



<http://www.lwvutah.org>

The League of Women Voters of Utah

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June 2016

## From Research to Relocation, League Year Was Good



by Lola Britton, LWVUT President

The 2015-2016 year was a very productive one for the state board. Co-President Jenn Gonnely attended the LWV National Council in Washington and returned with renewed energy and great ideas for the LWV Utah.

In December the Utah League bid hail and farewell to Jenn as she and her husband Mark moved to Ireland. Jenn and Mark very graciously made their goodbye party a venue for contributing to deserving non-profits, the LWV Utah being one of those.

Also in December, the Utah League moved from the Highland Drive location where it had been for a number of years to office space above Caputo's Deli and Market in downtown Salt Lake. The move went well thanks to our office manager, Trixi Sieger. Downsizing was a challenge and we continue to delve through files to determine what should be archived or scanned.

In addition to taking consensus on LWVUS studies on Constitutional Amendments and Money in Politics, the Utah League produced a consensus study on Death with Dignity. An educational study on Human Trafficking was produced as well. The Davis and Weber Leagues joined to produce a very well received study entitled Davis-Weber Joint Water Study.

The 2016 legislative session made for a very busy 45 days for the Legislative Action Committee. The session introduced 747 bills of which 470 passed. Every day during the session daily committee agendas were published to our members so they could see at a glance what they wanted to attend or listen to over the web. We published several Action Alerts asking members to contact their representatives on such topics as

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health care and budget issues. Volunteers gave thousands of hours to make the League's coverage of the session exemplary in all aspects.

This year the Action Corps was invited by Lara Jones, producer of RadioActive, a community affairs program on KRCL 90.9, to participate in broadcasts about legislative action aired at 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Lara has asked the League to continue supporting the show during the Interim meetings.

Thanks to Peggy Carrico good progress has been made changing the Utah League to a fully 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

While the Utah League is constructing a new public website, data migration is taking longer than originally anticipated. However it is very exciting to see the site evolve into a better, more advanced site.

Finally, this year's annual convention was hosted by the Davis County local League. At our meeting on Antelope Island we adopted an exciting program for 2016-17. Thanks to Gigi Brandt for her tireless work on the program below.

The board is looking forward to another busy year and we invite all members to become even more active in educating Utah voters about all issues. Educated voters will make a difference in our lives and the lives of those who follow in our footsteps.

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## 2016-17 League of Women Voters of Utah Program

- I. Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable, and responsive.
  - A. Act to improve the election process, including
    1. Promoting voter education and participation in the election process, focusing on the candidate selection process, getting out the vote, and gathering information about mail-in ballots.
    2. Promoting revisions to Utah's election laws in keeping with federal voting legislation, and incorporating safeguards to ensure the integrity of elections using electronic voting equipment.
    3. Promoting campaign finance reform, with a primary focus on campaign contribution limits for candidates for state offices.
    4. Monitoring the changed processes for selecting candidates for state office.
    5. Promoting transparency in government, including:
      - a. Observing and reporting to members and the public on General Sessions and Interim Meetings of the Utah Legislature



### Local League Presidents

**Davis County**  
**Nelda Bishop**  
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& **Kathy Stockel**  
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- b. Monitoring and protecting Utah's GRAMA laws
  - 6. Promoting efforts to establish a bipartisan advisory redistricting commission and principles for redistricting for the 2021 redistricting process.
- II. Act to protect Utah's citizen initiative process, including the use of electronic signatures.
- III. Promote a sustainable lifestyle to preserve a Utah environment beneficial to life, emphasizing air quality, energy issues, transportation, public land, water, seismic issues and climate change.
- IV. Promote community awareness of health care, with emphasis on care for the uninsured and underinsured, and support Medicaid expansion in the State of Utah and end-of-life options for citizens.
- V. Promote a tax system that is fair and transparent.
- VI. Monitor issues of the Utah educational system, focusing on curriculum, elective, fiscal, and governance matters.
- VII. Monitor relocation of the Utah State Prison and support improvements to the corrections system, including sentencing reform, drug courts to reduce incarceration rates, programs to prepare inmates to successfully return to society, expanding mental health treatment, and parole reform.
- VIII. Promote social and economic justice, secure equal rights for all, and combat discrimination and poverty.
  - A. Study a comprehensive approach to the reduction of sexual violence in Utah.
  - B. Study legal representation of the indigent in Utah.
  - C. Promote League positions at the Utah Legislature and in other public arenas with emphasis on working in conjunction with other organizations.
- IX. Study how Utah agricultural land is used, including what is grown and used locally or exported and the use of water. This study will be completed in the 2017-18 program.

