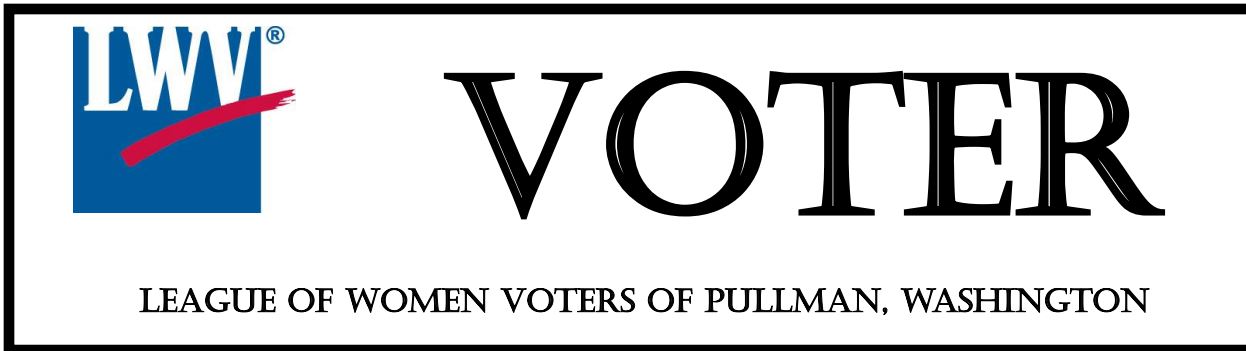


March 10, 2022



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:** Open; **Voter Editor:** Anne Lewis;
Complete officer list and contact information on page 10.



“Can words describe the fragrance of the very breath of spring?”

— Neltje Blanchan

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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!

All LWV meetings are currently over Zoom. The link is available on LWVPullman.org the day before the event. As circumstances evolve, it is possible we will meet in person. We encourage you to check lwvpullman.org for the latest information.



Board Meetings

Date: Tuesday, March 22, April 26

Time: 11:00 am- 1:00 p.m. over Zoom

Contact: Bobbie Ryder

March Brown Bag

Date: Tuesday, March 15

Time: Noon- 1 p.m. over Zoom

Speaker and Topic: Task Force on Suicide Prevention & Intervention/Annie Pillers

Contact: Libby Walker

April Evening Meeting

Date: Thursday, April 7

Time: 7- 9 p.m. over Zoom

Topic: Rural Libraries: Evolving Roles & New Challenges; Preparation for Library Update Study

Contact: Alice Schroeder

April Brown Bag

Date: Tuesday, April 19

Time: Noon- 1 p.m. over Zoom

Speaker and Topic: Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee-Water Supply

Contact: Lennis Boyer-Watts & Carolyn Joswig-Jones

May Annual Business Meeting

Date: Thursday, May 5

Time: 7- 9 p.m. over Zoom unless circumstances change

Speaker: TBD

LWVWA Council

Dates: June 10-June 12

Location: Everett, WA

LWVUS Convention

Dates: June 23-June 26

Location: Denver, Colorado

NOMINATING COMMITTEE



SERVE ON THE BOARD!

We are looking to build a leadership team next year rather than a President and Vice-President. Sharing the work creates a great opportunity to learn more about the League and take a lead in League work whether you are a new or a longtime member.

We are looking at forming a **3-person presidential leadership team** in the LWV Pullman President position. Think of a 3-legged stool with the past president standing by to assist as needed. We are looking for leaders who want to try-out the presidential duties for 3-months. Then the leadership would pass to the next person on the team for 3-months, and so forth to the end of the year. The Zoom technology will be run by our great team of technology specialists. All you need to do is help coordinate an agenda and call on people according to the agenda.



Be Part of our Team!

It is a great way to get a feel for LWV, be apprised of interesting information, and to give back to the community. If you like what League does and what it provides, please consider contacting Mary Collins, Nominations Committee Chair 509-592-6929.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Democracy Arts Competition- Carolyn Joswig-Jones



Carolyn Joswig-Jones, Lennis Boyer Watts, and Deb Olson, have spearheaded this incredible League event. It is open to Whitman County Residents ages 8-18. The deadline for submissions is March 31, 2022 and 7 prizes will be awarded. Please read the full details at lwvpullman.org. Share the information!

