to participate they had to close registration! During the day they learned about critical democracy issues and bills and met with their state legislators.

If any of you have not yet signed up to receive the **LWVWA Legislative E-Newsletter** you are missing out on a great way to keep up with legislation in Olympia. You can sign up by going to www.lwvwa.org.

The State We're In: Washington

Did you know that LWVWA's history book, *The State We're In: Washington*, is available in Chinese and is being translated into Spanish and Japanese? "All versions of the textbook are shared online by LWVWA at no cost under a Creative Commons license allowing anyone to access the materials."

A Selection of Memories

Observer Corps Annual Meeting- Judy Stone

The Annual Meeting of the Observer Corps had four of 12 observers in attendance with four others excused. Delightedly, there were also three League members (two brand-new!) who attended with a possible interest in becoming an observer. Current observers discussed some of what is important to them about the agencies they observe and some of the protocols observed by different agencies and how they deal with the "no talking, no questions" rule.

Next, we discussed the importance of the different headings on the Report Form and the necessity to pay close attention to reporting “just the facts”, without any bias. Reports should not be minutes of a meeting but rather highlights of interesting business carried out as well as issues that relate to League Position statements.

The chair reviewed how these reports are processed once submitted; including review by an Executive Board designee; possible further discussion, research, and/or action by the League; and posting on our website. And we ended by reviewing the 2019 End-of-Year Observer Corps Report.

Planning Meeting- Paul Spencer

The January 10 meeting was at the conference room of Zeppoz. The meeting, planned by Anne Lewis and Paul Spencer, included eight members and two new members, Karyn Hardy and Lennis Boyer.

We first confirmed that our league supports the proposed National LWV program focus, continuing the **Campaign for Making Democracy Work**. The four elements of this campaign are **Redistricting, Voting Rights, Improving Elections, and Campaign Finance**. The group consensus is that we would not recommend another program item because the current program has broad scope and there is much work which will be required to have a significant effect for these issues.

This was followed by a discussion led by Judy Stone about the actions which our league has taken during the last year, many of which fall in the four elements of the National program focus. Examples include official League letters to newspapers and the city council, a letter to a Congressman, a number of evening meetings and lunchtime hour-long meetings, arranging a grant for two high-school history teachers to attend a week long seminar on the Harvard Case Method, and giving presentations about voting to six high school civics classes. We also helped members of these classes register to vote, manned several other voter registration sessions, and held two public candidate forums and one issue forum.

We also discussed issues which Pullman League members consider very important other than the National Program issues. These are: climate change, environmental health and safety, racial and sexual orientation non-discrimination, and support for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Our group consensus was to support the National League’s proposed concurrence on electoral systems which is based on several State League studies positions. We suggested several potential improvements which could be made to the National League’s pilot concurrence process.

Helen Catanese and Susan Daniels then each gave a short and interesting talk outlining voting method alternatives to the current plurality system. These included ranked choice and instant runoff, semi-proportional and cumulative voting.

This meeting was a spirited and interesting exercise for learning about the League and its important issues. It was also very useful in introducing topics which may help us plan our own League meeting topics and programs.

January Brown Bag- Karen Kiessling

At noon on Tuesday, January 21, Neill Library Hecht Room filled with members of the League and interested citizens to hear Professor Lydia Gerber talk about mindfulness. Lydia is a League member and faculty at the WSU Honors College. She told us how she came to study mindfulness and then led us through an exercise such as she would do with students. She helped us focus, raise our level of awareness of our surroundings and then discussed with us how she leads her classes to be able to center themselves for the work they do.

This was especially timely as mindfulness was the focus of Martin Luther King Day and the week of activities around the topic of empathy, dialogue, consensus and positive conversation. The room was full, the conversation

worthwhile and practical application was certainly on offer. We appreciated Lydia's ability, her style and her way of sharing with us. We learned a lot.

December Brown Bag- Libby Walker

The December 17, 2019 Pullman League Brown Bag was devoted to Pullman City Council members who were successfully re-elected in contested races in November. Eileen Macoll and Ann Parks described their backgrounds and what attracted them to Pullman. They also presented ideas to bring small businesses to downtown Pullman, addressed the South By-pass, and mentioned the possibility of Pullman adopting a "vacant building" ordinance.

LAST, BUT NOT LEAST



Thank you to **Mary, Alice, Helen and Judy** who, with fearless determination and with no thought to their own safety, dove into eight boxes of historical materials that have been hiding out in member's backrooms and basements for years, winnowed the documents down to three bulging file boxes, and lived to tell about it. These will be donated to the Manuscripts, Archives, and Special Collections at the WSU Library, in February, to be added to the current Pullman LWW materials they house.

Complete List of Board Officers:

President: Bobbie Ryder, 509-432-9619; **Vice-President:** Sue Hinz, 509-332-1168; **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 & Helen Catanese; hncatanese@gmail.com; **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 Coordinator:** Libby Walker, 509-432-4756; **Finance Drive Thank-Yous:** Lenna Harding, 509-332-7749; **Nominating Chair:** Mary Collins, 509-592-6929