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## LWVUS Program 2016-2018

Delegates to the League Of Women Voters national convention in June will vote on the program proposed by the LWVUS Board. One proposal, Campaign for Making Democracy Work, includes

- Voter protection and mobilization
- Election reform
- Money in politics, constitutional amendment and redistricting

This proposal also invites concurrence by delegates on a new position on the redistricting process proposed by the Redistricting Task Force.

The board is also proposing concurrence with the Colorado League's position on behavioral health including amending the [LWVUS Health Care position](#) to include the following as the second sentence under Basic Level

### Utah League

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of Quality Care:

Every U.S. resident should have access to affordable, quality in- and out- patient behavioral health care, including needed medications and supportive services that is integrated with, and achieves parity with, physical health care.

The proposed program can be accessed at <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/proposed-2016-2018-lwvus-program>

The list of non recommended items (an item can be added if enough delegates votes for it) can be found at <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/list-not-recommended-items>

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## Vote for the Best League Programs

*by Gigi Brandt, Co-First Vice President Programs, LWVUT*

One of the best things about attending a National League Convention is meeting other League members and learning about the programs of other Leagues. This year the Convention will be awarding recognition to Leagues for work in three areas: state and local leagues that had the most visible impact, local leagues that had effective community engagement and state and local leagues who did the most to strengthen democracy in their communities. Those of us who won't be attending can participate vicariously by reading about the programs and voting online for our choices. We also might think about ideas that can be used in our programs. Voting closes on May 31.

The award for the most visible impact is recognition of Leagues that “effectively use a broad range of communications platforms to reach voters, potential members and partners, the media and the public on priority national and local programs. Visibility is critical to making good programs have a great impact.” The four Leagues that have been chosen as finalists for this award exemplify some of the best ways to use visibility to create more change: the League of Women Voters of Long Beach Area (CA), the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County (IN), the League of Women Voters of Maryland and the League of Women Voters of Texas.

To learn about the activities of these leagues and to vote, go to: <http://lwv.org/blog/vote-league-had-most-visible-impact>

The Effective Community Engagement award will “reward innovative democracy-building programs that prioritized successful recruitment and engagement of strategic partners and/or new volunteers, particularly those focused on better serving key underrepresented groups such as young voters and new citizens.” The four finalists are the League of Women

## LWVUS Board Recommends Campaign for Making Democracy Work 2016-18 Program

At its April Board meeting, the LWVUS Board passed a recommended program for 2016-2018 based on responses from 230 state and local Leagues through the program planning process. [The Campaign for Making Democracy Work](#) received the support of 98 percent of responding Leagues. The Campaign for Making Democracy Work will engage Leagues nationwide in advancing core democracy issues including voter protection and mobilization, election reform, money in politics, constitutional amendment and redistricting. The Campaign for Making Democracy Work also calls for a concurrence on the floor of convention with the Redistricting position proposed by the LWVUS Redistricting Task Force. In addition the [proposed program](#) calls for concurrence on the floor with the LWV Colorado's position on Behavioral Health and approval for retaining all existing LWVUS positions.

Voters of Jo Daviess County (IL), the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County (MD), the League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha and the League of Women Voters of the Piedmont Triad (NC).