March Brown Bag- Libby Walker

Annie Pillers, Whitman County Coroner and founder of Whitman County's Suicide Prevention, Intervention, and Response Task Force will speak to the League at noon on March 15, 2022 via zoom. She will discuss the efforts being currently made by the 40 member task force to address the rise in suicide deaths locally. She will be joined by fellow task force members Pastor Corey Laughary and Mike Berney, Director of Palouse River Counseling. The zoom link can be found on the League website – lwvpullman.org.

Voter Services- Deb Olson

Material is from the March 2, 2022 LWVWA article Voter Services Presents Workshop on the Empty Chair Debates

The **State League's Voter Services Committee** is presenting two workshops to help with planning and forethought. Candidate and debate managers, all Voter Services volunteers, boards, every League member, and friends of the League are invited to attend one or both workshops.

The first workshop, on Saturday, April 2, will feature Maggie Bush from the LWVUS, Mike Bay of TVW (Washington's public affairs network), and a representative from the Public Disclosure Commission (invited). They will talk about the various issues to consider as Leagues navigate our hyperpartisan environment.

The second workshop, on Saturday, April 23, will offer ideas about how to successfully communicate the value of forums and debates with candidates, the media, and your community.

Both workshops will allow ample time for your questions. As a matter of fact, the Voter Services Committee would love to have your questions in advance. We'll share any questions we receive ahead of time with our speakers so they can tailor their remarks to what you want to hear.

You can register directly at: [Registration - Empty Chair workshops](#) or you can contact Deb Olson at olsonbones@aol.com.

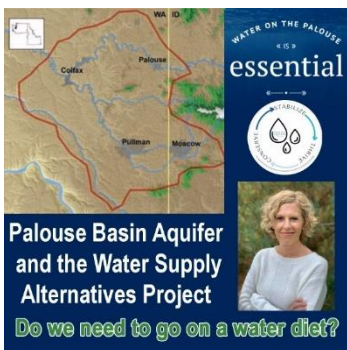
April 7 Meeting- Alice Schroeder

Public Meeting for the 2021-23 Library Study Update

As part of our current local Library Update Study, there will be a general meeting Thursday, April 7, 2022 from 7:00 to 9:00pm on Zoom. Three speakers will join us: Dan Owens from Neill Public Library, Sheri Miller, interim director, Whitman County Library, and Lorena O'English from WSU Libraries. The speakers from Neill and Whitman County Libraries will update us on current status, funding and future hopes and plans for their libraries, while Ms. O'English will give us a broader view of rural libraries, their funding and challenges. There will be ample opportunity for questions from viewers. The Zoom link will be posted on the LWV of Pullman website, lwvpullman.org.

While trying to respond to Library Issues during Covid, it became clear that our Library Positions based on our 1981 study were far too limited for today. At the May 2021 annual meeting an update to the study was approved with a committee of Anne Lewis, Kimberly Thompson, Karyn Hardy and Alice Schroeder as Chair. The April 7 meeting is part of the committee's work to gather information on the two libraries in Whitman County in order to formulate new, broader positions for action. This spring the committee will be summarizing the information gathered to provide it to all members. A consensus meeting will be held to discuss this information and provide a basis to the board for formulating new positions that will allow us to take action on Library issues. All members are urged to join this meeting to gain background to join in the consensus discussion and help the Pullman League take a stand on Library issues.

April 19 Brown Bag- Lennis Boyer



Pullman LWV is pleased to host a brownbag lunch on April 19th featuring Robin Nimmer, Ph.D P.G, L.G., Senior Hydrogeologist at Alta Science and Engineering in Moscow. She will provide background on the Palouse Basin and Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee as well as discuss the Water Supply Alternatives project. This is your opportunity to learn about the status of our local water supply and what we can individually do to mitigate water waste and what is being done on a regional basis to secure our long term water future.

