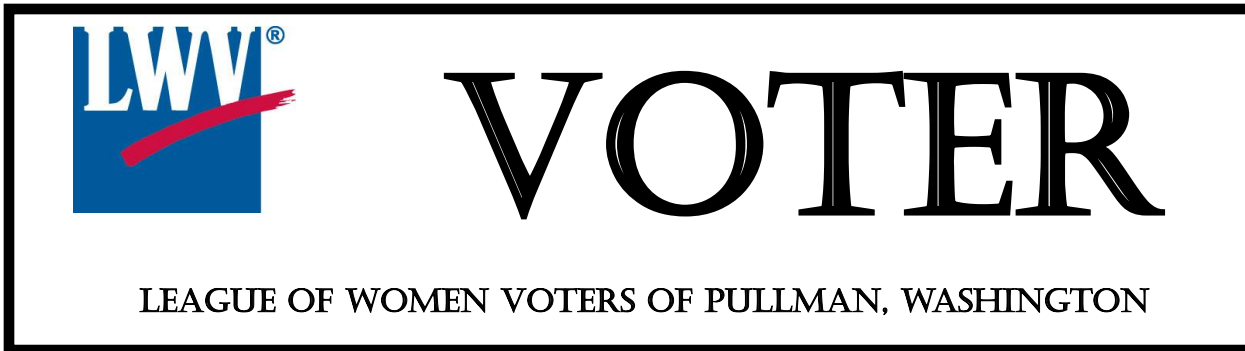


May 22, 2022

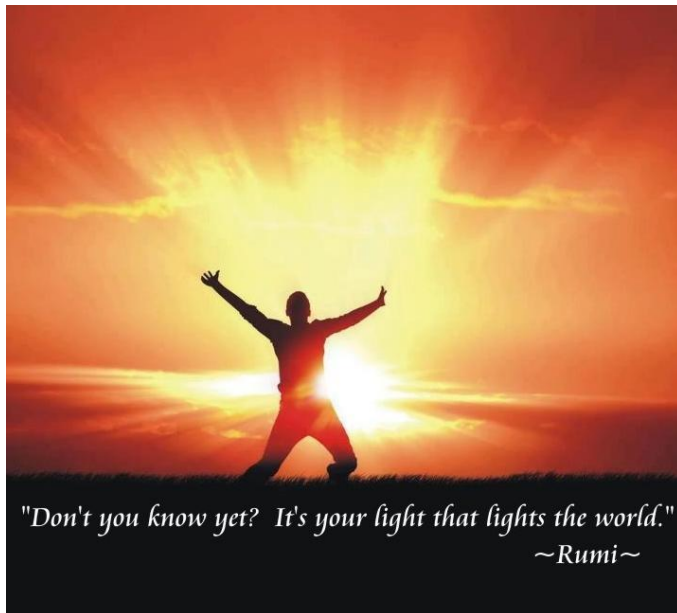


www.lwvpullman.org

<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.

Executive Officers: Tricia Grantham, Anne Lewis; **Voter Editor:** Anne Lewis (one last time); Complete 2022-2023 officer list and contact information on page 8.



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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!

We encourage you to check lwvpullman.org for the latest information regarding meeting location (zoom or in person). The zoom link is available on LWVPullman.org the day before the event.

Board Meetings

Date: Tuesday, May 31

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

Contact: Anne Lewis; anneglewis2@yahoo.com

At this May board meeting we will discuss how many board meetings are necessary and desired over the summer. We will also discuss the possibility, preferred by the Executive Committee, that Board Meetings transition back to in-person. Your opinion and health matter, so speak freely at the meeting or privately with Tricia (tricia.grantham@gmail.com) or Anne.



Who doesn't want this?

LWVWA Council

Dates: June 10-June 12

Location: Everett, WA

Attendees: Shelley Jones, Deb Olson, and Bobbie Ryder

LWVUS Convention

Dates: June 23-June 26

Location: Denver, Colorado

Attendees: Shelley Jones, Paul Spencer

Summer Planning Meeting

Date: Thursday, July 21

Time: 10 am- 1 pm



Topic: Planning for the upcoming year! Enjoying a salad lunch at Mary's beautiful home!

Contact: Anne Lewis, Tricia Grantham or Mary Collins

Transitions

Board Meetings & Agendas- Anne Lewis

The goal this year is to send a *Draft* Board Meeting Agenda out the Friday before the Tuesday (4th of the month, unless otherwise scheduled) board meeting. Attendees could then let the host know if there is a discussion item to add. In terms of recipients, I propose sending this *Draft* Agenda to those members who regularly attend meetings, are listed on the Positions list on page 8, or who communicate that they wish to receive the Draft. The *Final Agenda* will be sent out the day before the Board Meeting to ALL League members. If you have questions or comments regarding this plan, please contact Tricia or Anne.