To learn about the activities of these leagues and to vote go to:  
<http://lww.org/blog/help-us-recognize-local-league-effectively-engaged-their-community>

The Strengthening Democracy award is to recognize the work of state and local leagues that “activate their grassroots network to advocate change around key issues, including protecting voter rights or increasing voter registration and turnout.” The four state Leagues chosen as finalists are: the League of Women Voters of California, the League of Women Voters of Kansas, the League of Women Voters of Ohio and the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin. The four local Leagues League finalists are: the League of Women Voters of New Orleans (LA), the League of Women Voters of Sioux Falls (SD), the League of Women Voters of Dallas (TX) and the League of Women Voters of Arlington (VA).

To learn about the activities of these Leagues and to vote, go to:  
<http://lww.org/blog/let-us-know-which-leagues-did-most-strengthen-democracy-their-communities>

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## Legal Representation of Indigents Study Approved

*by Marilyn O'Dell, Study Chair*

A “Study of Legal Representation of the Indigent in Utah” was approved by League members at the recent State Convention. Seven League members in attendance volunteered to work on the study. I have agreed to chair.

For those not familiar with the problem to be addressed by this study, the Sixth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees the right of anyone accused of a crime “to have the assistance of Counsel for his defense.” Utah is one of the few states that does not have a statewide program to provide public defenders for indigent defendants. As I understand it, each county is responsible to provide public defenders as needed for cases within its own jurisdiction. The ACLU of Utah believes that Utah citizens are not receiving adequate defense and is considering suing the state. Sen. Todd Weiler sponsored a bill approved in the 2016 session to study the issue.

LWVUT has no position on this issue. We hope the study will provide the basis for consensus. To plan the study, those who volunteered are scheduled to meet on Wednesday, June 15 at 3 p.m. in the League office to outline the work. If you would like to be included in the study group, please let me know at [maodell2@gmail.com](mailto:maodell2@gmail.com).

### LWVUT Officers for 2016-17

**Co-Presidents** - Peggy Carrico and Lola Britton

**Co-First Vice Presidents Programs** - Gigi Brandt and Janice Gygi

**Vice President of Local Leagues** – Catherine Weller

**Treasurer** - Sally Aulakh

**Public Relations Director** - Aaron Bryant

**Co-Legislative Directors** - Nickie Nelson and Vickie Samuelson

**Voter Services Director** - Meagan Lang

**Development Director** - Kathryn Fitzgerald

**Secretary** – Camille Aagard

**Voter Newsletter Editors (Non-Voting Advisers)** Kathy Biele and Catherine Weller

**Executive Director Emeritus** Sandy Peck, (Non-Voting Adviser)

**Nominating Committee** - Marilyn O'Dell, Nelda Bishop and Lola Britton

## State Study to Investigate Utah Agriculture

by Ann O'Connell, Study Chair

At the State League Convention I proposed a review of Utah agriculture something like, "What Do We Grow in Utah and How Much Water Does Each Crop Consume?" This may not seem a LWV topic at first but it truly is. The study was approved at Convention.

We know 80 percent of our water is used in agriculture. We also know that some water experts firmly believe that the state will need to divert more water from natural systems, or perhaps from agriculture - to supply a growing population. League members often express concern about what growth means for the natural world but also ignorance or dismay about the kind crops we actually grow here. Did you know that alfalfa is a major Utah international trade item?

This would be an exploratory effort at first. We hope the information is already available in an accessible format. If that is true the next step might be to gather data on the true costs of growing and transporting the food and fiber we consume. That information would lead to policy questions that the League could explore. For example, many of us favor the buy local movement, but do we have the facts to support our beliefs?

If you would be interested in a preliminary investigation of this topic, contact Ann O'Connell, [connell@xmission.com](mailto:connell@xmission.com).



## LWV Legislative Action Corps is Voice for Public

by Nickie Nelson, Co-Legislative Director, LWV-UT



The Legislative Action Committee, also known as the Action Corps, is a group of LWVUT members who have a particular interest in the deliberations of the Utah Legislature, its committees, proposed bills and resulting legislation. The purpose of the Corps is to a) observe the legislature; b) influence legislation based on League positions; c) convey information about legislation to League members and to the public; d) be a voice of influence on the general public; and e) enhance the League's reputation as an informed lobbying organization.