LWVWA Council and LWVUS Convention-Shelley Jones

Karen Kiessling described a LWVWA Convention as the following (LWV-Pullman Voter April 2009), “Three days, two nights of meeting and talking with the most interesting group of people you will ever see gathered in one spot. League members from across the state who want to talk about issues, who want to share ideas, who have energy and wit and wonderful enthusiasm for good government, learning, laughing and making fine memories. Come meet some grand new friends who value our state, our region and our nation as you do and want to make it ever better.”

Have you ever thought about learning more about the League, meeting other Leaguers from across the state or country, and exchanging ideas? The best way is to attend a state or national meeting. *This year there are two opportunities – LWVWA Council (June 10-12) and LWVUS Convention (June 23-26).*

LWV-Pullman generally pays for most of the costs associated with attending a state or national meeting (registration, travel, and ½ a room). In the past, LWV-Pullman has considered this an excellent investment in our League Members – with many going on to serve a term (sometimes multiple terms) as an executive officer on our board or serving as chairs for committees.

LWVWA Council will likely be held in Everett, WA at the Delta Hotel on June 10-12. The registration fee will be announced soon along with room costs and other information. This year there will be LWVWA Board Elections, so it is also important that we send delegates for this vote. LWV-Pullman can send 4 delegates to participate in the election. However, the Board may decide to send additional attendees based on interest and budget to participate in the other workshops and programs. The theme this year is *Reconnect-Restore-Renew*. There will be an emphasis on learning what other Local Leagues are doing and exchanging ideas. Workshop topics will include Voter Service, Civics Education, update on Advocacy, DEI, Local League leadership models, etc. There will be exciting speakers too! Additionally, every Local League is invited to have a table where they can share project(s) they have done or are working on. It will be a great opportunity to meet other Leaguers from Washington! Again, more information will be announced soon on the LWVWA website.

LWVUS Convention will be held June 23-26 at the Downtown Sheraton in Denver, Colorado or on-line. This year’s LWVUS Convention will be held BOTH in-person and on-line with delegates able to attend either. The Pullman League can send 2 voting delegates to LWVUS Convention. Do consider this opportunity to meet with a group of active, involved, enthusiastic Leaguers. Convention is a biennial event that serves as LWVUS's bylaws-prescribed business meeting as well as an opportunity for League members to gather for training and networking. More information can be found at <https://www.lwv.org/manage-your-league/council-convention> or by contacting a board member.



NEWS & UPDATES

Finance Drive- Libby Walker

The Finance Drive resulted in contributions from 14 members and 10 non-members for a total of \$2822. The majority of the donations went to the General Fund although a total of at least \$800 was designated for the Education Fund. This total is similar to last year's total. Paul Spencer and Libby Walker were the co-chairs of the drive.



Website- Lea Zulas

This past fall the Pullman League's website, wvpullman.org, was updated to a brand new site! The new site showcases our League's events, who we are, and how to get involved. If you have questions or comments about the new site, please contact the website committee chair Leah, alzulas7@gmail.com. If you would like to help make changes or updates to the website, we would also appreciate hearing from you!

OBSERVER CORPS

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report -Carol Ndambuki

Pullman School District, February 9, 2022, 'State of the District'

Members Present:

Susan Weed, Allison Munch-Rotolo, Jim Evermann, Nathan Roberts, Amanda Tanner

Others Present:

Bob Maxwell, Roberta Kramer, Joe Thornton, Diane Hodge, Kelly Laird (representing Sunnyside Principal Brantner), Jessica Shepard (Kindergarten, Sunnyside), Natalie Walker (5th Grade, Sunnyside), Justin Pollestad (Principal Pullman High School), Jill Bicklehaupt (CTE PHS)

Members Absent: 0

Business pertaining to League Positions or topics of interest:

Quality of Instruction:

- Team went to a **Professional Learning Community conference** with Superintendent
 - Collaborative teacher teams meeting to improve instruction on early release time today and on an on-going basis
- Partnering with WSU to improve and deepen **equity initiatives**
- **Math instruction through all-school project at Sunnyside Elementary**
- **New High School class "Engineering Essentials"** to build on what is already available in pre-engineering at the middle school with the long-term goal of providing an engineering pathway in high school
 - Collaboration with Schweitzer Engineering Lab
 - Potential further collaborations: WSU, Meter Group, other smaller local engineering firms

- Pre-engineering lab already set up at the high school

Responsible Use of Public Funds:

- Regular **audit** starting next week by the State also auditing federally funded programs that come to the district through block grant allocation
- **Enrollment stabilization bills in Olympia**, Superintendent testified
 - To make up for loss in enrollment due to the pandemic

We continue to wait for word on the Pullman Arts Commission....