Also, we are considering returning to in person board meetings. The backroom at Neill's Coffee is available for groups such as ours to reserve. Please contact Tricia or me with questions, concerns, preferences, etc.

Open Positions

We are still looking to flesh out our 2022-2023 League team!

*******The VOTER*******

Who could resist this opportunity? Make the Voter your own! Use this Voter you are reading as a guide! Use a template! Go crazy (or sedate)! There is flexibility with this role. You could send out a Voter every other month or every season. Tell members what you are looking for and they send it to you. This is a fun activity, one that Anne is surrendering only because it is the healthy thing to do based on other league, work, and life commitments.

*******SECRETARY*******

Secretary is also available as Mary Collins would like to transition to the open Executive Officer position. If you come to the majority of the board meetings, please consider this important position. There are two back-up secretaries in Alice Schroeder and Paul Spencer.



Updates

Observer Corps- Judy Stone

The League of Women Voters of Pullman has an invaluable tool in its mission of working for good government – a vigorous and lively Observer Corps. This group forms the eyes and ears of the LWVP Board as members attend councils, boards, and commissions to listen, learn, observe, and report factual information about the proceedings. The League believes that the presence of Observers helps keep government entities attentive to their jobs, with the proper respect for doing the public’s business, and promoting transparency and accountability. The Pullman Observer Corps is currently observing seven city and three county agencies with 11 observers and has the following openings available:

Pullman City Council – meets every Tuesday at 7 pm; 2 are usually cancelled each month; meetings are hybrid and on YouTube

Whitman County Commissioners – meets every Monday, 9am; hybrid meetings

Neill Public Library – meets 2nd Wed/month; in person

Whitman County Port – meets 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 10 am



Interested persons can view reports on the league website and contact current observers or Judy Stone at judy.stone.bandaid@gmail.com

Chairing the State Nominating Committee- Shelley Jones

It was decided at the LWVWA Convention in 2021 that the LWVWA Board would move to staggered terms. This year’s state Nominating Committee was thus responsible for establishing a new process for its work as now it is seeking candidates every year from the membership.

This year, that involved finding candidates for 1st Vice President, Treasurer, and 4 directors. The Committee is a collaborative group. We did an outreach program to reach members to not only explain why the LWVWA Nominating Committee will be asking for nominations every year going forward but also to find nominations for the slate at Council.

The outreach program included:

- Articles in the Voter and TMIL
- Attending local league board meetings
- Attending Seattle/King County unit meetings
- Hosting two Meet & Greets via Zoom
- Email outreach

In the end, we had many more candidates than positions. This is great for LWVWA – each candidate was highly skilled with varied experience, skills, and talents.

UPCOMING Events

State Council- Shelley Jones

The LWVWA Council is June 10-12 in Everett, Washington. Bobbie Ryder, Deb Olson, and Shelley Jones will be attending. Traditionally, Council is a training and networking event. This year due to a bylaws amendment last year at the 2021 Convention, LWVWA has a small business meeting incorporated into Council in order to have a LWVWA Board election. This also meant we had an opportunity to send 4 delegates to participate. The remaining part of Council will have a traditional focus on training and networking. Items include: learning about the results of the LWVWA Research Project, hearing from our advocacy team, a Voter Service Panel, etc. Guest speakers include: Francis Benjamin, PhD, Nicholas Lovrich, PhD, Jessica Rohloff, LWV US Secretary, and Vickie Lowe, American Indian Health Commission Executive Director.

National Convention- Shelley Jones

The LWVUS Convention is June 23 – 26 in Denver, Colorado. Paul Spencer and I are the delegates for LWV-Pullman. The Convention serves as the business meeting for LWVUS members and an opportunity for some training and networking.

At the LWVUS Convention the bylaws require delegates to vote on a variety of items, including a LWVUS biennial budget, the next LWVUS Board of Directors and Nominating Committee, any bylaw amendments that have been put forth, and the organization's program or focus of work for the next biennium.

Additionally, a variety of networking and training events will occur. Not all of these have been announced but currently these range from information about the items that delegates will be voting on, energizing young voters, civil discourse, etc.

Paul and I look forward to reporting back what we learn!



Summer Planning Meeting- Mary Collins & Anne Lewis

Join us on Thursday July 21st for our 2022-2023 program planning meeting. At this gathering we will discuss ideas and make plans for topics we want to explore in the coming year. We will gather at Mary Collins's house at 1104 Collins Rd. Pullman, WA. Her home is north of Albion. We will begin at 10am and finish with a salad potluck lunch from 12-1pm.



Visual Arts Competition- Carolyn Joswig-Jones

The League of Women Voters of Pullman held a Visual Arts Competition, part of their civics education program, designed to encourage the understanding of and participation in government. The League asked for an original piece of art with the theme of “What Does Democracy Look Like to You?”