Corps members attend legislative committee meetings and House and Senate Chamber

## Carbon Tax – A Salt Lake League Emphasis

The National League turned down the LWVSL's offer of a presentation by the Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) for the League's national convention. Our offer to sponsor a small workshop was inspired by the Salt Lake unit meetings where Citizens Climate Lobby members explained their plan to us. We wanted to share our experience with CCL's Carbon Fee and Dividend Plan. We failed but there will be a workshop at national convention on the carbon tax presented by the League of Women Voter of Berkeley. It is my opinion that the LWV of the United States, the LWV of Utah and the LWV of Salt Lake are all on the cusp of making this a major campaign. If you want to become involved, contact Ann O'Connell, [connell@xmission.com](mailto:connell@xmission.com) or Carole Straughn, [carolefs222@gmail.com](mailto:carolefs222@gmail.com)

— Ann O'Connell

sessions (or listen to them at home live streamed or recorded). They study proposed legislation and inform other Corps members as to whether it supports League positions. They encourage members and non-members to participate in local and state government and provide training on how best to lobby legislators on League positions. When there is pending legislation that needs immediate attention during the legislative session, Action Alerts are sent to all League members asking them to contact their legislators, either supporting or opposing the proposed legislation. The Action Alert describes the legislation, how it relates to League positions, and provides talking points for members to use if they wish. Any Action Corps member may write an Action Alert, but alerts are sent to members only by one of the co-presidents. The League does not provide "form letters" or online petitions for its members, desiring that each member voice the issue independently to their legislators.

The Utah Legislature meets for 45 calendar days from the last week in January to early March. Legislative committees also meet for Interim study one or two days a month during the summer. The Leg Corps will be there during Interim meetings, listening, taking notes, and emailing their observations and recommendations to other Corps members. If you'd like to join us, we'd love to have you; the League can always use more eyes and ears to observe our elected officials. Contact the League office at 801-272-8683 or [lwvut@xmission.com](mailto:lwvut@xmission.com) to become a Legislative Action Corps member and get on the email list.

Interim meetings this summer are on Wednesdays, and the Action Corps will meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m. in the Capitol cafeteria—please join us! Contact co-directors Vickie Samuelson at 801-250-9210 or [vsam0236@gmail.com](mailto:vsam0236@gmail.com) or Nickie Nelson at 801-231-7326 or [Nickie.nelson@gmail.com](mailto:Nickie.nelson@gmail.com) for more information.

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## Davis League Sets Program Agenda for 2016-2017

*by Kathy Stockel, Co-President, LWV-Davis*

The Davis League began its Annual Meeting with a presentation from Rachel Sanders, the new executive director of Alliance for a Better Utah. Sanders spoke about the Alliance's priorities, the way they adopted these priorities, and how they seek and participate in coalitions when appropriate for each group.



This was followed by a presentation from LWWUT state MLD Coach Tina Hose and new Davis League MLD (Membership and Leadership Development) Coach Paula Melgar on Coalition Building. We discussed possible community partners to help both the League and other

## Salt Lake League April Unit Meetings – Water Conservation

I can report very interesting and insightful discussions from all the unit meetings. Each discussion was unique.

Some concentrated almost entirely on the 1982 water position.

Others were more interested in the specifics of tiered pricing and how it might be abused. At least two were concerned with how League members might become more involved with the governance of water districts. All of us are concerned about how the Wasatch Front will absorb predicted population growth. However, we do not have consensus on a revised position. One unit has yet to meet so the board has not decided on the revised position and what actions we may take next year.

— *Ann O'Connell, Natural Resources Chair, LWVSL*

organizations meet compatible goals through coalitions.

The highlight of the Annual Meeting is developing program for the upcoming year. Voter Service remains one of our highest priorities. We are transitioning from 2015-2016 voter registration drives (one on Saturday, May 21) to a 2016-2017 partnership with Salt Lake League on May 25, June 1 and 2. Future voter registration dates will be set. We expect to be very busy with Meet the Candidate events in June and again in the early fall.