A Selection of Memories

March Public State Banking Meeting- Susan Daniels

On March 3 those who signed into the Zoom meeting on Public Banks heard a great presentation by Stoney Bird from the League's Task Force on Public Banking. LWVWA studied public (state) banks and determined that it supported public banks for three reasons: they serve the public interest, they protect public money, and money is an essential part of the economic system, which is currently in the hands of private banks.

So, what are public banks? Public banks are cooperatives owned by the state, local governments, and tribal governments. They loan money to local government agencies.

What are the advantages of a state bank? Private banks have high overhead, spending 50-60% of profits on multiple locations, many employees, and advertising. State banks have one office and few employees and no advertising and tend to spend 10% on overhead. With a public bank the profits stay in the state instead of going to private bank shareholders. Public banks are run in the public interest; they can make loans for projects that are in the public interest but not very profitable whereas a private bank's concern is with the amount of profit. Public banks are more transparent. Interest in public banking is growing in Washington Legislature.

If you missed the meeting it will be available on www.lwvpullman.org

For more information on how banking/banks work Stoney recommended *Banking on the People* by Ellen Brown.

When the WA Legislature is in session, the Legislative Newsletter is a good source of information on State Banks and other bills and their progress through the legislative process.



February Brown Bag- Libby Walker

On February 15, 2022, Professor Sue Durrant, a pioneer in women's athletics at W.S.U., was the featured guest of the League as we celebrated the 50th anniversary of Title IX of the Higher Education Act which prohibits sex discrimination in any school or other educational program that receives federal government funding. Professor Durrant was one of the plaintiffs in *Blair v. Wash. State Univ.*, 108 Wash. 2d 558 (1987) which focused on gender discrimination in athletics. This appeal to the Washington State Supreme Court resulted in the ruling that the football program be included when determining the number of scholarships available for men and women athletes at WSU. Professor Durrant shared her reflections regarding this important case in which athletes, joined by coaches, won their lawsuit against the University. Attendees at the program were able to ask many questions of Professor Durrant.

Book Club- Anne Lewis

Although attendees were few in number, our January discussion of Susan Orlean's *The Library Book* was lively and enjoyable. In addition to the history (and mystery) of the 1986 Fire at the Los Angeles Public Library we shared our individual relationship with and view of libraries. The group learned and was impressed by the variety of services offered by LAPL and libraries across the country. This novel and meeting provided a good "start" to our Library Update Study.

Meeting with Attorney General Bob Ferguson

On December 3, 2021 Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson spoke to our largest Zoom audience of the year. He touched on several topics, particularly The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People Task Force and the State's Appeal of the Purdue Pharma Bankruptcy Ruling.

You can watch the recorded meeting at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i6Qz6cvgtmU>.

View an excellent write up by Anthony Kuipers (Moscow-Pullman Daily News-December 3, 2021) here: https://news.yahoo.com/washington-ag-discusses-purdue-pharma-141100873.html?fr=sycsrp_catchall.

Our complete, up to date 2021-2022 calendar and event schedule:

https://lwvpullman.org/assets/PDFs/LWV_Pullman_2021-22_calendar_v12.pdf

BOARD OFFICERS:

President: Bobbie Ryder, 509-432-9619; **Vice-President:** Open; **Secretary:** Alice Schroeder, 509-334-2470; **Backup Secretary:** Libby Walker, 509-432-4756; **Treasurer:** Shelley Jones, 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:** Leah Zulas, alzulas7@gmail.com and Helen Catanese, 727-512-1629; **Social Media:** Carolyn Joswig-Jones; **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; **Nominating Chair:** Mary Collins, 509-592-6929; **TRY:** Susan Daniels, 509-332-6699; **Legislative Action:** Karl Johanson, 509-330-1880.