The Neill Public and Whitman County Libraries joined in getting the word out and collected submissions. The League also reached out to all the schools in Whitman County and several public service organizations. The participants were required to be within ages 8-18 and must reside in Whitman County. Submissions were grouped by age: elementary (8-11), middle school (12-14), and high school (15-18).

The project launched on President’s Day 2022 with submissions due by March 31. The following judges were asked by the LWV of Pullman to evaluate the submitted artwork based on creativity to the theme of Democracy. Cori Daniti and Barney Saneholtz are both local artists. Rosalie Harms is a retired teacher and Ann Saberi is the Collections Manager at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art WSU. The panel of judges chose the winners: four for the elementary age group, one for the middle school age group, and two for the high school age group.

The top seven entries received prizes consisting of \$50 in cash and a copy of the LWVWA civics textbook which were presented to the winners on April 21 at Neill Public Library. The artists spoke about their artwork and what inspired them to participate. They reflected on what the word democracy meant to them. League members, parents, and other library patrons were impressed and encouraged by these future voters.

This was the League’s first attempt at this kind of civics education program. Ideas are underway for a robust competition next year. The League hopes for more entries and participation. The ideas are endless.



The artwork and artists are available for viewing on the League website www.LWVPullman.org, and on Facebook and Instagram.

Palouse Basin Aquifer: Lennis Boyer

LWV of Pullman was delighted to present a Brownbag highlighting the state of the Palouse Basin Aquifer on April 19th. Robin Nimmer, PhD, senior hydrologist at Alta Science and Engineering, Inc. Moscow, ID and Paul Kimmel from Avista presented data on the state of the aquifer and possible water supply alternatives. They are both members of the Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee (PBAC).

Rural Library: Evolving Roles and New Challenges- Alice Schroeder

The April 7 zoom meeting on this topic was part of the Pullman League's update study on our local libraries. Unfortunately, we were unable to record it. The three speakers gave us much information and were followed by an in-depth question and answer period. Lorena O'English, the Social Sciences and Government Information Librarian at WSU provided background on rural libraries in the US. The majority of US libraries are small and rural. They serve 10% of the population and these rural counties are generally more diverse and poorer than urban counties. Not only do they provide traditional written and recorded resources, but they are also a very important resource for internet access and connecting people in their communities.

Sheri Miller, interim director of the Whitman County Rural Library District and Dan Owens, adult services librarian at Neill Public Library provided an overview of their libraries. Whitman County Libraries consist of 13 branch libraries and the Colfax library. They serve a population of about 15,000 in an area of 2,156 square miles. The libraries are supported by the ability to levy a tax on all property in the district. This makes for reliable, but lower than necessary funding. Volunteers and donations are very important to the library. The library has been very active in helping its patrons gain access to internet services, providing laptop and Wi-Fi hot spot checkouts and many internet resources.

Neill Public Library is supported by city funds. Cities have a broader tax base, letting the library be better funded. Currently it accounts for about 7% of the Pullman City budget. However, this funding has been severely cut when fiscal problems surface. Donations and volunteers are also important, especially when the city must cut the budget. Neill serves about 15,000 people in a small dense area of 10 sq. miles. Since many other entities in the area connect people and internet service is more available, Neill focuses more on providing traditional and internet resources. During COVID both libraries worked to make their resources accessible in new and inventive ways, providing curb side pickup, expanded internet access and resources and new ways to deliver education and fun for families and especially children trying to learn from home. They learned much about being flexible and inventive and will keep trying to be so.



Executive Officers: Tricia Grantham, 509-336-9165, Anne Lewis, 503-380-9060; **Secretary:** Mary Collins, 509-592-6929; **Backup Secretaries:** Alice Schroeder, 509-334-2470 and Paul Spencer, 509-332-6699; **Treasurer:** Sue Hinz, 801-819-4931; **Voter Service:** Deb Olson, 509-595-0333; **Nominating Chair:** Mary Collins, 509-592-6929; **Membership:** Judy Stone, 509-595-0187; **Observer Corps:** Judy Stone, 509-595-0187; **Voter Editor:** **Your Name Here, Your phone number here;** **Webmasters:** Leah Zulas, alzulas7@gmail.com, Helen Catanese, 727-512-1629 and Paul Spencer, 509-332-6699; **Social Media:** Carolyn Joswig-Jones, 509-432-3105; **Legislative Action:** Karl Johanson, 509-330-1880; **Community Outreach:** Libby Walker, 509-432-4756; **Community Update & TRY Editor:** Susan Daniels, 509-332-6699; **Finance Drive Coordinator:** Libby Walker, 509-432-4756; **MELD:** Paul Spencer, 509-332-6699; **Events Calendar:** Bobbie Ryder, 509-432-9619.

To our outgoing leaders

Bobbie Ryder- President
Alice Schroeder-Secretary
Shelley Jones- Treasurer