Program topics for our regular second Saturday meetings include Grassroots Politics, Climate Control/Carbon Tax, LWVUT's Sexual Violence consensus study, "Winter" by the Salt Lake Acting Company, Social Security and Disability, Great Salt Lake and Drought, LWVUT's study on Indigent Legal Representation, Legislative Training, The Legislative Lunch and the Legislative Wrap-Up, the State of the Community Luncheon, and of course the State Convention and the Annual Meeting for 2017-2018.

The Davis League's program offers many options for coalition building with other Leagues and with other nonprofits. We look forward to another interesting, informative, and active year.

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## **Grand County League Wraps a Busy Year**

*by Barbara Hicks, President, LWV-Grand County*

We just wrapped up a very successful year with our annual business meeting May 9, adopting amended bylaws that included the new 501(c)3 language. We also adopted a very ambitious schedule of educational programs and events for the coming fiscal year.

We have expanded our board with three new members — Carey Dabney, Barb Lacy and Darcey Brown, who has agreed to fill the VP vacancy. Our member roster is at an all time high at 69 with six new members since January.

Our next program is a Meet and Greet. We'll have 20 local political candidates at Swanny Park at the Farmers Market on Thursday, June 2 at 4:30 p.m. The chair is Eve Tallman.

Our next meeting isn't until August 8. At that time we will gear up for the fall candidates forum and voter registration drive.

## **Salt Lake League Annual Meeting**

The Salt Lake League's Annual Meeting will be held on Friday, June 8 at the Girl Scout Offices at 445 E. 4500 South in the Juliette Low Room. Potluck dinner begins at 6 p.m.; meeting at 6:30. This is an opportunity to socialize and discuss issues with friends and meet new members as well as to conduct the important business of the League including finalizing plans for League business/activities for 2016-2017



## Congratulations to League 'Masters'

**Aaron Bryant**, Master in Social Work

His thesis is foundational research and work for the upcoming LWVUT study and position on Sexual Violence.

**Paula Melgar**, Master of Public Administration

Thesis: An evaluation of the Sexual Oriented Businesses Policy Implementation in the City of South Salt Lake

**Shelly Pace**, Master of Arts in Community Leadership

Thesis: Built to Be That Way: Bureaucracy in Governmental Assistance Programs



Ken and Penny Jameson    Salt Lake City                      84108  
Barbara Reid                      Salt Lake City                      84103

**Carolyn Erickson**

Originally from the New York area, Carolyn lived in New England for over 20 years before moving to Utah in 1995. She has two adult sons: one lives in Salt Lake, the other in Massachusetts. Carolyn retired four years ago from a 43-year career as a physical therapist. Now she volunteers some with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and the Environmental Ministry of the Unitarian Church. She enjoys the hiking and skiing and the many music, dance, and theatre activities which are so accessible here.

**Susan Zangrilli**

Susan and her husband David moved full-time to Utah in September 2014, from Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. The love of skiing brought them here. Susan was born in Brooklyn, New York and has lived in Holland, France, Montreal, and New Jersey. She loves the mountains in Utah and the beautiful spring flowers. Susan has a Master's Degree in Art Education from Pennsylvania State University, and an undergraduate degree from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. She retired as an Interior Designer for a Pennsylvania architectural firm, where she created color schemes for school buildings. Susan joined the League of Women Voters to learn more about Utah's political, environmental, and government issues and how the League is making a difference. She looks forward to future League meetings at the Sandy Senior Center.

## Salt Lake League Spring Go-See Tour



As a Spring Go-See Tour for LWVSL members, the board encourages all who are interested to attend the Open House at the Voice Of America shelter for homeless youth on Tuesday, May 24, 10:30-11:30 a.m., before the program starts about a week later. If you plan to go, you will need to RSVP on the website at <http://supportvoaut.volunteersofamerica.org/site/Calendar?id=111323&view=Detail> The new shelter is located at 888 S. 400 West in Salt Lake City.

— **Carole Straughn, Co-VP,  
Voter Service**

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that encourages informed and active participation in government.